



## OCTOBER 2025 CTC CONNECTIONS

# Countryside Trinity Church

**FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER**

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

We are here in October; it is a magical time for many reasons. The seasons are changing, colors are changing, we are deep into harvest time. Pumpkins and harvest decorations are starting to appear everywhere. While I love harvest, and fall time is one of my favorite seasons, it is not quite the reason I am feeling full of joy. October 1st marks one year since I started my call here at Countryside Trinity church, at 4690 Weiss Rd.

One year we have all been worshiping together, living into change and discernment for what this season of the church is. It has been for me, a time unlike any other. I will not retell my call story or my faith journey, as I have several times this year. However, this year has been the culmination of 29 years waiting and working to find where God was calling me to. It has been a year full of questions. As I am sure you are all aware, I love questions that make one think and that reveal something new. For me this year has been a whole lot of questions. Who are all the lovely people attached to CTC? That question has taken me around the city. Who is CTC? That continues to be revealed every time someone calls or walks in the doors of the church. What do we stand for? That is revealed in every committee meeting, every new committee, initiative and group that starts to talk about issues we care about.

We have, for instance, been asking questions related to this in Session since I started. We have created the Green Team, to learn and act on how to better care for God's creation. We have added a new staff position, looking to expand our media capabilities. We have started to gather our histories, so that not only myself, but all who would come to CTC could know where we have been. We have started a First Nations Bible Study time to better understand not only the Word, but how others understand the Bible. In the time since I was called to Countryside, we have served strangers both near and far. We have responded to urgency in our community. We have cared for others, even if we did not know them. I feel immensely blessed to have been called to serve alongside such a beautiful group of souls.

I firstly want to say thank you! From the bottom of my heart, I feel so very blessed, and my heart is full of joy. I am so excited to see what the future holds for us together. Which leads to the second thing, which of course is a question. What can we do together next? I do not believe there is anything that cannot be done if it is God's will. I believe if we are all listening to the Spirit that we cannot go wrong in serving and doing good work. I believe we are all following in good directions as we seek to serve the community, as we seek to better reflect the Word of God around us, and as we choose to live the greatest commandments.

What can we do together next? Where can we choose to serve? How can we be like Jesus even more so than before? I genuinely want to know what we can do together! I have watched churches close and disappear because they stopped serving. That is not what we do at CTC! Every week I see many of you doing acts of Christian love and service, and I know we can continue that and grow that. So let me know what you believe we can and should do next! If you want to know about opportunities to serve in our church and community, come find me and let's chat.

Until we meet again, may the Lord Bless you and keep you!

-Pastor Nathaniel Asperger

# YOUR SESSION AT WORK

## MINUTES TAKEN BY CAROL VAN ARSDALE, CLERK OF THE SESSION, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

The Session meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor and Moderator Nathaniel Asperger at 12:06 P.M in the lounge.

Minutes of Stated Session meeting of June 22, 2025, and August 17, 2025, meetings were approved with corrections.

**Deacons: Report:** Duncan Redfield reported that as of Sept. 1, 2025:

Beginning Balance:	\$483.29
Income:	\$620.12
Expenses:	\$64.17
Ending Balance:	\$692.12
Cake Fund Balance:	\$138.00

**Clerk's Report:** Year to date:

Baptisms:	1
Deaths:	4
New members in 2025:	4
Current membership:	87
Communion served in Sept.	51
Average attendance for August	38

**Presbytery/Denomination Report:**

The Presbytery has examined its budget and determined that the Per Capita rate needs to be raised to cover the Presbytery expenses as well as a raise in the General Assembly fee. The Per Capita rate for 2026 will be \$35.00.

**Building and Grounds:** CTC will purchase 2 simple phones that can answer calls and take messages. Kathy will look for the best basic plan. This solution will be evaluated at 6-12 months.

Parking lot repairs are waiting on two possible solutions. Both water heaters are now working.

**Finance and Stewardship:** The budget was received from Mari McKenzie

### Changes in Equity: January 1, 2025, to August 31, 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$399,768.46
Income:	\$68,008.87
Expenses:	\$96,989.64
Ending Balance:	\$370,787.69

**Christian Outreach:** CTC plans to give bags to Weiss students for Halloween. A juice box and goldfish crackers will be given out along with any candy that is donated by the congregation. Thank you notes were received from several of our monthly missions.

**Personnel:** The evaluation procedure for staff members was revised so that no staff member is evaluated by only one person. The Personnel committee will review all evaluations.

**Spiritual Life:** No report

**Nominating:** No report

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Nathaniel will use vacation time for Study from Oct. 13-17.

**New Business:** Session approved the contract with Brady for a new copy machine and service contract.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned with prayer from Pastor Nathaniel at 1:52 P.M. Next Session meeting Oct. 12, following church.

# UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

<p><b><u>October 5, 2025</u></b>  <u>Semicontinuous</u>  Lamentations 1:1-6  Lamentations 3:17-26  Or Psalm 137  <u>Complimentary</u>  Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  Psalm 37:1-9  2 Timothy 1:1-14  Luke 17:5-10</p>	<p>How lonely is the great city now; majesty had departed from Zion.  Even in my affliction, I remember the steadfast love of the Lord.  By the waters of Babylon, we wept; how could we sing God's song?</p> <p>Write the vision; make it plain: the righteous live by their faith.  Commit your way to the Lord; trust in God, who will act.  Rekindle your faith; guard the good treasure entrusted to you.  If you had faith like a mustard seed, you could uproot this tree.</p>
<p><b><u>October 12, 2025</u></b>  <u>Semicontinuous</u>  Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  Psalm 66:1-12  <u>Complimentary</u>  2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  Psalm 111  2 Timothy 2:8-15  Luke 17:11-19</p>	<p>Build houses and plant gardens in exile; seek the welfare of the city.  Make a joyful noise to God, who brought us out to a spacious place.</p> <p>Elisha tells Naaman to wash in the Jordan; he is cured of leprosy.  I give thanks with my whole heart; great are the works of the Lord.  Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead; that is my gospel.  Jesus heals ten people with leprosy; only one returns to give thanks.</p>
<p><b><u>October 19, 2025</u></b>  <u>Semicontinuous</u>  Jeremiah 31:27-34  Psalm 119:97-104  <u>Complimentary</u>  Genesis 32:22-31  Psalm 121  2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  Luke 18:1-8</p>	<p>I will make a new covenant; I will write my law on their hearts.  I love your law; it is always with me, sweeter than honey to me.</p> <p>Wrestling with a stranger at night, Jacob seeks God's blessing.  My help comes from the Lord, who guards me day and night.  Continue in your faith; be persistent in proclaiming the gospel.  The widow and the unjust judge: pray always and do not lose heart.</p>
<p><b><u>October 26, 2025</u></b>  <u>Semicontinuous</u>  Joel 2:23-32  Psalm 65  <u>Complimentary</u>  Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22  Psalm 84:1-7  2 Timothy 4:6-8 16-18  Luke 18:9-14</p>	<p>I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; I will save those who call on me.  Praise God, who answers prayer, sends rain, and blesses the earth.</p> <p>We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord; we set our hope on you.  How lovely is your dwelling place; my heart and flesh sing for joy.  I have found the good fight and kept the faith; God stands by me.  Jesus tells a parable: the prayers of a Pharisee and a tax collector.</p>
<p><b><u>October 31, 2025</u></b>  <u>Reformation Day</u>  Jeremiah 31:31-34  Psalm 46  Romans 3:19-28  John 8:31-36</p>	<p>God says: I will make a new covenant, writing my law in your heart.  Though the earth changes and the waters roar, God is our refuge.  We are justified by the gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.  Jesus says: You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.</p>

# **CTC HAS GONE GREEN!**

The Deacons continue to work on the transition at CTC to "Go Green". Supplies are being changed from plastic to paper and biodegradable materials and regular meetings have been established as they move forward with this project to become more environmentally responsible and sustainable in accordance with our faith's call to stewardship of God's creation.

The Goals of the Green Committee:

- \* Assess our current practices.
- \* Educate and raise awareness.
- \* Recommend sustainable practices.
- \* Engage with the community. \* Lead by example.



As steward of God's creation, we are called to live responsibly and intentionally in our care for the environment. In recent years, growing environmental concerns--climate change, resource depletion, pollution-have prompted churches across the country to examine their ecological footprint. We believe our church has both the opportunity and the obligation to lead by example in this area.

We believe that creating a Green Committee affirms our church's mission to be faithful stewards.

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Our personal needs cabinet, freshly painted by John VanArsdale, is ready to put outside filled with personal items for anyone who may have a need in our community. If you wish to help fill the cabinet, these are the items we are asking our members and friends to supply:

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Tooth Paste/Tooth Brush | • Wet Wipes              |
| • Mouth Wash              | • Bandages/First Aid Kit |
| • Hair Comb &/or Brush    | • Rain Poncho            |
| • Paper Tissues           | • Chapstick              |
| • Feminine Products       | • Cotton Swabs           |
| • Shampoo/Conditioner     | • Ziploc Bags            |
| • Bath Soap               |                          |
| • Hand Sanitizer          |                          |

The list may change as we understand the needs of our community and weather changes.

## GET INVOLVED!



Express yourself and your faith by joining the worship, music, or usher team today.

There are so many meaningful and fun ways to get involved, and there is something for everyone to do and **YOU** are needed for CTC to continue to grow and move forward. If you are interested in becoming a worship helper, singing in the choir or have any questions about how you can help, please speak with Darren Woodke or Dan Groom. If you can occasionally usher, talk with Pat Denno or Ron Platt.

