

# Connections

Arise-a United Methodist Church



March/April 2011

## Meet our New Members



### Ministers

Every member  
of the Church

### Pastor

Don Weatherup

### Director of Music

Rich Sliter

### Administrative Assistant

Dave Russell

### Ministry Center

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Pinckney Rd.  
Pinckney, MI  
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www.arisechurch.org



**Sylvia Hartman** lives in the Pinckney area and had thought about coming to visit Arise when worship was at Country Elementary. Once the new Worship Center was completed, she heard that her Aunt Sylvia (for whom she

is named) and her cousin, Donna Knapp, were planning to visit Arise, so she came with them and she said, "I've been coming ever since."

She was born in Dexter, "in the house over the firehouse", and was the oldest of 9 children. "As kids, there was a bus that would take us to the Free Methodist Church in Ann Arbor and then later, my parents started to

**Mike and Pat Roesner** have an interesting connection to our church. Years ago, when Arise was only a twinkle in someone's eye and plans were being made to start up a new congregation in the Hamburg/Lakeland/Pinckney area, Mike and Pat were attending Brighton United Methodist Church (UMC). At the same time, they became active on the planning committee that met at the Arise parsonage in Hamburg and subsequently, they began attending Arise when it first started meeting at Jane Tasch Theater.

"Back then, two of our grandkids lived with us. They were high school age and wanted to be involved in Sunday School. Arise didn't have one at that time. Also, Brighton UMC had a change in ministers and we knew Gil Miller from the past, so we began to attend that church again," Pat explained.

attend, too," she said. "I graduated from Dexter High School and my husband, Doug, was in my class at school. We married in 1964."

Sylvia was primarily a stay-at-home mom, but did work intermittently, most recently at Thompson-Shore Book Manufacturing in Dexter. She worked several jobs, including the shrink wrap machine and sewing book pages together on a sewing machine before they were bound. She is now retired. Doug was an electrician for Local 252 and is now enjoying retirement, as well.

Sylvia and Doug have a son in Fenton, a daughter in Manchester and a daughter in South Carolina. They also have two grandsons, ages 12 and 16 in Michigan and a granddaughter, age 21 in Nashville. Sylvia enjoys traveling and doing many kinds of

*continued on pg. 4*

Both Mike and Pat are originally from Illinois, the "Quad Cities" area along the Mississippi River, about two and a half hours west of Chicago. They have three girls, all grown and married and six grandchildren. Two daughters are local, one in Howell and one in Saline. Their oldest daughter lives in Illinois. Their grandchildren, three boys and three girls, range in age from 13 to 21. Pat continues to work at Integrated Health Associates, located at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor, where she is a payment poster, doing data entry for insurance payments. Mike is semi-retired, working



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## Pastor's Column



**Pastor Don Weatherup**

The first Bible I ever bought was in the spring of 1998. It was a study Bible. A study Bible has lots of reference notes that help you see where passages in the Bible connect to others. It also helps explain some contextual things you would not understand from just reading the Bible text alone.

I had received a Bible from the church when I was a kid; two of them, actually. A children's Bible in third grade and then when I was confirmed in 8th grade, I received another one. I bought this Bible because I was entering a period in my life when I had a thirst for more information. I wanted to know about God. I wanted to understand the life of Christ. It seemed that I could not get enough. I literally spent my free time pouring over the Bible.

I own about ten Bibles today. Many are different translations. But that particular study Bible will always be my favorite. As I was flipping through that Bible the other day, I happened to notice a quick flash of yellow on the page. It caught my eye because I don't usually highlight things in my Bible. I make notes on separate pages.

The yellow flash went by so quickly that I had a difficult time finding it again. It took me about five minutes turning page by page to find it. But I finally did. The passage that was highlighted was Proverbs 19:21. "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Now I remember doing it. I highlighted the passage that day because it was the day that I realized that nothing in my life was more important than my relationship

with God - nothing. Not my career. Not my money. Not even my family whom I love so very much. I didn't want to forget it, so I did something uncharacteristic. I highlighted it in bright yellow.

Last week I was eating at a Chinese restaurant (shocking, I know) and my fortune read, "Man makes many plans but greater purposes prevail." Hmmmm, where have I heard that before? I wonder if someone at the fortune cookie factory reads scripture?

