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April 2024

#### Next Stop on Route 66- Genesis



Interested in what the next stop on Route 66 is going to be? Senior Pastor Colson describes the next book in our journey through the

bible. See page 3

#### Outreach Teams explore opportunities to connect



Explore the array of **TEAM** opportunities available in our vibrant Outreach Ministries and learn how you can connect and make a difference in

others lives. See page 4

#### Contribute to our Jubilee Enhancements endeavor



We're grateful for the chance to embark on the Jubilee Enhancements project for our 50th year celebration. Find out how you can help

make it a reality. See page 6

#### **Exploring Resurrection Eggs**



Have you ever heard of a Resurrection Egg? See what the kids learned at the Easter Egg hunt. See page 8

#### Beyond 55 Conference - Safety Services Showcase



Senior safety and services will be on display at the Beyond 55 conference held at the Church. All are welcomed but must register.

See page 11









Nancy Bowles gracefully recited passages from 'Hailstones and Halibut Bones' by Mary O'Neill, while Emmy Robertson simultaneously brought to life a gospel message through her artistry, beautifully captured in this photo.

## Celebrating Art, Inspiration and Easter

On the vibrant afternoon of March 21, The Women's Gathering opened its doors to welcome a truly remarkable guest speaker, the talented artist Emmy Robertson. Emmy, with her magical touch of brushes, paints, and canvas, not only captivates hearts but also shares a profound Gospel message through her artistry.

Emmy's artistic journey is woven with the rich threads of her family's history from both side, where creativity runs deep. With a twinkle in her eye, she reminisces about her grandmother, whose legacy echoes in her own work. It's a tale she cherishes, of a young Emmy boldly suggested adding red into her grandmother's masterpiece. Today, you will often witness her signature touch of red remaining a cherished tradition in her creations.

In a delightful fusion of storytelling and artistry, Nancy Bowles graced the gathering, enchanting the audience with her vibrant retelling of tales from Mary O'Neill's 'Hailstones and Halibut Bones', describing each new color while Emmy's brushes danced across her canvas. With each turn of the narrative, Emmy rotated her canvas, building anticipation among the audience for the eventual unveiling of her masterpiece. Before and after Emmy's time of painting, Irene Robinson's piano interludes added a poignant layer to the storytelling, particularly accentuating the final scene set in the Garden of Gethsemane with its suggestive imagery of the open, empty tomb. Together, these elements created an unforgettable experience, leaving the audience spellbound in anticipation of what was to come.

Looking ahead, Emmy's upcoming workshop with the MOPS ladies promises an exhilarating experience for all attendees. Her presence is a precious gem within our church

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## Celebrating art

Continued from page 1

community, a beacon of light and inspiration. We are truly blessed to have Emmy among us, infusing our lives with her gifts and talents, all in the pursuit of "Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known."

Thank you, Emmy, for sharing your boundless creativity and spreading joy through your art. The Women's Gathering eagerly awaits your next enchanting chapter!



Emmy skillfully incorporates colors onto her canvas, inspired by Nancy Bowles' eloquent descriptions



We're all done now. Can you spot where Emmy has incorporated the color 'red' into her painting?





## Women's Retreat Registration SOLD OUT!

April 27, 2024 \$65 pp

Our one-day conference with the incredible Ellie Lofaro is now full, but don't worry—a waitlist is available!

To join the waitlist, please email womens@lowchurch.org. As space becomes available, we will notify you as you don't want to miss out on this enriching opportunity

WE HAVE THIS hope

AS AN anchor FOR THE SOUL,

FIRM AND SECURE.

—— Hebrews 6:19 —



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### From our Senior Pastor

## Route 66 Genesis Unveiled: Exploring the depths of creation

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19 NIV

We are thrilled to announce an upcoming sermon series



Rev. Adam Colson

that will take us on a profound journey through the Book of Genesis, delving into the timeless narrative of Creation. As we embark on this exploration, we invite each of you to join us in deepening our understanding of the foundational truths that shape our faith.

The Book of Genesis serves as a cornerstone not only for Christianity but also for Judaism and Islam. It lays the groundwork for understanding the origins of humanity, the natural world, and our relationship with the divine. Through its rich storytelling and powerful symbolism, Genesis offers insights that continue to resonate with believers across generations.

