

# CTC CONNECTIONS

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

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## FROM THE PASTOR

---- Rev. Dr. Jane Lynn Yount

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*“Join us on “Easter Sunday”, March 31<sup>st</sup>”*

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The other day I was standing in line waiting to check out from Tractor Supply. There was a rack with the *Farmer’s Almanac* in front of me. I was pondering getting one, something I haven’t done in years. I have enjoyed reading it over the years. The mix of practical insights and weather predictions is great! Amazon says this about it:

The 2024 edition contains the fun facts, predictions, and feature items that have made it a cultural icon: traditionally 80 percent–accurate weather forecasts; notable astronomical events and time-honored astrological dates; horticultural, culinary, fashion, and other trends; historical hallmarks; best fishing days; time- and money-saving garden advice; recipes for delicious dishes; facts on folklore, farmers, home remedies, and husbandry; amusements and contests; plus, too much more to mention—all in the inimitable Almanac style that has charmed and educated readers since 1792.

80% accurate weather forecasts are worth the purchase price!

As we head into April, I’ve been thinking about the weather. March came in like a lamb, and it appears it is going out like a lamb. I don’t know if it is allowed to do that! Shouldn’t it go out like a lion, since it came in like a lamb? Although I’m happy that that is not the case. I am ready for sunshine and warmth. I can look forward to that because I live in Michigan! We have all four seasons. Sometimes on the same day!

Our lives have seasons. Most of us have experienced seasons of love, loss, joy, sadness, and often sameness. The good news is, in all the seasons of our lives, God is present. As we move further in the season of spring, may your awareness of God’s presence in your life grow.

Grace and Truth,

Pastor Jane



## UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS

<p><b>April 7, 2024</b>            Acts 4:32-35            Psalm 133            1 John 1:1-2:2            John 20:19-31</p>	<p>The disciples share everything and testify to Jesus' resurrection.            How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.            Walk in the light of God; confess your sins and be forgiven.            Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.</p>
<p><b>April 14, 2024</b>            Acts 3:12-19            Psalm 4            1 John 3:1-7            Luke 24:36b-48</p>	<p>Peter speaks of Jesus' rejection and calls the people to repent.            Answer me when I call, O God; in you I will find joy and peace.            See what love the Father has given us; we are children of God.            The risen Lord eats with the disciples and interprets the Scriptures.</p>
<p><b>April 21, 2024</b>            Acts 4:5-12            Psalm 23            1 John 3:16-24            John 10:11-18</p>	<p>Filled with the Spirit, Peter challenges those who have arrested him.            The Lord is my shepherd, leading, protecting, and feeding me.            Love means laying down one's life for those who are in need.            Jesus says: I am the good shepherd; I lay down my life for my sheep.</p>
<p><b>April 28, 2024</b>            Acts 8:26-40            Psalm 22:25-31            1 John 4:7-21            John 15:1-8</p>	<p>Philip meets an Ethiopian eunuch, who asks to be baptized.            In the great congregation I will praise the Lord, my deliverer.            Let us love one another; we love because God first loved us.            Jesus says: I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me.</p>

### PER CAPITA DONATIONS

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 per capita for 2024. 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 2024. 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.

# TREASURER'S RREPORT – MARI MCKENZIE

Countryside Trinity Church  
Changes in Equity  
January 2024

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>					
Memorial Fund	20,782.13	115.00	-	-	20,897.13
General Fund	29,570.75	6,180.53	(11,321.78)	1,450.00	25,879.50
Bricks Fund	1,335.85	-	-	-	1,335.85
Mission Fund	37.50	-	-	-	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	77,350.10	-	-	(535.00)	76,815.10
Endowment - Expendable	83,850.11	897.99	-	(915.00)	83,833.10
Subtotal Unrestricted	<u>212,926.44</u>	<u>7,193.52</u>	<u>(11,321.78)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>208,798.18</u>
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED</b>					
Food Account	839.52	60.00	-	-	899.52
Good Samaritan	1,750.64	-	-	-	1,750.64
Youth Experience Fund	65.81	-	-	-	65.81
Parking Lot Fund	996.24	-	-	-	996.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	6,370.01	323.10	-	-	6,693.11
Endowment Nonexpendable F	<u>153,477.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>153,477.00</u>
Subtotal Donor Restricted	<u>163,499.22</u>	<u>383.10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,882.32</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<u><u>376,425.66</u></u>	<u><u>7,576.62</u></u>	<u><u>(11,321.78)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>372,680.50</u></u>