It's so easy in our very busy lives to forget why we're here. We are here to give glory to God. Every time we choose not to sin, we glorify God. Every time we help someone in need, we glorify God. In fact, we help Jesus personally. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Lent is a time where we are to take a serious look inside of us and take inventory. How am I doing in my relationship with Christ? It's a good time to ask, "Do God's purposes prevail in my life, or am I more concerned about MY plans?"

I'm already looking forward to Easter. Hands down the best day of the Christian year! On Easter day we proclaim the central claim of Christianity, that Christ died, but three days later, rose from the dead to prove that he was the Son of God, and therefore capable of paying for our sins. On that day, Christ defeated death for those who believe in Him! On Easter Sunday we celebrate not only his resurrection from the dead, but also ours to come! I hope you'll join us. It will be one heck of a celebration!

Pastor Don

## Kids Korner *By Merilee Zane*

Sunday School has been growing since January. We have divided the children's groups by age as follows: nursery is infants up to age 3; 4-7 year olds; 8-10 year olds; and 11-12 year olds. It is great to hear the kids' laughter echoing down the hallway. Our newest offering is the youth group, ages 7-12th grade. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. They are exploring their questions about the Bible and their own faith journey during dinner discussions and the sessions afterward. This class started with five and has grown to seven, and there is still room for more to join. At the end of the series, the youth have the option of formally confirming their beliefs and joining our church. Stay tuned for more adventures!

Plans are in the works for the older youth to help with the Easter service and the barn sale.

On Palm Sunday, our Sunday School kids will be participating in our service by handing out palm fronds to the congregation and reading excerpts from the Bible, telling of Jesus's triumphant ride into Jerusalem.

Come one, come all to our Easter egg hunt! Youth of all ages (remember if God is our Father, we're all children) are welcome to attend the hunt, immediately after the 10:30 service on Easter.



## Youth Confirmation Class Kicks Off

By Greg Stafford

The confirmation process is one of transition from childhood to becoming an adult Christian. Okay, so we have this class called "Confirmation" and we have these young people in it and they are what? Being confirmed? Well, if I was going to a class called confirmation, I would want to come out the other side confirmed. Traditional programs can be a bit dry. Fortunately, Pastor Don Weatherup and Marilee Zane have found a way to liven up the process and make it more relevant for our youth.

Because it's been a long time since I attended a confirmation class, Don was kind enough to recap for me just what that entails. According to Don, in the United Methodist Church, the first step is baptism, where mom and dad say, "We would like the support of the congregation in raising our child in this faith." The baby, of course, has no say, since he or she can't even talk yet. Step two, when the child is old enough to form an opinion, it is time to decide what he or she wants. Confirmation class presents the basics of the United Methodist faith, giving young people the opportunity to explore what they believe and decide if the United Methodist faith is right for them. This is where Don and Merilee have made things interesting by finding a curriculum that is as entertaining as it is informative.

Don was kind enough to share the "Anti-work book," produced by Sparkhouse Publishing. After watching a short video segment on "Re:form," and after I stopped laughing, I began to understand; all the information is there, but it's presented in a lively, non-traditional way that is anything but dry and dull.

C.J. and Austin Bollinger, Tyler Tankka, Jacob Russell, Griffin and Emma Peterson, and Kaitlin McMillan are the confirmation class members who are getting a great, entertaining education about the United Methodist Church. Even some really tough questions are addressed, like is divorce a sin? Or why does God let bad things happen?

The decision of whether or not to join Arise UMC is now theirs, and we hope they'll say "count me in!"

P.S. For a good night's entertainment, and perhaps even a little education, ask to borrow these two DVD's from Don (after class is over, of course).

## Welcome to Arise!

By Beth Plachta, Membership Chair

Since the first Sunday in our new Worship Center on October 17, 2011, Arise has been host to over 100 visitors! These are only the folks we know about, since some people don't sign the attendance registers.

Have you noticed all of these new people among us? How many have you been able to greet and welcome to Arise? It's a rare Sunday that there isn't someone new among us at one or both of the services. It's always a challenge to greet our church friends and yet still keep an eye out for new people. The effort to do so, however, makes all of the difference in determining if someone chooses to come back again.

