

**Congregational Church of Marlborough,
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community
35 South Main Street – PO Box 57
Marlborough, CT 06447**

mcc.marlconchurch.org

office - 860.295.9050

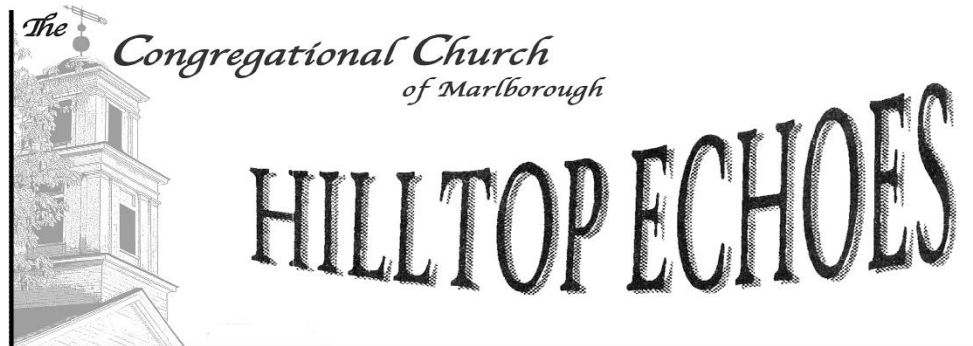
Office email ~ office@marlconchurch.org

Pastor's private line – 860.295.0432

email ~ PastorVal@marlconchurch.org

Reverend Valerie Seaver.....Pastor
Gwen Lawson.....Worship Assistant
David Mulligan.....Music Director
Elizabeth Kukich.....Christian Education/Youth Director
Alice Rowley.....Church Administrator/"Echoes" Editor
Scott Reid.....Facility Manager
Cheryl Benedetto & Linda Stachelek.....Co- Moderators
Janet Bishop & Denise Young.....Co-Vice-Moderators
Keith Davis.....Past Moderator
Pam Mosdale/Marion Spaulding.....Co-Treasurers
Finance (finance@marlconchurch.org)

**Worship in person at the church
and live streamed at 10 a.m.
mcc.marlconchurch.org**



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Enter as a Stranger ~ Leave as a Friend

Volume 68

November 2025

Number 10



November 2025



Sunday Worship & Sunday School at 10 a.m.

The Worship service is

LIVE STREAMED

mcc.marlconchurch.org

~ Watch live or later ~

Nursery care provided

Every Sunday after worship

Refreshments

Meet and Greet

in the Thienes Lounge.



November 2

All Saints Sunday

Holy Communion

Baptism

Pastor Val preaching

Cheryl Brodell, reader Betty Merritt, greeter

Flowers by Eleanor Button

Flowers by Mandeville Family

November 9

Gwen Lawson preaching

Rebecca Weller, reader

Jenny Nolan and Iris Mahoney, greeters

November 16

Bluegrass Sunday

Pastor Val preaching

Marge Bartlett, reader Julie Naseef, greeter

November 23

Thanksgiving Sunday

Pastor Val preaching

Bernie Odoy, reader

Cheryl Brodell, greeter



November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Pastor Val preaching

Beth Alves, reader

Laura Robinson, greeter



Community Sings!

Hosted by Carolyn Brodgerski

Friday, Nov. 7

Saturday, Dec. 6

7 pm

upstairs in the lounge

(Enter through front sanctuary door.)

All who enjoy singing and musicians are invited.



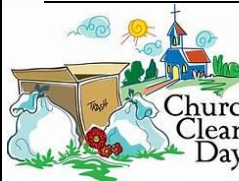
Two Bible Studies

Thursdays

11 am-noon (lounge) and

6-7 pm (Pastor's office)

All are welcome!



November 8

(rain date November 15)

starting at 9 a.m.

Please bring

leaf blowers, rakes, tarps, etc.

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 39 who will help us.

Saturday, November 1

9 a.m. to 1 pm

Make a donation ~ price your

LOTS of quality items,

including spring and summer overstock items

from Second Blessings Thrift Shop.



