



CTC Connections Newsletter July/August, 2022

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From our Pastor:

I love opera. As often as I can, I go to the streaming performance the Met offers at movie theaters. My goddaughter Miriam often comes with me. Opera is inspiring. Even the sad ones, even the funny ones, and occasionally, even the not-so-great ones. To be able to put your feelings into words and music is divine. I have an affinity for the classic operas. Puccini is my favorite, but I also love Wagner. And Rossellini, and others, too many to name. I have laughed, and wept, and sat in awe thru many a performance. But there is one that has captured me for most of my adult life: Porgy and Bess. It is a powerful opera.

Porgy and Bess opens with, Clara, a new mom, singing *Summertime* to her infant, as a lullaby. We get the sense that the living really is easy, as the lyrics suggest. Summertime seems to give some breathing space from the busyness of the other seasons. And for kids, summertime is the best time! Of course, since Porgy and Bess is an opera, this feeling of peace does not last.

I am enjoying this summertime. I am not traveling this year, which means I've been able to plant a garden. I have tomatoes and other vegetables. I have herbs. And I have flowers. I have always wanted to grow dahlias. I had visions of planting hundreds, maybe thousands of them! :) I have managed to plant 12. And they are growing! I water them, and talk to them, and watch over them while I sit on my swing in my backyard.

I don't know when they will bloom. I don't know if they will bloom. My job is to make sure they have water, a bit of fertilizer, and a safe place to grow, away from animals who enjoy nibbling on them! And I am doing all those things. I trust they will bloom!

I can't help but think that taking care of my garden is a lot like all of us taking care of the church. Not the building, which of course needs tending too, but the people. We are called to care for each other, not only those who worship here, but those in the community around us. I wonder how we put that care in to action! To watch over, to provide a safe space, to give nourishment, both physical and spiritual, is our call!

In this season, may God direct us in care for those around us.

Grace and truth,
Pastor Jane

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS:

JULY, 2022



<p>2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20</p>	<p>Elisha tells Naaman to wash in the Jordan; he is cured of leprosy. O Lord, you brought me up from the grave; my soul praises you. Rejoice with Jerusalem; I will bless and comfort her, says the Lord. Make a joyful noise to God; come and see what God has done. Bear one another's burdens; in this way you fulfill the law of Christ. Jesus appoints seventy; sending them out as laborers into the harvest.</p>
<p>Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82 Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37</p>	<p>Amos has a vision of the Lord standing by a wall with a plumb line. God stands in judgment, giving justice to the poor, weak, and lowly. The word is near to you, in your mouth and heart for you to observe. Lead me in your truth, O Lord, and teach me; you are my salvation. To the Colossians: we pray that you lead lives worthy of the Lord. The great commandment and a good Samaritan: who is my neighbor?</p>
<p>Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 Genesis 18:-10a Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42</p>	<p>The end has come; the Lord condemns those who prey on the needy. Why do you boast of your evil? God will uproot and destroy you. Three visitors appear to Abraham; soon Sarah will have a son. Who may abide in God's tent? Only those who do what is right. Christ is the image of the invisible God; now the mystery is revealed. Mary sits and listens to Jesus, while Martha is busy with many tasks.</p>
<p>Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19) Luke 11:1-13</p>	<p>The Lord commands Hosea to take a wife and bear children. Will you be angry with us forever, O Lord? Show your steadfast love. Abraham intercedes with the Lord to spare the city of Sodom. I give you thanks, O Lord; though I walk in trouble, you deliver me. Live your lives in the faith of Christ; do not let anyone condemn you. Jesus teaches the disciples to pray, and teaches them about prayer.</p>
<p>Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21</p>	<p>When Israel was a child, I loved him; how could I give him up now? Give thanks to the Lord, who gathers up and redeems the lost. What do mortals gain from their toil under the sun? All is vanity. The gift of life as no price; the great and the lowly will all perish. If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above. Be on guard against greed; life does not come from your possessions.</p>

