

CTC Connections Newsletter

Happy New Year - January, 2023

From the Pastor:

Happy New Year!

I've been thinking about the new year. 2023. What a cool number!

It sounds so futuristic!! We should have flying cars! Homes that clean themselves! Cures for every disease! By 2023 we should have solutions to all the world's problems!

Hmmmm, we really don't have any of those things. But, science is working hard on curing disease. Cars, while not flying are getting cleaner. And many people are adopting a minimalist lifestyle, which in turn makes our homes easier to clean and to keep tidy! So, I suppose we are making progress.

I'm wondering what I will see in this new year.



What advances will there be. I know that so much of what I will see, so much of what each of us will see in this new year will depend on what we are looking for. I don't make New Year's resolutions. Y'all know I don't keep them anyway. But I am going to start a new thing! And I invite you to join me. This year I'm going to look for signs of God's grace. I have a

friend who called those moments when we are aware of experiencing God's grace, Grace Notes. So, I'm going to put on my glasses of God's love and look for grace notes. I'm not going to go down the rabbit hole of negative thinking, or panic thinking. I'm not going to pine about the things we don't do anymore, but rather I am going to rejoice in the new things we *are* doing!

I know how easy it is to remember the good old days. Nostalgia helps us remember the good and not the bad of times gone by. But God's grace allows us to see the new things God is doing for us and with us. And faith demands that we live in the present, surrounded by signs of God's presence.

So, this year, I'm going to look at the world through the lenses of God's love. I will look for and rejoice in the signs of God's grace. I will stop longing for the past and instead rejoice in the gifts God is giving us right now! That is much better than a New Year's resolution!

Pastor Jane

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS:

JANUARY 2023



<p>Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23</p>	<p>The people were saved not by an angel, but the Lord's presence. Let everything in the whole creation praise the name of the Lord. Jesus calls us brothers and sisters; he became human to save us. Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt to escape persecution from Herod.</p>
<p>Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42</p>	<p>The servant of the Lord is given as a light to the nations. I waited for the Lord, who saved me; now I sing God's praise. Paul writes to the church at Corinth, giving thanks for God's grace. John says Jesus is the Lamb of God; Jesus calls Andrew and Peter</p>
<p>Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23</p>	<p>Light shines on those who walk in darkness; the people rejoice. The Lord is my light and salvation; therefore I am not afraid. Paul calls for unity and proclaims the message of the cross. Jesus calls four disciples: Follow me, and you will fish for people.</p>
<p>Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12</p>	<p>What does the Lord require? Justice, kindness, and humility. Those who do what is right live in the presence of God. The foolishness of the cross shames the wisdom of the world. Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes.</p>



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BIG NEWS! Our member and good friend, Betty Hauk, is turning 100 years of age on January 14th. Let's all shower her with birthday cards for this momentous occasion. Her mailing address is: Ms. Betty Hauk, 5935 Shattuck Road, Apartment 27, Saginaw, Michigan 48638. Let's make her special day an even better one! Happiest of birthdays Betty!

YOUR SESSION AT WORK

MARY ANN PARKER, CLERK OF SESSION

There was no regular Session meeting held in December. The Session Council hopes you all had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. We welcome 2023!



TREASURER REPORT- MARI McKENZIE

	October				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	16,104.62	10,618.76	11,541.35	1,547.00	16,729.03
Memorial	17,147.13	405.00			17,552.13
Special gift	2,000.00		2,000.00		-
Special projects	1,360.81				1,360.81
Mission					
Per capita	(186.25)				(186.25)
Two-coins-a-meal	34.09	50.00			84.09
Food baskets	927.52				927.52
Heifer proj (Church School)	-				-
UCC/PCU/Blankets	60.00	200.00			260.00
Good Samaritan	2,527.28		126.64		2,400.64
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	8,754.46	310.22			9,064.68
Local mission	490.00	95.00	475.90		109.10
Bricks	1,335.85				1,335.85
	50,555.51	11,678.98	14,143.89	1,547.00	49,637.60
Minister Compensation	72,789.84	-		(535.00)	72,254.84
Endowment	228,131.84	45.88		(1,012.00)	227,165.72
	351,477.19	11,724.86	14,143.89	-	349,058.16

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 @ New Hope Valley	Norma Meacham @ daughters in North Carolina
Elaine Miner @ Home	Fran Prueter @ Home	Helen Reynolds Wellspring Memory Care

NEWS FROM CTC

ORDINATION OF OFFICERS: We will install our new officers for 2023 during Worship service on January 15th. Please plan to attend if you can do so.

CONREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED: Our Annual meeting will take place following worship on January 15th. Please plan to attend if you can do so.