Research tells us that when people first visit a church, they are wondering what the people are like there. Are they like me? Can I relate to them? Will I feel at home, there? Invariably, new members to Arise comment on the friendliness of our church and the personal connection they feel here. It isn't an accident. We have a warm and wonderful pastor. We have greeters and ushers that are trained in how to be welcoming. The Membership Team is working hard to identify ways to help newcomers feel acknowledged and connected. And we have a casual and friendly congregation who enjoys welcoming newcomers as if they were welcoming them to their own homes.

So let's not forget to look around us on Sunday mornings and say "hi" to someone we don't know, or welcome them back again and introduce them to someone else. It's more than just a way to grow our church. It's also a great way to share Christ's love!



"Well, that about wraps up the announcements—whoa, wait a minute, I'm getting a fax from the head usher right now."



## Remembering Marge Smith



Our friend, Marge Smith, passed away on September 30, 2010 at the age of 65. Marge was born in Altoona, PA and raised in Silver Springs, MD. Her father was a disabled veteran and her mother was an elementary school teacher. She was the oldest child in the family and had two brothers and one sister. Marge attended an Episcopal church and loved to sing in the choir. She became a licensed practical

nurse and worked as an LPN for over 27 years. She later returned to school and became a Registered Nurse and was very proud of this accomplishment. Marge enjoyed working with the elderly and worked for Hillsdale Community Health Center during her career.

Marge married her first husband in 1966 and they had two children, Erik and Beth. She re-married in 1977 and they had a son, Tim, as well as raising a foster son, Dale and two step children, Michelle and Paul. Tragically, in 1994, Marge was in an automobile accident, resulting in closed head and spinal cord injuries that left her with quadriplegia and significant short term memory loss.

One of Marge's gifts was the ability to maintain her positive outlook on life under difficult circumstances.

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### **Sylvia Hartman...** *continued from pg. 1*

crafts and she is currently taking a knitting class. She and her daughter used to sell at craft shows, but now they sell their crafts at Mary Ann's Craft Shop in Dexter, where they each work ten hours per month. Sylvia is an avid walker and tries to walk 3 miles every day at Hudson Mills Metropark when weather permits.

Sylvia transferred her membership to Arise from Dexter United Methodist Church on November 23, 2010. "What I like about Arise is the small church atmosphere. I am looking forward to meeting everyone," she said. Sylvia attends first service along with her cousin, Donna, who is still coming, too. "In other churches, I used to help out in the kitchen with the dinners. I had planned to help with the Barn Sale, but I'll be on a women's retreat in Petoskey," she said. She is collecting things from around her home to donate for the sale, though. Sylvia is also a new member of the Arise Connections Newsletter Team. We're glad to have you with us here at Arise, Sylvia!

Those who knew her appreciated her beautiful smile and gentle spirit. She had around-the-clock nurses in her home who took excellent care of her and took her on outings such as to the Hamburg Senior Center on Wednesdays, where she enjoyed playing Bingo and visiting with everyone. She also loved to work crossword puzzles at home.

Marge was a long time member of Arise Church. Despite having to get up several hours earlier on Sundays to attend church in her wheelchair, accompanied by her caregivers, she was a faithful attendee, sometimes singing in the choir or hosting study groups in her home. It was the norm on Sundays to see a circle of people around Marge welcoming her to church. In another Arise connection, Marge's daughter, Beth, who lived with and cared for her mother in her home, used to attend church with her mom, along with her young daughter, Megan. Beth met and married her husband, Steve Raymond, a former Arise Music Minister, when they both attended church here. They now live in Battle Creek and have three children; just a few of Marge's large circle of grandchildren.

God's blessings to you, Marge Smith. You left us a legacy of grace. We'll see you again, but this time, it'll be you who will walk over to greet us on our arrival to the Lord's house.

*~Thanks to Doug and Marianne McMunn for their eulogy, from which much of this information was obtained.*

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### **The Roesners...** *continued from pg. 1*

part-time at Brighton Cleaning Supply where he does deliveries and repairs and also works for an auto dealer in South Lyon, where he transports customers, makes deliveries and whatever needs doing.

The Roesners have a mobile home up north near Standish where they often go on the weekends in the summer to relax and entertain their family. "You won't see us much in the summer, but we're around most of the rest of the year," Pat said. In the past, as a hobby, they used to love to do country dancing, but haven't tried that for awhile. When asked what they like about Arise Church, Pat says it's the small church atmosphere that really appeals to them, because that's what they're used to. "People are very friendly here and we really like that." The Roesners transferred their membership from Brighton UMC to Arise on January 16, 2011.

