

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

July 2023

Did you know that South Carolina is among the worst states in the ongoing youth mental health crisis according to the Children's Trust of SC.

"Twelve percent of children in South Carolina have reported experiencing depression or anxiety in 2020, a 55% increase from 2016, according to the 2022 KIDS COUNT® Data Book. The 50-state report of recent household data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzes how children and families are faring."^[1]

Every day there seems to be a new topic of concern related to our mental health that makes the news. It is not enough that the pandemic caused sky-rocketing increases in anxiety and depression among every age group, not to mention producing social-distancing which caused loneliness to increase so that it is now considered its own epidemic. What is a church to do in such time? Step forward, Fort Hill.

We are to respond with grace and hope in action. While the pandemic was surging a small Mental Health Learning Action Team was gathering data and information about this perceived need in our community. In the Fall of 2022 a permanent team for Mental Health Awareness & Training was approved as part of the Board of Deacons. Chairing this effort is deacon Stacey Miller and joining with her are deacons Cathy Spragins and Jim London. They are responsible for the increase in publicity about Mental Health around Fort Hill — from Mental Health minutes for mission in May, to providing pamphlets on mental illness and resources through the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Find these in the arcade, by the kitchen in Tartan Hall, and as you enter through the FHOG (Fort Hill Office Greeter) Reception area.

This Fall you can count on more opportunities to learn about how to help others. Several opportunities will be available for you to participate in a Mental Health First Aid training course. **Mental Health First Aid** is a groundbreaking public education program that helps participants learn how to respond with an Action Plan (**ALGEE**):

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm.
- Listen nonjudgmentally.
- Give reassurance and information.
- Encourage appropriate professional help.
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

We will offer both the adult and youth levels of Mental Health First Aid for any adults, and especially encourage staff, leadership, youth advisors, and college students to participate in this training. Watch for these opportunities and make sure to attend. The training is a full 8-hour day and will include lunch.

Mark your calendars now for an opportunity to take **Mental Health First Aid on Thursday, August 31** at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westminster, SC. This training is sponsored by Foothills Presbytery and is the same course Fort Hill will offer later in the semester. More details will come later.

Let's follow the Spirit's guidance.

Pastor Mary

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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www.forthillchurch.org

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor
Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship
Jacob Kennedy, AP for Youth/Mission
Colin Pettigrew, AP for University Ministry
Preston Shealy, Parish Associate
Kim Morris, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Lori Houck, Administrator
Morgan Bryant, Admin. Assistant
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

^[1] Anderson, Kara. 2022. "South Carolina Children Fare among the Worst in the Ongoing Youth Mental Health Crisis." Children's Trust of South Carolina. August 8, 2022. Accessed April 4, 2023. <https://scchildren.org/south-carolina-children-fare-among-the-worst-in-the-ongoing-youth-mental-health-crisis/>

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

7/2 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21; Ps. 13;
Rom. 6:12-23; Matt. 10:40-42

7/9 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58,67;
Ps. 45:10-17 or Sg. Of Sol. 2:8-13;
Rom. 7:15-25a; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

7/16 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 25:19-34; Ps. 119:105-112;
Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

7/23 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 28:10-19a; Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24
Rom. 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

7/30 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 29:15-28; Ps. 105:1-11, 45b;
Ps. 128; Rom. 8:26-39;
Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2023

The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the July issue of *The Window* is **Saturday, July 15**.

Please email your item as a Microsoft Word document to the church office at window@forthillchurch.org or type the item directly into your email and send. If possible, please keep your articles to 500 words or less.

1st SUNDAY SUMMER



Sunday, July 2
9:00 in Tartan Hall

Two more First Sunday Potluck Breakfasts are scheduled this summer on July 2 and August 6 at 9:00 am in Tartan Hall prior to the morning service. Bring your favorite breakfast item to share with your church family.

Choir Corner

July is a fun month. We celebrate July 4th recognizing our freedom and the blessings that come from dedicated people who fought and sacrificed so that we live how we want to live, where we want to live, and enjoy the many gifts God has bestowed upon us.