SOUPer Saturday

"Soup is comfort, nourishment, and
warmth for the soul."

Saturday, November 15th
Noon - 3pm



Sponsored by The Care Team

upstairs kitchen November 15

We're collecting homemade soups in
containers to freeze to be given to
individuals and families who might be
"under the weather" and would enjoy a
bowl of nice, hot homemade soup.

Questions? Please contact

Pastor Val or Carolyn Brodgerski.

Pastoral Ponderings

November 2025

Give thanks in all things . . .

1 Thessalonians 5:18

*Stewardship – the responsible and careful management of something entrusted to one's care
such as natural resources, finances or property.* Webster's Dictionary

Dear Church Family,

As the leaves change and the air begins to turn crisp, November invites us into a season of gratitude. It is a time to pause and remember the countless ways God's blessings are all around us. We not only give thanks for the harvest of the land and all the produce we enjoy this time of year; we also give thanks for being part of a **faithful, hopeful** and **loving** community.

Every Sunday it is clear that our abundance overflows as the church is full, our Sunday school classes are well attended, our choir is flourishing, and our media continues to reach those who cannot join us. We are a blessed church. Watch for these three words in the months ahead: "**faithful, hopeful** and **loving**," it is our logo for this year's stewardship campaign.

Stewardship is our faithful response to God's generosity. Stewardship is not just about what we give, it is about how we live, recognizing everything we have (time, talents, resources and relationships) are all gifts from God.

I never liked it when I used to go to church and had to listen to the church talk about money, I do not think any of us do. The more involved I became in church the more I realized how much it costs to maintain a building, much like it costs money to maintain our own home.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I know I am going to try hard to reflect on how I can practice gratitude not just in words but also through my actions: serving **faithfully**, remaining **hopeful** and giving with a **loving** heart.

For the month of November, I am going to throw down a challenge. Every day make a list of things you are grateful for using all the letters of the alphabet, for instance:

A = I am grateful for apples

B = I am grateful for birds...

You get the idea.

It is a great exercise to do with kids on a long car trip and a great format for journaling. It may seem silly, but I have done it, and it is a wonderful exercise. Simple gratitude lists show us all the things we may overlook that make our lives so full. Let me know how you do.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Val

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

A monthly column from church member Ruth Jones. Ruth is a retired elementary school teacher.

But he said to them,
"How many loaves do you have? Go look!"
Mark 6:30

Many, many years ago I read The Silver Chalace by Thomas B. Costain. In fact, I have read it several times over the years. For a time, the author's retelling of the story troubled me. It seemed to question the miracle of the loaves and fishes found in the Gospel of Mark. When it noted that people of the times went off on an adventure like going to hear Jesus speak they often carried food with them. So, noting the sharing of food among the crowd didn't negate the miracle but strengthened it. When the disciples could collect only five fish and five loaves from a crowd of thousands, it truly was a miracle that the same thousands shared so that everyone was fed, with even a generous amount left over.

I remember rationing during World War II, the long lines at the meat market with everyone holding their ration card, hoping there would be something left when they go to the counter. I held my mother's place in line while she ran other errands hoping she'd get back before I got to the counter.

Maybe some of you remember food economies like scrapple and Spam. I don't really remember scrapple except that it came in a can, and I liked it. I still make a dish with Spam—it's good too.

My mother made a hash that she called red flannel hash. My brother and I called it om's clean the refrigerator hash. That hash had an awesome list of ingredients that were different every time she made it.

It started out with canned corned beef hash and potatoes were always added. It got its red color from the beets. That mess

mess of odds and ends was one of our favorite meals. The cans were cleaned, crushed, and collected for the war effort.

Everyone had a Victory Garden and tried to do their part for the war effort. Small efforts, big results.

Just like the miracle of the loaves and fishes, our efforts over time will produce results. If we give the little we have with effort and love behind it, just watch what God can do!

Lord, when I place in You
my smallest trust,
You bless and increase it.

