



April, 2023

CTC CONNECTIONS

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

From the Pastor

----- JANE LYNN YOUNG

As I sit at my desk trying to think of something meaningful to say, the sun is shining thru the window. It seems this year I have been aware of the times the sun is shining. Mostly, I think, because the skies have been so grey. We need the sunshine! I hope that we are entering the season of more sunshine and less grey days.

While I can't predict the weather, I can say with certainty that we are entering the days of Son shine! Easter is upon us and we are Easter people. We are folk who have experienced pain, and darkness. We are the people who have committed to walk with Jesus thru the pain of Holy Week and into the glory of Easter.

The journey we have been on, the journey of Lent has prepared us to face the cross. We begin the final journey with Palm Sunday. What a glorious day! It is full of hope and excitement. It is filled with shouts of recognition that Jesus is our Savior! But it soon turns somber. We gather in the upper room for the last supper with Jesus. We watch as Jesus is turned over to the authorities who finally have a way to kill him. We stand in the shadows during his trial and subsequent crucifixion. It is all too much to bear.

But we are also there on that first Easter morning! We hear Mary telling the good news, that Jesus is Risen! We hear Jesus call us by name. And we are renewed. It has been a long winter. But the Son is shining!

I have friends who live in the south. They are sending me pictures of spring. Their plants are coming alive. I look at my yard and there is not yet any sign of new life. But I know there will be. I know that one day when I go out to fill the bird feeder, or wander to my backyard, I will see it! That first sign of new life. Tender green shoots springing from the ground or on one of the bushes. I know that there is new life just out of sight, but ready to burst forth.

We are Easter people. We know that there is always new life, even when we can't see it. Even when we can't feel it. That is the story of faith.

Blessings



Upcoming Lectionary Readings

<p>April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Isaiah 50:4-9A Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 Or Matthew 27:11-54</p>	<p>Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand. Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God. After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified. Abbreviated reading, Jesus is tried and crucified</p>
<p>April 2, 2023, Maundy Thurs. Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</p>	<p>Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover. What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation. Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lords Supper. Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.</p>
<p>April 7, 2023, Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 Or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42</p>	<p>The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin. A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise. Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful. In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness. Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified, and buried.</p>
<p>April 9, 2023, Easter Acts 10:34-43 Or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 Or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 Or Matthew 28:1-10</p>	<p>Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all. The prophet proclaims God's everlasting love and faithfulness. I will not die, I will live; this is the day that the Lord has made. If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above. Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all. At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene. Women find Jesus' tomb empty; he has been raised from the dead.</p>
<p>April 16, 2023 Acts 1:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31</p>	<p>Peter addresses the people: Jesus is risen, and we, are witnesses. You protect me from death, O God, and show me the path of life. We have a new birth into a living hope through Jesus' resurrection. Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.</p>
<p>April 23, 2023 Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35</p>	<p>Peter continues: Repent and be baptized; receive the Holy Spirit. Death encompassed me, but God delivered me; praise the Lord! You were saved by the blood of Christ; you have been born anew. On the road to Emmaus, two disciples meet the risen Lord.</p>
<p>April 30, 2023 Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10</p>	<p>The believers share all things, worshipping and eating together. The Lord is my shepherd, leading, protecting, and feeding me. Like sheep, we go astray; but Christ is the shepherd of our souls. Jesus says: I am the gate for the sheep; enter by me and be saved.</p>



**YOUR SESSION AT WORK
MARCH 19, 2023
MARY ANN PARKER, CLERK OF SESSION**

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

Minutes of stated session of February 5th meeting approved.

Deacon's Report: Read by Sandy Redfield for Deacon who could not attend.

Clerk's Report: Church membership is 98. Communion was served on February 5th and on March 5th. Communion served to 11 homebound members and 6 family non-members the week of March 5th.

Correspondence: Request for transfer of membership of Kate and Kevin Barnum to Homer Methodist Church approved.

For the record: All statistical reports submitted to General Assembly and United Church of Christ as required.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jane enjoyed her relaxing vacation.

Denominational Report: Mary Ann Parker served as elder commissioner at Presbytery meeting on 3/4/2023. She gave a brief report of that meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: R. Scovill reported that the reconstruction of the new office space is coming along nicely with very little cost thus far.

