



APRIL 2025 CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church

FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER

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

It is springtime! It might not seem like it as the snow is still creeping around, but the Robins are hopping around outside my window, and the spring growth is showing itself along my front walkway. There are many joys that come with springtime. The joy might be opening the windows and letting the fresh breeze in for the first time of the year. It might be the spring-cleaning urge bursting forth as windows are washed and cupboards and basements alike are cleared out. It might be finally going outdoors and sitting or walking in the sunshine. Whatever it might be for each of us, we can feel and see the change.

We are also nearing Easter as Lent ends. I invite us all to consider Eastertide for a little bit. Often, Lent ends and Easter comes, and it seems the Christian calendar slows down. Something interesting to reflect on is the Easter season, or Eastertide is 50 days long. Eastertide lasts from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. It is traditionally celebrated as a single joyful festival, where each Sunday is treated as a Sunday of Easter, being part of the whole of Eastertide. Sometimes, we look at the day things start, like Christmas or Easter, and only truly celebrate the one day, but the whole season of it is worth our consideration. Lent is a season of darkness, a season of repentance and allowing poor habits and actions to die off. Easter is the sharp contrast of celebrating Life, Vitality, Newness, Hope, Love and Forgiveness.

How do you celebrate Eastertide? A couple of ways could be considering the ways that you reflect the joy and love of Easter in your life during that time. It could be that you intentionally work to plant hope in others lives, through additional acts of kindness. Maybe you tell the attendants at the gas station or grocery store, "Many blessings on your day" as you leave. Maybe you send cards to all the shut-ins, or folks you have not seen in a while. Maybe, you write a letter reflecting how someone has planted hope, kindness or love in your life. I am sure if you reflect on it, you will find other ways that you could share the celebration of Eastertide with others.

I attended a Jr. High youth group years ago now, and one particular youth leader always comes to mind this time of year. After Easter one year, he would go around and give out little toy chicks to kids, and after handing it to them he would remind them how much Jesus loves them, and how much he is proud of that kid. I was a recipient of a chick, and the kindness of those words have stuck with me for 19 years.

How do you celebrate Eastertide, and how do you share the power of this season with those around you? I often think of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) during this time of the year, and try to take stock of how I embody them in my actions. I invite you all to do the same. How do you live out the things that ought to be common earmarks of Christian living?

May you have a blessed Eastertide, remember Jesus Loves you, and your Pastor does too.

-Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

<p>April 6, 2025 Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8</p>	<p>I am about to do a new thing, says the Lord; do you perceive it? When the Lord restored our fortunes, we shouted with joy. Knowing Christ Jesus as Lord, I regard everything else as loss. At the home of Lazarus, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with perfume.</p>
<p>April 13, 2025 Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 Or Luke 23:1-49</p>	<p>Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt; the disciples praise God with joy. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand. Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God. After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified. Jesus is tried and crucified.</p>
<p>April 17, 2025 (Maundy Thurs.) Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:32-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</p>	<p>Before the exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover. What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation. Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord's Supper. Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.</p>
<p>April 18, 2025 (Good Friday) Isaiah 52:13-53;12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 Or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19;42</p>	<p>The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin. A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise. Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful. In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness. Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified and buried.</p>
<p>April 20, 2025 (Easter Sunday) Acts 10_34-43 Or Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 Or Luke 24:1-12</p>	<p>Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all. God promises a new creation, where all creatures will live in safety. I will not die, I will live, this is the day that the Lord has made. As death came through Adam, resurrection comes through Christ. Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all. At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene. Women find Jesus' tomb empty; he has been raised from the dead.</p>
<p>April 27, 2025 Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Or Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31</p>	<p>Peter stands trial before the council: we must obey God. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. Praise the Lord! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Jesus is coming; I am the Alpha and Omega, says the Lord. Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.</p>

TREASURER'S REPORT – MARI MCKENZIE

Changes in Equity-January 2025

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Changes in Equity
January 2025 - February 2025

CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS

		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS	3000					
UNRESTRICTED	3100					
Memorial Fund	3105	28,863.13	1,010.00	0.00	0.00	29,873.13
General Fund	3110	28,977.52	10,543.75	(28,656.10)	2,900.00	13,765.17
Bricks Fund	3115	1,335.85	600.00	0.00	0.00	1,935.85
Mission Fund	3130	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	3140	81,614.52	0.00	0.00	(1,070.00)	80,544.52
Endowment - Expendable	3150	97,592.58	1,031.52	0.00	(1,830.00)	96,794.10
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	238,421.10	13,185.27	(28,656.10)	0.00	222,950.27
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	13,522.83	(28,781.10)	0.00	384,510.19

PER CAPITA DONATIONS

As church members we are reminded annually that we must pay a per capita tax to our denomination. This money usually goes toward paying expenses at the higher level than our own immediate church. Since we are a two-denomination church (Presbyterian and United Church of Christ), we receive two bills for per capita. The denominations base the total per capita on the number of members that the church reports. Also, please bear in mind that since we are two denominations, all of our membership statistics that are submitted to the two denominations annually are divided in half. For instance, if we have 100 members, the report to each denomination will be 50 members. The Presbytery bill for us covers 50 members, so it is actually to our benefit. We also receive a bill for a lesser amount from UCC based on 50 members.

