

Countryside Trinity Church Newsletter

February 2019

Rev. Dave Myers, Interim Pastor



A Message from Our Pastor

"Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

Luke 8:30-38

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This is my second to last newsletter article. By the time many of you have read this article, my wife Rhonda will have already begun her new position as an Interim Pastor in Springfield, New Jersey. At the end of February, I will complete my contract as your interim and move east to be with her and the rest of my family. I am still looking for my next interim assignment, and I ask that you pray for me in this time of discernment, as I will indeed pray for the Countryside congregation. I will save my mushy goodbyes for the March column.

At the top of the page is an excerpt from one of my favorite "interim ministry" stories, as I like to call them. It is the Transfiguration story that is often read on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. It is a wonderful scene in which Jesus takes a few of his disciples to the mountaintop and while they are there the disciples see the very being of Jesus transfigure, that is Jesus bodily appearance in some manner changes. Now that in itself is amazing and should be enough for the disciples to wake up and give glory to God. But it is not until the appearance of two other figures, from Israel's historic walk with God, that the disciples truly take notice. Right before their eyes stand, Moses—representing the tradition of the Torah, and Elijah, representing the tradition of the prophets. All the teachings of the law and the prophets are summed up in the mission and ministry of these two men.

Continued on page 2.

The disciple Peter speaks to Jesus, asking of him, if it would be possible for them to build dwelling places for these three heroes of the faith. But before Jesus can give Peter an answer, a voice from a cloud declares to Peter and the other disciples, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Now here is why I see this as an interim text. In my years of working in the church there are two phenomena that are often present within the many diverse congregations that I have served. The first, like Peter, the moment we have a powerful experience of God working in and around us; the moment we see the mystery of God unfold before our eyes—we want to capture it, lock it up and hold it until we need to experience it again. In this text, Peter, wants to "house" these heroes of the faith for his and the other disciples benefit. He wants to take this great moment of mystery and somehow preserve it, so that at some later date, he can return and feel the glory as he is feeling it in that moment. So too with the church! An event takes place, or a minister walked beside you at a critical moment in your life, and somehow we want to live in that moment---forever. So let's lock it down, house it, and bring it out next time we need a spiritual boost. I remember serving a church where we decided to have a Thanksgiving dinner the Sunday before the national holiday. It was the first time for the event and it went off well. The next year I was still there and two elders asked at Session, "Well are we having the annual Thanksgiving dinner?" They must have had a great time because now they wanted the dinner to carry on in perpetuity.

The first phenomena may be an outgrowth of the second—which is we in the church have a penchant toward looking backwards. I find it interesting in this passage from Luke that when Jesus is transfigured, the disciples are close to falling asleep, but when the icons of Israel's past join him, they all of a sudden perk up. Moses and Elijah represent a wonderful tradition steeped in a deep and profound spiritual relationship with God. It is into this tradition that the disciples were born and raised. It is for them familiar and comfortable. It is no wonder that they want to linger with their past, and hear the stories of the glory days of their nation. Traditions matter. Traditions matter though only to a point. If our traditions are holding us back from moving ahead. If our traditions keep us living our faith in a by-gone era—then the tradition has become an idol in an empty house of faith.

This is an interim text because it bids the question— is our faith experience captured in the past, is our spirituality housed in our traditions? If the answer is yes, then it is time to come off the mountain and move ahead. The voice from the cloud declares in every generation that it is a new day for the disciples of Christ to listen to him. Listen to where the voice of Christ is leading you. Jesus will lead us down the mountain, through his struggles and pains, so that we shall receive new life. Listen to him, and find your life, and the life of this congregation—Transformed.

Peace, Pastor Dave





<u>Bickford Assisted Living</u> Elaine Kraenzlein	<u>Swanhaven Manor</u> Fern Evon Little
<u>Edgewood Assisted Living Center</u> Betty Huber	<u>Wellspring Assisted Living</u> Shirley Roof, Carol Williamson, Bob & Marie Lemmer
<u>New Hope Valley Independent</u> Dorothy Gray	<u>Wellspring Independent Living</u> Mary Ellen Sierocki Helen Reynolds
<u>St. Francis Home</u> Judith Lorenz	<u>In Hospital or Private Homes</u> Betty Burr, Dawn Curtis, Elaine Miner, Bessie Daugharty, Betty Hauk, Fran Preuter, Kathy Williamson



The hearts, candy and cards are in the stores. February is the month of Big Hearts. Our church has a chance to exercise our big hearts by generous giving to several missions.

