

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

ST. JAMES UCC
13312 Pioneer Road
Newton, WI 53063
920.693.8100



ST. MARK'S UCC
W1307 Orchard Road
Cleveland, WI 53015
920.693.8361

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

APRIL, 2025

April 6th -

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
St. James: 10:30am Worship Service
Sunday School at St. James 9-10am

April 13th - Palm Sunday

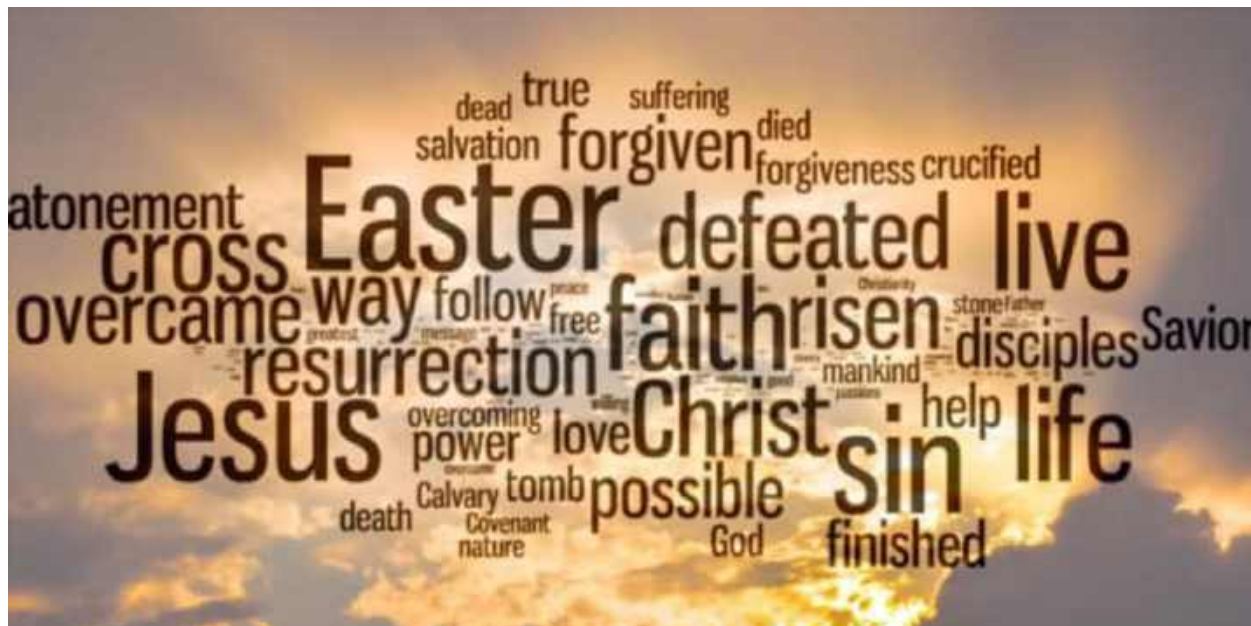
St. James: 9:00am Worship
Sunday School at St. James 9-10am
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship Service

April 20th - Easter Sunday

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
St. James: 10:30am Worship Service
Sunday School at St. James 9-10am

April 27th -

St. James: 9:00am Worship
Sunday School at St. James 9-10am
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship



Visit our Church Website: <https://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org>
Worship Services are recorded weekly and uploaded to our church
YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC
Visit & follow our Facebook page: St. Marks & St. James UCC

From Pastor Patrick:

Dear friends and church family,

Can I be real with you for a moment? Can I be vulnerable with you? Sometimes I'm not sure what to write for the newsletter. Each month, each week, each day I see these God moments happening. A God moment is where I see God active, present, a part of... whatever is before me. When this happens on mission trips, we share the story in the evening and at the end of the story everyone says, yaaaay God!

It could be a young man filled with energy and joy at living with God each and every moment. It might be the kindness of strangers reaching out to help – without knowing who they are helping. They just see a need and work to fill it.

