



CTC CONNECTIONS

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

From the Pastor

----- JANE LYNN YOUNG

As I write this, I am aware that it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The church is decorated, we are ready to light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope. I love that in the church, our Christmas season begins on the first Sunday of Advent and is observed as Hope Sunday.

This year, I find myself drawn into this season of candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. I think about those things - a lot! It seems impossible to live a life of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Especially as we read about war and other violence. When so many are killed, when so many lives are disrupted, when there is so much hate, the message of the Advent Candles seems impossible.

But then we worship a God who does the impossible. In a world that is broken God sends us Jesus. Jesus reminds us what it is to live hope, peace, joy and love. For these are not just far away concepts, they are the reality of our loving God.

Some friends asked me what I want for Christmas. They quickly followed the question with: "something other than world peace." That has been my answer for many, many years. And while in the past I have come up with a few things I want, this year I truly do not want anything. I don't need anything. I don't have room to put away anything! Well, maybe there is something I want. Maybe a candle, so when I say my evening prayers, I can light a candle and pray that the world does not lose hope. That maybe the world will find a way to live in peace. That maybe joy will be felt everywhere. That maybe love will inform all decisions. Maybe, just maybe this is the year that I will work harder in my little corner of the world to help bring about these things.

Merry Christmas!

Grace and truth,
Pastor Jane





Upcoming Lectionary Readings

<p>December 3, 2023 Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37</p>	<p>Tear open the heavens and come down; save us from our sin. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us. God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ's coming. In those days the stars will fall from heaven; keep awake.</p>
<p>December 10, 2023 Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8</p>	<p>Comfort my people; a voice cries: prepare the way of the Lord! God will speak peace; faithfulness and righteousness will meet. God is patient with us, but the day of the Lord is coming. In the wilderness, John baptizes and proclaims the one to come.</p>
<p>December 17, 2023 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 Or Luke 1:46b-55 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28</p>	<p>The spirit of the Lord is upon me; I will rejoice in my Savior. When the Lord restored our fortunes, we shouted with joy. My soul magnifies the Lord, who has done great things. Rejoice, pray, give thanks; may God keep you until Christ's coming. John came to testify to the light, so that all might believe.</p>
<p>December 24, 2023 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 Or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38</p>	<p>The Lord will build a house for David and his descendants. My soul magnifies the Lord, who has done great things. I will sing of God's steadfast love and faithfulness to David. Glory to God for the mystery now revealed to all peoples! The angel Gabriel appears to Mary; her child will be God's Son.</p>
<p>December 31, 2023 Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40</p>	<p>The Lord will give you a new name; you will be a crown of beauty. Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth. Through the Son and the Spirit, we may call God Abba, Father. Jesus is presented in the temple; Simeon and Anna rejoice.</p>



John & Leore Bethune @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home	Betty Hauk Wellspring Assisted Living
Floyd & Lois Krzak Floyd @ St. Francis Home Lois @ Home	Avis Leach @ Roosevelt House	Marilyn Leffler New Hope Valley
Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living	Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Virginia Lyon New Hope Valley
Norma Meacham Grand Haven, MI	Elaine Miner @ Home	Mary Ann Parker Union Court Ass't Living St. Charles, MI
Fran Prueter @ Home	Judi Westendorf The Bickford	Dick Woodke @ Home

ELDERS & DEACONS – 2023 TO 2025

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



Treasurer's Report - Mari McKenzie

Countryside Trinity Church
Changes in Equity
January 2023 - October 2023

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS					
UNRESTRICTED					
Memorial Fund	18,092.13	2,630.00	-	-	20,722.13
General Fund	16,381.31	78,250.13	(91,419.80)	14,450.00	17,661.64
Bricks Fund	1,335.85	-	-	-	1,335.85
Mission Fund	13.75	-	-	-	13.75
Minister Compensation Fun	71,675.70	4,809.37	-	(5,350.00)	71,135.07
Endowment - Expendable	71,510.15	9,823.85	-	(9,100.00)	72,234.00
Subtotal Unrestricted	<u>179,008.89</u>	<u>95,513.35</u>	<u>(91,419.80)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,102.44</u>
DONOR RESTRICTED					
Food Account	1,551.52	840.00	(2,012.00)	-	379.52
Good Samaritan	2,250.64	-	(300.00)	-	1,950.64
Youth Experience Fund	245.81	500.00	(680.00)	-	65.81
Parking Lot Fund	1,115.00	-	(118.76)	-	996.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	6,006.43	1,279.58	(916.00)	-	6,370.01
Endowment Nonexpendable F	153,334.00	349.00	-	-	153,683.00
Subtotal Donor Restricted	<u>164,503.40</u>	<u>2,968.58</u>	<u>(4,026.76)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,445.22</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>343,512.29</u>	<u>98,481.93</u>	<u>(95,446.56)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>346,547.66</u>



