

February, 2023

CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church
4690 Weiss Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48603

From the Pastor

----- JANE LYNN YOUNG

Happy February!



February is the shortest month of the year, and yet, it often feels like the longest! At least to me! It is still winter, and we rarely have any signs of the spring to come in this month. It is dreary and dark still. It just seems like a long month!

But, on the other hand, February is also the month of love! We celebrate Valentine's Day this month. And granted, for us adults, Valentine's Day doesn't quite hold the excitement it did for us as kids. We don't decorate our boxes to receive the valentines our classmates will give us. We don't spend time looking at the card choices to pick out the perfect one to give our classmates. And candy hearts with words are not nearly as good as Epiphany stars with words!

Speaking of love - Ash Wednesday is in February. This year Ash Wednesday is on the 22nd. We will observe this first day of Lent with a worship service at 6:30pm. During Lent we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem. We become more mindful of just how deep God's love for us is, on this journey.

We have made the journey to the cross before. We have experienced the dark-ness of Good Friday, the joy of Easter before. And while we know this journey, each year it is different. Our lives are different, the world is different. We have new opportunities to show God's love.

I pray we will make this journey together, and along the way that we will feel God's love in new ways and return God's love for us by loving others.

Blessings

February, 2023

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

January, 2023

<p>February 5 Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9(10) 12 Corinthians 2:1-12(13-16) Matthew 5:13-20</p>	<p>The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor. Those who do God's will and seek what is right will be happy. Paul preaches Christ, crucified; the Spirit reveals God's wisdom. Jesus says: You are salt and light; I have come to fulfill the law.</p>
<p>February 12 Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37</p>	<p>A choice between life and death, prosperity, and adversity. Happy are those who keep God's law and follow God's way. Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God is the source of growth. Jesus interprets the laws on murder, adultery, and making vows.</p>
<p>February 19 Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9</p>	<p>The glory of God settles on Sinai, where Moses spends forty days. God says: You are my son; the nations will serve the Lord. The Lord reigns; worship God on the holy mountain. The apostle recounts Jesus' transfiguration, fulfilling prophecy. On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.</p>
<p>February 22 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</p>	<p>The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart. The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me. Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation! Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.</p>
<p>February 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11</p>	<p>The man and woman disobey God, eating forbidden fruit. My sin tormented me; but when I confessed, God forgave me. Sin and death came from Adam; grace and life come from Christ. Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness and is tested by the devil.</p>

February, 2023

**YOUR SESSION AT WORK
FEBRUARY 5, 2023
MARY ANN PARKER, CLERK OF SESSION**

Following prayer by Pastor and Moderator, Jane Lynn Young committee reports given.

Minutes of two session meetings and two congregational meetings approved.
Treasurer's reports for November and December, 2022 approved as presented.

Deacon's Report: Ronda Otway related that Deacon's will be having an organizational meeting 2/12/2023.

Clerk's Report: Church membership is 98. Communion served on November 11 and on January 8, 2022.

Correspondence: Thank you notes from Dan Groom and Kathy Loviska for Christmas bonus read.

Note of appreciation from Jacob Groom for Muriel Lakey Scholarship funds read.

Letter from Joyce Seals, member of Ezekiel Project, inviting us to take out an ad in their souvenir program booklet read. Doug Leffler, as a founding member, will be honored at this year's breakfast at Horizon's Conference Center on February 25, 2023, from 9-11:30 AM. Motion sustained to purchase an ad for \$150. Cost to attend event is \$40.00. Information posted on bulletin board.

For the Record: Death of Virginia Brachear on November 14, 2022.

Installation of Darren Woodke, Bethany Scovill, and Becky Pequignot, class of 2025 as Elders.

Ordination of Duncan Redfield and Ronda Otway with installation and installation of Pat Denno, class of 2025 as Deacons.

Motion sustained to approve the annual statistical report for General Assembly as presented.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jane will be on vacation February 6 thru February 20, 2023.

