

CTC CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

April, 2021



From Pastor Brant...

Good news. We are returning to in-person worship this Sunday, March 21st! Be sure to share this with anyone you think would want to hear it. The session looked at both the infection rates within the county as well as the number of vaccinations that have occurred and decided that the time has come. Though it may feel like short notice, we want to make sure that both our efforts to maintain safety protocols and to move forward with our improvements in technology are ready to go when we celebrate Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and of course, Easter.

This feels to me that is appropriate for this to happen as we move into Easter, as it may seem as if we have been entombed for the last year. That may be an over statement for some. As the church we have been able to continue in our worship and our opportunities to commune with God and to relate to and care for our neighbor. Many have used this as an opportunity to grow a deeper faith and come away with new understandings about the presence of God in every time and place. Though important elements of growth have been unavailable to us, God never has been.

But for many in our community the statement that we have been entombed for the last year feels like an understatement. For many in our community employment is still not available to them, and their opportunities for vaccination may seem far off because of age and access. They remain vulnerable to the virus and to the economic injustices of our community. For many there continue to be deep concerns around access to food and the possibility of eviction. Their anxiety is palpable and has an impact on their physical and emotional health. For many there has been a heavy toll to pay for the isolation they have experienced. The touch of a loved one and the smile on the face of a friend can do much for the human spirit.

We will soon get to gather again to enjoy our communal worship. There won't be a fellowship hour in which we sit around the table and share our joys and concerns. The music will be limited, and singing with a mask on while seated will feel strange. We will experience the love and encouragement that keeps us moving forward in our different ministries. God is always present to hear our heart-felt concerns, to listen with an understanding that is deeper and more graceful than we can ever imagine.

I hope to see you soon, though there will be some sadness. I will not be able to shake hands and give hugs. I will only be able to wave to you from at least 6 feet away. I will not see your smiles behind your masks, and you won't see mine. There are members who will not be present. Some because they have made the decision for themselves that it is not safe for them to be in public yet. They may have not received any or all of their shots of the vaccine, or they have health conditions that make them more vulnerable. We anticipate that each person will make the decision for him or herself about their safety and attendance, trusting in the Spirit of God to lead each person in this

time. There are also members who have died since we were last together and there will be empty spaces that touch our grief because we were not able to participate in the celebrations of their lives with us together.

Know that I am looking forward to the time when we can celebrate the goodness of God in all of the ways that bring us joy.

Take Care,

Brant

Indoor, In-person Worship to Recommence, Sunday, March 21, 2021

At a meeting on March 16th, the session authorized the recommencing of in-person worship to start on Sunday, March 21st. The protocols listed below will be used for this service as well.

You will be instructed to sit in designated seating in your household groups which will have some flexibility, depending on the size of your group. Your willingness to follow our guidelines will help to insure a more inspirational worship experience for all involved.

The pastor will not be wearing a mask while speaking. He will be behind a Plexiglas shield to protect worshippers.

If you want to participate, please follow these guidelines:

1. The sanctuary will be filled on a first come, first served basis, as household groups. Once filled, people will be directed to the fellowship hall.
2. Please come in and exit through the center doors. The doors on the East and West side of the building will be locked in order to make sure everyone is screened.
3. Masks are required. They are an essential element in keeping one another safe, especially in indoor spaces with limited air movement.
4. Participants will be screened prior to admittance. Questions will be asked concerning his or her present state of health and possible exposure to the virus through others in the last 14 days.
5. Temperatures will be taken using an infrared thermometer and those with high temperatures will not be permitted to attend.
6. You will be asked to use the hand sanitizer on both your way in and your way out.
7. There will be no Children's Time during the service or Sunday School after the Children's Time.

8. Participation will be recorded that we might, if needed, contact participants about possible exposures following the service.
9. There are designated seating areas in the sanctuary. Please fill the front areas in first.
10. Those who would prefer to sit in the fellowship hall are welcomed to do so, and chairs will be provided that are socially distant. Family groups are welcomed to move them so that they can sit together.
11. There will be baskets at the back of the church in which to put your offering either before or after the service.
12. **You are to remain seated until you are dismissed. This dismissal will not start until the completion of the Postlude. Please honor this so as not to create an issue with the livestreaming of our service.**
13. Upon dismissal please do not stop to socialize, but move directly and quietly outside.
14. There will be no social time following the service inside the buildings. You are welcomed to socialize for as long as you would like outside if you wear masks and keep appropriate physical distancing from one another.
15. The service starts at 10:30. Please come early to give yourself time to go through the screening and seating processes.

Online Worship on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 on YouTube CTC Saginaw

We will continue to place on our CTC Saginaw YouTube page our Sunday morning services as we will be livestreaming our services. We ask that you are patient with us as we work out the kinks in the technology and learn the finer details of creating audio visual presentations. If you have feedback about any of our digital outreach content, we'd love to hear your gently phrased criticisms.

We will continue to put on our FB pages our order of worship for the day, and anticipate that a recording of the service will be made available later in the week. We are hopeful that it will enhance your worship experience by offering the words to the hymns and other parts of the service so that you may participate more fully.

