

Countryside Trinity Church Connections

August 19, 2020

From Pastor Brant...

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.—Genesis 45:4-8

This passage is the climax of the Joseph story, a story with many twists and turns that has invited us to question why is this going on? And in this climax, it is now Joseph who has all of the power; Joseph, who has been treated so badly by his older brothers. He could easily have sought revenge against his brothers, and instead comes to a much more graceful understanding of why he has ended up where he did. After times of abuse and times of deliverance, he has come to see God's hand at work through his life and to see how God has used him "to preserve life."

There is a famine in our land. For some it is a very literal famine. Their sources of income which empowered trips to the grocery store have dried up. The food their kids received at school for breakfast and lunch (and perhaps weekends if they were served by our backpack program) has stopped. For others, the famine is affecting them in other ways. Their opportunities to socialize and share their lives with others have dried up. The resources needed to keep health care workers safe and to provide the abundant testing needed to help stop the spread of the virus are in a more limited supply than they would like. Perhaps you are struggling because your opportunities to join together for prayer and worship and being fed by the Word of God have grown scarce for you.

In the midst of this famine, we will work to discern the Joseph's who are out there in the world. Some of these Josephs (and Josephines!) are resource people who will bring to us special skills and wisdom to move us forward. Some of these "Josephs" are resources that will improve our ministry to our community and nation. In our story Joseph was not able to make sense of his experiences until that moment when he was meeting his brothers. It might take a while for us to see how God is using this time to help us understand how our experiences are for God's sacred purposes, "to preserve life." We trust that we will come to see and to understand where God is using us to feed those caught in the midst of famine. Keep looking. Sing joyfully when fed.

Take care,

Brant

Watching our online Worship Service

In talking with many of you over the past few years, I have been told by some that you do not own a computer and have no way to get email or online. I want to share some information with you that might surprise you and if not surprise, might be of interest to you.

If you own a "Smart TV" and your TV provider is Charter or AT&T you can probably watch CTC's Live Stream Worship Services on your television. And, if you wanted to, you can even sign-on to the Internet on your "Smart TV" and get email and surf the net too. This is at no additional cost as both Charter and AT&T provide you with free email and the ability to access the Internet.

Now, I know that there are some of you who will say surfing the net is not of interest to you - it is likely that having the ability to watch the Sunday Worship Service might be of interest during these uncertain times of Covid-19.

Here is the interesting part. If your TV is a flat screen tv and it is within 5-10 years old - there is a pretty good chance that your TV is a "Smart TV". If it is less than 5 years old - there is a very good chance it is a "Smart TV".

In order to access Youtube to allow you to watch the worship service requires two things. They are: 1) Internet service in your location; and 2) A device on which you can access the internet.

It is not necessary to have a computer if you have one of the following: 1) a "Smart" TV (with either Charter or AT&T as your television provider); 2) a tablet; or 3) a "Smart" telephone.

The following is a set of instructions on how to access YouTube on your "Smart" TV. If you have any trouble setting this up - please do not hesitate to call Kathy Loviska (989) 270-7725 and she will assist you. It may be possible for her to guide you through the process over the telephone.

Watch YouTube on your Smart TV (newer models)

If you're using YouTube on a Smart TV from 2013 or newer, you likely have the [youtube.com/tv](https://www.youtube.com/tv) app. If you do not have it, it can be downloaded from whatever play store is on your device.

Sign in to use YouTube features

When signing in to Youtube for the first time, open the YouTube app on your TV and select **Sign in**. You will be prompted to select one of two choices: 1) Sign in Using a Smart Phone or 2) Sign in on your TV. Follow the instructions below for which option you wish to use:

Sign in with your mobile device







1. Make sure your mobile device is on the same Wi-Fi network as your TV.
2. Select Sign in with your mobile device.
3. Open the YouTube app on your phone.
4. Follow the instructions below under **Search for and discover videos** to locate the Countryside videos and livestream worship services.

Sign in directly on your TV

1. Select Sign in on your TV.

2. Use the keyboard to enter your email/phone for your Google account.
3. Click Next.
4. Verify your account.

Search for and discover videos and livestreams

1. Search for and discover videos and livestreams. Video would be if you are watching the service at a later date and livestream would be if you are watching as the service is being sent to Youtube in real time.
2. Select Search  and enter in **ctc Saginaw** and enter or click the  button to find Countryside Trinity Church videos. This will also take you to the live stream worship services. Make sure you put a space between ctc and Saginaw. You can then click on the one you want to watch and it should open automatically. You may have to adjust your volume on your device or on the bottom of the video itself in the controls. There should be a control bar at the bottom of the screen which allows you to control the playback of the video. If it isn't there automatically, you may need to take your cursor and hover over the screen for it to pop up. These are the controls which you would most likely want to use: Play  will play your video.  Clicking this button will pause your video. The **Play** and the **Pause** buttons are toggled so when you click one - it becomes the other automatically - so they are in the exact same location on the screen. Clicking on the red line will move you either forward and backward in the video (if you are watching after the fact - not during livestreaming). Closed captions  will show the video's closed captions, if available.  Clicking this button will increase the size to full-screen.

