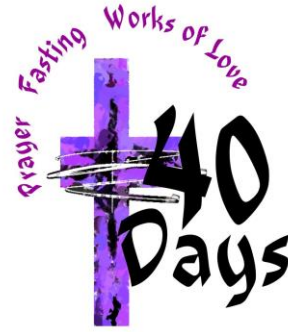




March, 2018 Newsletter



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH LENTEN EDITION

Mark your Calendar

- 03-01** Bible Study 4:00 pm
- 03-04** Worship Service 10:30 am
- 03-07** Book Study 1:00 pm
- 03-07** Soup and "The Potters House"
- 03-08** Bible Study 4:00 pm
- 03-11** Worship Service 10:30 am
- 03-13** C.E. Meeting 4:00 pm
- 03-14** Book Study 1:00 pm
- 03-14** Soup and "This Treasure"
- 03-15** Bible Study 4:00 pm
- 03-18** Worship Service 10:30 am
- 03-18** City of God Meeting
- 03-20** Session Meeting 6:00 pm
- 03-21** Book Study 1:00 pm
- 03-21** Soup and "Broken Places"
- 03-22** Baby Shower 1:00 pm
- 03-22** Bible Study 4:00 pm
- 03-25** Worship Service 10:30 am
- 03-28** Book Club 1:00 pm
- 03-29** Maundy Thursday Worship Service, "Finding Jesus in the Seder" 6:00 pm
- 03-30** Good Friday Ecumenical Service Faith Lutheran Church 1:00 pm
- 03-30** Tri City Presbyterian Tennebrae Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bay City , 7:00 pm
- 04-01** Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 am

From Your Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Days like today make me think of March. It's 55 degrees, cloudy with occasional bursts of rain. OK, it's only the third week of February, but as my friends in New York would say, "It sure feels like "mud time" to me. Mud time was a familiar phrase in the northeast and a great way to describe March. It speaks to the thawing of the land, the coming of spring, and the ground moisten to the point that it looks like fields of mud. It is a hopeful time as we allow ourselves the thoughts of spring, we celebrate the first crocus bulbs, we even begin our early plantings. (In my first church I was told I had to cut short a visit to a parishioner's home because it was March 17th and she had to get her peas planted!)

"Mud time" is also a playful time. Even now I find it difficult to contain the urge to jump into puddles when I see them. And what can be more playful and sometimes disgusting as making mud pies, or mud handprints on the cement, or on your shirt, or as one of my children was inclined to do, to paint the outside of your house with mud.

There is even a place for mud in our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday, we repeated the familiar phrase, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." Throughout Lent, we are looking at images of clay or mud, with the recognition that we are people born of mud. Genesis 2:6,7 reads, ***"But streams came up from the ground and watered the earth. The LORD God took a handful of soil and made a man."***

Continued on Page 2.

From Your Pastor, Continued from Page 1

Dabbling with the mud of the rivers, out of the creative mind of God, you and I were created. Which is probably one of the reasons I have mixed feelings about Lent—for it is at one time a solemn time for reflection, a serious moment to enter into the Lenten disciplines but it is also a time of celebration for it was from mud we came, and to mud we may return, and what could be more fun!

Perhaps the poet Robert Frost understood this better than most. In his poem "Two Tramps in Mud Time" he concludes that the purpose of life may be to bring together that which we do—our avocation—with that which we feel a deep passion, a calling to—a vocation. Hopefully, in the process we will bring our deep love to the world's need, in a prayerful, playful, thoughtful and joyful way. May God grant us a vision of that possibility for our own lives and for our life together.

Peace,

Pastor Dave

*My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.
Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For Heaven and the future's sakes.*

*"Two Tramps in Mud Time"
by Robert Frost*

Please make sure to join for worship throughout this holy season and especially for the many worship opportunities during Holy Week.



