



#### OUR STAFF

Interim Pastor:

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser

Director of Music: John Rickert

Organist: Angie Mitchell

Administrative Assistant:

Linda Wieferich

Caretaker, Al Ferrell

Nursery Attendants:

Sarah Egerer and Theresa King

#### OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Jennifer Morris

Vice-Moderator: Heather Ballien

Clerk: Cyndi James

Treasurer: David Garn

Missions Treasurer:

Roger Ellsworth

Financial Secretary: Laurella Smith

June

2011

#### TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education: Sally Egerer
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth and Earl Settle
3. Outreach/Evangelism: Jan Wheeler  
Historian: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: Jody James
5. Missions: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
6. Finance: Jim Garn
7. Facilities/Maintenance: Jim Larkin
8. Personnel: Margaret Leaman
9. Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
10. Worship: Nancy Lewis
11. Pastoral Relations: David Quinnan
12. Visitation: Lois Smith
13. American Baptist Women's Society  
Of MABC: Dianne Ellsworth
14. Nominating: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Prayer: Renee McGregor

#### OUR CHURCH VISION

Drawing upon its rich history of service to God in an urban setting, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church serves as a beacon of Christ-centered ministry to the community through witness, worship, and fellowship in a culturally diverse population.

#### MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser

203 S. Michigan Avenue - Saginaw, Michigan 48602

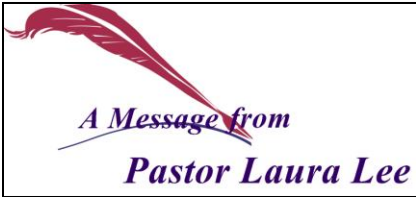
Church office: ( 989) 793-8555 Email: [MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net) Website: [MABCSaginaw.org](http://MABCSaginaw.org)



Pastor Laura Lee Strawser may be reached:

Cell phone: (989) 307-9063 Email: [RevLLS59@frontier.com](mailto:RevLLS59@frontier.com) Pastor is on Face-Book.

Please feel free to contact her.



## “SABBATH TIME”

One of my favorite songs from a musical is ‘Summertime’ from the musical, **Porgy and Bess**, written by George Gershwin. I love the lyrics... “Summertime...and the livin’ is easy.” The slow movement of this song along with the haunting tune makes this a song that can almost bring to life the lazy days of summer.

I LOVE summer!!! Sunshine, warm weather, green everywhere, shorts, sandals, beaches, swinging on a porch swing, tall glasses of iced tea, late sunsets, relaxing by a pool, reading a good book on a deck or any number of other wonderful summer activities make me want to shout with joy! And living in the northern part of the US means that this most wonderful of all the seasons is way too short! (Remember that I’m a Michigander by God’s design, not my choosing.) I must say, however, that Michigan has AMAZINGLY beautiful summers.

I think what makes summer so special to me goes beyond the fact that there’s lots of sunshine. I think I enjoy summer because the length of the daylight allows me more time to unwind, pause and rest than at other times of the year. And all human beings need time for these things.

In the Old Testament, God’s people are given a command to ‘rest.’ In Hebrew it’s called, shabat, and in English we say, Sabbath, but the meaning is the same; rest. God knew we needed rest. Whether you read about it in the book of Exodus (chapter 20) or in the book of Deuteronomy (chapter 5) the command is the same. Rest. Yet we don’t do a very good job of resting, do we?

Recently on CNN’s website there was an article entitled, “**Why is America the 'no-vacation nation'?**”, written by A. Pawlowski. In the article the author states:

“Thinking of getting away? You probably have much less vacation than workers in other parts of the world. Let’s be blunt: If you like to take lots of vacation, the United States is not the place to work.

Besides a handful of national holidays, the typical American worker gets two or three precious weeks off out of a whole year to relax and see the world -- much less than what people in many other countries receive.”