The other day I saw a child stop and turn to help her little brother up, who had fallen and was just about ready to cut loose with tears. She couldn't have been more than 6 or 7 with her brother being about 2 or 3. They were both walking down the sidewalk a little ahead of mom and dad. The girl could have kept going knowing that mom or dad would pick little bro up. But she didn't wait for that. She stopped, turned, bent down and, encouraging her brother, helped him up by the arm.

That's something to commend her for! Great move big sis! You are beautiful and wonderful and helpful and loving. Not just for helping your little brother but for just being yourself. Just as you are.

Another God moment I see is when a church member visits our shut-ins – those unable to get to church anymore. This last month or two, whenever I visited someone, they would tell me... so and so was here just the other day. We had a great visit. It was so good to see her! And I am filled with joy. It means so much to those who used to be active in our church and who can be no longer. Their eyes light up and they chatter about the visit and my own heart is warmed.

Soon, Easter is going to be here. And we'll all witness a HUGE God moment. Jesus Christ will rise and we'll say "He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!" And we might even say, yaaaay God! I wonder, what God moments you are seeing in your day to day lives? Where do you see God present? Who do you see God working through? These are great stories to be shared! They help explain why and how God is important to you.

May God bless you and keep you, nurture and sustain you, guide and direct you, now and always.

Peace and blessings everyone!

Patrick

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

March 6, 2025

Ben Grunwald called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Members present were Ben Grunwald, Tyler Bramstedt, Linda Schroeder, Jody Binversie, Judy Steinbeck, Lori Roelse and Brenda Miota. Pastor Schultz was absent.

Judy started us off with the financial report. She informed us that the surge protector installation was paid. Payment for the new website came from the Memorial Fund. The yearly insurance payment was also made even though we are seeking alternative insurance. Judy also told us she received a generous donation toward the parsonage residing project. Tyler made a motion to accept the report. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

The secretary's report was reviewed earlier online. I mentioned that Karen found one typing error which she fixed prior to posting it in the March newsletter. I also reported that an error was found by a member of the congregation in a previous report. I went back and corrected it. Lori made a motion to accept. Tyler seconded. Motion carried.

Ben went on to update us on the various projects underway.

- Bell tower and tuck pointed – tabled
 - Larry recently followed up with an email that Ken Klemme Masonry will be preparing an estimate
- Topsoil – tabled
- Carpet cleaning appointment schedule for April
- Trim painting - Ben was encouraged to not pursue metal wrapping of the trim. He will begin seeking out painting quotes.

Last month, Pastor asked us to read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of the book *Just Say Yes*. Ben led us in a discussion in Pastor's absence. Chapter 1 listed out all the ways a church can say no, although we felt these pertained to a much larger congregation. Tyler mentioned that while our congregation used to be bigger with the presence of large, local farm families, our community is dwindling. Lori encouraged the celebration of our current, well-attended activities: Bunco, Sheepshead, Quilting, Gentleman's Breakfast and After Church Ladies Lunches. Ben noticed that when members propose ideas with well thought out plans, we support them and say yes. However, if suggestions are vague, they tend to get pushed aside. Jody shared that the Kiel UCC has been flourishing lately. She offered to reach out to a member of their congregation – maybe we can tap into their resources. We will read Chapter 2 and be ready for continued discussion next month.

Lori gave us a Family Day update. The date is set for September 7, 2025. It will be a combined service (30-45 minutes) with the sermon centered on family. They are hoping for childhood music and kid's songs. Service time hasn't yet been set (10:00 or 10:30?). Food will be served at 11:00. We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Members will be asked to bring salads and desserts to pass. Beverages available will be lemonade, water and coffee. There will be no cost, but a free will donation is encouraged. Spun Boutique will be on hand to make organic Cotton Candy. The event will be advertised in the bulletin, on posters and in the newsletter. Games will include a dunk tank (payment required to throw balls), the old fish pond, pick a duck, ladder toss, cornhole, croquet, and bingo. The event will take place rain or shine. Prize donations are welcome from the congregation. Their next meeting is set for April 23, 2025.

Ben followed up on the State Fire Sticker. He will check on the sticker on the boiler and take necessary action.