The mission of the month is the East Side Soup Kitchen (ESSK)

- Monday through Friday ESSK serves two shifts of a hot lunch.
- On the fifth Sunday of a month the kitchen serves a breakfast.
- Wednesdays there is a medical clinic for blood pressure and sugar level checks.
- A doctor is present the first and third Wednesday of the month.
- Dental clinics are held periodically.
- HIV/AIDS testing and care are also available twice a month.
- Several after school sites provide snacks for students.
- Some summer ESSK sites are available for youngsters.
- Clothing is often available for anyone in need.

This mission is a busy one! Call 989 755 3663 or 989 284 3549 to see how you can help.

On the first Sunday of every month during the Passing of the Peace, our children will be collecting coins (and other forms of \$\$\$) for the ESSK and denominational hunger funds. There will also be a collection on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3rd, when the youth will be at the entrances to the church with "Soup Kettles" following the service. Cash or check (made out to CTC) may be put in envelopes that are in the pews and placed in the offering plate or Soup Kettles for this collection. Be sure to mark the envelope "Souper Bowl Sunday" if you place the donation in the offering plate.

Blanket Sunday will be celebrated on January 17. The women will put on a special coffee hour. Buy a blanket in your sweetie's honor. No calories! You can buy a blanket for \$10 and receive a free home crafted valentine. These cards will be available in Fellowship on Sunday February 10 if you want to mail them to someone. Donations of any size are welcomed. Blankets are sent to refugees, homeless people and disaster victims in the USA and abroad. A blanket can offer peace and rest to the weary. Submitted by, Marcia Lacker

TREASURER'S REPORT - Mari McKenzie

	December				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	9,288.55	14,369.30	16,401.56		12,569.71
Memorial	1,920.00	1,555.00			3,475.00
Special projects	1,088.79	420.00			1,508.79
Mission					
Hunger	771.79	125.49	64.79		832.49
Heifer proj (Church School)	14.44		14.44		(0.00)
UCC/PCU	-	485.00			485.00
Good Samaritan	2,663.28	80.00			2,743.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	4,089.06				4,089.06
Womens Association	(11.20)	1,500.00			(11.20)
Local	93.75		65.00		28.75
Bricks	1,335.45				1,335.45
	21,253.91	18,534.79	16,545.79		27,056.33
Endowment	152,200.60	(3,252.87)			145,134.31
	173,454.51	15,281.92	16,545.79	-	172,190.64

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of January 15, 2019, that you may find helpful:

Opening: Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer and a scripture reading.

Guests: Dr. Rev. Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter, and Joyce Hetzler, our Committee on Ministry liaison with Presbytery were seated and given voice. Dr. Dan commended the congregation for working as a blended congregation so well. He also credited Pastor Dave for the superior job that he has been doing with us during this transitional time. He informed session that the (DPNC) Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (Debbie Davis, Darren Woodke, Sidney Diggs, and Mary Ann Parker) are hard at work doing what they need to do to start the pastor search process. He discussed finding a "bridge pastor" who will care for us until the DPNC fulfills their search process. Mary Longstreth and Marcia Lacker will serve on this short term committee.

Officers Elected: Session elected the following people for a one year term: Mary Ann Parker (clerk of Session), Mari McKenzie (treasurer), Lynne Groom (payroll) and Norma Patterson/ Lori Halase (financial secretary).

Clerk's Report: Church membership is 129. Caroline Pendell died on 12-22-2018. Homebound communion was served the week of January 6th to 8 members. For the record: The following members were installed installation during worship service on 1-13-19: as elders - Debra Davis, Chuck Davis, Kevin Barnum, Roger Scovill, Marcia Lacker; as deacons- Leore Bethune, John Bethune, Darren Woodke, Shirlee Scovill, Dan Groom, Lynne Groom.

Financial Report: Mari presented the financial report and answered questions.

