



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
Sound Technician
Opportunity to serve

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Nancy Lewis
Vice-Moderator: Cheryl Zinz
Clerk: Cyndi James
Treasurer: J. David Garn
Missions Treasurer:
Rose Johnson
Financial Secretary: Laure Smith



HOLY WEEK March 25-April 1

PALM SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 a.m. Lenten
"Austerity" Luncheon

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. Agape Meal and
service at MABC

GOOD FRIDAY

8:30 a.m. Carry the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Church School
(Check with your teacher)
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

Christian Ed & Youth Ministry
Cheryl Ellsworth
Facilities/Maintenance:
Jody James
Historian: J. David Garn
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
Finance: Jim Garn
Missions, Outreach/Evangelism:
Co-Leader: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Co-Leader: Opportunity to
serve
Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
Music & Worship: Jan Wheeler
Pastoral Relations: Vacant
Visitation: Lois Smith
Nominating: Appointed as needed

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
203 S. Michigan Ave - Saginaw, Michigan 48602
Church office: (989) 793-8555
Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net
Website: 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

This month, in place of my usual newsletter column, I would like to share with you the words of our Moderator, Dr. Nancy Lewis as well as a pastoral letter written by Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, the General Secretary of ABC-USA. Both Nancy's speech and Lee's letter address recent turmoil in society and the church's call to be ministers of love, peace and reconciliation in the midst of such turmoil. Nancy recently completed a term as President of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. As the outgoing President of the Region, she shared the following words at the ABC-MI annual meeting:

I would be less than honest if I didn't express my concerns for the future of our churches. We seem to be living in a very crazy, mixed-up world right now—socially, politically, culturally. Even more importantly, Christians seem to be getting caught up in this turmoil.

As American Baptist Churches, I encourage you to focus on Jesus' commandment to "love one another." There's a period at the end of that sentence. It doesn't say, "Love one another...except for..." It doesn't say, "Love one another, only if..." It doesn't say, "Love one another, as long as they look like you, talk like you, and agree with you." It says, "Love one another." Period. End of sentence.

When I hear of churches in conflict (whether in our denomination or some other), it breaks my heart. As Christians we must be better than that. We must answer Christ's call to "Love one another." In Galatians 3:28 we read: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

My charge to everyone in this room is to do your part to ensure that this commandment to love one another is evident in you personally and in your churches as well.

We are called to go out into the world and make disciples of Christ. Period. End of sentence. Let us follow the example of the Good family (recently commissioned missionaries to Hungary) and "Respond to the Call." We can do that in our own cities, our own churches, and our own lives. Let that be our call. Thank you and God bless.

Pastoral letter from ABC-USA General Secretary

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer General Secretary

"A Higher Way: American Baptists and Our Neighbors"
February 1, 2018

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

Dear ABCUSA sisters and brothers, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

As I write to you today, we all would acknowledge that recently our country has experienced a great deal of turmoil, pain and stress.

What are we witnessing? A lack of civility in both discourse and behavior cuts across all strata of our society, and extends even to the Presidency itself. Prejudice and xenophobia threaten to become policy, in ways that are not only unjust, but destructive of basic American core values. Immigrants are seen as a threat and not a blessing. Racism, rightly considered "America's original sin," has reared its ugly head in too many disturbing

ways. The January 2018 shut-down of our federal government symbolizes the polarization and dysfunction of our political institutions. Schools suffer violence, and innocent children are murdered. Politicians, celebrities, newscasters, sports stars, doctors, and yes, even clergy, have been guilty of sexual harassment and abuse. Months after hurricanes devastated Puerto Rico, much of the island has no electrical power, while traffic lights, thousands of homes and many church buildings still require repair.

As representatives of the Kingdom of God envisioned by Jesus (see Matthew 5-7), we must not remain silent as our American society falters in upholding cherished principles, and this is why I am writing to our ABCUSA family. Although my remarks are my own, I have asked our Regional Executive Ministers and the Board of General Ministries' Executive Committee to speak into this letter. Many have shared advice and counsel, and have also expressed support for the letter. I would like to thank them all for their insights and encouragement.

Each one of the issues raised above deserves thoughtful consideration and prophetic response, but in this letter, I wish to address an underlying theme that may provide our leaders and churches with a perspective by which to faithfully address all of them.