We are looking forward to getting to know you both, Mike and Pat. Welcome back to Arise!

# Carly Gannon: A Song in the Heart of Arise

By Steve Cary

With the recent loss of Carly Gannon, there is a large hole in our church and it feels as if a small part of each one of us has been taken along with her.

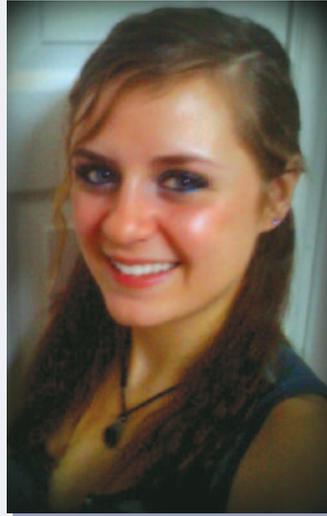
For her friends, Carly was a treasured companion; for her family, a wonderful daughter and sister; and for us here at Arise Church, she was a beautiful song that made us all smile. As a member of the Praise Band, her unique voice shined through the rest of us and we were always amazed at how such a tiny young lady could stand up with all of us 'older folks' and make every song her own.

Many people have asked or wondered if there is something we can do in remembrance of Carly. Tina Cary has come up with an idea that she has placed before the Council, and received support. She felt that she needed to do something; something with substance.

Tina has proposed putting some type of memorial on the Arise property; a memorial that can be used to help heal broken hearts, contemplate God and life, or just find tranquility. As Tina puts it, "Everybody has had someone taken away. When we lose someone important in our lives, we are reminded of all the other losses we have experienced in our lives."

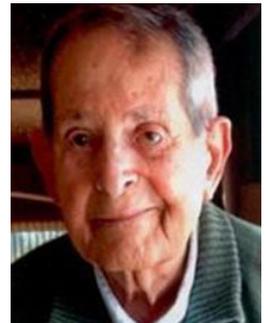
Her idea is to create a Memorial Garden on Arise Acres. One that is 'created by many, for everyone to enjoy.' The proposed project may take awhile to complete, but it will be paid for by various fundraising projects involving the Arise youth and anyone else who wishes to participate.

Although Carly's death was a tragedy, she will always be a cherished song in the heart of Arise.



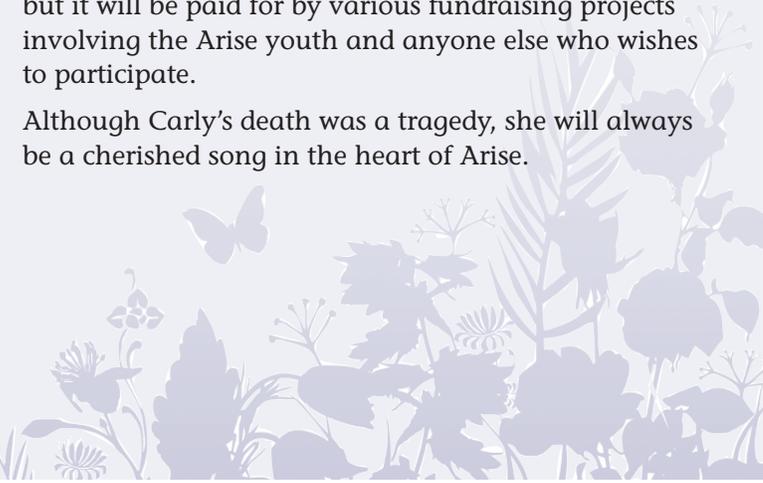
*Dear Arise Church Family,  
How do we begin to thank all of you for the exceptional outpouring of love, kindness and support you have shown us?  
From Pastor Don's inspired words and Shelley's comforting presence to the beautiful gift of music from the Praise Band, the service was everything we hoped it would be. To those who planned, prepared and served the funeral luncheon, made generous donations and lifted us in prayer, these acts of love and kindness mean more than you will ever know.  
We feel blessed to be a part of such a rich Christian family who we know will support us as we continue on this very difficult journey.  
Please rest assured, the Lord is with us giving us comfort and hope.  
Love, Jim, Mary and Chris*

## Farewell to John Lasko, Christian Steward and Arise Benefactor



Mr. John C. Lasko, founder of the John C. Lasko Foundation Trust, passed away at his home on February 21, 2011 at the age of 90. Mr. Lasko was born November 26, 1920 in Wayne Michigan to Valeria and Maria Lasko. In 1940, Mr. Lasko founded Republic Tool and Die in Belleville, MI. Republic grew to become the largest privately owned tool and die company in North America. Last year at the age of 89, Mr. Lasko retired and sold his company. The John C. Lasko Foundation Trust has supported the building of many churches the world over. The Foundation will continue on in perpetuity as a legacy to Mr. Lasko.