Committee Reports:

Session Committee Structure was discussed. It was decided that the structure will be as follows:

Building & Grounds, Finance & Stewardship, Personnel, Mission & Evangelism, and Spiritual Life. Since we have reverted to having a Board of Deacons, congregational care will be their responsibility. The Samaritan Fund members will continue as they are, but Session approved an increase of \$150.00 limit. Nominating Committee is a standing committee.

Administrative Committee: Session approved the by-law change to be presented to the congregation regarding the quorum at the congregational meetings. This by-law will be voted on at the annual meeting. Continuing Education time for Pastor Dave from January 28th through February 1 was approved.

Spiritual Life & Congregational Care: Communion dates for 2019 were presented and approved. We have been invited to participate in the Good Friday service at Faith Lutheran Church. Least Coin offering will be collected by the children during the passing of the peace on the first Sunday of each month. Sandy Redfield was approved to serve as Christian Education Director.

Mission & Evangelism: Christmas baskets were distributed to nine families with gifts. The Christmas Joy offering of \$485.00 was collected. Monthly missions were presented by the committee and approved at the Session.

New business: Approval by session was given for an indoor/outdoor flea market on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at Kathy Loviska's request.

The following two documents are being made available here because they are very important and we would like all of our members to take a few minutes to look them over and fill them out so our records can be more complete.

The first document was previously handed out to those in attendance during a worship service a few weeks ago. Some of you have completed the form and returned it, but most of you have not done so yet. Below you will find one part of that flyer dealing with your **"Time and Talents"**. Please look this over and let us know if there are any of these tasks in which you would want to participate.

The second document deals with arrangements for your funeral. I know this is not a topic we like to discuss, but it is very helpful to know what your wishes are and your completion of this form insures that those wishes will be honored upon your death.

Please complete both forms and return to the office as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your help in this regard.

AS MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENTS I WILL BE WILLING TO:

1. Teach Church School. _____
2. Work with young people through fellowships or camping. _____
3. Serve as a church officer or committee member. _____
4. Serve as part of the ushering staff. _____
5. Communion preparation. _____
6. Assisting with worship/liturgy. _____
7. Piano/Organ. _____
8. Play other instrument. _____
9. Dramatics. _____
10. Audio/Video experience. _____
11. Seasonal decorations. _____
12. Serve as a money counter on Sunday mornings. _____
13. Do occasional clerical work in the office. _____
14. Help with maintenance, lawn care and repair work. _____
15. Nursery care. _____
16. Media system assistant. _____
17. Computer design skills. _____
18. Work on coffee hours and special dinners. _____
19. Sing in the choir. _____
20. Share in Visitations. _____
21. Knit, crochet, sewing skills. _____

I AM ALSO INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

1. The Women's Association _____
2. Trunk Sale/Flea Market _____
3. Bazaar Workshops _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

As Christians we believe our God, who created us at the beginning of our life, will receive us into eternal life when our earthly life is over. This form is one way for you to provide the church with information to be used at the time of your death. Such provision by you is helpful to me in working with family and friends at a time when many decisions need to be made. If I can be of any help to you in filling out this form or in talking about your faith in light of death, please give me a call.

Rev. Dave Myers

1. I have given specific instructions regarding my funeral to:
 Name: _____ Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Date: _____
2. I prefer the following funeral director: _____
3. I prefer that my body be (viewed) (not viewed) prior to the funeral _____
4. I prefer that any memorial gifts take the form of:
 Gifts to the Church _____
 Gifts to this Charity _____
 Other _____
5. I prefer that the worship service held in the thanksgiving for my life be conducted:
 _____ In the Church _____ In the funeral home chapel _____ Other _____
6. I suggest the following scripture passages, poems, hymns: See attached to be selected by my family members at their discretion

7. _____ I prefer that my body be buried. I own a plot in _____ Cemetery.
 _____ I do not own a plot but prefer burial in _____ Cemetery.
 _____ I prefer placement in the Mausoleum.
 _____ I prefer that my body be cremated and that the disposition of my cremated remains be as follows: _____
8. I make these further suggestions to be noted by the appropriate persons: _____

YOUR NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____ DATE: _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please put a copy of this record in an envelope, seal it, putting your name on the front, and leave it in the church office. You may wish to give a copy to some member of your family also.