Denominational Report: Roger Scovill served as elder commissioner at Presbytery meeting on 12/6/2022. He gave a brief report of that meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: R. Scovill reported that the reconstruction for the new office space is coming along nicely. He and Chuck Davis are able to reuse much of the material plus some materials from Warren Avenue.

Christian Outreach: Becky Pequignot will serve as moderator.

February, 2023

Your Session at Work-Continued:

Finance & Stewardship: Roger Scovill will serve as moderator. With the new accounting system in process, Finance & Stewardship Committee has adopted a new "Contributions & Cash Receipts Procedure" which has been placed in the church's Manual of Operations.

Personnel: Mary Ann Parker will serve as moderator.

Spiritual Life: Darren Woodke will serve as moderator. Debbie Davis will address Lenten Soup and Study services following the Sunday worship service with the committee.

Nominating Committee: Sandy Redfield will serve as moderator.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion sustained for Women's Association to hold a Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, March 24th and Saturday, March 25th. The church has quite a lot of items from past years to sell. People may bring in home goods and tools but no clothing, please.

Motion sustained to elect the following people for a 3-year term: Mary Ann Parker as Clerk of Session, Mari McKenzie as church treasurer, and Lynne Groom as Payroll Clerk.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Jane at 1:05 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT	December				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	15,603.26	7,778.48	8,361.18	1,547.00	16,567.56
Memorial	18,052.13	40.00			18,092.13
Special gift	-				-
Special projects	1,360.81				1,360.81
Mission					
Per capita	(186.25)				(186.25)
Two-coins-a-meal	140.09	96.00	236.09		-
Food baskets	676.52	875.00			1,551.52
Heifer proj (Church School)	-				-
UCC/PCU/Blankets	290.00	255.00	531.25	(13.75)	-
Good Samaritan	2,250.64				2,250.64
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	6,006.43				6,006.43
Local mission	299.10		299.10	13.75	13.75
Bricks	1,335.85				1,335.85
	45,828.58	9,044.48	9,427.62	1,547.00	46,992.44
Minister Compensation	71,719.84	490.86		(535.00)	71,675.70
Endowment	226,187.41	(331.26)		(1,012.00)	224,844.15
	343,735.83	9,204.08	9,427.62	-	343,512.29

February, 2023



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

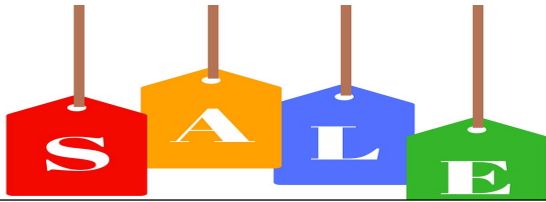
PER CAPITA FOR 2023

As church members we are reminded annually that we must pay a per capita tax to our denomination. This money usually goes toward paying expenses at the higher level than our own immediate church. Since we are a two denomination church (Presbyterian and United Church of Christ), we receive two bills for per capita. . The denominations base the total per capita on the number of members that the church reports. Also, please bear in mind that since we are two denominations, all of our membership statistics that are submitted to the two denominations annually are divided in half. For instance, if we have 100 members, the report to each denomination will be 50 members. The Presbytery bill for us covers 50 members, so it is actually to our benefit. We also receive a bill for a lesser amount from UCC based on 50 members.

With this in mind, the Session has approved a request to be made to the members to pay \$30.00 for the per capita for 2023. Just a gentle reminder that the per capita is per member, not per household. So if you have four people in your household that are members of Countryside Church, you are asked to pay for all four people a total of \$120.00. In order to defray the expense of the per capita, the Session is asking that members assist the church by paying their own per capita of \$30.00/member for 2023. We do not want to put a hardship on anyone but these bills must be paid whether our treasury gets help from the members or not. There will be an envelope marked "per capita" in your box of contribution envelopes that you will be receiving in the next few weeks that you can use.