AUGUST, 2022

<p>Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 Genesis 15: 1-6 Psalm 33:12-22 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40</p>	<p>Wash yourselves clean; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice. God speaks and summons the earth: Gather to me my faithful ones! God promises Abram many descendants; Abram believes the Lord. Happy are those whos God is the Lord; God is our help and hope. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for; Abraham is an example. Where your treasure is, there is your heart also; be alert and ready.</p>
<p>Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56</p>	<p>My vineyard has yielded wild grapes; now I will break down its wall. Have regard for the vine you planted, O Lord; save and restore us! Who can hide from me? My word is like fire, says the Lord. God stands in judgment; rise up, O God, to judge the earth! We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses; Jesus perfects our faith. Jesus warns of division and trouble to come: I came to bring fire.</p>
<p>Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17</p>	<p>The Lord calls young Jeremiah: Before you were born, I knew you. In you, O Lord, I take refuge; upon you I have leaned from my birth. Remove the yoke; help the poor; refrain from trampling the Sabbath. Bless the Lord, O my soul; the Lord forgives, heals, and redeems. Worship with reverence and awe; our God is a consuming fire. Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath; a synoagogue leader objects.</p>
<p>Jeremiah 2:4-123 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Proverbs 25:6-7 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14</p>	<p>The people are cracked cisterns; they forsake the fountain of life. God laments: I deliver and feed you, but you do not listen to me. Do not put yourself in the place of honr; wait for an invitation. Happy and prosperous are those who give generously and trust God. Show hospitality and share what you have; praise God through Jesus. Jesus teaches lessons at a banquet; the humble will be exalted.</p>



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 can do so and place in the pail either on your way in or out of Church. Thank you.

**YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK,
JUNE 26, 2022
MARY ANN PARKER, CLERK OF SESSION**

Following prayer by Pastor Jane Lynn Young reports were received.

Minutes of last month's stated session meeting and of the congregational meeting of June 5th approved.

Clerk's Report: Church membership remains at 113

Communion was served to 45 parishioners on June 5, 2022.

For the Record: Ronda Otway joined the church on May 22, 2022, on reaffirmation of faith. Be sure to welcome our newest member.

Treasurer's Report: Report for May approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jane reported that she had done some secretarial duties while Kathy was off with COVID.

Denominational Report: M. Parker served as Elder Commissioner at the June 7th Presbytery meeting at Alma College. Presbytery is in process of having listening sessions via ZOOM to find ways to communicate and to better help the churches in Lake Huron Presbytery. We are looking for 2 volunteers from our congregation.

PNC Report: The PNC is asking for the prayers of the congregation to help us in our search.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance & Stewardship: Scovill reported that the third stewardship letter should be going out soon.

Spiritual Life: Darren Woodke reported that an event for Sunday, July 24th with outdoor worship under a tent is in the planning process.

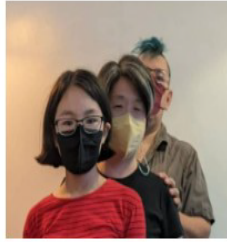
Personnel: Parker reported that the job descriptions for the paid staff have been amended and approved by the various involved committees. The "Personnel Policies Handbook" has been amended with minor changes to the policies. Motion sustained to approve the changes.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion sustained to approve the wedding of Rachel Plater and her fiancée.

Since COVID cases are still cropping up, the session has decided to continue the masking mandate in the church for the health and welfare of our members and visitors.

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Jane.

Come Meet With Cathy Chang and Family



Meet the Chang Lopez Family – Come and hear stories about God's mission and their mission service as a family, with Cathy, Juan and Aurelie. In 2015, they were commissioned into mission service. Since then and still emerging from the pandemic, this is the first time that they will be together in Michigan and making formal presentations with churches.

We are excited to announce that Cathy and her family will be at the Presbytery Office on Tuesday, July 12th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm for a presentation of their experiences and work. There will also be an opportunity for Q & A and socializing.

Light refreshments will be served.

We look forward to seeing you!

As part of Cathy's doctoral program with Payap University, she published an ebook that is available as a free download. The ebook title is inspired by an article for Memorial Presbyterian Church Illumination, of the same title. The link

is: https://www.academia.edu/77536188/Chang_Catherine_2022_From_Michigan_to_Manila_Chiang_Mai_Payap_University

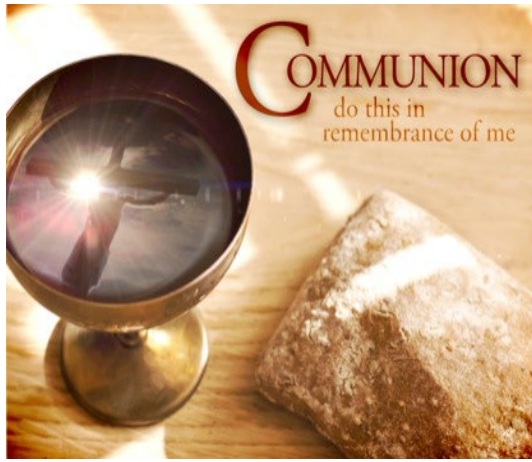
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES FOR 2022: We celebrated "Graduate Sunday" on June 12, 2022. Best wishes go out to Ethan Parker who graduated from Swan Valley High School and Gabrielle Mynatt who graduated from Central Michigan University.



