



JUNE 2025 CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church

FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus the Christ!

I remember being a child and like most children, I complained about time. The adults in my life would often say something along the lines of, "don't worry, time gets faster as you get older". As we are already in June, I resonate with time seeming to go fast. Being in the midway part of the year brings with it a good moment to sit back and reflect on what we have done this year, and what we would like yet to do.

Towards the end of last year, I decided to reflect on the Jewish practice of sabbath this year. In reflecting, I have not done as well as I would like. In life things seem to keep popping up, kid's events, family events, responsibilities in all different directions. At times, it seems that sabbath, intentional resting both physically and spiritually, gets put off just a little. Someone calls, something happens, it's the best time to grocery shops, all sorts of things pop up on those days for sabbath rest. As I started to reflect on things, I realized one of the things I let go by the wayside was a Jewish prayer for the sabbath. The prayer that I had chosen is unique to some of our church prayers, in the way that it dedicates our rest. The prayer is as follows:

"Our God and God of our fathers, accept our rest; sanctify us by thy commandments, and grant our portion of thy Law; satisfy us with thy goodness, and gladden us with thy salvation; purify our hearts to serve thee in truth; and in thy love and favor, O Lord our God, let us inherit thy holy Sabbath; and may Israel, who hallow thy name, rest thereon. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who hollowest the Sabbath".

Now the language is old English, but the power of the statements is insightful to consider. The prayer starts with dedicating our rest, as a holy part of our discipleship. It highlights the goodness of God and all the blessings that come from the Almighty. It ends by returning to the fact that sabbath is holy, and hollowed by God, referencing Genises. I find the reflection of this prayer to be useful in recentering myself towards respecting good sabbath practices.

A couple of things for you to consider. First-like myself-what do you want to do better for the rest of the year? What has been good and blessed? What has fallen by the wayside? Second, I encourage you to consider your sabbath practices. Do you sabbath wholistically? Meaning do you rest in your physical, spiritual and mental energies? Do you seek renewal in the almighty, through scripture and prayer?

This year has moved past quickly, it seems every minute there are a multitude of events, news stories and things to read and do. Consider what you have done, and what you would like to do. Also, remember to sabbath with the Lord.

Grace and Peace -Pastor Nathaniel

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

<p>June 1, 2025 Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26</p>	<p>Paul and Silas are arrested, but an earthquake destroys the prison. The Lord reigns over all the earth: light dawns for the righteous. The Lord says: See, I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Jesus prays that his disciples may be one as he is one with the Father.</p>
<p>June 8, 2025 Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17(25-27)</p>	<p>On the day of Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit upon the earth. At the Tower of Babel, the Lord confuses the languages of the earth. The Lord of creation sends forth the Spirit to renew the earth. In the Spirit, we are children of God and joint heirs with Christ. On the day of Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit upon the earth. Jesus and the Father are one; the Father will send the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>June 15, 2025 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15</p>	<p>Does not wisdom call? I was present at the beginning of creation. O Sovereign Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Jesus says: The Spirit will guide you; all that the Father has is mine.</p>
<p>June 22, 2025 <u>Semicontinuous</u> 1 Kings 19:1-4(5-7), 8-15a Psalms 42 and 43 <u>Complementary</u> Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:19-28 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39</p>	<p>Elijah meets God-not in wind, earthquake, or fire-but in silence. My soul longs for you, O God; where are you? My hope is in you. The Lord says: I will repay their iniquity, but I will not destroy them. The Lord did not despise or forsake me; I will praise the Lord. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. Jesus casts out a man's demons and they enter a herd of swine.</p>
<p>June 29, 2025 <u>Semicontinuous</u> 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 <u>Complimentary</u> 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62</p>	<p>Elijah is taken to heaven in a whirlwind; Elisha picks up his mantle. You work wonders, O God; you make a path through the waters. Elisha leaves his family and his oxen to follow the prophet, Elijah. Protect me, O God; you show me the path of life and fullness of joy. Christ has set us free; live by the Spirit, not the desires of the flesh. Jesus turns toward Jerusalem and warns those who would follow him.</p>

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 2025. 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 2025. 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.

SEARCHING FOR VOICES:

We received the following message from Mary K. Freel, Exultate Deo. They are looking for voices to join them for an upcoming concert. Please follow-up with Mary if you are interested.