Continued on next page...

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING—continued...

Some members of the consistory met last month with Melissa, a representative from Church Mutual Insurance. She reviewed our policy, showed us how we can earn some discounts and lower our premium. Since we have not heard back from her, Judy will reach out to follow up. She will also reach out to other local churches to ask who they use for insurance coverage.

St. James is looking to update their directory. We were asked if we had interest in joining them. We decided not to at this time.

In anticipation of the parsonage residing project, Ben will announce to the congregation over the course of the next three weeks that a vote will be held on March 30, 2025. Depending on total costs, we may need congregation approval. Please plan to be in attendance that Sunday. Thank you!

The Chili Dinner at St. James was a success. Thank you to all who stopped in. The proceeds will again benefit the Youth Fund. It remains to be decided who will lead the dinner in 2026.

Easter Lily cost has increased a bit. This year the cost will be \$13.00 per plant, again to be purchased from Millhome Nursery and Greenhouse.

Judy mentioned receiving a letter from the Haven Fire Department asking for \$10.00 dues to be paid for the year. She will send it out.

Upcoming Lenten services are set for March 12, 26, and April 9, 2025.

Looking ahead, we will be hosting Communion on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Tyler made a motion to close the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Miota

ST. MARK'S CHURCH ALBUMS



Hope you have taken time to enjoy one or all of the recently completed albums located in the back of church. They contain many items found throughout the church and others that were donated by church members. **As of now I am still missing confirmation group pictures from the following years. 2009 - 200 - 2012 - 2018 - 2019 - 2020 - 2022 - 2023. If you can supply a 4" x 6" or larger confirmation picture it would be very helpful to complete the Confirmation Album. Place names on the back and give them to me or leave them in the secretary's office.**

If you have items from the past that you feel would be of interest, do not hesitate to get them to me. I am willing to fit them in the proper albums. Remember, if you are wishing to show any of the albums to a shut-in, you are more than welcome to do so. However, please ask permission first and keep them out no longer than a week. We do not wish for them to get misplaced or damaged.

Thank you to all, Marlene Kammann

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING

March 4, 2025

- The meeting was called to order by President Scott Henschel. Members present were Jamie Henschel – Vice-President, Sheila Hemb – Treasurer, Wendy Meyer – Secretary, Tanya Boman, David Lutze, Matt Lutze, and Pastor.
- Absent: none
- Prayer led by Pastor.
- Motion to approve the Secretary's Report made by David and seconded by Matt.
Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Wendy & seconded by Tanya.
Motion carried.
 - Vacation Bible School balance \$2071.94 and Mission Trip balance \$12,450.05.
- Pastor's Report: Topics in New Business
- Building and Grounds:
 - Special Thank you to Jason Riesterer and Dave Mueller for fixing the kitchen lights.
 - Yard Clean Up will be April 19 – 9:00 am with the rain date April 26. Wendy to ask Karen to add an article to the newsletter and remind everyone to remove the wreaths on the cemetery by then.
 - Scott will talk to Jason about oiling the church bell.
- Committee Reports:
 - Vision of Hope: A request was received for \$10,800 to pay half toward the siding of the parsonage. The remaining will be paid from the St. Marks fund. A special meeting of the congregation to be held March 23. A motion was made by Wendy and seconded by Sheila to approve the funding.
 - Stewardship Committee: The Brat Fry date will be changed to May 14. The committee reviewed the list of members who paid toward their dues. A request was received by Tom Kleinhans to be removed from the membership list.
 - Christian Board of Education: no report
 - Social Committee: Sheepshead tournament will be held March 23 @ 1:00 pm. Discussed opening it up to all the rural churches. It will be discussed further on March 23. There will be a social on the last day of Sunday School.
- Old Business:
 - Discussed the church directory and if we would be interested in scheduling a date. St. Marks will be discussing it at their meeting. It was suggested that maybe we create our own directory instead of hiring someone. David would be interested in working on it if we decide to move forward.
 - Insurance Premiums: Judy investigated a few options. They met with Church Mutual on ideas to reduce the premium. They contacted other businesses that would not consider insuring churches that were over 25 years old.