ANNUAL REPORTS for committee moderators are due the first week of January. Be sure to get them to Kathy asap.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS: We have received our quarterly reward payment in the amount of \$43.67. Thank you to all of you who have named Countryside as your charity of choice. If you shop at Kroger for anything and have not yet done so, please consider it as it costs you nothing and CTC gets a percentage of anything you purchase. If you need help in setting it up, see Kathy Loviska and she will be glad to assist you.

CHOIR NEWS: The choir will be singing on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. During Advent, the choir will sing every Sunday. Practice will be held in the choir room on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month beginning at 5:15 p.m. All those interested in joining the choir see Dan Groom. All voices welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES. Ms. Sandy will take the children to Sunday School class on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise announced. Please think about bringing your children, grandchildren, or other young family members with you to church.



ADVENT-2022: The Advent program for 2022 was well received and we had great attendance and delicious soup, breads and, of course, desserts. Thanks to all who helped.

TWO COINS A MEAL is collected on the first Sunday of each month. 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.



COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED!

One of our most important ministries here at Countryside Trinity Church is serving communion to 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 servers are: Mary Ann Parker, Lori Halase, Jackie and Dallas Williams, Lou Diechman, Ron Platt, 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.**

THESE DAYS: *These Days* magazines are on the 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 window ledge in Fellowship Hall. Please leave your payment in the basket provided.

DISASTER RELIEF: PCUSA and UCC have programs aimed at national and inter-national disaster assistance to provide emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc. to people in need. This enables congregations and mission partners to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events.



If you are able and desire to help, place your Donation in an envelope marked "Disaster Relief" 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.





MISSION OF THE MONTH. Mission of the month for January is All About the Cross formerly Forgotten Man Ministries. If you would like to help, mark your donation accordingly. Thank you.



CROP HUNGER WALK: Marcia Lacker reports we collected \$695.00 this year for the Crop Walk. Thank you all for your donations.

CHRISTMAS FOOD CARDS: CTC gave 10 \$100.00 Food Cards to needy families in order that they could provide their families with a delicious Christmas dinner. If you have not yet done so and wish to donate, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Holiday Food" and place it in the offering basket or mail to the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS JOY & CHRISTMAS FUND:

If you wish to donate to the Christmas Joy or Christmas Fund Offerings, there are flyers and envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall. Or you could bring your donation to the church marked Christmas Joy/Christmas Fund. Thank you.

FACEBOOK PRAYER GROUP:



Don't forget we have a 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: It is that time of year again where we may experience slippery road and sidewalk conditions. Before venturing out to church if the weather or conditions on the streets and sidewalks is questionable, please watch Channel WNEM on your TV for closings that normally scroll along the bottom the screen in the winter, or on your computer go to www.WNEM.com for the latest closings. We will report any cancellations on these sites. Thank you. Be safe and stay warm.

Online instructions: On your computer or telephone go to www.WNEM.com and then click on the following symbol which is located near the top of the page:



This is the Menu button. After you click on it, a menu will drop down.

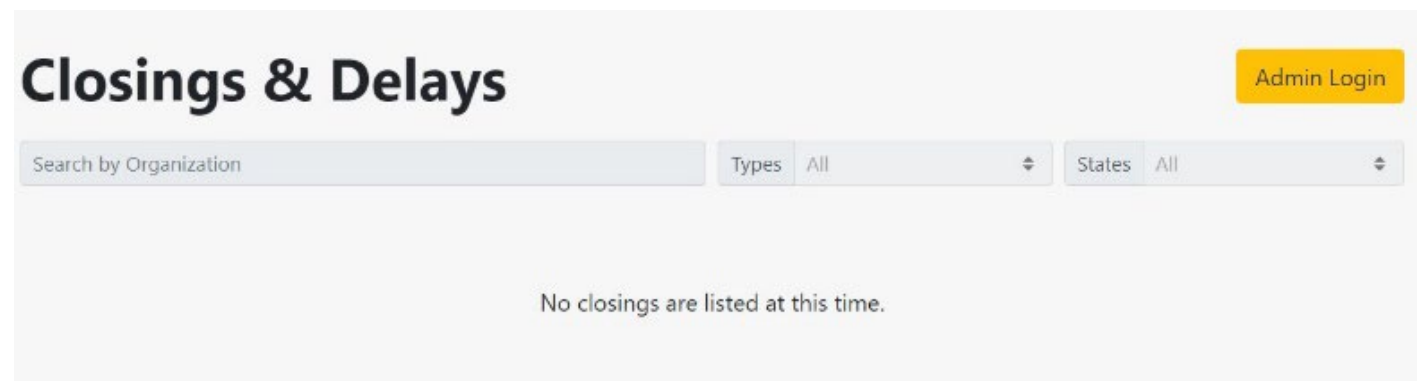
Then click on the arrow to the right of where it says, "First Alert Weather", see below be sure to click on the arrow to the right side:



