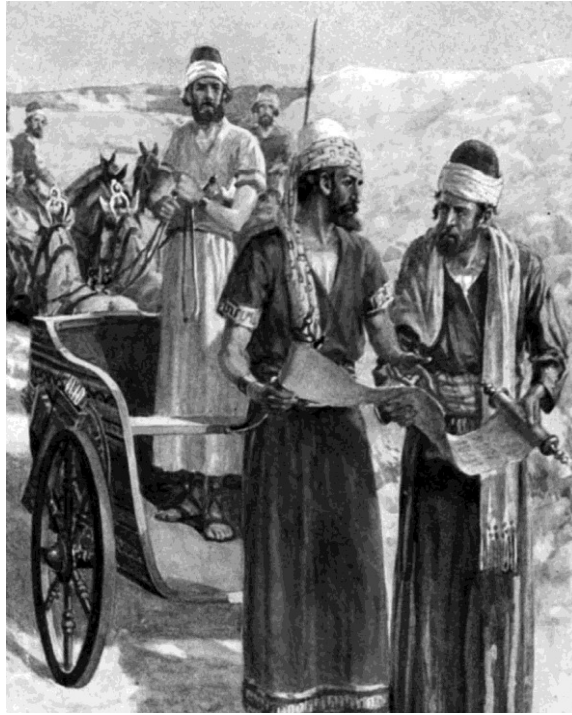


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5th, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

PASTOR EMAIL: mlcsleister@gmail.com

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Harrison Mummah
Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton
Julia Martin, Harrison & Haley Mummah
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed
Christie Yorks

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild
Manna Bread Baker

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MUSIC SUNDAY

May 5, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Jeremy Goodling

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN *“Where Charity and Love Prevail”* #126 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (C - sung)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the
unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the
Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” -- In Unison)

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING.....Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM.....Psalm 98 (*responsively*)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness

and the peoples with equity.

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

SECOND READING.....1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments

are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

*** GOSPEL.....John 15:9-17**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

[Jesus said:] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jeremy Goodling

*** NICENE CREED (In Unison)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance

with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

* PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

ANTHEM

Jeremy Goodling

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy.

C for we come as God's invited guests.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those

**who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

*** LAMB OF GOD (sung)**

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

["At The Chancel Rail"] – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. **(Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in your seat for communion)**

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
C Amen.

SENDING

*** BLESSING**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

*** SENDING HYMN** *"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"* #492 Green Hymnal

*** DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Jeremy Goodling

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Paige Martin & Brea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Grace Miller, Silas Smith & Carter Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawny Mummah & Tammy Smith (5/6/24 – 5/19/24)

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Ron & Christie Yorks

May 12: Jean Berry & Mary Grimm

May 19: Nick Beward & Tammy Brackbill

May 26: Larry Goss & Don Geedey

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

OUR GUEST SOLOIST TODAY is Jeremy Goodling. Jeremy has been a soloist in the local Christian scene for 30 years. As a soloist, he specializes in southern gospel music, but also likes to include a few contemporary songs. He also plays various instruments. We welcome him to our worship service today and thank him for his ministry.

JUST A THOUGHT – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop of Hippo (354 – 430): The confession of evil works is the first step of good works.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for

any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

KATE SWAILES will be serving as our congregation’s camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. This year’s summer camp season at Camp Mount Luther will begin on June 23 and run until August 2. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you’re looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. If you have any questions about camp, you can contact Kate or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. The camp brochures are available on the Camp Mount Luther site www.campmountluther.org and brochures will be mailed to campers who attended camp in the past. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. You can also register online and provide the \$50 payment to Kate. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther.

THANK YOU TO MESSIAH CONGREGATION for going above and beyond with your contribution to the Camp Mount Luther “Foundations for the Future” capital campaign. Camp Mount Luther has served Messiah youth and adults for many years. Over the past few weeks, we have heard stories from both campers and leaders and how Camp Mount Luther has provided a space for relationships and faith to grow. Messiah set a campaign goal for our congregation of \$7,500. As of Sunday, April 28th, congregational members plan to commit \$11,394 over a three-year period. Your gifts will support the new bath house and a renovated Maple Hall which will serve many generations to come.

Congregation Campaign Leader
Kate Swailes

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

BIBLE STUDY WILL CONTINUE on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will be studying the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Anyone is welcome to attend.

A PPC MEETING will be held on Sunday, May 5th following the morning worship service.

APRIL’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will continue to be for Camp Mount Luther. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Camp Mount Luther to continue assisting in their children’s ministries and restoration project. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Confirmation Class of 2024

Bible Verses

Brea Beward *Ephesians 5:15-17* ¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Paige Martin *John 20:14; 16* ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him, “Teacher.”

Grace Miller *1 John 4:19* We love because he first loved us.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Revelation 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE for July 2024 through June 2025 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME will begin on Sunday, June 2nd through Sunday, August 25th. Worship service will begin at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday for the summer season.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Shelter Service, Inc. in Lewistown:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| --Laundry Detergent | --Shaving Cream |
| --Clorox | --Shampoo |
| --Dryer Sheets | --Deodorant |
| --Dish Soap | --Body Wash |

Please place items in the Adult Sunday School Room in the container provided.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY BACKPACK PROGRAM NEEDS

SINGLE-SERVE, NON-PERISHABLE LUNCH ITEMS
SUCH AS 15 OZ. CANS OF PASTA MEALS OR READY-TO-HEAT SOUP,
MICROWAVEABLE MEALS, FRUIT CUPS AND PUDDING CUPS.
MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Music Sunday – Soloist Jeremy Goodling.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-PPC Meeting following worship service.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., WELCA Meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -Mother’s Day/Recognition of Confirmands/Recognition of Graduating Seniors.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Donna Barton
Tony Beward
Linda Brouse
Andrea Cameron
Terry Coder
Kenton Cohenour
Heather Compton
Rob Davis
Fred & Dot Dowling
Seth Dowling
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kathie Eichenberger
Rev. Jodi Ellis
Neil & Pat Fisher
Kevin Fetterhoof
Bentley Fulkroad
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey

Bob & Eddi Kay Gill
Sheree Goss
Sylva Grimm
Fred Gross
Hannah Hart
Bill & Jan Heck
John (Pat) Henry
Ken Henry
Nox Hepburn
Judy Hosler
Nancy Howell
Erin Husler
Terry Imes
Annie Ingle
Guy Kerstetter
Jesse Kint
Carlen McClure
Alice McClure
Andi McDanel
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Claire Mummah
Donna Parks

Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Dave Reed
Diane Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Arlene Shearer
Joyce & Todd Spangler
Donna Stoner
Barry Strawser
Vicki Suoja
Tonya Tabb
Molly Ulsh
George Varner
Doug & Marsha Wagner
Roscoe Warner
Mary Jane Williamson
Jim & Heidi Woltman
Gary Zeiders
Paul Zeiders
George Zimmerman
Jean Zimmerman
Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044