In brief, our culture suffers from a form of spiritual amnesia. Having forgotten or ignored the Baptist and biblical core conviction of the infinite worth of every human being because we are all made in God's image, many movements and individuals no longer act as if loving one's neighbor is a fundamental and necessary manifestation of a just and healthy society. We are so quick to judge, denigrate, criticize, attack, and assume to be superior to those with whom we differ. There is precious little grace, courtesy and mutual respect remaining in American discourse and life. We must recapture these virtues which can resupply society with much needed social capital. This failing applies to both the President and Congress, to political and social conservatives and liberals alike, to Republicans and to Democrats, as well as to those of us who are part of religious communities.

If we believe that all people are precious to God and equal to one another, we must reject prejudice, hatred, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bigotry. If we believe that political democracy best expresses the civic equality that is demanded by our Baptist belief in soul freedom, then we must abandon "the politics of personal destruction" which in contemporary culture demonizes all who disagree with us, preventing healthy discourse, problem-solving and thoughtful compromise.

If we believe in the equality of all human beings, we can celebrate religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity as a gift that enriches us all. We can defend the right of others to be safe and free, even if we do not see eye to eye on political matters (Baptists have held this position since colonial times). We will befriend the stranger and immigrant and protect the powerless. We will treat others with caring, respect and generosity. We will re-discover the art of speaking the "truth in love" and not in anger (Ephesians 4:15). In other words, we will embrace Jesus' call to "love our neighbor as ourselves.

In the Bible, loving one's neighbor is a manifestation of godly wisdom. Imagine what kind of a society we could experience if we applied this wisdom to our political discourse: "A person who lacks judgment derides one's neighbor, but a person of understanding holds their tongue" (Proverbs 11:12; my paraphrase). Consider what policymaking would look like if we applied this admonition: "Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you" (Proverbs 3:29; see also Zechariah 8:16-17). Immigrants, for example, are our neighbors, not our enemies.

How might we as a Christian movement, made up of local churches and individual disciples of Christ, live out Jesus' command to love our neighbors?

In regard to our witness concerning racism, I encourage all American Baptists to travel to Washington DC for a potentially historic religious service and demonstration on April 4, 2018, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Denominations and organizations from across the theological spectrum are coming together to affirm that we believe in an America that exemplifies racial justice and harmony. I will be there, and I hope American Baptists will support this ecumenical affirmation that all Americans are our neighbors. For more information, see <http://rally2endracism.org>.

In response to the status of undocumented immigrants, I would remind us that many are members of American Baptist churches all across the country. They are our sisters and brothers. Seek them out, love them, express solidarity with them, demonstrate compassion and care. Although legitimate differences of opinion exist amongst us regarding immigration policy, I would encourage us to support the continuation of the legal visa status of Haitian, Central American and other temporary legal immigrants. We can encourage Congress and the President to extend a pathway to legal status and eventual citizenship to children who came to the United States with their parents, and who may now face either deportation or separation from their parents. If our neighbors are loved by God, we must embrace them regardless of their legal status, remembering that Abraham's offspring were immigrants in Egypt, and that Jesus himself was an immigrant whose family had to flee persecution. ¹

Surely, we all agree that all forms of violence, ² including sexual harassment and human trafficking, are anathema to our understanding of the Kingdom of God. If we believe that men and women are equal in God's eyes, we cannot excuse sexual abuse and harassment. In the near future, the Office of the General Secretary, in cooperation with other ABCUSA ministries, hopes to launch a creative new initiative as a resource for churches who are already addressing these concerns, or may wish to start doing so.

American Baptists are committed to journeying alongside our 114 Puerto Rican Baptist churches, and we are well on our way to raising one million dollars in One Great Hour of Sharing Disaster Relief funds for the island. Working with the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico region, American Baptist Home Mission Societies is doing a great job in coordinating our rebuilding efforts. Send a work team! Furthermore, we invite your church to enter into a three year sister church relationship with one of our Puerto Rican congregations, culminating in face to face visits to celebrate the faith of our Puerto Rican friends at the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan. You will soon receive details on how to become a Sister Church. As a matter of justice and compassion, let us share with our elected representatives that we believe our government must do more to restore the island's economy and infrastructure.

