



MARCH 2025 CTC CONNECTIONS

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FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ!

This year is one of those years that feels like it is both going along so fast and taking forever at the same time. It is already March, yet it feels like so much is going on around us constantly. It is a barrage of events daily, from the news around the federal level, about disasters both natural and not. The weather here in Michigan has returned to the frigid and snow filled winters many of us remember from long ago. While that is not necessarily a bad thing, it does seem to add to the whole, "It's been a long year already" conversation. I want to address two things, one being about the oncoming Lenten season, the second being the chaos of our country.

Firstly: Lent is upon us! The circle of seasons for a Christian are purposeful, each part has been put together to help us reflect thoughtfully and with intention. Lent is a time for us to prepare for Easter. Why do we need so much time to dedicate to preparing for Easter? To quote author Kimberlee Conway Ireton, Lent is "...a time to reckon with the reality of darkness and death. We do so with hope, because this season of darkness ends in Easter, in resurrection, in new life. But we can be raised to new life only if we have first died to the old one. That is the challenge-and the gift-of Lent". Lent is a season to which we are called to reflect, it is a yearly invitation to participate in 40 days of wilderness. Easter itself is a celebration of life, which is made stronger in understanding the reality of our mortality and need for something greater than the ways of the world. As Lent approaches, consider how you will sit, walk and wrestle with this darkness before Easter. I also encourage you to participate in the Lenten services. We will hold a Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service. In addition, we will have the soup Lenten meals and learning time on 3 Sundays. Please see the announcements and church calendar for those dates.

Second: Whatever side of the political spectrum you are on, the reality is we have been launched into chaos and tumult. People are being harassed and terrorized by people acting for the government. Our national parks, military, civil servants and citizens all over the country, are being put out of work and into vulnerable situations. The question is, what can we do? I was speaking with someone, and they were expressing the overwhelming nature of everything, and they asked, "what can we do?" We have talked about this in part on Wednesday lunch with Pastor as well. The chaos around us and the constant changes and actions of the people calling shots is exhausting. I implore you to hold fast to our faith first. Time in the bible, time in prayer, time with our community of faith is all important to building us up while the world works to break us down. Find someone as your prayer partner, someone you can call and ask for prayers whatever the nature. Secondly, I encourage you to care for our neighbors. Whether your geographic neighbors around your home, but also in the Christian sense, which is anyone you can. There are lots of people around us that are in need, from a few dollars for gas, to figuring out where the clothing exchange is. Maybe consider where the nearest swap is or join a "buy nothing" group on Facebook (which is a goods swap essentially) and see how you can help those who need something to get through this period of life. Finally, if you are able, I would ask you to consider how you can have your voice be heard. That looks different for all of us, we all have different abilities. Perhaps it is downloading the "5 calls" app on your phone and using it to see which representatives are in your area. Give them a call and let them know how you feel, as their constituent. If you are able, look into any of the marches and protests. If you can consider donating to the organizations that advocate and are working to care for those that are most affected by all that is happening. On the church side, consider looking into what the PC(USA) or UCC denominations are doing, and how you can partner with them in advocating as the church.

We are a Christian people, we are called above all else to be Christ-like, that includes caring for others and advocating for good where possible. As we go into this new month and continue into this year; I encourage you to consider how you can join in caring for our neighbors; I encourage you to reflect and participate in Lent.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you until we meet again

-Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

<p>March 2, 2025 Exodus 34:27-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)</p>	<p>Moses returns from Sinai with the law, and his face is shining. The Lord is holy, a lover of justice, worship at God's mountain. With unveiled faces, we see the glory of the Lord reflected. On a mountaintop, Jesus is transfigured; God says: This is my Son.</p>
<p>March 5, 2025, Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Mathew 6:1-6, 16-21</p>	<p>The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart. The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me. Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation! Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.</p>
<p>March 9, 2025 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13</p>	<p>We cried to the Lord, God of our ancestors, and God delivered us. The Lord says: I will deliver and protect those who call on me. The word is near to you; those who call on the Lord will be saved. For forty days in the wilderness, Jesus is tempted by the devil.</p>
<p>March 16, 2025 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35 Or Luke 9:28-36</p>	<p>Abram believes in the Lord; God makes a covenant with Abram. I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. God will transform our humiliation into glory; stand firm in the Lord. Jesus laments: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets! On a mountaintop, Jesus is transfigured; God says: This is my Son.</p>
<p>March 23, 2025 Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 23:1-9</p>	<p>Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; listen to me and live. O God, you are my God, I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. Our ancestors crossed the sea; they drank from Christ, the rock. Lessons from a tower and a fig tree; repent or you will perish.</p>



2-1-1 is a Health and Human Services Hotline for Northeast Michigan.