Carol Knapp
"Walking In Grace" from "Guideposts"



**Do you or someone you know need...
a visit, a meal, transportation,
a note or a card?**

If so, please contact

☒ Pastor Val (860.295.0432)

PastorVal@marlconchurch.org

OR

☒ Coordinator, Edi Dole (860.267-8543)

edidole2@aol.com

**➔The lounge kitchen freezer has
prepared soups ready to deliver.**

Prayer Shawl Ministry



If you can knit or crochet, please consider making a Prayer Shawl or a Prayer to help in keeping the shelf stocked.

Patterns and yarn

suggestions for **knitting or crocheting** are available in the Care Ministry Corner in the Thienes Lounge.

We suggest you weave prayers into your shawl as you create it.

If you know someone who you think could use the special "hug" from a shawl or scarf and to let them know someone is thinking of them, they're in a basket in the Care Ministry Corner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and YOUTH GROUP



a note from Elizabeth Kukich Christian Education/ Youth Director

Hello from Sunday School,

October has been a fun filled month. Our lessons this month have been exciting, and we are so pleased to have so many kids each week.

We started the month with World Communion Sunday with guest teachers, Ms. Gwen, and two members from the Deacons. They came downstairs to teach the kids the importance of participating in Communion as well as the proper way to pass the Communion Tray. The bigger kids got to do a little baking and make some homemade Manna bread, that they passed out and shared during coffee hour.

The following Sundays we read Psalm 146, God of Justice; and then 1 Kings 3-11, Solomon builds the temple.

The kids always start each class with a reading followed by a time to ask a few questions to better understand the verse. The kids seem to remember the lessons a little better when followed up with a game that relates to each reading, so they have definitely kept me on my toes with trying to be creative and plan accordingly 😊 For example, once we finished talking about Psalm 146, we talked about how God provides so much for us; what ways can we show Him that we care and try to be respectful of all he has done. This led us to keeping the Earth clean & recycling. So, the kids split into teams while they raced each other on little scooters to clean up the room and place cards "garbage" in the corresponding recycling bins. This brought on many laughs.

Before we end the month, we will finish off with our "Bring a friend to church Sunday" and enjoy the annual Halloween parade.

We are soon getting to that busy time of year with lots of extra fun events and dates, so I will post the highlights below so everyone can plan their schedules.

Many blessings,

Elizabeth



CE Fall Craft Day

Sat., Nov. 8, 1-3 pm

Youth Group sleepover with Gilead Church
Nov. 8 to Sun., Nov. 9

Sunday, Nov. 30- NO SS but YES Nursery

Greetings from the Youth Group

The month of October was a quiet one for us. The kids were getting settled back into their routines with school, sports, and church but we have come up with plans for the next few months.

Pastor Val and I met up with the Youth directors from **Gilead Congregational Church**, and we will be joining them Nov 8th for a sleepover. They are hosting a **Homelessness Awareness Night** with their Youth Group and have graciously invited us.

We are so excited for this and can't wait to tell you all about it.

We will also be meeting on **Dec 6th** to get ready for our **Holiday Craft Sale**. The Youth Group will be getting creative and crafting some goodies to sell during the **December 14 Cookie Walk**.

At our **December 6** meeting, we will discuss what community group or charity we would like to donate our Craft Sale proceeds.

I am looking forward to the upcoming months full of fun and fellowship with our Youth Group. Check the dates listed along with Sundy School posting to stay updated on all events.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



October 19, 2025

Orion Jay Read

born February 21, 2025

son of Doug and Katie Read



Our heartfelt prayers go out to the following families over the passing of a loved one who entered into the more

immediate presence of his Lord and Savior

- † to **Barbara and Alana Armfield** and their family over the passing of Barbara's daughter and Alana's aunt, Chyrl-Lynn Armfield, of Marlborough (formerly Middletown) on September 28.
- † to **Margie Rauza** and her family over the passing of her husband, Ed, on Oct. 11. A service in his memory, officiated by Pastor Val, was held on October 17.
- † to **Sheryl and Bobby Scheidel** and their family over the passing of his father, Robert Scheidel, from Burlington, CT, on October 13.



to our members and friends!

