

# CTC Connections Newsletter

## February 2022

**From Our Pastor:** I loved Valentine's Day when I was little. I remember getting valentines from the kids in my class. I remember decorating a box to receive the valentines. And I remember my Dad giving me a small, heart shaped box of assorted candies! I also remember feeling the love on that day.

Fast forward to when my kids were little. Not much had changed. Although now, they decorated their box at home. There was a rule that kids handing out valentines had to include each class member. As list of their names always came home with them before the big event. My kids loved picking out the box of valentines they would give out. And like me, they loved looking at the valentines they received when they came home from school. And like my Dad, I would always give my kids valentine candy.

I wonder if as adults, we can get that excited about handing out expressions of love? What would our valentines look like? Maybe our valentine is a blanket that we donate through World Blanket Sunday. Can you imagine how much someone who has no blanket will feel the love. Imagine someone wrapped in a blanket, knowing it came from someone who gave it as a gift of love. And imagine them knowing that the giver learned to love from Jesus.

How about the feeling someone will have because they are able to feed their family because of the generosity of those who support Food Banks? Imagine sitting down together to eat and feeling the love that went into getting the food for them.

I am grateful that when my kids were little, they needed to provide a valentine for each class mate. I cannot imagine the disappointment a child might experience if they only got a few valentines, while their classmates received many more. I am grateful for the lesson it taught my kids: Always include everyone!

We have many opportunities to show God's love, and to respond to Jesus' command to love everyone. In this month of love, let us keep our eyes open for those who long to be included. And let us keep our hearts open to be inclusive.

Grace to you,

Pastor Jane



## **UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS:**

<p>Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)          Psalm 138          '1 Corinthians          15:1-11          Luke 5:1-11</p>	<p>Isaiah sees the Lord in the temple and says, "Woe is me! I am lost."          I give you thanks, O Lord; I bow down toward your holy temple.          Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day.          A miraculous catch of fish; Peter says, "Lord, I am a sinful man!"</p>
<p>Jeremiah 17: 5-10          Psalm 1          1 Corinthians 15:          12-20          Luke 6:17-26</p>	<p>Curses and blessings; those who trust in the Lord are like trees.          Happy are those who delight in God's law, like trees by the water.          If there is no resurrection of the dead, our faith has been in vain.          In his sermon on the plain, Jesus speaks of blessings and curses.</p>
<p>Genesis 45: 3-11,          15          Psalm 37: 1-11,          39-40          1 Corinthians 15:          35-38, 42-50          Luke 6:27-38</p>	<p>Joseph tells his brothers, "God sent me before you to preserve life."          Trust in the Lord and do good; you will live in the land and be secure.          How are the dead raised? There is a spiritual body, raised in glory.          Jesus says, "Love your enemies. Be merciful. Do not judge, but forgive."</p>
<p>Exodus 34: 29-35          Psalm 99          2 Corinthians 3:          12-4:2          Luke 9: 28-36          (37-43a)</p>	<p>Moses returns from Sinai with the law, and his face is shining.          The Lord is holy, a lover of justice; worship at God's mountain.          With unveiled faces, we see the glory of the Lord reflected.          On a mountaintop, Jesus is transfigured; God says This is my Son.</p>



### **Session reinstates the use of masks for all indoor gatherings**

Sighting the increase of infections from the variants of Covid-19 in Saginaw County, the session has reinstated the requirement that masks be worn by all who gather indoors here at the church until further notice.

**YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK**  
**January 16, 2022**  
**Mary Ann Parker, Your Clerk of Session**

Following prayer, reports were received after minutes of previous session meeting and a called congregational meeting were approved and treasurers' report was accepted.

**Clerk's report:** Church membership – 116 now with the deaths of Jerry Brachear and Nancy Scott.

Communion was served on Christmas Eve and January 9, 2022.

Elders Debbie Davis and Sidney Diggs IV and Deacon Jackie Williams were installed on 1/9/2022.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Jane Young reported her service to the congregation and officiating at the funeral of Nancy Scott.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Session members also volunteered as moderators for the various committees.**

**Building & Grounds:** No elder volunteered to chair this committee. No report.

**Christian Outreach:** Kitty Blehm and Kathy Loviska will Co- moderate.

Blehm reported that 7 families from Weiss School and 1 family from Countryside received food baskets for Christmas. Each family also received a wrapped board game.