Live Online Worship on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 on YouTube CTC Saginaw

We will continue to place on our FB public and group pages our order of worship for the day, and we are hopeful that it will enhance your worship experience by offering the music and words to the hymns and other parts of the service so that you may participate more fully.

Our new video equipment has been installed and we are working to further incorporate them into our live stream. We continue to bring improvements to our technology to enhance your worship experience. It is not the same as being here. We recognize it and continue to pray for the end of our forced isolation due to the virus. We believe God can and will use this time to strengthen our ministry, if we seek God's guidance and consolation in this time.

We ask that you are patient with us as we work out the kinks in the technology and learn the finer details of creating audio visual presentations. If you have feedback about any of our digital outreach content, we'd love to hear your gently phrased criticisms.

We ask that you continue to be in prayer for the volunteers who provide assistance for our services, as well as for new volunteers to step up for these positions. If you have an interest in serving in the ministry of the gospel as a camera person, a computer assistant, or a worship planner working with media, please contact the pastor so that you can review the job description and the responsibilities of these positions.

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.

Financial Report

Thanks to your faithful giving we blew past our offering goal for July of \$9,000, collecting over \$9,500! This included \$500 that come from our online giving app, GivePlus Church. 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 our app, and if you need help with this, or if you want to run your donation by the church, please call the church office. Our online service includes its usual 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.

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 involves school supplies. We continue to be in touch with Principal Stanley from Weiss Elementary, and will let you know how and when you can help our young people with their school supplies.

The Christian Outreach Committee has received "Thank you" notes from Forgotten Man Ministries, Christmas Joy Offering, Underground Railroad, Church World Service (CWS) for Blanket Sunday, Old Town Soup Kitchen and the East Side Soup Kitchen for your donations. Some of these missions are developing new ways to continuing serving. The FMM is delivering new Bibles and books, video visitation and letter writing. Old Town is safe distancing meals and groceries. The ESSK is serving lunch curbside. Thank you for not forgetting our local missions. They continue to serve our neighbors in these troubled times.

#Give828

On Aug. 28, 2020, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be joining #Give828, a national day of giving focused specifically on supporting Black-benefiting organizations. #Give828 isn't like other fundraising campaigns. This day takes place during Black Philanthropy Month and commemorates multiple important historical landmarks in Black Americans' march toward freedom. Did you know that on:

Aug. 28, 1955: 14-year-old Emmett Till was brutally murdered by three white men, which became a "flashpoint in the civil rights movement"?

Aug. 28, 1963: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech during the landmark March on Washington in Washington, D.C.?

Aug. 28, 2005: Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana? The storm, which devastated New Orleans, inordinately impacted many of the city's Black residents.

Aug. 28, 2008: Then-Sen. Barack Obama accepted the Democratic nomination for president, becoming the first Black man to ever win the nomination and bid for the presidency?

Your gifts to #Give828 will go to support leadership development for leaders of color by funding the Katie Geneva Cannon Scholarship and the Conference for Seminarians of Color. Donating to the campaign is one of the action steps you can take as a part of the Presbyterian Week of Action, Aug. 24–30. Go to pcusa.org/weekofaction for more information on the Presbyterian Week of Action.



Greeting Cards: Shirlee Scovill continues selling cards each Wednesday in the church parking lot from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Proceeds from the sale of these cards will support the mission work of the Women's Association. In addition, when available, Shirlee is bringing fruits and vegetables from Roger's garden. There may be sweet corn, melon, tomatoes and more! They are giving these items free of charge for those who would like to come pick it up when they have an over-abundance ripe and ready for your enjoyment.

Please wear a mask and remember to practice social distancing. The cards will be arranged differently than in the past and will be on tables next to her van. 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.



We have received our Quarterly Statement from the Krogers Community Rewards Program. From May 1st to July 31st our participating members and friends have generated a donation of \$39.29. Way to go everyone. Every little bit helps our cause and if you do shop at Krogers and have not yet signed up to make Countryside Trinity Church your chosen non-profit to support, please consider signing up to do so at your earliest convenience. The cost to you is nothing and the benefits to CTC are awesome. If you need help when signing up - please call Kathy Loviska (989) 270-7725 for assistance.

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 or leave a message at 989 793-0125. Thank you.



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

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
- 25 Aaron Plater
- 27 Marie Lemmer
- 29 Scott Jacob
- 29 Lori Halase

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

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