

Countryside Trinity Church

AUGUST, 2019 Newsletter



Countryside Trinity Church has a "Prayer Chain" and we would love to add your friends and family to those we pray for. Please call the church office to provide Your loved one's information. 989 793-0125.



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 in order for CTC to continue to grow and move forward. If you are interested in becoming a worship helper, Liturgist, sing in the choir or have any questions about how you can help, please speak with Darren Woodke (Liturgist), John Bethune (Ushers), Dan (Choir) or Barb Groom (Kitchen).



The Mission for the Month of August is Weiss School Back Pack's Supplies.

a message from

OUR PASTOR

Thank you for welcoming me as your pastor! Your warmth, your openness, your stories, all have left me with a sense of being welcomed. I am looking forward to joining you in your ministry here at Countryside Trinity.

So you might know more about me, here are some facts. I am the second child, first boy, of Anne and Dick Piper, both of whom were native Pennsylvanians, who moved down to Miami, FL, my place of birth, soon after they were married. I have four siblings, 3 sisters, and one brother. My dad is 92 and still lives in Miami. I met my wife, Leslie, at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA., and we have been married for almost 37 years. I have a daughter who teaches high school in Phoenix and a son who works in Montreal. I went to Duke University, love water sports, have a dog Louie, and am "umbilically connected to the temperate zone."

I find that it is good to be known, and it is even better to be known by God. Listen to the words of celebration in Psalm 139.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

To be known is to be acknowledged and validated as significant and loved. To be known before God is to receive grace.

With that being said, I want to get to know you. I want to know of your joys and celebrations and thankfulness for the way God has intervened in your life

I want to get to know your struggles, those places where you and God are working things out, where you are trusting God to bring you greater wisdom or insight or strength or whatever it is you need to live out your calling.

I want to know where you might be experiencing grief and hurt in your life. What are the issues around which we can join in prayer, asking God to bring a healing touch and wholeness?

I want to know of your experiences in the church, the good, the bad, the ugly.

I would invite you to call me at the church so that we might set something up. You can talk with me in my office if you would like; I have a wonderful rocker that invites conversation. Somewhere other than the church works too. I can meet you for breakfast or lunch or coffee. I can come to your house, or anywhere else where there won't be too many distractions. Though I find face to face works best in becoming known to each other, if the phone works best for you, that's fine with me. So give me a call and let's set something up. If meetings during the day aren't a possibility for you, I would be glad to meet with you in the evening. I will need time to schedule this, so give me a call.

Take Care,
Brant

Our Hymn of the Month

Each week this month we will be singing the hymn, *God is Here!* #409, from the purple Glory to God Hymnal. This hymn recounts for us our efforts to reach out to God in worship each week in hopes of being renewed by God's Spirit and strengthened for our lives of service while its music sets the respectful and hopeful tone for our gathering as the people of God in the presence of God.

The Glory to God hymnal is fairly new to us as a congregation, having come to us as a gracious gift from the Warren Ave. members with the hope that it would enrich our worship together. Within it are most of the old favorite hymns we know by heart, as well as newer hymns that offer words and music which will empower us to connect with generations who will come after us. It is our hope that in learning these newer hymns we will offer to those who are outside of our walls presently a welcoming place where the consolation and abundant life of God can be found. The reasons behind the new Glory to God hymnal are found in its Theological Vision Statement:

It will be offered in a world in which trust in human progress has been undermined and eclectic spiritualities often fail to satisfy deep spiritual hungers. It will be used by a church many of whose members have not had life-long formation by Scripture and basic Christian doctrine, much less Reformed theology. It is meant for a church marked by growing diversity in liturgical practice....To inspire and embolden a church facing these formidable challenges, the overarching theme of the collection will be God's powerful acts of creation, redemption, and final transformation....
(http://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/Basics/7432PCOCsstatem_00000083738.pdf)

Though the New Century Hymnal is not new to everyone, we will also be mining this resource for Hymns of the Month for new songs for these same reasons. It is my hope that as we face the challenge of learning them together, they will bind us together through the opportunities they offer us to express the joy of our faith in new ways. It is also my hope that you will explore these two hymnals to bring your suggestions for Hymns of the Month to Dan or me for consideration.

