Countryside Trinity Church Newsletter March 2019

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FOR I KNOW **THE PLANS** NI HAVE FOR YOU DECLARES 5 PLANS TO PROSPER YOU NOT HARM AND LANS TO G AND A FUTURE

1

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."

Dear Friends in Christ,

You would think that after serving 13 churches the process of saying "good-bye" would be easier. Truth is it is not. I am not sure why, but it probably has to do with a couple of things: the whole sense of unsettledness that comes with moving; the feeling that I am just getting too old for this stuff; but mostly it is the sense of wonder at how deeply the effect that people have on my own sense of faith and our common journey with God. What I have appreciated so much about all of you is your willingness to try new things, to move beyond your comfort zone, and to do so with a smile on your face and with a sense of joy in your heart. One of my favorite stories that I take with me was one in which I showed a picture of all the doves that were flying in the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday to a friend. She looked at the picture and went, "Wow". And then I told her that I was the youngest of the fourteen or so people who hung those doves and she went, "Wow, I mean REALLY WOW!" That is the incredible thing about life here at Countryside. There has not been a moment when you haven't risen up to the challenge, when you haven't gone the extra mile in faith. It is your gift. I have been blessed in your sharing it with me.

Now comes another moment in time when God is calling all of you as a congregation, and me as well to step out into a future that is not yet known. Your Designated Pastor Nominating Committee has done the hard work of compiling the needed Ministry Information Form which will soon be used to introduce this congregation to minsters in search of a call. I urge you to pray for them daily. The Session, which is very much a blend of old and new faces, will be working together to lead you into the mission and ministry of Jesus as they determine how to do the work of (the process) of this new blended congregation. Again I urge you to pray for them. The Deacons will continue to do the caring for the congregation, but will need your assistance. In times of transitions it is can be difficult to keep track of who's here and who is not. This happens even in a smaller congregation. So if you haven't seen someone in a few weeks, let a deacon know. If you are in the hospital or recuperating at home, have someone in your family call the church office so they can let the Deacon's know.

Finally, pray for each other, and for the ministry of this church. It is the most important thing any one of you can do! Remember, that when Jesus said his good-bye to his disciple, he promised them that he would send the Holy Spirit to guide and watch over them. I believe Jesus does that for every church in transition.

As for me, as of the time of this writing, I am not sure what God has in store. But I am looking forward to the next journey. Years ago I was with a confirmation class discussing the call of Christ upon our hearts. I said to the class something to the effect that the way I see it, we all have many callings in our life. I am called to be a minister of the word and sacrament, but I am also called to be Rhonda's husband, and Matt, Josh and Ben's dad. Today I can add to it that I am called to be Thatcher and Scout's grandfather. (Papa as they call me.)



When I came to this church, Kathy asked me for a photo for the Pastor's page of the newsletter and I shared one of my favorites. This is grandson Thatcher, my son Matt, and me. Now there is another grandson's hand to hold as together we go through this journey called life. So no matter what God has in store for me vocationally, I already am in the process of answering one of God's many high callings.

Which leads me to my final word: "See you later!" Twenty years ago, when my dad was diagnosed with inoperable cancer, we had a family gathering to have our last time with dad. At one point, during the weekend, the two of us were alone and he said to me, "Don't you dare say good-bye. Just say, "See you later. It's much more hopeful and it is what Jesus promised." He was right you know. Our scripture declares that Jesus will one day take us to himself—that there will be a great and glorious reunion of all the saints of light. So we may depart from each other now but the promise is that we will see each other later. This is our good news. Yet, I also find humor in that image of a house with many rooms, or many mansions as the King James Version translates it. The humor is that so often when we think about it, we think that those who are in the room or mansion next to us will be our friends and families. But I think God has a sense of humor, and that perhaps, just perhaps, when we all get to heaven, the person in the room next to us, will be the person we held a grudge against for all these years, or someone whom we just didn't like, or someone we judged in this earthly life as somehow less than ourselves and peers. Maybe, that is what Jesus is trying to say to his disciples. Make peace with your enemies now; make peace with those whom you dislike now—because you don't know if you will be spending eternity as neighbors.

Like grandfather, like grandson. My son Matt and I have a ritual whenever we are together. As one of us is heading out the door, we hug each other, and then he says, "Love you man." And, just as I am about to step out the door he says, "Later dude." So friends, it has been a pleasure working and worshipping alongside you. It has been a joy to laugh and sing and share our faith together. Thank you. So until we meet again: "Later dudes!"

