



# The Beacon Newsletter

*December 2017*



## OUR STAFF

Pastor:

Reverend Carol McCleary

Director of Music: John Rickert

Organist: Jeremy Reis

Administrative Assistant:

Linda Wieferich

Caretaker: Al Ferrell

Nursery Attendant:

Sarah Egerer

## OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Nancy Lewis

Vice-Moderator: Cheryl Zinz

Clerk: Cyndi James

Treasurer: Jody James

Missions Treasurer:

Roger Ellsworth

Financial Secretary: Mary Leary



## CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education:  
Theresa King
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth
3. Missions: Outreach/Evangelism:  
Co-Leader: Nikki Anjakos-Seno  
Co-Leader: Vacant  
Historian: J. David Garn  
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: David Garn
5. Finance: Jim Garn
6. Facilities/Maintenance:  
Opportunity to serve
7. Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
8. Worship: Jan Wheeler
9. Pastoral Relations: Vacant
10. Visitation: Lois Smith
11. Nominating: Appointed as needed

**MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
203 S. Michigan Ave - Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
Church office: (989) 793-8555  
Email: [MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [MABCSaginaw.org](http://MABCSaginaw.org)

## 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.



## *A Message from Pastor Carol*



*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)*

I imagine that as you read these famous words by the prophet Isaiah, many of you found yourself singing them, or at least humming along to the famous tune from Handel's *Messiah*. Each year the soaring sounds of the *Messiah* remind us of the good news: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

For centuries, Christians have associated these words with the birth of Jesus. We know that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. Because he became fully human, Jesus understands our weaknesses and struggles. He is always ready to assist and guide us. By his miracles, death and resurrection, Jesus proved himself to be the Mighty God. In the words of John Calvin, "When we need strength, let us remember that he is Mighty and Strong." Jesus is called the Everlasting Father, a title that speaks of his eternity. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.*" We can depend on him to love and care for us. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus told his anxious followers: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you....Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid (John 14:27)*. Still today, Jesus brings peace to our troubled hearts. We look forward to the day when Christ will return, evil will be defeated, and God will reign in peace forever. Truly, Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Yet as glorious as these titles are, we cannot overlook two significant words in this verse...."For us."

In a sermon Martin Luther preached on Christmas Day in 1531, he said: "We are always to add, "For us." For whom was [Jesus] conceived and born? For whom did he suffer and die? For us, for us, for us! Always add us!"

Friends, it was for us, for you and for me that Jesus came. He lived and loved and died and rose again so that all may find salvation in his name.

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.* May you celebrate the good news this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Carol





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## ADVENT and CHRISTMAS 2017

Sunday, December 3, First Sunday of Advent "HOPE"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service (Communion Sunday)

12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent "PEACE"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Potluck Sunday and Children's Program

Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent "LOVE"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

CANTATA: Holy Night of Miracles

12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent "JOY"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve "CHRIST"

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

*(Please note: there will not be a nursery attendant on duty.  
You are invited to use the viewing gallery if necessary.)*

# Merry Christmas

*Christ  
the Savior  
is born!*



## Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



Dear Congregation,

As we prepare for the 2017 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, please take a moment to reflect on the theme for this year, "Generous Congregations."

Helping those in need is one of the major themes of the Bible and of Jesus' ministry. The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity." (Isaiah 32:8 NLT) Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Since RMMO began in 1977, it has helped provide much needed thank you checks to retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and families - those who have dedicated their lives to God's service. In 2016, RMMO raised \$1,059,444, and more than 3,443 checks were distributed to recipients and their families.

This year, your 2017, your 2017 Mission Team has set a goal of \$400.00 to be reached by the end of December. Contribution envelopes will be available in the church pews and on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary.

Cordially,

MABC Mission Team

REMEMBER with LOVE  
GIVE with GRATITUDE





## HealthSource CHRISTMAS GIFT MISSION OPPORTUNITY

It is time to get ready for the holidays and HealthSource is requesting donations and our help in providing the residents and patients of HealthSource Saginaw an incredible Christmas Season. We, MABC, can help by providing gift suggestions as listed below.