In our upcoming sermon series, we will carefully examine the opening chapters of Genesis, where we encounter the majestic account of Creation. From the formation of light to the emergence of humanity, each step in the divine process reveals profound truths about God's character and the nature of existence itself.

Through thoughtful reflection and discussion, we will explore questions such as:

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

How do we reconcile the scientific understanding of the universe with the theological narratives presented in Genesis?

What role does stewardship play in our responsibility towards the natural world?

How can the Creation story inform our understanding of our place in the cosmos and our relationship with one another?

Throughout the series, we will approach these questions with humility and open hearts, recognizing that the journey of faith is both a personal and communal endeavor. Together, we will seek wisdom from Scripture, tradition, and the insights of past and contemporary theologians to deepen our appreciation for the divine mystery woven into the fabric of Creation.

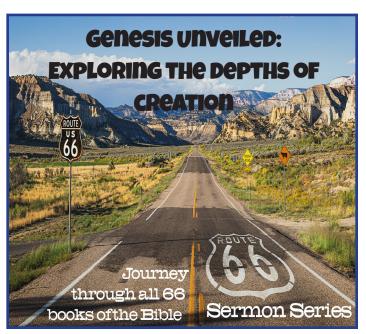
As we gather each Sunday morning to worship and study together, we invite you to bring your questions, doubts, and convictions. Let's pray that we will be guided by a spirit of curiosity and a desire to grow in our understanding of God's Word.

Whether you are a seasoned theologian or new to the Christian faith, there is a place for you in this journey through Genesis. We encourage you to invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us as we explore the profound truths embedded in the ancient narratives of Creation.

In the words of Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." May this sermon series inspire us to marvel at the wonder of Creation and deepen our awe and reverence for the Creator.

We look forward to embarking on this journey with each of you,

Pastor Colson and the Clergy of The Lake of the Woods Church



# Shaping our community: Spreading love and support through Outreach Ministries

The primary goal of the Community Outreach Ministry is to serve ALL people of The Lake of the Woods area and surrounding communities. We are striving to Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known.

Our various Ministries are designed to support the community in every way, especially our neighbors in need. God said, "Give to them generously and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV).

The Lake of the Woods Church uses its resources to care for and support the sick, the homeless, young families, youth, children, the elderly, and the unemployed. As we know, this cannot be accomplished without help. The Community Outreach Ministry continually needs volunteers to help and offer security to our neighbors in need, regardless of the cause. As Christians, God asks us to have a warm, loving heart to help our neighbors. Treat them as we would like to be treated.

We enthusiastically support and embrace the **LOWC 50th Jubilee** and our **TEAM** effort within our Ministries. Our Ministry Stewards spend time helping those in need while asking for volunteers to support the efforts to help your community. Listed below are our various Ministries and the Stewards that oversee their areas of helping our community.

#### FEEDING MINISTRY-BRISBEN CENTER

Tom deSocio-Ministry Steward

The Brisben Center is a homeless shelter that houses homeless families and single homeless residents until they can re-enter our neighborhoods. This Ministry cooks and serves two lunches per month (Brisben residents clean up), serving approximately 120 monthly meals. We also deliver clothing donated to the residents by the Lake of the Woods Churchgoers, plus a particular list is posted each month on the bulletin board of items the Brisben Center needs other than cooked meals. Volunteers are always needed for this vital Ministry.



One of the cooking teams for The Brisben Center includes Anna Nellis, Sandy & Joe Roth, and Judy Toler.

## RISE (RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION)

Rich Kurz-Ministry Steward

**R.I.S.E.** provides individuals with special needs and a Church based venue for fellowship, including prayer and Bible study. Every Thursday, the RISE group meets for dinner and an evening of wholesome activities (games), worship songs, praise, and prayers for their community and family.

Their Bible study stresses the importance of RISE as a family through the Holy Spirit's activity in and amongst them as they grow into a lifelong relationship with God and each other. The RISE family is present every Sunday morning during our 9:45 am service. We welcome their presence and thank each RISE friend who carries the cross each Sunday as an integral part of our LOWC traditional service opening and closing procession.