Brant

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

Mary Ann Parker

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of June 29, 2019, that you may find helpful:

Opening: Joyce Hetzler per request of Pastor Margaret Vedverveld, served as our moderator and opened with prayer.

Clerk's Report: Church membership is 133. Communion was served to 53 parishioners on June 2, 2019.

Pastor's report: Bridge Interim Pastor Margaret Vredevelde submitted a written report for review.

Designated Pastor Nominating Committee: The terms of call for Rev. Brant Piper were reviewed by session members. Motion sustained to establish a 403B matching plan for availability for all full time exempt employees.

Denominational report: Longstreth, attended as elder commissioner, gave a report of Presbytery meeting on June 4, 2019. Parker also attended and talked briefly on the ALICE report on poverty in Michigan.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: C. Davis reported that having the parking lot seal coated would be a waste of money because the lot would require more work in a few years. For now, the lot will be stripped by Yeager for approximately \$810.00.

Evangelism & Mission: Blehm reported that the Pentecost offering will be donated to the READ program. Session approval was given to invite Teen Challenge to present their program on July 28, 2019 and to have a "Christmas in July" with gifts and/or monetary donations for them.

Personnel Committee: A "conflict of interest" policy was adopted for session members. The policy was signed by session members and will be filed in the office.

Spiritual Life: Longstreth reported that Jennifer Saperstein is a candidate for ministry and will be our guest preacher on July 14, 2019. Three high school graduates were honored on June 2, 2019. The "Spiritual Life" committee description was adopted.

New Business: Next Session meeting will be on August 20, 2019 at 6:30 PM unless we have a new minister who wants to have a meeting in July.

Submitted for your information,
Mary Ann Parker,
Clerk of Session



Treasurer's Report

| | June | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| | Beginning Balance | Receipts | Disbursements | Transfers | Ending Balance |
| General | 14,031.23 | 9,632.42 | 9,972.90 | | 13,690.75 |
| Memorial | 6,345.00 | | | | 6,345.00 |
| Special projects | 2,103.79 | 25.00 | | | 2,128.79 |
| Mission | | | | | |
| Hunger | 828.44 | 5.00 | | | 833.44 |
| Heifer proj (Church School) | (0.00) | | | | (0.00) |
| UCC/PCU | 61.50 | 223.38 | 61.50 | | 223.38 |
| Good Samaritan | 2,873.28 | | | | 2,873.28 |
| Muriel Lakey Scholarship | 4,711.26 | | | | 4,711.26 |
| Womens Association | (11.20) | | | | (11.20) |
| Local | 354.25 | 134.62 | 325.50 | | 163.37 |
| Bricks | 1,335.45 | 125.00 | | | 1,460.45 |
| | 32,633.00 | 10,145.42 | 10,359.90 | - | 32,418.52 |
| Endowment | 145,134.31 | 510.00 | | | 145,644.31 |
| | 177,767.31 | 10,655.42 | 10,359.90 | - | 178,062.83 |

GENESIS SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 8, 2019! This day will be the start of the new year of Church School.

Following worship service there will be a potluck, games, cake walk, fellowship and fun for all! Come celebrate with us!

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee, after the election to accept Rev. Brant Piper as our designated pastor, was dissolved at the congregational meeting on June 30, 2019. The DPNC would like to thank the family and friends of Countryside Trinity Church for their prayers, patience, and support during this search time. It has seemed like a long 2 ½ years during which time the mission study was started and completed. We moved into the transition time with supply pastors. Then Rev. David Meyers served as our interim pastor. Thirty four members of Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church joined us in December and finally, Rev. Margaret Vredevelde ministered to us as a bridge pastor.

Our Mission Study compiled and completed by the Long Range Planning Committee was named "A Future and a Hope". The scripture from which we found strength while doing our work on the mission study was the following:

Jeremiah 29:11-13

**"I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord,
"Plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
Plans to give you hope and a future. Then you
Will call upon me and come and pray to me, and
I will listen to you.
You will seek me and find me
When you seek me with all your heart."**

Yes, God gave us the tools to work with, including the devoted people who agreed to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee and the DPNC members who worked diligently and unhurriedly to ensure that they were making the right choice for pastor of Countryside Trinity Church. Throughout this entire process we had the support and assistance of two very knowledgeable and resourceful people, Dr. Rev. Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Lake Huron and Joyce Hetzler, the Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaison. After much prayer, talk amongst ourselves and with several candidates, the DPNC decided on a candidate to present to the congregation.

