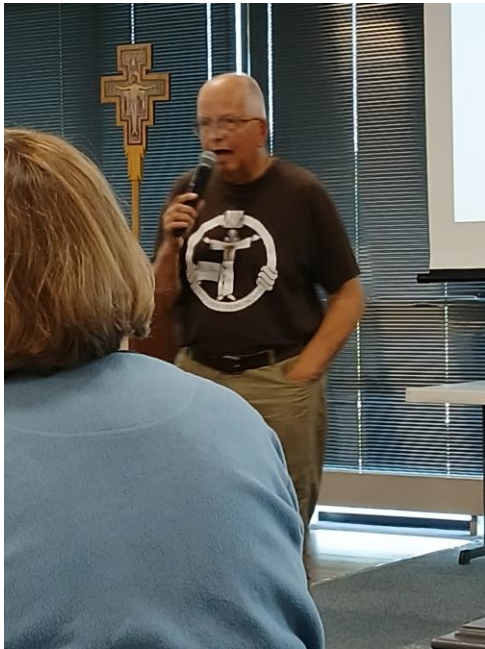


Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

October-December 2026

Unity Day 2026



Brother Jerry Schroeder, OFM Cap, above, was the presenter at Unity Day on August 8, 2026.

Many of our regional brothers and sisters gathered at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Kokomo on August 8 for our Unity Day. We began the day with Mass and then moved into our morning formation presentation. This year's presenter was Br. Jerry Schroeder, OFM Cap. He chose the theme of identity. Since we live much of our lives in the dark, we need relationships. These relationships become mirrors for us. Br. Jerry asked us to consider who the mirrors are in our own lives.

A second way that we have identity is by our names. When someone/something has a name, it has an identity.

Thirdly, since we are made in Imago Dei (the Image of God), we are deep, mysterious beings. Our sense of identity is where conversion begins. Conversion is how we are with God, others, and ourselves.

Br. Jerry concluded the morning presentation with the question: Where do you think we should be going as Franciscans?

After lunch, Br. Jerry began his second presentation with the idea that baptizing is naming by the Holy Spirit.

In order to remain in relationship with the Holy Spirit, we need to quiet down; learn to un-name ourselves if those names are based on shame; decide who's telling our stories; remember that prayer is a breathing of love; take our time, we're in no hurry; forget the names that shrivel us; listen for the name that whispers us into being; linger there.

After a few moments of meditation, Br. Jerry moved into a description of Franciscan life as Trinitarian: a life in an eternal wedding. He asked, "What draws you deeper? What moves you? How do you enter the mystery?"

Imagination plays a key role in our sense of identity. It is much easier for a child to understand his/her identity because the sense of imagination is so alive.

Finally, Br. Jerry left us with a couple of questions. 1) How do we face our brothers and sisters in this culture? 2) What's the question your fraternity lives with?

Thank you, Br. Jerry, for giving us so much to think about!

A Word from Our Regional Minister...

The 21st Quinquennial of the Secular Franciscan Order of the USA

July 29th to August 1, 2026

Celebrating the Easter of Saint Francis, Rekindle the Flame

What a spectacular four days! Over five hundred Franciscans from around the world were brought together under one roof. Even before you walked into that large meeting area you could feel the love and friendship ooze out into the lobby. So many Tau's visible to one's eyes. One might have known a few people when they first stepped into the room, but they certainly knew many more by the time the event ended.

The Opening Celebration of the Eucharist on Wednesday was beautiful as were all the daily masses. So many Franciscan Priests consecrated the Eucharist. I can still hear all our Franciscan brothers and sisters reciting the prayers and singing the songs together. So many beautiful voices are sharing in the celebration of mass. It saddens me that we do not experience this same sense of togetherness at Mass in our own parishes across the United States.

Our wonderful keynote speakers were, Brother Bill Short, OFM, Darleen Pryds, PhD, and Father Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv. All were amazing speakers and shared a wealth of knowledge with all of us in regards to our Franciscan way of life. I highly encourage each of you to listen to their presentation on the National website, secularfranciscanusa.org, scroll down to almost the bottom of the page and click on 2026 Quinquennial Highlights. This will open the page for you to view pictures taken and the video recording of each speaker. Also do not miss watching the video of Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. He shares with us the Blessing from Pope Leo to all Franciscans.