I welcome feedback from you. Would you please share with me what nationalities and cultures are represented in your congregation? I believe we are a far more diverse spiritual family than we realize. Is your church reaching out to immigrants, both documented and undocumented, in loving and creative ways? Send me your stories! Are you willing to stand up against racism? Come to Washington DC on April 4! Is your church willing to befriend a sister church in Puerto Rico? We are all blessed by spiritual companionship and support. ³

In closing, I would encourage us all to ponder James' admonition: "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right!" (James 2:8).

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer
General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA
Lee.Spitzer@abc-usa.org

¹ For ABCUSA produced resources, see <http://www.abc-usa.org/2017/03/22/abc-immigration-taskforce-resource-available-in-english-and-spanish/> (2015) and my recent article on immigrants (2017) <http://www.abc-usa.org/2017/01/31/immigration-and-equality-a-pastoral-response/>.

² Please see my previous pastoral letter on violence: <http://www.abc-usa.org/2017/11/06/responding-to-violence-in-our-society-american-baptists-express-love-and-not-fear/>, and <http://www.abc-usa.org/2016/07/15/taskforce-on-race-and-race-based-violence-issues-a-letter-for-action/>.

³ See <http://www.abc-usa.org/2018/01/30/american-baptists-visit-puerto-rico-on-pastoral-and-mission-fact-finding-trip/>.



*Following the worship service
Sundays, March 4, 11, 18, 2018.*

On behalf of the Hospitality Team of MABC, Connie Ellsworth is extending an invitation to all to attend the MABC Lenten "Austerity" Lunches. These "SOUP & BREAD ONLY" lunches are intended to highlight the simple and reflective season of Lent.

The Lenten "Austerity" Lunches began Sunday, February 18 and will continue on Sunday's, March 4, 11, and 18. Please plan on attending these times of fellowship and preparation for the holy season of Easter.

Please note that Sunday Potluck on March 11 will not be held due to the Lenten "Austerity" Lunch. Please join us.

Stand - even when life gets hard.
Stand - even when you don't understand.

Stand - He is reaching down with His almighty hand.

Stand - because you are never alone.

Stand - by His strength 'til He takes us home.



When life gets messy and you don't see a way, call on the power He gives every day.

Nothing can stand against us by the might of His hand, if we give control to Him who leads our mighty band.

In Christ there is no turning, no there is no other way, by His love He guides us to live in Him each day.

There is no other person for us, He is the only way.

Stand - Even when life gets hard

Stand - Even when you don't understand

Stand - Even when life seems hopeless

Stand - Even when your fight is over - Just Stand.

-Jody R. James
February 19, 2018

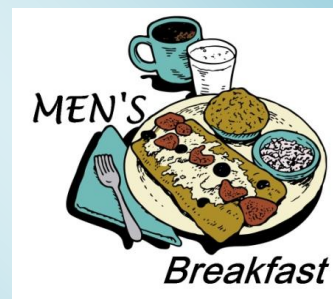
"WIND OF GOD"

Tiny breeze or mighty wind,
Swirling round as God commands.
Hats go flying. Branches bend.
Little seeds spread through the lands.

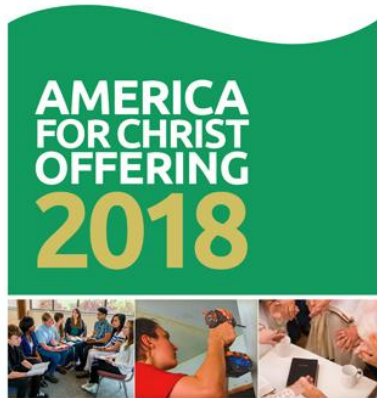
God Almighty makes the wind;
Great big guests can shape the sands.
Awesome is the power of God,
When even wind obeys his plans.



-MaryAnn Sundby



9:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 10, 2018
at
Tim's Tony's Restaurant
234 Center Road (near Gratiot)
Saginaw, MI



CULTIVATING
LEADERS
**EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES**
HEALING
COMMUNITIES
Ephesians 4:11-13

Dear MABC Congregation

Most of us are able to keep clear in our minds the origin and goal of Christian ministry. Its origin is in Christ, who gives spiritual gifts and gifted people to the church. Its goal is the building of the body of Christ in knowledge, faith and love. Less clear is the living, dynamic, God-appointed process that moves from origin to goal. Notice carefully what the following verses teach us. God gives to the church spiritual leaders whose role it is to equip saints for ministry.