"Non-Emergency" assistance is available by calling 2-1-1. To talk to a

Trained professional about hundreds of health and human services available, call 2-1-1. Staff are trained to assist those in need with referral for food, housing, utilities, childcare, emergency shelter, clothing, legal aid, literacy, transportation, substance abuse, senior issues, disability, health care, and much more.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MARI MCKENZIE

Changes in Equity-January 2025

CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS

		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS	3000					
UNRESTRICTED	3100					
Memorial Fund	3105	28,863.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,863.13
General Fund	3110	28,977.52	4,855.23	(12,417.42)	1,450.00	22,865.33
Bricks Fund	3115	1,335.85	50.00	0.00	0.00	1,385.85
Mission Fund	3130	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	3140	81,614.52	0.00	0.00	(535.00)	81,079.52
Endowment - Expendable	3150	97,592.58	988.61	0.00	(915.00)	97,666.19
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	238,421.10	5,893.84	(12,417.42)	0.00	231,897.52
DONOR RESTRICTED	3200					
Food Account	3220	(70.48)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(70.48)
Good Samaritan	3230	1,137.84	0.00	(125.00)	0.00	1,012.84
Youth Experience Fund	3241	455.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	455.81
Parking Lot Fund	3242	996.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	996.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3290	5,827.45	337.56	0.00	0.00	6,165.01
Endowment Nonexpendable F	3310	153,000.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	153,000.50
Subtotal Donor Restricted	3200	161,347.36	337.56	(125.00)	0.00	161,559.92
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		399,768.46	6,231.40	(12,542.42)	0.00	393,457.44

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

BEFORE HEADING OUT THE DOOR, CHECK WJRT EITHER ON YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE AND CHECK THEIR SCHOOL CLOSING LINK. WE WILL REPORT ANY CLOSINGS TO THEM AS SOON AS WE MAKE THE DECISION TO CLOSE. BECAUSE OF CONFUSION IN THE PAST, WE WILL BE STARTING A PHONE CHAIN TO CALL PARISONERS WHEN THE DECISION IS MADE TO CLOSE. IF YOU HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING AND THE WEATHER IS IFFY, PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR CONFIRMATION

Pastor Nathaniel (248) 762-9882

Dan Groom (989) 501-3794

Kathy Loviska (989) 933-1950

Sandy Redfield (989) 482-9731



GET INVOLVED!



Express yourself and your faith by joining the worship, music, or usher team today.

There are so many meaningful and fun ways to get involved, and there is something for everyone to do and **YOU** are needed for CTC to continue to grow and move forward. If you are interested in becoming a worship helper, singing in the choir or have any questions about how you can help, please speak with Darren Woodke or Dan Groom. If you can occasionally usher, talk with Pat Denno or Ron Platt.

Choir Practice

The choir meets at 9:30 a.m. prior to worship most Sundays. Come join us!



SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Senior Center Activities:

There are many centers in the Saginaw area offering continuing weekly activities from dancing and exercise to cards. I have placed the December Newsletter for the Commission on Aging on the table in Fellowship Hall. You can also go online to view a list of each month's activities.

Go to

www.saginawcounty.com and hover on the tab "Community Resources" and then click on the drop-down item "Commission on Aging". Look for upcoming events and there will be a link for Senior Center Events & Activities. Check it out - there are some fun activities that continue throughout the year.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

LENTEN SCHEDULE @ COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - Worship at 4:30 p.m.

1st Sunday of Lent, March 9, 2025 - Worship at 10:30 a.m. – Soup Luncheon

2nd Sunday of Lent, March 16 - Worship at 10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Lent, March 23 - Worship at 10:30 a.m. – Soup Luncheon

4th Sunday of Lent, March 30 – Worship at 10:30 a.m.

5th Sunday of Lent, April 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord – Worship at 10:30 a.m. Soup Luncheon

Palm Sunday, April 13 – Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – Worship at 4:30 a.m.

Good Friday, April 18 – Worship at 1:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20 – Worship at 10:30 a.m.



“Easter Flowers 2025” Order Form

Flower	Quantity		Price Each	=	Total
Easter Lily	_____	x	\$ 12.00	=	_____
Daffodil	_____	x	\$ 10.00	=	_____
Mums 8"	_____	x	\$ 12.00	=	_____
Hydrangea	_____	x	\$ 17.00	=	_____
Tulip 8"	_____	x	\$ 10.00	=	_____
Hyacinth 8"	_____	x	\$ 10.00	=	_____
Azalea 7"	_____	x	\$ 17.00	=	_____
Total due for all flowers ordered:				= \$	_____

NAME: _____

IN Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Please check one:

____ Will take plant with me (or)
 ____ Will leave plant at church for outdoor planting

Payment: Cash Payment: \$ _____ Attached (or)
 Check Payment: \$ _____ Make checks
 payable to "The Deacons."

The deadline to place your order for Easter flowers is Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Please drop off or mail your completed form and payment to:
 Countryside Trinity Church
 4690 Weiss St.
 Saginaw, MI 48603

Sorry, we have not gotten the price list yet from Boehlers, but normally the change in price is minimal and will be adjusted

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

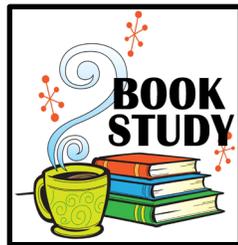
CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The next CTC Women's Association Meeting will be Saturday, March 8th at 11:30 a.m. Hope you can attend!

