



CTC Connections Newsletter May, 2022

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From Our Pastor:

Christ the Lord is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Happy Easter! Yes, I know you are reading this after Easter Sunday, but it is still Easter. Did you know that Easter lasts until Pentecost? We have 7 weeks of Easter. So, what spiritual practices will you observe this Easter season? We talk a lot about Lent and the need to observe the Lenten season, but we tend to think of Easter being one day.

I was looking at my planning calendar, thinking about the Easter season and what comes after. My planning calendar begins each week on Sunday. Some calendars mark the first day of the week as Monday. But for Christians, Sunday is the first day of the week. It is the day Christ arose! So really, each Sunday is Easter. What a wonderful thought to carry us through the week!

Easter is such a joyous celebration. I remember being young and getting a new dress for Easter. In the picture of me as a little girl, I always had a new bonnet! It seems appropriate to have new clothes for Easter. After all, we are made new in Jesus Christ. His resurrection brings us new life.

Since we live north of the equator, Easter is in spring, a time when we marvel at the new creation. The flowers bud, the trees will begin to turn green, the temperatures begin to get warmer, and hopefully the snow is finished for the season! We can literally see resurrection all around us! Except the snow isn't finished. And I put some potted plants out last weekend and had to bring them in yesterday because the overnight temps dipped to frost level. It is frustrating! We had a hint of the warm weather to come, but that hint did not last! Did I mention frustrating?

This season in the church is very much like our spring weather. We get glimpses of how things can be, and then it feels like we are not making progress at all. But we are! We saw a glimpse of how things can be with a larger than usual congregation on Easter. The PNC is mindfully and prayerfully working hard. There are signs of new life both in nature and in the church!

So, my question to you, and to me as well, is: "What does this new life mean for us." Are we going live as those who are made new in Jesus Christ? Think about what new things you can do this Easter season. We have many ways to serve in the church. This is such an exciting time, for Christ the Lord is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Grace and truth,
Pastor Jane

UPCOMING LECTONARY READINGS:



<p>Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19</p>	<p>On the road to Damascus, Saul sees a blinding light and is converted. O Lord, you brought me up from the grave; my soul praises you. The choirs of heaven sing: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain! Amen! A miraculous catch of fish; Jesus tells Simonm Peter: Feed my sheep.</p>
<p>Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10: 22-30</p>	<p>Peter raises Tabitha from the dead; many believe in the Lord. The Lord is my shepherd, leading, protecting, and feeding me. The redeemed worship at the throne of the Lamb, their shepherd. Jesus says: My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me.</p>
<p>Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35</p>	<p>Peter has a vision about unclean food; God's gift of life is for all. Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth. A new heaven and earth; a holy city; God's home is among mortals. Jesus gives a new commandment: love one another as I love you.</p>
<p>Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10 21:22-22:5 John 14:23-29 Or John 5:1-9</p>	<p>Hearing Paul in Macendonia, Lydia and her household are baptized. May God be gracious and bless us; let the whole earth praise God. A vision of the holy city; the river of life flows from God's throne. Jesus says: Keep my word; the Spirit will teach you; I give you peace. At the pool of Beth-zatha in Jerusalem, Jesus heals a paralyzed man.</p>
<p>Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 Or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53</p>	<p>Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascends into heaven. Clap, shout, and sing with joy: the Lord reigns over all the earth. The Lord reigns in majesty, high above the mighty waters. Christ is seated at God's right hand, above every earthly power. Jesus interprets the Scriptures; then he is carried up into heaven.</p>
<p>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>

**YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK,
April 24, 2022
MARY ANN PARKER, CLERK OF SESSION**

Following prayer by Pastor Jane Lynn Young reports were received.

Minutes of the last month's stated session meeting approved.

Clerk's Report: Church membership remains at 113.

Communion was served Maundy Thursday to 20 parishioners and on Easter to 61.

Treasurer's Reports: Reports for January, February, March approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jane will continue "Lunch with Pastor" every Wednesday at 12 Noon. She also related that she is working on a retreat for women to be held on a Saturday.

