



FYI

VOLUME 167

NORTH PARK CHURCH

MAY 2021

**HONOR YOUR FATHER & MOTHER
(THIS IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT
WITH A PROMISE), ³THAT IT MAY GO
WELL WITH YOU AND THAT YOU
MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND.**

EPHESIANS 6:2-3 ESV



NORTH PARK CHURCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4
FAMILY OF THE MONTH

6
SAFETY TEAM NEWS

7
VISIONS OF THE DAWN

STEPHEN MINISTRY
MINUTE

8
GRANDPARENT
MINISTRY

TREKKERS

YOUTH GROUP

9
VBS

11
40TH ANNIVERSARY

12
SWEET RE-LEAF

COMPASS

13
MISSIONARY OF
THE MONTH

14
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

**All events are subject to change due to COVID-19.
For more up-to-date information check our website www.northparkepc.org**

FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **Paige Stitt** is slated to marry **Brett McBride** on May 31....that **Katie Wilkin** plans to wed **Tom Kauffman** on July 31....that **Suzy Lish** is about to graduate college and will be starting a new job at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in the Medical ICU...that Siberian tigers can be over 800 lbs and 12 feet long...that **Andrew and Michele Moir** are moving to Allison Park....that **Aaron and Kait Sullivan** braved the cold along with John Holt to serve coffee on Easter from our front steps....that elephant tusks have measured longer than 11 feet....that **Chloe Sanders and Claire McKinney** were born only two days apart in 2009....that **Wayne Darville** used to catch alligators and snakes for their skins in the swamps of Florida....that **Rosemary Craft** is one of nine kids....that **Ross & Christie Wilkin** and kids lived in Melbourne, Australia for several years....that oysters eat only when the moon shines....that **Adam Bright** has completed his master's degree in Competitive Intelligence systems at RMU....that **Brian Osmond** has been filming in Savannah, GA....that the average 7 inch lead pencil will draw a line 35 miles long....that **Mike and Kelly Stitt** were both chosen as their class's top dancer in high-school....that those who read the FYI are 13% better dancers than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.

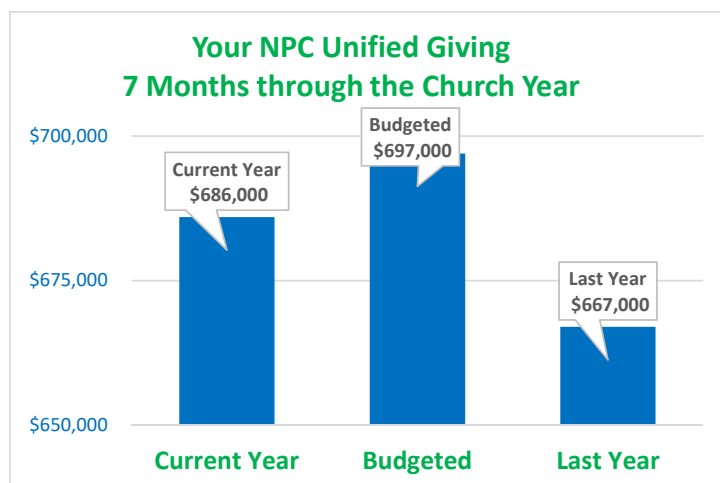
HISTORY CORNER

Running right through the story of these kings (1 & 2 Chronicles), with its occasional reforms and ever-worsening relapses, is the solemn, vital, urgent truth that “a nation’s response to God is the really determining factor in its history and destiny.” This truth may not seem so immediately perceptible in our modern world with its international complicatedness, but when we look at processes over a period we find it still in operation. Moral principle and spiritual convictions are the first-important things as regards national progress or decline, not politics and economics—as seems to be the fashionable thought in government. The place we give to God is that which determines our prosperity or adversity, our history and our destiny. Israel of old—kings, leaders, people—deceived themselves that because Jehovah could not be seen, He could not see; but they did not deceive God; nor can we. “God is not mocked.”

J. Sidlow Baxter, 1903-1999, *Explore the Book*



GIVING UPDATE



Unified giving of \$686,000 for the first 7 months of our church year is 2% below our budgeted amount and 3% greater than last year.



FAMILY OF THE MONTH: STAUFFERS

Last month you met Marge & Chuck Stauffer in the Family Feature. Both invested lots of time, talent and money into raising young people, theirs and others. Chuck would refer to his job as a “necessary means so that he could help others.”

