



CTC Connections November, 2021



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

My commute from home to church is about 45 minutes. It is an easy drive on 75, and I enjoy the time to listen to a book and see the beautiful fall colors. (Ask me how much I'll enjoy it when winter hits! :) I think about the changing seasons. I'm happy to live in an area of the country where I can experience and enjoy all 4 seasons! I can never answer the question of which season is my favorite, because invariably my answer is: the season we are in! I love something about each season. The obvious thing to love about fall is a break from the stifling hot weather, and the beautiful colors fall provides.

I am from Asheville, NC. I don't know that there is any more beautiful country to view the fall foliage. My parents, myself and my two children, back when they were children, loved to drive the mountain roads to see the beauty of fall. On one drive, when the colors were especially beautiful, my son was just in awe. He was 4 or 5 at the time. He looked out the window and exclaimed: "It looks like a choir of trees!" I think about that every time I get the chance to observe fall's beauty.

There is a popular meme on Facebook that says: "The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go." I need that reminder. So often we get stuck in a rut. We like the way things were and we try to maintain those ways, even when the situation is telling us to make some changes. We like what we know. That is understandable. But it is not especially healthy. When I was searching for the exact meme quote about letting things go, I ran across one I had never seen. This one says: "What if trees refused to let go of their dying leaves?" I never thought about that! If the leaves don't fall, there can be no new growth in the spring! And instead of resting in the winter, the trees will have to work to hang on to their leaves. And there would be no beautiful fall colors if the trees didn't let go of their dying leaves.

There is, of course, a life lesson for us. When we think about change in the church, too often we try to hold on to the old ways. We automatically don't like the change, without even giving it a chance. We fail to understand change the way we understand the seasons. Change is good! Not just for change's sake, but for the new opportunities change brings.

This is the perfect opportunity to let go of the things that are no longer useful. Think about new ways we can proclaim the Good News! Be willing to take risks. Celebrate the journey. And above all, enjoy the fall colors!

Grace to you,
Pastor Jane

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS:**November 1, 2021**

Isaiah 25:6-9
 Psalm 24
 Revelation 21: 1-6a
 John 11:32-44

A feast on the day of the Lord; God will swallow up death forever. Who will enter God's presence? Those with clean hearts and hands. A vision of the new creation: See, God is making all things new. Jesus raises Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, from the dead.

November 7, 2021

Semicontinuous
 Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
 Psalm 127
Complimentary
 1 Kings 17:8-16
 Psalm 146
 Hebrews 9:24-28
 Mark 12:38-44

Ruth and Boaz have a son, who will become an ancestor to David. Unless the Lord builds the house, the workers labor in vain.

With meager resources, a widow miraculously feeds Elijah. Do not put your trust in princes; God gives food to the hungry. Christ entered the sanctuary of heaven; he will come again to save.

Jesus criticizes the scribes and praises the gift of a poor widow.

November 14, 2021

Semicontinuous
 1 Samuel 1:4-20
 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Complimentary
 Daniel 12:1-3
 Psalm 16
 Hebrews 10:11-14
 (15-18) 19-25
 Mark 13:1-8

Hannah prays for a son; she conceives and gives birth to Samuel. Hannah's song of thanksgiving: My heart rejoices in the Lord.

Daniel's vision: Those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake. O Lord, you are always with me; you show me the path of life. Let us hold fast to our faith, preparing for the day of the Lord.

Jesus speaks of the temple's fall, and other signs of what is to come.

November 21, 2021

Semicontinuous
 2 Samuel 23:1-7
 Psalm 132:1-12
 (13-18)
Complimentary
 Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
 Psalm 93
 Revelation 1:4b-8
 John 18:33-37

The last words of David: God has made an everlasting covenant. Remember your covenant with David, O Lord, and bless us.

The Ancient One gives all dominion to a human, coming in clouds, The ancient and everlasting Lord is enthroned in majesty. Jesus is coming with the clouds; the Lord is Alpha and Omega. Pilate asks Are you a king? Jesus answers: I came to show the truth.

**Thanksgiving Day
November 25, 2021**

Deuteronomy 8:7-18
 Psalm 65
 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
 Luke 17:11-19

The Lord is bringing you into a good land; do not forget your God. Praise God, who answers prayer, sends rain, and blesses the earth. God loves a cheerful giver; thanks be to God for the gift of grace! Jesus heals ten people with leprosy; only one returns to give thanks.

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

October 19, 2021

Mary Ann Parker, Clerk of Session

Following prayer, reports were received.

Clerk's report: Church membership – 120. Thirty-eight parishioners received communion on 10/3/21.

Pastor's report: Pastor Jane Young is looking forward to working with us during this transition time.