Growing up, July was a special month for our family. My dad's birthday was July 1. My mother's birthday was July 4 (she truly believed all the fireworks and celebrations were for her only!). My parent's anniversary was July 12. And my son, Paul, was born on July 31. So many special days for our family.

In our church year, July is also a very special month. The Chancel Choir enjoys a month of rest from rehearsals and singing. Soloists, small groups, etc., are plugged in to share their gifts. Choir members enjoy sitting in the pews, visiting with friends, and recharging their "batteries" to start back in August.

It's good to enjoy respite. God meant for us to take time to rest. Of course, we know God rested on the seventh day of creating our world. July is the seventh month of the year — so take time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate!!

And whatever you do in July...

Keep Smiling-n-Singing, 😊🎵

Margaret

Christian Action Ministry Update

Hello! My name is James Kwist and I'm a part of the youth group and a member of the Christian Action Ministry here at Fort Hill. For the past year, I've been in charge of the Little Food Pantry. For those that don't know what that is or for those that need a refresher, the Little Food Pantry is located outside the PSA Student Center and its purpose is to be an easy way to feed people who are in need around the area. Ever since September, it's been my job to make runs to Walmart to restock the food pantry so it's always full of food. However, we are also accepting donations. If you would like to donate, the best items are canned goods, snacks such as granola bars, water bottles, or any food items that are able to last a long time without being opened. There is a marked box in the Narthex of the Sanctuary or another box down by the Den for anyone who is interested in donating.



Youth Summer Schedule

- Every Wednesday starting June 28: Wild Wednesdays at 6 pm

July

- July 9-15 Montreat High School Conference
- July 16 Virginia's Activity
- July 19-23 Montreat Middle School Conference

August

- August 6 Blessing of the Backpacks at 10 am

Children's Ministry Corner

June has been a month of fun for the children of Fort Hill! We have been using Legos to learn scripture. The children have done a wonderful job with this and their Lego creations creatively show their understanding of the Bible. The children look forward to the lessons each week and we enjoy watching the stories from the Bible come to life through their innovative thinking. We are taking pictures each week and these can be found on the bulletin board in the Nest. We invite you to come take a look if you have a chance.

Many of you already know that I will be returning to the classroom full time with Lakes and Bridges charter school. Over the past ten months, I have grown to love and care deeply for the children, families and staff at Fort Hill. With Session's approval, I will be adapting my current role to reduced hours (13 hrs/ week) with increased flexibility to continue to plan, facilitate, and grow our wonderful ministry with children here at Fort Hill. I sense that God's plan is for me to use my knowledge and talents in the classroom and in children's ministry. I hope that you all will support me as I navigate both positions and bring continuity to our ministry together as we continue to discern next steps.



Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 7/2 | Mary Morrison |
| 7/9 | Mary Morrison |
| 7/16 | Colin Pettigrew |
| 7/23 | Colin Pettigrew |
| 7/30 | Mary Morrison |

Elder of the Day

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 7/2 | Donna Crader |
| 7/9 | Walton Bost |
| 7/16 | Lucy Martin |
| 7/23 | Robin Weeks |
| 7/30 | Rick Hegenberger |



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- The family & friends of **Caroline Dawson** on her death on May 15, 2023.
- The family and friends of **Joe Dickey** on his death on June 6, 2023



Grace As Action!

Grace is a gift. It is an unmerited and undeserved divine assurance...a true gift from God. We are saved by grace through faith. In looking back at this year's compelling "Grace in Action" theme, it becomes apparent that the word "grace" is, of course, also a verb! One definition for the word "grace" is simply "to do". We, as the Body of Christ, are asked to do. What we might do for others? Grace is action.

This year's Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) is seeking those individuals who might be sensing a call to action. The ONC is seeking members who would serve as either elders or deacons for the Class of 2027. The committee is looking for individuals who would represent the many different parts of our congregation, recognizing that Fort Hill is not only made up of those with varied backgrounds and interests, but is composed of those with the kind of genuine commitment and positive spirit which made Fort Hill Church the special place of worship that it is.