We have received our "Community Rewards check from Kroger's in the amount of \$42.45. If you shop at Kroger's for anything and have not yet made Countryside Trinity Church your charity of choice, please do so. If you need assistance, see Kathy Loviska.

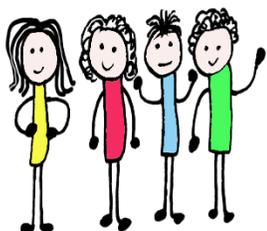


WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

The next CTC Women's Association Meeting is Saturday, December 9th beginning at 11:30 a.m. Please bring your lunch.

A GROUP WILL BE MEETING AT THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND AT 6:00 P.M. TO GO TO THE LIVING NATIVITY IN FRANKENTROST. ALL ARE WELCOME.



CTC'S MISSIONS FOR DECEMBER ARE 1) CHRISTMAS FOOD CARDS, 2) CHRISTMAS JOY, AND 3) THE CHRISTMAS FUND. MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. MARK YOUR ENVELOPE "CHRISTMAS FOOD" OR CHRISTMAS JOY/FUND". THANK YOU.



Please donate to the one or ones you have an interest in supporting. Mark your donations accordingly.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.

ADVENT PROGRAM

Our Advent program begins this Sunday, December 3, 2023, with Soup/Bread and Scripture following worship service. Hope you can attend.



On December 15th our Christian Outreach Committee will be handing out Christmas bags to all of the students at Weiss Elementary School (approximately 357 of them). We are very excited about this Mission and want to thank all of you who donated candy, money, and your time.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:30 p.m. on December 24, 2023. Hope you will be able to come celebrate Christmas with us. If you need further information, please contact the office during regular business hours, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**THERE WILL BE NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE ON
CHRISTMAS EVE**



HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING DRIVE

NOVEMBER 15-JANUARY 15

**DON'T THROW OUT YOUR OLD HOLIDAY LIGHTS. RECYCLE THEM AT ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING LOCATIONS DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS!**

Brady Township Hall
16020 W. Peet Rd., Oakley
Bridgeport Twp Govt Center
6740 Dixie Hwy., Bridgeport
Can Council
1311 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw
Carrollton Twp DPW
1645 Mapleridge Rd., Saginaw
Frankenmuth City Hall
240 W. Genesee St., Frankenmuth
Hayes Park
(During Freeland Light Show, starting 12/1)
9200 Midland Rd., Freeland

James Township Hall
6060 Swan Creek Rd., Saginaw
Kochville Twp Office
5851 Mackinaw Rd., Saginaw
Lakefield Township Hall
21050 Lakefield Rd., Merrill
Mid Michigan Waste Authority
2063 S. Miller Rd., Saginaw
Richland Township Office
1180 N. Hemlock Rd., Hemlock
Saginaw City Public Works
1435 S. Washington St., Saginaw

Saginaw Twp DPS Bldg
4870 Shattuck Rd., Saginaw
Spaulding Twp Office
5025 East Rd., Saginaw
St. Charles District Library
132 S. Saginaw St., St. Charles
Thomas Twp Public Safety Bldg
8215 Shields Dr., Saginaw
Wheeler Township Office
8510 E. Monroe Rd., Wheeler
Zilwaukee City Office
319 Tittabawassee Rd., Saginaw

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CAN
(CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT) COUNCIL.





Bay City Holiday Light Recycling

Bay City Recycles will be collecting holiday light strands for recycling through **January 15th 2021**.

