



CTC Connections January, 2022



Session reinstates the use of masks for all indoor gatherings

Sighting the recent increase of infections from the Delta variant of Covid-19 in Saginaw County, the session has reinstated the requirement that masks be worn by all who gather indoors here at the church starting Sunday, August 8th. Coffee hours will continue outside when the weather cooperates and when members are able to provide for it.

From Our Pastor

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

Happy New Year! I really enjoy new beginnings. I buy new notebooks and other school supplies at the beginning of the new school year, even tho I don't go to school! I recognize that the first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the new liturgical year in the church. My birthday is the beginning of a new year at a new age! And of course, there is the big one - the New Year!

It has been many years since I have stayed up to ring in the new year. I never liked doing that when I was young(er) and now that I'm wiser, I just go to bed and wake up in the new year! But while I don't stay up to ring in the new year, I do have traditions. A pork roast, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, black eyed peas and chopped onions must be eaten on New Year's Day! That meal is a mis-mash of northern and southern traditions. I also make New Year's resolutions. One year I actually kept one of my resolutions for a whole week! Usually, I last a day or two.

New Year's resolutions for me are a fun way to think about how I want to be. And while my resolutions are always unrealistic and made in fun, there is one resolution I make every year and strive to keep. The words of Philippians 4:8 sets before me the reminder of an outlook on life that I strive to keep. It is too easy to see the negative. However, if we keep the words of Philippians in our heart, we will be able to see God's grace all around us.

This year, won't you join me in making these words your New Year's resolution?

Grace to you,
Pastor Jane

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS:

January 2, 2022 Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1: (1-9), 10-18	God will gather the scattered people and turn their mourning into joy. Praise the Lord! God protects, blesses, and gives guidance. God adopted us, making us heirs through Christ Jesus. The Word became flesh and lived among us.
January 6, 2022 Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Arise, shine; your light has come; the glory of the Lord appears. May the king reign forever and deliver the needy. An ancient mystery is revealed; Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ. Following a star, wise men visit Jesus and bring him gifts.
January 9, 2022 Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Do not fear, I am with you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Glorify the name of the Lord, who reigns over the waters. People previously baptized in Jesus' name receive the Holy Spirit. John baptizes Jesus; the Spirit descends; God says: You are my Son.
January 16, 2022 Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2:1-11	The nations will see God's faithful love when Jerusalem is redeemed. The steadfast love of the Lord is great; in God is the fountain of life. Each of us has gifts from the Spirit, given for the common good. At a wedding feast in Cana, Jesus turns water into fine wine.
January 23, 2022 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Ezra reads God's law to the people; they seek to hear God's words. The heavens tell God's glory; the law of the Lord is perfect. Christ's body has many different members; in the Spirit we are one. Jesus reads from Isaiah: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.
January 30, 2022 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	The Lord knew and called the prophet Jeremiah before he was born. Be my refuge, O God; I have trusted in you since my birth. Without love, I have nothing; the greatest gift is love. A prophet is not welcome at home; a crowd tries to attach Jesus.

STAR WORDS ON EPIPHANY

We will celebrate Epiphany on January 9th. The service will include communion. We will be giving out Star Words at the end of the service! Each of you can pick (randomly) a star which will have a word written on it. Put your star someplace where you can see it - maybe on the refrigerator? Perhaps on a mirror? During the year be aware of how God speaks to you through your Star Word. If you are not able to be in worship on the 9th, let the office know and we will mail you one. This is a fun way to think about the many ways God speaks to us.

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK
December 12, 2021
Mary Ann Parker, Your Clerk of Session

Following prayer, reports were received after minutes of previous session meetings and a congregational meeting were approved and treasurers' report was accepted.

Clerk's report: Church membership – 118. Sixty parishioners received communion on 11/28/21. Motion sustained to transfer the membership of Liz Saperstein per her request to Northside Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor.

Pastor's report: Pastor Jane Young reported her service to the congregation.

