



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 19, 2021*

Last week, the CDC issued new guidelines regarding wearing masks for people who are vaccinated. This past Friday, Governor Carney issued his own statement echoing what the CDC had released previously. In short, they said that people who are vaccinated do not need to wear masks indoors or outdoors. I am just as excited as many of you about this news and the implication that we are getting further away from the most immediate threat of COVID.

What will that look like at Avenue?

Beginning Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will begin a “restaurant style” mask protocol for when you come to worship. This means that when you enter the church and are moving through the hallways, we are highly encouraging that you wear a mask. Seating in the sanctuary will still be restricted to every other pew and there should be three feet of social distancing between households. Once seated in the sanctuary or at your meeting in the church, masks can be removed if you have received your vaccination. Non Vaccinated persons are asked to remain masked throughout their time at Avenue. If you feel sick or are running a fever, please stay home and consider worshiping online with us.

Per the CDC guidelines, we do continue to encourage social distancing of three feet between non-related households. Continue to use the hand sanitizing stations located throughout the church. Use discretion when shaking hands or hugging another congregation member. Do not assume that they are as comfortable as you might be. This is a good time to practice consent by asking, “Would it be alright to hug/shake hands/ etc?” We can respect one another’s decisions on physical contact in the same way we would like our own decisions respected.

There are some in our community who have become accustomed to wearing masks and may not feel comfortable taking them off. Avenue Church has no issue with anyone who feels safer wearing their masks in worship or in church gatherings. As Christians, we are called to love one another. Someone's choice to wear a mask should not be a point of contention or division, especially for Christians.

Avenue will begin holding outdoor worship services on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn. We had a great time gathering last summer and it created space for members of our community to worship and fellowship without having to be indoors.

The past year has been a year of anxiety and fear as the pandemic has claimed nearly 600,000 lives here in The United States and millions worldwide. Many families in our church family and the Milford community are grieving the loss of life caused by the pandemic. The financial repercussions will be felt by families and individuals for years to come. This is a time for the Church to be a people of love and grace as we lift one another up moving into the summer months.

Thank you for your patience and your compliance with COVID protocols since returning to worship last July. The staff and leadership have worked hard to make Avenue a safe place to worship over the last ten months. We will continue to do what it takes to create a safe environment for worship and spiritual growth that shares the love of God through Jesus Christ to the world.

*Pastor Steve*

## **PENTECOST AND RED PARAMENTS**

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In early Christianity, Easter Day was the primary day for baptisms. The newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry (confirmation).

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit. The story in Acts 2 describes a mighty wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost, over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White is also used because Pentecost was the primary day for baptisms in the early church. Those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life.

Red, a color of fire, symbolizes the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood—the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. Because of its intensity, red is most effective when occasionally used rather than continuously for a whole season. It may be used during Holy Week, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday, symbolizing the blood of Christ.

Our paraments (altar, pulpit, and lectern coverings) here at Avenue are adorned with symbols. Those symbols have specific meanings, both historically and theologically. The center of the altar cloth is the dove, representing the Holy Spirit entwined with the trefoil, a symbol of the Holy Trinity. The patonce crosses on each side of the center symbols have expanded ends with three petals on each arm. The three petals represent the Trinity, and the total of twelve petals represent the 12 Apostles.

The center symbol on the pulpit cloth, I H S, is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the Holy Name of Jesus. The symbol on the lectern cloth is the descending dove and the Holy Trinity. The symbols on both bookmarks are patonce crosses.

After Pentecost, we move into the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP ON SUNDAY:** Worship is held each Sunday in-person or online at 9:00 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary). We are streaming the morning worship services on our Facebook ([facebook.com/avenueumc](https://facebook.com/avenueumc)) and Youtube ([youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch](https://youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch)) pages.

