

Countryside Trinity Church Newsletter

February, 2020

Rev. Brant Piper



A Message from Our Pastor

Actions and Attitudes Essential For Our Life Together

I want to thank those of the congregation who were able to participate in the activities of our Annual Meeting on January 19th. On Sunday each person had the opportunity to designate which values were important to him or her. This is a list of the top 15 with the number of times they were highlighted: *Laughter 15, Caring 14, Acceptance 13, Friendship 13, Kindness 13, Respect 13, Humility 12, Love 12, Spirituality 12, Community 11, Compassion 11, Mission 10, Growth 9, Belonging 8, Helping 8.*

What similarities do you see in this list? What conclusions would you take away about what is important in our relationships with one another? What values are missing for you? The list of all of the values and their corresponding scores will be available in the fellowship hall so that you can compare your thinking with other members.

Our gathering was the first of several this year in which we will continue to work together to discern the values we hold most dear. Through dialogue in small groups we will work towards finding a consensus, and this effort will demand of you clear thinking and clear statements of why you think one value is more important than another. Together we will find more clarity for who we are and what we are called to do for the sake of the gospel.

A New Understanding of the Law from on High

This month we will be exploring some of the teachings of Jesus as he presents them in what we have come to call the Sermon on the Mount. From the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus has been presented as the new Moses. He is clearly identified with the families of Abraham and David. He too goes to Egypt and escapes the genocide of a king. He submits to his baptism as a sign of righteousness. And starting in Matthew 5, Jesus, reminding us of Moses going up the mountain to receive the 10 commandments, gathers on a mount to present to us a deeper understanding of the law.

Mt. 5:21-26 Rage as an Invitation to Communion

Jesus connects our anger to the beginnings of a desire to kill another. It seems to be quite a jump. Yet, our anger, if not properly understood and processed, often leads us to diminish the value of another. Jesus challenges us to take seriously the need to mend any broken relationships because of the long term destructiveness of unexamined rage, including our relationship with God.

Mt. 5:27-30 Sex and Marriage

As we prepare to celebrate Valentine's Day, a day of love and romance, it is appropriate for us to explore and come to a deeper understanding of the proper role of sex in our lives. The destructiveness of lust and the distortions around sex abound in our society and often invite sex to become not a force of togetherness, but an experience which separates us and destroys families. The church, in its unwillingness to face the shame which comes from sexual distortions and its impact on marriages and our sense of well-being, has been quiet on this essential part of our human experience for far too long.

This sermon will deal frankly with sex and the ways that our society misuses our humanity to mindlessly sell us products and leverage our shame. I will be up front about these distortions and present my understanding of sex which I have arrived at from my work as a marriage counselor. If you are anxious about hearing this subject from the pulpit, you may want to skip this Sunday and speak with me at another time.

Mt. 5:33-37 Personal Authority

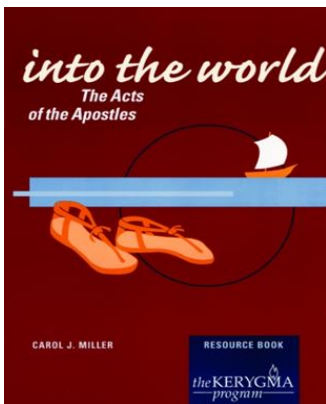
In this day and time when people find themselves shamelessly speaking for others, we are invited through Jesus' conversation about swearing and oaths to examine our personal authority and how to use our words in ways that care for ourselves and others.

Mt. 5:38-48 Retaliation

This passage about turning the other cheek is often misunderstood in a way that diminishes our humanity and disempowers us as we confront evil in the world. Jesus offers us wisdom about how to confront evil while at the same time empowering people to accept their own humanity.

Ash Wednesday, February 26th @ 7:00 p.m.

At this service we will continue to explore the Sermon on the Mount, this time Mt. 6:1-6, as Jesus guides us in our practices of spirituality. Lent is a time when we focus on the spiritual disciplines of prayer, service, and the giving of our resources to those who are in need. At this service you will have the opportunity to commit to a variety of disciplines of your choosing, and if you dare, choose an accountability partner in your efforts to grow in faith and love.



Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles, Feb. 5th, 6:30-8:00 pm.