A perilous journey: helping today's asylum seekers

Presbyterians Today January 3, 2019

Presbyterians help provide a place of welcome for migrants

By Sarah Deardorff Miller / Presbyterians Today



Asylum seekers begin walking in the early morning hours, hoping to cover as many miles as they can each day. They walk the long distance in hopes of a better life for their families. *Sean Hawkey/ACT Alliance*

Central American migrants start as early as 4 a.m. on their trek northward. Many begin with prayer, asking God to keep them safe and provide them peace and comfort in this frightening journey. Mothers and fathers carry sleeping children on their backs or in strollers, hoping to cover as much distance as they can in a day. If they are lucky, they may catch a ride in a passing truck or receive something to eat from good Samaritans in a local village.

They come because, they say, they had no choice. They are people like Deana Quczada, who fled Honduras with her daughter after she was beaten and spent a month in the hospital for her father's alleged involvement with local gangs. Others, like Alejandro Garcia, a 22-year-old fruit seller from Honduras, is traveling with his 1-year-old daughter, fleeing because gangs were extorting money, making life in Honduras dangerous for both of them.

They know the risks: Robbery, rape and death are not uncommon along this trail to the United States. According to data compiled by the United Nations, between 60 percent and 80 percent of women and girls are raped while migrating. Many take contraceptives prior to the journey — a prevention of pregnancy, but not sexually transmitted diseases. Some also risk being sold into prostitution or human trafficking. Many migrants journeying through Mexico are kidnapped. The Mexican National Human Rights Commission reported that in the first six months of 2011, more than 11,000 migrants were kidnapped. Once the migrants are captured, criminals demand ransom from their families. If the ransom is not paid, those held hostage may be killed, tortured, abused or sold to sex traffickers.

Parents are also terrified that they will get separated from their children on the journey through Mexico and into the United States. Some are aware of the harrowing separations that have taken place in the United States. Some have heard only vague reports of the risk of separation. But the reports do not deter them. They see no better alternative.

While a small number are coming for better work opportunities, most are coming for safety. A study by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees found that 85 percent of women heading north come from neighborhoods controlled by criminal armed groups, and that 64 percent cited rape, assault, extortion and other threats as their main reason for migrating to the United States.

Coupled with poverty, poor education and lack of health services, the decision is clear. They must trek northward if they want any chance of safety and dignity.

"There are kids who can't go to school anymore because they are being threatened by gangs or organized crime. These parents don't want their children to think that their life is about staying indoors or walking outside and facing death. So why not take this journey where there is the possibility of getting to something better in the end?" said Teresa Waggener, attorney for the PC(USA)'s Office of Immigration Issues. "Isn't this what Mary and Joseph did when they fled with Jesus or what Jochabed did when she placed Moses in a reed basket and placed him in the Nile? Aren't all parents hopeful for a better life for their children?"

Welcoming the stranger

In light of these brothers and sisters making painful and dangerous journeys, many in the United States — including Presbyterians — have been deeply moved. In November, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), issued a statement urging national leaders to change their stance on those seeking asylum in this country.

"This administration's plans for those on their way go against this nation's global agreements and asylum laws, and our call, as followers of Christ, is to welcome the newcomer and love our neighbor," said Nelson. "To inflict harm on our siblings in Christ, to attempt to make us believe we must fear them, is not who we are called to be."

In response to the caravan of migrants that began journeying to the U.S. border in the fall, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) sent grant money to ACT Alliance Latin America.

"The PDA grant is part of an ecumenical response to allow partners to travel with the caravan to assess basic needs and respond to the most urgent cases with food, water, temporary shelter, protection," said the Rev. Susan Krehbiel, PDA associate for refugees and asylum.

Krehbiel says that since June 2018, PDA has provided \$50,000 in grants to presbyteries in the southwestern United States to support local churches and partner organizations that are providing food and temporary shelter for asylum seekers.



When it is time to rest for the night, there are no shelters for asylum seekers. Many children curl up in blankets and sleep alongside roads and streets. Sean Hawkey/ACT Alliance

The partners include Casa Alitas in Arizona, run by Catholic Community Services in partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee. Casa Alitas is a shelter for asylum seekers who have been released from detention. Most are trying to make their way to other family members in the United States, Krehbiel says.