DENOMINATION REPORTS: M. Parker, elder commissioner for the December 7, 2021 Presbytery meeting, gave a brief report on the meeting and the mission of The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and the food insecurity affecting the senior population. Presbytery also acted on a covenant of closure between the Presbytery and the Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein. His last day will be December 31, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Outreach: Kitty Blehm, Moderator

Blehm reported that 5 food baskets were distributed at Thanksgiving to families of Weiss School. The Backpack program has restarted for the school year. We may be packing 8-9 food baskets for Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS: At a called session meeting 11/28/2021 the session approved the purchase and installation of new computers for the church offices. A new copier was installed also as the contract was up on the old copier.

NEW BUSINESS:

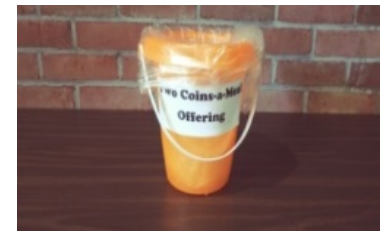
1. It was decided to place the church's name into a pool of possible places for Saginaw Township to designate as a polling place as the township wants to remove the schools from the polling areas.
2. An application has been filed with the UCC for a \$2000.00 grant.
3. Annual reports are due 1/6/2022 with the annual congregational meeting on 1/16/ 2022.
4. We are encouraged to wear our name tags again.
5. Upgrading the 30-year-old phone system was discussed and tabled for now.
6. Dan Groom is to be co-opted into the Board of Deacons for one year to help with the continuity of leadership on that board.
7. Session will, for now during the winter months, hold their stated meetings on the third Sunday of the month following the worship service.

TREASURER'S REPORT	November				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	(11,278.97)	7,340.17	8,617.33	1,095.00	(11,461.13)
Memorial	9,470.00	2,154.87	1,731.75		9,893.12
Memorial - Lyons Troop 304	-				-
Manse	-				-
Special gift	17,800.02				17,800.02
Special projects	2,195.36		834.55		1,360.81
Mission					
Per capita	360.60		170.50		190.10
Two-coins-a-meal	218.00	47.00	41.00		224.00
Food baskets	262.52	290.00	106.00		446.52
Heifer proj (Church School)	-				-
UCC/PCU/Blankets	60.00				60.00
Good Samaritan	2,427.28				2,427.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	7,825.59				7,825.59
Womens' Association	-				-
Local	590.00	125.00	470.00		245.00
Bricks	1,335.85				1,335.85
	31,266.25	9,957.04	11,971.13	1,095.00	30,347.16
Minister Compensation	92,042.95			(535.00)	91,507.95
Endowment	255,988.01	41.95		(560.00)	255,469.96
	379,297.21	9,998.99	11,971.13	-	377,325.07

Installation of Officers

CTC's new officers will be installed during the Worship Service on January 9th, 2022.

TWO COINS A MEAL will continue to be collected on the first Sunday of each month during Worship Service. There will be a pail at the back of the Sanctuary marked as such. Please bring your coins in a plastic baggie or envelope if you are able to do so and place in the pail either on your way in or out of Church. Thank you.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 16, 2022, following the worship service. If you are a moderator of a committee, Kathy will need your report no later than January 6th. You can email it to her at countryside@ctcsaginaw.com or drop it off in the office. If possible, please give the report to her in "Word" format that would be great, but if not, that is o.k. too.



James Lorenz wishes to thank everyone for their kindness and all of the cards during his mother, Judy Lorenz's, final illness and passing.

Dear friends: My deepest appreciate to all of you for your kind expressions of sympathy upon Bob's passing. He was a wonderful man and was deeply loved and will be greatly missed. God's blessings to all of you. Sincerely, **Marie Lemmer**

Please Be Respectful: Please be respectful during worship service and refrain from talking. Remember that once the Prelude begins and until the Postlude ends the Worship Service **is in progress** and is being livestreamed. During this time, we are to remain in our seats and listen to the beautiful music that is being played and the message our Pastor brings to us. We ask that you do not get up until the Postlude has concluded so as not to interfere with the livestreaming. Thank you.



