



NOVEMBER 2025 CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church

FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER

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

It is always strange to me how fast time flies by. We are here in November 2025! One of the interesting things to me is how much can happen in a year; this year has felt exceptionally full. As we look at where we have been and look to the future, I want to be transparent with you all. We spent all of October talking about Stewardship, and we looked at it from a broader lens than simply finances. However, as I mentioned in the final week of the series, finances are a rather important thing. I will not rehash all the points we looked at in the series, but I do want you to consider a few additional things. Any organization in the world is a few years from thriving, and a few years from closing its doors. Even giant organizations that have a long history, like Joann Fabrics, Tupperware, and Red Lobster, have all gone bankrupt this year. In 2024, somewhere between 4,000 and 10,000 churches closed. I do not say this to scare anyone, as much as to point to the elephant in the room, financial well-being is a very important aspect of a place staying around.

Countryside has a long history here at 4690 Weiss Rd. Many of us have a long history integrated into Countryside's history. I believe that in my short time here, I have observed a lot of life in this place. You all, the living expression of this place, are an active people. You all choose to support more missions a year than some churches support in a couple of years. We have a fellowship every Sunday, which some churches 10x our size, wish they had. The Session is full of Elders seeking to respond to a world of chaos with proactive care and love. The Deacons are active, seeking to meet people where they are and grow in fellowship. You all greet each other with excitement every time we are together. There is a love that is tangible in this place. We are a vibrant church seeking to be all the more vibrant. When I first came to meet the Pastoral Nominating Committee, I felt my soul leap with excitement in this place. There is life, there is hope and there is fellowship in this place.

However, we do have a financial concern. I am not writing all this to you to give you guilt or tell you that you are failing this place. Those things would be dishonest. I believe we have so much good we are doing, and so much good we can do coming down the line. There are so many opportunities for good in and around Countryside Trinity Church. I would ask of us all to think of two things.

1. What ideas do you have to increase our income? Remember, we are not a business, and we are not in the world to make the Temple into a den for business. We do have expenses we need to cover, however. What things, programs etc., have you seen at other churches, or what ideas do you have to try to increase our income? I am a part-time pastor, and I can reasonably only do so much in a week. We have a beautiful building and many wonderful people with skills, talents, and ideas. I would welcome ideas for the Session and Committees of our church to research and reflect on.
2. I ask us all to consider what it is that we steward that we can use to honor God and grow this community of faith. Andrea and I regularly sit and evaluate our finances, as well as the things we have and our abilities to act in the world. From that, sometimes we come to the reality that we can do more with what we have. It sometimes makes things a little tricky; schedules and budgets need to be adjusted. The benefit of honoring God with what we have, I have never regretted in my life. What do we steward that we can give more fully to God?

I invite us to all consider these things and talk about them. Emphasis on talk about them, seriously, come talk to me and the Elders of the church! The thing with the elephants in the room is that either we can treat them as invisible until it's too late, or we speak very loudly about them often until they go away. One of the problems in our culture is that issues are often ignored until it is too late. My prayer and my hope for Countryside is that in a few years, we will all be overjoyed with where we have come from. We can celebrate the ways we responded to the Spirit for this time and place. I pray that we thrive, and that the community grows inside and around Countryside Trinity Church, at 4690 Weiss Rd in Saginaw.

May the Lord bless you and keep you until we meet again.

-Pastor Nathaniel

YOUR SESSION AT WORK

YOUR SESSION AT WORK

October 12, 2025

MINUTES TAKEN BY CAROL VAN ARSDALE, CLERK OF THE SESSION

The Session meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor and Moderator Nathaniel Asperger at 12:19 P.M in the lounge.

Minutes of Stated Session meeting of September 21, 2025, meetings were approved.

DEACONS' REPORT:

September 1, 2025, Beginning balance	\$692.12
<u>Income:</u> Coffee Hour	\$144.00
Total	\$836.12

Expenses:

Kitchen supplies, paper products
Eco supplies, etc.

Total Expenses:	\$ 30.54
-----------------	----------

September 30, 2025, Ending Balance	\$805.54
Cake Fund balance	\$148.00

The Deacons were given an anonymous donation of \$200 for parking lot repairs.

The Essentials Pantry is ready to be put outdoors beside the front door on the west end of the building.

Members of the congregation have been given a list of items needed for donations. Bethany Scovill will maintain and inventory items.