Christian Outreach: Becky Pequignot was not in attendance but sent report that committee collecting for ten Easter food baskets.

Spiritual Life: Darren Woodke made a motion from committee to the session to have all special services start at 4:30 PM. Motion approved. Maundy Thursday worship will begin at 4:30 PM.

OLD BUSINESS: Women's Association to hold a Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13th.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Jane at 12:55 PM.



April, 2023



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH
EASTER FLOWERS "2023"



<u>GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Nancy Easlick	Richard Easlick
Ronda Otway	Wendell Cole
Dallas & Jackie Williams	Loved Ones
Charlotte Armstrong & Lee Austin	Loved Ones
Ronald & Jean Anne Miller	Harriet Miller & Iola Williams
Marcia Lacker	Bill Lacker
Shirley Groom	Wayne Groom
John & Carol VanArsdale	Don & Orleen Dawson
Pastor Jane Young	Glory of God
Nancy Erndt	Husband, Roy Erndt & Mothers, Elizabeth Ruzowski & Zelma Erndt
Kathy Loviska	Larry Loviska
Michelle & Vinny Martinez	Larry Loviska & Antonio Martinez
Lynne & Randy Groom	Carol Reinke
Virginia Lyons & Family	Don Lyons
Roger Scovill	Loved Ones & Shirlee Scovill
Darren & Joann Woodke	Nancy Woodke & Anita Rodarte
Marilyn & Doug Leffler	Loved Ones
No Name	Family
Chuck & Debbie Davis	Our Parents
Ed, Lori, Rob Halase	Bob & Norma Patterson & Arthur & Frieda Tillock and Thomas & Irene Patterson
Kitty Blehm	M/M William Kaiser; M/M Herman Blehm & Randy Blehm
<u>GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>
Lynne & Randy Groom	Amanda, Daniel, Jacob
Kitty Blehm	Kenton Reagan Keyser; M/M Alex Kaiser & Maren Kaiser; Claire, Ellen, Annie & Cramer Laurenz



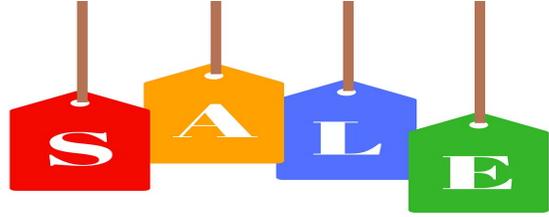
Betty Burr Samaritas Senior Living	Joan Comstock @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home
Betty Hauk Wellspring Assisted Living	Floyd & Lois Krzak @ Home	Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living
Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Virginia Lyon @ New Hope Valley	Norma Meacham @ daughters in North Carolina
Elaine Miner @ Home	Fran Prueter @ Home	Helen Reynolds Wellspring Memory Care
John & Leore Bethune @ Home		Judi Westendorf The Bickford

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. 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.



Friday, May 12th & Saturday, May 13th

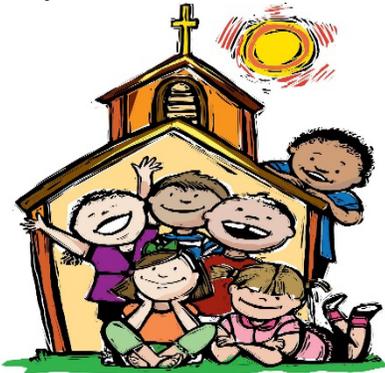
We have accumulated quite a bit of stuff over the past couple of years here at CTC and are now in the planning stages to have a sale to get rid of all the unwanted or unused items currently stored in the rear classroom on the west end of the building and around the church. If you would like to bring 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
<p>Class of 2023</p> <p>Mary Ann Parker Mary Longstreth Roger Scovill</p>	<p>Class of 2023</p> <p>Barbara Groom Nancy Easlick</p>
<p>Class of 2024</p> <p>Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield</p>	<p>Class of 2024</p> <p>Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt</p>
<p>Class of 2025</p> <p>Darren Woodke Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill</p>	<p>Class of 2025</p> <p>Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield</p> <hr/> <p>Co-Opted Member</p> <p>Dan Groom</p>



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

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 bag or envelope if you can do so and place in the pail either on your way in or out of the Church. Thank you.