At Casa Alitas men and women receive food, clothing, a shower and help with figuring out their transportation to other parts of the country. Without Casa Alitas, many of these asylum seekers would be dropped off at a nearby bus station with little money or knowledge about what to do or where to go.

The Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson, general presbyter of Mission Presbytery in San Antonio, has seen what people go through to get to the United States and the risks they take. Many, she says, arrive exhausted and needing basic things like a shower, food and hygiene items.

The trauma of detention

Once in the United States, most families attempt to claim asylum through the legal system, and wait with relatives and friends while their claims are processed. Detention, however, is common, as is separation.

Volunteers in San Antonio, have seen firsthand the trauma inflicted by the government's "zero-tolerance" policy on the children who have been separated from their parents.

Lenna Baxter, co-chair of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC), one of the organizations the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partners with, says, "We have had to change the way we approach families, especially the children, because they are frightened of strangers."

She told the story of a young boy clinging to his mother at a bus station where they were met by an IWC volunteer. When the volunteer offered a teddy bear to the boy, he recoiled. Immediately attuned to the child's reaction, the volunteer gently set the teddy bear on a vacant seat nearby and turned her attention to the mother and then to others. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw the child slowly reach for the teddy bear and pick it up.

The IWC, established in 2014, began as an organization to serve Central American families who were transiting through San Antonio after being released from the border. Soon after, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) established two new family detention centers in Texas. In recent months, the IWC has reached out not only to families arriving directly from the border but also to those released from detention. In both situations, IWC volunteers are ready with a welcoming smile, backpacks with supplies, a warm blanket and a stuffed animal, Baxter says.

Responding with Christ's love

Ed Sackett, disaster recovery coordinator for Mission Presbytery, believes that not helping asylum seekers is in "direct conflict to what we are told to do" as Christians.

"There are an awful lot of people wanting to quote the Ten Commandments, but not enough wanting to quote the Beatitudes," he said. He added that "most of the people who are trying to come across as asylum seekers have been tortured and tormented, and are having to escape due to violence and drug cartels."

The asylum system in the United States reflects international legal protections that emerged after World War II — a time when many in the world recognized that the large number of Jews fleeing Nazi Germany constituted an urgent humanitarian crisis. While there are flaws in the current asylum system — including huge backlogs and a lack of judges — the system itself has generally received bipartisan support in recent decades.

Sackett wants to see churches focus on loving the stranger and respecting U.S. law, which allows people the right to claim asylum.

Local churches are responding to the biblical mandate to "love one another" in various ways. First Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, recently provided 60 backpacks filled with necessities for refugees who have been released and will be on the road to continue their journey to meet friends and family. Still others, like St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Tucson, have opened their doors and set up rooms as overflow sites for those released by ICE.

While these measures are helpful, Sackett reminds people not to forget those who are also living in *colonias*, makeshift developments in the United States near the border. Many of these *colonias*, he says, have no services — no running water, no sewer systems, no electricity or infrastructure. "Many migrants live in these areas," Sackett said. "The conditions are so terrible, it would be hard to believe they are in the United States."

One mother, who shared a two-room house with bare walls and studs began crying when Sackett and others from the presbytery visited recently. "I feel like a terrible mother, having my children live like this," she said. "But what else can I do?"

Sarah Deardorff Miller lives in the New York City area and consults on refugee-related issues for the International Rescue Committee and the United Nations. She teaches at Columbia University and the University of London.

Rick Jones, director of communications for the Office of the General Assembly, and Susan Krehbiel, associate for refugees and asylum for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, contributed to this article.

Learn more

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance offers resources on how to help individuals, families and children seeking asylum. Visit pda.pcusa.org/situation/unaccompanied-children
- For resources from the Office of the General Assembly, visit oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration

UCC leaders reject Trump's dire call on border security, barrier wall

January 09, 2019

Written by **Connie Larkman**

The national leaders of the United Church of Christ are speaking out in response to President Trump's prime time address Tuesday night, noting, "We are faced with a moral crisis as a country, not a border crisis, nor a national emergency."