Clerk of the Session: Carol Van Arsdale

Baptisms since beginning of year	1
Deaths since beginning of year:	4
New members in 2025:	4
Current membership:	87
Average Attendance :	46
Communion served in September	51

Presbytery/Denomination report: Pastor Nathaniel reported he, Sandy, and Carol attended Boundaries Training at Bay City First Presbyterian Church last month. This training is required of Elders and Deacons and those working with children or vulnerable adults every 3 years.

Building and Grounds: 2 cell phones have now been purchased, one for Pastor Nathaniel and one for Kathy. They will not usually be taken home at night. An answering system is available to leave a message. The parking lot has been patched by Chuck Davis and Roger Scovill.

Finance and Stewardship: The budget was received from Mari McKenzie

Changes in Equity: January 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025

General Fund	Total Fund Balance
Beginning Balance: \$28,977.52	Beginning Balance: \$399,768.46
Income & Transfers: \$67,568.81	Income & Transfers: \$74,194.25
Expenses: \$104,047.88	Expenses: \$107,986.90
Ending Balance: -\$7,501.55	Ending Balance: \$365,975.81

CTC has a year-to-date general fund deficit. The Session discussed various ways to increase income of the church including restarting bazaars, rummage sales, and the upcoming stewardship campaign.

Christian Outreach: The Weiss gift bags were labeled by the Sunday School children. Scouts will fill the bags on Oct. 21. Bags will be distributed to students on Oct. 31. Volunteers will meet at church at 1:30.

Personnel: Job Descriptions have been updated and should be ready for the November Session meeting for approval. CTC is need of a treasurer. It must be a member of CTC. Mari McKenzie is the current treasure. She has notified CTC that she is planning to transfer her membership to a church in California where she is living.

Spiritual Life: Advent begins November 30. Advent programs will take place on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21. Soup and bread meals will take place on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Hanging of the Greens will be on Nov. 23 before and after church.

Nominating: Sandy Redfield and Ron Platt are looking for members to fill the Session and Deacons.

Pastor: Pastor Nathaniel will be on vacation during the week of Oct. 14-16, working on his studies.

New Business: Locking Doors- Doors are kept locked during the week unless people are expected. Questions have been raised about locking the door during church services. CTC will check with our insurance company for guidance. Bethany will research policies about locking church doors.

Scouts: There will be an Eagle Ceremony for 2 scouts from the troop at CTC on November 23, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. with a reception to follow. All are invited to attend.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with prayer from Pastor Nathaniel at 1:50 P.M. Next Session meeting Nov. 16, following church.

CTC HAS GONE GREEN!

The Deacons continue to work on the transition at CTC to "Go Green". Supplies are being changed from plastic to paper and biodegradable materials and regular meetings have been established as they move forward with this project to become more environmentally responsible and sustainable in accordance with our faith's call to stewardship of God's creation.

The Goals of the Green Committee:

- * Assess our current practices.
- * Educate and raise awareness.
- * Recommend sustainable practices.
- * Engage with the community. * Lead by example.



As steward of God's creation, we are called to live responsibly and intentionally in our care for the environment. In recent years, growing environmental concerns--climate change, resource depletion, pollution-have prompted churches across the country to examine their ecological footprint. We believe our church has both the opportunity and the obligation to lead by example in this area. We believe that creating a Green Committee affirms our church's mission to be faithful stewards.

PERSONAL NEEDS CABINET

We will soon be moving the personal needs cabinet outside. If you wish to contribute, here is a list of items needed:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Tooth Paste/Tooth Brush | • Feminine Products |
| • Mouth Wash | • Shampoo/Conditioner |
| • Hair Comb &/or Brush | • Bath Soap |
| • Paper Tissues | • Hand Sanitizer |
| • Wet Wipes | |
| • Bandages/First Aid Kit | |
| • Rain Poncho | |
| • Chapstick | |
| • Cotton Swabs | |
| • Ziploc Bags | |

The list may change as we understand the needs of our community and weather changes