At one of their Thursday meetings, our R.I.S.E. friends proudly showcase the artistic pictures they painted with the guidance of Mr. John Lentine.

#### LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CLINIC

Debbie McInnis-Executive Director and Debbie Martin-Operations Manager

The clinic provides primary medical, dental, emotional, and spiritual care to the underinsured at no cost for eligible adults in the VA counties of Orange and Culpeper. The nights and hours the clinic is open vary, so it is always best to visit their website www.livingwaterclinic.life. Although services at Living Water Clinic are free of charge, an annual golf fundraiser is scheduled for April 19, and The Gala is scheduled for November 22, 2024. Both events and

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### **Outreach Ministries**

Continued from page 4

contributions are why LWCC continues without cost for those in need. A 47% growth for 2023 shows how much this Ministry is needed within our communities. Because of growth and need, hours of operations have been increased to see additional patients. While LWCC has a staff, volunteers are always needed to meet demand.

#### **MECHANICS MINISTRY**

Eugene Slagle-Ministry Steward

Starting in 2023, this Ministry was formed to assist neighbors in keeping their primary means of transportation working safely. From March through October, on a given Saturday, volunteers perform minor mechanical and routine maintenance on vehicles by top auto mechanics certified to do this work at no labor cost. Please visit LOWChurch.org to find dates when the Mechanics Ministry is scheduled next. **Volunteers are always needed.** 



#### **HOME HELPS**

David Blackistone-Ministry Steward

This Ministry assists our neighbors throughout the LOW community who need repairs, maintenance on their homes, and yard work on their properties. This program exists to help those needy neighbors who find certain aspects of home maintenance have become unaffordable. During 2023, Home Help served over 74 homeowners with debris removal, emergency and routine home repairs, painting, and tree and bush trimming. I'm pleased to write this Ministry had more than 160 volunteers helping to complete the various projects by volunteer adults, teens, and Boy Scouts. Additionally, this Ministry visited homeowners to offer spiritual care. April 19 and 20 are the dates for our Spring Home Helps Event. Visit LOWChurch.org to register for Home Helps April 19 /20 in the website's Events section. While Home Helps does volunteer work for the LOW community, the Home Help Team performs work at Beauty for Ashes on River Rd. Contact Dave Blackistone to volunteer separately for this Ministry; dblackistone1@verizon.net

#### **SCOUTING**

Mike Holder-Ministry Steward.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts provide excellent leadership and strong character-building skills for our youth.

- BOY SCOUT TROOP 197: Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader guided by the Scout Oath and Law. Our Troop 197 meets each Monday night from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Cabin at LOWC. Boys ages 12-18 are invited to join.
- CUB PACK 197: The goals of the Cub Scouts are character development, citizenship engagement, learning to work in a den, understanding the meaning of the Scout Oath and Law. Dens meet at various times determined by the den leaders and parents. Dens of boys and girls ages 6-12 are invited to join.

Please get in touch with Mike Holder regarding Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts. Holderm1321@gmail.com or 540-603-9987. Volunteers are needed. At present, there is vacancy for an Assistant Cubmaster.



At the annual Pinewood Derby event, the Scouts delight in enthusiastically cheering for each other.

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## Message from the Board of Elders

# 50 JUBILEE

# Embracing Jubilee enhancements that are welcoming, accessible and safe for our church for another 50 Years

We are a church on the move! God is at work in us and through us for His glory. We are blessed to be able to do the Jubilee Enhancements in our 50th year as a church. Our church founders had a vision for a multi-denominational church that relies on Jesus as being the head of our congregation and focuses on Him alone. We are here today because of the faithfulness of hundreds of followers of Christ who saw the value in working as one in *Knowing Christ and Making Him Known*. Now we, as a **TEAM**, have an opportunity to prepare our church for the next 50 years. We can make our church more welcoming with your help – we need to be available to everyone. To accomplish this, as the Lord provides, we start with making all of our activities and areas available to everyone by installing an elevator, ramp access, accessible doors, and restrooms. Then we will improve our facility by addressing safety concerns to provide for the well-being of all. Next in our resource available phased approach is to wisely

perform preventive maintenance to fix items before they become major issues. If God provides, we will then do cost efficient modification to reduce our reoccurring expenses. In our own energy this is impossible to accomplish, but as we pray and seek His guidance and trust Him to use us to make what He desires happen – it will become a reality. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus as we take each step on this exciting journey to prepare for the next 50 years.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine". Ephesians 3:20

Are you ready to walk in faithful obedience?