**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 are able to 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, Barb Groom, and Marcia Lacker. Thank you.**

Our *"Cake Fund"* is getting low! If you enjoy celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries during the coffee hours following worship, please consider giving a donation to the *"Cake Fund"* so this tradition can continue. Envelopes marked *"Cake Fund"* are on the table in Fellowship Hall – or just indicate *"Cake Fund"* on the memo line of your check or envelope. Thank you.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

## CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The next CTC Women's Association Meeting is Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:30 a.m. We will be having "Grilled Cheese Sandwiches & Tomato Soup".



CTC'S MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL IS "BABY SHOWER" WHICH WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> BEGINNING AT 11:30 A.M. WE WILL BE HOLDING THE BABY SHOWER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING. BABY AND TODDLER CLOTHING, BLANKETS, TOYS, DIAPERS AND MONETARY DONATIONS ARE WELCOME. MARK YOUR ENVELOPE ACCORDINGLY.

Please donate to the one or ones you have an interest in supporting. If you have a suggestion for a Mission that we can support, please let Kathy in the office know. Mark your donations accordingly.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.

## **REMAINING CTC LENTEN SCHEDULE**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**                      **MARCH 28, 2024**  
Worship service at 4:30 p.m. with Communion.

**GOOD FRIDAY**                              **MARCH 29, 2024**  
No service at Countryside

**EASTER SUNDAY**                              **MARCH 31, 2024**  
Worship service at 10:30 a.m. with Communion.



### **Lunch with Pastor!**

Pack your lunch each Wednesday and join me for fellowship and Bible Study. Come each Wednesday, or the Wednesday's you can. Together we can grow in understanding.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?



We hope you can join us on Sunday, April 14, 2024, when the UCC Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, will be joining us for the worship service. She will be doing the sermon, and we are excited to meet her

## **The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel**

**Lillian Daniel** is a nationally recognized preacher, teacher and writer who cares deeply about clergy and congregations. After serving four unique congregations in the UCC, she now feels called by the Holy Spirit to leadership as the next Conference Minister of Michigan.

A graduate of Yale Divinity School, she began her ministry as an Associate Pastor at a large church in Cheshire, Connecticut. From there she became a Solo Pastor at a small urban church in New Haven, Connecticut where the choir outnumbered the congregation, but over eight years, they grew to become a vibrant, interracial, community, that also became Open and Affirming. This would be the first of three churches to go through the Open and Affirming process under her pastoral leadership, which also includes extensive experience organizing for justice in politically diverse settings, serving on the boards of Interfaith Worker Justice and the [Community Renewal Society](#). After ten years as a Senior Pastor at a large church in the western suburbs of Chicago, she moved to the beautiful driftless region of Dubuque, Iowa, where she has been Senior Pastor at an historic urban church since 2016.

In the United Church of Christ, she has the distinction of having been a General Synod delegate from all of the three conferences she has served: Connecticut, Illinois and Iowa. A regular writer for the UCC Stillspeaking Devotionals, she was a founding member of the UCC Writer's Group that has produced many written materials for the denomination and in Iowa, she is currently a member of her association's Committee on Ministry.

Lillian Daniel is also a widely read author whose latest book, [Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To](#) generated international conversation about the changing religious landscape. It continues the theme of her 2013 book [When 'Spiritual But Not Religious' Is Not Enough](#) about the growing number of people who claim "none" as their religious preference. Featured in the New York Times and on PBS, Lillian Daniel's writing has been described as "biting, hilarious, pitch perfect, tender, and often stunningly beautiful," and her book [This Odd and Wondrous Calling](#) is taught in many seminaries.