Christ's peace be with now and always,

Pastor Dave



Spring Flea Market/Craft Sale Set for Saturday,

March 30th



OUR MISSION PROJECTS

The Countryside Trinity Church Women's Association conducts several fund raisers and events throughout the year to raise money for our Missions and sometimes to help with projects and repairs around the Church that need to be done. The Spring Flea Market and Craft Sale will be taking place on Saturday, March 30th.

Please mark your calendars and plan to come out and help where you can to make this day a success! We will need help with set-up and clean-up, workers throughout the day, donations of craft items and/or flea market items to be sold in our Attic Treasures Room. We will also have a Bake Sale and will need donations of homemade cookies, candies, pies, cakes, brownies, etc. to sell. You could also rent a space at a cost of \$20.00 and an additional \$5.00 if you need to rent a table. Spaces are filling up fast - so if you want to rent a spot, you need to get your registration in quickly.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall - please do your part and help wherever you can. Thank you.

All people of faith are called to care for God's Creation. Conserving energy is one important way for us, as Christians, to protect our planet and love our neighbors. **Countryside Trinity Church is hosting an Energy Efficiency** workshop on March 30, 2019, in Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service. This program will be both fun and informative.

You will learn how to save money, how to take advantage of free Consumers Energy's Home Energy Analysis program, and how to help our congregation earn up to \$5,000 cash!

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to participate in this program. It is **ABSOLUTELY FREE.**

EXCITING NEWS! CONSUMERS ENERGY HOUSE OF WORSHIP REWARDS PROGRAM

Countryside Trinity Church is partnering with Consumers Energy in their *House of Worship Rewards Program.* This is exciting news for all of us!

During the next few weeks we will be presenting information and giving you handouts to explain how the program works. Wait until you hear how this will benefit all of us.

It costs neither the church nor any of us a cent! And we can all receive numerous free household items from Consumers like, energy efficient thermostats, water saving showerheads, LED light bulbs, and much more! **All for free!**

And on top of that - Countryside could earn up to \$5,000 from Consumers Energy just for participating in the program. **Keep watching and be excited!**





For the quarter November, 2018 thru January, 2019 we have earned \$29.71 in donations from the Kroger Community Rewards Program. We currently have 16 households signed up. If you haven't signed up yet and need assistance, see Kathy Loviska.



The new 2019 Church Directory is located at the back of the sanctuary on the table. Please pick yours up as soon as possible.



Amazon has issued a donation of \$10.95 to Countryside Trinity Church for the last quarter of 2018. If you aren't already doing so, and if you shop on Amazon.com, please make sure you designate our church as your supported charity. Costs you **NOTHING** but gives a cash donation to our church for all purchases you make. You need to go to smile.amazon.com and designate Countryside as your charity. If you would like assistance, see Kathy Loviska. After that you simply sign on to smile.amazon.com when you shop that is all you need to do. Please help!

Parking Lot Repair Fund!!! As you know, last fall we were blessed with donations to enable us to repair the west entrance to our parking lot. The parking lot is still in need of a little fixing and the "Parking Lot Repair Fund" is still open and we are gladly accepting donations. It is the hope that by this summer we will be able to reseal and line the lot. In that regard, any donations can be placed in the offering plate in envelopes marked, **"Parking Lot Repair Fund."** Thank you so much from your Building and Grounds Committee members.



Church Women United is sponsoring four Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons with Guest Speakers. They will be held after Ash Wednesday and before Palm Sunday. Men and women are invited to attend.

Time: Luncheon 11:30 a.m. - Speaker at 1:15 p.m.

Place:New Heart UMC (Formerly West Michigan United Methodist Church,
18902 W. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI

Cost: \$9.00

Reservations:Delegates please call Jewel Humphrey @ 245-4087 with number
attending from your church 1 week prior to luncheon, which is the
Wednesday before.

Chairperson for 2019: H. Anne Jones

March 13thPastor Melene Wilsey, New Heart UMC, Reservation due March 6thMarch 20thRev. Dr. Eugene Seals, New Christ Community Church, Reservation due March 13thMarch 27thPastor Carolyn Wilkins, Resurrection Life Ministries, Reservation due March 20thApril 3rdPastor Ken MacGillivary, Hopevale Church, Reservation due March 27th

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of February 19, 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, was seated and given voice. Dr. Dan expressed his appreciation for the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee for their work. He also commended Pastor Dave for his faithful service to CTC during his time with us. The completed Mission Information Form which is what is submitted to General Assembly when a church is in a pastor search, was reviewed and approved for submission.