The Apostle Paul echoes this truth in Ephesians 4:11-13: *"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."*

God's pattern for producing people with powerful faith and genuine love is not to have the pastor-teachers do all the work of the ministry. They are to equip the saints to do the ministry. They are you - all of you - who have set yourselves apart for God through faith in Christ. According to God's pattern, the building of the body in faith and love is the immediate result of the ministry of the laity.

The Lord Jesus Christ intends every member of the church to do the work of the ministry. The intention of ministry is to build up each other's faith and love. God's design is to use human support and encouragement to sustain the faith of his children and to lighten the burdens they bear in the service of love.

The America for Christ Offering (AFC) 2018 reminds us that it is in our service to the church and the community that many experience the Christ in us. We are encouraged by this year's theme to come alongside people and build them up. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's AFC offering and help us to reach our goal as we partner in home mission. Your MABC Mission, Outreach and Evangelism team has set a goal of \$400.00 to be reached by the end of March.

Cordially,

MABC 2018 Mission, Outreach and Evangelism Team



DISCIPLES ON PARADE!



Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead before going to bed on Saturday, March 10.

MAKING THE COMMON SACRED

First Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) reminds us, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Author E.M. Bounds describes this mind-set as a "spirit of devotion" that "puts God in all things ... not merely in our praying and churchgoing."

He writes: "The spirit of devotion makes the common things of earth sacred and the little things great. With this spirit of devotion, we go to business on Monday directed by the very same influence, and inspired by the same influences, by which we went to church on Sunday. The spirit of devotion makes a Sabbath out of Saturday and transforms the shop and the office into a temple of God."

Church Cleanup



**Saturday
March 17, 2018
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Come and lend your hands as we clean and organize different areas within the church building. All are welcome to join in this activity.

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E	N	A	M	E	S	H	T	E	G	R	L	W	Y
C	L	E	X	Y	P	A	T	E	B	U	C	W	B
N	R	I	K	G	A	L	B	R	E	Y	A	R	P
A	N	G	N	L	I	S	N	R	D	H	A	N	E
E	W	M	P	R	O	L	G	O	N	F	E	D	X
P	S	O	G	O	C	P	E	K	N	B	S	I	K
D	L	N	H	S	F	O	R	E	U	R	S	N	D
O	M	U	N	E	C	N	E	Y	D	C	S	O	K
H	V	Q	E	S	H	C	U	I	S	W	Q	F	E
F	C	R	U	C	I	X	D	S	C	A	J	R	L
C	R	U	C	I	X	D	S	C	A	J	R	L	O
C	R	U	C	I	X	D	S	C	A	J	R	L	M
C	R	U	C	I	X	D	S	C	A	J	R	L	C
C	R	U	C	I	X	D	S	C	A	J	R	L	V

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS



If you would like to place a plant in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please fill out this form and return it along with the proper amount of money to the church office or place it in the offering plate. You may take your plant home with you after the 10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service. Note: The Easter Lily is white. Tulips, daffodils, azaleas and hydrangeas are pastel colors.

Please make your check payable to MABC
Deadline is Sunday, March 11, 2018

Easter Lily	Quantity _____	X \$ 10.00	= \$ _____
Tulip	Quantity _____	X \$ 8.00	= \$ _____
Daffodil	Quantity _____	X \$ 8.00	= \$ _____
Azalea	Quantity _____	X \$ 15.00	= \$ _____
Hydrangea	Quantity _____	X \$ 15.00	= \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Easter Plant given in **HONOR** of _____

Easter Plant given in **MEMORY** _____

Easter Plant **GIVEN BY** _____



MAUNDY THURSDAY
Agape Meal and Worship Service
6:00 p.m. at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
Thursday, March 29, 2018

MABC will be offering a Maundy Thursday Agape Meal and Worship Service. We will partake in an Agape Meal (Love Feast). Would you please bring "finger foods" to share? Examples of finger foods are: pita chips and hummus, nacho chips and salsa, fresh veggies and fruit, finger sandwiches, cocktail wieners wrapped in crescent rolls, veggie/fruit pizza, cookies, sweet rolls, etc.