As always, HealthSource will gladly wrap your gifts. If you wish, you can include gift bags and tissue paper. If you choose to wrap your gift/s, please be sure the gift is tagged with the contents of the package including size, color, male or female, etc

**Bring your gift/s to the church and place your gift/s under the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. Deadline for gifts to be brought to MABC is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017.**

*Thank you for your support of patients and residents of HealthSource.*



### Gift Suggestions for Men

Socks  
After & Pre-Shave/Body Spray  
Combs and Hair Picks  
Sweatshirts L-3X (pullover/zip up)  
Sweatpants L-3X  
Slippers  
(with rubber soles and backs on them)

Sugar free gum/candy  
Stick deodorant  
T-shirts L-3X  
Denture cleaner and adhesive  
Button up sweaters  
Radio/CD players

Large face watches  
Flannel shirts L-3X  
Polo type shirts  
Wallet/change purse  
Electric shavers  
CD's of music

\$2.00 or \$3.00 in money envelopes  
Magazines  
Hair gel/hair and scalp conditioner  
Playing cards (large print)  
Shampoo and body wash

### Gift Suggestions for Women

Magazines  
Body spray/cologne  
Deodorant  
Body wash/lotions  
Slippers  
(with rubber soles and backs on them)

Sweatpants M-3X  
Sweatshirts M-3X (pullover/zip up)  
Dusters and nightgowns M-3X  
Jewelry/clip-on earrings  
Sugar free candy/gum  
Button up sweaters  
Undershirts M-2X

CD's of music  
Simple craft projects  
Nail polish and polish remover  
Radio/CD players  
Large face watches  
Lipstick/chap stick  
Coin purses

Shampoo  
Hair and scalp conditioner  
Brushes/large tooth combs/picks  
\$2.00 or \$3.00 in money envelopes  
Hair spray/hair gel  
Mirrors





## MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH Event Cancellation Policy

In the event that the cancellation of the worship service or any other public church activity may be warranted, the following procedure will be followed:

The Church Moderator shall consult with the Pastor, the Chair of the Worship Team, and any other persons who might provide pertinent information for making the decision, such as Team chair of the Finance, Christian Education, Music Director, church maintenance staff, etc.

Should the Moderator determine that cancellation is warranted, s/he shall notify WNEM-TV (Channel 5), WEYI-TV (Channel 25), and WSGW Radio, and (790 am) for public announcement.

Reasons for the cancellation of worship or other church activities include (but are not limited to) power outage, boiler malfunction, inclement weather or other natural disaster, declared emergency by local officials, and medical emergencies.

Note: The policy does **NOT** apply to internal meetings, such as team meetings, music rehearsals, and youth group meetings.

### CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFTS FOR CHURCH STAFF MEMBERS

If you would like to give a Christmas Love Gift to our staff members, please fill out this form and return it with the amount indicated to Nancy Lewis no later than Sunday, December 17, 2017. If giving by check, please make your check out to Nancy Lewis.

Thank you.  
Nancy Lewis, Moderator



### *Merry Christmas*

Rev. Carol McCleary	_____
John Rickert, Director of Music	_____
Jeremy Reis, Organist	_____
Linda Wieferich, Administrative Assistant	_____
Al Ferrell, Caretaker	_____
Sarah Egerer, Nursery Attendant	_____

TOTAL                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## THANK YOU

To Pastor McCleary, Linda and our Church Family:

Thank you for your cards, food, support and comforting words during this difficult time.

We are blessed to have such a caring church family.

In Christian Love,  
Jim and Mary Larkin

Dear Friends and Family of MABC,

Jackie and Frank Anjakos would like to thank the congregation for the recognition given at potluck for their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. A huge thank you to Connie Ellsworth for baking a beautiful cake.