PRESBYTERY MEETING

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

9:00 a.m. Registration

Meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Linden Presbyterian Church, 119 West Broad Street, Linden, MI 48451

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MEETING

Thursday, March 8, 2018

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Presbytery Office

5560 McCarty Road

Saginaw, MI 48603



BIBLE INSIGHTS

Jesus Predicts His Death

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

"Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."



YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

Mary Ann Parker

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of February 20, 2018, that you may find helpful as we have made a few changes in how we do things:

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

Clerk's Report: Church membership remains at 97. Thank you note from Kathy Loviska for Christmas bonus was read and is posted on bulletin board. Annual statistical reports have been submitted to both Presbytery and the United Church of Christ.

Pastor Myers' Proposals: This particular Session meeting was a joint meeting with the Board of Deacons. Pastor Dave presented several proposals which will streamline the functioning of our church. The Deacons were allowed in the discussions and given voting privileges by the Session.

Proposal #1. Since it is difficult to find members to serve on the Board of Deacons and the Session (At the present time, members number 18 if both Boards were filled and with our declining membership the Nominating committee has had increasing difficulty finding members to fill both boards.), **a motion was sustained to merge both Boards into one Board on a Consistory of Sorts basis for a period of no longer than one year with full voice and vote for all members.**

Proposal #2. In the past we have had nine standing Session committees which is a lot for a church our size. **Motion sustained to move to five standing committees, Nominating, Administration, Spiritual Life, Mission and Evangelism, and Congregational Care.**

The following is a list of the committees, the committees that they will comprise, and the Session members who will serve on that particular committee.

Nominating is self-explanatory. Members are Jacob Groom, Dan Groom, and congregation-at-large members who were voted onto this committee at the last annual meeting Lou Diechman, Richard Woodke, and Marcia Lacker.

Administration will include Building & Grounds, Finance & Stewardship, and Personnel. Members are Mari McKenzie, Dallas Williams, and Mary Ann Parker.

Congregational Care will oversee fellowshiping events, the prayer chain, care of those recuperating from illness or injury, and the welcoming of visitors and potential new members. Members to this committee include Barb Groom, Nancy Easlick, and Aubree Mahan.

Mission & Evangelism will oversee all external relationships of the church which would include not only the mission of the month, but also relationships with ecumenical partners and entities such as Weiss School. This committee will also include public relations, developing a social media presence and working with Spiritual Life Committee to develop off campus activities for spiritual growth. This will be our "sticky connection" between the church and the community. Members to this committee include Kathy Loviska, Kitty Blehm, and Christine Greenwood.

Spiritual Life will include Christian Education (youth group is included in this), Worship (music program is included here) and the distribution of the sacraments to the homebound members. Members are Pat Denno, Sarah Gonzalez and Mary Longstreth.

*****The goal is to have at least 1-2 members/friends of the church on each committee in addition to those listed above. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees please notify Pastor Dave or one of the committee members listed. If you do not volunteer you may be asked. We are all in this together so let's work together, have some fun, and try to fulfill God's mission for Countryside Trinity.**

It was also decided that these various committees would meet on the Second Sunday of the month directly following church and fellowship hour for about 45 minutes.

Proposal #3. Discussion ensued regarding changing our church calendar so that our annual meeting would be held when we had a fair number of members in attendance. At the January annual meeting we just had a quorum present. **Motion sustained to present to the congregation a change in the by-law to change our church calendar from the present one (which runs January 1 to December 31) to September 1 through August 31 with the annual meeting to be held on the third Sunday in September. PLEASE NOTE - Motion sustained to call a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018 to vote on the by-law change.**

Old Business: Building & Grounds: Kathy Loviska gave update regarding the WIFI in the fellowship hall. Motion sustained to approve an additional \$4.99/month to be paid to Charter Spectrum for WIFI access point for any guest that may come into the church if Charter cannot correct the problem in fellowship hall with the equipment that we have installed at this time.

Mission: Kitty Blehm reported that \$134.00 was collected for the Souper Bowl for East Side Soup Kitchen and \$220.00 for Blanket Sunday.

