

CTC CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

February, 2021

From Pastor Brant...

As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." --Mark 13:1-2

It is quite apparent that Jesus does not have much interest in buildings. When it comes to the church, Jesus has other structures in mind, relational ones, ones in which people interact with one another in ways which demonstrate the loving nature of God.

Through the grace of God, we have been given an opportunity to support and nurture an organization that is devoted to investing in the lives of young people in our community. Last Tuesday, January 19th, the session voted to become the Charter Organization for Scout Troop 304. With this action the church will be opening its doors to young people who are always in need of caring adults to provide wisdom, guidance, and compassion as they face the challenges of adolescence. The session, in taking this action, believes that it will give to our members personal ways to minister to these people. Troop 304 can become a focus of our prayer life as we lift up these young people as well as the cadre of adults who devote themselves to leadership positions in the troop and in the larger structures which oversee the troop. It will be included in our the list of recipients of our financial resources as we cover not only the yearly expense of being its charter organization (\$75), but also support the troop's efforts to provide subsidies to families who need them to cover the annual costs of Scout activities. You will be invited to participate in their additional fundraising opportunities, especially the troop's annual Spaghetti Dinner. How else might you help this ministry? Perhaps they will need help with meals, along with the Spaghetti Dinner. I am also thinking that they will need help with resources to help the young people earn their merit badges. What skills might you possess to help in these areas.

It will be important for us to listen for what these needs might be. Engaging these young people in conversation, along with their leaders, is a good place to start. Don't expect them to have ready answers. You will have to listen closely, and when you think you have heard of a need, ask if you have perceived the needs correctly.

I want to be clear that this is our ministry to these young people. We have not accepted this invitation with the idea that they will be doing something for us. This may happen. It may be that their needs and ours will have a divine synchronicity. We are here to serve them; we are here to offer our resources, not only our building, but our hearts and skills and prayers, that the mission of this troop, to develop responsible and compassionate adults will succeed.

I would invite you to ask for guidance in your prayers for how God would like you to support this ministry.

Take Care,

Brant

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK
Mary Ann Parker, Your Clerk of Session

January 19, 2021

Following a period of reflection, thanksgiving, and prayer, reports were received.

Clerk's report: Church membership stable at 123.

Pastor's report: Service to Presbytery and to the church.

Building & Grounds: Motion sustained to become a charter organization for scout troop 304 and to pay annual fee for the troop following discussion. We will be providing a storage room and meeting area for them. This troop is very "community service" oriented.

Finance & Stewardship: Pledges for 2021 are still below the number and amount pledged for 2020.

Christian Outreach: Six families received food only gift cards for Christmas. There was money left over that will be disbursed to local food pantry or more food only gift cards.

*******We will be working on committee structure including members for committees in the next few weeks. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please speak to Pastor Brant or Mary Ann Parker. We need YOUR help in serving the church (local and world-wide) and the community. We value you and your input, for we are here for God's purpose and together we can discover it and strive together to fulfill it!**

December 15, 2020

A request was received from an organized Scout troop for Countryside Trinity to become its Charter Organization. This request was discussed and a decision was made to continue to explore the commitments it will require of us and the ways we might support this organization and its ministry to our community. Presently the Scouts are not meeting.

The Stewardship and Finance team invites those who have yet to pledge, to please send in your pledge card to the church office. This year has presented CTC with many challenges in how we minister to our congregation and our community, and this information is helpful as the session continues to seek out new opportunities for service.

The session approved new office hours for our Administrative Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM year-round. (NO change during the summer months).

Annual Reports: If you have not yet received a copy of the 2020 Annual Report and would like to get one, they are available in the office to be picked up. There will also be copies in the box on the west side of the building if you wish to pick one up when the office is not open. Thank you.

In Person Worship Suspended Until Further Notice: In person worship continues to be suspended until the way be clear for us to resume safely. The Sunday Worship service will continue to be broadcasted on our YouTube Channel, CTC Saginaw, premiering at 10:30 am, and will also be available on our FaceBook page later on Sunday afternoon.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Scout Sunday, February 7th: During our worship on February 7th, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper and Scout Sunday. You are invited once again to gather before you the elements of the bread and the cup so that you might fully participate in this sacred celebration.

Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up: Lori Halase has made the boxes of offering envelopes available during the week for pickup. To pick yours up, **please first call the church office to make an appointment** to ensure both that someone will be here to unlock the door for you, and to pick up your offering envelope if you want to drop it off, and also to help us keep the number of people coming into the church building manageable. The boxes will be on the table on the left side as you come in the East door, each one in its own plastic bag. Please wear a mask as you enter, and exit as quickly as you can.

Per Capita Contributions continue to be collected: We are continuing to collect the Per Capita contributions. Again this year we are inviting all members to contribute \$30 to cover the costs of providing support to "Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ and the "Per Capita Offering" of the PC(USA). This donation empowers the Presbytery of Lake Huron, the Michigan Conference, and our denominations to provide us with guidance and support as we seek to carry out the work of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world. Below are two online links to give you more information on each.

https://oga.pcusa.org/site/media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/per_capita_overview_2019_color.pdf

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churches-wider-mission/ourchurches-wider-mission-basic-support/>

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. The Missions of the Month for February are Souper Bowl Sunday and Blanket Sunday. This is the month to celebrate love. Here are ideas to help with gifts in honor or memory of loved ones.



Souper Bowl Sunday: On February 7, 2021, we will be collecting donations for Souper Bowl Sunday. The collected monies will go to the East Side Soup Kitchen. People are still struggling with hunger during this pandemic. This is a good way to show love of neighbor. Drop off or mail your gift. Please designate Souper Bowl on your donation. The East Side Soup Kitchen began in

1979 serving 15 people lunch in a church basement. Now they serve an average of 300 meals each weekday, in their newer building. ESSK started the after school program at various schools in 1994.

CWS - Blanket Sunday: On Sunday the 14th we will celebrate Valentine's Day by "Blanketing" the world with love. The cost of one blanket is \$10. If you would like a beautiful valentine to send (handmade by Gail Jacobson), they will be available on the table inside the east door at church beginning 2/7. With your donation for one blanket, you may take one valentine. Multiple gifts are welcome. Any amount is appreciated. Make checks payable to CWS.



Blankets are distributed throughout the USA and the world. They have many uses: cloak, tote, room divider, curtain, bed, warmth etc. Most of all, blankets provide feelings of caring and love especially when a disaster hits. There are two different weights depending on the climate where the event occurred. The blankets can be used in many ways. Each one is always a healing embrace.

Women's Association - We were able to help six families with gift certificates of \$100 for Christmas. Extra monies donated will be sent to East and Westside soup kitchens, saving a small start for Easter Baskets.

CORRECTION: In the last issue of the CTC Connections newsletter, the obituary for our Charter Member, Donald Brady, was the wrong obituary. Please accept my apologies and the following obituary is a corrected one.



Obituary

Donald Jensen Brady - Saginaw, Michigan

A good father, friend, neighbor and community leader passed away suddenly, Monday, December 14, 2020. Age 85 years.

The son of the late Agnes (Jensen) and Donald William Brady was born June 1, 1935 in Saginaw, Michigan. He was a graduate of Arthur Hill High School and Ferris Institute where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Delta Fraternity. He owned and operated Don Brady Drugs from July 1, 1958 to June 26, 1998. He was a member and Past President of the Saginaw County Pharmaceutical Association. Don was a charter member of Countryside Presbyterian Church and currently a member of First Presbyterian Church. He served as a Director of Community State Bank; He was a charter member of the Saginaw Shields Kiwanis; a charter member of the Shields Civic Association; a member of the Saginaw Sheriff Posse, Fordney Club and the Tri-County Horse Association. He was the Covenant Hospital Popcorn Chef. Don was a member of the Saginaw Masonic Lodge F &A.M, the Elf Kharefah Shrine and the Bay City Consistory. Don enjoyed horses, the Kentucky Derby, golfing and hunting. He was an avid Detroit Red Wings fan.

Surviving are his daughters and their spouses, Peggy (Terry) Rock; Julie (Randy) Hund; Rebecca (Steve) Lewis; many grandchildren, great grandchildren; his sister, Bonnie Ann Koepke; several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Don, was predeceased by a son, Daniel A. Brady and his former wife of 38 years, Bonnie Lou Niederstadt Brady.