The book of Acts, Luke's sequel to his gospel, is the story of the early church and how the actions of God's Holy Spirit empowers the new followers of Christ to take the gospel beyond the land of Israel into the world. This 14 part study looks at the life of the church as it makes its way into places where the gospel is unknown and it provides a great guide to us the church as we make our way through this post-church world. The resource book is \$22 and you are invited to order it through the church office. Please come prepared for our first session by reading the Foreword and Unit 1, pages 1-13. Reading the book of Acts beforehand, though not a necessity, will have its benefits. This book can be ordered from www.kerygma.com for \$22.00 each.



Hymn of the Month from the Glory to God Hymnal. #172 "Blest Are They" "This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), the opening portion of Christ's Sermon on the Mount," which "reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God's ways. This hymn will reinforce our exploration of the Sermon on the Mount in February and guide us in our offerings of praise for the many ways God blesses us in the midst of our struggles and joys.

Peace, Pastor Brant





<u>Bavarian Comfort Care</u> Bessie Daugherty	<u>Swanhaven Manor</u> Fern Evon Little
<u>New Hope Valley Independent</u> Dorothy Gray, Virginia "Ginny" Jarvi	<u>Wellspring Assisted Living</u> Shirley Roof, Carol Williamson, Bob & Marie Lemmer, Mary Ellen Sierocki, Lila Neumeyer
<u>St. Francis Home</u> Judith Lorenz	<u>Wellspring Independent Living</u> Helen Reynolds
<u>In Hospital or Private Homes</u> Dawn Curtis, Bessie Daugherty, Eleanor Farnum, Betty Hauk, Floyd & Lois Krzak, Ruth Marsh, Elaine Miner, Fran Preuter, Kathy Williamson, Betty Burr and Joan Comstock	<u>Health Source</u> Norma Meacham <u>Saginaw Senior Care & Rehab</u> Mary Young



Facts About Hunger

Over 33 million children die each year from malnutrition and hunger causes. In the U.S. more than 11 million children live in "food insecure" homes. Nearly half of the population in developing countries lives on less than \$1.25 per day.

Two coins a meal is a program of the Lake Huron Presbytery to help with hunger issues. We are invited to set aside a few coins each meal while remembering the needs of others. Our youth collect these coins on Communion Sundays. The Two Coins donations are divided. 50% goes to the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger. (See the showcase for a description of how they use the money.) 25% goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program to respond to the crisis of hunger in the U.S. and around the world. We have designated our 25% (to be used locally) to go to the East Side Soup Kitchen.

The Super Bowl Collections – 2 coins a meal and the soup pot collection will be received on Sunday February 2. The entire Soup Kettle collection goes to the East Side Soup Kitchen.

Blanket Sunday will be February 9. . These Church World Service blankets are distributed to people in the U.S. and around the world wherever disasters have occurred. 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.

\$10 will buy a blanket, \$20 will buy 2 blankets. You do the math! If you buy one blanket, you can pick a free Valentine, handmade by Countryside Trinity artists and friends. Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Women of the church.

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of January 21, 2020, that you may find helpful:

Opening: Reflection on Ezekiel 37:1-14 with elders writing a brief prayer.

Clerk's Report: Church membership remains at 131. Communion was served on January 5, 2020 to 54 parishioners. Six homebound members plus two family members were served communion either that day/or the week that followed. Correspondence from Presbytery was shared with the session. Clerk's annual questionnaire has been submitted. Pat & Frank Gndt have asked to be removed from the rolls. Resignation with regrets accepted by session action. For the record: The marriage of non-members Ron Platt and Brenda Hayes on January 7, 2020 by Rev. Piper. Installation during the worship service on January 19, 2020 of Elders Kathy Loviska and Darren Woodke and Dean Pat Denno, all of class of 2022.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brant gave his report on his service to the congregation, the community, and the denomination.

Denomination Report: Brief report of Presbytery meeting at Fenton, First on December 3, 2019 was given by Parker and Pastor Piper. Officer training was well attended on January 4, 2020.

Session Training: The results of survey taken at officer training and of the discussion following the annual meeting were discussed in length.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: C. Davis, moderator, planning meeting for January 29, 2020. Policy for church closure due to inclement weather adopted.

Finance & Stewardship: Forty-four people have paid their per capita. Some giving more than the required \$30.00.

Christian Outreach: K. Blehm, moderator, reported that \$516.00 was donated for the Christmas Joy offering. The mission Two-coins-a meal was discussed.