Submitted for your information,
Mary Ann Parker, Clerk of Session

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Bess Daugharty (1920)
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 6 Caroline Pendell
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield (1964)
- 12 Richard Foote (1939)
- 14 Andy Smith (1981)
- 16 Shirley Roof (1936)
- 28 Andrew MacLachlan
- 29 Floyd Krzak (1928)

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Chad & Karla Parker (1993)
- 21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez (2009)
- 23 Robert & Eleanor Farnum (1944)



Women's & Mission Update

From "Marcia Lacker"

WOMENS ASSOCIATION

The women are finalizing the date to hold their Baby Shower/Birthday Offering. Watch for the date to be announced. Take advantage of the baby sales now as the event will be held soon. The baby pantry is always in need of diapers. Money is welcome if you choose not to shop. Hand-knitted items are wonderful. We will have dessert and a time to play games. Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering will be received. Everyone is welcome. The weather should be good.

Easter Breakfast will be served. Reservation slips are in the Sunday bulletins. Watch for menu and time details.

MISSION

The mission of the month is One Great Hour of Sharing. Both the PCUSA and the UCC receive this offering so we will split our offering between them. Monies are used for sharing resources and changing lives. Relief is provided in natural disasters, food is provided to the hungry, help is given to empower the poor in self-development. OGHS offering will be received on Palm Sunday. So far we have collected \$134.16 for the Souperbowl Sunday offering and \$220.00 for the Blanket Sunday offering.

We will be putting together Easter food baskets. More details will be forthcoming on this project. Easter is April 1st this year. No foolin'.



Bickford Assisted Living

Elaine Kraenzlein

Health Source

Bob Gulliver

Edgewood Assisted Living Center

Betty Huber

McBrite Manor

Bob & Marie Lemmer

Meadowview Manor

Carolyn Pendell

Swanhaven Manor

Fern Evon Little

New Hope Valley Independent Living

Ed Iles & Dorothy Gray

St. Francis Home

Judith Lorenz

Shattuck Manor

Shirley Roof & Carol Williamson

In Hospital or Private Homes

Betty Burr, Dawn Curtis, Bessie Daugharty,
Betty Hauk, Fran Preuter, Fred & Kathy
Williamson

Treasurer's Report

No report this month. Next issue will have a combined report for January and February.

The Usher

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row, please," she answered.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired.

"No," he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he answered.

New Telephone and Internet Provider at CTC

As of January 31, 2018, we have switched to Charter/Spectrum to provide our telephone and internet service to the church. Things are progressing fairly well, with one glitch still needing to be worked out.

Our telephone number remains the same, however, we will be utilizing a new email address and are also busy building a website. Soon, we will also be able to offer internet access to any guests entering our building. We currently have internet access for residential "Charter" customers. The sign-in information follows for those who currently have Charter in their homes.

Internet access for Charter customers: On your phone, laptop or tablet, go to settings and search for available networks. Choose **SpectrumWiFi**. You will get a screen pop-up that asks for your User Name and Password. Enter that information and sign-in. I believe you only have to do this once and each time you come into the building - you will have internet access on your mobile device. As soon as I have the sign-in information for non-Charter customers, I will let you know.

Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com

Website: www.ctcsaginaw.com

OUT OF CHAOS, [HOPE](#). Letter from the PDA

Greetings in the Light,

This past fall, three hurricanes battered parts of the Caribbean and Gulf Coast regions. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria brought violent winds and severe flooding, and their rapid succession left many people and relief organizations overwhelmed. Your faithful and generous support, however, allowed the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to respond with the light of hope in the midst of chaos, through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). **Thank you for your support.**

Your gifts provided emergency funding in Texas, Florida, Cuba and Puerto Rico. In the days after each storm, PDA was on the ground, assessing damage, providing expert support, partnership, consultation and coordination. Impacted congregations received urgent assistance to continue in ministry to their affected neighbors. PDA's response is widening, providing resources for long-term recovery, working with partners to set up volunteer rebuilding opportunities, supporting capacity building and providing support and training for leaders in Compassion Fatigue and Resiliency. Fatigue and hopelessness often cause a second crisis long after the winds subside and the waters recede.