With this in mind, the Session has approved a request to be made to the members to pay \$30.00 per capita for 2024. Just a gentle reminder that the per capita is per member, not per household. So, if you have four people in your household that are members of Countryside Church, you are asked to pay for all four people a total of \$120.00. In order to defray the expense of the per capita, the Session is asking that members assist the church by paying their own per capita of \$30.00/member for 2024. We do not want to put a hardship on anyone, but these bills must be paid whether our treasury gets help from the members or not. There will be an envelope marked "per capita" in your box of contribution envelopes that you will be receiving in the next few weeks that you can use.

The Session appreciates your help in this matter.



DIAL 2-1-1 FOR HELP!

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.



Let's shower Fern Evon Little with cards for her 99th birthday on April 5th. **Happy Birthday Fern!** Mail to Fern at Swan Haven, 300 Kennelly Rd., Apt. 236, Saginaw, MI 48609

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CROSS MINISTRIES is one of our “Missions of the Month”. The ministry serves inmates at Saginaw County Jail by sharing the Love of Jesus. Additionally, they assist them as they transition back to their families and the challenging world they came from. We have been invited to attend a Celebration Banquet at the Trillium Banquet Center (Timbers), on Thursday, May 8, 2025. 5:30 p.m. Registration & Reception with Music, Dinner at 6:15 p.m.

More information regarding registering for the banquet **(No Cost)**

Call Chaplain Andy Cox – 989 860-7122 and let him know who is attending, phone #, and Email address.

Email Chaplain Andy Cox @ andyc.crossministries@gmail.com and include who is attending, phone #, and Email address.

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.

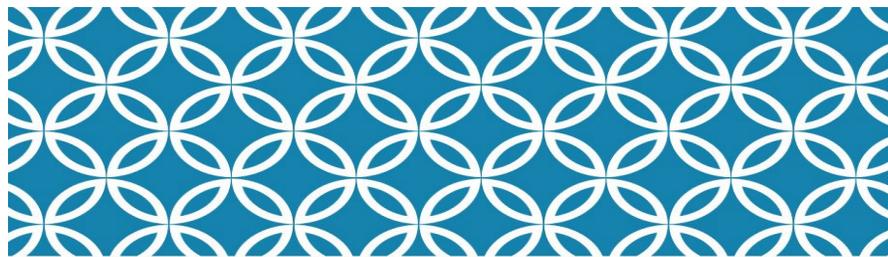
5th Sunday of Lent, April 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord – Worship at 10:30 a.m. Soup Luncheon

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

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

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

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



**MISSIONS SUPPORTED BY
COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY
CHURCH**

**HOW DO I
CHOOSE?**

At CTC we support many different Missions through “Special Offerings” including **One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost/Strengthening the Church, Peace & Global Witness/Neighbors in Need** and **Christmas Joy/Fund** as well as our “Missions of the Month” throughout the year.

It is not necessary to contribute to each of the Mission’s CTC supports. If you are able and wish to do so, we invite you to select those missions you are most passionate about and donate to them. Any contributions you make are greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU.**

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

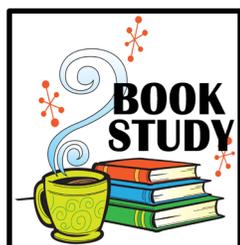
The next
CTC
Women's
Association
Meeting
will be
Saturday,
April 12th at
11:30 a.m.
Hope you
can attend!



CTC'S MISSION FOR APRIL IS THE BABY SHOWER BENEFITING UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND THE BABY PANTRY

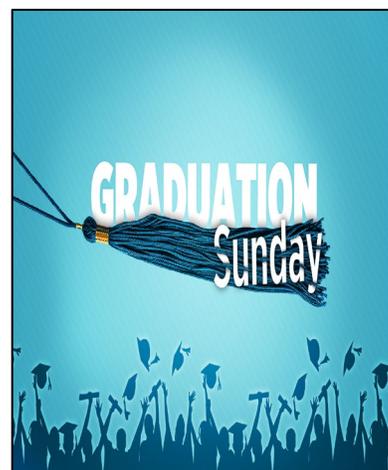
The shower will be held Saturday, April
26, 2025 @ 1:00 p.m.
Hope you will be able to attend. Come
and enjoy a delicious dessert or two.