DENOMINATION REPORTS: Marcia Lacker served as delegate to the UCC conference on October 16, 2021. She gave brief report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Chuck Davis, Moderator.

1. Ed Halase spoke to the fact that the mower deck needed to be replaced. Motion sustained to purchase a new mower deck at the cost of \$1000-\$1200. The pullies and cables that are still good will be put onto the new deck.
2. Motion sustained to purchase a new chair for the pastor's study at the cost of \$317.99.
3. Motion sustained to upgrade the copier to a Toshiba at the lease cost of \$99.00/month which includes 1,500 black copies per month. Lease will be for 48 months.
4. Roof leak was addressed.

Finance & Stewardship: Roger Scovill, Moderator.

1. Mari McKenzie, treasurer, presented 2022 budget which was approved by Session.
2. Motion sustained to open an account with New Covenant Fund to move money from the money market account where it will grow at a faster rate.
3. Pastor Jane suggested that we upgrade our slow computer system for the new pastor.

Christian Outreach: Kitty Blehm, Moderator.

1. Food and money for the Thanksgiving baskets will be collected.
2. Backpack program and READ program at Weiss School have not been initiated yet this year because of staffing difficulties.

Personnel: Mary Ann Parker, Moderator.

1. Staff evaluations forms were dispensed to those responsible for evaluating members of the staff. Due date will be November 14, 2021.
2. Action was taken on holiday gifts for the staff.
3. Session had voted in August that a retirement gift of \$250.00 be given to Pastor Brant on his last day of worship with us.

Nominating: Darren Woodke/Dan Groom, Moderator.

1. Officers for upcoming year to be elected in December. Committee starting to work on contacting people to serve the church.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion sustained to allow groups to use the church building again but they must follow the same guidelines that we practice on Sunday morning, as wearing masks, sanitizing hands, staying in designated areas.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Mission study presented and reviewed by Session members. Motion sustained to approve the mission study.**
2. Motion sustained to make request to Presbytery Committee of Ministry and Preparation for Ministry to form a PNC when the way be clear.
3. Prayer cards will remain out of the pews for now.
4. Spiritual Life to address if and when liturgists will begin to participate in worship service.
5. Motion sustained to pay Andy Glynn, accompanist, an extra \$150.00 quarterly, in addition to his salary, to help pay for gas for his car. Andy has moved to Ypsilanti and travels to Saginaw on Sunday to participate in worship service.



TREASURER'S REPORT	September				Ending Balance	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers		
General	(5,373.01)	5,750.14	13,332.34	1,095.00	(11,860.21)	
Memorial	9,470.00				9,470.00	
Memorial - Lyons Troop 304	-				-	
Manse	-				-	
Special gift	17,800.02				17,800.02	G
Special projects	2,195.36				2,195.36	F
Mission						
Per capita	360.60				360.60	
Two-coins-a-meal	147.00	40.00			187.00	A
Food baskets	242.52				242.52	
Heifer proj (Church School)	-				-	C
UCC/PCU/Blankets	-				-	B
Good Samaritan	2,397.28	30.00			2,427.28	
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	7,516.06				7,516.06	
Womens Association	-				-	
Local	200.00	190.00			390.00	D
Bricks	1,335.85				1,335.85	
	36,291.68	6,010.14	13,332.34	1,095.00	30,064.48	
Minister Compensation	93,112.95			(535.00)	92,577.95	
Endowment	256,954.15	189.66		(560.00)	256,583.81	E
	386,358.78	6,199.80	13,332.34	-	379,226.24	

POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM
 We are ordering Poinsettia plants for Christmas from Boehler's Greenhouse.
 7 1/2" Pot - 3 pinched plants per foil-\$18.00
 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 Countryside Trinity Church 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 21, 2021.

THANK YOU!



REMEMBER, you need to turn your clocks back one hour in the fall. Currently we are heading into the Fall Back period of the year also known as Time Change Fall 2021. On Saturday night, November 6th before you go to bed, put your clocks back one hour so that when you wake on November 7th, they are at the correct time. Here is an explanation I found on line:

Nov 7, 2021 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, November 7, 2021, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour to Sunday, November 7, 2021, **1:00:00 am** local standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 7, 2021 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning. Also called Fall Back and Winter Time.

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.

The Crop Walk was held on Sunday, October 10th. We are still accepting donations if you are wishing to make one. Just drop off at the church or mail your donation, marked "Crop Walk" prior to Sunday, November 7th. If you are writing a check, make the check payable to "**CWS**". Thank you so much for your help.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets: We are hoping that this year, we will be able to return to our normal food basket gift for some of the area families in need. We will begin accepting non-parishable food donations beginning in August for those able to help out. The following items will be collecting now - Non-parishable canned goods or jars, i.e. vegetables, gravy, fruit, tuna fish, spaghetti sauce, pork & beans, soup, peanut butter & jelly, etc.

