

The Messenger

First Reformed Church of Scotia
224 North Ballston Avenue
Scotia, NY 12302

The Rev. Craig J. Hoffman

The Rev. Jan L. Hoffman

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From
Craig's
Desk

So What Are You Reading This Summer?

“Now that I am sixty, I see why the idea of elder wisdom has passed from currency.” Author John Updike said that and, in saying that, caught my attention, which is itself sixty years old and limited.

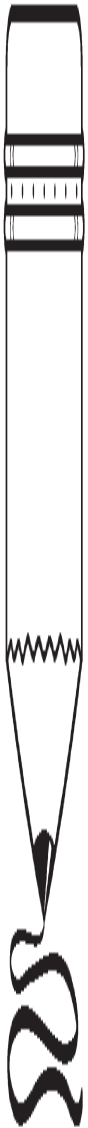
John Updike, who died earlier this year, is one of our nation's best-known storytellers and poets. He is probably known best for his Rabbit series: *Rabbit, Run*; *Rabbit Redux*; *Rabbit Is Rich*; *Rabbit at Rest* and *Rabbit Remembered*. Both *Rabbit Is Rich* and *Rabbit At Rest* won the Pulitzer Prize.

An interesting thing about Updike is his long life of Christian worship. The grandson of a Presbyterian minister, he was raised a Lutheran, joined a Congregational church with his first wife who was herself the daughter of a Unitarian minister, and ended up an Episcopalian. Speaking to a group at a Manhattan church this past November, just a few months before he died, he said, “When I haven't been to church in a couple of Sundays I begin to hunger for it and need to be there. It's not just the words, the sacraments. It's the company of other people, who show up and pledge themselves to an invisible entity.”

I know what he means. I really do. You may think that the pastor's job is to help build your faith, but it works the other way, too, and you ought to know that it does. I look forward to worship on Sunday mornings because of all of you who “show up and pledge yourselves . . .” Your witness lifts me.

Just for fun, I've listed a few other things Updike said. I'm thinking that I'll read something by Updike. So what are you reading this summer?

- The inner spaces that a good story lets us enter are the old apartments of religion.
- Any activity becomes creative when the doer cares about doing it right or better.
- We take our bearings, daily, from others. To be sane is, to a great extent, to be sociable.
- Golf appeals to the idiot in us and the child. Just how childlike golf players become is proven by their frequent inability to count past five.



FROGS Report

The FROGS wish to thank Heather Kramer and Tee & Paul Munson for providing leadership this year. We appreciate all the time they have spent with our youth!

If you are here during the summer, please check out the basil and onion patch near the green shed. Feel free to water the area if the ground feels dry.

Hope to see you at Camp Fowler this year. Have a great summer!!

Sunday School Ends Until Fall

The last day of Sunday School before our annual summer recess is Sunday, June 21. Sunday School will resume the first Sunday after Labor Day, September 13.

We extend our grateful thanks to our terrific Sunday School staff who give of their time and energy week after week. Make sure you thank them when you see them.

- Children and Worship (pre-k – 1st Grade): Joanna Clark, Chris George and Amanda Shults
- Children and Worship (Grades 2 and 3): Heather Kramer, Linea Kilgallen
- Grades 4 and 5: Marty Gilgore and Linda Naumowicz
- Junior High: Claudia Garrison, Becky Penn and Linea Kilgallen
- Senior High: Bob Baldwin and David Schalekamp

During the summer we recruit for next year. If you are interested in teaching or being a teacher's assistant, please call Sunny Baldwin, Coordinator of Christian Living, at 374-9276.

Fowler Plans for This Summer

Here's how our church is involved at Fowler this summer:

- FOWLER SUMMER CAMP

Plans are underway for sending our church volunteers the week of Sunday, August 16-22. On Monday evening, June 1 at 7:15, the nineteen volunteers who have already committed themselves will meet for the first time to begin group building and orientation. The theme this year is *Hunting for Hope*. There are still openings for male counselors, so see Pastor Jan or Sunny Baldwin if you're interested.

Fowler still needs 200 campers! Our church has 27 kids going to camp this summer. We can send more. If you know of a child who would benefit from camp, please speak to one of the pastors or Sunny Baldwin, 374-9276.