I hope this summer you’ll take time to ‘rest’ and enjoy the blessings God has given you. This doesn’t mean that you should take a vacation from worship at Michigan Avenue! Indeed, Sabbath was instituted to carve out time for rest **once a week!** However, the idea of ‘shabat’ goes beyond just a weekly observance of rest. God knows we need lengthier times of rest and that’s what vacation is all about. So...this summer take some time during this ‘good weather’ to relax, pause, reflect and appreciate what God is doing in your life. Then when the time comes to re-engage in the hectic days of the rest of the year, you’ll be re-charged, refreshed and ready to GO!

**\*\*One final note\*\*** Please remember that while YOU are relaxing the church NEVER relaxes! Please continue to support Michigan Avenue Baptist Church with your attendance and monetary gifts. Thank you and may God grant you a ‘restful’ summer.

Pastor, Laura Lee

## THANK YOU

### World Mission Offering

Thank you for your generous gift. Your contribution went to support the efforts of over 1700 short and long term missionaries and partners as they bring the Good News of Jesus Christ while meeting human need through cutting edge ministries in over 70 countries.

### East Side Soup Kitchen

We are continually grateful for the trust in our agency. Your donations are what keep us going. Be assured, we are always looking for ways to stretch those dollars. Sometimes it actually seems like the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. May God bless you always for your thoughtfulness and care for those in need.

### The Food Pantry @ First Presbyterian Church

As the economy in the area creates more challenges the need continues to increase for the services provided at the pantry. As you may know 100% of the donations are used to buy food and other personal hygiene products for the clients and it is staffed by volunteers from area churches. It is because of caring people like you and your organization the pantry is able to provide this service to those in need. Thank you for your loyal support of this necessary mission.

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A huge thank you goes to the **MABC Women's Missionary Society** who donated their unsold rummage sale items to our church, "Laporte United Methodist." We dropped off half (one full truck load) of the items to the Underground Railroad. However, most of the items are going to St. Mary's Cathedral Mental Health and our church Rummage Sale this summer. Thank You!

*-Linda Anderson*

*Laporte United Methodist Chair of May Missions*

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Recently members of the Worship team became aware of a family in Huntsville, Alabama in need. This family lost everything during the violent tornadoes that swept through the South. It was decided to send a donation to help this family. This is their "Thank You" to MABC.

Dear Michigan Ave. Baptist Church

Thank you so much for the gift of money and prayers to help our family get through this time. We are very thankful for everyone who reached out to us when we were in need. Our hope is to return the favor to the next family in crisis.

*Sincerely and with Kind Regards.*

*(Name has been withheld for privacy)*



Dear Congregation

My Dad and I would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to all of our MABC family for all your thoughts and prayers during our time of grief with the passing of Sandy Garn. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the kitchen staff and those who brought food to the funeral. In addition, we greatly appreciate the personal time and work that was put into the service by Rev. Laura Lee Strawser, and Angie Mitchell, our organist.

*Jim Garn*

*David Garn*

### SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

A special business meeting will be held on  
**Sunday, June 5, 2011,**  
immediately following the service. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- 1) Vote on the admission of two candidates, Jennie Trudell and Carrie Hansen. Both are joining the church by way of baptism, and the Worship Team is recommending them to the congregation.
- 2) To call a pastor. The Pulpit Search Team has recommended The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser to fill the position of pastor for Michigan Avenue Baptist Church.

Jennifer Morris, Moderator

### SUMMER MUSIC SIGN UP

If you would like to offer special music during the summer, please sign up in the open spaces of the sheet located in the choir room or contact John Rickert at 598-4132.

### PRAYER

Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. has been set aside for MABC to come together at the church and pray individually and corporately for the needs of our nation, our community, our church, our families, our friends and any other needs the LORD lays upon your hearts.

## GRADUATE SUNDAY

This year we will be honoring three high school graduates from our church family. We will celebrate their graduations on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Please join us as we congratulate and wish these graduates our best wishes.