Private family service will take place. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider First Presbyterian Church or the Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church, (121 S. Harrison St., Saginaw, Michigan 48602) or the charity of their choice. www.casefunerahome.com

Muriel Lakey Scholarship: If anyone is interested in applying for the Muriel Lakey Scholarship you can pick up an application at the church office or one can be mailed or emailed to you. Please contact the church office or Sandy Redfield if you would like an application. Applications are due Monday, March 1, 2021.



Greeting Cards: Due to the restrictions regarding Covid-19, Shirlee Scovill will **NOT** be selling cards until further notice based on Covid Guidelines. However, she wanted me to relay that if you need to get something please call her or email her and maybe she can arrange something with you. Her phone numbers are: 989 892-1903 (Home) 989 327-2219 (Cell) and her email is scovillshirlee@yahoo.com.

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.



Telephone Directory: 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.

These Days: We have received the first quarter of 2021 *These Days* magazine and they will be in the box outside the east entrance door if you would like to pick one up.



Dick Easlick wishes to send many thanks to all of you who have sent him cards, prayers and telephone calls over the past weeks while he has been under the weather. He really appreciates hearing from everyone.

Lou Diechman would also like to send thank you to everyone for their cards, prayers and telephone calls following his wife, Jean's, death.

Dan Groom thanks Session/Council stating "Thank you so much for the Christmas Gift. I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful church. Blessings, Dan."

PROTOCOLS FOR COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In an abundance of caution and until it is safe to relax these procedures, the following protocols will be required before entering the building:

1. Appointments are required. Please call the office (989) 793-0125 to set up a convenient time Monday-Thursday in the mornings.
2. Enter the building only through the east door near the office
3. **YOU MUST WEAR A MASK WHILE INSIDE THE BUILDING.** Free masks are available in the entrance hall.
4. Fill out the Registration Sheet on the table immediately inside the door to the left, recording your answers to the Screening Questionnaire and your temperature as shown on example below. To take your temperature, place the thermometer near your forehead and squeeze the button. Your temperature will show up on the screen (please note that if it is cold outside, you may need to place the thermometer close to a location which was covered by your coat in order to get an accurate reading (forearm, neck, etc). **If you are not feeling well, or your temperature is above 100.4° F please do not come into the church.**

EVENT:					
Date:		Time:		Location:	
Attendee/Name		Screening Questions (which one if answered "yes")		Temperature (Below 100.4 F/38C)	
				Admitted (Yes) (No)	
1	Jane Doe	None		98.4	✘
2					
3					
4					
5					

5. Please use the hand sanitizer on your way in and on your way out.
6. Please do not venture into the church.
 - a. If dropping something off, leave it on the table.
 - b. If picking something up, please arrange this in advance so it will be readily available for you.

We want to make sure that we are all as safe as possible under these extreme conditions and urge everyone to please be careful, always wear your mask and wash your hands often. Use hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes regularly. If you do not have a mask or need more, please let Kathy know and you will be provided as many as you need.



And Happy Anniversary

BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY

- 3 Roger Scovill
- 6 Angie Mitchell (Organist)
- 8 Mark VanArsdale
- 9 Matthew Davis
- 9 Aaron Plater II
- 10 Victoria Parker
- 11 Isabella Dominguez
- 11 John VanArsdale
- 12 Jackie Williams
- 13 MariAnne Vega
- 18 Brady W. Groom
- 22 Gail Jacobson
- 22 Michelle Martinez
- 25 Doug Leffler
- 26 Leore Bethune
- 26 Helen Reynolds

BIRTHDAYS MARCH

- 1 Ron Platt
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 12 Richard Foote
- 14 Andy Smith
- 16 Shirley Roof
- 22 Chong Ladner
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna VanHautte
- 30 Robert Furlo

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

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY

- 11 John & Leore Bethune
- 25 Sarah & Tony Gonzales

ANNIVERSARIES MARCH

- 6 Chad & Karla Parker
- 21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez

NO APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

If you have an anniversary in April, please let the church know. Thank you.