After our morning sessions, we broke into our little fraternities, each consisting of approximately 8–10 people. We were assigned questions related to the topics each keynote speaker addressed. My group of Franciscans were truly amazing. I learned so much from what each person had to share. It truly warms my heart to know that there are so many people across the states who share the same views about our Franciscan journey as I do. Our conversations brought greater depth and meaning to the topics presented by the keynote speakers. Hearing everyone's perspectives and experiences gave me a deeper appreciation for our shared Franciscan journey and the community we are blessed to be a part of.

In the large lobby adjacent to the meeting room, one was able to enjoy looking at the information and gift items from 23 different vendors and nonprofit displays. And if by chance anyone wants to know, we were kept busy every day from 7:30 am to 8:30 pm and it was well worth the time and energy spent on every minute.

Jane DeRose-Bamman, National Minister, shared with us that if you start saving \$20 a month for the next five years, you will have saved up enough money to go to the 22nd Quinquennial celebration. Praying I will see you there.

I would like to close with a message from our Minister General, Tibor Kauser, OFS and a prayer for our October Franciscan Month.

MG, Tibor Kauser "How can we bring our Secular life into today's world, not just Secular on Saturday, Catholic on Sunday?"

A Prayer for Franciscan Month:

Most loving and faithful God, who calls us to follow Christ with open hearts, guide us in the way of Saint Francis. Teach us to sow peace where there is division, to honor the dignity of every person, to care for creation with grateful wonder, and to stand with those who are poor or forgotten. Let these ways of compassion shape our daily living so that, like Francis, we may walk the path that leads us to Christ. Amen

Submitted by Sue Daly, Regional Minister
Our Lady of Indiana Fraternity

The Formation Corner

May the Lord give you peace!

Br. Jerry Schroeder picked up on the theme of identity at Unity Day this year. I would like to add my two cents' worth to this topic.

When my parents were expecting me some 67 years ago, they tried to come up with a name that they both liked and would sound good with our last name, Uth (pronounced like youth). They settled on Barbara Gail. (Ugh!)

When I was in 6th grade, we had to look up the word origins of our names. I found out that the name Barbara came from the time of Attila the Hun and meant *barbarian*. (Double ugh!) Further, after the Huns were gone it developed into a feminine name meaning *stranger, foreigner, or alien*. In other words, someone that no one wanted around. Well, this just keeps getting better and better...NOT! It also didn't help anything that this was just how I was treated by my peers at school.

Point blank, this was not the identity I wanted. (And no, it doesn't help to point out that there was a St. Barbara. Remember, she was killed by her father who rejected her identity.)

This really hit home to me when Br. Jerry said in his afternoon talk: learn to un-name ourselves if those names are based on shame and forget the names that shrivel us. How has that happened for me?

At Easter Vigil 1995, I joined the Catholic Church. New identity: Catholic. On Sunday, October 23, 2005, I made my Permanent Profession as a Secular Franciscan. Another new identity: Secular Franciscan. I came to realize that whatever my identity was in the past, it was not who I had become NOW. The "now" and what was to come were the important things. That goes to another question that Br. Jerry asked: who's writing your story?

The realization that I am now writing my story instead of those people in the past was very freeing. This is how I can best relate to the story of St. Francis when he encountered his father in the presence of the Bishop of Assisi in the middle of town. Taking off the

"clothes" that "shriveled" me left me free to walk away from the identity that separated me from others and embrace the I'm in the process of accepting the Barbara with a far less shriveling name. I'm finding that that "little plant" is actually thriving.

Thank you to Brother Jerry!