Continued on next page...

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING—continued...

- New Business:
 - Wendy to ask Karen to add an article to the newsletter for anyone interested in a copy of the Annual Report to contact Karen.
 - The funds for the Chili Dinner will be coming from the Youth Group and the profits going back to the Youth Group. Kari will not be the chairperson for the Chili Dinner next year so we will have to find someone else.
 - Mission Statement display – Pastor suggested we look for options on how to display our Mission Statement and/or Vision Statement. He'd like to see it in a prominent location on a wall. It was tabled for now and to be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Pastor suggested that when we have new members join church, we should have a cake and coffee/water. Everyone agreed it was a good idea.
 - Hymnals – Pastor brought along copies of the hymnal that St. Marks uses called Worship and Rejoice. He suggested the option of moving to that hymnal which would make it easier to select songs for worship. The hymnal has more song choices and along with the traditional songs, has some new options. Pastor is going to talk to Randy and Cindy.
 - Pastor Kim, representing the Wider Church, stopped in to share a special thank you to our congregation for the continued support. Our church members are making a difference. Pastor Kim also shared that there is a strong chance the Northeast Association will disappear.
 - Easter Lily forms are due March 23. The Easter Lilies will be purchased from Hartman's.
 - Jason Riesterer found someone that is willing to fix our outside stairs for \$1500 or less. The steps will be replaced with 3 solid steps. A motion was made by Matt and seconded by Tanya to allow them to move forward when the weather warms up.
 - Pastor shared information about a Catalyst Grant that is available to all churches. It is to be used for outreach in the community. He suggested we think about things we may have wanted to do and haven't been able to pursue because we didn't have the money or resources available. The grant supports innovative projects meeting critical needs in partnership with our community organization.
 - The Annual Conference Meeting will be June 6 and 7.
 - Pastor will be taking vacation the 2 weeks after Easter.
- Congregation concerns: none
- Next meeting date: April 1, 2025.
- Motion to adjourn made by Matt and seconded by David. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Meyer, Secretary

*Heartfelt sympathy is extended to
Joe Klapperich and family on the death of Joe's
sister, Margaret Klapperich, on February 25th.*



ST. JAMES SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

March 23, 2025

Topic: Approval for \$10,800 to be taken from the Vision of Hope for half the cost of the siding on the parsonage.

A special meeting of the congregation was held on March 23, 2025 after worship to approve \$10,800 to be taken from the Vision of Hope to be used toward the siding on the parsonage.

A motion was made by Charlie Kolb and seconded by Henry Langenhahn, Sr. to proceed with a ballot vote.

All ballots were counted and resulted in 38 yes and 2 no.

Jason Riesterer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Henry Langenhahn, Sr.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU



to all who came to support the Chili Dinner! We had a Great Turnout and made around \$1,000.00!!! A Very Special Thank You to Brenda, Rebecca, and Brianna Miota, Doris and Parker Sprenger, Scott Henschel, Wendy Meyer, and Jamie Henschel for all their help in preparing for the Chili Dinner!

Kari Langenhahn
Chili Dinner Committee

ST. JAMES BRAT FRY

St. James UCC will host its annual "Brat Fry on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Serving time will be 4:00pm until 7:00pm. CARRY OUTS ONLY.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 6:00pm to finalize plans. All are invited to attend and suggestions are always welcome. There will be sign-up sheets for helpers and donations in the church narthex.



If you have any questions, please contact: Chairman, Mary Ann Vogel at 920-693-8352, or email wvogel3@yahoo.com.

ST. JAMES CHOIR

Rehearsals for St. James Choir are:

Tuesday, April 1st – 6:30pm

Tuesday, April 8th – 6:30pm

Tuesday, April 15th – 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 30th, 6:30pm

**note: No practice Easter week



Choir Rehearsal

ST. MARK'S CHOIR

Rehearsals for St. Mark's Choir are:

Thursday, April 3rd, 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 9th following the Lenten Service

Wednesday, April 16th, 6:30pm



QUILTERS:

April Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, April 1, 9-noon

Tuesday, April 22, 9-noon

ST. JAMES CHURCH YARD CLEANUP

St. James church yard cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 19th, beginning at 9am.