Hi! This is Mary K. Freel—I help organize the choir group Exultate Deo. We are a group of singers from the Great Lakes Bay Region who sing 3 concerts a year from Trinity Episcopal Church in Bay City. Our concert to mark the 4th of July is scheduled for July 6th (Sunday) at 4 pm. We need singers who are willing to commit to 2-3 rehearsals and the concert. As you can imagine many of our regulars are out of town or on vacation, so I am asking for your help. Our possible rehearsal dates are below:

POSSIBLE REHEARSAL DATES

Wednesday, June 18th 6:30 or 7:00
Thursday, June 19th 6:30 or 7:00
Tuesday, June 24th 6:30 or 7:00
Thursday, June 26th 6:30 or 7:00
Sunday, June 29th 2:00 or 3:00
Monday, June 30th 6:30 or 7:00

We ask that you attend at least 2 of the 3 rehearsals so that we can have a stellar performance. All rehearsals and the concert are at Trinity Episcopal Church, Center at Grant, Bay City, MI. Could you please spread the word to your singers?? They can contact me at sunbeamf@att.net or Rayechel Berger (our director) at "Rayechel Berger" rvneiman@svsu.edu. Maybe once you sing with us you'll join us for our Christmas concert and Holy Week concert.

Many thanks to those people who are spreading this to their singers and friends. All are welcome!!!

*Mary K. Freel
Exultate Deo*

Our Member, Sidney Diggs, wishes to invite all CTC members and friends to attend the Annual All Men's Health Fair on Saturday, June 14, 2025. See the information below. **Sidney wants to make sure we all know that IT IS NOT JUST FOR MEN, ALL MEN AND WOMEN ARE INVITED.**



TAKE PART IN OUR RAFFLE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN ALL EXPENSES PAID TRIP FOR TWO TO LAS VEGAS! MORLEY

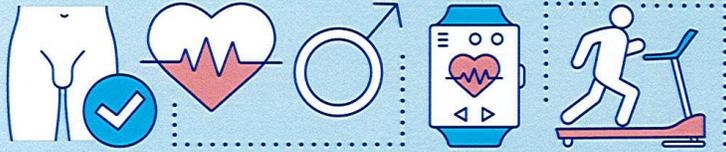
MEN'S HEALTH




SPONSORED BY:
Saginaw Alumni Chapter of
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
PO Box 6684, Saginaw, MI 48608

THE ANNUAL ALL MEN'S HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025
11AM - 2PM • HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER
6200 STATE ST. • SAGINAW



FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS & WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

12 - CYLINDER SPONSORS:





4 - CYLINDER SPONSORS:










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

CHOIR IS ON SUMMER VACATION. WE WILL RESUME IN THE FALL. TALK WITH DAN GROOM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING OR DOING "SPECIAL MUSIC" DURING THE SUMMER.

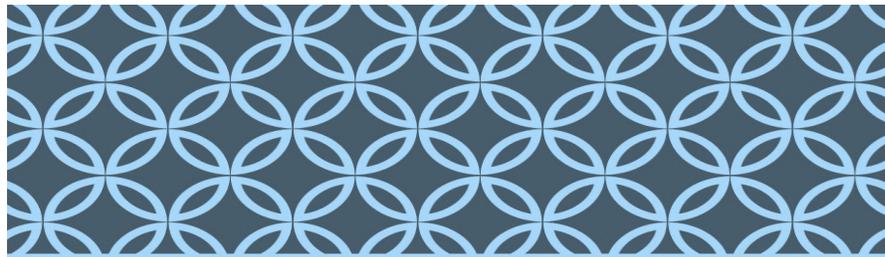


SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

**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?



**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.**

SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER

We had a "Spaghetti Dinner" following worship on May 18th to help fund the cost of our youth's Summer Camp. At last count we have collected \$625.00 for this purpose. If you would like to make a donation, you can still do so, just mark the envelope or memo on the check "SummerCamp".
the dinner was delicious and enjoyed by all!



CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**THE NEXT
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
MEETING WILL BE
SATURDAY, JUNE
14TH AT 11:30
A.M. HOPE YOU
CAN ATTEND!**



COUNTRYSIDE HISTORIC COMMISSION

The Session is considering the formation of a new Historic Commission for the purpose of compiling an up to date "History of CTC". If you would be interested in working on this commission, please let Pastor Nathaniel know.

Thank you.

SUMMER NURSERY CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sandy Redfield will be retiring soon, and we congratulate her and wish her the best going forward. In light of that happening, and the possibility of her traveling to visit family, there may be times when she will not be here on a particular Sunday or Sundays. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers who would be able to fill-in when she is away. Please see Sandy if you are interested in helping.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

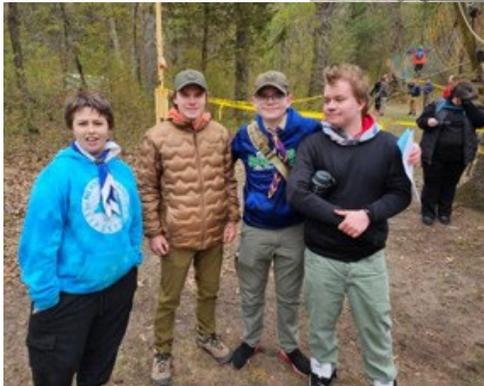
BOY SCOUT TROOP #304

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.