We ask that you continue to be in prayer for the volunteers who provide assistance for our services, as well as for new volunteers to step up for these positions. If you have an interest in serving in the ministry of the gospel as a camera person, a computer assistant, or a worship planner working with media, please contact the pastor so that you can review the job description and the responsibilities of these positions.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 6:30 pm

We will be gathering in the sanctuary for this commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus presents the commandment to his disciples to love one another just as Christ has loved us. We will be sharing in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as we prepare ourselves for the Easter event by focusing ourselves on our brokenness and Christ's willingness to endure the suffering of the cross and crucifixion for our sake.

Good Friday

The Good Friday service will be a joint service offered online with the assistance of First and Second Presbyterian churches of Saginaw. The service will be offered at First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw's YouTube channel at 1 pm, and will focus on the last Seven Words of Christ. Please join us for this time of worship as we commemorate the crucifixion of Christ.

Easter, April 4th.

We gather on this most sacred of days as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and how this offers to us the gift of eternal life. During our worship we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. If you will not be attending the in-person service, you are invited once again to gather before you the elements of the bread and the cup so that you might fully participate in this sacred celebration. Many thanks to those who have contributed flowers to help us in this celebration. If you are taking the flowers home with you, please take them with you following the Easter Worship Service. If you will not be attending the service, Nancy Easlick will be at the church on Monday morning, April 5, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. for you to come and pick up your flowers. Please enter at the East Side door near the office. Thanks you.

Neighborhood Lead from Kim Nothelfer of Covenant:

Food Box Delivery for Seniors in Need. Do you know an older adult who is homebound and no longer driving that could benefit from additional food items being delivered to their home? We want to help! Our agency is planning an event to deliver 400 boxes of food to seniors in Saginaw County. Boxes of food will be delivered on Wednesday April 7, 2021 and will contain beef stew, pork loin, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, can tuna, quick oats, peanut butter, potato flakes, green beans and applesauce (individuals must provide their name, date of birth, telephone number and address to register). You should sign up if: you are homebound and no longer driving, 60 years of age or older, and a resident of Saginaw County. ***The event is sponsored by the Saginaw High Class of '75 and United Way of Saginaw*** RSVP by March 29, 2021 to 989 797-6880.

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK
March 16, 2021
Mary Ann Parker, Your Clerk of Session

Following a period of reflection, thanksgiving, and prayer, reports were received.

Clerk's report: Church membership is 120 with the passing of Virginia Jarvi.
Annual statistical reports submitted to Presbytery and to UCC.
Letter from Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter, read announcing that our application for a grant of \$2500.00 from Presbytery for technology assistance was approved.

Pastor's report: Meetings with PNC of First Presbyterian of Alma.
Meetings with COM Transitional Team and one with Committee of Ministry.
Lenten Devotional videos every Wednesday at 6:30 PM on YouTube.
The Case for Easter ZOOM Bible study every Tuesday at 3 PM.
Joint meeting with Spiritual Life Committee and Return to Worship Team regarding restarting in-person worship.

Building & Grounds: New light fixture over the cross installed with high tech light bulb.

Christian Outreach: Missions of the month-One Great Hour of Sharing & Easter food baskets.

Spiritual Life: **Motion sustained to restart in-person worship services on March 21, 2021 At 10:30 AM with limited speaking and singing, with masks in place, while practicing social distancing and sanitizing protocols which have been in place since October, 2020.**

Lenten Devotional on YouTube every Wednesday night at 6:30 PM.

Lenten Bible study, "Case for Easter" every Tuesday at 3 PM on ZOOM for 4 weeks.

Video switcher has been installed and training will take place on March 18th.

Appreciation expressed to K. Loviska for the slides she prepares for the worship services.

Maundy Thursday Communion service will be April 1, 2021.

New Business: Motion sustained to allow the Boy Scout Troop to begin meeting at the church on March 24, 2021 while following social distancing and sanitizing guidelines.

**IN MEMORY OF
VIRGINIA
JARVI**



Beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away Monday, March 8, 2021 at McLaren Bay Region. Age 93 years. The daughter of the late Alex and Gladys (Morgan) Adams, Virginia was born November 23, 1927 in Port Huron, Michigan. She married Dr. Rudolph M. Jarvi on July 17, 1948. He predeceased her August 18, 2012. Virginia was a member of Countryside Trinity Church and a past member of Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church. She volunteered at Saginaw General Hospital, was a member of the Saginaw Bay Yacht Club and enjoyed playing Bridge. Most of all, Virginia loved spending time with family and

friends.

Surviving are four sons and their spouses, David and Karen Jarvi, Grayling; Martin and Maria Jarvi, Cedarburg, Wisconsin; Rich and Lois Jarvi, Oxford, Ohio; Ron and Cheryl Jarvi, Grand Blanc, Michigan; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Virginia was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother.

Honoring Mrs. Jarvi's wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Countryside Trinity Church or the Navigators.