As we get closer to Thanksgiving, we will post those items which are still needed. As always, we will need people to help out on "Packing & Shopping" Day so stay tuned for more information. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Angel Tree: We are hopeful that we can resume our Christmas Angel Tree this year. More information to come.



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.

HEALTH SOURCE: Health Source is asking for donations to help make their residents' Christmas a great one! If you are interested in helping out by donating here are the details:

- Deadline to bring in gifts: Monday, December 13th, 2021
- Please wrap gifts before you bring them in and tag them with "Man" or "Woman".
- An extensive list is posted on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall of items they are hoping to receive. If you would like to pick up a list or have me email one to you, please let me know. You can call me at the office (989) 793-0125 Tues-Thurs from 8:30 to 12:30 or call me on my cell, Kathy Loviska (989) 270-7725.



Mission of the month is Hidden Harvest. Hidden Harvest which began in 1994. Their purpose is to alleviate hunger and food waste in the Great Lakes Bay Region by providing a safe and coordinated system of rescuing surplus food and redistributing to people in need. The Board of Hidden Harvest is made of representatives from Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties. This year HH will collect over 3 million pounds of good, fresh, nutritious food from restaurants, grocery stores, farmers (talk with Roger) and other health department certified sources. Every day food is distributed to over 175 community feeding partners serving local children and families. Their trucks are refrigerated. As

we celebrate Thanks Giving, let us help others to do so too. Please label checks Hidden Harvest.

We are collecting for our Thanksgiving food baskets. Please put your donations in the blue box in Fellowship Hall. Judi will keep us up-to-date on specific needs. Checks, labeled food baskets, can be sent to the church.



Betty Burr Samaritas Senior Living	Joan Comstock @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home
Betty Hauk Wellspring Ind. Living Temporarily @ Saginaw Rehab	Floyd & Lois Krzak @ Home	Doug and Marilyn Leffler New Hope Valley
Bob & Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living	Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Judy Lorenz St. Francis Home
Virginia Lyon @ Home	Ruth Marsh @ Home	Norma Meacham New Hope Valley
Elaine Miner @ Home Temporarily @ Symphony on Bay Road (Formerly Cartell)	Fran Prueter @ Home	Helen Reynolds Wellspring Independent Living
Shirley Roof Brian's House, Essexville, MI		



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Zachary Plater
- 2 Drew Pequignot
- 2 Dan Groom
- 3 Joseph Ruth
- 5 Mary Longstreth
- 6 Amanda J. (Groom) Fulton
- 11 Dick Easlick
- 11 Jerry Paquette
- 13 Ethan Parker
- 13 Ruth Marsh
- 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 (Scovill)
- 27 Marie Lemmer
- 29 Scott Jacob
- 29 Lori Halase

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paige Pequignot
- 3 Sam Nolan
- 7 Judi Westendorf
- 7 Christine (Dowling) Greenwood
- 8 Duncan Redfield
- 9 Stephanie Plater
- 10 Anjel Vernon
- 11 Dave Fitzgerald
- 12 Jacob Plater
- 15 Dick Woodke
- 16 Pervez Yusaf

- 19 Martin Bethune
- 19 Bethany Scovill

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS CONT'D

- 20 Judith Lorenz
- 21 Ronald Miller
- 22 Jacob Groom
- 22 Lucas Gonzales
- 23 Bethany Scovill
- 23 Virginia Jarvi
- 28 Jennifer Nolan-Heyn
- 28 Avis Leach

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 8 Garth Westendorf
- 12 Melissa Paterson (Shalhoup)
- 16 Alexa Mahan
- 17 Nancy Easlick
- 18 Paula Plater
- 22 Ed Halase
- 24 Nancy Scott
- 25 Brecque Woodke
- 26 Craig Gates

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Aaron & Paula Plater
- 8 Robert & Marie Lemmer
- 10 Eric & Sue Smith

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Jerry & Virginia Brachear
- 22 Dave & Dora Fitzgerald

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Joseph & Doris Ruth
- 24 Bruce & Patricia Denno
- 27 Dick & Nancy Easlick

Countryside Trinity Church
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Praise and Thanksgiving

Father, We praise you today with our hearts and songs, we praise you for your faithfulness, we praise you for your great power and love. We confess our need for you, our lives don't go so well when we just spin around on our own. We struggle and worry, get weary and worn. Yet you never leave us. Thank you for your presence. Thank you for your care over us, thank you that you breathe renewal right into our souls. We ask for your spirit to fill us, to draw us close to yourself, and to work your purposes through us, as we set our eyes on you. Amen.