

Countryside Trinity Church Connections

July 29, 2020

From Pastor Brant...

Creator God, fashioner of human beings,

We thank you for ears that hold our glasses, goggles, jewelry, and co-vid masks. Help us also to use our ears to hear the needs of the world so that we might help meet those needs. Through Jesus Christ, the lord of justice and peace. Amen.

This prayer comes out of the work of the Congregational Care Team, which is working to increase the quality of care it provides to members and friends through prayer. This prayer is a great combination of both heart-felt need, and a sense of levity that invites us to recognize how important bringing our humanity to our prayer life can be for us.

What follows is a form that you can use in writing your own prayers. It comes from the Presbyterian Church, USA, and provides a simple structure for you to follow.

A collect ("call' ect") is a short thematic prayer that begins with an ascriptive address followed by an affirmation of God's nature and a petition, with a standard ascription of praise at the end through or for the sake of Jesus Christ and God's glory. There are two basic forms:

- 1) Simple, which consists of
 - a) an address
 - b) a petition
 - c) a conclusion
- 2) Complete, which consists of
 - a) ascriptive address
 - b) the antecedent reason, a relative or participial clause referring to some attribute or saving act of God which forms the basis for the petition,
 - c) the petition
 - d) the desired result or benefit from the granting of the petition,
 - e) the doxological conclusion.

A ludicrous example to help you remember:

Sweet God, (ascriptive address that serves as invocation)

giver of chocolate, (affirmation of who God is/what God does)

Help us to taste and see that you are good (petition)

that we may trust and share the richness of your love for us (desired result)

through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen (ending naming Christ as Lord)

The thematic is God's goodness as seen through the gift of chocolate (yes, ludicrous). In keeping with the theme, the adjectival ascriptive is "sweet," the affirmation of who God is is "giver of chocolate." The petition is related to the goodness and richness of taste. Standard "through Jesus Christ" ending.

Now, perhaps, a more serious prayer:

Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom:

Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn,

that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth,

they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

I would invite you to use this form to write some prayers of your own. Please feel free to create your more playful prayer along with your more heartfelt ones. If you would like to have your prayer(s) shared in this newsletter anonymously, please mail or email or even leave a message on the church's voicemail with your prayer. I am anxiously awaiting to hear your responses.

Take care,

Brant

Suspension of Inside Worship Continues

At its meeting on July 28th, the session, following the recommendation of the presbytery and the guidelines set out by the Governor, authorized the continued suspension of indoor worship for an indefinite period.

We will be live streaming our Worship Service This Sunday

This Sunday, August 2nd, we will start live streaming worship services from our sanctuary. Go to www.Facebook.com/ctcsaginaw/live for the live stream.

Financial Report

Your faithful giving empowers us to continue our witness to the work of Christ in the world as it allows you to strengthen your relationship with God. Our goal for August is \$10,500. Please remember you can make an online donation through the Give Plus app. If you want to run your donation by the church, please call first to insure that someone is at the office to receive it. Our online service will include a time of thanksgiving and dedication for our gifts, so you may want to have your money and envelopes or perhaps even your phone ready so that you can more fully participate in this time.

Session Actions:

The session authorized Building and Grounds to pursue a contract with a realtor for the purpose of selling the manse. It also authorized the Spiritual Life Team to purchase an Annual License to

permit the church to live stream its music and to display words to hymns on the new monitors in the sanctuary.

Christian Outreach

Please remember our local ministries during this time. Because we are not able to collect our Least Coin Offering, our support of the three ministries supported by this offering, the Presbytery of Lake Huron Hunger Fund, the Michigan Conference Hunger Fund, and the East Side Soup Kitchen, is down. These and many other local ministries are providing additional resources to our community in this time of pandemic and need your support.