-Frank & Jackie Anjakos



### WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Saturday,  
December 2, 2017

The women of the church are invited to bring friends and family to this festive morning in celebration of the Christmas season.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased from Cheryl Ellsworth or Cyndi James.

See you at the Women's Christmas Tea!



*Come! Let us adore Him.*

## A HOLINESS INVASION

"Advent" means "coming," of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so - a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.

-Frederick Buechner  
*The Clown in the Belfry*

### PRAYER TIME

The MABC Prayer Team meets every Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to 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 our hearts. This time is opened to everyone. You can pray during this time at home or at the church. If you have any questions, please see Lois Smith or Becky Geidans.

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-17



### GREATEST WORTH

He came a babe of lowly birth.  
He was God's Son of greatest worth.  
We, like the angels, sing with mirth  
Because God sent his Son to earth  
To ransom us and claim our worth.  
Praise God this babe of lowly birth!

-MaryAnn Sundby



## CHRISTMAS COOKIES

The ABY will be taking orders for Christmas cookies and candy. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

## COOKIE BAKING and DECORATING

We will be baking and decorating Cut-out cookies on Wednesday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 7 beginning at 9:30 a.m. If you can and would like to help, you are needed!

Please contact Cyndi James or Connie Ellsworth to let them know you will be available. It will be a lot of fun!



## OUR GREATEST NEED

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness and  
acceptance, so God sent us a Savior.

-Author unknown

## GOD WITH US

God comes to us across this brief and wondering season, tracing the ways of pain and song. Sharing beyond all rhyme or reason, this long year's darkest days. 'Til we can face his radiant bearing in the stable place of peace.

-J. Barrie Shepherd



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 9, 2017

All men of MABC are invited to this time of Christian Fellowship and delicious food. Hope to see you at the breakfast and fellowship.

## THE PERFECT GIFT

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday - or ours. Christmas is about the perfect *presence* of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends - the people who seem to have everything - and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you - your time, your talent and your treasure - used in service to others."



The Reason for the Season





# CHRISTMAS

POTLUCK and CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

12:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Christian fellowship will be enjoyed by all as we gather together for a delicious potluck with dishes lovingly prepared by you.

We have been told there will be a special guest arriving following the potluck. Be sure to be there.

See you at the potluck!



## THE GIVER

Many Christian families struggle with what role - if any - Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it's fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.

Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."

## CHURCH COUNCIL

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 21, 2017

## Our Two Fathers:

When I was growing up in the land of the world  
I didn't realize the hand that was dealt  
But through the storms, is when our hearts melt,  
By the love of our two fathers.

One is in heaven and ones down here  
They give us love when the storm is fierce  
They wrap us in Love so we won't be afraid  
And teach us how we are wonderfully made  
By the love of our two fathers.

When we are lost, they lead the way  
When we don't know, they know what to say  
They give us peace and guide our day  
By the love of our two fathers

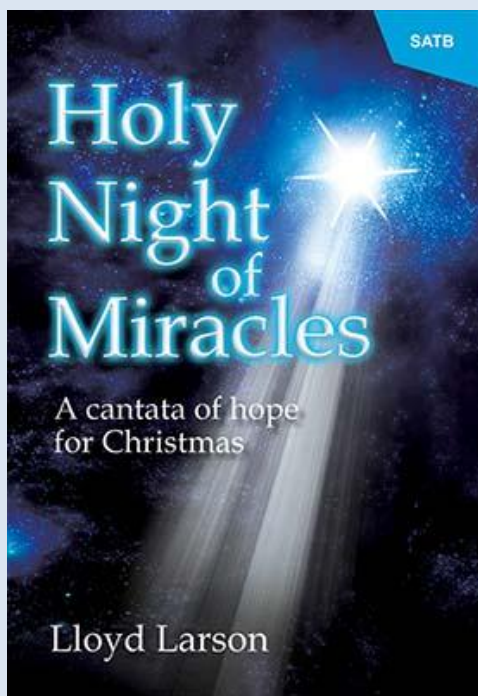
And so we live by God's dear plan  
Because He knows best and by His hand  
He directs our paths wherever we go  
And tells us how much he loves us so  
By the Love of our two fathers

J. Ray James  
October 22, 2017



"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly."