Trump, appealing the American people to spend billions on border security to end "a growing humanitarian crisis, a crisis of the heart, a crisis of the soul," urged Democrats to continue negotiations to bring an end to the partial federal government shutdown over border wall funding, which is now in its third week.

Rejecting the President's argument for a "steel barrier" on the United States southern border UCC executives underscored the denomination's long history of extravagant welcome, welcoming refugees, asylees and immigrants no matter what their documentation status because we believe all people are equal in the eyes of God.

"As people of faith, we believe in the God of abundance and not the myth of scarcity and xenophobia," said the Rev. John C. Dorhauer, United Church of Christ general minister and president. "Manufactured fear has always been a way to justify dehumanization of marginalized communities. We are faced with a moral crisis as a country, not a border crisis, nor a national emergency."

"This President's government shutdown is penalizing millions of Americans who are missing critical services," Dorhauer continued. "Over 800,000 federal employees won't be paid on Friday. Shutdowns and emergency declarations are not the way to govern a democratic nation. We cannot betray our core values as a country and cast aside the most vulnerable. There is agreement across the political spectrum that our immigration system needs fixing, but a border wall is not the answer."

"President Trump is already building his wall," said the Rev. Traci Blackmon, associate general minister, Justice & Local Church Ministries. "In spite of bipartisan support for effective and humane border security, the president is building a wall between political parties that should never represent partisanship at the expense of people. For 800,000 federal employees and their families he is building a wall between financial stability and scarcity by shutting down government until he can have his way. And should President Trump misuse executive power, to usurp legislative opposition, and declare a national emergency where he knows none exists, he will effectively build a wall between the executive branch of government and what democracy is intended to be. We call upon the moral conscious of our nation to not let this be so. "

"The UCC has a long history of supporting disaster ministries and making sure refugees are resettled. We see real crisis all the time. There is no national security emergency at the border. This is a manufactured crisis, and the administration is now moving forward with an undemocratic power grab because Congress and the public refuse to go along with these immoral policies," said the Rev. Jim Moos, associate general minister, Global Engagement & Operations, co-executive, Global Ministries. "Now we must join together across this country with a unified moral voice for compassionate immigration policies that respect the dignity of all people."

“ ”
**We are faced with a moral
crisis as a country, not a border
crisis, nor a national
emergency.**

The Rev. John Dorhauer
United Church of Christ General Minister and President

HEALTH & SAFETY - IN SAGINAW

Mondays: Blood pressure clinic meets from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Zauel Memorial Library, 3100 N. Center Road.

Monday-Friday: Aquatic exercises at the Sherwood Pool are held weekly. Classes are at 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. and 11:35 a.m. The ability to swim is not required. Lap swimming is at 11:35 a.m. There is a charge for exercises and lap swimming. For more information visit the Community Education page at www.stcs.org or call (989) 797-1847.

Tuesdays: Weight Watchers meets at 9:30 a.m. at Swanhaven Manor, 300 Kennely Road in Thomas Township.

Tuesdays and Fridays: Adult senior exercise will be held Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. and Fridays at 11:00 a.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, 2665 Midland Road. The instructor is Anne Dietzel.

Thursdays: Chair Yoga for senior citizens, those unable to do floor yoga, and those recovering from an injury, will be held at 11:00 a.m. at First Congregational Church, 403 S. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, led by Chantelle Rivett Hosner, certified chair yoga instructor.

Ongoing: Senior Fitness/Health Club, 4032 Bay Road, offers yoga, dance and tai-chi classes. The facility now accepts Silver Sneakers. Ages 18 and over are welcome. For more information call (989) 790-5788.

Senior Center Activities: There are many centers in the Saginaw area offering continuing weekly activities from dancing and exercise to cards. A list will be posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You can also go online to view a list of each month's activities. Go to www.saginawcounty.com and hover on the tab "Community & Services" and then click on the drop down item "Commission on Aging". Look for upcoming events and there will be a link for Senior Center Events & Activities. **Check it out** - there are some fun activities that continue throughout the year.

CARDS AND GAMES

First and Third Wednesdays - Euchre night is at 6:30 p.m. at the Creek Side Bar & Grille at Crooked Creek, 9387 Gratiot Road, Saginaw. Call (989) 781-0050 for more information.