**Finance & Stewardship:** Roger Scovill will moderate. No report.

**Personnel:** Mary Ann Parker will moderate. No report.

**Spiritual Life:** Darren Woodke will moderate. No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Clerk of Session, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Payroll Clerk were all elected for a two-year period last year (2021 & 2022).

**\*\*Since it is a new year, the various committees are in need of volunteers to help serve the church in doing the work that we have been called do. Please help us as we further our mission at Countryside. The officers of the church are approachable so feel free to speak to anyone of them and help us in serving Christ through our various committees. Join us, you may have some fun and laughs plus get that warm fuzzy feeling from helping someone outside your home. WE NEED YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

TREASURER'S REPORT	December, 2021				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	(11,461.13)	12,725.04	9,468.86	18,895.02	10,690.07
Memorial	9,893.12	335.00		694.01	10,922.13
Memorial - Lyons Troop 304	-				-
Manse	-				-
Special gift	17,800.02			(17,800.02)	-
Special projects	1,360.81				1,360.81
Mission					
Per capita	190.10		190.10		(0.00)
Two-coins-a-meal	224.00	54.00	278.00		-
Food baskets	446.52	577.00	185.00		838.52
Heifer proj (Church School)	-				-
UCC/PCU/Blankets	60.00	310.00	370.00		-
Good Samaritan	2,427.28	50.00			2,477.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	7,825.59				7,825.59
Womens Association	-	800.00	105.99	(694.01)	-
Local	245.00	30.00	155.00		120.00
Bricks	1,335.85				1,335.85
	30,347.16	14,881.04	10,752.95	1,095.00	35,570.25
Minister Compensation	91,507.95			(535.00)	90,972.95
Endowment	255,469.96	9.37		(560.00)	254,919.33
	377,325.07	14,890.41	10,752.95	(0.00)	381,462.53



<b>Betty Burr</b> Samaritas Senior Living	<b>Joan Comstock</b> @ Home	<b>Dawn Curtis</b> @ Home
<b>Betty Hauk</b> Wellspring Ind. Living	<b>Floyd &amp; Lois Krzak</b> @ Home	<b>Marie Lemmer</b> Wellspring Assisted Living
<b>Fern Evon Little</b> Swan Haven Manor	<b>Virginia Lyon</b> @ Home	<b>Ruth Marsh</b> @ Home
<b>Norma Meacham</b> New Hope Valley	<b>Elaine Miner</b> @ Home	<b>Fran Prueter</b> @ Home
	<b>Helen Reynolds</b> Wellspring Memory Care	



**CHURCH CLOSINGS CAUSED BY WEATHER:** So far this winter has been very cold, and we have had some ice and snow periodically. We do not want anyone to get into an accident or fall. Therefore, going forward – as a reminder – if there has been a snowfall or icy condition over the weekend, make sure before making the trip to church on Sunday to turn on your TV and check with WNEM for closings. You can also go online to [www.wnem.com](http://www.wnem.com) to check their website. **WHEN THERE IS NO CHURCH BECAUSE OF WEATHER – THERE WILL NOT BE A WORSHIP SERVICE ON YOUTUBE FOR THAT SUNDAY.** This may change in the future, but as of right now – there would be nobody at the church to record anything.

**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 are able to do so and place in the pail either on your way in or out of Church. Thank you.



**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 February are "Blanket Sunday" which we will collect on February 6, 2022; and "Souper Bowl Sunday" which will we collect on February 13, 2022. This is the month to celebrate love. Here are ideas to help with gifts in honor or memory of loved ones.

**CWS - Blanket Sunday:** On Sunday, February 6, 2022 we will celebrate Valentine's Day by "Blanketing" the world with love. The cost of one blanket is \$10. If you would like a beautiful valentine to send in honor of someone or as a "thank you" check out the table in Fellowship Hall. With your donation for one blanket, you may take one valentine. Multiple gifts are welcome. Any amount is appreciated. Make checks payable to CWS. Blankets are distributed throughout the USA and the world. They have many uses: cloak, tote, room divider, curtain, bed, warmth etc. Most of all, blankets provide feelings of caring and love especially when a disaster hits. There are two different weights depending on the climate where the event occurred. The blankets can be used in many ways. Each one is always a healing embrace.