The Session appreciates your help in this matter.

February, 2023



Fri. March 24th & Saturday, March 25th

We have accumulated quite a bit of stuff over the past couple of years here at CTC and are now in the planning stages to have a sale to get rid of all the unwanted or unused items currently stored in the rear classroom on the west end of the building and around the church. If you would like to bring in items from your home, please call the church and/or talk with Kathy Loviska to arrange a time to drop off. **No clothing, please.** A volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted on the Bulletin Board. Thank you.

ELDERS & DEACONS – 2023 TO 2025

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
Class of 2023	Class of 2023
Mary Ann Parker Mary Longstreth Roger Scovill	Barbara Groom Nancy Easlick
Class of 2024	Class of 2024
Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt
Class of 2025	Class of 2025
Darren Woodke Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield
	Co-Opted Member
	Dan Groom

BREAKING NEWS

100th Birthday Party for Betty Hawk

Thanks to Lori Halase and Mary Ann Parker for organizing a birthday party for Betty Hawk to celebrate her 100th birthday!

We visited with Betty on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at Wellspring Assisted Living in her apartment.

Members and friends came, and we had a great time visiting with Betty.

Ice cream and cake was served.



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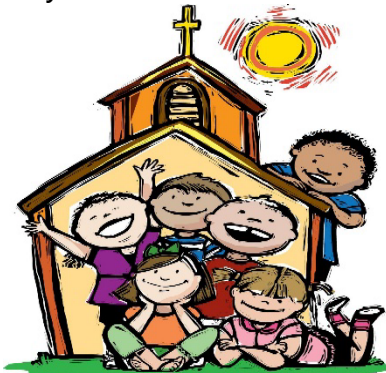
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

CHOIR NEWS: The choir will be singing on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. During Lent, 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 5:00 p.m. All those interested in joining the choir see Dan Groom. All voices welcome.



Lori Halase has made several very pretty Valentine cards plus the ones previously made by Shirlee Scovill. It is the hope that the congregation will buy them and then send them out to our Homebound members and friends. The proceeds go to the Women's Association and then ultimately to Mission. The cards are on the table in the Alcove in Fellowship Hall.

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.



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TWO COINS A MEAL is collected on the 1st Sunday of each month. There is 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 the 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.

Please talk to Dan Groom if can join in this ministry. Thank you.

February, 2023



FACEBOOK PRAYER GROUP:

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.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The 2023 Telephone Directories are in the works! Please send your updated contact information to Kathy in the office as soon as possible. You can email it to countryside@ctcsaginaw.com, call her at 989 793-0125, or give it to her on Sunday. It would be helpful if you would include email addresses as that gives us another way to contact you. This is especially helpful when sending out cancellation notices. Thank you.



LENTEN SCHEDULE

The Spiritual Life Committee and Pastor Jane are putting together an exciting Lenten Program which will consist of a weekly event following church on Sundays beginning with Sunday, February 26th and continuing until March 26th. Please plan to stay after church on those days if you are able to do so.

Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd starting at 6:30 pm

Soup & Bread following worship on February 26th

Coffee Hour following worship on March 5th

Soup & Bread following worship on March 12th

Coffee Hour following worship on March 19th

Soup & Bread following worship on March 26th

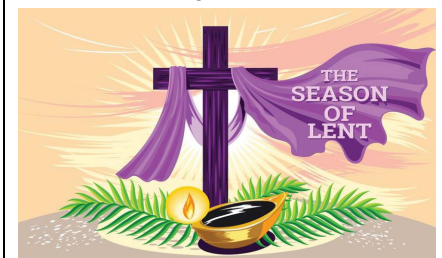
Palm Sunday, April 2nd

Maundy Thursday service on April 6th at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9th

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.



SOUPER BOWL/SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 12th is Souper Bowl Sunday at CTC. It is also Scout Sunday, and our Boy Scout Troup will be assisting with parts of the Worship Service. Hope you can attend.

