



The Beacon Newsletter

OUR STAFF

Pastor:
Reverend Carol McCleary
Director of Music: John Rickert
Organist: Jeremy Reis
Administrative Assistant:
Holly Sanchez
Caretaker: Al Ferrell
Nursery Attendant:
Sarah Egerer
Sound Technician
Jim Garn

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

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



October 2019

*World Communion
Sunday*

*World Mission Offering
Crop Walk*

TRUNK OR TREAT

*Quarterly Business
Meeting*

ABC Annual Meeting

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: Cheryl Zinz
Visitation: Gloria Hernandez
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.





How big is your BUT? You might be thinking, Pastor, that's a rather personal question. But hear me out. I recently read a devotional by Lysa Terkeurst which asked that very same question. She noticed that she would often catch herself saying things like "I need to work out....BUT I'm too tired." Or, "I want to get healthy....BUT I lack self-control."

Sometimes I find myself saying similar things in my spiritual life. "I'd like to share my faith....BUT I'm scared I'll say the wrong thing." Or, "I'd like to give more...BUT I'm afraid I'll run out of money." Or, "I'd like to volunteer to help...BUT I just don't have the energy." Lysa observes: "When we follow up statements with "But I" the BUT seems very big."

Which is why I take great consolation from the dozens of Scripture passages that proclaim "BUT GOD." (I'm grateful to Becky Geidans for reminding me of these verses recently).

You see, no matter how big my BUT is, God's BUT is even bigger. The Bible is full of stories of people facing seemingly impossible situations. The circumstances seemed hopeless, until we read those wonderful words, "BUT GOD."

Here's just a sampling of these encouraging verses:

Genesis 1:8 - *BUT GOD remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.*

Genesis 50:20 - [From the story of Joseph] *You intended to harm me, BUT GOD intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

Psalms 73:26 - *My flesh and my heart may fail, BUT GOD is the strength of heart and my portion forever.*

Romans 5:8 - *BUT GOD demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

These are just a handful of the Bible verses that declare "BUT GOD." So the next time you catch yourself saying BUT I..., try replacing it with BUT GOD. Let's see what our great God can do.

Faithfully,
Pastor Carol





Dear Congregation,

During the month of October, MABC will be receiving the World Mission Offering. Please consider giving to this mission.

MABC will participate in the Crop Walk on Sunday, October 13 following the church potluck. Please contact Cheryl Ellsworth for further information on the Crop Walk.

Cordially,

Your 2019 Mission Team

WORLD MISSION OFFERING

For decades, schools in this central European country were controlled by the government under repressive Communist rule. But today, Hungarian churches now have the opportunity to run many schools - teaching the Bible, nurturing students in their faith and coaching in conversational English.

Your support through the World Mission Offering will enable International Ministries to provide much-needed support to partner organizations like Hungarian Baptist Aid, which is now managing 49 schools in Hungary.

The work is urgent. "We're living in a period of grace," says one HBAid official. "We don't know how long we'll be able to do this, and we want to touch as many lives as possible."

Similar urgency exists in all of International Ministries life-changing work in more than 70 countries around the world. Join us in the vital task of raising up, placing and supporting many more global workers and volunteers to share the gospel and to meet pressing human needs, and teach, heal, serve and encourage others in the name of Jesus.

Give generously to the World Mission Offering as, together, we help people come to Christ, grow in relationship with God and change the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

60

DAYS OF PRAYER

The global servants and staff of International Ministries are pleased to bring you 60 special prayers to invite you into our journey with Christ as we work together in God's mission. We hope that this will be a valuable resource for you and your church during the World Mission Offering season. (And beyond!)