-Andy Rooney



**Latham Burrows Choir  
Presents: Holy Night of Miracles  
10:45 a.m.  
Sunday, December 17, 2017  
Michigan Avenue Baptist Church**

One miraculous night in Bethlehem changed the course of human history forever. Foretold by Old Testament prophets, the Messiah entered the world and, even more importantly, the hearts of people from all walks of life with a message of hope and love. This holy night is distinctively captured in this musical recounting of Jesus' birth. Blending familiar carols with original Christmas anthems, this work is a timely reminder that the hope born on that first Christmas night is still needed today and ultimately found in the miraculous Child born in Bethlehem. Heart-warming music, inspiring narration, and congregational singing make this piece a moving worship experience for choirs and congregations alike.



*Celebrate the Savior*



***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 24, 2017***

If you have small children, you are invited to use the viewing gallery.  
Our nursery attendant will not be on duty Christmas Eve as she will be attending the worship service.  
Thank you.



*Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:  
To us this day a child is given,  
To crown us with the joy of heaven.*

*-Martin Luther*

***Merry Christmas***

*From the staff of MABC  
Rev. Carol McCleary  
Linda Wieferich, Administrative Assistant  
Al Ferrell, Caretaker  
John Rickert, Director of Music  
Jeremy Reis, Organist  
Sarah Egerer, Nursery Attendant*

## EVERLASTING JOY

In a Chicken Soup for the Soul sampler, Karen Asire tells of a particularly difficult Christmas after her husband left and began divorce proceedings. As Karen and her three young children set up their tree, she fought tears and secretly tucked aside certain ornaments, such as one announcing “Our First Christmas Together.”


Several days later, a neighbor stopped by with a gold decoration proclaiming JOY. “We’ve hung this ornament on our tree for several years,” she explained, “But this year we wanted you to have it.” When Asire hung it on the tree and stepped back, “all the other ornaments seemed to fade into the background, and all she saw was the shimmering gold of the JOY ornament.” She allowed herself to cry then, grateful for the reminder that amid grief and heartache, God’s love shines.

Pain fades in time, while God’s Christmas gift - Jesus - brings joy that lasts forever.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

After Mary learned she was pregnant with God’s Son, what relative — also miraculously pregnant — did she go visit?

A. Esther  
B. Elizabeth  
C. Anne  
D. Anna



Answer: B (See Luke 1:39-41.)

## GOD WITH US

God comes to us across this brief and wondering season, tracing the ways of pain and song. Sharing beyond all rhyme or reason, this long year’s darkest days. ‘Til we can face his radiant bearing in the stable place of peace.

-J. Barrie Shepherd

## JANUARY COMMUNION TABLE FLOWER SIGN-UP

*Please watch your bulletin*

## 2018 SAVE THE DATES

- January 7, Annual Reports Due
- January 7, Taking Down the Greens
- January 13, Men’s Breakfast
- January 14, Potluck Sunday
- January 20, Church Cleaning Day

**ANNUAL  
BUSINESS MEETING**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday, January 25, 2018**



“At least they saved themselves a co-pay.”



## Annual Report



### Annual Reports are due Sunday, January 7, 2018

Annual Reports are due from:

All Team Chairpersons  
Sub-Team Chairpersons  
Moderator  
Church Clerk  
Church Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Mission (Benevolence) Treasurer  
Historian  
Director of Music  
Pastor

Submitting your annual report by the due date is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## 2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your NEW 2018 contribution envelopes are ready for you to pick up from the usher's table located at the back of the sanctuary. They will be available December 3. Please pick up your contribution envelope box to save the church postage.