**Souper Bowl Sunday:** On February 13, 2022, we will be collecting donations for Souper Bowl Sunday. The collected monies will go to the East Side Soup Kitchen. People are still struggling with hunger during this pandemic. This is a good way to show love of neighbor. Drop off or mail your gift. Please designate Souper Bowl on your donation. The East Side Soup Kitchen began in 1979 serving 15 people lunch in a church basement. Now they serve an average of 300 meals each weekday, in their newer building. ESSK started the after-school program at various schools in 1994.







**God took more angels home in January 2022. . .**

## **Obituary for Nancy Ann Scott**



Nancy Ann Scott, 85 of Saginaw, our loving, independent, and strong-willed mother passed away on January 3, 2022. Nancy was born on December 24, 1936, to the late Martin and Nellie (Crawford) Mitchell. Nancy graduated from Saginaw High School. One of Nancy's greatest passions was dancing. It was while out cutting the rug that she caught the eye of Stanley Scott; they dated, fell in love, and danced the years away for 35 years. Nancy and Stanley enjoyed weekly card games, playing poker with family and friends. They enjoyed traveling throughout the country and taking their grandchildren camping.

Nancy was a bookkeeper at Bushey Radiator in Saginaw. She was a faithful member of Countryside Trinity Church and was a previous member of Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Nancy leaves to carry her legacy to her children, Luann (Scott) Keinath, Kimberly Byron (Keith Ball); grandchildren, Matthew (Kari Bradshaw) Keinath, Michael Keinath (Fiancée Andrea Biskner), Jason (Kimberly Eddy) Byron, and Reed (Ashley Burdis) Byron; great-grandchildren, Trinity Bloss, Kellen Keinath, Easton Keinath, Sutton Keinath, Torrence Keinath, Bentley Keinath, Grayson Byron, and Kinzlie Byron, and many nieces and nephews. Along with her parents and husband, Nancy was preceded in death by her sister, Lila (Burton) Neumeyer, and sons-in-law, Michael Stevens and Craig Byron.

Nancy's family will be present to receive visitors on Sunday, January 9, 2022, from Noon until 5:00 PM and again on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 11:00 AM until her Noon Funeral Ceremony at Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 1550 Midland Rd., between State & Gratiot. Nancy's final committal will be at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Countryside Trinity Church or the American Cancer Society. Expressions of sympathy may be shared online at [www.skorupskis.com](http://www.skorupskis.com).

**JERRY BRACHEAR:** Please keep our member and friend, Virginia Brachear and her family in your prayers. Her husband, Jerry Brachear, passed away in January, 2022. I could not find an obituary for Jerry.



**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. A fuller description is below:

### **PER CAPITA FOR 2022**

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 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 2022. 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 2022. 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.

**Annual Reports:** If you have not yet received a copy of the 2021 Annual Report and would like to get one, they are available in the office to be picked up. If you cannot get there to pick one up and would like us to mail one to you, please call the office (989) 793-0125 and let us know. If you get the answering machine, leave a message and one will be mailed to you. Thank you.



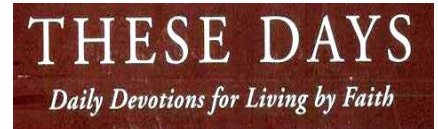
**Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up:** Lori Halase has made the boxes of offering envelopes available for pickup. They are on the table in the alcove area of Fellowship Hall. If you cannot get to church on Sundays to pick them up, the church is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Come to the door at the east end of the building and ring the bell. If you are not able to get here at all, we can mail them to you. Please call the church (989) 793-0125 and if we don't answer, leave a message on the answering machine and they will be mailed out to you.

**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.



**Telephone Directory:** Don't forget to let Kathy in the office know about any change of yours or a family member's address, phone numbers or email addresses so she can update the church records and mailing lists. Please email changes to [countryside@ctcsaginaw.com](mailto:countryside@ctcsaginaw.com) or leave a message at 989 793-0125.

**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.

**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 of Sandy Redfield if you would like an application. Applications are due Monday, March 1, 2022.

**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.







### **BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY**

- 3 Roger Scovill
- 5 Pastor, Jane Young
- 6 Angie Mitchell
- 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
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 14 Andy Smith
- 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 JANUARY**

- 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

### **ANNIVERSARIES APRIL**

None

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

# Happy Valentine's Day

1 John 4:7-8

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