Our inspiration for these prayers comes from Jesus' words to the woman at the well: "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14, NIV)

When Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well and asked her to draw water for him to drink, she couldn't have been more surprised. In those days, no Jew would willingly be seen talking to a Samaritan. As the conversation progressed, the situation grew more unusual, as Jesus told the woman, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink and I would give you fresh, living water." (John 4:10, MSG)

Surprised by this man's attention and baffled by his claim, she confronted Jesus with a barrage of questions: Why was he even talking to her? How could he give her water when he didn't have a bucket to draw from the well? And how did he plan to get "living water" when all this well had ever produced was ordinary well water? The woman's questions opened the door for a deeper discussion. Jesus revealed that he knew what brokenness her life held and he revealed to her gospel truths that broke down the barrier between Jews and Samaritans. The woman accepted the gift of living water, never to spiritually thirst again.

Every day, in countless contexts, IM's global servants invite people to draw into a deeper relationship with Jesus by offering them the living water of eternal life. Those who drink are abundantly satisfied and never again have to search for fulfillment.

Your gifts through the World Mission Offering make it possible for living water to flow through all of IM's 123 global servants, 900+ short-term volunteers, 44 home staff members and 240+ international partners.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS TO THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING
AND FOR SHARING IN THIS MISSION ALONGSIDE OUR GLOBAL SERVANTS.

YOU MAY GIVE THROUGH YOUR CHURCH OR AT

WWW.WORLDMISSIONOFFERING.ORG.

1 Guide Master's students in Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and the U.S. as they learn to lead transformational churches that proclaim the gospel and care for the marginalized. **J.D. & RHONDA REED, BOLIVIA**

2 Lord, be the loving father to those who don't know a father's love. Restore wholeness to those who are broken and feel unloved. **SARAH NASH, BOLIVIA**

3 In witness to the living water, may we bring sustainable practices that restore access to clean water to the millions who suffer the consequences of humankind's lack of stewardship of creation. **BARBARA & DWIGHT BOLICK, CHILE**

4 Messiah, we pray to be so immersed in your living waters that you spill over everyone we meet in Colombia and everywhere you take us. **CARLOS BONILLA & MAYRA GIOVANETTI, COLOMBIA**



5 God with us, thank you for bringing us living water, your Son, Jesus. Every day as we drink in the Spirit, help us to give out of the overflow to others. **PETER & SARAH MCCURDY, COSTA RICA**

6 We pray for women living with injustice, that through Christian ministries they will experience God's love and transforming power, allowing them to walk toward justice. **SUE HEGARTY, COSTA RICA**

7 Lord, let your living water flow freely, sweetly and pure, refreshing our Congolese co-laborers, and then flowing from them to bless other believers, their communities and even their nation. **ED & MIRIAM NOYES, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

8 Lord, forgive us for forsaking you, the fountain of living water, and instead building for ourselves leaky cisterns that have stagnant water. (Jeremiah 2:13) **GLEN & RITA CHAPMAN, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**



9 Please call laborers to serve in Vanga—an accountant, a maintenance supervisor, a teacher and a surgeon—to strengthen the work that is already being done there. **KATHY & TIM RICE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

10 Though the city of Goma is built on porous bedrock, making water scarce, we praise God for the living water that flows freely from heaven for all those who thirst. **ANN & BILL CLEMMER, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

11 May the church prepare and empower immigrants so their lives can be built on a solid foundation for a self-sustaining and dignified future. **KETLY & VITAL PIERRE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

12 Bless those who have nothing and give everything to benefit others. May families in the D.R. and Cuba be blessed with food, clean water, health and education. **MADELINE FLORES-LÓPEZ, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

13 May the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead transform believers and churches, inspiring them to work together locally and globally. **EMERSON & IVY WU, EAST ASIA**

14 May volunteers multiply our ministry throughout Europe and bear fruit, like trees planted along the river that flows from God's presence into the world. (Ezekiel 47) **NORA & PIETER KALKMAN, EUROPE**

15 Lord, please comfort and heal children who suffer from pains both big and small; from malnutrition, birth defects, injuries and neglect. **ROVAUGHNA RICHARDSON, GHANA**