Try putting your name in at the end of the blessing to Brother Leo!
Peace and all good!
Barb Braley, OFS,
Regional Formation
Director

A Blessing for Brother Leo

- ¹May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He show His face to you and be merciful to you.
- ²May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace. Nm 6:24 Nm 6:25 Nm 6:26
- ³May the Lord bless you, Brother Leo. Nm 6:27



Profession Anniversaries

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

10/9/2010 Mary Jane Chase
10/9/2010 Dorothea Flory
10/9/2010 Tim Martin
10/9/2010 Tim Short
10/10/2009 Diane Martin
10/20/2012 Chris Reilly
11/14/2020 David Schlunt
11/15/2014 Julie Jarvis
11/15/2014 Lillian Leap
11/15/2014 MaryAnn Pajot
11/16/2013 Lilia Barriga
11/16/2013 Pamela Walerko
11/16/2002 MaryAnn Kendziora
11/19/2016 Sarah Belisle
11/19/2016 Joella Carll
11/19/2016 Catherine Catral
11/19/2016 Deborah Feece
11/19/2016 Dennis Feece
11/19/2016 Kathy Fuchs
11/19/2016 Anita Harker
11/19/2016 Daniel Kreager
11/19/2016 Diane Kreager
11/19/2016 Randolph Thomas

LADY CLARE

10/23/2001 Virginia Engle
10/25/1987 Michael Wolfe
11/11/1990 David Brown
11/11/1990 Marilyn Brown
11/11/1990 Elaine Chmiel
11/11/1990 Joan Klemko
11/11/1990 James Konopa
11/11/1990 Elaine Stiner
11/22/1992 Linda Julius
12/14/1981 Sharon Brady

LITTLE PORTION

10/4/1981 Frances Scheuer
10/4/1981 John Scheuer
10/10/1997 Bruce Popp
10/10/2009 Dan Lawson
10/13/1993 Patricia Scott
10/15/1999 Diane Watson
12/2/2006 Edward Justo Leon
12/4/2004 Laura Ahlborn
12/6/2003 John Szczepanski

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

10/3/1992 Joy McCullough
10/11/2000 Barbara Pelosa
10/19/2013 Bernadine Barrett
10/19/2013 Mary Jo Biscan
10/19/2013 Nancy Fagen
10/19/2013 Rhonda Herrmann
10/19/2013 Marian Paskash
10/19/2013 Christina Popiela
10/20/2007 Lynn Tabion
10/23/2010 Peter Rupcich
10/23/2010 Napoleon Tabion
11/10/1965 Laura Kadelak
11/11/1973 James Donner
11/11/1973 Mary Ann Meschi
11/13/1976 Judy Doolin
11/15/1975 Carole Donner
11/17/1974 Joan Hamnik
11/20/2004 Kathy Dominguez

PEOPLE OF PEACE

10/1/2002 Mary Jane Blankenship
10/1/2006 Robert Golobish
10/3/2008 Mary Stickelmaier
10/3/2010 Helen Burke
10/3/2010 John Hill
10/3/2010 David Whaley
10/4/2003 Patricia Marchino
10/6/1996 Margot Cain
10/6/1996 Erika Gaal
10/9/2022 Jody Dalton
10/9/2022 Elizabeth Stanton
10/13/1986 Dorothy Bessler
10/13/1986 Phyllis Seger
10/13/1986 Jeanne Whaley
11/20/2016 Mary Shepherd

PEREGRINOS DE LA PAZ

10/5/2019 Ulma Flores
10/8/2023 Lovera Jacobo
10/8/2023 Ofelia Lovera Martinez
10/8/2023 Maricela Martinez
10/8/2023 María del Refugio Romero Trujillo
10/8/2023 Arturo Santiago

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

10/23/2005 Jean Long
11/22/1981 John Mader

ST. ANTHONY

10/4/2005 Sharon Roberts
10/4/2007 Holly Henderson
11/2/1954 William Botkin
12/15/2019 Jo Aaron

ST. BONIFACE

10/23/2001 Philip Clouser
11/4/2023 Karen Niebrugge
11/18/1991 Mary Stewart
11/18/2017 Tim Klink
11/18/2023 James Knoth
11/19/2016 Holly Jacobson