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

November 1, 2025 Lectionary Readings Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31	The holy ones will receive God's kingdom and possess it forever. Praise the Lord in the assembly of the faithful; rejoice in God's glory. In Christ we have received a glorious inheritance among the saints. Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
November 2, 2025 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 <u>Complimentary</u> Isaiah 1:10-18 Psalm 32:1-7 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10	Write the vision; make it plain: the righteous live by their faith. You are righteous, O Lord; give me understanding that I may live. Wash and make yourselves clean; learn to do good and seek justice. Happy are those whose sin is forgiven; I will confess to the Lord. To the Thessalonians: I give thanks for your faith and pray for you. Zacchaeus, a tax collector, wants to see Jesus; Jesus visits his home.
November 9, 2025 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 Or Psalm 98 <u>Complementary</u> Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	I am with you; do not fear; I will restore the splendor of this house. I will extol you, my God; great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Make a joyful noise to the Lord; give thanks for God's victory. I know that my redeemer lives; at the last I will see my God. Hear a just cause, O Lord; guard me as the apple of your eye. Do not be deceived; stand firm and hold fast to our traditions. The Sadducees ask Jesus a question about marriage and resurrection.
November 16, 2025 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 <u>Complementary</u> Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	God promises a new creation, where all creatures will live in safety. In that day, I will give thanks and say: surely God is my salvation. The sun of righteousness will rise with healing for the faithful. Make a joyful noise to the Lord; give thanks for "God's victory." Do not be idle; follow this example and work for your daily bread. The temple will fall; a great trial is coming; God will supply wisdom.
November 23, 2025 Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Or Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	I will gather the remnant of my flock and raise up good shepherds. Blessed be the Lord, who has raised up a savior for the people. Though the earth changes and the waters roar, God is our refuge. Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. Crucified with Jesus, a criminal says: Remember me in your kingdom.
November 30, 2025 Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 123 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Turn swords into plowshares; walk in the light of the Lord. I was glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Salvation is near: wake up; live honorable; put on Jesus Christ. The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.

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 HAS RESUMED. TALK WITH DAN GROOM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.

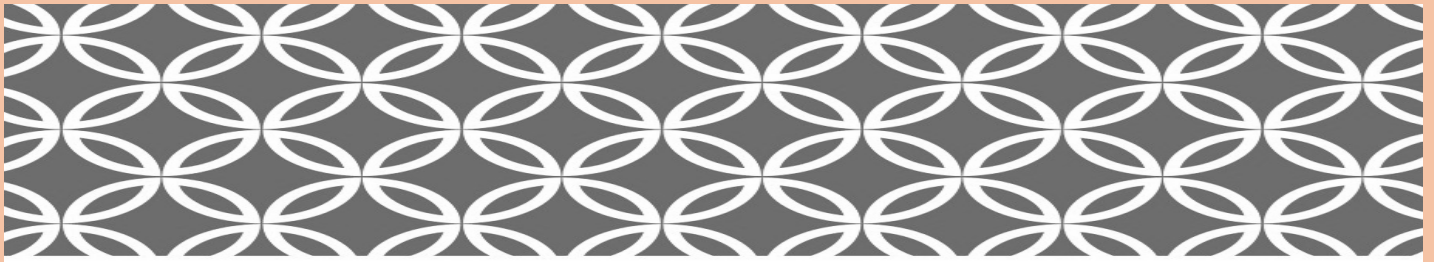


SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

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.**

HERE ARE SOME OF THE MISSIONS SUPPORTED IN 2025

Peacekeeping/Neighbors in Need	\$90.00
One Great Hour	\$420.00
Pentecost/Strengthen the Church	\$60.00
UCC/PCU Other Mission-Donations went to several places for disasters and special offerings)	\$605.00
CWS Blankets	\$385.00
Two Coins a Meal	\$576.00
All About the Cross	\$85.00
Christmas in July (Sleep in Heavenly Peace)	\$185.00
Boy Scouts	\$130.00
East Side Soup Kitchen	\$393.26
Emmaus House	\$65.00
Good Samaritan	\$5.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$391.00
Major Chords for Minors	\$495.00
Old Town Christian Outreach	\$30.00
Underground Railroad	\$185.00
Weiss School	\$405.00
Other Local Missions	\$330.00
Food Account	\$975.00
Parking Lot Repair	\$300.00
City Rescue Mission	\$130.00
Youth Experience	\$725.00

On top of the monetary donations, some of these missions received clothing, household materials, personal hygiene items, bedding, children's items, etc. We have also given ten \$100.00 food cards to families from Weiss School on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

THE NEXT CTC **WOMEN'S** **ASSOCIATION** **MEETING**



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER
8TH BEGINNING @
11:30 A.M

WE 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.

