

Countryside Trinity Church Connections

May 4, 2020 Edition

From Pastor Brant...

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:5-11, NRSV

This psalm is of a form that scholars have come to recognize as a psalm of trust, one in which the psalmist is moved to celebrate and praise the loving care he or she has experienced in his or her relationship with God. It proclaims the steadfast and generous qualities of God which have brought guidance and peace. What is interesting is that this psalm may have been written by a priest, one who did not have property, that is, "boundary lines" in a literal sense. This person could still proclaim how God's presence and work in the world had created a sense of peace for his or her soul.

In this time and place we are well aware of boundaries, especially the walls of our house and the doors behind which we search for safety and social distancing. We wear our masks whenever we dare to leave our homes, hoping to keep out the virus that threatens us. We note the special hours for older adults in our grocery stores, the masking tape that reminds us of the proper distance we are to keep from one another, the Plexiglas shields to protect the workers. In this time this psalm challenges us and invites us to pause and give thanks of wherever we might find ourselves. It invites us to be aware of the blessings which surround us.

As Mother's Day approaches, we are also invited to explore another set of boundaries, and to search for those places where "the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." For some of us

our family homes were places of warmth and nurture, a place where we felt safe, where both our physical and emotional needs were met. For some of us, and certainly for many in our communities, this was and is not so. There are people who were traumatized by the neglect and the violence they suffered in their homes. These are the people the Gospel challenges us to remember and care for not only in the midst of this pandemic, but always. We are called to use who we are and what we have to provide the experiences of compassion and nurture which facilitate growth and enable others to know the gifts of abundant life. This week you might be one who celebrates the life-giving experiences of the family in which you grew up. You might be someone who grieves what was never offered. Most of us do both, giving God thanks for what led us to be loving and caring adults, and searching for God's guidance to move us beyond the hurts we experienced that made the journey towards greater maturity more difficult. Wherever you might find yourself, God longs for all of us to experience all of the wisdom and grace we need to move us into the place where we can celebrate, like the psalmist, "our goodly heritage" and the resources we need to continue on "the path of life," where "there is fullness of joy," and "pleasures forevermore."

Session Suspends Worship Until Sunday, May 31st.

The session met on Friday, May 1st, and voted to continue our suspension of worship until May 31st. A team lead by elder Mary Ann Parker is working to create protocols for the church to follow as we begin to plan how we will come back together as a congregation.

Combined Sunday Morning Worship on YouTube Continues

Our combined worship service with First and Second Presbyterian Churches continues this Sunday at 10:30 am. **Go to YouTube and search for First Presbyterian Church Saginaw.** This week Brant will be preaching on the Commandment, Honor your father and mother. Our organist, Andrew Glynn will again be contributing music to the service.

As part of this service, I would invite you to participate in the offering time by making your regular offering to the church. In the last newsletter you received information about GivePlus+, a phone app through which you can make your offering to the church, and you can give your tithes and offerings through this, or take this time to either write your check to the church or mail it in, or use the Bill Pay option at your bank. Mari and Kathy will insure that the mail is picked up and that your checks are processed. Please do not put your regular offering envelopes in the mail box. Brant is in the office during regular business hours and if you make arrangements ahead of time can leave the door open so you can leave your envelopes on the table inside the door. Please keep in mind any ministries to which you provide regular financial support that they might be sustained in this time where their might be reduced giving.

Weekly Zoom Bible Study on Acts, Wednesdays at 7 pm

Our weekly study continues this Wednesday evening at 7 pm. This week we are beginning a series on the Book of Acts. Though entitled "The Acts of the Apostles," this book really shares the work of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit guides, directs, and empowers the church to fulfill the mission it has been given by Jesus before his ascension in its first chapter.

All members who have given their email addresses to the office are sent an invitation to participate on your laptop, tablet, smart phone or even your land line phone. You can download the Zoom app, and then use the information provided in the email to join the online meeting, or you can call the number given in the email. Though video is not needed to participate, we do love to see your smiling face as well as hear your voice. If you are having issues joining the meeting, please let the church office know so that we might be able to guide you through the necessary steps.

Many thanks to Day Groom and Nancy Taylor for providing us with musical support during these studies.

Prayer Concerns

We lift up prayers for Lila Neumeyer's family following her death last Monday, April 27th. Her service will be this Friday, May 8th, at 11:30 am at Skorupski Funeral Home (formerly Reitz-Herzberg Funeral Home). Her service will be livestreamed at www.skorupskifamilyfunerals.com/ where you will find a link.

Continue to lift up the members of our community and world who risk their health and the health of their families to ensure that we are safe and cared for, that they might be strengthened and protected.

Supporting our Food Ministries

The East Side Soup Kitchen continues its work during this challenging time and you are encouraged to provide it with your financial support in lieu of our usual monthly offering. It continues to provide hot meals and lunches, with its staff preparing more meals than ever, in less time and without any kitchen volunteers. It distributes hot to-go meals to its guests through a new drive-through lane outside on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11am-noon. On Mondays and Wednesday it is also handing out either a sandwich or a shelf-stable meal like soup or stew along with a drink, fruit and dessert. Presently they are struggling with getting single-serving items from their normal suppliers and need some assistance. If you can provide any of the following items, please send an inbox message or email essk@eastidesoupkitchen.org so I may arrange a delivery:

- Individually wrapped pudding cups, applesauce, fruit cups, crackers and peanut butter, crackers and cheese, cookies, etc.
- Canned soup and stew
- Canned pasta like Spaghetti-O's
- Tuna, salmon, chicken or hash
- Boxed macaroni and cheese
 - Ramen noodles

Donations of money are always needed and appreciated. You may give online via PayPal on its website: eastidesoupkitchen.org.



BIRTHDAYS APRIL

- 1 Virginia Lyons
- 2 William Nolan
- 2 Lysithea Evans M=Alexa Mahan
- 4 Jeanne Krugielki
- 5 Nancy Erndt
- 5 Dorothy Gray
- 5 Evon Little
- 12 Kathy Loviska
- 12 Matthew VanArsdale
- 13 Dallas Williams
- 19 Debra Davis
- 20 Carol Williamson
- 29 Donald Lyons

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
- 20 Mary Ellen Sierocki
- 21 Seth Diggs
- 24 Katlyn Scovill
- 26 Charles Ohmer
- 26 Lore Woodke
- 28 Sue Paterson

BIRTHDAYS JUNE

- 2 Michael Wayne Groom
- 3 Eric Smith
- 8 Christian (Volker) Saxton
- 11 Robert Bortner
- 11 Dana Hansen Cooper
- 19 Kitty Blehm
- 20 Marilyn Leffler
- 21 Jasmyn Volker
- 29 Eleanor Farnum
- 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