In Him we are able, *John Gingrich, Chairman* 





## Mission Partner of the month - Beauty for Ashes

**Restoring Hope** 

**Beauty for Ashes** is a women's and children's home in Fredericksburg. It provides a 9-12 month residential program where both mother and child stay together as the mother is restored from their life-controlling situation.

It was founded by *Mike and Cindy Zello, Founders of Adult and Teen Challenge of Virginia*, to minister to women who avoided traditional available support because it meant being separated from their children.

The home provides a Christian faith-based curriculum that includes life skills training, continuing education for the mothers, grade school education for the children, and healthcare and childcare. The goal is to equip the family to transition to independent living successfully.

It recognizes that each resident is unique, and the program is tailored to meet their individual needs. It is not a one-size-fits-all program and meets each individual where they are. They believe this is one of their keys to success. Over the past eight years the home has been open, they have helped over 70 families including 14 pregnant women. Many of these families have transitioned into the local area.

The property for the home was acquired in 2013, dedicated in 2015, and opened in 2016. LOW Church has been a supporter of the home since its inception. Currently, eight church members are family sponsors, and a group of men regularly mow the 20 acres of grass on the property. They are always looking for additional volunteers and you can go to the church website, lowchurch.org, if you are interested.

You can learn more about **Beauty for Ashes** by going to their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/BeautyForAshesWomensAndChildrensHome



Mike and Cindy Zello Founders of Adult and Teen Challenge of Virginia



In 2015, volunteers from LOW Church devoted their time and skills to renovate a house, preparing it for its grand opening in 2016 as the Beauty for Ashes Women's & Children's Center.



#### **Prayer for Missions**

Blessed Lord, your compassion touched all who came to you. We pray for those in the Fredericksburg and Richmond areas who have lost their health and freedom through addiction. In particular, we ask you to bless the ministries of Teen Challenge and Mike and Cindy Zello as they reach out to the hurting, in Jesus' name. *Amen* 

# Sending Off the Barkers - a farewell and promise of return

Goodbye (for now) to the Barkers..

Young Families and Children's ministry friends gathered to celebrate the Barker family and wish them good luck as they move with the military to Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany.

Dave and Hallie Barker have been an active part of our church community for over four years. Their children Lincoln (9), Denver (7), Sadie (3), and Dallas (2) have been familiar faces at all the family and children events. Dave and Hallie will tell you that in their 17 years of military service relocation they have never found a community so welcoming and friendly. So much so they plan to return after their tour in Germany and Dave retires from military service.

So, for now, it's goodbye, Barkers, but we will be counting the days to welcome you back home!



The Barker family at their farewell party.



Filled with warmth and joy, young families came together to bid farewell to the Barkers, enveloping them in heartfelt well wishes, delectable cake, and the bright promise of their future return. It was a celebration brimming with love, anticipation, and the cherished bonds that unite us all.

## **Easter Egg Hunt - crafting resurrection stories**

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Sunday, March 24, on a clear, crisp spring day. The event started with a creative way to introduce the children to the creation and resurrection story through a craft project creating Resurrection Eggs. It had all the elements kids love: slime to play with, magical changing colors, and a great story. I am unsure who had more fun, the teens and adults helping or the kids!

Using shaving cream, school white glue, water, and food coloring, they told the kids the story of Adam and Eve while having the kids create a white slime. As they told the story of disobedience to God by eating from the forbidden tree thus introducing sin into the world the slime was turned black. As they told the story of Jesus sacrifice the slime was turned red and then with Jesus' resurrection the slime was turned white. At the end gold was added to demonstrate the acceptance of Jesus into our hearts.