Our graduates are: Adam Ballien and Cameron Ballien from St. Charles High School, and Bryce Martin from Bay City's John Glenn High School.

**Adam** will be attending Alma College in the fall to pursue a degree in Education. **Cameron** is planning on attending Ferris State University to study Engineering Technology. **Bryce** has enlisted in the Marines and will be leaving for Boot Camp July 25.

Our thoughts, prayers, and congratulations go out with each of these young men as they prepare for their futures.

## MABC SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

MABC is extremely happy to award the following college students the MABC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.



Adam Ballien  
Rhonda Casey  
Shannon Ferrell  
Kelsie Morris  
Alex Seno  
Nicole Wandzel  
Jeffrey Zinz

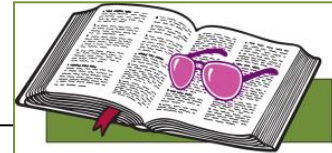
*MABC Scholarship Team*

The men's prayer breakfast will not be meeting in June; instead will start up again in September 10<sup>th</sup>.

*-Jan Wheeler*

## NEW IN THE MABC LIBRARY!

We have recently received a FREE video copy of "What If Jesus Had Never Been Born" presented by D. James Kennedy, Ph.D. and Coral Ridge Ministries. It has been placed in our library and is available for check out.



## Summer Worship Schedule

**Sunday, June 19, 2011**

9:00 a.m. Church School for Adults

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

*Praise Prelude will not meet during the summer.*

*Praise Prelude will return in the fall.*

1. The third floor nursery will be closed after June 19, 2011.
2. The main floor nursery will be open all summer and will be staffed.
3. Both nurseries will be open again on Rally Day, September 11.



*Thank you.*

*The Christian Education Team*

## THE POWER OF PENTECOST

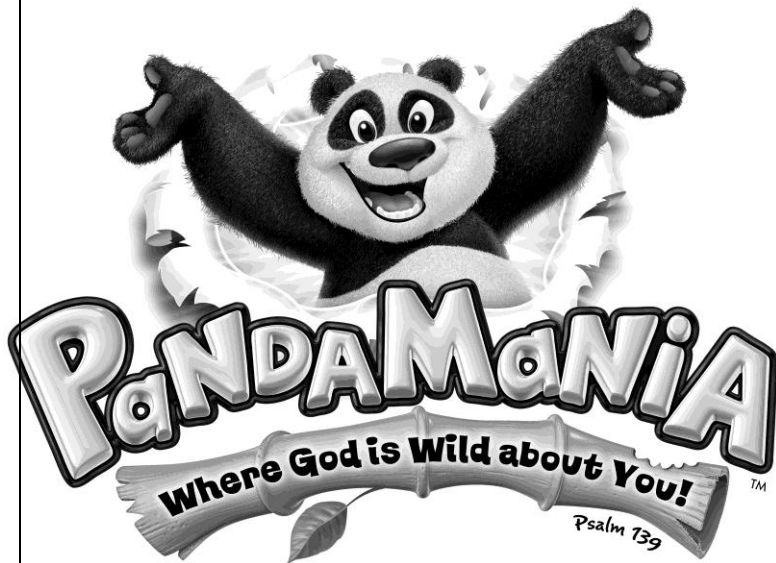
Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God's giving the Law to the Israelites 50 days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt.

Just days after the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, his (Jewish) disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. But God transformed the occasion by giving them the Holy Spirit, as he'd promised. The disciples saw something like flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. The pilgrims in Jerusalem heard about Jesus in their native tongues (see Acts 2:1-12).

In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit's power. Worship services sometimes include hymns, prayers and Scriptures in various tongues. To simulate the original Pentecost experience, congregations may say the Lord's Prayer in several languages at once.