Clerk's Report: Church membership is 128. Norma Patterson died on January 25, 2019. Both statistical reports for Presbytery and UCC have been submitted. Motion sustained to elect Kevin Barnum as our Disaster Preparedness contact person. (Side note/ Lake Huron Presbytery has launched a new program called "Disaster Preparedness Coordination and Communication Plan" for the purpose of having contacts throughout the regions pending any type of disaster. This plan is intended to assist those in need of help in a timely manner, if and when a disaster may occur. Each church is asked to submit the name of a person who will be the contact for that particular church.) **Committee Reports:**

Spiritual Life & Congregational Care: The four young people who have been taking the confirmation class will meet with the session on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, at 9:30 AM for their examination.

Building & Grounds: Kevin Barnum has applied to the Pulse 3 Foundation for an AED, automatic external defibrillator. Kudos was given to Ed Halase and Mike Groom for the maintenance and upkeep of the building and grounds.

Mission & Evangelism: Kitty Blehm gave a report regarding the supported missions for February and March. Marcia Lacker reported on the Ezekiel Project and motion sustained for CTC to become a member and to pay the \$125.00 membership fee. Kathy Loviska reported on the Consumer's Power Project which is engaging the assistance of churches in reaching out to people in the community to reduce energy use in their homes by making a few strategic changes. CTC will participate in this event which was approved by Session.

Old Business: Two Coins a Meal offering will be collected by the children on the first Sunday of the month. **New Business:** Motion sustained to dissolve the Long Range Planning Committee.

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

Mary Karls "Lunch With a Lift" 2019

AN INVITATION TO A TIME OF PERSONAL RETREAT

On Saturday, March 23rd, Rev. Jim Williams will lead a retreat from 9 AM – Noon in the Memorial Lounge of the Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church building. This will be the first in a series of monthly morning retreats scheduled for 2019. Each mini-retreat will be self-contained. One need not attend the entire series.

Each retreat will focus on some form, or forms, of the spiritual discipline of prayer.

You have a treasure. It's the gift of prayer. A gift worth knowing and, above all, worth using well. In these brief retreats, we will reflect on this precious gift. I invite you to put some time aside each day to pray. Prayer is "a conversation with God." Like conversation, prayer takes different forms. It is not just a "one way" conversation, however. We will spend time listening for God as well as speaking.

It may be impossible to describe all the ways people pray. Over the next year we will practice a variety of forms. Prayer with scripture (lectio divina, collatio, e.g.), body prayer, breath prayer, meditation, guided imagery, praying with icons, etc.

We pray as we speak - with our own voice. Our unique personalities, our different gifts and experiences, give our prayer its own particular intonation. Even though we may use the same words, we each pray with our own voice. God wants to hear your voice. The reflections which are part of these retreats may help you find your own voice for conversing with God, who, not only invites you into prayer, but listens to you with infinite love. Or perhaps these reflections will simply re-visit what you have already learned.

Jesus retreated often in prayer. "Come away for awhile," and retreat from the ebb and flow of your personal life. One need not be a biblical scholar nor particularly spiritual. The only requirement is a desire to improve your conscious contact with God, as you understand God, through the practice of spiritual disciplines. May God guide your consideration of these retreat opportunities.

Pastor Jim is a trained Spiritual Director. He not only studied Personal Spiritual Direction with Oasis Ministries, but he is a graduate of the Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation's programs on "Group Spiritual Direction and Leading Retreats," and "Clergy Life and Leadership." Jim also trained as a life coach through Coaching4Clergy.

Except for the changes in the summer, due to lack of air conditioning, each mini-retreat will begin at 9 AM and end at Noon. The following is a tentative schedule for the remainder of the year:

March 23, The Spiritual Discipline of Prayer; April 20, An Introduction to Ignation Spirituality; May 18, The Spiritual Discipline of Meditation; June 15, Going deeper into Prayer and Meditation 10 AM – 2 PM Outdoors (weather permitting); August 17 Cookout and Retreat at Williams' 11:30 AM – 3 PM; September 21, More Praying with Scripture; October 19, An Introduction to Praying with Icons; November 23, The Spiritual Discipline of Simplicity; December 14, An Advent Retreat, Waiting for God.