CWS – BLANKET SUNDAY

CTC will be collecting for this most worthwhile and important mission on Sunday, February 19th. Marcia Lacker is looking to the women of Countryside to help with the Coffee Hour on that day. See Marcia for more information.

February, 2023

SUMMER CAMP

I know it doesn't necessarily look like summer is coming when you look out the window but trust me – it **is** coming!

There are opportunities for our children of CTC to attend summer camp this summer if they would like to do so. We have members/friends who are willing to assist in the cost of the camp and there is a Presbyterian Church on the other side of the state that is offering scholarships as well.

There are a wide variety of Christian camps to choose from in our beautiful state. There are a couple different brochures on the table in Fellowship Hall if there is an interested member in your family.

If you would like more information, see Ms. Sandy Redfield.



26th Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast

CTC's own, Doug Leffler, will be honored this year at the 26th Annual Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast on February 25th from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Horizon's Conference Center, 6200 State Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48603. Ticket prices are \$40 each or a table of eight for \$280.00.

Congratulations to Doug from us at Countryside Trinity Church!

A promotional poster for the 26th Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast. On the left is a stylized, multi-colored portrait of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. pointing. On the right, the text reads: '26th ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Prayer Breakfast 2/25/2023 @ 9:00-11:30AM Horizons Conference Center 6200 State St, Saginaw, MI 48603 THEME "Listening for The Voice of God"'. There is a small logo for 'THE EZEKIEL PROJECT' above the main text.

February, 2023

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

BLANKET SUNDAY & SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



FEBRUARY MISSIONS OF THE MONTH:

- * **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEB 12TH**
- * **BLANKET SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19TH**

**MARK YOUR
DONATIONS SOUPER
BOWL AND BLANKET
SUNDAY**

February, 2023

WHEN INCLEMENT WEATHER STRIKES

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:

Closings & Delays

Admin Login

Search by Organization

Types All

States All

No closings are listed at this time.

February, 2023

Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

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

BIRTHDAYS APRIL

- 1 Virginia Lyons
- 2 William Nolan
- 2 Lysithea Evans, M=Alexa Mahan
- 4 Jeanne Krugielki
- 5 Nancy Erndt
- 5 Evon Little
- 12 Kathy Loviska
- 12 Matthew VanArsdale
- 13 Dallas Williams
- 19 Debra Davis

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY

- 11 John & Leore Bethune
- 12 John & Carol VanArsdale
- 25 Sarah & Tony Gonzales

ANNIVERSARIES MARCH

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

ANNIVERSARIES APRIL

None Known

February, 2023



HAPPY

Valentine's Day



February, 2023

**Countryside Trinity Church
4690 Weiss Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48603**

VALENTINE'S DAY PRAYER

Dear God, help me today to understand what love really means.

I need a love that's big enough to include all of us. Big enough for the dating and engaged couples, of course, with their giddy daydreams of a future together. But also, big enough for the married folks, whether their passion for each other is still blazing brightly or barely more than a smoldering wick. Big enough for the singles toasting their independence, and for the singles wishing someone would come along and make that independence disappear. For the lonely and widowed and brokenhearted, I need a love that understands, a love that welcomes in hurt and sorrow instead of excluding them.

The love I need more than anything is Your love. Without Your love, no other love will ever be sufficient. And with it, every other love becomes richer and truer and more life-giving than it could have been otherwise. We have learned all our best loves from You: the love of faithful friends, of spouses and significant others, of parents and siblings and children. Love that commits. Love that sacrifices. Love that lays down its life. You authored each of these loves, taught us how to recognize them and long for them and give them away. Our best efforts at Valentine's Day are just a fraction of the wholeness of love.

Today, let everything I see remind me of Your love. Let today be a day for love. Real love. Big love. Your love. - [Gregory Cole](#)