16 Jesus, help us to use the many gifts you have given us to bring others closer to you. May we be always ready to share the love that you have given to us with those who do not yet know it. **BRIAN & LYNETTE SMITH, HAITI**

17 May your living water in Haiti purify and transform our hearts from non-love, apathy, cynicism and bitterness to your way of love for all, friends and enemies alike. **NANCY & STEPHEN JAMES, HAITI**



18 Father God, fill us with your living water that we might come alongside others and pour your Spirit into them. **STACY & TIM REESE, HAITI**

19 Thank you, Father, for opening doors for the gospel in Hungary. May each of us eagerly share with those who are thirsty that Jesus is living water. **AMANDA & JON GOOD, HUNGARY**

20 Thank you for the gift of your precious children with learning and behavioral challenges. Awaken the areas of their brains that are not functioning as they should and strengthen each one in mind, body and spirit. **CARMELLA JONES, HUNGARY**

21 Holy Spirit, please help us love God and others. **LARRY & REBECCA STANTON, HUNGARY**

22 Lord, increase awareness of thirst for life with you. Fill us with true life that is forever vital and new. **DAVID & JOYCE REED, IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

23 Lord, we pray for water to quench the thirst for abundant life represented in immigrants, refugees, women, children and the leaders that pastor us. **MERCY GONZÁLEZ-BARNES, IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

24 O God of immigrants, God of refugees, grant us love, peace and joy to help our neighbors from other countries. **MARLENE PO, IMMIGRANTS FROM MYANMAR IN THE U.S.**

25 God, we pray for your grace and protection upon new believers who have come to faith in contexts without religious freedom and who risk their lives to gather, pray and receive instruction, growing in faith to share Christ's love with others. **KATIE & TAKU LONGKUMER, INDIA**

26 Pour out your living water over Japan. The people there thirst for many things; please give them faith to drink. **GORDON & LEE ANN HWANG, JAPAN**

27 We pray that you would rain down on the mission field, watering the seeds that your servants have sown so that each faith will grow to be a plant that bears beautiful fruit. **SHIGEMI TOMITA, JAPAN**

28 Make us living water to a thirsty and dark world as we powerfully proclaim and courageously live out the good news of Jesus, which brings hope and healing. **AARON & VALERIE OSTERBROCK, MALAYSIA**

29 Our Father, we pray for you to pour out upon us your spirit of compassion, renewal and reverent desire to follow you daily. **DEBBIE & KEITH MYERS, MEXICO**

30 Let us be the living water of this world. Help us to transform hatred, violence, intolerance, apathy and hopelessness into love, peace, tolerance, empathy and hope. **DELIRIS CARRIÓN-JOSEPH, MEXICO**



31 Grant us grace, courage and willing spirits to arise and shine with your love, which is the only antidote that can heal the violence, suffering and hopelessness that are plaguing the nations. **DENISE & JUAN ARAGÓN, MEXICO**

32 Lord, bless the students taking the Online Masters in Theological Studies Program. Continue to shape and mold them to become the people you want them to be. **JAE STOCKTON, MEXICO**

33 How grateful we are, Lord, for your gift of living water. May its beauty, freshness and depth be ours as we look to the fullness of your creation today. **PATTI & TIM LONG, MEXICO**

34 God, we lift up to you the thousands of refugees here who remain trapped between choosing to return to their war-torn countries or wait for a country abroad to let them in. **MELANIE BAGGAO, MIDDLE EAST**

35 As we think of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, we pray that your living presence will encourage, support and empower them. **LAURA & RICH FREEMAN, MIDDLE EAST**

36 May IM's Nepali colleagues experience Jesus' water, a flowing fountain giving eternal life, pouring out God's love through their ministries of healing physically, mentally and spiritually. **CAROLE SYDNOR, NEPAL**