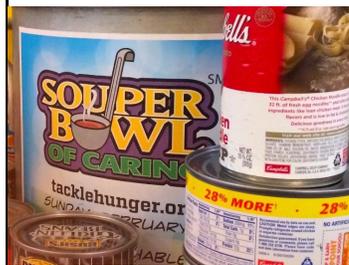


CTC'S MISSIONS FOR MARCH ARE EASTER FOOD GIFT CARDS AND ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, THANK YOU.

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Pack your lunch on Wednesday and join Pastor Nathaniel for Book Study. Beginning on Wednesday, March 5th, we will discuss **The First Nation's Translation of the New Testament.**



We celebrated "Souper Bowl Sunday" with the help of our Boy Scout Troop on Sunday, February 9th. Unfortunately, the weather and the number of parishioners out sick, the turnout was light that

day. But we want to thank our Scouts for the great job they did and all those who donated to "Souper Bowl Sunday".

Sunday, February 16th we were **SNOWED OUT** and church was cancelled because of the weather. Please note the change in the cancellation policy in case of inclement weather on page 3.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

BOY SCOUT TROOP #304

Our Boy Scout Troop continues to do well and wish to thank us for the ongoing donation of our returnable bottles and cans. These donations have been an excellent source of income for the boys. Please continue to bring bags of your returnable bottles and cans to the church and leave in the back hallway for the troop. Thank you.



Facebook Prayer Group: Don't forget we have a Facebook Prayer Group on our FB Page. It is a private group where only those who are invited can see the messages posted for those in need of prayer. If you are on Facebook and would like to be invited, please call Kathy in the office so she can invite you to join. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Kathy in the office to do so.



Please consider hosting a coffee hour following worship service. There is a chart on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall – check for available dates if you can be a coffee hour host. For those who would like to help, but don't think they would be able to handle it – help is always available. Check with Kathy Loviska, and Marcia Lacker. Thank you.

Kroger Community Rewards



We received our November-January rewards from Kroger in the amount of \$38.58. We currently have 27 Households enrolled in this program. If you have not yet made "Countryside Trinity Church" your charity of record and you shop at Kroger for anything, including groceries, medicines, gasoline, etc. please consider going to your Kroger's account and search "Community Rewards". Then choose Countryside as your community organization to receive the rewards. It costs you nothing but provides cash to our Church. If you need help signing up, see Kathy Loviska.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
Class of 2025 Darren Woodke Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	Class of 2025 Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield
Class of 2026 Roger Scovill Kathy Loviska Chuck Davis	Class of 2026 Dan Groom Paige Pequignot Lori Halase
Class of 2027 Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	Class of 2027 Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt



John & Leore Bethune @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home	Floyd & Lois Krzak Floyd @ St. Francis Home Lois @ Home
Avis Leach @ Roosevelt House/Hemlock	Marilyn Leffler Traditions of Saginaw, West Formerly New Hope Valley	Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living
Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Elaine Miner @ Home	Elaine O'Keefe Great Lakes Rehab
	Fran Prueter @ Home	

Our Homebound members and friends would all love to hear from you. Please drop them a card or give them a call. Their contact information is in the Church Directory.



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS MARCH

- 1 Ron Platt
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 22 Chong Ladner
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna Van Hautte

BIRTHDAYS APRIL

- 2 Lysithea Evans M=Alexa Mahan
- 4 Jeanne Krugielki
- 5 Nancy Erndt
- 5 Evon Little
- 12 Kathy Loviska
- 12 Matthew VanArsdale
- 13 Dallas Williams
- 19 Debra Davis

BIRTHDAYS MAY

- 1 Gwen Henderson
- 4 Joshua Gonzales
- 5 Sue Smith
- 6 Marcia Lacker
- 18 Doris Ruth
- 21 Seth Diggs
- 24 Katlyn Hanson
- 26 Charles Ohmer
- 26 Lore Woodke
- 28 Sue Paterson

BIRTHDAYS JUNE

- 2 Michael Groom
- 3 Eric Smith
- 11 Robert Bortner
- 11 Dana Hansen Cooper
- 19 Kitty Blehm
- 20 Marilyn Leffler
- 30 Darren Woodke

ANNIVERSARIES MARCH

- 6 Chad & Karla Parker
- 21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez

ANNIVERSARIES APRIL

NONE KNOWN

ANNIVERSARIES MAY

- 4 Tom & Chong Ladner
- 7 Floyd & Lois Krzak
- 18 Randy & Lynne Groom

ANNIVERSARIES JUNE

- 11 Rylan & Katlyn Hanson
- 21 Edward & Lori Halase
- 29 Ronald & Jean Anne Miller

Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48603
(989) 793-0125