TIME CHANGE FOR SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

The Session has approved a request from the Spiritual Life Committee to adjust the starting time of our special worship services which including but may not be limited to Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday And Christmas Eve to begin at 4:30 p.m. effective immediately.

Therefore, the Maundy Thursday service is now set for 4:30 p.m. Please plan to arrive by 4:15 p.m. Hope to see you there.

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.



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BOTTLE/CAN DRIVE – SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH.

Our Boy Scout Troup 304 has scheduled a "Bottle/Can Drive" to take place on Sunday, April 16th. If you have any returnable bottles and cans that you can donate, please bring to the church that day



April, 2023

BABY SHOWER

April Mission of the Month

The CTC Women’s Assoc. is having a “Baby Shower” on Saturday, April 22nd which will benefit the Baby Pantry and Underground Railroad. The fun begins at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a baby picture of yourself with no name on it. Hope you can attend.



TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The 2023 Telephone Directories are finished and on the table near the East entrance and in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to have one mailed to you, please call or email the office and let us know.

Email: countryside@ctcsaginaw.com

Phone: 989 793-0125



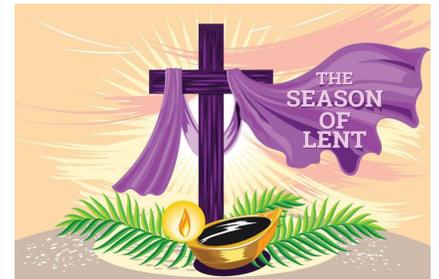
LENTEN SCHEDULE

We have been enjoying a wonderful Lenten Program. The following is what is still to come before Easter.

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

Maundy Thursday service on **April 6th at 4:30 pm**

Easter Sunday, April 9th



EASTER FOOD CARDS

We are collecting \$\$\$ to purchase Easter Food Cards for needy families selected from Weiss School. If you would like to donate, please put your gift in an envelope marked Easter Food and either drop it in the collection plate or mail it to the church with your donation. Thank you.

TRI-CITY SMALL BUSINESS BAZAAR

April 29, 2023–12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

203 S. Washington Ave.

Saginaw, Michigan 48607

Phone: 989 402-5185

Event Description: We formally invite you to participate in our 1st annual Tri-City Small Business Bazaar! This program/event is a flea market style vendor fair designed to highlight small businesses of MANY KINDS and allow businesses to interact with, share information with, and conduct business with new consumers from around the tri-city area. This program/event supports our mission to connect families in our local communities with resources that will increase and extend their quality of life. The need for resources is paramount, especially coming out of a global pandemic. Faith & Family CARES aims to be the compass that leads families toward a life of the highest quality!

Directions:

SVRC Ballroom (2nd Floor of Marketplace)

BIRDS & BLOOMS GOLF CART TOUR

Chippewa Nature Center

May 16, 2023

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

400 S. Badour Rd.

Midland, Michigan 48640

989 631-0830

Event Description: Join Interpretive Naturalists to venture out in search of birds and wildflowers from the comfort of golf carts. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from CNC. This program is especially designed for those with limited mobility. Pre-registration is required for this free program. FREE | All ages, children under 18 w/adult supervision. Registration Required, Space is limited.

Directions:

Chippewa Nature Center 400 S Badour Rd, Midland, MI 48640

FREELAND WALLEYE FESTIVAL

April 27-April 30, 2023

Many festivities, including but not limited to: Citywide Rummage Sales, Carnival, Bingo, Parade, Entertainment, Car Show, Fishing Tournament, Casino, Fireworks and more.



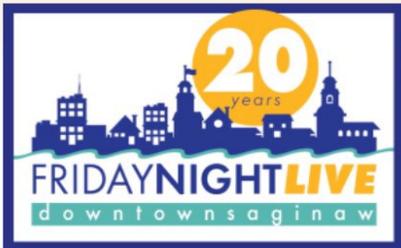
EASTER EGG HUNT & ICE CREAM SUNDAES



We hope you can come to church on Palm Sunday, April 2nd; children are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt, and everyone is invited to join in making their own "Ice Cream Sundaes" with several delicious toppings following the worship service in Fellowship Hall. **You don't want to miss this!!!**



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**YOU CAN PICK UP A FLYER
SHOWING LIST OF SHOWS ON
TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Friday Night Live is a live summer concert series began in 1998 and takes place in Morley Plaza located in the heart of Downtown Saginaw. The 2022 concert series will be the 24th consecutive season. Friday Night Live is one of the many events created by Positive Results Downtown Saginaw. Other events include Harvest Days at the Farmer's Market in September, Holidays in the Heart of the City and the Christmas Parade in November, the Outhouse Races in February, and the Memorial Day Parade in May.