Pastor Nominating Committee Report: PNC now reviewing pastor information forms of pastor's who may be interested in serving in our church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: The east end outside steps have been retaped. However, the carpet has begun to fray as well. Orkin will be called to try to solve the ant problem in the two offices at the east end of the church. The Boy Scouts would like to post some things on the church bulletin board. Roger will talk with them regarding placement of their own board in fellowship hall. Reviewing and clarifying church use and fees will be reviewed by B & G.

Christian Outreach: K. Blehm reported that six families were given \$100.00 gift cards to Meijer's for Easter dinner. Other amounts collected for various missions are as follows:

January, Forgotten Man Ministries: \$90.00

February, Souper Bowl Sunday for Eastside Soup Kitchen: \$341.00, and Blanket Sunday, \$280.00.

March, Baby Shower for The Baby Pantry and Underground Railroad: \$87.50/each plus clothing for various age children

April, Ukraine Relief Fund: \$550.00

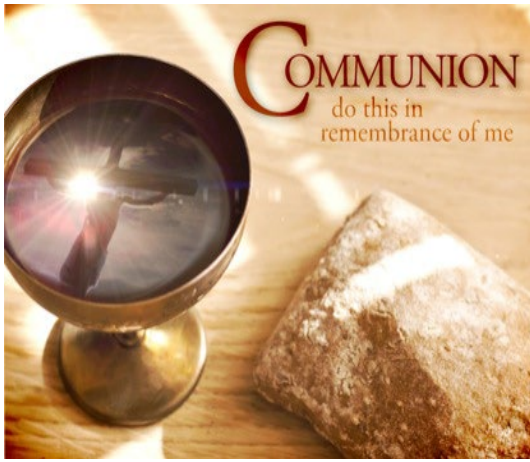
Finance & Stewardship: R. Scovill reported that the third letter with the pledge card for the stewardship campaign will be mailed soon. We have had a deficit in the general fund for the last several years. The bills continue to come in whether we have the money or not!

Spiritual Life: D. Woodke reported that they are looking into purchasing a monitor for the back of the church.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion sustained to purchase the business ZOOM account for \$199.00 annually since the PNC will be needing it to interview potential pastors and for future uses and meetings.

Sandy Redfield agreed to serve as moderator of the Nominating Committee, as the church by-laws require a present ruling elder to serve in that particular position.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.



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“HOMEBOUND COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED”: A very important ministry at Countryside Trinity Church is serving communion to of our shut-ins We are presently in dire need of volunteers to be a part of this ministry. The Deacons are searching for people who are willing to visit and serve communion several times a year to those unable to attend worship.

We go out in teams of two and to get started you would be teamed up with one of our current team members or you could form your own team. We are called to serve God and ALL members of our church family and this would be a great opportunity to be a part of this rewarding ministry.

Please prayerfully consider joining our Homebound Communion Team. Our current servers are: Mary Ann Parker, Lori Halase, Jackie and Dallas Williams, Kathy Loviska, Pat Denno and Dan Groom. If you have any questions about this ministry, please talk to any of our current servers, and when you are ready to join with us please contact Dan Groom. Thank you , The Deacons



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH: Please remember our local ministries during this time, as they work to provide additional resources to our community in this time of pandemic and need your support. We gave six families a \$100.00 Food Cards for Easter in place of food baskets and we also collected donations for “One Great Hour of Sharing”. The Mission of the Month for May is Habitat for Humanity.

EASTER 2022: Our Easter service was wonderful. We had 61 people in attendance. Here are a few pictures of the beautiful sanctuary for those who could not attend in person.



Remember Our Shut-ins



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

NEW ADDRESS! Judi Westendorf has a new address and would love to hear from you. She has recently moved to Bickford Assisted Living, 5275 Mackinaw, # 409, Saginaw, Michigan 48603. Drop her a card or make arrangements to go visit.

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.