**GIVING AT AVENUE** is possible through multiple ways.

- You can give your offering in-person
- You can snail mail your gift to: 20 N. Church St. Milford, DE 19963
- You can give online through the red “give” button on our homepage
- You can text “avenueumc” to 77977 and follow the prompts
- You can download and use our “Avenue Church DE” App on your smart phone

**PASTORAL CARE:** If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 422-8111 or contact a staff person directly. You can also email [prayer@avenueumc.com](mailto:prayer@avenueumc.com) to have your name added to the prayer chain. We are doing limited face-to-face visits during this time, but would be happy to make contact any way that we can.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR WORSHIP RESERVATION:** As we continue to adapt our worship services to meet the State guidelines and best practices in the midst of a pandemic, **we are asking each person/family planning on attending worship to make a reservation.**

**On Thursday afternoon we will be sending out an email with the reservation link.**

By following the link, you can make a reservation for service you plan on attending (9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.) and you will be able to choose to sit in the sanctuary or in overflow seating in Fellowship Hall. You can access the link at: <https://avenueumc.thersvpapp.com>

If you do not make a reservation, it is possible you will be seated in Fellowship Hall if the sanctuary has reached capacity. You will need to do this every Sunday you plan on attending worship. Please call the church office at 422-8111 if you cannot make the reservation online.

**SUMMER KICS:** Summer KICS will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service for kids ages 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade (Kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up can remain in the sanctuary and worship as a family). KICS Kids will be released to Wesley Room prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson and activities. They can be picked up in the Wesley Room after worship.

Kids will be socially distanced and must wear a mask while in KICS. Activities will be appropriate for the time and there will be at least two adults helping with KICS. If you have questions about SUMMER KICS, please email our Sunday School Superintendent, Patty Shockley at [pws210@comcast.net](mailto:pws210@comcast.net). **Next class is on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE ON SUNDAYS?** As we continue to move towards a more open worship experience on Sunday morning, there will be additional opportunities to serve. We are seeking people who have passions and interest in serving in several areas to help continue to make Sunday Worship the best experience possible. Below are a few places we are creating or reshaping. If you are interested in serving in an area, please email Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

- **Greeters:** Are the first line of contact for guest. Must be upbeat, helpful, and willing to make a great first impression.
- **Ushers:** Work inside the sanctuary to help guest find a seat, dismiss worshippers after service, help with a head count, and make worship a great experience by serving others. When appropriate, ushers will also assist with offering.
- **Nursery Team:** We are looking for adults of all ages to be on a list of back-ups to help our nursery staff when there is a vacation or illness. This ensures that our nursery stays open to serve families at both services.
- **Connection Center/Guest Services:** This is a new ministry area that will help connect new attenders to the life of the church. In this ministry, you will receive connect cards, answer questions about worship and the church, and help people get connected to ministries and opportunities for Spiritual Growth. To serve in this ministry, hospitality and a desire to connect is a must!

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** There is an easy way to help **Milford Community Pantry** if you are an Amazon shopper. Instead of ordering through Amazon.com go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). The first time you will need to designate the charity you wish to support; after that your charity is established and Amazon knows who you support. In the search enter Milford Community Pantry, Milford, Delaware. It is easy and there is a full explanation on their page of how they support communities throughout the world. Just by shopping as you ordinarily do a portion of each dollar you spend goes to The Pantry. Amazon send us a check for our portion. If you have any questions please call Tita Lewis at (302) 664-1321.

**OFFICE OPEN-DOORS CLOSING:** With the increase in cases of COVID-19 in our area and in an effort to limit traffic in the church, we will be keeping the main entrance doors locked during the week even while the office remains open for the short-term. There is an intercom available at the main entrance should you need to get inside the church. We encourage everyone to utilize email and phone calls, when possible, to limit the need to come to church. We thank everyone for helping to keep our staff and volunteers safe during this time. **Church Office Hours are Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

**AIRMAN OUTREACH - You may or may not know that a lot of the young men and women stationed at Dover Air Force Base are away from home for the first time. They may be lonely, scared, and isolated. Airman Outreach is an opportunity to build relationships with these young men and women, give them a family away from home, and provide a sense of community and belonging. Some ways this can be done are to invite them to a family function, teach them a skill (cooking, working on cars, etc.), and find a common hobby. The idea is to meet with them, communicate with them, and let them know we are there for them. If you are interested in this new ministry or would like more information, please contact Karen Williams via email at [mkwill95@comcast.net](mailto:mkwill95@comcast.net) with "Airman Outreach" in the subject line. You can also text or call her at 302-393-6467.**

**2021 GRADUATES:** If you have a family member that is graduating (high school/college), please send an email to Kelly at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com) with the information and a picture. We will be listing the 2021 graduates in June.

**\*\* On June 6<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 a.m. service** we will be recognizing all our Class of 2021 graduating seniors.