11/1 – Dean Casella 11/2 – Michelle Goodwin
11/3 – Sammy Walls 11/4 – Ed Migliaro
11/5 – Cheryl Brodell
11/7
Dorrie Baldwin, Chip Hale, Rick Seifert
11/10
Jay LaCaresse, Natalie Villar
11/11 – Kristen Spinelli
11/12
Will Aubin, Karen Migliaro
11/14
Michael Concodello, Mike Gillman
11/17 – Daniel Villar 11/20 – Jason Smith
11/21 – Brian Turner 11/22 – Doug Turner
11/25
Billie Bunting, Crystal Reid

Count the memories, not the years.



Living Tree

Marlborough Congregational Church
During worship on **October 26, 2025**
a leaf was dedicated from the Church
to recognize and thank Ben Moreland
for his dedication to the Media Team
and the church website.

Over the years he has preached, led groups,
and served as a deacon.

Ben Moreland
In Appreciation
Media Team Commitment

The Living Tree is a visible and timeless recognition,
celebration, or remembrance of those associated with
our church family.

If you wish to purchase a leaf, forms are
available by the Living Tree,
or a form can be mailed to you.

Per leaf donation ~ \$100 minimum

Questions? Please email the church office at
office@marlconchurch.org



THANK YOU

♥ THANK YOU to the Trustees
and others who volunteer
countless hours every month

to keep our church in excellent condition, and
to the gardeners who beautify the grounds.

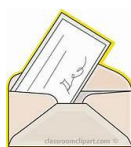
♥ A BIG Thank You from Terri & Scott Reid
and Deb Lynch to all who helped make the 2025
Glastonbury Applefest booth a huge success,
making around \$14,000, before expenses.
Without your help we could not have had such a
great weekend.

Cheryl Benedetto, Julia Benedetto, Mathew Benedetto,
John Benedetto, Barbara Armfield, Alana Armfield,
Ed Fidrych, Pam Kanceler, Peggy Poresky, Nicki Soucy,
Val Seaver, Whitney Reid, Aurea Hicks, Legacy Flores,
Priscilla Point-Dujour, Gracie Dugan-Jennings, Natalie
Dugan, Larry Zarella, Laura Robinson, Kathi Karp, Dean
Gibson, Jenn Armstrong, Gwen Lawson, Mike Concedello,
Kathy Allen, Jon Allen, Walter Kelly, Debbie Cook,
Alice Rowley, John Rowley, Jessica Trusz, Jason Trusz,
Sandy Girard, Brittany Crosdale, Bonnie Anderson,
Jim Keenan, Crystal Reid, Charlie Poresky, Steve Lynch,
Wayne Nichols, Janet Bishop.

MISSIONS



We collect food and other non-perishable items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank. There's a collection box under the shelf in the narthex where you can drop off your donations and we'll take them over to the food bank.



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER Giving Seminarian Fund

for our own

Please make your check payable to MCC

memo line: *4th quarter missions*
and drop in an offering box or
mail a check to the church at
PO Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447



**Sunday, November 9
at noon**

Serving the Lord

Prepare and serve lunch for
Florence Lord Housing residents.

For more information
please contact Scott or Terri Reid at
manatee85@yahoo.com



Drive Thru Café

November 30, 1-1:30 pm for Marlborough
Food Bank patrons, with vouchers,
and their families



Operation Christmas Stocking

for youth at

Albert J. Solnit Children's Center

**Stocking for you to fill are available at the
church starting November 16.**

**Please bring you donations
to the church by December 14**

The Center, located in Middletown, services about 50 youth ages 13 to 17, is the only publicly operated psychiatric hospital within the state and the only behavioral health facility within the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Suggested donations

Self-care products in regular or travel-size
A complete listing of suggested items will be
found in each stocking.

FOR WOMEN



Dorcas Women's Fellowship

All Women are Invited

Bring your lunch ~ coffee, tea and
dessert are provided.

**Fri., November 14
noon to 2:00 pm** **GUEST SPEAKER**

Mike Gillman Tai Chi demonstration



Want more Information?

