

THE GOOD NEWS

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | AUGUST 2022

JUICE, JOE AND JUSTICE—A JOURNEY WE TAKE TOGETHER



Becoming a new thing is hard work. I am amazed as I look out over the past three years of ministry together at the ways we – individually and collectively – have walked

intentionally into deeper discipleship. By that, I mean that I see us seeking to follow Jesus more closely in our day-to-day interactions, choices and work.

In the late Spring of 2020, a group of Faith members gathered in the wake of the George Floyd murder to talk about racial justice. Early on, that work was about discovering what we didn't know or weren't acknowledging, examining history and society with new awareness, discovering our own deep-seated biases, beginning to understand something called "implicit bias," and practicing owning our identities as well as acknowledging our biases. All of this, we felt, was part of our journey of discipleship.

For more than two years now, a group of Faith folks have participated discussion or study in various forms. About a year ago, the conversation turned to how we might share some of our work with the entire congregation

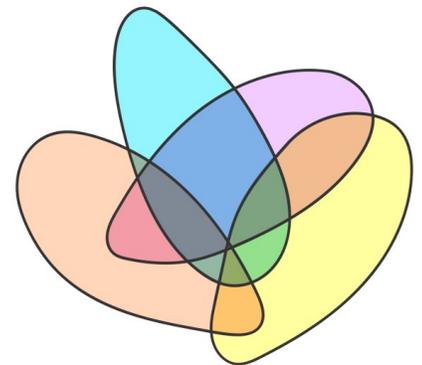
or even with the wider Rockville community while inviting others to join the work. We had a great idea and a plan....and then we started experiencing COVID variants that made it hard to gather.

At last, it seems like we will have opportunities this Fall to connect, and our connection will be called **Juice, Joe, and Justice** (wherein Joe is slang for coffee, friends).

Juice, Joe and Justice is an opportunity for us to explore *intersectionality* through the lens of our identity as followers of Jesus.

The word *intersectionality* is getting tossed around a lot these days.

Essentially, intersectionality is a framework for understanding how a person's many and varied social and political identities combine to create different experiences and expressions of discrimination and privilege (Wikipedia).



Intersectionality matters because as Christians who seek to include all of God's beloved and act toward God's justice, we have to develop an understanding of and empathy for life journeys that may be unlike our own.

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JUICE, JOE AND JUSTICE...

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We will gather for **Juice, Joe and Justice** monthly beginning in September. Before each session, there will be some materials made available for pre-reading. But what really matters is that you show up to the conversations willing to listen, learn and grow.

It is our expectation that we will gather mostly in person at the church for **Juice, Joe, and Justice** – and we are going to explore technology that makes it possible for folks to join online. The season of COVID has separated us from one another and there are now opportunities to gather safely. This is important work that in many ways relies on showing up in front of one another as much as possible. We know that it is convenient to gather online. Still we hope for many people in one room.

Our purpose for this work is to further develop our ability to serve our community, love folks

no matter what, discern how we are being called as the community of Faith, and seek God's justice in the world – justice where people know they are loved and loveable, fed, housed, clothed, comforted.

Watch for information about specific topics, about time and format, and plan to join the work that many at Faith have already taken on. Along the way, there will be opportunities to lead and to learn and to serve. God's transforming us together as the world keeps turning.

May it be so. Amen.

Peace and all good,

Pastor Laura

✓ TRUSTEE TASK

The newly resurfaced courtyard benches were reinstalled this week. The benches are made of teak and require a specialized resurfacing process. Thank you to Jay Moore, Chair of Trustees, who worked with a local contractor to get the project completed ahead of schedule.



MESSY CHURCH



Making a Difference was the theme for the Messy Church International Conference this past May. Indeed that is the sentiment and starting point for the work we do here at Faith's Messy Church services. Each session asks the question, 'How does this scripture make a difference to people's lives?' The Bible stories we choose encourage us to think about how God makes a difference to our need for forgiveness, for justice, healing, identity, belonging, hope... What an amazing faith Christianity is, our God meets our human needs and makes such a difference to us all. And we are

invited to work with God on this 'making a difference' idea!