If you do not have a contribution envelope box and would like one, please contact the church office. Thank you.

## YEAR END NOTES

- A reminder ... if you want your 2017 contributions to be included on your 2017 giving record, it must be received in the church office no later than December 31.
- Please submit any and all bills for payment and/or reimbursement, if possible, no later than Thursday, December 14.



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 25, 2018



*She wrapped him  
in cloths and placed  
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



# MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Reverend Carol McCleary

203 S. Michigan Ave

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*December 2017*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 9:30-11:00 Women's Christmas Tea
3 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - HOPE  Communion Sunday	4  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	5	6 3:00 p.m. Christmas Cookie Decorating  Rehearsals	7 9:30 a.m. Christmas Cookie decorating  2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time	8	9  9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - PEACE  Potluck Sunday and Children's Program	11  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	12	13  Rehearsals	14  2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time	15	16
17 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - LOVE  	18  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	19	20  Rehearsals	21  2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time  7:00 p.m. Church Council	22	23
24 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - JOY  7:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE Worship Service - CHRIST CANDLE	25    MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27  No Rehearsals	28  2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time	29	30
31  New Year's Eve						

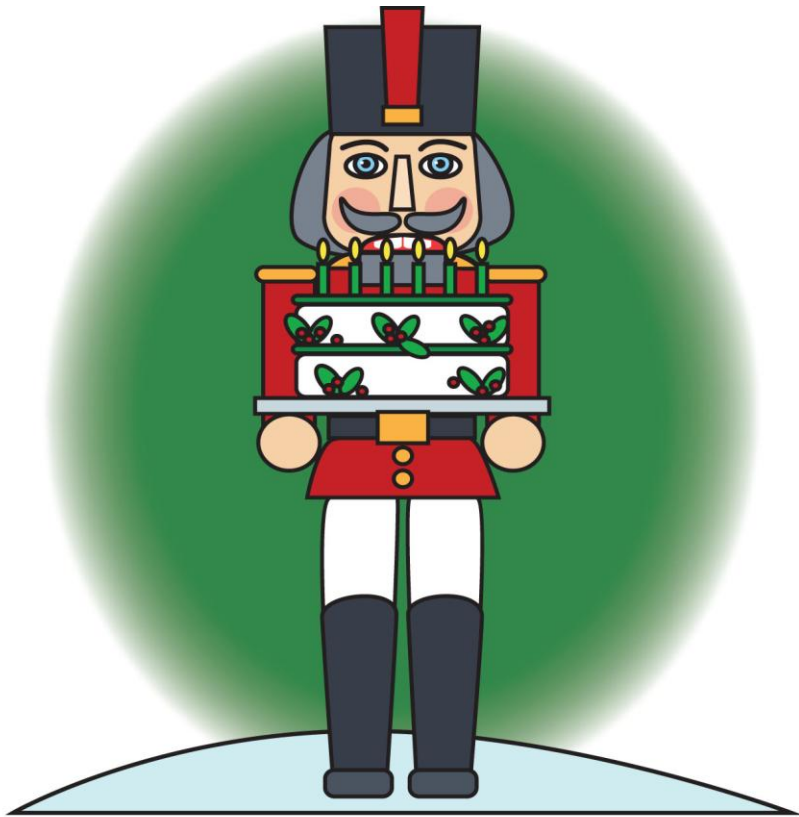
## WORSHIP AT MABC

9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship

## WEDNESDAY MUSIC REHEARSALS

6:30 p.m. Belle Aire Handbell Choir  
7:30 p.m. Latham Burrows Choir

# Happy Birthday



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

06 Rose Johnson  
09 Carol Ellsworth  
09 Janet Leaman  
15 Aileen Kashon  
21 Sally Egerer  
22 J. David Garn  
23 Renee McGregor  
28 Sandra Savvie  
28 Audrey Cooper  
30 Roger Ellsworth  
31 Arlene Leary

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 793-8555 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.