**MILFORD LIONS CLUB:** Milford Lions Club is collecting used eyeglasses. There is a donation box in the coat closet.

**IMPORTANT YARD SALE ANNOUNCEMENT:** YES!! Avenue Church will be having its annual yard sale this year. Mark your calendars for **August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>**. This year's sale will be somewhat abbreviated compared to previous years. More details will follow in June.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 21-24:** VBS is just around the corner! We are making changes for VBS, making it an event for the entire family. This year, we are planning for one (or more) parent/guardian to be with their kids as we interact with the lesson, the music, and the fun! Registration and more information will be coming soon.

**SERVING OPPORTUNITIES AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** VBS will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We have areas we are looking for people to serve in. Areas needed are:

- Decoration Assistant (Help build set/create decorations)
- Opening Skit (1 Person)
- Adult to run games
- Registration (2 Adults from 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
- Two Adults to Count Money Nightly

If you would like to assist with Vacation Bible School in June, please email Andrea LaMotte at [lamotte.andrea@gmail.com](mailto:lamotte.andrea@gmail.com).

**OUTDOOR SERVICES BEGIN JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>:** After the success of last year's outdoor worship services on Sunday evenings, we will be bringing the services back in June. On June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., we will begin outdoor services on the lawn. We will celebrate communion together at that service. We ask that you bring your own chair, blanket, and bug spray to the gathering. Children are welcome to worship and to play during the service.

On Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., we will be having *Worship in the Park* as we gather at **Bicentennial Park** in Milford for worship. We believe that it will create a great opportunity to worship in a different location and invite friends to join us that night! We are looking forward to seeing you this summer!

**AVENUE UNDER THE BIG TOP:** Thanks to a generous donation from a congregation member, Avenue has purchased a large tent that will be here at the end of June. Beginning in July, the tent will house our evening worship services. It will also open up opportunities for some creative fellowship, worship, and outreach events. As we prepare for the tent's arrival and set-up, we would like to encourage you to think creatively about how we can leverage the tent for ministry and mission. If you'd like to discuss ideas, please contact Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

**CONNECTION CLASS JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>:** Avenue will be hosting a Connection Class on **Sunday, June**



**13<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** This class is for new attendees who would like to meet the staff, hear the story of Avenue Church, and ask questions about Avenue. It will be a great way to connect with some other new attendees at Avenue. Donuts, coffee, and juice will be provided. Please RSVP to Kelly in the church office at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com)

**WITNESS TO FAITH:** Janice is taking the summer off (June—August) for the Witness to Faith articles. She will start this back up in September. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far.

## **DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:** The Sunshine Bible Class for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired is meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 a.m. Our study for May is “God Revealed.” The lesson for May 23<sup>rd</sup> “The Indestructible King” based on Daniel 7: 1-14, and May 30<sup>th</sup> “God is Love” based on 1 John 4: 7-21. Feel free to join us in the Wesley Room for these exciting lessons.

**SISTERS BIBLE STUDY IS BACK—** We’ll be “Chasing Vines” with Beth Moore for 6 weeks. Our next class will be on **May 25<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please call Brenda Powers at (302) 422-8821.

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## ***Witness to Our Faith***

Each week in the Avenue Midweek, members and friends of Avenue UMC will be sharing their own personal witness of faith. This column will be coordinated by Janice Abbott who will be seeking volunteers and writers who are willing to share their stories. Each article is due one week in advance and should be sent to Kelly at the Church office so there will be time to add it to the newsletter. It will appear the following week. It will be inspirational to read each week how God has blessed each person/family today and through the years. If you would like to contact Janice to volunteer, please call her at (302) 943-7278.

*From: Rita Bennett*

I am thankful to my parents who raised me with Christian values. They asked me to attend church until I was 16. I was given a choice to continue but decided I would go my own way. I was not rebellious. I simply stopped going to church.

Years later, I returned to the church. (Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old will not depart from it.) My parents led me in the right direction which was to have a personal relationship with God through his son, Jesus Christ. I made that decision and have never turned back.

I am thankful to the many men and women in Christ who have reached out to encourage me to attend and be involved in Bible study groups, attend seminars, read an interesting book or to share experiences.