When we gather on Saturday, September 10th (4:40-6:00 p.m. in the parking lot) we will explore what it might mean to be the lost lamb in Luke's gospel (chapter 15, verses 1-7) or to seek those who are lost.

Oh yes, I want to remind everyone that Messy Church is worship service. That's right, it is not an event. It is an inter-generational worship service. Kids and adults laugh, eat, craft, and worship God together.

During these still uncertain times, we should acknowledge

that Covid-19 has trampled across everyone's lives (including the church's) and we will not be the same. In light of this new reality let's not rush to re-plant what we 'used' to do. Instead, I pray that we have the discipline and faith to watch and wait for the Holy Spirit to let the new things take root. While we watch the Spirit bring new people into our lives would you work with a Messy Church team? Every time we gather we need

people to help set-up and breakdown and to manage the craft and service project tables. Most importantly, please invite your neighbors to the fun!

We at Faith UMC prayed for our church to grow and reach more people. God's answered prayers often looks different than we expect.

Please join us on this messy mission of faith. It will bless you and our community real good!

Janice Harman

Director of Care, Connection and Inter-Gen Nurture

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MESSY CHURCH

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Thank you to the many who participated in our July Messy Church where we explored the parable of the Good Samaritan. We learned what it means to be a good neighbor to the people who live near us and to the people we hardly know and Jesus words remind us everyone is our neighbor. During craft time we made 'glad 2 be your neighbor' signs for our house windows; we wrote notes to tell our neighbors how much we care; and for our service project we filled bags with toiletries, water, and snacks to hand to people who may live on the street because they are our neighbors too.



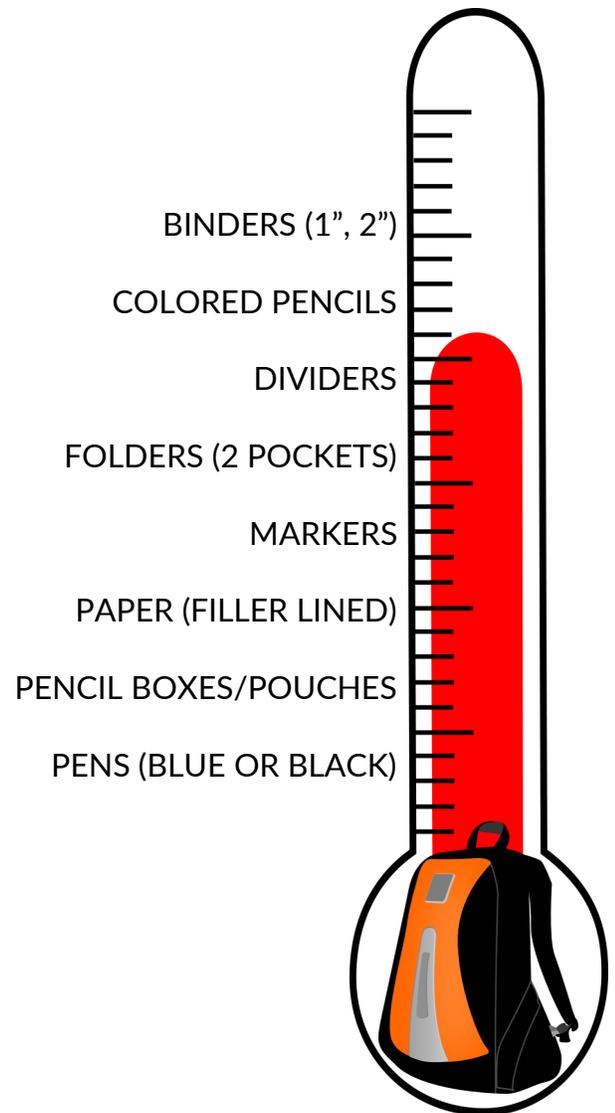
GIVE STUDENTS WHAT THEY NEED TO BELIEVE, ACHIEVE AND SUCCEED

JULY 24TH-AUGUST 7TH

INTERFAITH WORKS is gearing up for the 2022-2023 back-to-school backpack and school supplies program. Backpacks are just one way families are helped to get ready for school. This campaign also provides families with free clothing and home goods through the Interfaith Works' Clothing Center, groceries through their Food Pantry, and assistance with utility bills and rent. **The goal this year is to collect and distribute 2,600 backpacks filled with brand new school supplies.**