We at Arise are forever grateful for the generosity and faith of Mr. Lasko. Last June we received a \$550,000 grant from his foundation, which enabled us to finish our new church building.



# Arise Barn Sale Update



## When is the Barn Sale this year?

The sale is on Friday, May 13, 9am – 5pm and Saturday, May 14, 9am – 3pm.

## How does the money raised by the Barn Sale get used?

Proceeds go to support the Arise Capital Fund (formerly called the Arise Land and Building Fund.) In the past, Barn Sale proceeds were used for building our new worship center. Now that our beautiful Phase IA is completed, the goal is to pay off our property mortgage and loans within five years, so that Phase IB can begin! Work is also needed on the parsonage, so, just like in the past, our hard work and proceeds from the Barn Sale will greatly benefit our church. Thousands of dollars have been raised from the Barn Sale over the years!

## Does the Barn Sale help others outside of Arise?

Yes! Usually a few individuals or families with low income and specific needs are offered the opportunity to select items they need at no charge prior to the sale. In addition, leftover goods are donated to agencies that will donate or re-sell the items to help low-income people.

## What types of donations are needed?

Most household items in good repair and gently used clothing in all sizes are welcome. **Please sort your items by type, labeled in bags or boxes.** This saves hours of volunteer time sorting and carrying things back and forth during set up.

## What should I NOT donate?

- Construction items
- Baby cribs and car seats
- Large appliances or freezers
- Computers and peripherals
- Large exercise equipment
- Air conditioners
- Luggage



These are hard to sell items and Salvation Army won't accept them from us after the sale.

If in doubt, contact Karen Vaden at (734) 878-5268 or karenvaden@hotmailcom.

## What other supplies are needed?

- Kroger grocery bags with handles
- Plastic grocery bags
- Hangers
- Lunch food for workers (sign up circulated closer to sale)
- Possible bake sale items (to be determined)

## When is the sale being set up?

Sunday, May 1 after 2nd service, volunteers are needed to set up the pole barn for drop offs.

Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6

We will need people who can help set up tents, tables, clothes racks, etc. during this time.

## When can I drop off my donations at the pole barn?

Wednesday, April 27 (6:30 pm – 8:30 pm)

Saturday, April 30 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Sunday, May 1 (12:00 noon – 5:00 pm)

Wednesday, May 4 (6:30 pm – 8:00 pm)

Friday, May 6 (6:30 pm – 8:00 pm)

Saturday, May 7 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)

## What else is needed?

The biggest need, outside of household donations, is lots of helping hands!

We need volunteers in all areas, but particularly during the week before for pricing and sorting, workers on the days of the sale, especially Friday, and for cleanup.

Please donate your time generously. Even if you only have a few hours to donate, it will be appreciated. Signup sheets are circulating on Sundays or call Volunteer Coordinator, **Bev Selvig**, (734) 649-1505 or bselvig@a2gov.org.

Church folks who donate at least 4 hours of work on the sale (sale days, set up or cleanup) may purchase items before the sale begins.

**Karen Vaden** is leading the Barn Sale and can be contacted at (734) 878-5268 or karenvaden@hotmailcom with questions.



## Buy Groceries; Watch Arise Grow

By Bob Zane

We can all give to our church without spending a dime more than we already do! If you could donate an extra \$200 to Arise each year **without taking even one dollar** out of your wallet wouldn't you do it?

That's what the grocery loyalty plans allow us to do. Here's an example. If you spend \$500 a month on groceries at Busch's, sign up for their My Way program and have a Gift Card for Arise, Busch's donates 3 – 5% of the total to Arise. At 3% (if you use a credit card) that's \$180 a year. If 10 families do it that's \$1,800! If you pay with cash, check or debit card, they give Arise 5% or \$300. Multiplied times 10, that is \$3,000!!!