## MEN'S BREAKFAST



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**June 20-23, 2011**

**6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**VBS will be held at First Presbyterian Church  
121 S. Harrison**

VBS is being held jointly with  
Michigan Avenue Baptist Church  
St. John's Episcopal  
And First Presbyterian Church

Children K-5 are invited to join in the fun where they will learn God is wild for them! Each evening will be filled with great singing, an awesome Bible story, cool games and of course, delicious snacks.

Adult volunteers are needed to help. Please contact Sally Egerer if you are interested in volunteering to help. We need you!

**SCRAP-BOOKING SATURDAY**

Our MABC scrap-bookers will gather in the fellowship halls on Saturday, June 18 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. for a day of scrapbooking fun. You are invited to attend at any time. Sally Egerer will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

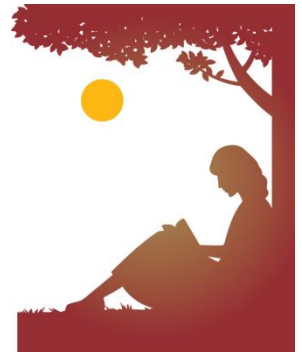


**My father didn't tell me how to live;  
He lived, and let me watch him do it."**

*-Clarence Kelland*

**QUIET SPACE**

"Rest is not idleness," said John Lubbock, "and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water or watching the clouds float across the sky is hardly a waste of time."



Most of us need more, not less, rest built into our daily routine. Only when we are quiet can we hear God's whisper.

Summer is a great time to find a peaceful, outdoor spot to read, rest and pray – even if only for a few minutes. God is eagerly waiting for us to make space for him.

**CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**

**RAM**



This Old Testament symbol of Christ represents him as the leader of the "herd," as well as a sacrifice for people's sins. Jesus' sacrificial death was foretold in Genesis 22, when God instructed Abraham to kill his only son, Isaac. But God provided a ram to take Isaac's place, just as he provided Jesus, God's only Son, to take our place on the cross.



"Dad, can you make dinner for me and my entire Sunday school class?"

"The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority."

*-Ralph W. Sockman*



Dear Congregation:

Learning to share is tough for children, whose early understanding can be summed up as “It’s mine!” We begin by taking turns with things in limited supply like crayons or skateboards, experience the immediate satisfaction of playing with someone else, and start to understand that sharing strengthens friendships. Teenagers experience the fun of shared jokes and the healing comfort of sharing broken hearts. As adults, we seek organizations that share our vision and perhaps a special someone to share the rest of our lives with. We come to know that sharing is bedrock to being fully human, and it brings incredible joy.

Soon, we will be invited to help people in aching need through the **Sowing Seeds of Ministry Regional/One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. By sharing our resources, combined with offerings from thousands of congregations in eight other denominations across the United States, we

- build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty
- Bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable
- Nurture stronger futures and self sufficiency through health care, education, job training and tools for livelihoods

We are blessed that God is able to provide when and where help is needed, through us. (2 Corinthians 9:8-15) In what may seem an amazing twist, we ourselves benefit from the sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing donors say:

- Giving just feeds my soul! This is what life is about – not collecting things, but helping people.
- Giving lifts me out of my own troubles. It helps me appreciate what I have.
- As I see needs met, I am reminded how God takes care of me.
- One Great Hour of Sharing lets me put my hands on problems that need attention throughout the world.

Sharing because we have felt God’s love aligns our lives with God’s own life and work in our world. By sharing we are renewed and transformed. “Those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” (1 John 4:16) Sharing our love for God through **Sowing Seeds of Ministry Regional/One Great Hour of Sharing offering**, we offer ourselves to others as they need us, imitating Christ’s offering of his life for us. In turn, we receive him more deeply into our own hearts, bringing indescribable joy.

