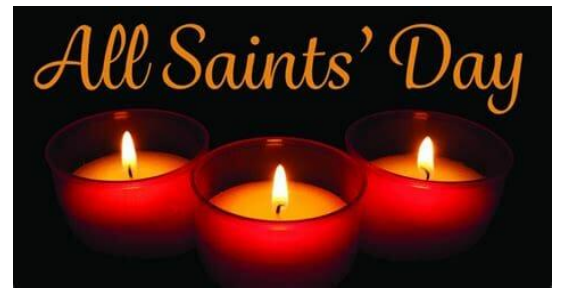


# Countryside Trinity Church Connections

**October 28, 2020**



## From Pastor Brant...

We give thanks to God that we have been able to return to in person worship. Through the efforts and dedication of members to ensure one another's safety and to follow the protocols, we have worked to provide a safe opportunity to gather for worship. Parts of our worship experience have been limited if not altogether eliminated, which is a challenge. What I have come away with is a sense of thanksgiving that in not having to worry just how far off pitch I am when I sing, I tend to focus on the beautiful poetry that is at work in our hymns. Focusing on just the words has invited me to be touched by the deeper theological meanings that I at times have overlooked. The emotional impact of the words alone has been a source for me of thanks and praise. I wonder about the impact of the increased times of silence that are offered. How are you responding to them? How are they impacting your relationship with God? What parts of the service are you missing? Are there aspects of the worship service that you are not missing at all? What does it invite you think about worship itself? What is vital and essential, what is not? Take time to contemplate these things. There will come a time when we will be able to gather as the whole community. What would God have us understand about what creates meaningful worship?

In time we are hoping to provide more options for music and liturgy and expressions of trust through recorded presentations when we can make them available to our live stream. This will require the purchase of additional software and equipment and then training for using them. This upgrade will allow us to record presentations in safer environments. It will also create space to share personal prayers and liturgies, so start writing them and let me know when you are ready to get them on tape.

Though I have to wave from a distance as you leave and to not get to see the smiles underneath your masks, I do get to hear your kind words of thanks for being back and see the smiles held in your eyes.

I am appreciative for those who have chosen to stay home out of concerns of safety. I believe it is a great expression of trust and faith to choose to not come to worship. Though I would imagine it is painful to think that some of your beloved friends are gathering without you being present, knowing that you are choosing to accept the sadness of this out of consideration for the safety of our community, as well as for the well-being of your families and friends, makes it an honorable sacrifice.

As the numbers of those infected with the virus begin to creep up in our state and in our nation, it serves as a good reminder that we need to continue to be vigilant and not let our guard down. It may be that the governor out of concerns for public safety may once again invite us to restrict our public gatherings. If so, the session will again discern what is best for our community and decide whether or not in person worship will continue.

Take care,

*Brant*

## November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints Day with celebration of the Lord's Supper.

For our service this Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be offering up our thanks and praise to God for the people who have empowered us to serve God through their sacrifices and who have been welcomed home by God. In particular we will remember the five of our members who have gone home to the Lord over this past year.

During this service, we will also be celebrating the Lord's Supper. The elements will be available at the door in individual plastic bags for you to pick up as you enter the Sanctuary. On the top of each cup you will be requested to pull back the first layer of foil under which you will find the wafer of bread for you to eat. After the words are said over the cup, you will then be instructed to pull back

the second layer of foil, which will reveal the juice. Once you are finished, please place the cup and its wrapper back into the plastic bag to be disposed of in the waste basket near the front door as you leave.

### **Stewardship Dedication Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.**

During the service on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, you will be given the opportunity to submit your pledge to support the ministries of Countryside Trinity Church. Before dedicating your pledge, please read over the following:

- "Because We Can" narrative budget brochure, which gives detailed information about the resources we are committing to the five different areas of church life
- "Because We Can" Stewardship Letter. This gives information concerning our vision for the next year and our hopes on how your increased support will empower us to achieve more in ministry
- The "Tithe Percentage Chart," which gives information concerning estimated giving amounts as you accept the challenge to increase the percentage of your income you give to the ministries of Countryside Trinity.

Please bring your pledge with you, or mail it in to the church at your earliest convenience. Your commitment helps the leadership of the church to set the directions of its ministries.

**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.** Pastor will be out of the pulpit on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> for Continuing Education Time. He will record a service before he leaves which will be shown on the monitors at church that day at 10:30 a.m.- or if you feel more comfortable staying at home, it will be available to watch on Youtube.com.

### **First Sunday of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. We begin the season in which we explore our anticipation and hope for the coming of the One we call Savior!

Continue to lift up prayers for our nation, its leaders, and all of its citizens as we finalize our elections in whatever time it takes to do so.

Also, lift up prayers for the selling of our manse. The Buildings and Grounds Team has worked hard to upgrade different aspects of the manse to increase its market value, and we are praying that it pays off. We are also praying that it will demonstrate our willingness to our neighbors to be good neighbors.

## **YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK OCTOBER 2020 Mary Ann Parker, Your Clerk of Session**

It seems like forever since I had to sit down and recap a session meeting for our members/friends. We have continued with our monthly meetings through the summer and had several emergency meetings during the last 7 months. Pastor Brant has been doing an excellent job keeping us "all in the loop" with church news via his correspondence to our parishioners. I asked him 3 times if he wanted me to restart the synopsis of our session/council meeting. Guess what? He didn't change his mind.