Personnel: Parker presented "Guidelines for Hiring New Employees" which was adopted by Session.

Spiritual Life: Communion dates were approved. The Bible Study "Into the World, The Acts of the Apostles" will start February 5th. The Wednesday afternoon book study will start a study on We Hope for Better Things by Erin Bartels on February 5th.

Women's Association: Approval for Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market on September 21, 2020 given to K. Loviska.

New business: Session approved the filling of the following positions for a one-year term: Clerk of Session, Mary Ann Parker; Treasurer, Mari McKenzie; Payroll clerk, Lynne Groom; Financial Secretary, Lori Halase.

Session Meeting



SENIOR FOCUS

The facts about osteoporosis

JANUARY 09, 2020 *SAGINAW TOWNSHIP VIEW*

Osteoporosis is often seen as a problem for the elderly, and the National Osteoporosis Foundation notes that being over 50 is a major risk factor for osteoporosis. But that doesn't mean people younger than 50 can't develop the disease. The misconception that osteoporosis exclusively afflicts aging men and women only highlights the need to learn more about the disease.

What is osteoporosis?

Osteoporosis is a disease of the bones that occurs when the body loses too much bone, makes too little bone, or both. Because people cannot feel their bones weakening, osteoporosis is often called a "silent disease," notes the NOF. Despite its silence, osteoporosis is a serious threat, increasing a person's risk for bone breaks from falls.

What happens to bones when a person has osteoporosis?

The NOF notes that, under a microscope, healthy bones look like a honeycomb. When a person has osteoporosis, the holes and spaces in the honeycomb are considerably larger than in healthy bones. Osteoporotic bones are not as dense as healthy bones, and as they become less dense, they weaken and are more susceptible to breaks.

Is osteoporosis common?

Osteoporosis is common across the globe. According to the International Osteoporosis Foundation, one in three women over age 50 and one in five men over age 50 will experience osteoporotic fractures.

What are the risk factors for osteoporosis?

The NOF categorizes risk factors for osteoporosis as uncontrollable and controllable. Uncontrollable risk factors include age, family history, low body weight (being small and thin), and a history of broken bones. Gender also is an uncontrollable risk factor, as women are more likely than men to suffer from osteoporosis. In fact, the NOF notes that a woman's risk of breaking a hip due to osteoporosis is equal to her risk of breast, ovarian and uterine cancer.

Controllable risk factors for osteoporosis include not eating enough fruits and vegetables; consuming too much protein, sodium and caffeine; a sedentary lifestyle; smoking; and excessive consumption of alcohol. Insufficient calcium and vitamin D intake is another controllable risk factor for osteoporosis. Speak with a physician about osteoporosis and the role that diet and exercise can play in prevention.

Osteoporosis affects people across the globe. Taking steps to reduce your risk for osteoporosis can prevent broken bones and other negative side effects of this disease.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance making initial assessments of earthquakes in Puerto Rico

Disaster Response January 8, 2020

Ministry associates who were on the island for meetings report widespread structural damage and emotional toll on residents

by Rich Copley | Presbyterian News Service



In the Puerto Rico community of Guanica, nearly 150 homes were damaged or destroyed by Tuesday's earthquake. (Photo by Edwin A. Gonzalez-Castillo)

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Edwin A. González-Castillo was frozen, as the Earth shook.

It was Tuesday morning, and he was in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, when a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck just before 4:30 a.m.

"It's a moment of uncertainty, because you don't know if it's going to get stronger, you don't know how long it's going to last. What should I do?" González-Castillo said. "You're frozen in place."

The Rev. Jim Kirk, who was in Puerto Rico with González-Castillo, said, "There's a lot of anxiety. We heard that all over the place."

Kirk, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Associate for National Disaster Response, and González-Castillo, PDA Associate for Latin America and the Caribbean, were in Puerto Rico for a meeting with synod executives to look at some ongoing projects in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

But the duo found themselves doing initial assessments of damage in the island's latest crisis, a series of earthquakes and tremors that have been rolling through the southern part of Puerto Rico since Dec. 28.

Tuesday's quake followed a magnitude 5.8 quake that struck Monday morning, when the PDA associates were in San Juan, on the Northern Coast of the island.