ST. CHARLES

10/11/2015 Carole Beiswanger
10/11/2015 Sandra Kiraly
10/11/2015 Joy Olry
10/23/2005 Barb Braley
11/11/2007 Katie Herendeen
11/11/2007 Vicki Marcellus Smith
12/18/1994 JoAnn Arendt

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

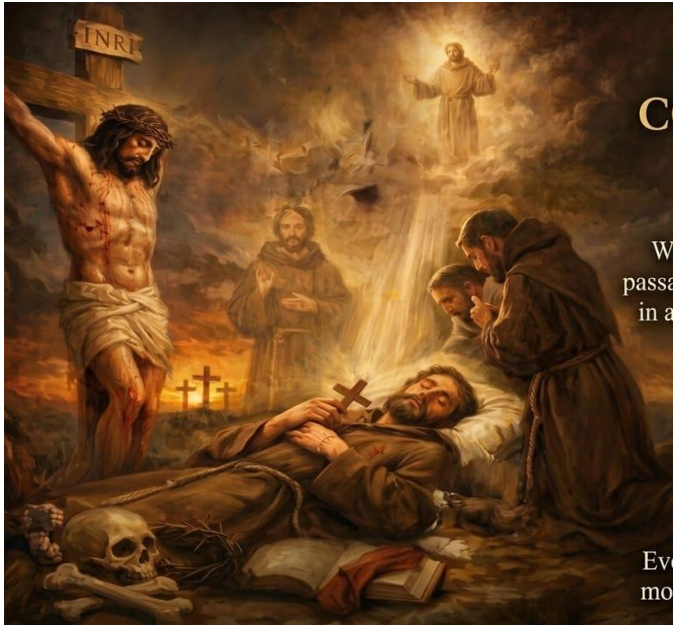
10/3/1988 Paul Moreno
10/4/2017 Ted Boczkowski
10/4/2017 Philip Coduti
10/4/2017 Joan Hollingshead
10/4/2017 Josefa Kornelik
10/4/2017 Michael Mrdak
10/4/2017 Aaron Shultz
10/19/2013 Marsha Bigos
10/24/2004 Rose Scofield
10/26/2019 Christopher Bouska
10/26/2019 Kathleen DeRolf
10/26/2019 Barbara Harris
10/26/2019 Ronald Harris
10/26/2019 James McFarland
10/26/2019 Joseph Suppes
10/30/2021 Donna Thiernau
10/30/2021 Olga Warrer
11/27/2022 Carol Bakker
11/27/2022 Ken Gembala
11/27/2022 Francis Hussey
11/27/2022 Mark Lemus
11/27/2022 Michael O'Donnell

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

11/22/2009 Carol Hahn
11/23/2008 Hope Castillo
11/23/2008 Beth Herman

**Please welcome the newly elected
Saint Boniface Council**

Minister: Tim Klink OFS
Vice Minister: Carolyn Pruitt OFS
Secretary: Holly Jacobson OFS
Treasurer: Karen Niebrugge OFS
Formation
Director: Maria Banda OFS
Councilor: Karen Sullivan OFS
Congratulations and thank you for
saying yes to your council position.



TRANSITUS COMMEMORATION (1226 – 2026) ✨

We invite you to join us in celebrating the passage to eternal life of Saint Francis of Assisi in a special evening of prayer and reflection.

📍 Location: St. Patrick's Church
📅 Date: October 3rd
🕒 Time: 6:00 PM
🌐 Bilingual Service