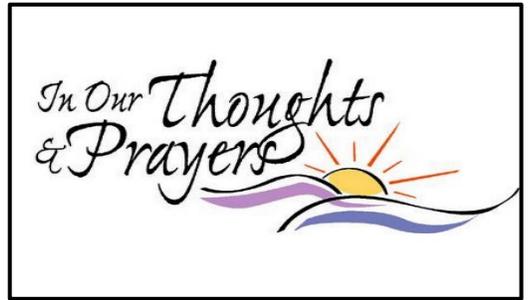
New Scout Frank Dill & Donny placing flags

304 joined by New scouts Andrew And L.J.

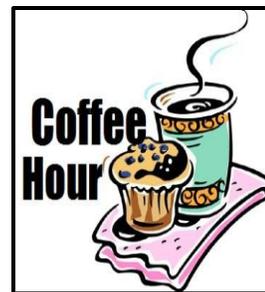


Jesse from Canada with Owen, Marshall And Dakota

New Crossover, Lincoln Gets his neckerchief



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.

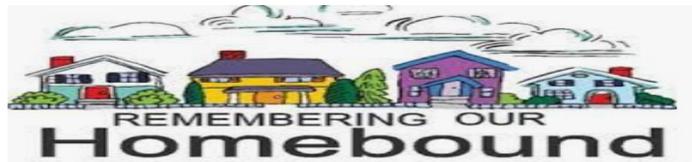


Please consider hosting a coffee hour following worship service. There is a chart on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall

– 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.

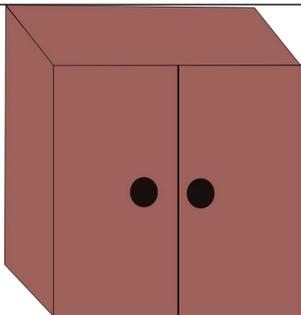
HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

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 Traditions of Saginaw, West, Formerly New Hope Valley	Dawn Curtis @ Home	Floyd & Lois Krzak Floyd @ Hoyt Nursing 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

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.



IN SEARCH OF: Session is looking for a cabinet to be used to hold miscellaneous toiletries, personal items, and possible canned items which will be placed in our Parking Lot area for the community to take as needed. Our members and friends may donate items, and our Christian Outreach Committee will oversee the mission going forward. If you have something you think might work, please contact Kathy in the office at 989 793-0125. Thanks.

THINGS TO DO IN SAGINAW



Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market

203 South Washington Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48601

Telephone: 989-758-2500

SUMMER SEASON MARKET HOURS:

May 21 - October 31, 2025

Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-3pm

Saturdays, 10am - 1pm

The Saginaw Eddy Concert Band
Joseph Radtke, Conductor

Invites you to join us for our
Season 99
2025 Summer Concert Series

Sundays at 7 p.m.

June 15th	July 13th
June 22nd	July 20th
June 29th	July 27th
July 6th	August 3rd

FREE ADMISSION and PARKING!

At Jolt Credit Union Event Center
Across from Dow Center
300 Johnson St, Saginaw, MI

For more information visit saginaweddyband.org

C.K. Eddy Family Memorial Fund ADMINISTERED BY

Huntington Bank

ASMA

jolt

SAGINAW SVRC marketplace CMURC

SHOP SENSATIONAL Saginaw

June 6 - 8, 2025

"A celebration of Saginaw's flavor, creativity, and local pride"

Featuring: **The Food Truck Round-Up**
Live Entertainment + More!

SHOP | EAT | VIBE

SVRC Marketplace Pavilion

Friday 5 pm - 10 pm
Saturday 4 pm - 10 pm
Sunday 12 pm - 7 pm

CALLING ALL FOOD TRUCKS & VENDORS
Register to Become a Vendor!

Sponsored By:



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Taylor Hansen (M=Dana Woodke Cooper)
- 4 Marianne Bird
- 5 Daniel Groom
- 8 Chad Parker
- 8 Rylan Hanson
- 10 Randy Jacob
- 13 Kyle Redfield
- 15 Ainslee Mahan
- 15 Aubree Mahan
- 21 Karla Parker
- 21 Casey Redfield
- 31 Jim Lorenz

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

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Andrea & Nathaniel Asperger
- 17 Dallas & Jackie Williams
- 29 Darren & Joann Woodke
- 29 Duncan & Sandy Redfield

Countryside Trinity Church

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

"WE WELCOME SUMMER"

Summer Days

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

The sun shines bright, the skies are blue,
Each moment feels so fresh, so new.
A gentle breeze through trees does play,
Bringing joy to every day.

Laughter echoes, fields in bloom,
Chasing away the smallest gloom.
Summer days, a gift so sweet,
A precious time that can't be beat.