Please email Rebecca at
rebecca-weller@sbcglobal.net



**Wednesday, November 19
6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Pastor Val Seaver extends a
warm welcome to women of
all ages to join her upstairs in the Thienes
Lounge for a light-hearted and fun group
topic discussion
to get to know each other better.

Senior Stretch & Strengthen

Fridays, 9:45 to 10:45 am

in the Thienes Lounge.

\$25 per session (drop in as you wish)

by certified instructor Barbara LaBlanc.
Practical strength and balance exercises.



DECEMBER

Upcoming Events:



Friday, December 5

at 6 pm



Carol Sing

Sunday, December 14

Join us for Sunday worship
at 10 o'clock
for the Chancel Choir's

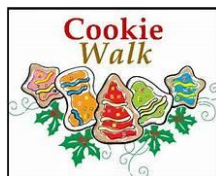


HOLIDAY CRAFT + VENDOR FAIR



Sunday, December 14

After Sunday worship.
You'll find lots of gifts
made at the Autumn Craft Day.
You set the price as your donation.
Donations will go to a charity



December 14

before and after worship

Homemade Cookies \$8/lb.

COOKIE BAKERS

If you can bake a dozen or two cookies,
please bring them in by 9:15 on Dec. 14
or a few days ahead.



4th Annual Nativity Festival

Show your nativity set for all to see!

One Night

Fri., Dec. 5 from 6 to 8 pm

We will be welcoming the community to
view a collection of nativity sets in our
meetinghouse, that will be beautifully
adorned for Christmas. While viewing the
collections, visitors will be serenaded by

Christmas music from harpist
Jason Castaquay and organist/pianist Ron.

**No charge but a free-donation
will go to a charity**

Creche Drop Off

Sunday, November 30

(after church to the sanctuary or during that week.)

Pick Up

After the festival on Dec. 5 or

Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 to 1

(during thrift shop hours)

Drop off and pick up can also be by appointment.

Contact Carolyn Brodgerski at 860-614-5312

Be sure to give

Your name and phone number
(in case we need to contact you)

For the information displayed

Donor's name, a short writeup about the
creche such as when received,
a family tradition, etc.
so that visitors can learn a little something
about each creche.

and finally...



A very special thanks to all who supported the recent MCC Golf Tournament held at Blackledge Country Club on Monday, September 29, 2025.

Our net profit is \$5,000.

The weather was perfect, and the golfers had a great day!

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who donated their time for this fundraising event:

Volunteer coordinator: Stacy Henrikson

Registration volunteers:

Teri Reid, Jessica Trusz

Raffle sales: Edi Dole

Lunch volunteers:

Ida Spooner, Debbie Chaniewski, Gwen Lawson

Golf cart/tee sponsor sign support:

Scott and Crystal Reid

Raffle volunteers:

Sally Zakszewski, Rebecca Weller.

A very big thank you to

John and Alice Rowley who help with shopping, set up and work to make this day a success and to

Rick Seifert and Larry Zarella who advise and serve on the golf committee.

Thank you to Pastor Val, our church family, to friends who played in the tournament and to those who provided sponsorship. Your continued support and collaboration is greatly appreciated!!

In gratitude,
Marion Spaulding
Golf Committee, Chair



Look for the large white envelope from the church that will be mailed next week.

Inside you'll find giving information for 2026

If you haven't received a packet, we have extras at the church, or we can mail one to you.

Please let us know at
office@marlconchurch.org

Thanksgiving Weekend
at Second Blessings Thrift Shop



Free Registration for a Door Prize

See the huge array of new and gently cared for items for gift giving, entertaining, decorating, the large selection of vintage decor, jewelry, new and vintage Christmas linens, children's book, and so much more. Shop often, there's new arrivals every week.

The shop is open until December 20

Fridays from noon to 3 pm

Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm

Closed from Dec. 21 to Feb. 5

Reopens Friday, February 6

➡ Donations accepted during thrift shop hours.