Passionate about faith formation for both clergy and laity, Lillian Daniel currently teaches UCC History and Polity at Chicago Theological Seminary where she is also on the Board of Trustees. She has taught preaching at a number of schools, including University of Chicago, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School, although she can't be held responsible for everyone who falls asleep in church. Perhaps most importantly, at every church she has served, numerous church members and seminarians have felt the call to become pastors and they now serve at churches across the world.

Lillian Daniel has spoken at the National Cathedral, Duke Chapel, King's College, London and Queen's College, Ontario, and now she looks forward to speaking at UCC churches across the Michigan Conference, with a focus on communication, connection and celebration, as together we discern what our still speaking God is calling us to do next.

**YOUR SESSION AT WORK**  
**March 10, 2024**  
**MINUTES TAKEN BY KATHY LOVISKA, CLERK PRO TEM**

Following prayer by Pastor and Moderator, Jane Lynn Young, appointed Kathy Loviska, clerk pro-tem in Clerk's absence.

Minutes of Stated Session meeting of February 4, 2024, stand approved with corrections. Minutes from January 21, 2024, Called Congregational Meeting, January 28, 2024, Annual Congregational Meeting, and February 25, 2024, Congregational Meeting stand approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nothing new to report from Finance & Stewardship. Same as end of December.

**Clerk's Report:** Kathy Loviska and Jane Young prepared and filed the statistical report online.

**Pastor's Report:** Jane will meet with Heidi, Pat Denno's granddaughter, who wishes to be married at Countryside on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

**Denominational Report:** Jane will be meeting with Lillian Daniel, Conference Minister from the UCC via Zoom who will be preaching at Countryside on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**PNC Report:** The person the Committee was talking with declined – nothing else new.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Building & Grounds:** Blinds for the new office have been installed. During installation a tear in the blind was found and a new blind was ordered to replace it at no cost to us. The new one will be installed on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **Christian Outreach:** Kathy Loviska reported that we are pretty much all set for the Easter Bag give-away. Bags will be distributed on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Personnel:** No report.
- **Spiritual Life:** No report.
- **Nominating:** No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Kathy Loviska reported that banners could be purchased for approximately \$50 to \$75 each. The township does not require a permit if the sign is 16 square feet or less. If larger than that, a permit would be required. The cost is \$30 which would allow for 35 days of usage and when permit is applied for the dates we plan to put the sign out would be listed so that only one permit would be required as long as it is no longer than the 35 day limit.
- Kathy Loviska reported that for the size of our church, we can do our Telephone Directory and add pictures to it without any additional cost. Tom Ladner has agreed to take pictures of those who can come into the church during designated times yet to be determined. For homebound, perhaps they could send us a digital picture, or Kathy said she could go and take a picture of those homebound that wish to be included.
- Session members selected the Committee they wish to participate in for 2024.
- Per Capita was set at \$30.00 per person for 2024.

**Adjournment: M/S/C** to adjourn the meeting in the absence of any other business. Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Jane at 12:05 p.m. Next stated meeting will be Sunday, April 21, 2024.



# YOUR CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

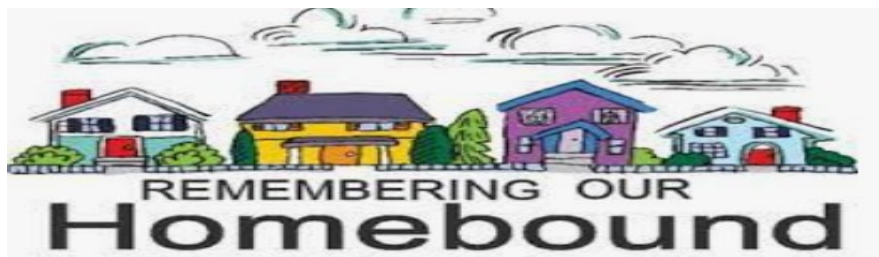


We delivered Easter bags to the students who attend Weiss Elementary School on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> as they prepared to leave for "Spring Break". They were all so excited to see us and very grateful to receive their gift.