The Mission of the Month is the Underground Railroad. The URR has been in operation since 1977 serving all residents of Saginaw County who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human slavery.

URR provides emergency shelter, leadership and programs to end domestic and sexual violence in the community.

Annually URR provides 14,000 safe bed nights for over 500 women and children.

Over 4,000 families in Saginaw County use one or more of their services.

The Resale Shop and Girls on the Run are two of their many programs. Check their website at <u>http://undergroundrailroadinc.org/</u> or call 399-0007 if you would like to volunteer. There are more details on their needs and how you can donate or volunteer time.

The Women's Association is planning a Birthday/Baby Shower on Wednesday, March 20th starting at 1:00 p.m. to meet some of the needs at URR. Take advantage of the baby sales that are taking place in stores now. Dessert will be served and fun will be had by all. Hope you can attend.

The Mission Committee began the idea of "Mission of the Month" several years ago when Mission was taken out of the budget as a line item.

The idea was to focus attention on various local and church wide missions. We hoped to spark interest within our congregation. No one is expected to give to all the missions. Choose the one(s) that interest you the most. The committee is open to considering adding, changing missions. Our goal is to increase our mission knowledge and giving.

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



RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA

Date: 3/26/2019 Time: 7:30 PM The Dow Event Center 303 Johnson Saginaw, MI 48607 Phone: (989) 759-1320

Event Description:

Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella is the Tony Award® winning Broadway musical from the creators of The Sound of Music and South Pacific that's delighting audiences with its contemporary take on the classic tale. This lush production features an incredible orchestra, jawdropping transformations and all the moments you love - the pumpkin, the glass slipper, the masked ball and more - plus some surprising new twists! Be transported back to your childhood as you rediscover some of Rodgers + Hammerstein's most beloved songs, including "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes Ago," in this hilarious and romantic Broadway experience for anyone who's ever had a wish, a dream...or a really great pair of shoes.

Tickets go on sale February 8th 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.

SBSO: MUSIC & VOICES: SAGINAW RISING

Date: 3/30/2019 Time: 8:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra Temple Theatre 201 N. Washington Ave.

Phone: (989) 415-5596

Saginaw, MI 48607

Event Description:

Nothing is more powerful than the combination of voices with a large orchestra. Join us for this unique performance as we team up with the Saginaw Choral Society and the Concert Choir from Saginaw Valley State University to perform Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams and Bruckner's inspiring – hymn of praise to God – Te Deum. This concert will also include Beethoven's vibrant fourth symphony.

Featuring Saginaw Choral Society and SVSU Concert Choir, special guests.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Bess Daugharty (1920)
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 6 Caroline Pendell
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield (1964)
- 12 Richard Foote (1939)
- 14 Andy Smith (1981)
- 16 Shirley Roof (1936)
- 29 Floyd Krzak (1928)
- 30 Glenna VanHautte (1938)
- 30 Robert Furlo



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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

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)

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

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall -Sunday mornings following worship Service. Please sign up to host when available. **All Committee Meeting** takes place on the Second Tuesday of the month @ 6:00 p.m. in designated areas of the church.

Deacons Meeting takes place on the 2nd Sunday of the month following worship in the Lounge

Session Meeting takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

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 <u>www.stcs.org</u> 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 <u>www.saginawcounty.com</u> 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

<u>First and Third Wednesdays</u> - 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.

<u>Fridays</u>: **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).

2019	MARCH		SUNDAY	Countryside Trinity		
CALENDAR YEAR	CALENDAR MONTH		IRST DAY OF WEEK	Church		
		T		4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 4860		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10:25 am-Announcements;		6:30 PM FAMILY	10:30 A.M. Pack			
Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service with Communion; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour:		GAME NIGHT AT MANSE. Bring a snack to share	Backpacks- Weiss School; 7:00 P.M. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE With COMMUNION			
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	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:25 am-Announcement;	6:30 p.m. Bead	6:00 p.m. Session	10:30 A.M.	Deadline for		
Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour:	Club	Council Meeting	Pack Backpacks- Weiss School; 1:00 PM. Baby Shower	April Newsletter		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:25 am-Announcements; Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: 4-6:00 pm City of God					Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m 12:30 p.m. Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
31	01	02	03	04	05	06

Countryside Trinity Church 4690 Weiss Street Saginaw, MI 48603