The Rev. Jim Kirk, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Associate for National Disaster Response, speaks with, left to right, the Stated Clerk of South West, Miguel Dros; Emeritus Pastor of the Guanica Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Otilio Polanco; and Commissioned Lay Pastor at the Guanica Presbyterian Church, Enid Santana. Photo by Edwin A. González-Castillo)

Traveling into Puerto Rico, a United States territory, they found widespread structural damage, including to five Presbyterian churches, two of which they had visited as of late Tuesday afternoon.

Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vazquez has declared a state of emergency, and much of the island is without power. Water has been cut off for nearly 300,000 people, according to CNN.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is processing an initial assistance request and anticipates receiving a church damage request.

In Guanica alone, González-Castillo said 148 homes had been impacted, from structural damage to complete collapse, and Kirk added that many businesses had also been affected by the quakes.

"We noticed in Guanica that most everybody was outside," Kirk said. "They're outside because they're afraid to go inside for fear of an earthquake that will collapse their structure."



The Rev. Jim Kirk, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's Associate for National Disaster Response, said many Guanica residents are currently living outside because the earthquake pancaked their home. (Photo by Edwin A. González-Castillo)

"The damage that we're seeing is pretty intense. The homes that were collapsed were just pancaked, and it's pretty sobering to think of anyone being inside when that happens."

Thus far, there has been only one confirmed fatality from the quakes.

While initial estimates put damage from the earthquakes at more than \$3.1 billion, González-Castillo said that the events are also taking a tremendous toll on residents' emotional well-being.

In addition to dealing with the damage and loss, unlike hurricanes and similar disasters where people can see when the storm has passed, earthquakes are far less predictable in terms of timing and strength. So residents have to live with the knowledge that another quake could strike at any time.

This series of tremors has served to remind people that the Caribbean is an active seismic zone.



This week's earthquakes in Puerto Rico did an estimated \$3.1 billion in damage to an island still recovering from the deadly Hurricane Maria, which struck in September 2017. (Photo by Edwin A. González-Castillo)

The Puerto Rican earthquakes come just before the 10-year anniversary of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Haiti, on the neighboring island of Hispaniola, which killed roughly 250,000 people on Jan. 12, 2010.

"This is the second night that they have been woken up by an earthquake," González-Castillo said on Tuesday, referencing the residents of Southern Puerto Rico. "Tonight is going to be a hard night for many people to go to sleep."

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing to enable Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to respond quickly to catastrophic events.

To give by phone, call 800 872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

UCC reaches out with disaster relief following earthquakes in Puerto Rico, launches emergency appeal

January 08, 2020

Written by **Connie Larkman**



The United Church of Christ is reaching out to partners in Puerto Rico after a series of earthquakes, the largest of which struck the island on early Tuesday morning, Jan. 7. The magnitude-6.4 earthquake, nine miles from the southwestern town of Guayanilla, has killed one person, taken down homes and other structures and caused an island-wide blackout.

Tuesday's quake, one of the strongest yet to hit Puerto Rico, is the latest in a series of temblors shaking the island. One on Monday, which hit just before dawn in the waters just south of the island, registered 5.8 on the Richter scale.

"Those earthquakes unleashed small landslides, causing a general blackout across the island and severely cracking some homes," said the Rev. Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto, the UCC/Global Ministries area executive who has been in touch with church partners on the island.

He said a string of smaller temblors, including another quake measured at magnitude 5.0 that struck later Monday, frightened residents of southern Puerto Rico who had been waiting outside their homes due to fears the buildings were damaged and unstable. "The media described significant damage in the towns of Ponce, Guayanilla and Guánica, towns on the south, and the southwest," Rivera-Agosto said.

He said three Global Ministries partner organizations are working to assist and assess the need in Puerto Rico.

"The Rev. Edward Rivera, general pastor of the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico (IEUPR), has been traveling to the southwestern part of the island, to accompany pastors and congregations from the denomination, as they are already accompanying the people there," Rivera-Agosto reported. They've recorded damages to several homes, to a parsonage in Yauco, and to a church in Ponce. Roads are also blocked in the south.

Rivera-Agosto said that Bishop Felipe Lozada, president of the Puerto Rico Council of Churches, has been in conversations with Presbyterian and IEUPR leaders to identify pressing needs.

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC associate general minister and co-executive for Global Ministries, is sending funds to IEUPR so the church can assist with needs of first response, such as hygiene kits. Disaster Ministries is also issuing a \$250,000 emergency appeal to continue to assist the people of the island long term.