- FOWLER FRIENDS

Fowler Friends is a group to help our congregation take full advantage of the great resource that Fowler is, and help us give something back to the ministry of Fowler. The next FF meeting is open to anyone interested, on Tuesday evening, June 2 at 7:15. We are planning ways to support this summer's staff and campers. In the narthex there is a box labeled "Camp Fowler" for donations, which include: white child-sized t-shirts for tie-dyeing, canned soda and seltzer, phone cards, Sharpies, reusable water bottles, disposable ponchos, tall coffee mugs, baby food jars and healthy and not so healthy baked goods. In August we'll be "Adopting the Staff" the same week that we volunteer, August 16-23. Lynn Makrin will take donations to Camp at that time. Homemade treats are always welcome. See Lynn for more ideas.

- CAMP LETTERS

One of Fowler's traditions is "Kissing the Moose." Each week campers or volunteers who receive 3 pieces of mail or one package get to climb the ladder and kiss Bullwinkle the Moose. Youth love to receive mail when they're away at camp, and there's nothing like the memory of kissing a furry moose! Please try to remember our campers with a postcard or card. We'll post the names of our campers and volunteers each week in the bulletin. Send your postcard or letter to:

Name and Week #
Fowler Camp and Retreat Center
Box 131
Speculator, NY 12164



Donate Flowers From Your Garden

This year our Worship Council invites all you gardeners among us to place arrangements of fresh flowers from your gardens in the sanctuary on the Sundays of July and August in time for our 10:00 worship. (Our 8:00 worship is outdoors.) Please call Kathie in the church office to arrange for a date. We need to know ahead of time so that our standing order with our florist can be cancelled in a timely way.

Food & Faith Helps Make A Greener Summer



Our Food & Faith Initiative is a group of people seeking to live out the implications of Christian discipleship in the way we purchase, grow and use food. We've been excited by the warmer weather and have been busy planting new ideas for this year's growing season. Here's some ways you can have a greener summer:

1. **ADOPT** a seedling right from church. These are plants that you can transplant into your own garden or leave in their containers and grow on a patio or back porch. Adoptions began on Sunday, May 31 and come with "papers" so you know how to take proper care of your adoptee.
2. **GROW** crops. We are particularly hoping that those with gardens will plant root vegetables like carrots, beets, turnips, potatoes, pumpkins and rutabagas. Share your crops for our Harvest Table and Harvest Dinner.

We are planning 2 main events this year:

- A Summer Harvest Table. This will be a table at church where you can donate your extra produce or flowers. More details will be in the bulletin as the growing season continues.
- A Fall Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 24. Reserve that date now. We hope to have a 100-mile dinner that night, preparing and using food grown or raised within 100 miles of church. We hope that a lot of the food will be our own home-grown veggies.

Food & Faith's next meeting is on Tuesday evening, June 9 at 7:15. The group is open to anyone who is interested, so please don't hesitate to join in. The growing season has just begun!

Venison Dinner Will Be Held For Men

Men of the church: Save Sunday evening, June 7, at 5:00 for our 5th annual Men's Venison Dinner. Here's an opportunity to spend some time with other guys of our church over a meal, and also to enjoy a presentation around a common interest. This year our own Kent Busman, Director of our Fowler Camp and Retreat Center will show pictures and tell us about *The Mayans of Southern Mexico*. Your venison dinner will cost \$5, payable that night at the door.

Used Books, Tapes, CD's Needed

The Used Book and Media Booth will soon be open for business – but only if we have books, tapes, and DVDs to sell. We have no costs, so all the income goes right to the church. Now we need your help.

Please donate:

- Hardcover and softcover fiction books
- Biographies
- Books on religion
- Large print books
- Primary, intermediate and teen kid's books
- Cookbook
- Books on tape.

Bring all these to the Cloak Room down the hall from the office. **DO NOT** put them in the Green Shed! Try to get them here by August 15th so that we have time to sort them before the fair. If you would like to help customers Fair Day or help clean up in the afternoon, please call the Used Book Chairs Kurt and Donna Ahnert, 346-6781.

Milestones In The Lives Of Our People

Here are some milestones in the lives of people in our congregation.

Congratulations:

- To Bill and Amanda Faulkner on the birth of a baby boy, Micah Earl who was born April 30.
- To John Lehman and Kathy Drezelo who were married on May 23.
- To Erv and Joan Grant who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 23.

We express our sympathy to:

- Jean Hubbell on the death of her husband Bob who died on May 7.
- Bill and Martha Eberle on the death of Bill's mother who died on May 28.

Thank You From Our Friends

Since we published the last issue of *The Messenger* we received the following thank you notes and letters. They are posted on the tack strip outside of Pastor Craig's office. Read and enjoy them there for yourselves.