Holiday Lights can be dropped off during regular business hours at the following locations:

- ✓ **Bay City Recycles – Drop-off Center:** 2900 N. Water Street, Bay City (New Location 2020)
- ✓ **Bay County Civic Arena:** 4231 Shrestha Dr, Bay City, MI 48706 (New Location 2020)
- ✓ **Hampton Township Hall:** 801 W. Center Rd, Essexville, MI 48732 (New Location 2020)
- ✓ **Bangor Township Adm Building:** 180 State Park Dr, Bay City, MI 48706 (New Location 2020)
- ✓ **Bay City Recycles (City Hall):** 301 Washington Ave., Bay City, MI 48708
- ✓ **Bay City Electric Light & Power:** 900 S. Water St., Bay City, MI 48708
- ✓ **Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy:** 706 S. Euclid Ave., Bay City, MI 48706
- ✓ **Wirt Library:** 500 Center Ave., Bay City, MI 48708
- ✓ **Sage Library:** 100 E. Midland St., Bay City, MI 48706
- ✓ **Clements Electric:** 204 S. Dean St., Bay City, MI 48706
- ✓ **Bay County Community Center:** 800 JFK Drive, Bay City, MI 48706
- ✓ **Bay County Building:** 515 Center Ave, Bay City, MI 48708
- ✓ **Midland Recyclers:** 4305 E. Ashman St., Midland, MI 48642

ACCEPTED: Any type of holiday *STRING* lights including LEDs, mini-light strings, twinkle lights, and rope lights (working or not).

NOT ACCEPTED: Packaging, individual light bulbs, string reels, extensions cords, etc.

Don't be a Wishful Recycler, we want your recyclables, not your TRASH!



Questions? Call Bay City Recycles at **989-894-8312**

Follow us on [facebook.com/BayCityRecycles](https://www.facebook.com/BayCityRecycles)

This program is being provided in partnership with Resourceful Recycling in Chesaning. Resourceful Recycling will process the lights for proper recycling.



Please keep Gwen Henderson and her family in your prayers. Her son, Mark, passed away on November 26, 2023. A memorial service is scheduled at Deisler's Funeral Home on Saturday, December 2, 2023, with visitation at 10:00 a.m. followed by the service at Noon. Mark's obituary follows:



Stephen Mark Henderson

Stephen Mark Henderson, beloved son, father, grandfather, brother, and friend passed away Sunday, November 26, 2023, after a brief battle with cancer. He was 72. Mark was born January 31, 1951, in Saginaw, the son of Gwen (Minnis) Henderson. He attended Arthur Hill High School before enlisting in the United States Army in 1968. Mark served in Germany during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged in 1972. Once he returned home, Mark enrolled at Delta College and began working as a CNC machinist. He had a passion for music and played several instruments with his band Stuart Little. Mark enjoyed watching sports and was an avid Detroit Lions fan. He had a tremendous sense of humor and always loved a good joke. Family was important to Mark as he always looked forward to reunions and family gatherings. More than anything, he was a devoted father whose commitment to his children and their various activities was unwavering.

Left to cherish his memory are his mother, Gwen Henderson; children, Stephen (Randi) Henderson and Krista Henderson; granddaughter, Logan Wood; siblings, Patrick Henderson, Randy Henderson, Karen Shinevar, and Julie (Bill) Pohlman; and many nieces and nephews. Mark was preceded in death by his beloved sister Janice Marden.

FUNERAL: Memorial services will take place at 12 p.m. Saturday, December 2, 2023 at Deisler Funeral Home, 2233 Hemmeter Road (off State Street).

VISITATION: Family and friends may gather at the funeral home on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

MEMORIALS: Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider Stephen's family through the care of his son Stephen Henderson.

Deisler Funeral Home is honored to serve the Henderson Family. Please share your thoughts and memories with the family at the funeral home or through www.deislerfuneralhome.com.



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Joseph & Doris Ruth
- 24 Bruce & Patricia Denno

BIRTHDAYS JANUARY

- 5 Norma Meacham
- 8 Zachary Vega
- 12 Julie Smith Lowe
- 13 Sarah Gonzales
- 13 Kevin Diggs
- 14 Betty Hauk
- 17 Madisen J. Groom
- 22 Mary Ann Parker
- 24 Chelsea Parker
- 28 Irene Ohmer
- 30 John Bethune
- 31 Peter Dominguez

ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY

- 6 Pervez & Ezra Yusaf
- 7 Ron & Brenda Platt
- 11 Robert & Jean Bortner
- 28 Michael & Amanda Groom

BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY

- 3 Roger Scovill
- 5 Pastor Jane Young
- 6 Angie Mitchell (Former 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 Michelle Martinez
- 26 Leore Bethune
- 26 Helen Reynolds

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY

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



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



HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

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