This year, Carol Dismukes is spearheading the project at Faith. We are asking you to fill a new backpack with requested school supplies (*refer to Interfaith Work's list to the right). Don't want to shop? If you prefer, you may make a financial donation for the backpack program directly to Interfaith Works. [Click here](#). From **July 24-August 7**, a collection box will be available outside the church office and at our Sunday worship welcome table. If you have any questions, contact Carol at 2acebygolly@gmail.com.

**No crayons please*



A BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL YEAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21



Join us on Sunday, August 21 as Pastor Laura will bless our children, teachers, and school staff as part of the worship service. Ask your child(ren) to bring their backpack to this service.

Why a blessing? It encourages our students! Doing so celebrates with the excited child and soothes the anxious child. No matter the age or how a student is feeling about the upcoming school year, a backpack blessing is a valuable ritual within a family. Also, a journey's beginning is a significant time to recognize God's faithfulness and care. God walks with us always and sends the Holy Spirit to strengthen and equip us for all the steps we take in life. Additionally, we highlight for students what a blessing education and access to it is. Gratitude is the basis for joy. (illustratedministry.com)

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Ready? Set? Music!

I am so thankful for all who help make music at Faith, and I will make sure my list of participants for summer worship is more complete than it is at this writing to be sure to mention them all by name. Having said that, it is clear that our new Organist, Yeri So, has done amazing things for our church and for our worship. We thank her for the spirit, talent, and energy she brings, whether she sings, leads a choir, coordinates volunteer musicians, plays the piano, or plays the organ.

Our Chancel Choir and Bells of Faith have remained stalwart lay leaders for Faith's worship life. Both programs resume again after Labor Day, and we are always looking for new members.

Starting September 8, **Chancel Choir** meets Thursdays, 8 to 9:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall to rehearse; we lead worship 10 a.m. Sundays, September 11, 2022 to June 11, 2023, in addition to special services like Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. If you are interested in singing, let Michael Wu know at singingwu67@gmail.com or (847) 971-0610. We have members who have just finished middle school, and we have adults of all ages.

Starting September 8, **Bells of Faith** meets Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., in the Sanctuary to rehearse; we contribute to worship about once monthly, September to May. We also contribute to 8 p.m. Christmas Eve and Easter Day services. If you are interested in ringing, let Nancy Kuhn know at nancykuhn@gmail.com. Again, this is open to adults of all ages.

If you have children who are interested in singing, I would love to resurrect our **Young Singers of Faith**. We would meet after 10 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary starting September 18, a rehearsal that would last about 40 minutes per session. We would contribute to worship on a schedule that works for all involved, generally once monthly between October and May. We would also contribute to the Family Worship Service 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve. Michael Wu leads this group, and contact information is listed above.

If you have musical talents that do not necessarily fit with Bells of Faith, Chancel Choir, or Young Singers of Faith, but you would like to contribute to our worship services on occasion, please reach out to either Yeri So at yso@faithworkshere.com or me. We will work with you and your schedule as best we can to include you in worship leadership, and thanks for considering!

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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As we continue Faith UMC's journey as well as our own Christian discipleship towards spiritual growth and in a social justice context, I urge you strongly to consider joining or inviting that talented friend or neighbor to join our music ministries. The thing about art and music "is not to convey literal truth, but an aspect of a universal truth that if successful, will continue to move and to touch people even as contexts, societies and cultures change" (Daniel J. Levitin, in *This Is Your Brain on Music: the Science of a Human Obsession*, 2008).

No wonder it fits so nicely with Faith UMC specifically and worship generally. With the time, commitment, talent, and enthusiasm our church musicians bring to contributing anthems, special music, and worship leadership, we get glimpses of the beauty of Christ's creation and ministry that only art and music can bring. And, that helps us understand even more of the universal truth of God's love and mercy that brings us to God in the first place!