After clicking on that arrow, another menu will drop down – then click on **WORDS** "Closings and Delays" – looks like this:



When you click on "Closings and Delays" the following will appear. Look for Countryside Trinity Church and if we are closed, we will be listed there with information about the closing. It will look like this:



Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Norma Meacham
- 8 Zachary Vega
- 12 Julie Smith Lowe
- 13 Sarah Gonzales
- 13 Kevin Diggs

14 Betty Hauk (Turning 100)
Let's send her a special card

- 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
- 5 Pastor Jane Young
- 6 Angie Mitchell (Organist)
- 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
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 22 Chong Ladner
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna VanHautte
- 30 Robert Furlo

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 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

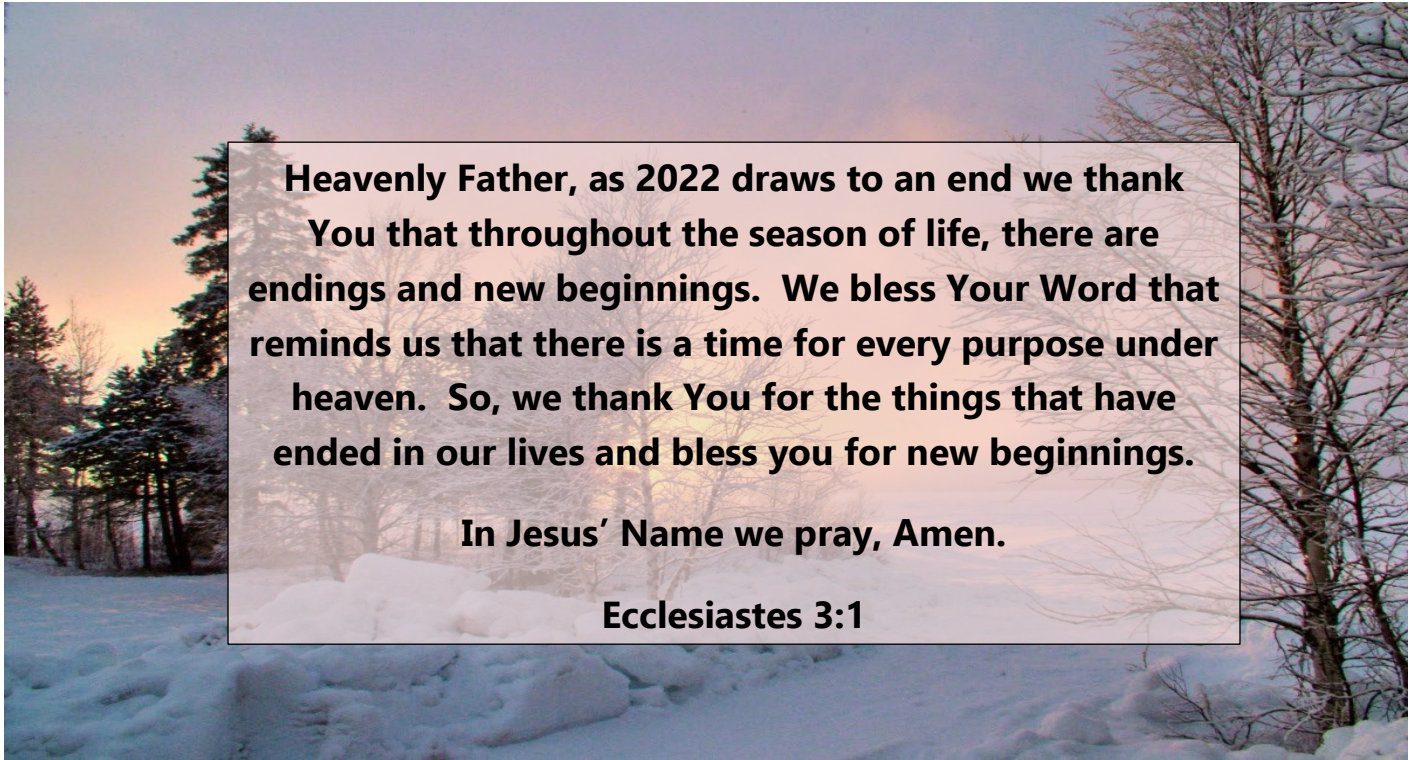
WE HOPE YOU HAD A BLESSED CHRISTMAS



BEST WISHES FOR LOVE, HAPPINESS, AND PROSPERITY IN 2023



**COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH
4690 WEISS STREET
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48603**



**Heavenly Father, as 2022 draws to an end we thank
You that throughout the season of life, there are
endings and new beginnings. We bless Your Word that
reminds us that there is a time for every purpose under
heaven. So, we thank You for the things that have
ended in our lives and bless you for new beginnings.**

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Ecclesiastes 3:1