Historic support from Presbyterians ensured a swift response. In Florida, decades of work in partnership and capacity building with the Florida PDA Network (FLAPDAN) meant that preparation and coordination began before Irma made landfall. Collaboration with presbyteries in Texas provides coordination of disaster response efforts. Ongoing support from Presbyterians means that long-term redevelopment is accomplished as the love of Christ is made visible in all of the affected areas.

Nowhere is the need so pronounced as in Puerto Rico. Throughout the island, the loss of homes, infrastructure and loved ones has touched almost every resident. Many months later, thousands of people still lack electricity and running water. Your support is delivering the light of hope into the darkness of the disaster. From the aid and cleanup on the island, to support for presbyteries in Florida and New England as they receive many Puerto Ricans displaced by the devastation, to long-term rebuilding and development, your gifts have made the church's response possible. Because of your support, PDA is able to support a coordinator for relief and development efforts in Puerto Rico from the Puerto Rican Presbyterian community. This important step ensures that the work done by the church will be delivered efficiently and effectively and will build capacity should future disasters strike the U.S. territory.

Thank you for sharing the Light with those in need by standing in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

Give:

You have been so generous to us and we thank you. You can continue to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and long-term recovery work through participation in **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This Special Offering secures PDA's capacity to respond to these and other disasters.

Act:

- Contact the PDA Call Center and organize a work team. Call (866) 732-6121 or email pda.callcenter@pcusa.org. Work teams will be needed in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico to assist in cleanup and rebuilding efforts.
- Ensure your congregation has materials to support One Great Hour of Sharing. PDA and its partner ministries, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People, are able to share the love of Christ with those in need because of widespread church support through One Great Hour of Sharing. If you have questions, need help or want to start receiving this offering at your congregation, email specialofferings@pcusa.org.

Pray:

God our Light,

Be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains, now follow the light of your love toward recovery and rebuilding. Thank you for the generous response of the church. May these gifts of support overflow more than floodwaters, to grow your work of healing and rebuilding and bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. *Amen.*

For more information, visit presbyterianmission.org/pda.

In the Light, The Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Does the Presbyterian Church Celebrate Lent?

By Lindsey Landis ; Updated September 29, 2017

The season of Lent starts with Ash Wednesday.

The season of Lent is an important one for many Protestant denominations, including Presbyterians. It is a solemn period in the liturgical calendar when worshipers pray, fast and reflect on their sins and the suffering of Jesus Christ. Presbyterians use this time to focus specifically on their baptism into the faith and what it means to them. Each congregation may observe the season in its own unique way, following the traditional church calendar.

The Lenten Season

Lent begins with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Each worshiper is invited to come to the front of the church to receive the sign of the cross on his or her forehead. The minister may say, "You are dust and to dust you shall return," or something similar. The season lasts for 40 days -- the amount of time that Noah spent on his ark, Moses spent on Mount Sinai and Jesus spent wandering in the wilderness -- and it ends on Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

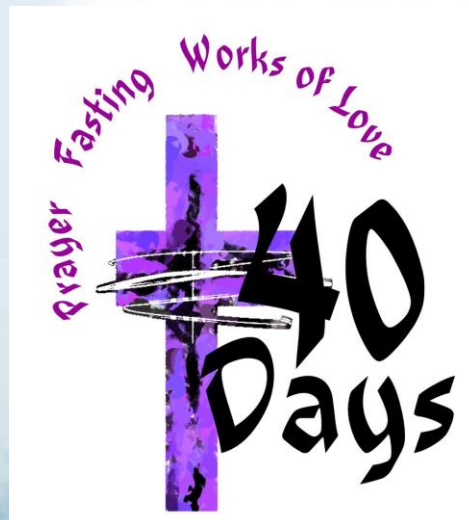
Maundy Thursday and Good Friday commemorate the last supper and the crucifixion, respectively. Services are solemn, and appropriate passages from the Gospel are read to the congregation. Tenebrae also may be practiced during this time. Candles are extinguished after each reading to symbolize the darkness in Christ's tomb, but one candle is lit at the end to remind worshipers that there is hope and that Easter is coming.