### **Session Meeting of October 20, 2020**

We shared things that we were thankful for and opened with prayer. After completing the routine items, we moved into the various reports and acted on several items.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor has been involved with a ton of things from church meetings, Presbytery meetings, a wedding, and planning for the future of Countryside. He requested and was granted vacation days on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and continuing education time from November 9 through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Building & Grounds:** C. Davis reported that they have the manse almost ready to be listed for sale. Pastor Brant expressed his appreciation for the work this committee has done in getting it ready to sell.

**Christian Outreach:** Our missions continue so if you haven't donated to any of them for a while, now might be a good time to start. It was also decided to restart the monthly church newsletters, in place of the frequent "Connections" that we have all been receiving.

**Finance & Stewardship:** The Stewardship campaign is entitled "Because We Can" and will be started very soon.

**Spiritual Life:** Motion passed to upgrade the internet connection with Spectrum as soon as possible. The monthly cost will increase from \$80 to \$135. This was a needed component with all the electronic things that we are now doing at church.

The other committees not listed, namely Personnel, Nominating, and Congregational Care, have been busy and gave brief reports.



As citizens all over this land go to the ballot boxes, give them a sense of high privilege and joyous responsibility.

Help those who are about to be elected to public office to come to understand the real source of their mandate—a mandate given by no party machine, received at no polling booth, but given by God; a mandate to represent God and truth at the heart of the nation; a mandate to do good in the name of God under whom this country was established.

God...lead our country in the paths where you would have her walk, to do the tasks which you have laid before her. So we together may seek happiness for all our citizens in the name of God who created us all equal in God's sight, and therefore brothers and sisters.



### **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. This month's Mission of the Month is Old Town Mission and the Peace Offering.



## **Crop Walk**

This year's CROP Walk will be a virtual event, which means that you are invited to set up your own walk either as an individual, or as a group following social distancing guidelines. As you walk, please remember those in this world who have to walk miles to find clean water, food, and safety. Also take the time to think about those who might be dealing with difficult issues within the houses and apartments you walk by. What concerns come to your mind? What prayers would you offer on their behalf? You can donate online, or make your checks out to CWS (Church World Service). You can also place your donation in the basket during Worship services until the first of November.



To find our more go follow link: <https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/virtual-walks/>



**Greeting Cards:** Shirlee Scovill continues selling cards each Wednesday but has moved into Fellowship Hall for the cooler months. She will be there on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Proceeds from the sale of these cards will support the mission work of the Women's Association. The only vegetables available for the next few weeks will be winter squash and possibly pumpkins. If you would like either of these, contact Shirlee prior to Wednesdays so she can have them available for you.

Please wear a mask and remember to practice social distancing. The cards will be self-service with a container for the money at the tables. Shirlee will be there to answer questions. Shirlee has kept busy during the time we have been home and, therefore, has many cards to choose from – Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of You, Wedding, Anniversary, Retirement, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hope to see you on Wednesdays in the near future.

**Facebook Prayer Group:** We have created a FB Prayer Group on our newly created 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.

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. Thank you.



## **THESE DAYS**

*Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*

**These Days:** We have received the October-November-December edition of the *These Days* magazine and they will be in the box outside the east entrance door if you would like to pick one up.

Thank you to the very compassionate friends of Countryside Trinity Church. We are grateful for the prayers and concerns after the passing of Joann's Dad, Val Rodarte. Your love and support is very much appreciated. Darren & Joann Woodke.





# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Zachary Plater
- 2 Drew Pequignot
- 2 Dan Groom
- 3 Joseph Ruth
- 5 Mary Longstreth
- 6 Amanda J. Groom
- 11 Dick Easlick
- 13 Ethan Parker
- 13 Ruth Marsh
- 13 Charlotte Armstrong
- 13 Jerry Paquette
- 14 Mike Yusaf
- 14 Tania Yusaf
- 16 Randy Groom
- 17 Elizabeth Jacob
- 19 Christopher Davis
- 22 Jean Anne Miller
- 22 Pat Denno
- 25 Ezra Yusaf
- 26 Ashley Huizar (Scovill)
- 25 Aaron Plater
- 27 Marie Lemmer
- 29 Scott Jacob
- 29 Lori Halase

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Paige Pequignot
- 3 Sam Nolan
- 7 Judi Westendorf
- 7 Christine (Dowling) Greenwood
- 8 Duncan Redfield
- 9 Stephanie Plater
- 10 Anjel Vernon
- 11 Dave Fitzgerald
- 12 Jacob Plater
- 15 Dick Woodke
- 16 Pervez Yusaf
- 19 Martin Bethune
- 19 Bethany Scovill
- 20 Judith Lorenz
- 21 Ronald Miller
- 22 Jacob Groom
- 22 Lucas Gonzales
- 23 Virginia Jarvi
- 28 Jennifer Nolan-Heyn
- 28 Avis Leach

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 8 Garth Westendorf
- 12 Melissa Paterson (Shalhoup)
- 16 Alexa Mahan
- 17 Nancy Easlick
- 18 Paula Plater
- 22 Ed Halase
- 24 Nancy Scott
- 25 Brecque Woodke
- 26 Craig Gates

## **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Aaron & Paula Plater
- 8 Robert & Marie Lemmer
- 10 Eric & Sue Smith

## **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 17 Jerry & Virginia Brachear (1962)
- 22 Dave & Dora Fitzgerald (2014)

## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 15 Joseph & Doris Ruth (1956)
- 24 Bruce & Patricia Denno (1984)
- 27 Dick & Nancy Easlick