On June 29th family and friends of the church were invited to meet Rev. Brant Piper informally at a "Meet and Greet" gathering. On June 30th, following a congregational meeting, Rev. Piper was elected to be our new minister at CTC. Praise the Lord!

After talking with Pastor Piper (who by the way is a wonderful listener) you feel as if you have talked with "an old friend". He is compassionate and understanding, frequently asks questions and has a wonderful laugh. He is ambitious and ready to present new ideas. Pastor Brant is interested in adult Christian Education and shows concern for the community. Last, but certainly not least, he writes and delivers thought provoking sermons.

Now it is up to you, the family and friends of Countryside Trinity, to work with Pastor Piper and the leaders of the church to try to fulfill God's purpose here at 4690 Weiss Street. We need each and every one of you to help us accomplish our goals. No one person can do it by him or herself. I remind you of our mission statement:

Countryside Trinity Church
Has been called by God
To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,
To minister to the need of the congregation,
The community, and to promote peace
And justice in the world.
Committing to Christ....
Telling our story....
Caring beyond ourselves....

Please continue to pray for CTC, Rev. Brant Piper and the leaders of the church. Help us to make an impact on the community and to be able to serve God's people in big and small ways and according to God's direction.

Submitted by Mary Ann Parker, Clerk of Session



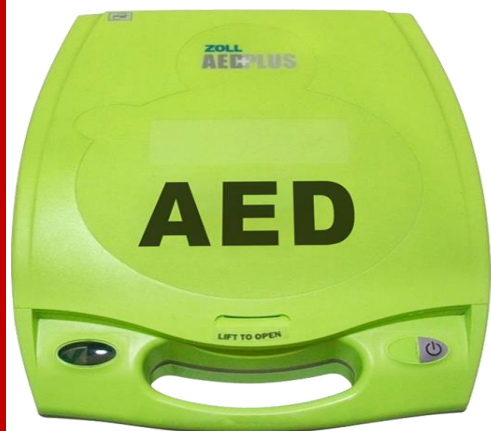
CHRISTIAN Outreach Committee News

The Mission of the month is our neighbor Weiss School. The teachers made lists of supplies they need for their classrooms. Lists of specific items will be available in Fellowship Hall. Purchased items may be placed in the box in Fellowship Hall. Take advantage of all the back- to- school sales.

With the new configuration, there are no neighborhood schools in the Township. This means every school may have students that cannot afford certain items. Please be generous in your giving.

The READ and packing weekend food for those in need at the school will be starting again. If you have the time and energy to volunteer for one of the programs, talk to Lori Halase about READ or Kitty Blehm about packing backpacks.

The Samaritan Fund donated \$125 to the COA Summer Program meeting at the Warren Avenue building. One hundred children are participating. If you want to make an individual contribution, see the bulletin board for details.



AED UNIT

A special thank you to Kevin Barnum for initiating and applying for an AED unit for the church. A gift from MCVI Foundation, it will be mounted in fellowship hall.

Liz Saperstein and Sandy Redfield took the free CPR class through MCVI and now are CPR certified. Thank you to all involved in this process.

EXULTATE DEO
Chamber Choir

Announces
The English Anthem
Project III
20th Century
August 24, 2019
4:00 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church
Center at Grant
Bay City, MI

Robert Sabourin, Director
Jeffrey Walker, Organist

Barrier Free Access
Available



The Countryside Trinity Church Choir is on vacation for the summer months and we want to thank them for their dedication and commitment to the music ministry throughout the year. Anyone wishing to share their talent and provide "Special Music" for one or more worship services during the summer, or if you would like to join the choir when they resume in the fall, please contact Dan Groom.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you have not yet linked your Kroger's Rewards Card to Countryside, please go online to www.krogers.com and search Community Rewards. You will need to sign in to your account using your email address and password. If you do not yet have an account with them, you will need to register for one. After signing into your account, they will ask you for the name of the organization you wish to support. Type in Countryside Trinity Church. It's that easy. Then every time you shop at Krogers or get gas and swipe your card - Countryside will get a small donation from Krogers. No cost or expense of any kind to you. Just help for our church. Please sign up today.