37 Jesus, you who give us the water of life, quench the thirst that the poor of the earth have for a more equitable distribution of riches among them. **INGRID ROLDÁN-ROMÁN, PANAMA**

38 According to church tradition, the woman whom Jesus met at the well, Saint Photini, became a courageous evangelist until her martyrdom. Lord, raise up more like Photini to reach out to survivors of human trafficking. **JONATHAN & THELMA NAMBU, PHILIPPINES**

39 Living water flowing from the heart of Jesus, wash the sleep from my eyes. Refresh my heart with hope each morning so that I may rise to do your will. **ANITA & RICK GUTIERREZ, SOUTH AFRICA**

40 We praise you, Abba, for you have provided the living water. You pour new life each day into us, your earthen vessels, and we overflow as you bless us with far more than we could ever have expected. **FAYE CAROL YARBROUGH, SOUTH AFRICA**

41 Lord, help me to remember that words can build or destroy. Let me always be a bridge builder for you. **DEBBIE MULNEIX, SOUTH & EAST ASIA**

42 May your living water permeate the entire earth; show us our part in hastening your kingdom and bringing about your will on earth as it is in heaven. **LORI & MATT MANN, SOUTHEAST ASIA**

43 God, raise up a spring among your people that is so passionate that the nations would fall to their knees to seek and soak up your living water. **ALISE & MARK JUANES, THAILAND**

44 Just as you blessed the woman whom you met at the well, though she had a tarnished reputation and had been with many men, we ask you to bless the women who come to the well today. Help NightLight to tirelessly bring them to you, the source of true living water. **ANNIE & JEFF DIESELBERG, THAILAND**

45 Dear Lord, You are forever a faithful and loving God. Thank you for listening to our daily prayers. **BECKY MANN, THAILAND**

46 Thank You for your listening ears to our daily prayers. May we learn to listen when You speak. **DEBBY & KYLE WITMER, THAILAND**

47 Mighty Father, source of life, release your Holy Spirit to flow abundantly through our global servants and into thirsty hearts across this world. **JENI PEDZINSKI, THAILAND**



48 May we remain steadfast beside all ethnic people worldwide to end generational poverty, displacement, exploitation and the confiscation of land. **JOEL HOEFLE & TRISH MAGAL, THAILAND**

49 Lord, please bless all of IM's global servants and carry them swiftly through their personal ministry challenges on the wings of your love. **KAREN SMITH, THAILAND**



50 Lord, release the floodgates of your living water to revive the souls of those who are recovering from trauma, abuse and violence. **KIT RIPLEY, THAILAND**

51 As Akha villages in Myanmar and Thailand receive water from clean water projects, may each cup of water point to the One from whom flows living water. **RUTH FOX, SOUTHEAST ASIA & JAPAN**

52 We pray for those who have left their families, friends and countries behind and feel isolated in the places where they now live. May you be their comfort, joy and hope. **HERMELINDA & JORGE DAMASCENO, UNITED KINGDOM**

53 God, please grant protection, provision and peace for those who have been forced to flee their homes in Myanmar and who now live in constant fear. **ANN & BRUCE BORQUIST, SOUTHEAST ASIA**

54 Lord, may your living waters bring a tide of gentle peace to people caught in the whirlpools of conflict. Baptize them in forgiveness and reconciliation. **DAN & SHARON BUTTRY, GLOBAL**

55 We pray for those who have never tasted the living water that only comes from you. Sprinkle water among them to give a deeper hunger for you. **JEANINE & WALT WHITE, GLOBAL**

56 We ask you, Lord, for the healing and restoring waters that you provide. Let your living water flow through each one of us to those we meet. **KRISTY ENGEL, GLOBAL**

57 We pray for victims of human trafficking—that, as they recover from their extreme trauma, they may truly find peace, healing, hope for the future and a home in Jesus. **LAURAN BETHELL, GLOBAL**