Rain date is Saturday the 26th.



If anyone didn't get a copy of the church Annual Report for 2024 and would like one, contact Karen in the church office: 920.693.8361 or stmstjoffice@gmail.com



**There will be a SOCIAL TIME
with refreshments following the
9:00am church service
at ST. JAMES
on Mother's Day, May 11th.**

***This is also the last day of Sunday
School before summer break.**



Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Bulletin Bites

APRIL, 2025

1. Partner Spotlight: The Bridgeway residents will learn about budgeting, saving, paying off debt etc. when guest speakers come from Simplify to facilitate a class. We are thrilled to partner with their amazing service to give the residents some expert advice on how to build financial stability.
2. The Winter Farmers Market is wrapping up this month, April 5th and 19th from 9am - 12pm at First Congregational Church UCC, 310 Bluff Ave Sheboygan. April and May are busy months as we prepare for the summer season. Support local businesses!
3. As Spring marches in, we will be working on a few spring-cleaning projects again. To clean it all up, we need: Bleach, All-purpose cleaning spray, Dusting spray
As always and with gratitude, thank you!
4. REGISTER NOW: SCIO is planning a spring family day for Saturday, May 17th from 9am - 4pm, hosted at the magnificent Christopher Farm and Gardens. "Gather in the Gardens" will feature a scavenger hunt, yoga, Sheboygan North Drumline, crafts, mini family photo shoots, yard games, train rides, food and farm vendors from the SCIO farmers market, and so much more! Register at <https://www.sheboygancountyinterfaith.org/gather-in-the-gardens/>



It's How We Roll!

St. James and St. Mark's ladies join us for **BUNCO NIGHT**, Thursday, April 10th, at 6:00 pm at St. James.

A \$5 participation fee is optional

Please join us and RSVP to Jackie Mueller or Tammy Serketich or email tserketich@yahoo.com



TOURNAMENT!

ST. JAMES UCC
SUNDAY, APRIL 13th
12:30pm

*Open to Men & Women of
St. James & St. Mark's UCC*

A Living Dramatization of
Leonardo da Vinci's
LAST SUPPER

DRAMA, MUSIC, COMMUNION, WORSHIP



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13
3:00PM

Join us for a one hour production of "The Last Supper" inspired by the large fresco style painting on the wall of Santa Maria delle Grazie, in Milan by Leonardo da Vinci. In this dramatization, the 12 disciples speak their minds to themselves, to each other, and to the Lord in light of the words which they have just heard Jesus speak, "One of you will betray me."

Narrator: Mason White. *Cast:* John Brown, Bob Deyo, Steve Flook,
Rev. Jeremy Hysten, Mike King, Bruce Neils, Tom Ott, Richard Reineking, Keith Risse,
Jeff Ritt, Jim Schwarten, Daniel Van Straten, Rev. Greg Whelton.
Directed by: Mandy Radloff. *Organist:* Lisa Flook. *Soloist:* Rev. Kristal Klemme.

Admission is free.

Cash donation or peanut butter jars are welcome and will benefit
Sheboygan Area Pay It Forward and the *Sheboygan County Food Bank*.

in Sheboygan's
South Side
StPaul's
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

(920) 458-1611 sspucc.org

2114 Wedemeyer St.
Sheboygan
(corner of Union Avenue
and Wedemeyer Street)

St. Peter Evangelical Church
Town Of Rhine
Chili Supper

WITH TORTE FOR DESSERT

-----One Mile West of 57 on CITY FF-----
W5375 Cty Rd FF

Tuesday April 22th

Sponsored By

St. Peter Evangelical Ladies Aid



Serving from 4-7 p.m. in the church basement

Adults \$12.00

Children 6-12 \$3.00

Under 6 Free

TAKEOUTS AVAILABLE
EVERYONE WELCOME

St. James April Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Karen Becker
Dale Sprenger
- 11 Bonnie Langenhahn
- 12 Michael Stolzmann
- 13 LaVern Wippermann
- 14 Alivia Maxey
- 15 Lee Schmitz
- 16 Dorothy Mueller
- 17 Brenda Schultz
- 19 Julianne Luebke
Terri Schmitz
- 23 Mark Stolzmann
- 24 Sarah Lutze