"Our siblings in Puerto Rico are dear to our hearts. The earthquakes today have caused damages in addition to the lingering damages from Hurricane Maria," Thompson said. "UCC Disaster Ministries will continue to accompany our partners as they respond to the

immediate needs for shelter, food and necessities. We will assist as we can in this early stage and be prepared to be present for the work of long-term recovery."

Thompson also issued a call for prayer. "Holy God, source of light and life, our hearts are once again grieving as we witness the many tragedies around us. We pray today for our siblings in Puerto Rico who have awakened to the challenges of these earthquakes. We pray for their strength and resilience. We pray for those who experienced loss and ask their peace and comfort. Help us to be a source of your presence and love with all in this moment. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

UCC Disaster Ministries and Global Ministries have already been working with IEUPR to address the damages from Hurricane Maria. Since the storm in September 2017, the churches have collaborated on a multifaceted recovery program in which the UCC has invested \$770,000 to date. It includes equipment and seed money for Ryder Memorial Hospital, support for trauma recovery and preparedness training, and repair of a church mission center serving disaster survivors in San Juan and beyond. Roof repairs have been done on more than 200 structures, with 111 homes currently on the waiting list. Disaster Ministries has also recruited over 400 volunteers who have helped with the recovery work.

That type of commitment will continue following the earthquakes.

"As the island continues trembling, it is important to continue praying in solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico at this moment," said Rivera-Augusto. "Matters can change over the upcoming days."

Send a gift to the UCC Emergency USA Fund to assist the effort in Puerto Rico.

Your gift to UCC Disaster Ministries provides relief for suffering resulting from hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and other natural or man-made disasters. The UCC provides long-term rehabilitation, advocacy and sustainability services through longstanding on-the-ground partnerships and connections with grassroots organizations. When first responders have gone, the UCC is there to provide long-term recovery.

You can direct your gift to domestic (Emergency USA), international (International Emergency), or any geographic areas served by the United Church of Christ and its partners where disaster strikes (Area of Greatest Need). This allows the United Church of Christ to respond anywhere help is needed. Funds raised in response to a specific solicitation may be directed towards other emergency-relief and disaster-preparedness efforts as needs shift and disasters arise.

Donations may be made by sending your check to United Church of Christ, with "Disaster Ministries - Domestic," "Disaster Ministries - International," or "Disaster Ministries - Area of Greatest Need" in the memo. Mail to: United Church of Christ, c/o Financial Services Office, 700 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44115.

**BE COUNTED
MICHIGAN2020**

THE CENSUS IS NOW!!!

- For every person not counted, there is a potential of losing \$1,800.00 in tax dollars;
- Over the ten year period between now and taking the next Census that is a loss of \$18,000.00 to our County for each person not counted;
- Do everything you can to ensure you and all your family members are counted.



Happy Valentine's Day

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



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
- 26 Helen Reynolds



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

2020 CTC Lenten Schedule

2/26/20 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

3/04/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Spiritual Life

3/11/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Choir

3/18/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Session

3/25/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Spiritual Life

4/09/20 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

4/10/20 1:00 pm Good Friday Service

All of these events will take place at Countryside Trinity Church.



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

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

Bible Study - Meets in Lounge
Most Wednesday evenings @
6:30 pm

Choir Practice meets in Choir
Room on Sunday mornings @
9:15 am. All are welcome to join!

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

Deacons Meeting are scheduled as
needed.

Session Meeting 3rd Tuesday of
each month at 6:30 pm in Lounge.

Spiritual Life Committee meetings
are on the second Sunday of the
month following Worship unless
otherwise scheduled.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Adult Scrabble

Date: 2/10/2020

Time: 6:00 PM

1716 Hancock
Saginaw, Michigan 48602

Phone:

989-799-9160

Event Description: Calling all Scrabble players! Join us the second Monday of each month for a game of Scrabble. Meet new opponents or bring a friend. We provide game boards and Scrabble dictionaries. Ages 18 and older.