58 Living God, we long for your thirst-quenching waters to fill our dry and barren souls. May your Spirit continually spill into, out and through us. **MYLINDA BAITS, GLOBAL**

59 Lord, draw us ever closer to you, the source of life. Make your living water flow through us. Bring your reign on earth, as it is in heaven. **STAN SLADE, GLOBAL**

60 We pray for women living with injustice, that through Christian ministries they will experience God's love and transforming power, allowing them to walk toward justice. **SUE HEGARTY, COSTA RICA**



9:00 a.m.
Saturday, October 12, 2019

We will meet at Tim's Tony's Restaurant and is located in the plaza at the corner of Center and Gratiot.

All men of MABC are encouraged to attend this time of delicious food and Christian Fellowship.

The Belle Aire Handbell Choir will resume practice
October 23, at 6:30 p.m.



POTLUCK SUNDAY October 13, 2019

We will gather in the fellowship halls following the worship service on Sunday, October 13 for our monthly Potluck Sunday and Christian Fellowship.

You are invited to bring your favorite dish to pass and to remember to fill the green bowls to help defray added costs of paper products.



COMMUNION TABLE FLOWER SIGN-UP

October 6	Communion Sunday
October 13	Mindy Tuck
October 20	Jody & Cyndi James
October 27	Teddy Pelkey

LOOKING AHEAD

November 3	Communion Sunday
	Daylight Saving time ends
November 9	Men's Breakfast
November 10	Potluck Sunday
November 28	Thanksgiving

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 24, 2019



PRAYER TEAM

The MABC Prayer Team meets every Thursday at 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



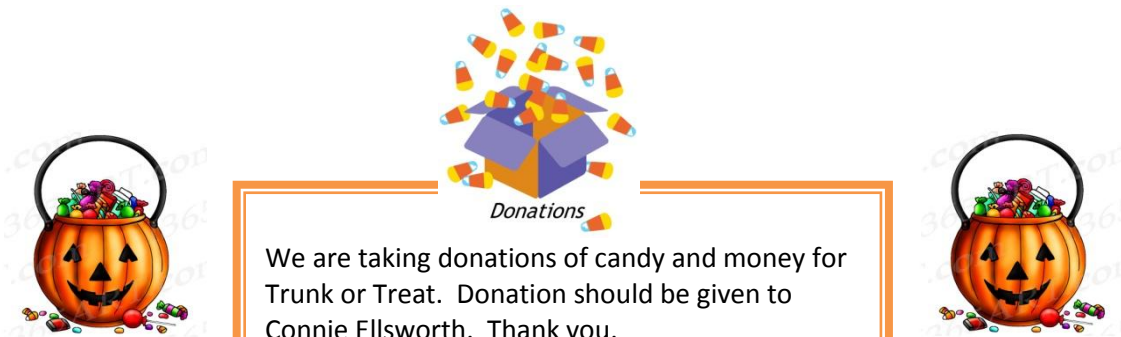
October 26, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

What actually is Trunk or Treat? Adults decorate the back of their cars for Halloween, load up on candy and come sit in a parking lot for kids to “Trunk or Treat” from car to car. Kids come fully dressed in costumes and holding out bags or plastic pumpkins for treats. The adults get to socialize and get creative while seeing all the cute and creative costumes.

We are looking for volunteers to decorate their car, SUV, truck, etc. in a festive theme, and to fill the back end of the vehicle with candy treats and perhaps a game to play at the Trunk or Treat festivities.

Dress in appropriate costumes (please no ghosts, witches, scary monsters, or blood and guts costumes. Think Christian themes or football/college themes, super hero themes, etc.).

Hot dogs, chips and a beverage will be offered. This will be a fun evening in the church parking lot and a great way to support the community!



We are taking donations of candy and money for Trunk or Treat. Donation should be given to Connie Ellsworth. Thank you.