Chuck & Marge financially supported many in ministry. I’m sure Chuck is smiling in heaven watching what God has done with his 3 children and 9 grandchildren. He can’t wait to see what God is going to do with his 21 great grandchildren and he can’t wait to dance with Marge again and show her his new back.

BOB is their oldest. When he was in 8th grade he was asked by Wynn Kenyon (a mentor) to lead a high school Bible study. Both he and sister Wendy were involved multiple days a week in a Christian Rec program led by Wynn.

Bob went to Westminster where he met Debbie Crow. After a year of seminary at Princeton, Bob & Deb were married at Fox Chapel Presbyterian where Debbie was the Christian Education director and Jim Morrison was the youth pastor. They found a home in Pittsburgh and Bob finished his last two years of seminary at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Bob began to work with Youth Guidance and was influenced by legendary men of faith in Pittsburgh, Jim Leckie, Bob Flower, and Ernie Frederick.

How fortunate for NPC that in 1981, Jim Morrison would convince Bob & Debbie to join him at Mellwood UP where Jim had become the Pastor. Bob worked ½ time with Youth Guidance and ½ time with the church. Debbie would bring her musical talents for free, and Chuck & Marge and

Wendy & Tom would follow and teenager Rick as well. This was the time our church body was struggling with the Kaseman Case in the United Presbyterian Church.

If you want to learn more about that, ask some of the old timers at our 40th Reunion Celebration this summer. 95% of the members of Mellwood Church decided to leave their building with a partially paid mortgage and NPC was birthed. Bob would be part of the first class of newly ordained ministers in the EPC.

After three years at NPC Bob went to California to church plant. Three and a half years later, Bob became the pastor at Tabernacle in Youngstown, serving for 12 years, with Debbie as the worship leader.

Next stop was Fellowship of Christian Athletes for three years while juggling interim duties at Lighthouse EPC. Bob doesn’t

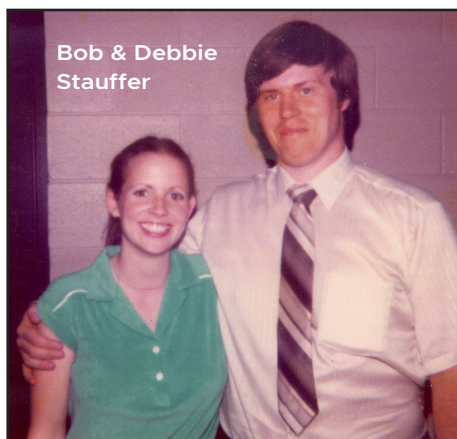
say no often, so next he is doing National Outreach for the EPC. Then he is leading NPC's church plant, Gateway, in Slippery Rock.

Bob & Debbie lived and worked there for eight years while Bob's time was shared between Gateway EPC and the National EPC as Director of Church Health.

That position is best described as the type of ministry the Apostle Paul had...help churches that are being planted, help new churches thrive, and help older churches transition through various challenges. Currently Bob's time is split in so many ministries it is hard to keep track. He is still employed by the National EPC but he is also helping at Covenant (Sharon) where Debbie is leading worship and brother Rick is pastor, helping at Bethany Church and serving on the Educations Board.

I'm sure it wouldn't surprise you to learn that Bob & Debbie raised three kids who are also serving the Lord. His oldest, Nathan, has been a worship leader in CA and now in FL. His daughter Sarah just happened to marry Todd, who is a pastor in FL. His youngest, Jeremiah, was a youth pastor in TN and just recently became a youth pastor at Christ Church at Grove Farm.

Bob's younger sister, **WENDY**, also went to Westminster as an



Elementary Education major where she met her husband, Tom Jones.

They were married at East Union Presbyterian in 1980. The first year of married life was in Youngstown, OH where Wendy taught in a Christian school and Tom was a buyer for the May Co.

They moved back to Pittsburgh the next year when Tom started working with his father in the family business, J.W. Jones Inc.

Wendy & Tom each had an early passion for music. Wendy had watched her father pour his soul into singing. Tom started taking guitar lessons at age seven. He studied under Joe Negri, traveled with the Continental Singers, and even with Brother Andrew, smuggling Bibles into foreign countries.

After graduating from Westminster he studied at Berkley School of music for one summer. Following God's plan, he decided

to earn his living in business while serving God as an elder at NPC multiple times and using his musical talents with Wendy.