Sowing Seeds of Ministry Regional Offering is currently being received. Its purpose is to continue Growing Healthy Churches in Michigan. The First Baptist Church of Royal Oak Mission Fund has offered a matching gift opportunity. All new or increased gifts to the Region Offering will be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This ministry offering promotes life together as American Baptists. Together with all of our God-given gifts we are growing healthy churches, cultivating health in our pastors, and sowing seeds of the Gospel in Michigan. Please give freely to this ministry.

Giving changes so many things – for the receiver and for the giver. Please give generously through the **Sowing Seeds of Ministry Regional /One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. It’s all about sharing – sharing resources, changing lives! Your MABC Mission Team has set a goal of \$400.00 to be reached by the end of June.

Sincerely,  
MABC Mission Team

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

In the year 1863, in the week that President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address, a group of 14 men and women met in the home of V. A. Paine and organized the First Baptist Church of Saginaw City, Michigan (November 19, 1863). These believers had been active in the life of the Baptist Church in East Saginaw, but finding it inconvenient to cross the Saginaw River by ferry, they had begun holding occasional services by themselves in 1858.

The Reverend J. S. Goodman, pastor of First Baptist Church in East Saginaw, served as acting pastor, with services being held in the Methodist Church and later in the Court House. The congregation built their own house of worship in late November, 1864. In 1878 this building was sold and a larger brick building was purchased from the Liberal Christians on the spot where the West Side Post Office now stands.

In 1890, Saginaw City and East Saginaw were merged to form the present city of Saginaw. Two years later the First Baptist Church of Saginaw City voted to change its name to "The Michigan Avenue Baptist Church."

Feeling the need of a more adequate building, members of the Christian Endeavor Society started quietly raising money for a new church edifice in 1905. Ground was broken and the cornerstone laid in 1908. The new building was formally dedicated in 1909.

One of the most influential of the many fine laymen who served the church was Latham Burrows, who came to Saginaw in 1877 at 18 years of age. He presented the church with a pipe organ in 1887, and served as organist and choir director for 29 years. Following his death in 1927, the church learned of his bequest of \$30,000 for a Music Endowment. This money was invested mostly in Eastman Kodak company stock and 33 years later the church was amazed to learn that the value of the fund had increased to a quarter of a million dollars! Miss Robinson was the first full-time minister of music, coming in 1934.

The church has always had a lively interest in missions. Shortly after its founding in 1863, the congregation started a mission in the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward. Later this chapel was sold and became the present Grace Presbyterian Church. At the turn of the century two mission Sunday Schools were conducted: one on the North End (Bond St. Mission), and the other at Penoyer Farm. In 1959, 14 of our families became the nucleus of a new church in northwest Saginaw, now organized as Hopevale Memorial Baptist Church (Hopevale Church).

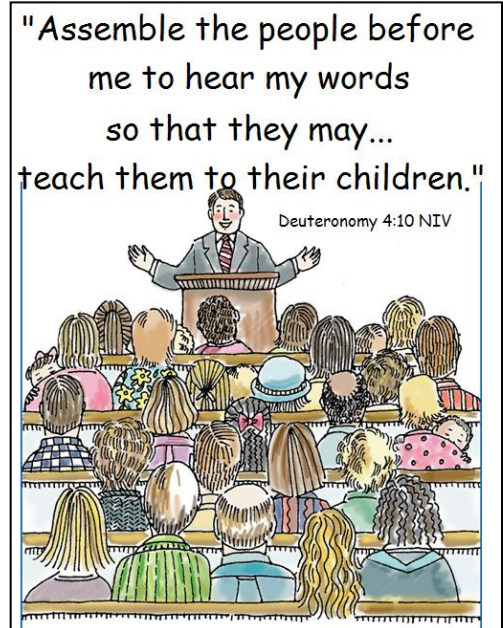
In 1958 an extensive rebuilding and remodeling program was started, including new Christian education rooms, Burrows Memorial Lounge, fellowship halls, choir room, chancel, choir loft, and Mothers' Gallery (completed in 1963).