Working together brings tremendous returns to our Church without costing us a dime.

The best part is that this program is not limited to Busch's. You can also join similar loyalty programs at Kroger and Meijer. We have over 100 families at Arise. Can you imagine how much we could generate if only half of us participated and each only spent \$500 month? Beyond the potential \$1,800 (as calculated above) at Busch's we should be able to realize at least another \$500 to \$1,000 from Kroger and Meijer. And, while you're standing in line to buy the groceries, why not say a quiet prayer to help Arise to flourish.

An information sheet detailing these programs waits for you on the hospitality table at church. You can contact Gail Osborne for a Busch's Gift card. Please take an information sheet and contact Gail for a gift card to sign up for the programs.

## Missions Projects

By Sylvia Hartman

The REACH (Responding Everyday Against Community Homelessness) is run by the Livingston County Salvation Army. It was run in the winter months February 14th through February 28th by churches that take turns hosting the homeless. The churches in our area that are involved are St. Mary's, St. Paul's Lutheran, Peoples Church, Community Congregational, and Arise. The clients come to us through the Salvation Army and are screened and must follow all the rules set by the Salvation Army and the host church. These people are looking for jobs, affordable housing and may also be doing community service. They can be men, women and families. This year we hosted nine men and one woman for the two weeks.

Community Congregational provides the actual housing. They have set up a living room, with television, couch and easy chair. They have also set up cots and bed rolls, if needed. They also provide breakfast and lunch food and a lot of snacks.

When Arise hosts, we provide a complete dinner and servers and chaperones throughout the evening and night. The next morning we provide two breakfast servers and a hot breakfast. Twenty one volunteers from Arise provided approximately \$160.00 to help pay for the LETS bus that transports people daily to and from the host church and the Salvation Army in Howell.

The Mission Project for March was the Medicine Box to send to Haiti to help relieve the suffering there as they continue to recover from the earthquake. Boxes cost \$455.00 and contain 18 drugs that will provide medicine for 1000 people for up to three months. The total giving from Arise was \$3841.32. Thanks to all for their generosity!

## SUNDAYS & EVENTS IN APRIL

- Sunday Worship:** 9:00 am (traditional)  
10:30 am (contemporary)  
10:30 am Sunday School
- Divorce Care:** 7:00 pm every Sunday
- Palm Sunday:** 4/17 (normal worship times)
- Easter Sunday:** 4/24 Services at 7 a.m. (sunrise)  
9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- "One" LIFE team:** 4/3, 1 pm (Wagner's)
- Council Meeting:** 4/5, 7 pm
- Maunder Thursday:** 4/21, 7 p.m. (see bulletin for details)
- Good Friday:** 4/22, 7 p.m. (see bulletin for details)

"AND HE DEPARTED FROM OUR SIGHT  
THAT WE MIGHT RETURN TO OUR  
HEART, AND THERE FIND HIM. FOR HE  
DEPARTED, AND BEHOLD, HE IS HERE."

ST. AUGUSTINE





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### *April/May Anniversaries*

- 4/11 Jim & Mary Gannon
- 4/21 Jack & Penny Dunlap
- 4/30 Tom & Debbie Short
- 5/5 Bob & Joyce Barnard
- 5/12 Mark & Barbara Wood

### *April/May Birthdays*

- |                          |                                   |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4/2 Bev Selvig           | 4/20 Dan Guyon                    | 5/17 Ben Germain<br>Bob Zane      |
| 4/3 Daphney<br>Weatherup | 4/29 Kevin Germain<br>Tom Terhune | 5/18 Jon Gebarowski<br>Rob Wagner |
| 4/4 Mary Read Gannon     | 5/3 Leah Sherry                   | 5/20 Dave Russell                 |
| 4/6 Cheryl Bollinger     | 5/5 Nicole Watson                 | 5/26 C.J. Bollinger               |
| 4/10 Don Fuller          | 5/13 Lindsey Selvig               |                                   |
| 4/15 Barb Haines         | 5/14 Chris Young                  |                                   |

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*Thanks to all who contribute;  
 please contact us with your  
 feedback and suggestions!*

• Arise *Connections* is available online and in color at [www.arisechurch.org](http://www.arisechurch.org)  
 Check out the Missions link on the website!