Thursdays: Bingo will be played at 10 a.m. at the Moose Family Center, 2218 Midland Rd., Saginaw Township 989 793-9735.

Fridays: Eleanor Frank Senior Center, 2355 Schust Road (at the entrance to Haithco Park) has an open euchre tournament starting at 9:30 a.m. for senior citizens ages 60 and older. Call Bob at (989) 525-4400 for details.

Fridays: The **Eagles Club**, 7078 Gratiot Road, will hold Jack of Spades at 9:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Burger Night is every Monday (except holidays) at the Knights of Columbus Father Nouvel Council #4232, 4840 Shattuck Road, Saginaw, MI. Burgers, Hot Dogs and Coneys are available for a fee. All come with chips. Fries and cheese are extra. Serving is from 5 to 7 p.m.

Dancing for Fitness: Fun and low-impact, this program offers a way for individuals, particularly those over the age of 50, a way to help with strength and flexibility and improve circulation while at the same time having fun! Bring your friends (or come and make new ones). Classes held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Center Courts. You can sign up for either twice a week (\$42) or three times a week (\$56).



Happy Valentine's Day

"Join in wishing our parishioners' a very happy birthday and anniversary."



*Per Capita -
For Love of
Christ's Church*

Per Capita: In order to defray the expense of the per capita, the Session is asking that members assist the church by paying their own per capita of \$30.00 per member for 2019.

We appreciate your help with this matter.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 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



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 25 Sarah & Tony Gonzales

HELP!! We like to recognize everyone's birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletters and also for our "Cake Days" during the coffee hours. So, please be sure to let Kathy in the office know your birthday and anniversary so we will be sure to recognize you and your family. You can tell her on Sundays - or call at 989 793-0125 Tues-Fri from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Thank you.

Recurring Events at Countryside Trinity Church

Family Game Night

First Tuesday of the Month
6:30-8:30 pm at the Manse
(Bring a snack to share)

Book Club - Meets in the Lounge
Most Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm
(Bring lunch or a snack if desired)

Bible Study - Meets in Lounge
Most Thursday evenings @ 5:15 pm

Choir Practice meets in Choir Room on Sunday mornings @ 9:30 am. All are welcome to join!

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall -
Sunday mornings following worship.
Please sign up to host when you are available.

All Committees Meeting takes place on the Second Tuesday of the month @ 6:00 pm in designated areas in the church.

Deacons Meeting 2nd Sunday of the month following worship in Lounge.

Session Meeting 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm in Lounge.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

SBSO: Dances of Love

Date: 2/9/2019

Time: 8:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

Phone: 989 415-5596

Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra

Temple Theatre

201 N. Washington Ave.

Saginaw, MI 48607

Event Description:

What better way to celebrate Valentine's than joining the SBSO for exciting symphonic music. Dealing with love through the theme of dance. The concert opens with the well-recognized, suite to Bizet's opera Carmen followed by Leonard Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story, a modern day adaptation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The concert concludes with Rachmaninoff's brilliant Symphonic Dances.

Featuring Amy and Billy Petty, vocalists.



THE WIZARD OF OZ

Date: 3/1/2019

Time: 8:00 PM

Dow Event Center
303 Johnson Street
Saginaw, MI 48607

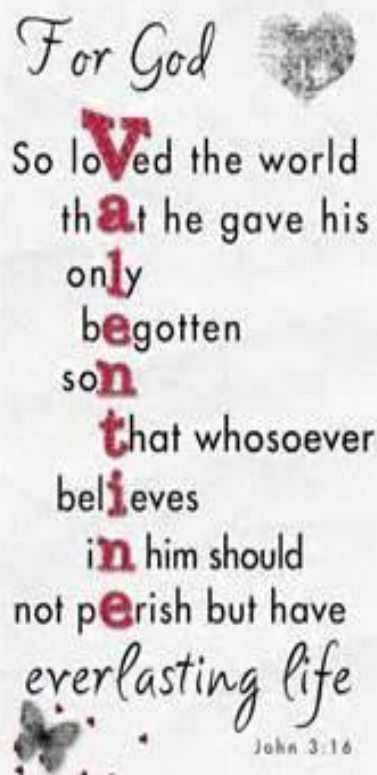
Phone:

989-759-1320

Event Description:

There truly is no place like home as the greatest family musical of all time, the wonderful Wizard of Oz, twists its way into Saginaw! The entire family will be captivated as they travel down the Yellow Brick Road and beyond with Dorothy, Toto and their friends, the Cowardly Lion, Tin Man and Scarecrow, in this lavish production, featuring breathtaking special effects, dazzling choreography and classic songs. A spectacular celebration of the iconic 1939 MGM film, The Wizard of Oz will blow you away from the moment the tornado touches down and transports you to a dazzling Oz, complete with munchkins and flying monkeys. Don't miss the chance to travel "Over the Rainbow" and experience this national treasure on stage.

Tickets go on sale January 11th at 10:00 a.m. at Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster by phone 1-800-745-3000 or in person only at The Dow Event Center Box Office.



Church Directory

We are working on the 2019 Directory and would like to ask everyone's cooperation in providing their current contact information so when the directory is printed it will be as up to date as possible. It would be helpful to add any telephone numbers **and email** addresses to your listing. If you have not yet provided them to the office, please do so by contacting Kathy at 793-0125 no later than February 8th as new directories will be printed shortly thereafter. Thank you so much for your help.



Bible Word Search: CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

N	C	O	Q	B	T	X	D	T	P	S	U	J	L	S
O	E	O	O	F	F	N	U	B	A	J	C	J	N	T
I	C	A	M	S	U	O	E	L	U	E	L	O	S	R
T	N	O	L	P	V	Q	V	M	G	L	I	R	I	E
A	E	V	O	L	A	A	P	A	G	S	D	W	N	S
I	I	X	U	D	T	S	R	J	S	D	E	V	N	P
L	T	R	W	I	S	U	S	E	O	Q	U	T	E	A
I	A	A	O	D	O	V	R	I	Q	Z	H	J	R	S
C	P	N	K	C	F	G	P	E	O	S	M	D	S	S
N	P	W	B	N	S	J	W	D	V	N	L	N	R	E
O	A	W	E	N	E	M	I	E	S	E	D	P	M	S
C	F	O	A	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S
E	P	R	Z	B	N	R	C	X	O	T	R	G	K	S
R	T	N	E	R	H	T	E	R	B	C	E	G	E	B
J	M	P	N	X	R	B	M	J	Y	M	B	E	J	G

BRETHREN	COURAGE	COMPASSION
ENEMIES	FORGIVENESS	JUDGMENT
LOVE	MERCY	PATIENCE
RECONCILIATION	REVENGE	SALVATION
SINNERS	TRANSGRESSIONS	TRESPASSES

2019

CALENDAR YEAR

FEBRUARY

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603

Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com

Phone: 989-793-0125

Sunday

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

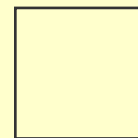
Saturday

27	28	29	30	31	01	02
03 10:25 am-Announcements; Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service with Communion; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: 4-6:00 pm City of God	04	05 6:30 PM FAMILY GAME NIGHT AT MANSE. Bring a snack to share	06 10:30 A.M. Pack Back Packs-Weiss School; 1:00 P.M. Book Study	07	08	09
10 10:25 am-Announcements; Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:45 am Deacons Meeting	11	12 6:00 p.m. All Committees Meeting	13 1:00 P.M. Book Study	14 	15	16
17 10:25 am-Announcement; Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour:	18	19 6:00 p.m. Session Council Meeting in Manse	20 10:30 A.M. Pack Back Packs-Weiss School; 1:00 P.M. Book Study	21 Deadline for March Newsletter	22	23
24 10:25 am-Announcements; Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: 4-6:00 pm City of God	25	26	27 1:00 P.M. Book Study	28	01 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	02 
03	04	05	06	07	08	09

Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 793-0125**E-mail:** countryside@ctcsaginaw.com

We're on the Web!
www.ctcsaginaw.com

Story of St. Valentine

"The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day.

"Yes, my child, He hears each one."

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!"

"God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand.

They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!"

"Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer.

On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, Saint Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world."