Christmas Food Baskets: Thanksgiving baskets were packed and delivered on Monday, December 20, 2021. Thank you everyone for your help and your doations.



The January Mission of the Month is the "Reaching the Forgotten".

- ▶ If you wish to donate \$\$\$, you can put your envelope in the "Offering Basket" on Sundays marked "Forgotten"; or
- ▶ You can mail your check to the church designated for "Forgotten".



Betty Burr Samaritas Senior Living	Joan Comstock @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home
Betty Hauk Wellspring Ind. Living	Floyd & Lois Krzak @ Home	Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living
Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Virginia Lyon @ Home	Ruth Marsh @ Home
Norma Meacham New Hope Valley	Elaine Miner @ Home	Fran Prueter @ Home
	Helen Reynolds Wellspring Memory Care	

Countryside Trinity Church 2021 Poinsettia Plants



IN HONOR OF

Given By:	In Honor Of:
Pastor Jane Lynn Young	To The Glory of God
James Lorenz	His mother, Judith Lorenz, and all those we lost this past year

IN MEMORY OF

Given By:	In Memory Of:
Tom & Chong Ladner	
Nancy Erndt	Mothers, Elizabeth Ruzowski & Zelma Erndt
Carol & John VanArsdale	Don & Orleen Dawson
Dick & Nancy Easlick	Loved Ones
Nancy Scott	Stanley Scott & Lila Neumeyer
Kathy Loviska	Larry Loviska
Mary Longstreth	My Parents
Avis Leach	Garner Leach, Cora Scoon & Sylvia Moreau
Dallas & Jackie Williams	Loved Ones
Roger & Shirlee Scovill	Harold & Marie Johnson; Russ Scovill, Ken Scovill & Jenny Scovill
Ronald & Jean Anne Miller	Harriet Miller & Iola Williams
Darren & Joann Woodke	Nancy Lee Woodke & Anita Rodarte
Virginia Lyons & Family	Donald Lyons
Doug & Marilyn Leffler	Doyscher & Leffler Families
Ed, Lori & Rob Halase	Robert & Norma Patterson
Marcia Lacker	Bill Lacker
Lou Diechman	Jean Diechman
Dan & Barb Groom	Loved Ones





BIRTHDAYS JANUARY

- 2 Shirlee Scovill
- 5 Norma Meacham
- 8 Zachary Vega
- 12 Julie Smith Lowe
- 13 Sarah Gonzales
- 13 Kevin Diggs
- 14 Betty Hauk
- 17 Madisen J. Groom
- 22 Mary Ann Parker
- 24 Chelsea Parker
- 25 Brian Leach
- 27 Laura Nolan
- 28 Irene Ohmer
- 28 Kevin Barnum
- 30 John Bethune
- 31 Peter Dominguez

BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY

- 3 Roger Scovill
- 6 Angie Mitchell
- 8 Mark VanArsdale
- 9 Matthew Davis
- 9 Aaron Plater II
- 10 Victoria Parker
- 11 John VanArsdale
- 12 Jackie Williams
- 13 MariAnne Vega
- 18 Brady W. Groom
- 22 Gail Jacobson

- 22 Michelle Martinez
- 25 Doug Leffler
- 26 Leore Bethune
- 26 Helen Reynolds

BIRTHDAYS MARCH

- 1 Ron Platt
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 14 Andy Smith
- 22 Chong Ladner
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna VanHautte
- 30 Robert Furlo

ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY

- 6 Pervez & Ezra Yusaf
- 7 Ron & Brenda Platt
- 11 Robert & Jean Bortner
- 28 Michael & Amanda Groom

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY

- 11 John & Leore Bethune
- 25 Sarah & Tony Gonzales

ANNIVERSARIES MARCH

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

Countryside Trinity Church
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Welcome 2022!!

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger, and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity, and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year. Rev. Marcy Sheremetta