Dan Lacich asked Wendy & Tom to help NPC incorporate a more contemporary worship style. For 35 of the 40 years of NPC's history Wendy & Tom have been using their musical talents to worship God and lift peoples' spirits.

I can see Chuck bursting with pride when he urges his fellow saints in Heaven to check them out. Tom & Wendy have 4 children (Ryan, Kyle, Kaleb and Kelly) all married and a total of 9 grandchildren.

RICK was in high school when his brother Bob was at Mellwood as a youth pastor and told him about this student who was perfect for Rick. Daneen Hoffman was part of a great family now coming to Mellwood.

It was hard for the Stauffer family to leave East Union UP where they were serving God for decades, but Bob was persuasive.

Rick & Daneen created some sparks that ignited a fire that would never go out. Rick went to Geneva instead of Westminster. He studied Communications. He loved his older brother but he wanted to be different.

Daneen went to Grove City and then I.U.P. where she developed her musical talents. Their relationship survived the distance and time challenges and they were married at NPC in 1987.

Rick was still resisting what might have been a "call." He knew he would serve God somehow, but it might be in a secular career. Enter family mentor Wynn Kenyon again and Rick finds himself going to Reformed Seminary in Jackson, MS, near where Mr. Kenyon was



teaching at Belhaven College

While in seminary Rick & Daneen tried missionary work in Australia for four months. Still thinking he would never be like his brother and become a pastor, he took a job as a youth pastor in Charleston, WV. He served at Perrow EPC for six years.

Next he went to Faith EPC in MI again as a youth pastor. He had no intention of leaving but Bob Hopper lured him to NPC with a position for which God had groomed him. Rick had learned that youth work in a church had to be integrated with family dynamics.

Rick became an Assoc. Pastor at NPC to develop family life in 1998. Bob Hopper was a great mentor and he loved his new role.

At this point his children Megan and Andrew are nine and eight years old. Rick & Daneen thought God had brought them full circle and he would stay at NPC until he retired.

God's plans are often different than ours. Rick was content and happy, not seeking to become a head pastor like Bob, but when God's calling became indisputably clear, he followed Bob at Tabernacle in Youngstown where he led the church from 2002-2018.

His son Andrew was a campus pastor at Youngstown State with the CCO and also led the Senior High program at the church while his son-in-law Sam was leading the Deacons. Andrew has recently accepted a position training workers through a Fellows Program of the CCO. Rick followed God's lead one more time and for the last 3 years he has been the head pastor at Covenant EPC in Sharon.

To God be the glory for what he has done through generations of Stauffers and North Park Church.

- Jim Ludwig

SAFETY TEAM NEWS

The North Park Church Safety Team has been working on a few items we wish to share with you. First, as we continue to upgrade and maintain our first aid supplies and medical devices, we have elected to include a LifeVac anti choking device (see below). The LifeVac will be placed at the Information Counter along with other first aid items. If you are interested in the proper use, you can see an instructional video on YouTube.

The second addition will be the installation of exterior security cameras. The safety patrol and other ministries at NPC has expressed interest in the ability to monitor the key entrances as a security measure.

If you have any questions on these or other activities of the safety team, please contact one of the team members. - **Dan Sherwin**

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**Place
Push
Pull**



VISIONS OF THE DAWN

- Deb Furey

The morning sun awakes the dawn with pinks, blues and creams
 Visions of such loveliness, stirs my hopes and dreams
 Let your light break through any darkness hiding deep in me
 Causing your glory to arise, so Your beauty in me they'll see

Thick darkness covers the earth with sin, deceiving those who are lost
 If they do not repent and turn, there will be a terrible cost
 Visions of the dawning kingdom, emerging through the night
 Piercing through clouds of despair, shining with bright glory

Many will turn towards this light, to seek the Lord and pray
 As they humble and die to self – God's glory they'll display
 Visions of the dawn that's coming, fills my heart with hope
 As I dream of what will be with prophetic telescope

✝ WORSHIP

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE

Stephen Ministry training was a life changing journey for me. As I was being trained by our Stephen Leaders, I learned and grew so much. The Holy Spirit was equipping me and empowering me to serve others in this ministry of caregiving.