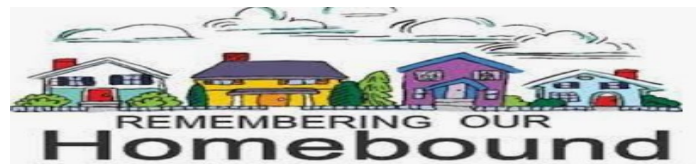
SUMMER NURSERY CARE AND **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sandy Redfield has retired! We congratulate her and wish her the best going forward. Considering her retirement 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.

CTC'S TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Our telephone issues have been resolved. You may now call (989) 793-0125. If you do not get an answer, you can leave a message. If you wish to speak to Pastor Nathaniel, you can call him directly at (989) 412-3125.

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	Lois Krzak @ Home
Avis Leach Roosevelt House/Hemlock	Tom Kennedy Adira Nursing & Rehab	Marilyn Leffler Traditions of Saginaw, West Formerly New Hope Valley
Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living	Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	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.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM

We are ordering Poinsettia plants for Christmas
from Boehler's Greenhouse.

7 ½" Pot - 3 pinched plants per foil-\$20.00

I would like to purchase:

Choose color: Red ☐ White ☐ Pink ☐ or Marble ☐

Plant is from: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

CHECK ONE:

I will take plant with me: _____ **MUST TAKE PLANTS
HOME ON CHRISTMAS EVE DUE TO LIMITED ACCESS TO THE
CHURCH.**

I do not wish to keep the plant: _____

With this order form include a check payable to the Deacons. Mail
or drop off your order form to the Church or if you plan to be at
worship service before the deadline, you may place your order form
and payment in the offering plate on the table in the back of the
Sanctuary. The DEADLINE to return your order form is Sunday,
November 22, 2025

THANK YOU!



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Becky Pequignot
- 3 Rob Halase
- 3 Charles Davis
- 8 Lindsey Groom
- 13 Louis Diechman
- 14 Michael Patrick Groom
- 17 Lois Krzak
- 20 Liz Saperstein
- 25 Thomas Kennedy
- 29 Tom Ladner
- 30 Vincent Martinez

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Zachary Plater
- 2 Drew Pequignot
- 2 Dan Groom
- 3 Joseph Ruth
- 5 Mary Longstreth
- 8 Karen Blankenship
- 11 Jerry Paquette
- 13 Ethan Parker
- 13 Charlotte Armstrong
- 14 Mike Yusaf
- 14 Tania Yusaf
- 16 Randy Groom
- 17 Elizabeth Jacob
- 19 Christopher Davis
- 22 Jean Anne Miller
- 22 Pat Denno
- 25 Ezra Yusaf
- 25 Aaron Plater
- 26 Ashley Huizar (Hanson)
- 27 Marie Lemmer
- 29 Scott Jacob
- 29 Lori Halase

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paige Pequignot

- 3 Sam Nolan
- 8 Duncan Redfield
- 9 Stephanie Plater
- 10 Katherine Asperger
- 12 Jacob Plater
- 16 Pervez Yusaf
- 19 Martin Bethune
- 19 Bethany Scovill
- 21 Ronald Miller
- 22 Jacob Groom
- 22 Lucas Gonzales
- 28 Avis Leach

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 5 Tony Asperger
- 12 Melissa Paterson (Shalhoup)
- 16 Alexa Mahan
- 17 Nancy Easlick
- 18 Paula Plater
- 22 Ed Halase
- 25 Brecque Woodke
- 26 Craig Gates
- 30 Kermit Diggs

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Sidney & Kermit Diggs

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

None Known

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None Known

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Joseph & Doris Ruth

ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Day will be observed as part of the worship service on Sunday, November 2, 2025.
The following individuals who have passed away from 2024 to the present will be honored during this service:



THOMAS B. CUNDIFF
December 7, 1951 –
January 20, 2025



**GLENNA A. VAN
HAUTTE**
March 30, 1938 –
July 26, 2025



YVONNE N. BECKER
October 12, 1936 –
January 22, 2025



ELAINE C. MINER
March 2, 1926 –
September 15, 2025



FRANCES M. PRUETER
August 21, 1923 –
April 29, 2025



PETER DOMINGUEZ
January 31, 1938 –
September 17, 2025



FLORIAN E. KRZAK
March 29, 1928 –
July 5, 2025

Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

(989) 793-0125