Are you sensing a call from God that you might serve as an officer? Do you know of others who have expressed an interest in serving? If so, please contact any of the members of the ONC listed below to promote follow-up conversation. We'd be glad to answer any questions you may have. And, should you be contacted in the near future, please give prayerful consideration to the request that is asked of you, a request that you "grace" others in our church and surrounding community with some of your unique gifts are you serve.

You may also let us know of your interest by answering a few brief questions on the digital response for at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/forthillchurch/onc-response-form>

ONC Response Form

I would like to engage in *Exploring a Call* to serve as a Fort Hill deacon or elder.

I understand that submitting my name does not equate to a formal nomination to either office, or a commitment to serve. It will merely open the door to additional learning and Q&A opportunities.

Name: _____

Preferred contact information for follow-up: _____

Congregational Officer Nominating Committee for 2023

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| Diane Egan, Session (Coordinator) | diane.w.egan@gmail.com | 864-710-0264 |
| Cindy Trammell, Session | cindy.trammell5@gmail.com | 832-722-3992 |
| Cathy Morton, Deacons | ctmorton@bellsouth.net | 803-237-3865 |
| Robin Denny, Presbyterian Women | robindenny2020@gmail.com | 864-207-1152 |
| Larry Sloan, Men of the Church | larrysloan@yahoo.com | 864-787-6760 |
| Ella Griffis, Youth | ellamc5157@icloud.com | 864-324-7747 |
| Bette Bronson, Congregation At Large Member | bettesbronson@gmail.com | 803-323-7473 |
| Carol Hipp, Congregation At Large Member | chippathome@gmail.com | 704-578-2199 |
| Mark Kwist, Congregation At Large Member | makwist@yahoo.com | 864-508-4543 |
| Laura Conrad, Pastor, Ex-Officio Member | laura.conrad@forthillchurch.org | 864-654-2061 |

Fellowship Update

We hope everyone is enjoying a relaxing summer routine. It is also important to stay connected. Fellowship Ministry's planned connecting activities include:

First Sunday Potluck Breakfasts on **July 2** and **August 6** at **9:00 am** in Tartan Hall. Bring a breakfast item to share. Juice and coffee are provided.

Wildcard Wednesday Potluck Supper on **July 26** at **6:00 pm** in Tartan Hall.

Book Club at **7:00 pm** on the **second Mondays** in the Gathering Space:

July 10 — Shanghai Girls by Lisa See

Leader — Debbie Shealy

August 14 — Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Leader — Nancy Oates

September 11 — Hang the Moon by Jeanette Walls

Leader — Robin Weeks

Save the Date

August 27 — **Welcome Back College/Congregation Mixer** after second worship service

September 10 — **Baby Shower for Emily & Colin Pettigrew**

Details for these special dates will be included in the August newsletter.

Contacts: Cyndi Davis — davisdcr@bellsouth.net
Debbie Shealy — panddsmom1@aol.com

BOOKCLUB MONDAY

July 10th at 7 pm
Second Floor
Gathering Space
near E205



Book: Shanghai Girls by Lisa See

Interested?

Contact Debbie Shealy 912-656-4596



JOIN US FOR THE FALL

**THERE ARE TWO MORE
TIMES
THIS YEAR
AUGUST 25-27
OCTOBER 13-15**

HOW IT WORKS

- Groups meet with each other in a home or a restaurant (pay for your own meal) to share a meal.
- Hosts' sign up to have groups in their home or to coordinate going out!

HOST CONTACTS GUESTS:

- The host will contact the members that are invited to eat with them.
- Generally the host serves the meat or main dish and the other guests bring a side item, salad or dessert.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE FALL

Email: Holly Ridgell
hridgell@gmail.com
864-320-2366

Reply and add your
Name, address and
phone number

WWW:FORTHILLCHURCH.ORG

Welcome Fort Hill New Members



Austin Jordan

Address: 129 Biltmore Circle, Easley, SC 29642

Phone: 864.420.6329 (cell)

Email: austin.jordan@jtekt.com

Austin joined Fort Hill Church by Transfer of Letter from Easley Presbyterian Church. He has previously served as a Sunday School teacher and Greeter/Usher. Austin works for JTEKT as a Direct Material Technical Buyer. He enjoys yard work, baking/cooking, languages, and reading.