### Choir Practice

**CHOIR HAS RESUMED. TALK WITH DAN GROOM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING.**



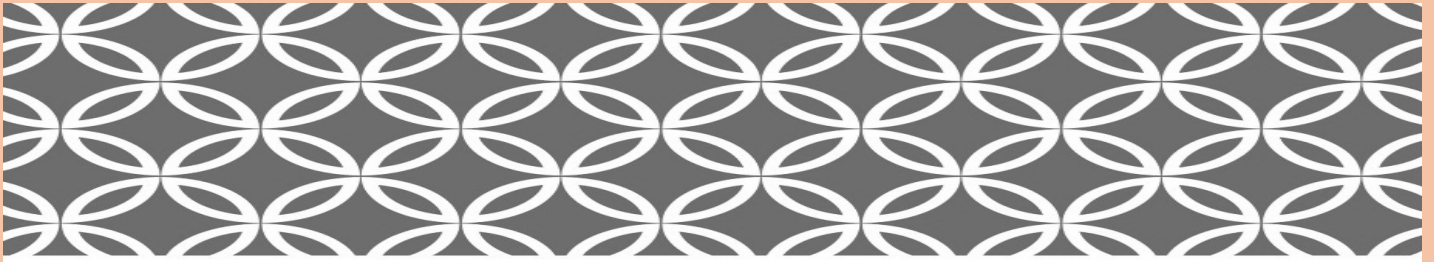
## SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES:**  
**THERE ARE MANY CENTERS IN THE SAGINAW AREA OFFERING CONTINUING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FROM DANCING AND EXERCISE TO CARDS. I HAVE PLACED THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMISSION ON AGING ON THE TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. YOU CAN ALSO GO ONLINE TO VIEW A LIST OF EACH MONTH'S ACTIVITIES.**

**GO TO [WWW.SAGINAWCOUNTY.COM](http://WWW.SAGINAWCOUNTY.COM) AND HOVER ON THE TAB "COMMUNITY RESOURCES" AND THEN CLICK ON THE DROP-DOWN ITEM "COMMISSION ON AGING". LOOK FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND THERE WILL BE A LINK FOR SENIOR CENTER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES. CHECK IT OUT - THERE ARE SOME FUN ACTIVITIES THAT CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**



# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?



## MISSIONS SUPPORTED BY COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

## HOW DO I CHOOSE?

At CTC we support many different Missions through "Special Offerings" including **One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost/Strengthening the Church, Peace & Global Witness/Neighbors in Need** and **Christmas Joy/Fund** as well as our "Missions of the Month" throughout the year. It is not necessary to contribute to each of the Mission's CTC supports. If you are able and wish to do so, we invite you to select those missions you are most passionate about and donate to them. Any contributions you make are greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU.**

### HERE ARE SOME OF THE MISSIONS SUPPORTED IN 2025

Christmas Joy/Fund	\$70.00
One Great Hour	\$420.00
Pentecost/Strengthen the Church	\$60.00
UCC/PCU Other Mission	
(Donations went to several places for disasters and special offerings)	\$2,775.62
CWS Blankets	\$385.00
Two Coins a Meal	\$495.00
All About the Cross	\$85.00
Christmas in July (Sleep in Heavenly Peace)	\$185.00
Boy Scouts	\$130.00
East Side Soup Kitchen	\$431.26
Emmaus House	\$65.00
Good Samaritan	\$448.02
Habitat for Humanity	\$391.00
Major Chords for Minors	\$495.00
Old Town Christian Outreach	\$30.00
Underground Railroad	\$20.00
Weiss School	\$140.00
Other Local Missions	\$330.00

**On top of the monetary donations, some of these missions received clothing, household materials, personal hygiene items, bedding, children's items, etc. We have also given ten \$100.00 food cards to families from Weiss School on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.**

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**WOMEN'S**  
**MEETING TO BE**  
**HELD AT CTC AND**  
**WILL BE COMBINED**  
**WITH THE CTC**  
**WOMEN'S**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER  
11<sup>TH</sup> BEGINNING @  
9:45 A.M. WITH A  
CONTINENTAL  
BREAKFAST**

**WE HOPE YOU CAN  
ATTEND!**

**COUNTRYSIDE HISTORIC**  
**COMMISSION**

The Session is considering the formation of a new Historic Commission for the purpose of compiling an up to date "History of CTC". If you would be interested in working on this commission, please let Pastor Nathaniel know.

Thank you.

**SUMMER NURSERY CARE AND**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sandy Redfield has retired! We congratulate her and wish her the best going forward. Considering her retirement and the possibility of her traveling to visit family, there may be times when she will not be here on a particular Sunday or Sundays. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers who would be able to fill-in when she is away. Please see Sandy if you are interested in helping.