Beginning May 1st and continuing until August 31st the hours the office at Countryside Trinity Church will be open are as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday from
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Thursday from
10:30 am to 2:30 pm



We have a new addition to our weekly bulletin. On the back page, we will print the "Joys and Concerns of the Church" which will include those members and friends who need prayers for healing, prayers for comfort, have joys to share and also an "open door prayer" that will name the locations of our shut-ins and those in the hospital or homebound in private homes.

When a prayer chain is started, the name will also be added to the following week's bulletin and will remain there for a period of two weeks unless asked to leave on for a longer period. We will also add any names of those people who were prayed for during the previous Sunday's worship service.

Please be sure to let us know if you would like to add your friend or loved one to this page. Thank you.



| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Bickford Assisted Living</u> Elaine Kraenzlein | <u>Swanhaven Manor</u> Fern Evon Little |
| <u>Edgewood Assisted Living Center</u> Betty Huber | <u>Wellspring Assisted Living</u> Shirley Roof, Carol Williamson, Bob & Marie Lemmer, Mary Ellen Sierocki |
| <u>New Hope Valley Independent</u> Dorothy Gray, Virginia "Ginny" Jarvi | <u>Wellspring Independent Living</u> Helen Reynolds |
| <u>St. Francis Home</u> Judith Lorenz | <u>In Hospital or Private Homes</u> Dawn Curtis, Bessie Daugharty, Betty Hauk, Floyd & Lois Krzak, Ruth Marsh, Elaine Miner, Fran Preuter, Kathy Williamson, Betty Burr |

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES


BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Taylor Hansen (M = Dana Woodke)
- 4 Marianne Bird
- 4 Kathryn Barnum
- 5 Dan Groom
- 8 Chad Parker
- 10 Randy Jacob
- 12 Fran Prueter
- 13 Kyle Redfield
- 15 Ainslee Mahan
- 15 Aubree Mahan
- 17 Joan Comstock
- 21 Karla Parker
- 21 Casey Redfield
- 22 Brooke Vernon

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Louis & Jean Diechman (1953)
- 11 Dan & Barb Groom (1962)
- 17 Dallas & Jackie Williams (1957)
- 29 Darren & Joanne Woodke (2002)
- 29 Duncan & Sandy Redfield (1987)



| 2019 | August | | SUNDAY | Countryside Trinity Church 4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603 Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com Phone: 989-793-0125 | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| CALENDAR YEAR | CALENDAR MONTH | | FIRST DAY OF WEEK | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| | | | | | | |
| 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
| 10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service with Communion, 2 Coins a Meal Offering | | | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour | | | | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: | | Session Meeting- 6:30 PM | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour Food Collection | | | Deadline for September Newsletter | | | |
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 |
| | | | | Office Hours: Tues & Weds 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thurs. 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. |  |



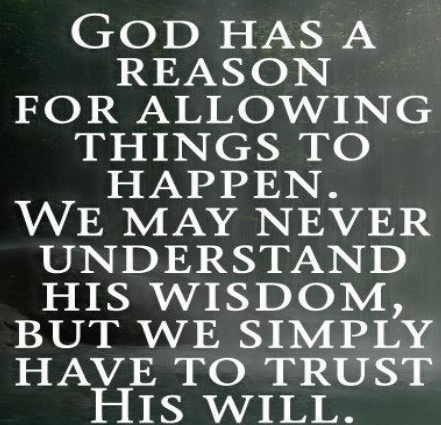
COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 793-0125

BLESSINGS FROM COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH



**GOD HAS A
REASON
FOR ALLOWING
THINGS TO
HAPPEN.
WE MAY NEVER
UNDERSTAND
HIS WISDOM,
BUT WE SIMPLY
HAVE TO TRUST
HIS WILL.**

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