Amelia McMullan

Address: 217 Hillview Dr, Seneca, SC 29672

Phone: 864.280.2513 (cell)

Email: armcmullan@icloud.com

Amelia joined Fort Hill Church by Transfer of Letter from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. She has previously served on the Breakfast Team and taught Sunday School. Amelia is a substitute teacher with the School District of Oconee County. She enjoys water sports and reading.



Emily Pettigrew

Address: 238 Iris Drive, Easley, SC 29642

Phone: 256.431.2059 (cell); 864.331.8421 (work)

Email: ekbentley18@gmail.com

Emily joined Fort Hill Church by Transfer of Letter from Madison Presbyterian Church and is the wife of Colin Pettigrew, AP for University Ministry. She has been involved in Young Adult Group, Children & Youth Ministries and the Mission Committee with other churches. Emily is a Marketing Associate for the Community Foundation of Greenville. She enjoys traveling, hiking, watching sports, and community service.



Tom & Elaine Smith

Address: 118 Hidden Cove, Six Mile, SC 29682

Phone: 864.483.6415 (Tom); 864.350.1950 (Elaine)

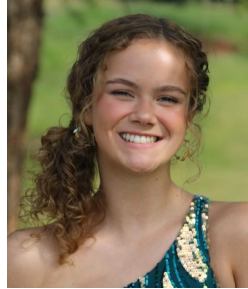
Email: tsmith4697@gmail.com (Tom);
elaine.51950@gmail.com

Tom & Elaine joined Fort Hill Church by Transfer of Letter from Pickens Presbyterian Church. Tom served previous churches as an Elder, on a Pastoral Nominating Committee, Finance Chair, and Elder Nominating Committee. Elaine has served as a Senior High Leader and Superintendent of Sunday School. Both are retired. Tom enjoys yard work and sports. Elaine enjoys reading.



Blood Drive at FHPC — July 18

I will be hosting a blood drive with The Blood Connection (TBC) at Fort Hill Church on July 18th! If you are unfamiliar with TBC, they are a non-profit organization that supplies blood and blood products to hospitals in the Southeast! As a Christian community this not only allows for us to show Christ's love for others, but we can also save lives! TBC relies on communities like ours for a safe and ample blood supply.



There are many benefits to donating as well. The immense satisfaction that comes from knowing that you are helping others, as well as me! TBC offers scholarships to high school students who host blood drives for their communities. Not only will it help further my education, but it will also help me to achieve my career goal of becoming a nurse.

Also, did you know that every two seconds, someone in the US needs blood? And when you donate you can save up to three lives? Imagine how many people we could save with your help! So make sure you are well hydrated so you can help save lives!

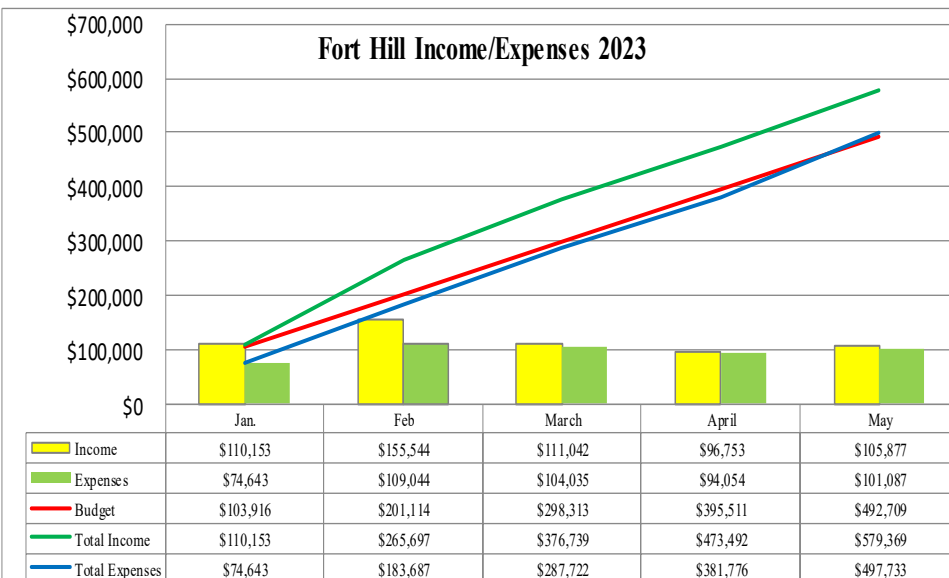
I hope to see you on July 18th!