Graduation Celebration

Today we celebrate the achievements of **Ethan Parker** and **Gabrielle Mynatt** and ask for God's continued blessings for them.





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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



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 @ daughter's in North Carolina
Elaine Miner @ Home	Fran Prueter @ Home	Helen Reynolds Wellspring Memory Care
	Judi Westendorf Bickford Assisted Living	

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS MUSIC CAMP: CTC hosted a "Music Camp" the week of June 27 – July 1, 2022. There were classes for those children with no experience to learn to read music and classes for those who had at least one year of experience playing one of the four instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello and/or Bass) for any age and student must bring their own instrument.



This is what they posted on Facebook following the event:

"Our first event in Michigan, Summer Music in Saginaw, was a big success. Young musicians in the Music Mind Games class got to learn so much about music theory while having lots of fun, and the members of the Leadership String Ensemble learned valuable lessons about being a good musician and a good leader.

Thank you, [Countryside Trinity Church](#) for hosting us!

If you need help establishing a music program in your community, feel free to message us!"

SUMMER HAPPENINGS AT CTC

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: You are invited to celebrate Christmas in July! We will be collecting "gifts" for the Rescue Mission Impact Designs which helps furnish rooms and homes for those moving out of emergency shelters. These are some suggested items:



- Cooking pot sets
- New bed pillows
- 13 -gallon kitchen trash (waste) baskets
- Brooms and Swiffers
- Full and Twin mattress and box spring sets (Don't bring to church)

There will be a Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary where you can place your gifts. No need to wrap them.

Look for a Christmas box on the table at the back of the sanctuary for donations if you prefer to have us shop for you. You can mail a check to church. Please make a note on the check that the donation is for Christmas in July.

July Mission of the Month: The mission of the month for July is Emmaus Homes. There are 13 homes which can serve 47 women who are coming from jail, prison, or rehab. The average stay is 8 months and their longest was 6 years. Emmaus is entirely supported by donations. They also have the Morrow Center which is a free thrift center. They will pick up gently used items – clothes, shoes, coats, housewares, books, toys, linens, furniture, appliances. Call 989-755-7538. Volunteers are always needed for yardwork, office, transportation. **Mark your check or donations Emmaus.**

August Mission of the Month: The Mission of the month for August will be Weiss School. Money is needed for food items for the backpacks which children with food scarcity take home on weekends. The food is purchased at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Lists of school supplies needed will be available on the table in Fellowship Hall in August. Boxes to put the items in will be Fellowship Hall. **As usual mark check donation for Weiss School.**

OUTDOOR WORSHIP/PICNIC

On July 24, 2022, CTC will be holding their worship service outside under the tent in the backyard. Following worship there will be a picnic lunch. The Deacons will provide hotdogs and hamburgers and we ask those who are willing and able to do so, to bring a dish to share. Suggestions include, salads, casseroles, chips, veggies, fruit, desserts or bring your specialty. Hope you can all join in the fun.



CROP Hunger Walk: Here is a note we received from CWS regarding the upcoming **Saginaw County CROP Hunger Walk!** If you would like to help them out, please contact Rachel Kessel, her information is at the end of this message. Thank you.

Hello Hunger Fighter,

Thank you for your support of the Saginaw County CROP Hunger Walk! I am reaching out to you again as a champion of the work of Church World Service (CWS), to see if you would be interested in helping the Saginaw community in a new way.

We are looking for someone to work with me to help the CROP Hunger Walk in your community. This would be a minimal commitment of time and energy, but so helpful in ensuring the Saginaw community continues the incredible work they've done to support Church World Service, City Rescue Mission, Hidden Harvest, and East Side Soup Kitchen.

Would you share this information in your church bulletin and with any individuals you think may be interested? Doug Byron and Mike Colucci have done such a great job helping with these roles in past years, but I'd love your help for the 2022 year! The coordinator would help schedule meetings, communicate with team captains, and communicate with me directly on any other miscellaneous walk items. The treasurer collects walk funds from team captains, counts the funds, and mails them to the CWS office along with a report. Both of these roles would be assisted by me, and such an important way to help your brothers and sisters, near and far. There would be time to work alongside those in these positions this year, to help the transition.

I'd love to have your support and help in this way!