I have learned a lot about the Christian life, by studying His Word, prayer, listening to others and thinking about the many questions that are asked. Relationships in our Christian life are so important for continual growth. I see fellowships that I have been privileged to be a part of. It is so uplifting particularly now, in these times in which we are living. I thank every one of you who have made a difference in my life as well as others.

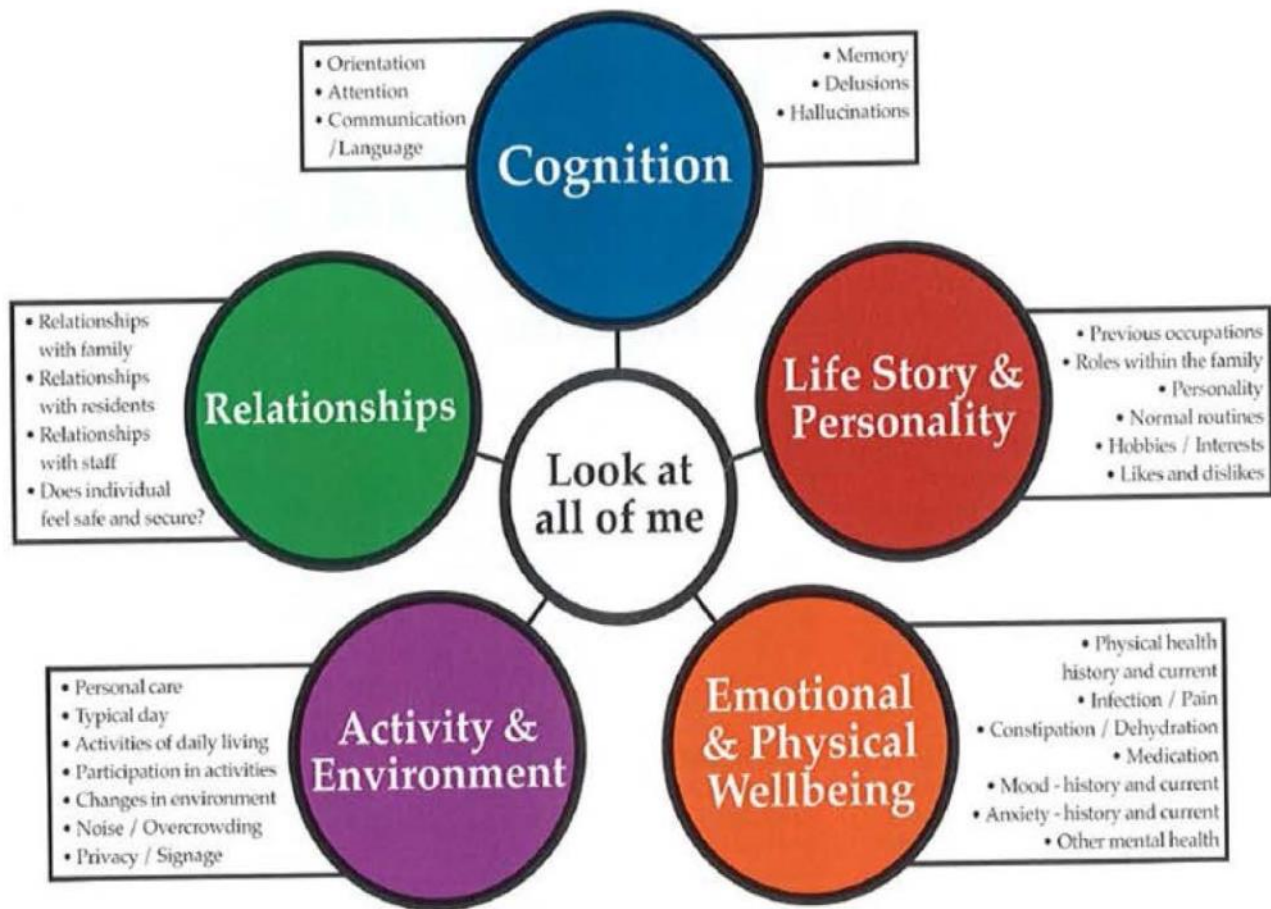
God is Who He says He is. The more I experience His love the more confidence I gain in my walk with Him. I am still living out this very meaningful verse...” We know that all things work together for the good who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

I am eager to know Him more and more and sharing what He means to me.