*In recognition of the dedication of MABC on June 28, 1908, this Brief History of MABC has been offered.*

**PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED  
MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**

- 1863 Rev. J. S. Goodman  
1867 Rev. L. L. Fits  
1868 Rev. N. P. Barlow
- 1869 Rev. W. E. Lyon  
1873 Rev. W. W. Pattongell  
1881 Rev. E. J. Jameson
- 1884 Rev. C. T. Chaffee  
1886 Rev. R. Nelson  
1891 Rev. A. H. Beaver
- 1895 Rev. Charles Maxson  
1990 Rev. H. R. Chapman  
1910 Rev. E. L. Church
- 1913 Rev. F. C. Stifer  
1919 Rev. G. C. Lamont  
1921 Rev. A. H. Harnley
- 1932 Rev. D. T. Grey  
1946 Rev. H. C. Hall  
1955 Rev. E. L. Goss
- 1956 Rev. Theodore H. Johnson  
1979 Rev. L. Long (Assistant Pastor)  
1980 Rev. Donald H. Ashmall
- 1986 Rev. W. Conklin, Interim Pastor  
1887 Rev. D. Case, Interim Pastor  
1988 Rev. Fred Oaks
- 1991 Rev. Karen Heistand, Interim Pastor  
1991 Rev. William Walker  
1998 Rev. Hayes Wiltshire, Interim Pastor
- 1999 Revs. Inga and Ron Freyer Nicholas  
2005 Rev. Joseph Mortensen, Interim Pastor  
2006 Rev. Mary Ann Short, Interim Pastor
- 2007 Rev. David S. Van Brakle  
2010 Rev. Laura Lee Strawser, Interim Pastor







MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH  
 203 S. Michigan Avenue – Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
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Email: [MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website: [www.MABCSaginaw.org](http://www.MABCSaginaw.org)



2011

**REGIONAL and ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING**  
 will be received during the month of June.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsals	2 6:30 p.m., Prayer Ministry	3	4 9:00 a.m. Crayola Park Clean-Up
5 Communion & Graduation Sunday <b>SPECIAL BUSINESS MTG</b>	6 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	7 7:30 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	8 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsals	9 6:30 p.m., Prayer Ministry	10	11
12 <b>PENTECOST</b> Worship Team Meeting 	13 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	14 7:30 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	15	16 6:30 p.m., Prayer Ministry  7:00 p.m., Church Council	17	18 10:00-3:00 Scrapbooking
19  <b>Summer Hours Begin</b>	<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</b> At First Presbyterian Church, with MABC and St. John's Episcopal Church			23 6:30 p.m., Prayer Ministry	24	25
26	27 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	28 7:30 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	29	30 6:30 p.m., Prayer Ministry		



**SUNDAY AT MABC**  
 9:15 a.m. Praise Prelude  
 9:30 a.m., Church School  
 10:45 a.m., Worship Service & Extended session

 **BEGINNING SUNDAY, JUNE 19**  
**Summer Hours:**  
 9:00 a.m., Adult Church School  
 10:00 a.m., Worship Service  
*Note: Praise Prelude will not meet during the summer.  
 Praise Prelude will resume in the fall.*

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### JUNE 2011

- 01 Brenda Honsinger
- 01 Kathryn Little
- 01 Margaret Chinery
- 03 Karen Wheatley
- 03 Thomas Wheatley, Jr.
- 06 John Landeryou
- 09 Megan McGregor
- 09 Sarah Egerer
- 15 Richard Annear
- 16 Charles Bell, Sr.
- 16 Mary Leary
- 18 Lucas Smith
- 19 Cheryl Ellsworth
- 20 Frank Anjakos, Jr.
- 21 Evelyn Hall
- 23 Deborah Soul
- 24 Doris Leaman

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If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 7893-8555 with your birth date. We'd like to wish everybody a Happy Birthday during their birthday month. Please contact the church office should you have a change of address. We want to keep our records current. Thank you.