- Dorothy Kinch thanks the church for gestures of caring.
- Menaul School, Albuquerque, NM thanks us for sending labels and box tops.
- Frank Ostrander thanks Pastor Craig, Jack Arnold, Al Carter and Bob Atwood for cards, flowers and visits.
- Bill Wragg thanks the Sharing & Caring Group for their encouragement and help.
- The Women's Guild thanks all who helped with the Lehman/Drezelo wedding reception and the Interfaith Community dinner and the Boy Scout dinner.
- Bill and Amanda Faulkner thank everyone for their generosity, support, encouragement, cards, visits, gifts and meals after the birth of their son Micah Earl.

Thanks To Our Music Groups & Their Leaders

Our congregation is blessed with so many creative musicians and leaders. This month our music groups' regular rehearsals and worship leadership end for a summer recess. We give thanks for our worship leaders.

- Rebecca Shepherd, our Director of Music and Sanctuary Choir Director
- Dr. Barbara Adler, our Church Organist
- Diana Ackner and Judson Hoffman, our Cherub Choir Directors
- Tee Munson and John Hoffman, our Youth Music Group Directors
- John Hoffman, our Te Deum Bells Director
- Terry Paulson, our Morning Bells Director
- Mike Atchley, our Sanctuary Brass Director



We are also deeply grateful to the members of our Cherub and Sanctuary Choirs, our Te Deum and Morning Bell Choirs, our Youth Music Group, and to all our instrumentalists. Their gifts of music help us express what words cannot. We are grateful to them all for their enthusiasm, faithfulness, and leadership.

This summer we look forward to vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles helping lead our worship.

School & Health Kits Delivered

Through the kindness of Emily Pierce and her husband John, 11 health kits and 6 school kits were made and delivered to the pickup site. These will be sent to the warehouse in Maryland for worldwide distribution. The Women's Guild paid the handling and shipping fees for the kits. Thanks are given to everyone who contributed to this mission.

Church World Service is now in its second century of helping to eliminate poverty and hunger and to promote peace and justice around the world. A poster on the bulletin board shows some of the countries where and how CWS is making a difference in people's lives.

Congrats To Our Graduates



Each year we like to list our high school and college graduates. This year we congratulate the following people.

Our High School Graduates:

- Hannah Busman graduates from Scotia Glenville High School. Hannah will attend Syracuse University and study Textiles and Pre Med.
- Kevin Crowley graduates from Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake and will attend the University of Albany to study accounting.
- Kent Harlow graduates from Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake. Kent will attend Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. He plans to study biology.

Our College Graduates

- Brian Ahl graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.
- Scott Bobrowich graduated from SUNY Albany with a major in Sociology and a minor in criminal Justice. Scott plans to work and attend Graduate School.
- Liz Penn graduated from Simmons College in Boston with a Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW). She is working as a clinician at the Metro Youth Services Center, Dorchester, MA.
- Michael Rosemarino graduated from SUNY Oneonta with a B.A. in Music Industry.
- Andrew Walsh graduated from Binghamton University with a major in Anthropology and a minor in History. Andrew plans to serve others in some way.
- Charles Woznack graduated from Morrisville State College with honors with a degree in Automotive Technology. He plans to attend Ferris State University in Michigan.

Did we miss you or your graduate? We publish another issue of *The Messenger* in July. Help us correct our oversight in that issue by phoning the church office, 370-4751, and filling us in.

Bibles Will Be Presented

On Sunday, June 14, at the 10:00 worship service, we will present Bibles to our 3rd graders and also to our graduating Seniors. We give our new readers New Revised Standard Versions of the Bible, like the ones in our pew racks, to help them read God's Word on their own, in fulfillment of the vows parents and the congregation make at our children's baptisms. We give our Senior Highs a special Study Bible, suitable for college work as well as to help them along life's journeys.

The Bibles are in Pastor Jan's office for parents and family to inscribe. See her or Sunny Baldwin for access to the Bibles.

If your child is past the third grade and does not already have his or her own Bible, please speak to one of the pastors or to Coordinator of Christian Living Sunny Baldwin so that we can give one to your child, too. We also have Bibles for families who need a Bible.

Book Group Meets In June

Join other readers in your church family at 7:15 on the third Tuesday of the month for a discussion of a good book, and what that book may show us about our faith or about the world in which we live out our faith. We meet in the Lakehill Room. There is no need to sign up - just read the book and join in. Here's the schedule:

- Tuesday, June 23, Helen Nelson and Barbara Robinson will lead a discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, a mountain climber who was helped by the residents of a poor Pakistani village. He returned to help build a school there. This is the story of one man's mission to promote peace . . . one school at a time.
- We will take July and August off. Use this time to read a good book!