As I learned, it wasn't about the results, but about allowing the Holy Spirit to work through me as I ministered to others. I was taught that I would never make a caring visit, listen to a person's story, or say a prayer without Jesus- my companion, my guide, and my strength. Meeting with the other Stephen ministers in training brought me into a loving community where we were able to share joys and shoulder burdens with



each other. And, as we continue to meet twice a month my fellow Stephen ministers faithfully show up to encourage, share and learn in this ministry together. I would like to encourage others to consider whether or not God is calling you to serve as a Stephen minister for North Park Church. You will be greatly blessed as you receive outstanding training and as the Lord guides you to serve those in need.

Please reach out to Mark Sharpnack (marksharpnack@northparkepc.org) or Susan Meenaghan (meenaghans@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about becoming a Stephen minister. - **Rachel Sharpnack**

GRANDPARENT MINISTRY

MONDAYS | 7:00 P.M.



Check out legacycoalition.com to become a part of GRANDMonday nights or email Rachel Sharpnack (sharp4@verizon.net) for more information.



TREKKERS

All year, the kids at Trekkers have been studying the Heroes of the Bible. Check out the people we have studied and their pretty amazing character traits:

Courage - Daniel
Loyalty - Ruth
Patience - Anna
Perseverance - Job
Repentance - David
Humility - Paul
Boldness - Moses

5:00 - 6:15 P.M.
ROOM 305 & OUTSIDE

September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20
January 17
February 21
March 21
April 18
May 16

May will be our final Trekkers for the school year AND second graders are invited! We will be outside and inside. A pre-packaged snack and drink will be provided. Kids can also expect games, prizes, Bible study, and prayer.

Drop off will be right in front of the lower entrance now that we can be outside again. Parents are being asked to use our safety system, so please check in your child. Remember to bring a friend and your bible. Hope to see you there! Questions? Email Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org)

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

MAY 2

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

North Park Church

MAY 5

Small Groups

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

North Park Church

MAY 9

No Youth Group

Due to Mother's Day

MAY 16

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

North Park Church

MAY 19

Last Small Groups

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

North Park Church

MAY 23

Final Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

North Park Church

MAY 30

No Youth Group

Due to Memorial Day

faith LAB

Science Inspired, **Christ Focused** VBS Program

VBS 2021
JUNE 21 - 25

CAMPER REGISTRATION IS IN FULL SWING! Save a spot for the child in your life by signing him/her up today! Recall that we are limiting our numbers this year and we expect to max out the number of campers we can accept!

Junior camp is from 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. each morning and senior camp is from 9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. each day. Junior camp is \$35 per person and senior camp is \$50. Register campers and volunteers through the church website.

VOLUNTEER ROLES STILL NEEDED:

Aides	Games Helper
Clean Up Crew	General Helpers
Counselors	Water Day Helpers
Decorations Team	Worship Team

PAST VBS PHOTOS:

Pictures from past VBS camps are welcome! Please upload them to Dropbox at <https://bit.ly/30V1xNJ>.



VBS SUPPLIES

We are collecting items for VBS during the month of May! faithLAB is a Science-themed VBS and therefore, we are going to need lots of items for experiments and projects! Would you consider donating something from our lists? Place any item to be donated in the coat rack area of the lobby **before the end of May**. Remember, if it needs to be returned to you, it needs to be labeled with your name on it. Questions? Email Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org).

THINGS THAT WILL BE RETURNED:

- Tye dye neck tie
- Old white lab coats
- 20 large tarps
- 20 large coolers
- \$10 worth of pennies
- 1 quart of marbles
- 1 gallon of small pieces of gravel
- 10 tiny hard plastic swimming pools
- 1 set of 12' long and 6' high room darkening curtains
- 10 12' x 12' (approx.) pop up tents

THINGS THAT ARE FOR DONATION ONLY:

- 24 hula hoops - 20-36"
- 10 rolls 1" blue painters' tape
- 12 rolls 1" high quality masking tape
- 1,000 plastic, unwrapped, not bendable straws
- 10 empty, clean 1 gallon plastic milk jugs
- 12 boxes of uncooked spaghetti
- 24 bags of tiny marshmallows
- 24 bags of large marshmallows
- 12 boxes of thick aluminum foil
- Small bubble wrap cut into 25 4" x 4" squares
- 2 new large boxes of baking soda
- 2 containers of salt
- 75 styrofoam cups
- 10 safety goggles
- 20 empty clean pop bottles with screw top lids (2 liter)
- 20 2 liter bottles of Diet Coke
- 20 packs of Mentos
- 200 balloons
- 1 small box 3 oz paper cups
- 150 hot dogs
- 150 hot dog buns
- 15 8" disposable square brownie pans
- 3 packages Oreos
- 1 Costco-sized bag of M&M's
- 200 freeze pops, unfrozen
- 10 packages oyster crackers
- 5 packages Ranch dressing mix
- 1 bottle Canola oil
- 150 blueberry muffins
- 3 bags mini pretzels
- 1 Costco-sized bag of dried fruit
- 5 bags popped popcorn (donated the week of camp)
- 10 yogurt-covered raisins bags (with 6 boxes in each)
- 2 Costco-sized Goldfish crackers
- 300 9 oz clear cups



CONNECT



40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PLANS TO GOD GIVE THE GLORY!

DO YOU HAVE YOUR CALENDAR MARKED FOR JULY 24 AND 25?

North Park Church has been blessed with 40 wonderful years of making disciples for Christ. Through the years there have been many changes, but our love for the Lord and mission remain the same. To celebrate this blessing, a team of folks are working hard on the plans for this special weekend.

On **Saturday, July 24**, we plan on having a picnic at church. Starting at 3:00 P.M., there will be games to start the afternoon. People of all ages will have fun with these outdoor activities. There will be many photos of people and events displayed around the picnic area. It will be a challenge to identify as many people as you can!

We plan on a BBQ dinner with pulled pork and all the sides! (Maybe even ice cream for dessert). Add to that day music by previous and present members of the music ministry over the years. Throughout the day you will have an opportunity to share stories with old friends and make new friends.

On **Sunday, July 25**, we plan on having a special service with one of our first pastors, Dan Lacich. Dan and his wife Barb will be coming in from the Orlando area. There will be testimonies about how the Lord has been glorified through the work of His people through the four decades.

After church, we will have a special luncheon with a catered meal. We hope to have a traditional “Pittsburgh Cookie Table” to share sweets with our friends from near and far for dessert!

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW TO HELP?

1. Register for the events on our church website at: www.northparkepc.org/40th-anniversary
2. Share this information with others you know who have previously attended or currently attend NPC. Encourage them to join us for this special weekend! Invite out of towners to stay in your home.
3. Sort through your cookie recipes and find your favorite to share.
4. Pray that many will come for the weekend so we can have a little taste of what Heaven will be like when all God's people get together and worship and give Him glory.

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to join the planning team, please contact Joyce Kish (joycemkish@gmail.com) or Mark Sharpnack (marksharpnack@northparkepc.org).

SWEET RE-LEAF

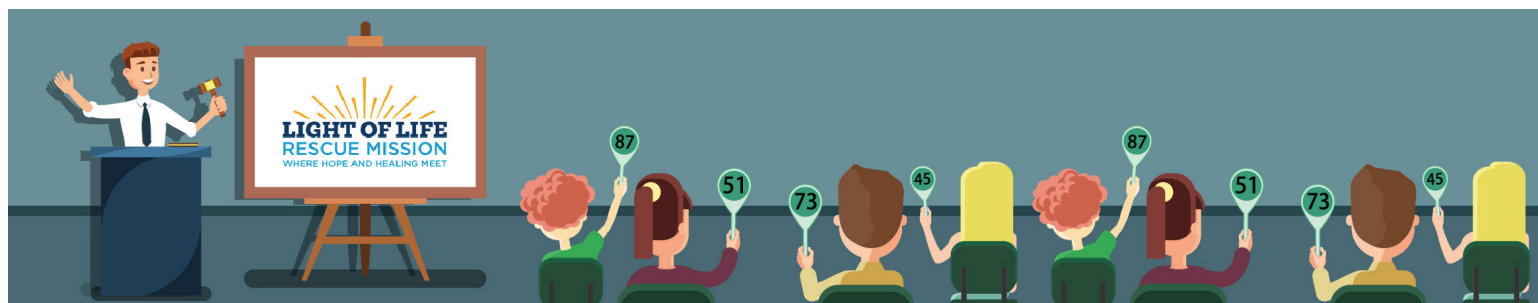
SATURDAY, MAY 22 | 9:30 - 11:00 A.M. | BLUE ROOM

If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new.
The old things have gone; everything is made new!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Join us for our Women's Spring Tea. Spring is a picturesque time of year that beautifully illustrates the new life we have in Christ. During the frigid months of winter, the flowers wither and the leaves shrivel and fall to the ground, but in springtime the daffodils and tulips appear again as if by magic, and the leaves return to the trees.