Grace and Peace,

Rachel Kessel

Community Engagement Specialist

Church World Service

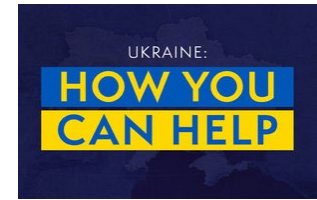
Cell Phone: 616-930-6033



CONGRATULATIONS ANDY AND HOLLY GLYNN: We want to congratulate our friend and pianist, Andy Glynn, on his recent marriage to his beautiful bride, Holly. They were married at Dow Gardens in Midland. It was a beautiful wedding and a wonderful reception followed in Saginaw. We wish them both the very best.



FUNDRAISER FOR 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.

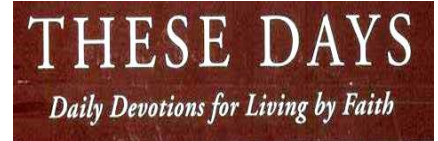
If you are able and desire to help, place your Donation in an envelope marked "Ukraine" in the collection basket at church or mail to Countryside Trinity Church, 4690 Weiss Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48603.

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.

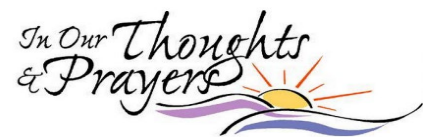
Thank
You

These Days: *These Days* 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.



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.



Memorial Service - Shirlee Scovill

A Memorial Service for Shirlee Scovill will be held at [Countryside Trinity Church](#), 4690 Weiss Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48603 on Friday, July 22, 2022, beginning at 11:00 a.m.. The service will be followed by lunch served under the tent in the backyard of the church.

Please continue to keep the Scovill family in your prayers. All are invited to come celebrate Shirlee's life.



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.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Roger Scovill reports the final Stewardship Letter, which will contain your pledge card, will be mailed very soon. Pledges will be dedicated during worship service on July 24th. We encourage all of you to prayerfully consider your pledges and to either bring your pledge card with you to worship on the 24th or mail or drop off at the church so the cards will be here for the dedication on that day. Thank you.

Ascension Lutheran Church Summer Camp Registration



Ascension Lutheran Church Summer Camp

July 26, 27, 28
5:30-8:00pm
8695 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48609

Register at:
<https://bit.ly/Ascensioncamp>
Registration limited to the first 15 children in each age group

Cost \$0
Campers will receive a snack during children's church each day

5:15 PM Arrival - Outdoor Fun
5:30 PM Workshop 1
6:30 PM Snack/children's church
7:00 PM Workshop 2
8:00 PM Group Farewell



In the past we have sent our children to 2nd Presbyterian for their VBS but they are not having one this year. FYI this notice was sent to us and if you have children, grandchildren or other family members who may be interested, you may consider contacting them at (989) 781-2170.



CAMP DAILY AGENDA

Tuesday, July 26th to Thursday, July 28th

5:15 PM Arrival - Outdoor Activity
5:30 PM Workshop 1
6:30 PM Snack/Children's Church
7:00 PM Workshop 2
8:00 PM Group Farewell

WORKSHOPS

K- 2nd Grade

- Animal Tracks
- Treasure Hunt
- Healthy Cooking: Snacks
- Music
- Bracelet Making
- Archery

3-4th Grade

- Bird Feeder Building
- Science with Stomp Rockets
- Healthy Cooking: Snacks
- Archery
- Electronics/Circuitry
- Pottery

WORKSHOPS

5-6th Grade

- Orienteering
- Healthy Cooking: Snacks
- Archery
- Electronics/Circuitry
- Pottery
- Graphic Design

Ascension Lutheran Church



Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Taylor Hansen (M = Dana Woodke)
- 4 Marianne Bird
- 4 Kathryn Barnum
- 5 Daniel Groom
- 8 Chad Parker
- 10 Randy Jacob
- 12 Fran Prueter
- 13 Kyle Redfield
- 15 Ainslee Mahan
- 15 Aubree Mahan
- 17 Joan Comstock
- 21 Karla Parker
- 21 Casey Redfield
- 22 Brooke Vernon
- 31 Jim Lorenz

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Charles & Irene Ohmer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Dan & Barb Groom
- 17 Dallas & Jackie Williams
- 29 Darren & Joann Woodke
- 29 Duncan & Sandy Redfield

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Roy and Nancy Erndt
- 20 Sydney & Kermit Diggs

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH
4690 WEISS STREET
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48603

Happy 4th of July

Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of living in this great country where we have freedom to openly worship You. May we never take that privilege for granted, but always guard it and treasure it. May we not live in apathy to You, but live in awe of Your love and forgiveness freely poured out for us. Allow our light to shine brightly as our hearts turn to You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

(By Dena Johnson)