Thanks to all of you who donated and who helped pack the bags and deliver them. We had a wonderful time. Here are a few photos.



SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
<b>Class of 2024</b> Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	<b>Class of 2024</b> Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt
<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> Barb Groom Dan Groom Paige Pequignot



<b>John &amp; Leore Bethune</b> @ Home	<b>Dawn Curtis</b> @ Home	<b>Betty Hauk</b> Hoyt Nursing Home
<b>Floyd &amp; Lois Krzak</b> Floyd @ St. Francis Home Lois @ 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>Virginia Lyon</b> Roosevelt House/Hemlock
<b>Norma Meacham</b> Grand Haven, MI	<b>Elaine Miner</b> @ Home	<b>Elaine O'Keefe</b> Great Lakes Rehab
<b>Fran Prueter</b> @ Home	<b>Judi Westendorf</b> The Bickford	<b>Dick Woodke</b> @ Home



**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.



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**OUR BOY SCOUT TROUP 304** has been given a free spot at the Freeland Walleye Festival on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and they are planning to have a "Bake Sale". If anyone wishes to help them by providing a "Home-baked" item for the sale, please bring your baked goods to the church no later than Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you are unable to get your item(s) to the church during those times, please contact either Roger Scovill (989) 439-4721 or Carol VanArsdale (989) 860-1756 to arrange a time and place to drop off your baked goods. Thanks.

**HERE IS A REPORT FROM THE TROOP:** Troop 304 meets every Tuesday night at Countryside Trinity Church from 7:00-8:30 PM. We just finished the Indian Lore merit badge with Mr. Reis and are currently working on the Citizenship in the Community merit badge with Mr. Faupel. We will be attending a township council meeting in May to complete one of the requirements. On February 20, a court of honor was held to recognize scouts who earned rank and advancement since December. On February 27, we went to the bowling alley in St. Charles for a night of fun and fellowship with area troops 337 (Hemlock), and Saginaw troops 312 and 321.

March 15-17: We attended Camp Kiwanis in Frankenmuth for Troop Leader Training and Skills Weekend. Scouts Caleb Harvey, Dominic Johnson, and Bobby Treadway taught scouts skills first aid, knife safety, and woods tools. Scoutmaster Mr. Reis went over leadership positions and Assistant Scoutmaster Mr. Faupel taught a session on the Patrol Method. We also had a flag retirement ceremony on Saturday night.

Upcoming events:

May 3-5: Troop 304 will be attending Attawandaron Scout Camp in Lambton Shores, Ontario, Canada for the CAN AN Camporee. The event will be filled with fun activities along with great food and fellowship. Troop 304 has been going to the Spring Camporee in Canada every year since 2014 - skipping 2020-2022 due to COVID. Last year the troop attended the International Brotherhood Camporee in Dorchester, Ontario.

July 21-27: Troop 304 will be attending Summer camp at Camp Rotary in Clare, Michigan.

Mark Faupel

Troop 304





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### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual 18-Hole Fundraiser Special Vision Golf Outing

Benefiting Special Olympics & Choroideremia Research Foundation

Saturday, June 1, 2024 - Valley View Farms Golf Course

\$70.00 per person includes Golf, Cart, Lunch, Door Prizes and Raffles

4-Person Scramble Format-9 a.m. Registration with a 10 a.m. Shotgun Start

**Flyers are on the table in Fellowship Hall** – or Call Kim: 989 860-5309 or David : 989 245-7226



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**PHOTOGRAPHS:** We are working on a new project to add members and friends photographs to our Telephone Directory. Our member, Tom Ladner, has graciously agreed to be our photographer. We have a few times scheduled for taking photos. The scheduled dates are as follows:

Sunday, April 28, 2024, following worship service.