Just as God designed the old leaves to die off and be replaced with new, vibrant buds, when we gain new life in Christ the old parts of us die and we are born anew. This is something we want to especially celebrate this year as we rejoice in the sweet relief that comes with spring weather and the easing of the pandemic that has altered our lives for more than a year.

Everything has its season, and we hope our spring tea will usher in a season of renewed hope and sweet fellowship. We will provide some light refreshments including individually packaged snacks and hot and iced tea. There will be testimonies of God's goodness, and fun games (with prizes!) too. We hope you will join us as we celebrate another new beginning and the beautiful gifts of God of which we are reminded each spring. Sign up by using the link in the Thursday Epistle or send us an email at womensministry@northparkepc.org.



CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING AUCTION FOR LIGHT OF LIFE

DATE TBA | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. | BLUE ROOM

Do you have a special talent that you'd be willing to auction off for a good cause? Have you made a craft or some other homemade item that someone else might enjoy and pay a pretty penny to have? Well, we hope you'll consider donating some of your time or items to a live fundraising auction. We'd take anything from house cleaning to yard work to babysitting. If you have a service or an item to donate, please, sign up in the lobby. All money raised will be going to Light of Life Rescue Mission on the North Side.

We also need people to come and be live bidders that night. If you want to come, please, sign up in the lobby for this too. We will be providing individually prepared dinner items for the evening and ask those attending to sign up to help us prepare accordingly. The evening will thus begin with dinner at 6:00 P.M. After a short overview from the ministry about their work, we'll commence the bidding around 7:00 P.M.

We hope you'll be able to join us for this fun and exciting evening where you'll get to see what talents and skills your fellow North Parkers have. Questions? Email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).



IMPACT



MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH: JEN BURKHOLDER

Jen serves as the Director of Church Partnerships with the CCO, a college ministry headquartered in Pittsburgh. Jen has just transitioned into a new role with the CCO as the Director of Church Partnerships where she leads a team focused on cultivating partnerships with local churches across the United States that want to reach college campuses for Christ. Previous to this, she served as a regional partnership coordinator overseeing church partnerships in western Pennsylvania. Prior to working with church partnerships, she was a campus minister at nearby La Roche University for the CCO.

Her work is essential to the growth and long-term sustainability of the CCO and the fulfillment of its mission to integrate college students into the life of the church.

FOR THIS MONTH, YOU CAN PRAY FOR JEN AND HER MINISTRY IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Pray for wisdom and discernment as I serve to lead CCO in partnership with churches that will expand our ministry to new campuses nationally.
- Pray for the interview processes we are conducting this spring to fill new CCO positions in partnership with churches to reach new campuses this fall.
- Pray for CCO Campus Staff as we continue to adjust to changing dynamics of reaching students in light of the pandemic.

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kaitlyn Sullivan | 17 Samuel Karpiak |
| 4 Steve Bolibruck | Michael Schadel |
| Benjamin Burkholder | 18 John Faber |
| 5 Ryan Mitchell | 19 Nate Fairfield |
| 6 Luke Hopper | 22 Peter Sanders |
| 8 Michele Moir | 23 Maejor Sharpnack |
| Corinne VanderWeele | Eli Walters |
| Annette Wu | 24 Anna Librich |
| 10 Daniel Hoover | David Pinkerton |
| 11 Natalie Carey | 26 Chuck Brooks |
| Holly Fairfield | Beth Fox |
| Keith Garver | Len Siger |
| Riley Layden | 27 Tacey Hopper |
| Leslie Van Newkirk | Alfred Schaefer |
| 13 Alice LaBarre | Jodi Van Oss |
| 15 Debbie Faber | 28 Jim Schadel |
| Chris Lochner | 30 Janet Allison |
| 16 Stacy Altmyer | 31 Gail Nelson |
| Connie Rivero | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Brandon & Laura Gilbert
- 3 Gerry & Sandy Richardson
- 5 Manny & Denise Velarde
- 8 Steve & Shannon Bolibruck
- 9 Denny & Jane Koska
- 26 Jonathan & Kim Mycyk
- 31 Ryan & Nicole Hoover