Dulcie Mohr

Finance Ministry Update

From the Finance Ministry – Through May, total income was \$579,369 while expenses for the first five months were \$497,733, providing a year-to-date surplus of \$87,636. Expenses are at 40% of budget while income is at 48% of budget. As you can see, income is approximately 7% above budget while expenses are roughly 1% below budget. Thanks to your financial support, Fort Hill is able to continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.. **Thank you!** If you are not present at church, your contributions can be made by mail or online through your Realm account or by clicking on the “Give Now” button on the Fort Hill Church website home page (<https://onrealm.org/FortHillPresbyt/-/form/give/now>).

Bridging Generation Update: Loan principal balance — \$209,151



Church Mouse



Oh my, summer is here, and it is so quiet at church without the preschool kids. I love them and their wonderful crumbs!!

And the good news was Bible School was last week.

We had an exciting time celebrating the graduation of our seniors from the local high schools. Each one processed in during the prelude in the cap and gowns. It was very colorful. If you see them, congratulate them for their accomplishments: **Ransom Broome, Mary Limber, Jeb Martin, Alena Nebesky, Mary Kate Turner, and Coleman Wright.** Plus, we recognized those 5th graders who moved up to the Youth Group with gifts from **Ms. Kim Morris: Elizabeth Bost, Eliza Bost, Edward Crader, Hudson Money, Jacob Poetz, and Annie Young.**

The young ones provided music on Mother's Day under the excellent direction of **Margaret MacKay: Lelia, Adair & Vivian Stevenson; Ebb, Dorothy, James & Louise Horton; Adelyn Hudak; Grace Collins; Edward & Elizabeth Crader; Grace & Eliza Bost; Ellie Faithful; Millie Morris; Maggie Wilson; and Jay Allman.**

On June 4, we had a change in the music department: **Margaret MacKay** played the organ and **Raymond MacKay** directed the choir. So much musical talent in one family is amazing. We also served communion. It was prepared by **Beth Chapman** and served by **Gregg & Cathy Morton, Cyndi Davis, Robin Weeks, Bill Cato, Nancy Spittler, Ben & Cindy Trammell** under the direction of the **Pastors Mary, Jacob and Colin.**

Be sure to thank all those mentioned for their service to the church and congratulate those who were recognized.

See you next month!



July Fort Hill Church Activities

Sunday, July 2

- 9:00 am First Sunday Summer Breakfast — Tartan Hall
- 10:00 am Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream
Nursery (Birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room
WeeKirk (children's worship/3K-1st gr.) —
following Children's story — Nest

Monday, July 3 — Tuesday, July 4

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

- Wild Wednesday — Carowinds
- 2:00 pm Staff Bulletin Review — Conference Room

July 9—July 15

Montreat Youth Conference
Jacob Kennedy & Virginia Kackley away

Sunday, July 9

- 10:00 am Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream
Nursery (Birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room
WeeKirk (children's worship/3K-1st gr.) —
following Children's story — Nest

Monday, July 10

- 7:00 pm Book Club — Gathering Space near E205

Tuesday, July 11

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room
Ben Sill's Men Small Group — Library
- 4:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

Wednesday, July 12

- 6:45 pm Wild Wednesday — Holy Trinity Episcopal

Sunday, July 16

- 10:00 am Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream
Nursery (Birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room
WeeKirk (children's worship/3K-1st gr.) —
following Children's story — Nest
- 7:00 pm Youth Tie Dye Night — Den

Tuesday, July 18

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room
Fort Hill Blood Drive
- 4:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