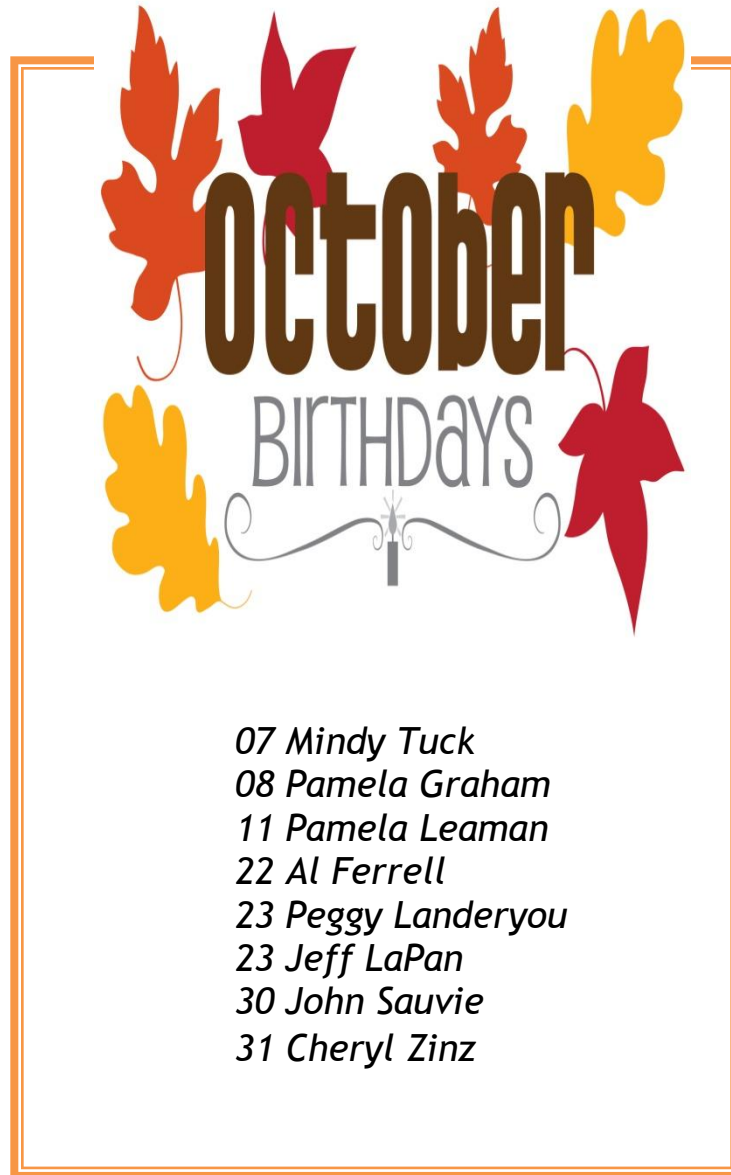
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October 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 2:00 p.m. Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	2 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3 4:00 p.m. Prayer	4	5
6 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	7 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	8 2:00 p.m. Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	9 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10 4:00 p.m. Prayer	11	12 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
13 Rev. Dr. Michael Williams Preaching CROP WALK And POTLUCK SUNDAY	14 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	15 2:00 p.m. Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	16 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	17 4:00 p.m. Prayer	18 Prevailing Church Conference Lansing, Mi	19 ABC-Annual Meeting in Lansing , Mi
20	21 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	22 2:00 p.m. Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	23 Belle Aire Hand bell Choir resumes at 6:30 p.m. Latham Burrows Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	24 4:00 p.m. Prayer 7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Meeting	25	26 5:30-7:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat
27	28 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	29 2:00 p.m. Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	30 Belle Aire Hand bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Latham Burrows Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	31		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



*07 Mindy Tuck
08 Pamela Graham
11 Pamela Leaman
22 Al Ferrell
23 Peggy Landeryou
23 Jeff LaPan
30 John Sauvie
31 Cheryl Zinz*

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.