Everyone is welcome! Come and share this moment of faith with our community. 🙏✝️

Four Publishers to Produce One-Volume Major Extracts of the Liturgy of the Hours

After the selection of publishers to produce the full four-volume edition of the Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition—announced in the November-December 2025 Newsletter as Ascension Press and Word on Fire Publishing—the Committee on Divine Worship reviewed proposals at its November 2025 meeting for the publication of major extracts of the Divine Office: one-volume editions with at least Lauds, Vespers, and Compline. Publishers of the four-volume edition were ineligible to apply. Four publishers have been selected, pending the completion of the license agreement process, to receive five-year exclusive contracts for producing major extracts of the Liturgy of the Hours. They are: Catholic Book Publishing Corp., Liturgical Press, Magnificat, and Midwest Theological Forum. More information will be released by each publisher in the coming weeks and months and be reprinted in a future issue of the Newsletter. The USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship is devoting 2026 and the first half of 2027 to the publication of the four-volume editions of the breviary. Once that process is complete, work will turn to the review and publication of the one-volume major extracts; they are expected to go on sale in mid-2028. In addition, various minor extracts of the Divine Office—General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours, Daytime Prayer, Compline, etc.—will be published at some point during 2027 or 2028.

USCCB Committee on Divine Worship

**Our Brother Who
Has Been Visited by Sister Death**
Joe Doll 8/31/2026 People of Peace

Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father. - *Rule, art. 19c*

October 3 Day Away at the St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center in Tipton, IN

This retreat begins with Morning Prayer and ends with Adoration, Daytime Prayer and Benediction. In between, guests will enjoy two conferences. Mass, lunch and time for personal reflection will round out the day.

9 am – Welcome in St. Joseph Chapel	12:30 pm – Lunch
9:10 am – Morning Prayer	1:30 pm – Adoration
9:40 am - Conference 1	2:30 pm – Daytime Prayer/Benediction in St. Joseph Chapel
10:30 am – Break	
10:45 am – Conference 2	3 pm – End of Day – Carpenter's Shop open
11:45 am – Mass	

Led by Fr. David Huemmer, OFS, Chaplain, and Deacon Marty Stout, St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center, 1440 W Division Rd, Tipton, IN 46072

Cost: \$35, includes Keltie & Co. Catering lunch. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions.

Carpenter's Shop gifts will be open at the end of the retreat.

Participants: Minimum 5

Register at stjosephretreat.org

Dear Secular Franciscans of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity,

May the Lord bless and reward you for your great generosity to us, both with material items as well as donations that you blessed us with on UNITY DAY earlier this month. Your generosity was beyond measure. The grand total for the donations was \$1,983.15. I think this is a record! Thank you. We are currently in need of a new elevator and roof, so these funds are a blessing.

Please consider joining us for one or more of the upcoming Jubilee Year Events at our monastery:

September 25-October 3, each morning after our 6:30 am Mass: Public Novena to St. Francis. This novena will include a prayer asking the intercession of St. Francis as well as the prayers to gain the plenary indulgence for the Jubilee Year.

October 3, 7:30 pm: Transitus service with Fr. Joseph Tuscan OFM Cap presiding.

October 4, 8:30 am: Mass for the Solemnity of Holy Father Francis (Note: the 6:30 am Mass that day is cancelled.)

As always, we remain spiritually united in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare as we live out the Gospel in our daily lives.

With gratitude and prayer,

Mother Chiara and all your Poor Clare Sisters in Kokomo

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS

During the eighth centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, an Extraordinary Jubilee Year has been announced by Pope Leo from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027. During this special year it is hoped that St. Francis will inspire all people to become models of holiness and witnesses of peace. All are welcome to visit the Monastery of the Poor Clares to pray at the small shrine of St. Francis in the back of the chapel. Visitors are welcome to ring the monastery doorbell daily from 9:00-11:00 am or from 2:00-4:00 pm to visit the shrine and venerate the first-class relic of St. Francis. In honor of this jubilee year, a plenary indulgence may be gained by those who visit any Franciscan church, including the chapel of the Poor Clares. Leaflets are available in the chapel that further explain the prayers and conditions for the plenary indulgence.