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Rev. Patrick & Brenda
Schultz
- 6 Jason & Jenny Riesterer
- 9 David & Christine Gumm
- 14 Dean & Emily Sprenger
- 22 Allen & Sandra
Kracht-Jones

If you or a family member need pastoral care or are hospitalized, please contact Pastor Patrick.

Call the church office 920-693-8361 or contact Pastor Patrick at 608-352-9544 or email: schultzpw@gmail.com



Please report any corrections or additions on the birthday and anniversary lists to Karen in the church office:

stmstjoffice@gmail.com
OR call 920-693-8361
so that the information will be correct on future publications.



Please let the church secretary know if you have a change in your mailing address, email or phone number.

You may either note the change on the Welcome Card and write a note that it's new info., email the church office at stmstjoffice@gmail.com or call the church office 920.693.8361.

St. Mark's April Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carol Weiland
- 2 Glenn Grunwald
- 3 Dale Dirks
Chris Schnelle
- 12 Johnathan Grunwald
Gene Kaestner
- 16 Jerry Jetzer
- 17 Ann Adams
Brenda Schultz
- 18 Kathy Kaestner
- 22 Ann Grunwald
- 23 Karen Mansker
- 24 Erick Heling
- 28 Abby Herrmann
- 30 Ryan Binversie

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Rev. Patrick & Brenda
Schultz
- 23 Bruce & Karen Mansker
- 28 Jack & Wendy Schnelle
- 30 Gene & Kathy Kaestner
Thad & Crissy Athorp

ST. JAMES USHERS

APRIL & EASTER

* Dale & Doris Sprenger
David & Christine Gumm
Corra Gumm
Elliott Gumm
Everit Gumm
Dean Sprenger
Parker Sprenger
Kevin & Sherry Jump
Ruby Jump
Aric Jump

MAY

* Alan Wippermann
David Lorfeld
Rick & Donna Wippermann
Tim & Noel Wippermann
Cindi Wippermann
Sara Wippermann
Lindsay Wippermann
Linda Lorfeld

*...words to ponder from
St. James Stewardship Team:*



ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE

"Application for Funding" forms are available in the narthex, from VISION OF HOPE Committee members, or under "More" on our church website.

We welcome specific requests as well as your suggestions for using our semiannual gifts from the Wagner Foundation.

STUDENTS! Use this form for tuition help (currently \$1,000) each year.

The next Vision of Hope Meeting is on Tuesday, May 27th at 6:30pm

ST. MARK'S USHERS & GREETERS

MIDWEEK LENTEN

Steve Gabsch
Gary Kaestner

APRIL

Bill Roelse
Lori Roelse
Carol Weiland

MAY

Dave Call
Cindy Call
Brenda Miota
Brianna Miota

READERS

April 6th— Sandy Perronne
April 13th—Scott Siekman
April 20th— Lori Roelse
April 27th —Jacob Grunwald

HOSPITALITY

April 6th – Sandy Perronne
April 20th – Margene Reyer
Any Sundays not listed above are available, if you are interested in hosting, contact the church office: 920.693.8361 or stmstjoffice@gmail.com

Middle age is when you're faced with two temptations and you choose the one that will get you home by nine o'clock.

Ronald Reagan

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

| <u>St. James</u> | | <u>St. Mark's</u> |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 40 | Sunday, March 27 | 41 |
| 38 | Ash Wed., March 5 | * |
| 49 | Sunday, March 9 | 44 |
| * | Wednesday, March 12 | 26 |
| 26 | Sunday, March 16 | 37 |
| 17 | Wednesday, March 19 | * |
| 63 | Sunday, March 23 | 48 |
| * | Wednesday, March 26 | 24 |