**CTC'S TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

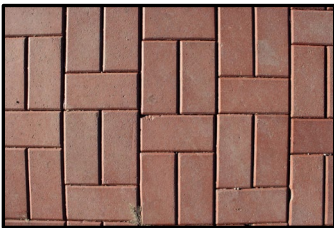
We are experiencing some issues with our telephone system, due primarily to the age of the wiring and currently, all calls are being forwarded to Pastor Nathaniel. Please bear with us as we attempt to rectify the issue.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC



**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 consider hosting a coffee hour following worship service. There is a chart on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall – check for available dates if you can be a coffee hour host. For those who would like to help, but don't think they would be able to handle it – help is always available. Check with Kathy Loviska, and Marcia Lacker. Thank you.



**SIDEWALK BRICKS:** Ed Halase has finished placing the new sidewalk bricks at the church. Please take a minute to come and check them out!

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**The CTC Green Committee will be meeting on the first Sunday of each month following worship.**

**The Deacons will meet on the second Sunday of each month following the worship service.**

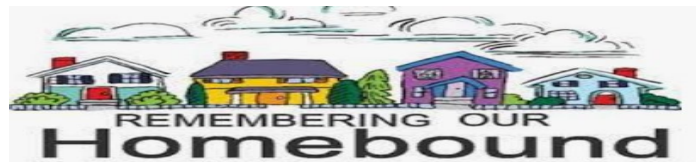
**The Session meets on the third Sunday of each month following worship service.**

**NOTE: In October, Spiritual Life will meet on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., Deacons will meet on October 12<sup>th</sup> following worship, and the Session will also meet on October 12<sup>th</sup> following worship.**



## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
<b>Class of 2025</b> Darren Woodke Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	<b>Class of 2025</b> Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield
<b>Class of 2026</b> Roger Scovill Kathy Loviska Chuck Davis	<b>Class of 2026</b> Dan Groom Paige Pequignot Lori Halase
<b>Class of 2027</b> Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	<b>Class of 2027</b> Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt



<b>John &amp; Leore Bethune</b> Traditions of Saginaw, West, Formerly New Hope Valley	<b>Dawn Curtis</b> @ Home	<b>Lois Krzak</b> @ Home
<b>Avis Leach</b> Roosevelt House/Hemlock	<b>Marilyn Leffler</b> Traditions of Saginaw, West Formerly New Hope Valley	<b>Marie Lemmer</b> Wellspring Assisted Living
<b>Fern Evon Little</b> Swan Haven Manor		<b>Elaine O'Keefe</b> Great Lakes Rehab

**Our Homebound members and friends would all love to hear from you. Please drop them a card or give them a call. Their contact information is in the Church Directory.**

# SECOND PRESBYTERIAN FISH FRY



COME FOR THE FISH, STAY FOR THE FELLOWSHIP!

All-You-Can-Eat Meal Includes:

Fried Alaskan Pollock, Potatoes, Coleslaw, Bread, and Dessert



**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
FRIDAY, OCT. 17, 2025**

**4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Dine-in or Take-out**

**\$15**  
Cash, please.



989-792-1023



[spcsaginaw.org](http://spcsaginaw.org)



2665 Midland Road Saginaw MI 48603



## **BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Zachary Plater
- 2 Drew Pequignot
- 2 Dan Groom
- 3 Joseph Ruth
- 5 Mary Longstreth
- 8 Karen Blankenship
- 11 Jerry Paquette
- 13 Ethan Parker
- 13 Charlotte Armstrong
- 14 Mike Yusaf
- 14 Tania Yusaf
- 16 Randy Groom
- 17 Elizabeth Jacob
- 19 Christopher Davis
- 22 Jean Anne Miller
- 22 Pat Denno
- 25 Ezra Yusaf
- 25 Aaron Plater
- 26 Ashley Huizar (Hanson)
- 27 Marie Lemmer
- 29 Scott Jacob
- 29 Lori Halase

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Paige Pequignot

- 3 Sam Nolan
- 8 Duncan Redfield
- 9 Stephanie Plater
- 10 Katherine Asperger
- 12 Jacob Plater
- 16 Pervez Yusaf
- 19 Martin Bethune
- 19 Bethany Scovill
- 21 Ronald Miller
- 22 Jacob Groom
- 22 Lucas Gonzales
- 28 Avis Leach

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 5 Tony Asperger
- 12 Melissa Paterson (Shalhoup)
- 16 Alexa Mahan
- 17 Nancy Easlick
- 18 Paula Plater
- 22 Ed Halase
- 25 Brecque Woodke
- 26 Craig Gates
- 30 Kermit Diggs

### **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 20 Sidney & Kermit Diggs

### **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

None Known

### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

None Known

### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 15 Joseph & Doris Ruth

**Countryside Trinity Church**

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

(989) 793-0125