Please contact Cyndi James or Connie Ellsworth to let them know what you will be bringing.

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30, 2018

CARRY THE CROSS

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Meet at MABC at 8:30 a.m.



On Good Friday, MABC will join with other churches throughout the United States as we “Carry the Cross” to our community, spreading the word of Christ, by our visual presence. Please contact Becky Geidans for details. We hope you will join us. We will meet at 8:30 am. on Good Friday at MABC to receive instruction. Please pray for this event to touch hearts for Christ. To learn more about the movement and its history, you can visit www.CarryTheCrossNow.com, and on face-book.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

12:00-12:30 p.m. and/or 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Community Ecumenical Good Friday Service at
First United Methodist Church, 4790 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI.
(Rev. Carol McCleary will have a part in the services)



EASTER SUNDAY

April 1, 2018

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
(Please check with your teacher)
- 10:45 a. m. Easter Worship Service



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, March 25, 2018

9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 p.m. Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29, 2018

6:00 p.m. Agape Meal (Love Feast) and service at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
(Please bring finger foods to share to the Agape Meal)

GOOD FRIDAY, March 30, 2018

CARRY THE CROSS

9:00-11:00 a.m.
Meet at MABC at 8:30 a.m. to get ready for the 9:00-11:00
"Carry the Cross" as we silently witness for Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

12:00-12:30 p.m. and/or 12:30/1:00 p.m.
Community Ecumenical Good Friday Service at
First United Methodist Church. 4790 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw, MI.
(Rev. Carol McCleary will have a part in the services)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 1, 2018

9:30 a.m. Church School
(Please check with your teacher)
10:45 a.m. Worship Service



MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Carol McCleary
203 S. Michigan Avenue - Saginaw, Michigan 48602
(989) 793-8555
Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.MABCSaginaw.org

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

According to Matthew's account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary's headdress — she tore it as a traditional Jewish sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard's sash — Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus' robe — the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain — torn in two from top to bottom

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:51.)

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



TORCH - The torch primarily represents the Passion of Christ, perhaps because he was arrested and tried during the night, when the Temple guard would have used torches of light. The torch also can symbolize spiritual enlightenment, or martyrdom for the sake of the gospel.

DAY BY DAY

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close. Then let every one of the short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself.

-John Ruskin



MARCH COMMUNION TABLE FLOWER SIGN-UP

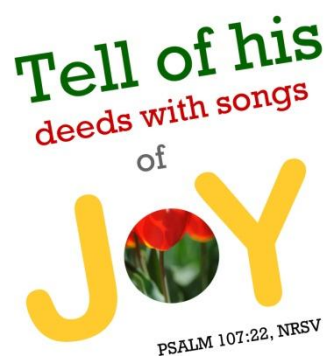
March 4	Communion Sunday
March 11	Terry & Diane Ellsworth
March 18	Pam Leaman
March 25	Sherrell McCafferty

2018 SAVE THE DATES

- April 1 Easter Sunday
- April 8 Potluck Sunday
- April 14 Men's Breakfast
- April 26 Quarterly Business Mtg



"I'm playing a crowd member in the Passion Play. I was going to play Pilate 'til I found out I'd have to wash my hands."



MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
 The Reverend Carol McCleary
 203 S. Michigan Ave
 Saginaw, Michigan 48602
 Church Office: (989) 793-8555
 Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net
 Website: www.MABCSaginaw.org



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Team	2	3
4 3 rd Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon	5 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	6	7 Rehearsals	8 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Team	9	10 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
11 4 th Sunday in Lent Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon	12 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	13	14 Rehearsals	15 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Team 7:00 p.m. Church Council	16	17 10:00-12:00 Church Cleaning Time
18 5 th Sunday in Lent Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon	19 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	20	21 Rehearsals	22 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Team	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
H O L Y W E E K						
PALM SUNDAY Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon	6:15 p.m. Bible Study		Rehearsals	MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:00 p.m. Agape Meal & Service at MABC	GOOD FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. Carry the Cross 12:00 Worship service at 1 st United Methodist	

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



02 Angie Garn
02 Roy Hatt
06 Jimmy Larkin
07 Mary Aimesbury-White
15 Kelsie Morris
16 Kurt Ballien
20 Jenna Metivier
22 Honey Wheeler
28 Audrey Wilson
31 John Seno

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.