- Our Mission of the Month for August involve school supplies. As there is a great deal of uncertainty around when school might start and what form it will take, the Christian Outreach Team is reaching out to Weiss Elementary to get a good understanding of what its needs might be. Watch this newsletter for more information.
- If you have not completed your Census 2020 materials, and would like some assistance, please let the church office know.
- Michigan's Secretary of State has sent out, in response to the pandemic, applications for absentee ballots for either or both the August 4th and November 3rd elections. *By mailing applications, we have ensured that no Michigander has to choose between their health and their right to vote," said Benson. "Voting by mail is easy, convenient, safe, and secure, and every voter in Michigan has the right to do it."* According to Benson's office, *Michigan voters have embraced this option by a landslide: Officials say they have received about 1.3 million requests for absentee ballots ahead of the upcoming state primary in August -- a 350 percent increase from requests made ahead of the 2016 primary election.*
- If you have not received a request for these from the Secretary of State's office, you can either fill one out online at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/> or request the church to mail you an Absent Voter Ballot Application. Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by no later than 5 pm the Friday before the election, July 31st.
- By 2:00 p.m., August 1: Voters may submit written request to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive new ballot by mail.
- Up to 4:00 p.m., August 3: Electors may obtain an absent voter ballot in person in the clerk's office.
- By 4:00 p.m., August 3: Voters may submit written request in person to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive new ballot in the clerk's office.
- Up to 8:00 p.m., August 4: Election Day registrants may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot in person in the clerk's office or vote in person in the proper precinct.
- ***Please read closely the rules about when and how to return your ballot. If they are not followed, you risk having your ballot invalidated, as has happened to some voters in states who have hosted primaries earlier this year. It might be in your best interest to hand deliver your ballot to the Clerk. Please follow the delivery instructions.***

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

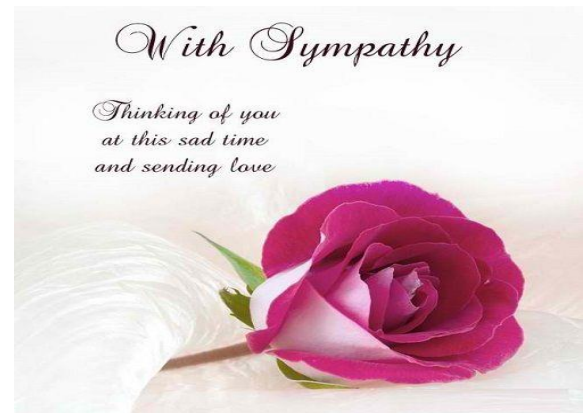
Here are some pictures taken at both of the Sunday evening outdoor worship services. A special thanks to all those who made this happen. It was nice to be able to visit and attend a worship service in person again.





Don't forget to let Kathy in the office know about any change of yours or a family members address so she can update the church records and mailing lists. You can email changes to her at countryside@ctcsaginaw.com or call and leave a message at 989 793-0125. Thank you.

We express our sincere sympathy to the family of Eleanor Farnum who passed away on July 23, 2020. Her funeral service was held at W.L. Case & Company Funeral Home-Mackinaw on Tuesday, July 28th. For those who were unable to attend, the service is being recorded and a link will be posted to Case's website to be viewed at your convenience. The website is www.casefuneralhome.com then click on obituaries and search Eleanor Farnum.





JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Dawn Curtis
- 11 Graham Parker
- 12 Robert Lemmer
- 13 Jean Bortner
- 18 Sidney Diggs IV
- 23 Bobby Diggs
- 24 Zayden Evans (M= Alexa Mahan)
- 24 Dick Mallette
- 27 Susan Anderson
- 29 Holly Furlo
- 30 Lynne Groom
- 31 Rachael Plater

AUGUST 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
- 31 Jim Lorenz

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Becky Pequignot
- 3 Rob Halase
- 3 Dora Fitzgerald
- 5 Charles Davis
- 6 Jerry Brachear
- 13 Louis Diechman
- 14 Michael Patrick Groom
- 17 Lois Krzak
- 22 Amanda Dean Groom
- 25 Thomas Kennedy
- 28 Brant Piper
- 29 Tom Ladner
- 30 Vincent Martinez



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JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Charles & Irene Ohmer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Louis & Jean Diechman
- 11 Dan & Barb Groom
- 17 Dallas & Jackie Williams
- 29 Darren & Joann Woodke
- 29 Duncan & Sandy Redfield

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Roy and Nancy Erndt (1967)
- 9 Shirlee & Roger Scovill (1978)
- 16 Peter & Isabella Dominguez (1961)
- 20 Sidney & Kermit Diggs