Family Finances Reported Each month we report our giving. Here's how we gave in May.

<u>GIVING</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
May	\$23,236	\$22,791	\$445	2%
Total for the Year	\$124,837	\$125,017	(\$180)	(0.14%)

Here's this month's Family Finances Question of the Month. These are challenging economic times. Has the downturn in the economy badly affected our giving?

Find the answer elsewhere in this month's issue of *The Messenger*.

Statements Will Be Given Out

Financial Secretary Bobbie Nelson and Assistant Financial Secretary Linda Schaefer will distribute giving statements for the first 5 months of 2009 after 8:00 and 10:00 worship on Sundays June 7 and June 14. Picking up your giving statement after worship saves your church the expense of mailing it to you, and reviewing your giving statement helps verify our recording accuracy. The sealed envelopes will be organized by giving number those days, so please have your number in mind when you go to pick up your statement. Your giving number is the number printed on the upper right of your offering envelopes.

Statements will also be available to pick up from the church office during the week until June 22, when remaining statements will be mailed.

Attendance Announced For May

We report our monthly worship attendance to encourage you to faithfully gather on the Lord's Day, and invite others to join you.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
May week #1	221	239
May week #2	277	260
May week #3	216	205
May week #4	177	209
May week #5	230	no 5 th week
May Average	224	311
YTD Average	243	225

Make A Gift To Christian Heritage Fund



You can help enable the future ministry of First Reformed Church of Scotia by making a planned gift to the Christian Heritage Fund. The Christian Heritage Fund is an endowment fund. Each year the earnings of the Christian Heritage Fund are used by our consistory for one of 5 specified purposes: capital improvements, missions, seed money for a new program, theological education, or growth of the fund's principle. Your planned gift helps the Christian Heritage Fund insure the ministry of First Reformed Church far into the future. Such planned gifts can be made through wills, life insurance policies, real estate, or a number of charitable income instruments that may offer substantial tax advantages.

To get more information about making a planned gift to The Christian Heritage Fund please call the church office or one of our pastors, 370-4751, or Gordon Durnford, 399-2022, Chairman of the Endowment and Gift Planning Committee.

Have you remembered your church in your will?

Outdoor Worship Will Begin Soon

Weather permitting, our 8:00 worship services will be held outdoors on the plaza in front of the sanctuary on the nine Sundays of July and August, July 5 through August 30. Outdoor worship is a unique experience: birds always accompany our singing, and red fox have been known to parade by as we pray. Outdoor worship is also a unique witness. The sound of Route 50 traffic can be annoying, but every car or truck that drives by means that at least one person sees a congregation at worship on the Lord's Day. The larger the congregation, the greater the witness. That's a good thing – a very good thing!

Join others for 8:00 worship outdoors this summer. Sit on the steps or on the plaza. A lawn chair or blanket helps. If it's cold or wet outside, we simply worship in the sanctuary.

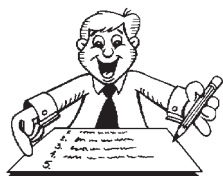
Choir Will Perform Year In Review

Ever wish you could hear one of the anthems our choir performs over again? Here's your chance. Save Sunday evening, June 14, at 7:00 for our Sanctuary Choir's Year in Review. That night our terrific choir will sing their favorite anthems from this past program year. A time of fellowship will follow.

Event Held For Young Adults

Are you in your 20's or 30's and want to get to know other young adults in the community? Stacey Midge, one of the ministers at First Schenectady, is organizing an outing to the Union Inn on State St. on Friday, June 12 at 5:00. Bring a friend and join her for an informal time of refreshments on the patio. Call Stacey at the Schenectady church at 377-2201 or email her revstacey@gmail.com so she can save you a seat. You can speak to Pastor Jan for more information.

Check Out The Discipleship Project



Although we may be away from church during the summer, there are still opportunities to develop our spirituality. Make sure you review all the different possibilities offered on the Discipleship Project Bulletin Board outside the pastors' studies. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a week at Camp Fowler. This earns 5 credits, and you will certainly find hope!
- What better time to try out the Church Sampler? Visit different congregations when you're away.
- Or check a book out of our library and read it on the beach. Write the name of the book on the "Wild Card" and drop in the envelope on the bulletin board.
- Sign up now for a fall course at the Capital Region Theological Center, CRTC. You'll most likely receive a discount for being an early bird.
- Have other ideas? Be sure to talk to Sunny Baldwin, CCL. We'd love to hear what you've been doing.