If you wish to send a sympathy card - I have included addresses below for two of Ginny's sons:

David & Karen Jarvi
204 Misty Way
Grayling, MI 49738

Rich & Lois Jarvi
#10 Savannah Drive
Oxford, Ohio 45056

Celebration of the Lord's Supper April 4th: During our worship on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. You are invited once again to gather before you the elements of the bread and the cup so that you might fully participate in this sacred celebration.

Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up: Lori Halase has made the boxes of offering envelopes available during the week for pickup. To pick yours up, **please first call the church office to make an appointment** to ensure both that someone will be here to unlock the door for you, and to pick up your offering envelope if you want to drop it off, and also to help us keep the number of people coming into the church building manageable. The boxes will be on the table on the left side as you come in the East door, each one in its own plastic bag. Please wear a mask as you enter, and exit as quickly as you can.

Per Capita Contributions continue to be collected: We are continuing to collect the Per Capita contributions. Again this year we are inviting all members to contribute \$30 to cover the costs of providing support to "Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ and the "Per Capita Offering" of the PC(USA). This donation empowers the Presbytery of Lake Huron, the Michigan Conference, and our denominations to provide us with guidance and support as we seek to carry out the work of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world. Below are two online links to give you more information on each.

https://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/per_capita_overview_2019_color.pdf

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churches-wider-mission/ourchurches-wider-mission-basic-support/>



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. The Missions of the Month for April will be the Baby Shower benefiting Underground Railroad and the Baby Pantry.

Please mark your donations for the Baby Shower and drop off or mail to the church. Thank you.

Muriel Lakey Scholarship: If anyone is interested in applying for the Muriel Lakey Scholarship you can pick up an application at the church office or one can be mailed or emailed to you. Please contact the church office or Sandy Redfield if you would like an application. Applications are due Monday, March 1, 2021.



Greeting Cards: Shirlee Scovill has greeting cards on display and for sale inside the east door to the church on the table. There is a variety of cards available, but she wanted me to let you all know that if you need something special give her a call or email her to let her know what you want. Her phone numbers are: 989 892-1903 (Home) 989 327-2219 (Cell) and her email is scovillshirlee@yahoo.com.

Facebook Prayer Group: We have created a FB Prayer Group on our newly created 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.





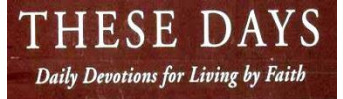
Telephone Directory: The new directories are ready to be picked up. If you aren't able to get to the church to get one, call Kathy in the office 989 793-0125 and she will mail it to you. If you do not get an answer, leave a message. Thanks.

Corrections: CHANGES FOR YOUR NEW DIRECTORY:

For Gwen Henderson, please add her apartment number which is: Apartment 18. This needs to be on any mail going to her.

The telephone number for MariAnne Vega has changed. The new number is: 989 401-8913

These Days: We have received the first quarter of 2021 *These Days* magazine and they will be in the box outside the east entrance door if you would like to pick one up.



Becky Pequignot sends her gratitude to everyone for their numerous cards, phone calls, and sympathy during her mother, Mary Young's, final illness - as well as for their continued contact with Mary while she was unable to make it to church. It meant so much to Mary and to Becky.

PROTOCOLS FOR COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In an abundance of caution and until it is safe to relax these procedures, the following protocols will be required before entering the building:

1. Appointments are required. Please call the office (989) 793-0125 to set up a convenient time Monday-Thursday in the mornings.
2. Enter the building only through the east door near the office
3. **YOU MUST WEAR A MASK WHILE INSIDE THE BUILDING.** Free masks are available in the entrance hall.
4. Fill out the Registration Sheet on the table immediately inside the door to the left, recording your answers to the Screening Questionnaire and your temperature as shown on example below. To take your temperature, place the thermometer near your forehead and squeeze the button. Your temperature will show up on the screen (please note that if it is cold outside, you may need to place the thermometer close to a location which was covered by your coat in order to get an accurate reading (forearm, neck, etc). **If you are not feeling well, or your temperature is above 100.4° F please do not come into the church.**

EVENT:					
Date:		Time:	Location:		
	Attendee/Name	Screening Questions (which one if answered "yes")	Temperature (Below 100.4 F/38C)	Admitted (Yes) (No)	
1	Jane Doe	None	98.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2					
3					
4					
5					

5. Please use the hand sanitizer on your way in and on your way out.
6. Please do not venture into the church.
 - a. If dropping something off, leave it on the table.
 - b. If picking something up, please arrange this in advance so it will be readily available for you.

We want to make sure that we are all as safe as possible under these extreme conditions and urge everyone to please be careful, always wear your mask and wash your hands often. Use hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes regularly. If you do not have a mask or need more, please let Kathy know and you will be provided as many as you need.



And Happy Anniversary

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

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
- 20 Dan Saperstein
- 21 Jasmyn Volker
- 30 Darren Woodke
- 30 John Furlo

NO APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

If you have an anniversary in April, please let the church know. Thank you.

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
- 28 Dan & Liz Saperstein
- 29 Ronald & Jean Anne Miller