## Please LOOK at all of me!

A person with Alzheimer's disease or Dementia is a person not a disease. They have changes in cognition but they also have a life story. Make them feel safe and loved. The environment may need to be adapted to keep them safe and happy. They have a life story and personality for you to acknowledge. They have daily activities and hobbies. Please make sure you and their caregivers look at the entire person not just address the disease.



The CLEAR Dementia Care model

**"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**





























**John 16:33**



**Health Ministry**



# Choosing Safer Activities

|            |  | Unvaccinated People   | Your Activity   | Fully Vaccinated People   |        |
|------------|--|---|---|---|--------|
|            |  |   | Outdoor   |   |        |
| Safest     |  |    | Walk, run, roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household                                      |    | Safest |
|            |  |    | Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends                            |    |        |
|            |  |    | Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people                       |    |        |
| Less Safe  |  |    | Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households                                   |    |        |
| Least Safe |  |    | Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event                     |    |        |
|            |  |   | Indoor  |   |        |
| Less Safe  |  |    | Visit a barber or hair salon  |    |        |
|            |  |   | Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum  |   |        |
|            |  |  | Ride public transport with limited occupancy  |  |        |
|            |  |  | Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households |  |        |
| Least Safe |  |  | Go to an indoor movie theater   |  |        |
|            |  |  | Attend a full-capacity worship service  |  |        |
|            |  |  | Sing in an indoor chorus  |  |        |
|            |  |  | Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar  |  |        |
|            |  |  | Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class   |  |        |

## Get a COVID-19 vaccine



**Prevention measures not needed**



**Take prevention measures**

Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask  
Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Kathryn Webb** who will be celebrating her **93<sup>rd</sup>** birthday on **May 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Sonny and Donna Meck** who will celebrate their **53<sup>rd</sup>** anniversary on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**.
- **Jeff and Bonnie Carmine** who will celebrate their **56<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

- ♦ The family and friends of Katina Boulais who passed away on May 13, 2021. Katina joined Avenue on October 11, 2015.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and distributing the vaccine.
- Our local, national, and world leaders
- Our District Superintendent (Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa), Bishop Peggy Johnson, and The United Methodist Church
- The Pastors, Staff, and Leadership of Avenue United Methodist Church

**PRAYER REQUEST:**

|                         |                        |                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Ann                     | Karl Isele             | Laurel Pastor        |
| George Babel            | Ron Ivory              | Jan Perkins          |
| Bob Cage                | Alvin Jarrell          | Millie Remick        |
| Brittany and Baby Naomi | Dean Johnson           | Roy Rigby            |
| Bobby Bergez            | Justin                 | Dick Roberts         |
| Jennifer Clarke         | Linda Kemp             | Lorna Rosella Rulona |
| Gloria Clendaniel       | Kay Kness              | Phil Saint           |
| Jack & Denny Collins    | Doris Koon             | Richard Sapp         |
| Luisa & Billy Combs     | Rhoda & Greg Kurz      | Alice Sellers        |
| Violet Condif           | Jean Layton            | Roland Simms         |
| Lauren Connell          | Jean Layton's Grandson | Racheal Simesak      |
| Linda Cottrill          | Lauren Lee             | Gary Simpson         |
| Craig                   | Nancy Lee              | Linda Singleton      |
| Julie Dally             | William Lescallet      | Samuel Smith         |
| Joanna Denney-Turner    | Brittany Poore Little  | Julianna Starling    |
| William Ernst           | Jack & Zelda McDuff    | Kathy Sullivan       |
| Carolyn Evans           | Ricki McGuire          | Joan Tolbert         |
| Charlie & Barbara       | Frank Mentusky         | Debbie Topolski      |
| Fleetwood               | Orville Mills          | Gene Topolski        |
| Jayne Frank             | Kathryn Avery Mitchell | Joan Wadman          |
| Steve & Judy Franklin   | Tiffany Mitchell       | Mary Lou Walters     |
| Gail & Jeffrey          | Stan Moody             | TJ Webb              |
| Bonnie Glenn            | Virginia Moser         | Betty Ziesel         |
| Matt Hall               | Jean Murphy            |                      |
| Dave Harris             | Jason Neall            |                      |
| Beverly Harrison        | Ariel Ownes            |                      |
| Steve Hofer             | Alan Parker            |                      |