COMMUNION is served on the first Sunday of each month during our worship service. Please be sure to pick up your prefilled communion cup as you enter the Sanctuary. They will be in a basket on both sides of the room. Thank you.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY: They are done! Pick one up when you come to church on Sunday – or if you need one mailed to you, call the church (989) 793-0125 to let us know.





FUNDRAISER FOR THE UKRAINE



As the war in Ukraine continues to escalate – the Christian Outreach Committee at Countryside Trinity Church is searching for ways we can help.

Both PCUSA and UCC have programs aimed at international disaster assistance to provide emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc. to war refugees and internally displaced people.

If you are able and desire to help, place your Donation in an envelope marked "Ukraine" in the collection basket at church or mail to Countryside Trinity Church, 4690 Weiss Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48603.

All monies collected at CTC will be divided equally between Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Disaster Assistance fund and the United Church of Christ's Disaster Relief fund.

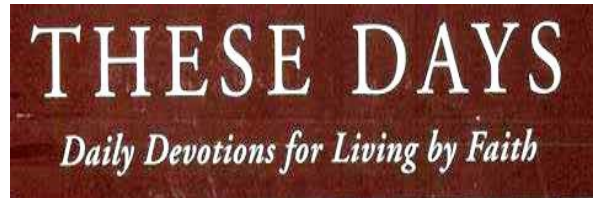
By the generosity of our members and friends, we have collected over \$500 so far and will continue to do so until further notice.

Thank
You



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.

These Days: *These Days* devotional magazines are on the entryway table in Fellowship Hall if you would like to pick one up. A donation jar is on the table.



Greeting Cards: A variety of greeting cards are on the table inside the East entrance to the building. Please leave your payment in the basket provided.



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.

LUNCH WITH PASTOR JANE: Lunch with Pastor Janes meets each Wednesday at noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and join in fellowship and scripture study!





Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS MAY

- 1 Gwen Henderson
- 4 Joshua Gonzales
- 5 Sue Smith
- 6 Betty Burr
- 6 Marcia Lacker
- 8 Dorothy Hughes
- 12 Barbara Groom
- 18 Doris Ruth
- 21 Seth Diggs
- 24 Katlyn Scovill
- 26 Charles Ohmer
- 26 Lore Woodke
- 28 Sue Paterson

BIRTHDAYS JUNE

- 2 Michael Wayne Groom
- 3 Eric Smith
- 8 Christian (Volker) Saxton
- 11 Robert Bortner
- 11 Dana Hansen Cooper
- 19 Kitty Blehm
- 20 Marilyn Leffler
- 21 Jasmyn Volker
- 30 Darren Woodke
- 30 John Furlo

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 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
- 27 Susan Anderson
- 29 Holly Furlo
- 30 Lynne Groom
- 31 Rachael Plater

ANNIVERSARIES MAY

- 4 Tom & Chong Ladner
- 7 Floyd & Lois Krzak
- 15 Christine & Paul Greenwood
- 16 Kathryn & Kevin Barnum
- 18 Randy & Lynne Groom
- 28 Christian & Bradley Saxton

ANNIVERSARIES JUNE

- 21 Edward & Lori Halase
- 29 Ronald & Jean Anne Miller

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Charles & Irene Ohmer



**PICTURE TAKEN DURING WORSHIP SERVICE APRIL 24, 2022.
IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COME TO CHURCH LATELY, WE MISS YOU AND HOPE YOU
ARE ALL DOING WELL.**

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH
4690 WEISS
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48603

Happy Mother's Day

The modern holiday was first celebrated in 1907, when Anna Jarvis held the first Mother's Day service of worship at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. She and another peace activist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe had been urging for the creation of a "Mother's Day For Peace" where mothers would ask that their husbands and sons were no longer killed in wars. 40 years before it became an official holiday, Ward Howe had made her Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870, which called upon mothers of all nationalities to band together to promote the "amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace." Anna Jarvis wanted to honor this and to set aside a day to honor all mothers because she believed a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".