Directions:

Butman-Fish Library 1716
Hancock Saginaw, MI 48602



Movie Night: Hidden Figures

Date: 2/27/2020

Time: 5:30 PM

3100 N. Center
Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Phone:

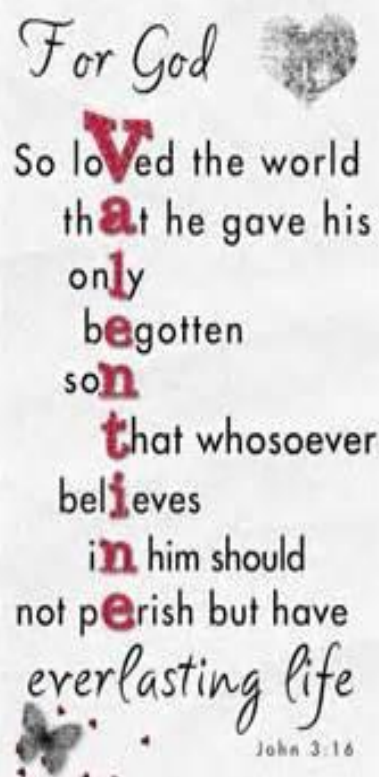
989-799-2771

Event Description:

Join us as we present the 2016 film "Hidden Figures". Based on the untold true story of three brilliant African-American women who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of John Glenn into orbit. Film Time: 2 hr. 7 min. Rated: PG.

Directions:

Zauel Memorial Library 3100 N.
Center Saginaw, MI 48603



Church Directory

We are working on the 2020 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 9th as new directories will be printed shortly thereafter. Thank you so much for your help.





Obituary of Elaine Kraenzlein

Loving cousin and special friend passed away Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at Hoyt Nursing and Rehab Center. Age 98 years. Daughter of the late George and Mary Jane (Gilliland) Munsch, Elaine was born July 25, 1921 in Munger, Michigan. She was a 1939 Graduate of Bay City High School. She was married to Raymond J. Kraenzlein in the Munger Presbyterian Church on November 14, 1953 and shared almost twenty

years together. He predeceased her May 30, 1972. Ray and Elaine loved to dance, particularly square dancing, ballroom and line dancing and belonged to a number of dance clubs. They also enjoyed traveling and took trips regularly. Elaine was a member of the Moose Lodge #82 and enjoyed the social activities there and the Washington Club. She also enjoyed playing cards, doing crafts and taking care of her garden. Elaine was employed in the Bay County Clerk's Office for twenty-three years and then the Saginaw County Clerk's Office for four years until her retirement in 1980. She was a member of Second Presbyterian Church for many years and is currently a member of Countryside Trinity Church.


Surviving to cherish her memory are several cousins and friends. Elaine was preceded in death by her sister, Marian Olfer, on September 24, 2000.

A special thanks to her cousin, Ellen Sommerfield and friend Richard O'Dell for their kindness and tender care.

Funeral Service will take place 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 25, 2020 at The Snow Funeral Home, 3775 N. Center Rd. (between Shattuck and McCarty). Chaplain Jay Williamson will officiate with entombment in Oakwood Mausoleum. Friends may visit at the funeral home where the family will be present on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until time of Service. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Countryside Trinity Church, American Cancer Society or your favorite charity.



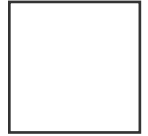
With
Deepest
Sympathy...

2020	FEBRUARY		SUNDAY	Countryside Trinity Church		
CALENDAR YEAR	CALENDAR MONTH		FIRST DAY OF WEEK	4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603 Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com Phone: 989-793-0125		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour						
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service with Communion and Two-Coins a Meal Offering; Souper Bowl Sunday; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour 4:00 pm - City of God		1:00 PM Craft group in Fellowship Hall	1:00 pm Book Club meets 6:30 pm Bible Study - Into the World			
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am -Worship Service; Blanket Sunday; 11:30 am Coffee Hour; 11:45 am		1:00 PM Craft group in Fellowship Hall	1:00 pm Book Club meets 6:30 pm Bible Study - Into the World			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am- Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour; 11:30 am 4:00 pm - City of God	Presidents Day	1:00 PM Craft group in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Session Council Meeting in Lounge	1:00 pm Book Club meets 6:30 pm Bible Study - Into the World	Deadline for March Newsletter		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am-Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour		1:00 PM Craft group in Fellowship Hall 6:00 Bead Group	1:00 pm Book Club meets 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service			
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
			6:30 pm First Lenten Program Soup Supper	Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m	 <small>Psalm 37:5, NIV</small>

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."