Fasting

Although it is not a requirement of the Presbyterian Church, ministers often encourage their congregation to make some sort of personal sacrifice during the season of Lent. This may be giving up a vice or small pleasure. On its website, the Presbyterian Mission Agency writes: "Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent — a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity."

Easter

The season that begins with Ash Wednesday ends with Easter. A baptismal font is often placed at the front of the church to remind the congregation of their birth in Christ. All fasts come to an end. Joyous songs are sung and praise is given for the resurrected son of God.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

By Kathy Loviska

Helen Reynolds was born in Glennie, MI on February 26, 1918. This was the last year of WW1. If you are doing the math, that makes her 100 years old!!! She is the oldest girl in her family of four children.

Helen has two sons, Larry and Roger, five grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Her family moved to Saginaw and she graduated from Saginaw High School in 1935.

Helen worked for the Board of Education for twenty years. She was a school secretary at Saginaw High School and retired in 1976.

One of Helen's favorite things to do is travel and she has seen much of the United States, including Hawaii.

Some of her achievements and volunteer work over her lifetime are as follows:

- Board of Retired School Personnel;
- Scholarship Committee of Community Foundation;
- Member of the East Side Soup Kitchen;
- Saginaw High School, PTSA President;
- Committee for Planning High School Class Reunions;
- Boy Scouts of America Scouters Key Award;
- Active at First Christian Church for 80 years holding positions of Church Board Secretary, Elder, Finance Chair, Church in Society Choir;
- Served on many committees at First Christian Church, including education, worship and finance;
- Choir Member; and
- Audrey Griffin Service Award from ESSK.

Hobbies include:

- Playing cards;
- Genealogy;
- Mini Reunions; and
- Volunteering where needed.

Helen has been attending here at Countryside Trinity Church for a while now and we all want to wish her a Very Special Happy 100th Birthday!!!



2018 MARCH

CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTH



SUNDAY
FIRST DAY OF
WEEK

Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603

Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com Phone: 989-793-0125

Website: www.ctcsaginaw.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	01	02	03
				Bible Study 4:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED	
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service w/ Communion 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Celebration of March Birthdays & Anniversaries		6:30-8:30 pm Family Game Night bring snack to share Presbytery Meeting Linden Presbyterian, 119 West Broad St., Linden, MI 48451; 9:00 am registration; 9:30 am meeting	Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if Desired Soup and "The Potters House" - 6:00 pm	Bible Study 4:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Meeting; 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Presbytery Office 5560 McCarty Road Saginaw, MI 48603	OFFICE CLOSED	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service Mission-Blanket Sunday 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: All Committees Meeting 12:00 pm			Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if Desired Soup and "This Treasure" - 6:00 pm	Bible Study 4:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: 4:00-6:00 pm City of God		6:00 p.m. Session/Council Meeting	Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if Desired Soup and "Broken Places" - 6:00 pm	Bible Study 4:00 pm April Newsletter Deadline; submit news to the office	OFFICE CLOSED	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: 4:00-6:00 pm City of God			Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if desired	Bible Study 4:00 pm 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service with communion-"Finding Jesus in the Seder"	 Ecumenical Service Faith Lutheran 1:00 pm. TriCity Presbyterian Tennebrae Service Westminster Presbyterian, Bay City 7:00 pm	
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
					Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. <small>Psalms 37:5, NIV</small>

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 793-0125

BLESSINGS FROM COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing. - Joel 2.12-13