Dr. Michael Wu

FAITH FOUNDATION ROUND 2 GRANTS STARTING SEPTEMBER 1ST

Your Faith Foundation awarded funds in July to six local social service firms who applied for grants. The good news is that we have more money to give away and have decided to set up a Round 2.



Faith Works!

The application is for you to share with social service agencies of your choice in the local area. Have your preferred charity complete the [application here](#). The deadline for hard copy submissions is October 15th. A member of Faith UMC needs to sponsor the organization.

Below are the six non-profits that were given grants in the initial round.

Home Care Partners

Mercy Health Clinic

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County

Rainbow Place Shelter for Homeless Women

Project Transformation, DC

In the September newsletter, more information about each grantee will be shared. They will not be eligible to participate in Round 2 of the grant process.

Please take the time to contact your special group. It is the goal to bestow all the money our bylaws permit.

Please contact Barbara Wege with any questions at barbarawege@verizon.net.

YOU + MCCH = SCHOOL SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!

AUGUST 15TH



No, you are not seeing double, this is a second opportunity to get involved in a back-to-school project. This project benefits families who receive services from Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH). They will be collecting and distributing backpacks from the Faith UMC parking lot August 16-18. This is an annual partnership with Faith. Church members have previously volunteered to participate. [Sign up here](#) to donate a backpack with requested supplies or a \$50 Amazon gift card (to purchase shoes) for a specific middle or high school student. Backpacks or Amazon gift cards can be dropped off at the parking lot on Tuesday, **August 16th from 8:30-11:30 a.m.**

GRATITUDE FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you again for the ongoing support of Faith UMC for MCCH clients. Your recent investment of \$2000 in the work to end homelessness makes a difference!

Here is a story of impact to share with your congregation members:

Ms. P is an Air Force Veteran who came to the VA Safe Havens after being chronically homeless for the past few decades in Washington D.C. and Baltimore. After so many years of uncertainty with her living situation and physical/mental health concerns, adjusting to a more stable environment in the program was difficult. But Ms. P worked with staff and her support networks to make sure that she made the most of the opportunity, and joined in activities to identify and work towards her goals.



While in the program she enrolled in a correspondence course to learn more about the Substance Abuse Crisis that is afflicting the country, and became a fountain of information and insight. She worked with staff to identify her specific housing needs and lit up with joy once she walked into the apartment building! When the leasing agent attempted to show her another apartment Ms. P walked in and then right back out, she knew exactly what she wanted. Your support helped prepare her for the life change of starting the next chapter in her own apartment. She is grateful for all who provided support!

Derek Longbrake | Director of Development and Community Partnerships

OUTREACH TEAM: HELP OUR NEIGHBORS, HELP ASYLUM SEEKERS

Local news has already reported parts of this story: Texas and Arizona governors are sending busloads of asylum seekers to Washington DC. These migrants have been legally cleared to remain in the U.S. while awaiting asylum hearings and have work permits. To date over 100 busses have arrived at Union Station, usually in the middle of the night, with over 3500 migrants, mainly families, single mothers with children and single men hoping to get jobs in the U.S. and send money back to their family. Ninety percent have a plan and know where they want to end up and half of these have a person waiting for them – these locations are typically east of the Mississippi and not in the DC/MD/VA area. Ten percent have no plan, and these are the migrants who generally end up staying in this area.

When migrants first arrive, the DC Mutual Aid Network provides the first level of assistance and has been moving as many as possible to day shelters in local churches. Capitol Hill UMC (CHUMC) has one of these shelters. Faith Outreach recently contributed \$1500 in discretionary funds to CHUMC to help with this ministry. The next step for some of the arriving migrants is a newly opened respite center in Montgomery County, where migrants may stay for 1-3 days. Volunteers and staff are overwhelmed and tired. Buses will continue to arrive unexpectedly for the foreseeable future. Volunteers, money, and goods will continue to be needed. There are some agencies providing assistance who are new to us: SAMU First Response <https://samufirstresponse.org> and KindWorks <https://www.dokindworks.org>. We encourage you to learn more about these opportunities that may inspire you to participate.