SEE MORE HAPPENINGS



Nov. 1 -
Shop, 9

Tag Sale and Thrift
am-1 pm

Sun., Nov. 2 - **All Saints Sunday**

Worship & Sunday School, 10 am

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 11:15-noon

Nov. 3 - Care Team, 6 pm

CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)

Nov. 4 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)

ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

Nov. 5 - CE, 6 pm (Zoom)

AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)

AA, 7:30-8:30 (Comm. Fell. Hall)

Nov. 6 - Bible Study, 11-noon (lounge)

Bible Study, 6-7 pm (Pastor's office)

Bell Choir, 6 pm

AA, 5:30-7 pm (Youth Room)

Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

Nov. 7 - **Community Sings!** 7 pm (lounge)

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, noon to 3 pm

Nov. 8 - **Church Yard Cleanup**, 9 am

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 10 am to 1 pm

Autumn Craft Day, 1-3 pm (CFH)

Sun., Nov. 9 - **Veteran's Sunday**

Worship & Sunday School, 10 am

Bell Choir playing at the service.

Serve the Lord, noon (Florence Lord Sr. Housing)

Nov. 10 - Missions, 6 pm (Zoom)

CT Valley Field Music, 7-8:30 pm (CFH)

Nov. 11 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)

ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

Nov. 12 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)

AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

Nov. 13 - Bible Study, 11-noon (lounge)

Bible Study, 6-7 pm (Pastor's office)

Chancel Choir, 7 pm

AA, 5:30-7 pm (Youth Room)

ACA event, 6-9 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

Nov. 14 - **Dorcas WF**, noon (lounge)

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12 to 3 pm

Nov. 15 - **SOUper Saturday**, 12-3 (lounge) see article

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 10 am to 1 pm

Sun., Nov. 16 - **Bluegrass Sunday**

Joyful Blue playing at the service.

Worship & Sunday School, 10 am

Trustees, 11:15 am (Pastor's office)

Nov. 17 - Deacons, 6 pm (Zoom)

CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)

Nov. 18 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)

ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

Nov. 19 - **Women's Circle**, 6:30-7:30 pm (lounge)

AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)

AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

Nov. 20 - Bible Study, 11-noon (lounge)

Bible Study, 6-7 pm (Pastor's office)

Bell Choir, 6 pm Chancel Choir, 7 pm (sanctuary)

Nov. 21 - Second Blessings Thrift Shop, noon to 3 pm

Nov. 22 - Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 10 am to 1 pm

Sun., Nov. 23 - **Thanksgiving Sunday**

Worship & Sunday School, 10 am

Nov. 24 - Council, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

CT Valley Field Music, 7-8:30 pm (CFH)

Nov. 25 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)

ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

Nov. 26 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)

AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

Nov. 27 - **Thanksgiving Blessings!**

Fri., Nov. 28 noon-3 and Sat., Nov. 29 10-1

Christmas Open House

at Second Blessings Thrift Shop

Sun., Nov. 30 - Worship NO Sunday School

Bell Choir playing at the service

Drive Thru Café, 1-1:30 pm

SECOND BLESSINGS



**THRIFT
SHOP**



***Follow us** on our Facebook page: Second

Blessings Thrift Shop, Marlborough, CT

OPEN THROUGH DEC. 20

Shop often! New arrivals every week!

☺ **Thank You Shop Volunteers**

Stephanie Bunting (eBay) <https://bit.ly/MCCebay>

11/1 SHOP IS OPEN from 9 to 1 - Jess Pozato, Kathi Karp

Cheryl Brodell, Michele Sinkez

11/2 - Laura Robinson, Bonnie Anderson

11/7 - Bob Wargo, Ida Spooner

11/8 - Melanie Jump, Pam Kancler, Rebecca Weller

11/14 - Bob Wargo, Peggy Poresky

11/15 - Linda Garrett, Cathy Glynn, Judi McBair

11/21 - Bob Wargo, Ida Spooner

11/22 - Michele Gliha, Julie Naseef, Daphne Vail

Christmas Open House

11/28 - Bob Wargo, Ida Spooner

11/29 – Debbie Cook, Kathi Karp, Betty Merritt