Thursday, April 18, 2024, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 12, 2024, following worship service.

If you are unable to come to the church at any of those times and wish to have your picture in the directory – please call Kathy Loviska in the office at (989) 793-0125 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and she will make other arrangements to get your photo taken.



# DOWNTOWN SAGINAW MARKET



203 S. Washington

You'll find us under the outdoor pavilion  
at the SVRC Marketplace.

## 2024 Season

**Wednesday and Friday**  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Saturday**  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22**  
**THROUGH**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30**



203 S.  
Washin  
gton

You'll find us  
under the  
outdoor pavilion

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# 2024 MARKET EVENTS

## May 22/24/25 OPENING WEEK

**Wednesday & Friday 10 am - 3 pm - Saturday 10 am - 1 pm**

--Live Entertainment, Customer Giveaways, Saturday is Kids Day

## (Wednesday) June 19 JUNETEENTH - FREEDOM DAY - CELEBRATION

**1 pm - 7 pm**

--Live Entertainment Including Local Choirs, Dramatic Spoken Word Poetry and MORE! Customer Giveaways, Family Friendly Games and Activities & MORE

## (Wednesday) July 24 A VERY MERRY MARKET CHRISTMAS IN JULY

**1 pm - 7 pm**

--Live Entertainment (including a local choir), Customer Giveaways, Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, Pie Baking Contest, Family Friendly Games and Activities & MORE

## (Sunday) August 4 National Farmers Market Week Kick-Off

**10 am - 3 pm**

--Live Entertainment, Customer Giveaways, Food Preservation Demonstrations, Family Friendly Games and Activities & MORE

## (Friday) August 23 (Annual DSFM) MID-MICHIGAN HARVEST DAYS

**1 pm - 7 pm**

--Live Entertainment, Customer Giveaways, Hot Pepper Eating Contest, Family Friendly Games and Activities & MORE

## (Friday) September 27 DSFM ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

**Registration and drop off 9 am -10:30 am**

**Public Tasting 11 am - 1 pm**

**Judging 12 pm**

## (Saturday) October 26 HALLOWEEN AT THE MARKET

**10 am - 1 pm**

--A SPOOKTACULAR Trick-or-Treating Event for EVERYONE! Treats, Family Friendly Games & MORE 11 am - 1pm





## **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

### **ANNIVERSARIES APRIL**

None Known

### **BIRTHDAYS MAY**

- 1 Gwen Henderson
- 4 Joshua Gonzales
- 5 Sue Smith
- 6 Marcia Lacker
- 12 Barbara Groom
- 18 Doris Ruth
- 21 Seth Diggs
- 24 Katlyn Hanson
- 26 Charles Ohmer
- 26 Lore Woodke
- 28 Sue Paterson

### **ANNIVERSARIES MAY**

- 4 Tom & Chong Ladner
- 7 Floyd & Lois Krzak
- 18 Randy & Lynne Groom

### **BIRTHDAYS JUNE**

- 2 Michael Groom
- 3 Eric Smith
- 11 Robert Bortner
- 11 Dana Hansen Cooper
- 19 Kitty Blehm
- 20 Marilyn Leffler
- 30 Darren Woodke

### **ANNIVERSARIES JUNE**

- 11 Rylan & Katlyn Hanson
- 21 Edward & Lori Halase
- 29 Ronald & Jean Anne Miller



## **COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH**

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Telephone: 989 793-0125

Email: [countryside@ctcsaginaw.com](mailto:countryside@ctcsaginaw.com)

Website: [ctcsaginaw.com](http://ctcsaginaw.com)

# Spring is Coming!!!

Springtime! Your message of hope to a world tiring of winter's starkness, longing for that first crocus to push through snow's icy blanket and spread its leaves, like arms outstretched, to its creator, Springtime! Our yearly reminder, if we needed one, that to a world that was dark and cold, a world devoid of love's sweet warmth, you sent your Son to break through sin's icy blanket, and arms outstretched on a cross, he brought us hope. Thank you.