Directions to Morley Plaza, Downtown

Morley Plaza is the park between the Temple Theatre and Huntington Bank. For directions, please use the address: 101 N. Washington, Saginaw, MI 48607

FREE Entertainment • FOOD Vendors • FUN Children's Games • Adult Refreshments Available



WHEN INCLEMENT WEATHER STRIKES

Tune in to channel 12 (WJRT) and watch for their closings and delays. Alternatively, you can go on your phone or computer to WJRT.com and at the top of the page click on the link **CLOSINGS**: **Click here for the latest**. It will take you to their **CLOSINGS AND DELAYS** as pictured below. See the blue arrows below.



NEWS STORM TRACKER 12 SPORTS VIDEO SCHOOL CLOSINGS WATCH CAREERS

CLOSINGS | [Click here for the latest](#) **ABC12:** | [Download Our Apps](#)



CLOSINGS AND DELAYS

[Click here to request a closings account for your church, organization or business.](#)

[Already have an account? Click here to submit a closing or delay.](#)

Closings Last Updated at 9:53am on 3/02/2023

No Closings have been reported at this time





**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE will be celebrated by Saginaw Township on Thursday, May 4, 2023, indoors at the Saginaw Township Fire Station #1, 6171 Shattuck Road, Saginaw, Michigan 48603 beginning at 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

This day is a Solemn Assembly for the nation. Each Christ-follower is called to gather, pray &

petition God for His mercies & grace to once again be bestowed upon our nation. This year, please come . . . and exhort every citizen of heaven to know you know to fulfil this sacred duty.

THE SIXTEEN COMMANDMENTS OF GROWING OLD



#1 - Talk to yourself, because there are times you need expert advice.

#2 - Consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.

#3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop irritating you.

#4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

#5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

#6 - You have days when your life is just a tent away from a circus.

#7 - These days, "on time" is when you get there.

#8 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.

#9 - Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller ?

#10 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

#11 - "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why you're there.

#12 - When you were a child, you thought nap time was punishment. Now it feels like a mini vacation.

#13 - Some days you have no idea what you're doing out of bed.

#14 - You thought growing old would take longer.

#15 - Aging sure has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.

#16 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.



Submitted by one of our members . . .

Dear Jesus,

As you went to the garden to pray to your Father, I shamefully stood back in silence...

As you were flogged and beaten and stood before Pilate, I shamefully stood back in silence...

As you were sentenced to death, savagely beaten again, I shamefully stood back in silence...

As you walked down the Via Delorosa carrying the very cross that you would be hung on, I shamefully stood back in silence...

As the nails were pounded into your hands and feet and the cross was raised, your brutally beaten body hung on the cross as the soldiers and others mocked you, I shamefully stood back in silence...

As the soldiers pierced your side and you came closer to death, you asked your Father to forgive them....I shamefully stood back in silence....

As you took your last breath and died, I shamefully began to feel sorry for myself and because of my unbelief, I looked at this as the END....

But after 3 days and the morning came, I began to joyfully rejoice when the women exclaimed," the tomb is empty and Christ is risen.

You suffered and died on the cross for my sins...Though undeserved, you gave your life to save my soul...Your unconditional, wonderous love has taken me from eternal death to eternal life...THANKS BE TO GOD.

Jesus, I lift your name on high....I thank you for all that you endured for my sake. I will glorify and praise your name and love you forever...Alleluia!

" A sinner saved by grace"



April, 2023



Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

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 Groom
- 3 Eric Smith
- 8 Christian (Volker) Saxton
- 11 Robert Bortner

- 11 Dana Hansen Cooper
- 19 Kitty Blehm
- 20 Marilyn Leffler
- 21 Jasmyn Volker
- 30 Darren Woodke
- 30 John Furlo

ANNIVERSARIES APRIL

None Known

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
- 29 Ronald & Jean Anne Miller



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