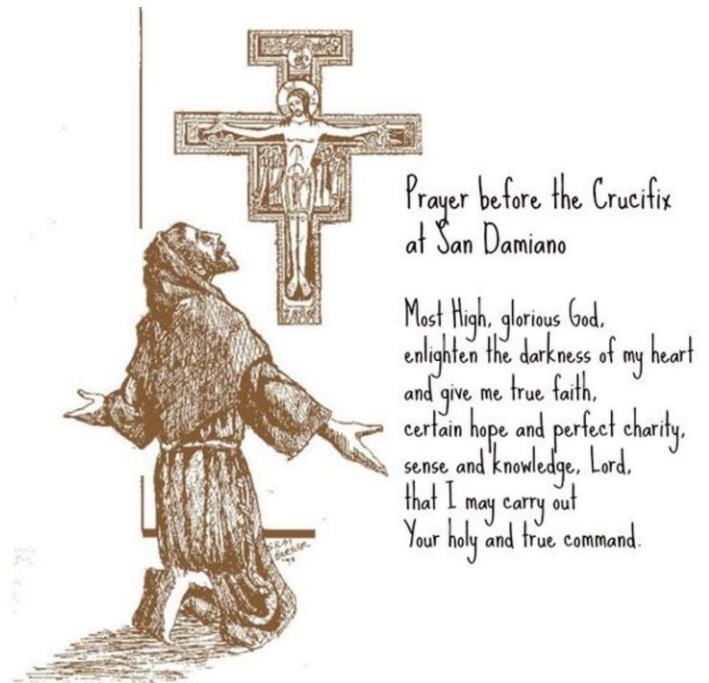
Many blessings, dear brothers and sisters,

The Walters Museum in Baltimore MD houses the Book of Gospels that St. Francis and two of his followers (Bernard of Quintavalle and Peter of Catania) consulted three times in succession when determining God's plan for the Order. The members of the NEC were blessed to have a special viewing of this historic book prior to the 2025 Chapter in Marriottsville Md last year. It is truly a gift to our American Franciscan Family.

The Walters Museum (<https://thewalters.org/exhibitions/st-francis-2026/>) will be holding a Special Franciscan Exhibit including a public display of this Missal from August 26, 2026 through February 7, 2027 in honor of the Jubilee Year of St. Francis. It's not far from the nation's capital so if you're planning a late summer/fall vacation to celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA in the DC area, add the Walters Museum to your itinerary.

Saint Francis Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, April 5-14, 2027

Led by President Sr. Maria Gemma Salyer and President Emeritus Dr. Lance Richey, the Presidential Pilgrimage will bring those interested together for a faith-filled journey through some of the most sacred sites in the Catholic tradition. The link for details about the pilgrimage, including registration information and full itinerary, can be viewed on this site: University of Saint Francis Italy Pilgrimage April 2027 - Verso Ministries. For questions regarding event details, contact us at 260-399-8034 or advancement@sf.edu.



Prayer before the Crucifix
at San Damiano

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith,
certain hope and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.

"We, the Secular Franciscans of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, are called by virtue of Baptism and Confirmation to holiness. We are committed by our Profession to living the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our time according to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi for the rebuilding of the Church.

With the help of Mary our Advocate, Protectress, and Patroness, we will foster prayer, vital fraternities, and communication. We will provide direction, support and resources to local fraternities for understanding and implementing the Rule, the General Constitutions, and the National Statutes of the Secular Franciscan Order, and our Regional Fraternity Guidelines."

International Website: www.ciOFS.org

National Website:

www.secularfranciscansusa.org

Regional Website: www.olirf-OFS.org

To join OUR LADY OF INDIANA list-serve, send a blank email to:

olirf+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Follow us on **Facebook**

2026 CALENDAR

10/3	9:00 (ET)	Day Away at Tipton Retreat Center
10/10	9:30 (ET)	REC, Zoom
11/14	10:00 (ET)	Fall Chapter of Mats, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo
12/15		Deadline for Jan-March regional newsletter submissions

CLARE QUOTE

We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others.

Franciscan Prayer by Ilia Delio,
Chapter 3, page 68

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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	Fr. Aaron Richardson	arichardson@friars.us



*The Regional newsletter is published in January, April, July, and October on the first of the month. The deadlines to submit news, such as professions, retreats/days of reflection, election results, etc., are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication. **Ministers**, please email submissions to: Barb Braley at bbraley345@gmail.com.*