After creating their Resurrection Eggs, it was time for the main event. The teens helped distribute/hide hundreds of plastic eggs throughout the lower parking lot, grounds, and playground as well as keeping watchful eyes on the children ensuring their safety as they raced to collect their eggs. Parents and Grandparents watched as children of all ages filled their baskets.

Over 100 children and parents attended the event and experienced firsthand "Making Christ Known." A big thank you to all the volunteers that made this event a reality, truly a great example of **TEAMs in action!** 



Story-infused slime: from Adam and Eve's black disobedience, Jesus' red sacrifice, to His white resurrection, with gold symbolizing acceptance.

### **Outreach Ministries**

Continued from page 5

#### **FOSTER CARE MINISTRY**

Stone Leighty-Ministry Steward

This ministry works with Orange County Social Services to support foster families. Pastor Josh Modisette has outlined a new vision for foster care family care, focusing on bringing LOWC families alongside local area foster care families that need help and support. We want to include a monthly meal and/or event at LOWC for the foster families, including children and youth. Also, A Christmas party is planned again this year that helps significantly in meeting and greeting other children and families within the foster care system. We are also planning a foster care training session at LOWC for those interested in becoming a foster care family. This will be in conjunction with the help of Orange County Social Services.

## THE LAKE OF THE WOODS COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

November 2023, at The Lake of the Woods Church annual meeting, the congregation approved the re-opening of The Lake of the Woods Outreach Center. On March 1, 2024, the Trustees signed and entered into a one-year lease of a facility on Route 20, Locust Grove, directly beside the Living Water Community Clinic. The Center will be a multi-purpose facility under the Elder of Community Outreach.

Currently, we are in the process of obtaining bids for the build-out area that will house and perform many of the multipurpose duties that our main LOWC might not be able to provide in the future. As we get closer to making this decision and awarding the bid, we will keep you informed.

Please pray for our Community Outreach Ministry. God's task is forever. We can never return enough thanks for God's never-ending and absolute love. Frankly, we need continued support to shape our community towards spreading The Lake of The Woods Church exposure to all surrounding communities.

Help us with prayer, and volunteer for one of our fantastic Community Outreach Ministries. The Ministry Stewards are ready to sign you up for our **TEAM** (Teaching, Evangelizing, Actualizing Art and Missions).





## T.E.A.M. upcoming events...

Calendar for church activites for the next 90 days...

APRII

16 TRIAD Conference
 19 LWCC Golf Tournament
 19/20 Home Helps
 Work Weekend
 27 Women's Retreat

MAY

- 3 Blue Ridge Chorale@ 7:30 p.m.4 Children's Ministry
- 4 Children's Ministry
  Yard Sale 9 12 noon
  Go Ye Therefore Banquet
  @ 6 p.m.
- 19 Confirmation Sunday @ 9:45 a.m.

June

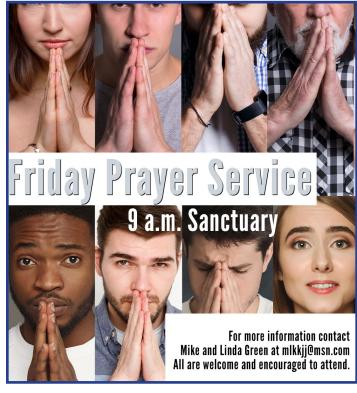
- 2 Piano Recital 2pm
- 2-7 Teen Camp
- 8 Mechanics Ministry begins @ 7:30 a.m.
- 8 Life Screening @ 9am

16-22

CYIA Children &
Youth In Action

19 Office Closed Holiday

Visit www.lowchurch.org for further details and registrations.



## Thrive Beyond 55 - Health, safety and crime prevention conference



The LOW Church is excited to host, for the second year, the Thrive Beyond 55 Health, Safety, and Crime Prevention Conference. What is this conference about? According to Deputy Ron Kesner, TRIAD Coordinator, Orange County Sheriff's Office, the conference provides information to help Seniors stay safe and secure. Does it mean you need to be 55 years or older to attend? Absolutely not. If you are a current caregiver or a near future caregiver of a senior living in the area or want to learn about senior living safety, you are welcome to attend.