Food Pantry Needs For June

Every week in the bulletin we publish the food that is the most needed for the Schenectady Inner City Ministry food pantry. Below are the items needed in June. Please place your donations in the container in the narthex or in the one outside Brink Hall. What a great offering we would give if **everyone** brought the weekly item!

There is **always** a big need for brown paper bags as well as monetary donations. Donations are used to purchase milk certificates and other items available at the Regional Food Bank for just 16 cents a pound. Make out your check to the First Reformed Church of Scotia and put "SICM Food Pantry" on the memo line.

- June 7: Canned Meat
- June 14: Baby Formula
- June 21: Dry Mixes – potato and noodle
- June 28: Juice

Boy Scouts Park Cars During Fireworks

Independence Day fireworks will be held in Scotia on Friday evening, June 26. The area behind our building overlooking Collins Lake is a good place to view the aerial displays. The last several years people in our church family have gathered there for the evening – some have even brought picnics. You're welcome to join in.

Our parking lot will be in heavy demand those evenings, and we need to control the parking. Everyone – church members and non-church members alike – will be charged \$5 to park. The boy scouts will again be helping us park cars. They keep half the money for their efforts and we keep half for our Building Fund. Thanks to our Buildings and Grounds Council for coordinating this.

Don't Forget Our Dutch Fair



Be a part of this year's 61st annual DUTCH FAIR on Saturday, September 19. For 61 years our Dutch Fairs have helped us fund major maintenance projects on our buildings and grounds. But more importantly, our Dutch Fairs have helped us be Christ's disciples within our own community. For 61 years, on the 3rd Saturday of September we invite our community to our church. And they come! Some people come because they rely on the Dutch Fair for good used clothing, for toys for their children, for books to read, or for items for their homes. Others come just to look around, have some cider and baked goods or something from the Dutch Café, and ogle the crafts.

Want to help? Here's how: You can donate books, CDs and DVDs to the Book Den; you can donate almost anything to the White Elephant Booth; bring your jewelry to our Jewelry Booth; your toys, games and puzzles to the Toy Booth; and good used clothes, coats, and drapes to the Next to New Booth. As Fair Chairpeople Lee Poremba, Richard Doyle and John Lehman say, "One man's trash is the other man's treasure, and we turn your trash into cash."

So please, help out with items and your time. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the your church. Play a role in this very important part of the life of your congregation and you will experience the joy of giving and helping, and gain new and stronger relationships with our family here First Reformed Church of Scotia.

Talk to Lee, 381-9609, or Richard, 399-6135, to find out more. Talk to them as well if you'd like to play a leadership role in next year's Dutch Fair.

Bus Trip Available To Hear Organ Recital

On Sunday, September 13, our former organist Brian Hoffman will perform a recital on the 381 rank Moller organ at the U.S.M.A. Cadet Chapel at West Point. A package is available which includes travel by bus from and to Albany, a recital on the world's largest church organ and dinner at the Thayer Hotel at West Point for \$70 per person. Reservations were due June 1, but if you are still interested in going, contact Brian at 797-3346 or Kathy Nolles at 456-1644 during daytime office hours. More information is available at www.brianhoffmanorganist.com. There is a list of people from our church who are planning to go on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Craig's office. This list will help attendees work out carpools.

Family Finances Answer

Here's the answer to the Family Finance's Question of the Month. Find the question in the Family Finances article elsewhere in this issue of *The Messenger*.

It's hard to tell. Who knows what our giving would have been had the investments of so many people not been hurt by the recession. But it seems as though our giving has not been hugely impacted. Through May, and through the same number of weeks as last year, our giving is just \$180 (0.14%) less than it was in 2008. Your consistory thanks all of you for your commitment and for your faithful giving.

CROP Walk Results Are In

Thirteen people from our church signed up for this year's 28th annual Schenectady Area CROP Walk, and walked 5 kilometers for hunger! The Rev. Phil Grigsby, the Director of Schenectady Inner City Ministries (SICM) reports that over \$53,000 was turned in on the day of the CROP Walk, with more to follow. Of that total, over \$2,000 came from our walkers! Church World Service will use that money for hunger relief around the world. Twenty-five percent of it stays right here in Schenectady County. Thank you for your support.