Lunch with Pastor **BOOK STUDY!**



Pack your lunch on Wednesday and
join Pastor Nathaniel for Book Study.
We are discussing *"The First Nation's
Translation of the New Testament"*

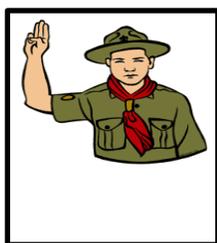
CTC will be celebrating our
graduates on Sunday June 8th. If
you have a family member
graduating this year from high
school, college or a trade school
and would like to see them
recognized, please contact Sandy
Redfield (989) 482-9609 and she
will fill you in on the details. Thanks.



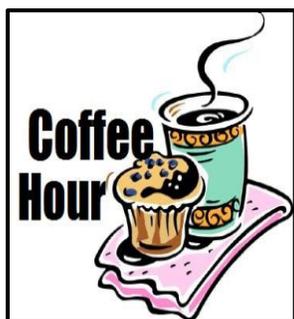
HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

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.

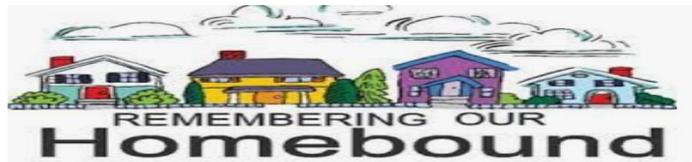
WARMER WEATHER IS COMING, and we are beginning to look at Summer Camp for the children of CTC. If you would like to help with their costs, please submit your donation marked "Summer Camp" which can be dropped in the plate at church or mailed in, whichever you prefer.



If you have a family member who would like to go to camp, please contact Sandy Redfield for more information. There are also brochures on the table in the Fellowship Hall for those who may be interested.

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 APRIL

- 2 Lysithea Evans M=Alexa Mahan
- 4 Jeanne Krugielki
- 5 Nancy Erndt
- 5 Evon Little (Will be 99 this year)
- 12 Kathy Loviska
- 12 Matthew VanArsdale
- 13 Dallas Williams
- 17 Andrea Asperger
- 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

BIRTHDAYS JULY

- 2 Elaine O'Keefe
- 5 Dawn Curtis
- 11 Graham Parker
- 13 Jean Bortner
- 18 Sidney Diggs IV
- 23 Bobby Diggs
- 24 Zayden Evans (Alexa Mahan)
- 24 Dick Mallette
- 26 Nathaniel Asperger
- 29 Holly Furlo
- 30 Lynne Groom
- 31 Rachael Barerra

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Charles & Irene Ohmer



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH
EASTER FLOWERS "2025"



<u>GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Nancy Easlick	Richard Easlick and Loved Ones
Lou Diechman	Jean Diechman
Nancy Erndt	Husband Roy Erndt, Mothers, Elizabeth Ruzowski & Zelma Erndt
Kitty Blehm	Randy Blehm, M/M Herman Blehm, M/M Wm. Kaiser, Rosemary Moss
Dallas & Jackie Williams	Loved Ones
Duncan & Sandy Redfield	Ray & Shirley Roof & Dr. Nichlas Redfield & Our Grandparents
Karen & Mike Hahn	Daughter, Emily Hahn and our Parents, Harold & Rita Elliot & Evelyn & Richard Hahn
Dan Groom	Barbara Groom
Randy & Lynne Groom	Barbara Groom & Carol Reinke
Marcia Lacker	Loved Ones
Ed & Lori Halase	Mary Ann Parker
Ed, Lori, & Rob Halase	Thomas & Ione Patterson
Ed & Lori & Rob Halase	Bob & Norma Patterson
Ed & Lori & Rob Halase	Arthur & Frieda Tillock
Darren & Joann Woodke	Dick & Nancy Woodke and Val & Anita Rodarte
Ron Platt	Clifford & Jeanette
Jane & David Strom	Jane's Brother Andy
Kathy Loviska	Larry Loviska
Charles & Irene Ohmer	Chet & Stella Princing & Kathy Doherty
Marcia Lacker	Loved Ones
Roger Scovill	Shirlee Scovill
Scovill Family	Loved Ones
Charlotte Kay Armstrong	Dennis Armstrong & George and Peg Paquette
Ronda Otway	Wendell Cole
Michelle & Vinny Martinez	Larry Loviska
Sidney Diggs IV	Sidney & Vashti Diggs and James & Lucille Anderson
<u>GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>
John & Carol VanArsdale	New Granddaughter, "Ivy VanArsdale"
Kitty Blehm	Reagan & Kenton Keyser, Claire & Chris, Robin & Rob Halase, Alex, Kristin, Maren & Miles Kaiser and Ellen, Annie, & Cramer Laurenz



Countryside Trinity Church

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

"Wishing you a blessed Easter filled with peace, love, and joy."