This year, the conference will open with the presentation of colors by the Orange County High School Junior ROTC color guard. There are individual presentations related to senior services and safety. Barry Moor, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau in Richmond is scheduled to present on what Better Business Bureau Certification means to both consumers and businesses. Deputy Kesner, Orange

County Sheriff's Office, will present on senior safety with an emphasis on how not to become a victim. His talk will include information on current scams being investigated today in the Orange County area and how to be aware and avoid them.

In addition to speakers, there will be 15-20 vendors that offer services to the senior populations in Orange County. They will have displays and representatives present where you can learn about their offerings and ask questions.

A light breakfast, refreshments, and lunch will be provided, as well as door prizes throughout the event. The conference is on Tuesday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., free of charge. It is open to all, but you must register to attend by April 8. To register, send your full name and a contact number to OCTriad@gmail.com or call 540-661-6156.



### **April Birthdays**

- Faith Quiroga
   Harry Nicholson
   Newton Wilson
- Constance Phillips
   Nancy Taylor
   Rebecca Mauldin
- 3 Diane Sellers
- 4 Carol Lee
- 5 Diane Timmon Lauren Neely Michael Kearns
- 6 Penny Weber
- 8 Jason Simpson Thomas Harris
- 9 Alex Keller Cindy Quattlebaum Sandy Lewis Logan Stephan
- 10 Joshua Cottoms
- 11 Wilma Hood
- 12 David Setlock Gary Loeffler James Milligan Steve Gaines
- 13 Catherine Pintado James Bridgham
- 14 Cheryl Brown Helga Birdsong
- 15 Elaine Harper Jerry Garegnani Tamra Stephenson
- 16 Gia HeffernanWesley Seaman
- 17 Francisco Pintado Gwendolyn Fournet Linda Sipe

- 18 Brendan Hollars
  Hannah MacDonald
  John Nettleton
  Terese DeTroia
  Tom Collins
  Victoria Fortune
- 19 Carol Bohrer
- 20 Harry Brown
- 21 Ruth Rayne Shannon Bridgham Smith
- 22 Caroline Richards Matthew Bernd Samantha Graves
- 24 Dundee McManis Gloria Taylor Heather Austin Jean McLallen Joshua Modisette
- 25 Kathy Pellegreen
- 26 James Smith
- 27 Charles Mincey Eileen Moore John McCalla Karen Howe Noah Rakes
- 28 Barbara Marshall-Squires Brennan Hall Judy Buttgen Loriane Abasontey Rebecca Sitnik
- 29 Connie Schwartzman Smith Leslie Farley
- 30 Jane Neubig Julie Soukenik

### **April Anniversaries**

- 2 Gene & Melissa Daly
- 4 Alex & Becky Salustri, Jr. Warren & Sally Reder
- 6 Doug & Patricia Wheeler
- 8 Gordon & Roberta Klooster
- 9 James & Mia Smith Laird & Laurie Knights Lee & Sandra Frame
- 10 Harry & Margie Lee Kevin & Nancy Matteson
- 11 Benny & Nancy Taylor

- 11 Jared & Rachel Bueng
- 12 Tom & Lucia deSocio
- 16 Peter & Connie Schwartzman
  Smith
- 17 Adam & Johanna Colson
- 20 Joseph & Janine Wilson
- 22 David & Vicki O'Hara Eugene & Rebecca Slagle
- 26 Steve & Suzanne Roberts
- 30 Marshall & Alexandra Wile



Please remember in your prayers the following members of our congregation who are ill or in the hospital:

Heather Austin
Mark Blattert
Connie Chapin
Arianna & Johanna Colson
Danny Delongis
Olivia Knights
Carol Lee
Bud Lewis
Ann Nadwodney
Tom & Lois Northam
Selena Rave
Shelly Seymour
Beth Sundberg
Henrick Thode

Steve Bell
Laurel Buogiavanni
Lindsay Cole
Carl Cornwell
Susan Dyer
Audrey Lawrence
Greg Leitz
Janice Mackes
Rick Nelson
Mary & Lonnie Paxton
John & Ann Sawyer
Martha Somerville
Mary Szadvari

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated for the Tuminaro family as they grieve the loss of their beloved Rose.