July 19—July 23

Middle School Montreat Youth Conference
Jacob Kennedy, Virginia Kackley, & Preston
Shealy away

Wednesday, July 19

- 1:00 pm P&PS/Planning Meeting — Library
- 6:45 pm Wild Wednesday — Holy Trinity Episcopal

Friday, July 21

- 11:00 am ONC Leadership Meeting — Club Room

July 23—July 29

Mary Morrison & Virginia Kackley away

Sunday, July 23

- 10:00 am Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream
Nursery (Birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room
WeeKirk (children's worship/3K-1st gr.) —
following Children's story — Nest

Tuesday, July 25

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room
Ben Sill's Men Small Group — Library
- 4:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

Wednesday, July 26

- 5:30 pm Wild Card Wednesday Potluck — Tartan Hall
- 6:45 pm Wild Wednesday — Holy Trinity Episcopal

July 28—July 30

Colin Pettigrew away

July 31—August 4

Jacob Kennedy away

Sunday, July 30

- 10:00 am Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream
Nursery (Birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room
WeeKirk (children's worship/3K-1st gr.) —
following Children's story — Nest
- 12:00 pm Officer Nominating Committee Meeting —
Club Room
- 2:00 pm Joe Dickey Memorial Service — Sanctuary



Recurring Weekly Events

Weekly AA Meetings

Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday evenings at 8:00 pm and Friday afternoons at 12:30 pm in Room E205 of the Education Building.

July Anniversaries & Birthdays



- 7/6 Louis & Nancy Stone
- 7/7 Chip & Diane Egan

- 7/9 Larry & Jan Ayers
- 7/11 Ken & Shirley Chappell
- 7/12 Mike & Courtney Money
- 7/15 Michael & Laura Kozlarek
- 7/17 Chris & Beth Griffin
- 7/18 Dan & Denise Anderson
David & Judi Cundiff
- 7/21 Devon & Leanne Broome
Robby & Mary Beth Clanton

- 7/21 Steve & Laura Hunter
Gary Pollock & Catherine Stoddard
- 7/24 Ron & Ann Rash
- 7/27 Bill & Jan Kahle
- 7/28 Grady & Kimberly Jordan
Chuck & Nina Moede
- 7/29 Dusty & Nancy Oates



- 7/1 Becky DeWitt
Ric Ware
- 7/3 Nan Jones
- 7/4 Katherine Cason
- 7/5 Avery Conrad
Hallie Conrad
Bruce Salley
Jane Van Senus
- 7/6 Greg Griffis
- 7/7 Sherry Kantzler
Cooper Lecroy
- 7/8 Page Cross
- 7/9 Lee Churchfield
- 7/10 Edward Crader
Shirley Muzii
Ronda Ricks
- 7/11 Craig Horton
- 7/12 Debbie Carlton
Carl Hollingsworth
Corey McCubbin
Hugh Spitler
Gerry Yantis
- 7/13 Mary Margaret Allman
Denise Anderson
Ken Chappell
Elbert Horton

- 7/15 Mike Blackwell
Maegan Johnson
Ethel Pettigrew
- 7/17 Patrick Adams
Nathaniel Hollifield
Tom Waldrop
- 7/19 Tammy Fagan
- 7/20 Edmee Reel
Catherine Stoddard
- 7/21 Jack Jackson
Grant Jones
- 7/22 Sawyer Hays
Bill Nisonger
- 7/23 Nancy Spitler
- 7/24 Ellen Ackerman
Ethan Ackerman

- 7/24 Jason Allen
Adam Scott
- 7/25 Lanie Hedrick
Sasha Satzger
- 7/26 Spencer Bryan
Marcia Rabun
Debbie Shealy
- 7/27 Lee Davis
Jim McCubbin
Johnnie Van de Sande
Barbara Westall
- 7/28 Sarah Morrison
- 7/29 Grace Collins
Jeremy Wright
- 7/30 George Dunkelberg
Caroline Rash
- 7/31 Nancy Hutson
Gary Mohr Sr.
John Sherman
Harrison Steele





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