If you haven't turned in money pledged to you, please get it to the person who walked. If you walked and haven't turned in your money, please take it to the downtown Key Bank on State St.

Mission Of The Month For June Is SICM

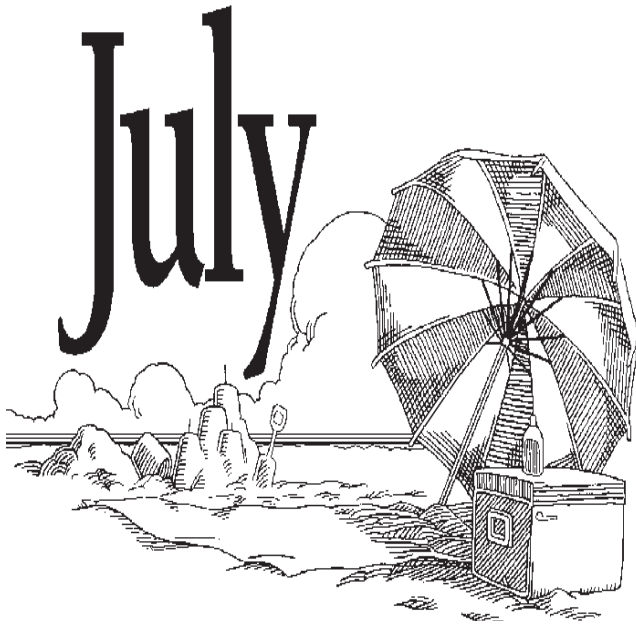
Our June Mission of the Month is SICM, Schenectady Inner City Ministry, located at 930 Albany Street. SICM sponsors Schenectady County's largest food pantry, the Damien Center drop-in hospitality center for AIDs and HIV-positive patients and families, and the Summer Lunch Program for youth in our city parks. SICM also coordinates the annual CROP Walk. Our offering is for the administration of the SICM programs.



SICM is an ecumenical organization founded in 1967. There are 53 congregations as members. Deacon Barbara Robinson and Pastor Jan Hoffman attend the monthly meetings. We'd love to have you join us – speak to one of us if you'd like to come along.

Give to our Mission of the Month by using June's yellow envelope in your box of offering envelopes. If your gift to SICM can be matched by your employer (or former employer for retirees), make out your check to SICM before turning it in to the church, and follow all the requirements for matching so that your gift will be multiplied. We will send in all the gifts for matching with a church check for the total of all other contributions. Speak to one of the pastors for more information. Go to the website: www.sicm.us for more information on SICM's ministry and opportunities for volunteers.

July Anniversaries



Mike and Allison Atchley	2
Randy and Cheryl MacNeil	8
Ron and Beverly Willis	9
Bob and Sunny Baldwin	10
Bill and Martha Eberle	11
Hil and Karolyn Bekkering	16
John and Christine George	17
Richard and Terri Doyle	20
John and Joan Adam	23
David and Karen Wentworth	25
Norman and Leila Kohout	31

July Birthdays

Don Bekkering	1	Jack Arnold	10	Lonnie Hojnacki	18
Julie DeBrita	1	Mary Jane Crowley	10	Edward Rosenberg	18
Michael Rosemarino	1	Dick Himmelwright	10	Eleanor Gifford	19
Dave Schaefer	2	Renee Eddy	11	Bill Miner	19
Paul Munson IV	3	Barbara King	11	Bill Faulkner	21
Jessica Wade	3	Peter Lewis	11	Dan Landry	22
Marcia Davis	4	Bill Bogar	12	Keith Makrin	22
Ralph Hewes	4	Jennifer Getter	12	Elizabeth Woznack	22
Wilhelmina Rink	4	Haley Francois	13	Lillian Teater	25
Samantha Antonakakis	7	Marjorie Almy	14	Brian Westervelt	25
Grayce Barton	7	Kathy Drezelo Lehman	14	Eric Landry	26
William Monaghan	7	Michael Libby	14	Laurel-Le Lipski	26
Carolyn Norris	7	Wendy Carpenter	15	Allene Carbin	27
Joyce Roseboom	7	Amanda Doyle	15	Clyde Eidens	28
Martha Gilgore	8	Charles Conover	16	Aileen Reinhart	29
Steve Rosemarino	8	Jackie Damon	16	Daniel Vaccaro	29
Gale Harris	9	Jane Konczeski	17	Joe Rosemarino	30
Valleri VanPatten	9	Sheryl Pelkey	17	Bonnie Kedzior	31

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