IN MEMORY OF

We have shared in Christian love and sympathy the passing of Faith UMC former members, Frank Augustino on July 3, 2022 at the age of 80, Jim Sadler on July 23, 2022 at the age of 98 and Ned Taylor on July 25 at the age of 93. We ask that you continue to remember their families and friends in your prayers.



Carol and Frank were active members of Faith UMC until they relocated to Frederick about 8 years ago and have remained connected and in touch with the Faith community since transferring their membership. A memorial service for Frank will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 20, 2022, at Brook Hill United Methodist Church, Frederick, MD. His obituary can be read [here](#). If you would like to reach out to Carol, her address is 2212 Battery Crt., Frederick, MD 21702.



Jim and his wife Anne were active at Faith UMC for many years before relocating to Texas several years ago. After Anne's death last year, Jim returned to Maryland to be near family. He sang with the Chancel choir and sang with the Rockville Men's Chorus. A memorial service is being held Wednesday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home of Clarksville. His obituary can be read [here](#). You may send a card to his son, Brian Sadler, his address is 10405 Derby Dr., Laurel, MD 20723.



Ned was active at Faith UMC for several years while his wife, Marge Taylor served on the Faith staff as Parish Nurse. Ned contributed his time and talents at FUMC in many ways, including coordinating the meals for our Shelter Week for several years. A service was held for him at Blairstown UMC in NJ on Friday and the link to his service can be viewed on [YouTube](#). Ned's obituary can be found [here](#). For folks wishing to reach out to Marge, her address is 111 Elm Ave., Newton, NJ. 07860.

✓ TRUSTEE TASK

The Trustees just accepted a rental application and new tenants will be moving into our former parsonage - 12101 Old Bridge Road - in early August. The property had been rented to a single family for the last 6 years. When notified of this family's intent to relocate the end of June, the Trustees scheduled some much needed improvements to the property. The hardwood floors in the upstairs were exposed and refinished, the carpeting on the stairs and lower floor was replaced, the interior and exterior were painted and some overgrown landscaping was removed. We were able to secure new tenants quickly and at a rental rate above our asking price. Many thanks to Bruce Werber and to Jay Moore for spearheading this transition.



FLAT WESLEY'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE AT THE SEASHORE

Flat Wesley traveled to Rehoboth Beach Delaware because he had heard that they had Methodist camp meetings there in the summer. We didn't have the heart to tell him that he was almost 150 years too late, so we helped him to explore the area, looking for the camp. Being from England, he was a bit pale, so we made sure he had sunscreen.



Flat Wesley thought he was on the right track when he found a water fountain right on the boardwalk. Here he is demonstrating its use as a baptismal font. The sign said it had been erected by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. No alcohol drinking!

Methodists must certainly be nearby.



He looked on the beach, but no, those outfits did NOT look like appropriate attire for Methodist meetings! However, he did admit that the sun felt good and the sounds of waves were quite soothing.



He looked inside the buildings along the boardwalk. He didn't find camp meetings but was happy to see that most of the games were not gambling ones but required some skill. He wanted to try his hand at Skee Ball, but the balls were too big for him to lift. In fact, he didn't jump out of the way of the balls coming down the track quite fast enough. Flat Wesley is now a bit flatter than when he started, but he eagerly went on.

After trekking all over town, he found several churches but the Epworth Methodist Church building had a theater and a pub in it!! What in the world? A passerby told us that the church had moved to a brand new building away from town. Phew! He was worried there for a minute.



The bookstore had a collection of Bibles, which pleased him, but he wondered who that King Jake was.

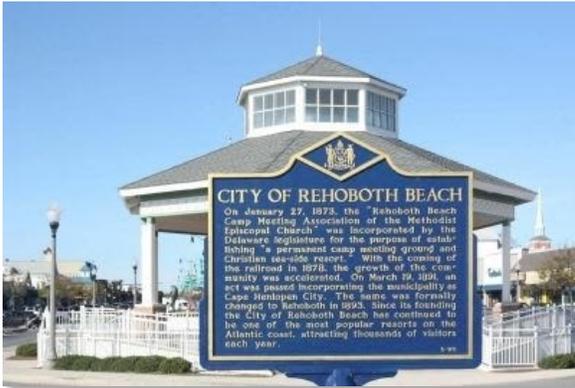
After all that, Flat Wesley had to sit and rest. He never found the camp but enjoyed his adventures this afternoon.

Over the next couple of days, Flat Wesley kept searching. He eventually found out the big blue sign telling about the Camp Meetings had been removed for repairs and clean up.

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FLAT WESLEY'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE AT THE SEASHORE

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Inscription: On January 27, 1873, the “Rehoboth Beach Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church” was incorporated by the Delaware legislature for the purpose of establishing “a permanent camp meeting ground and Christian sea-side resort.” With coming of the railroad in 1878, the growth of the community was accelerated. On March 19, 1891, an act was passed incorporating the municipality as Cape Henlopen City. The name was formally changed to Rehoboth in 1893. Since its founding the City of Rehoboth Beach has continued to be one of the most popular resorts on the Atlantic coast, attracting thousands of visitors each year.

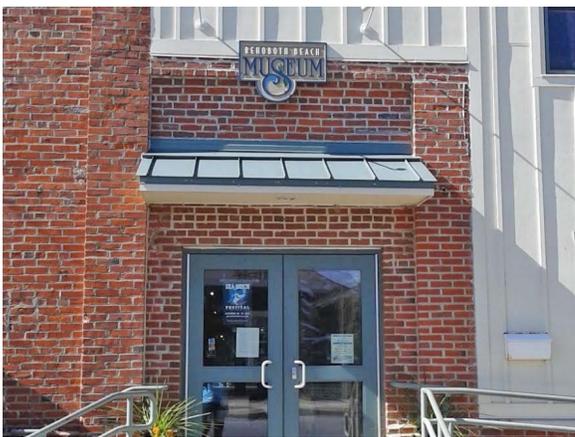


On this same day, Wesley found two museums: The Anna Hazard Museum and the Rehoboth Historical Museum. They both had lots of information about the Camp Meetings.

Flat Wesley felt he had meet up with history and a great story of Methodism. He may be to late to talk with the people, by about 125 years, but he meet the town and the community.

*Jim Pearson and Linda Pickle
Flat Wesley's Chronicles 7/10/22*

Join us next month when Flat Wesley travels to India, Vancouver, and more!



SAVE THE DATE: TRIO ILLUMINO

Dr. Michael Wu welcomes back a friend, colleague, and frequent guest musician at Faith UMC, Stephen Czarkowski, who will perform a concert program Friday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Faith UMC sanctuary. More details to come, but it will be an evening of eclectic and beautiful music featuring Trio Illumino—Virginia Lum, piano; Neil Brown, trumpet, and Stephen on cello.

August

Anniversaries

- Aug 1** Caren and Jeff Stefan
- Aug 3** Bill and Jane Rall
- Aug 9** Joan and John Kelly
- Aug 13** Tim Evans and Sara Romeyn
- Aug 17** Emily and Griff Lindsay
- Aug 22** Glenn and Karen Simpson
- Aug 27** James and Rachel Hedrick
- Aug 31** Bill and CharylAnn Maas

Birthdays

- Aug 9** Jeremy Balian
Jeremy Bloom
- Aug 10** Donna Wood
- Aug 16** JoAnn Castagnola
Sally Stolz
- Aug 17** Erna Benjamin
- Aug 19** Mark Brady
- Aug 20** Nelda Granum
Billy Moore
Reagan Powell
- Aug 23** Tim Burke
Steve Wege
- Aug 24** Linda Werling
Jennifer Young
- Aug 25** Carol Carnahan
- Aug 26** Jo Lynn Bailey-Page
- Aug 27** Sage Dobbs
- Aug 28** Gina Dawson
Ray Manning
George Schaffner
Dylan Schmidt
- Aug 29** Elizabeth King
Barbara Smith-Brady
Donna Taylor
- Aug 30** Bryce Machalek