

Countryside Trinity Church

Message from Pastor Dave: *"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."*
John 15:16

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: Life is full of choices. Daily you and I, well just about everyone we meet, are confronted with the responsibility for making many, many decisions that range from what shall I eat, how shall I spend my time, which relationships will I invest in today, and the list goes on. Sometimes having choice is a wonderful gift, a great opportunity to define ourselves, to venture forth in new directions, to create new possibilities for ourselves and those around us. At other times our choices were, for whatever reason, the wrong choice and we find our lives mired by the consequences of those choices. And then some times, our choices just weigh on us simply because there are too many of them. This really becomes evident in the marketplace wherein you can visit a local coffee shop and find 32 different ways to have essentially a cup of coffee or at the local fast food joint where you and I are told we can "have it your way". All of this has made "making choices" a rather serious business.

The emphasis on so many of these choices is that it is the I, the me, that is the center of the choice. My choice is an expression of me, it is a statement of my personal freedom. I am the one who gets to decide. Yet the story of faith that we share says that this is not always the case. We were chosen. God made a choice, Jesus made a choice, the Spirit made a choice and chose you. In Jeremiah, God declares to the prophet, ***'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'*** (Jer. 1:5) You were not chosen because of anything that you do, but because God believes that you are one of the many who has the potential to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the world through your words and actions. God chose you believing that you have the capabilities, the giftedness to build up the body of Christ that is the church. God chose you, as Jesus said to his disciples, "to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." The acts of baptism, confirmation and the invitation to church membership are all expressions of our response to being chosen by God. From those moments in our lives, we then make choices to how much, to what degree we will live out this remarkable gift.

This month marks my one year anniversary as your Interim Pastor. I am grateful for the blessing of meeting and getting to know many of you. I realize that there are still many of you I would like to get to know but for many reasons have not had the opportunity. I know that some folks are unable to attend because of physical limitations and it my prayer that working with the Deacons, we can offer you the care and hospitality of Christ where you are. I know that some folks have decided to leave after the Rev. Parker retired and that is your choice. If that is the case, please let me or the church office know that we might transfer your membership to the current house of worship that you are attending. I know that some of you may be "sitting on the fence" waiting to see where the church is going before committing once again to this church's ministry. Well God has chosen a new way for Countryside to go in the blending together of the Countryside congregation and the congregation of the Warren Avenue Presbyterian church. We are entering a new era that will bring new possibilities for mission and ministry, new faces and traditions. It looks to be a time of hope and grief, of new choices and new leadership.

Like Queen Esther, you and I, all of us, have been chosen "for such a time as this!" As we now enter into this time of God's endless possibilities, I hope that among the many choices that you will make this week, this month and in the years ahead, you will live out your choice as one of God's children with us. ***"Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you."*** (John Maxwell)

See you in church! Pastor Dave



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Women's News: The Women of Lake Huron Presbytery will meet October 20, 2018 at 9:30 a. m. at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Flint. "To Serve With Love" is the theme. The status of women and leadership will be discussed. Dr Rashall Hunter will lead worship. \$10 registration includes lunch. See the bulletin board for details.

Mission: The mission of the month is our own Samaritan Fund. The purpose of this fund is to respond and assist with emergency financial requests from our church or community members. The maximum amount to be given at one time is \$100.00 except for special circumstances. Application forms can be found in the office.

Three congregational members are appointed annually to serve with the pastor on this committee.

There are lists in Fellowship Hall of needed school items at Weiss School. There is also a collection box there. Some items are very specific. Please check the list before purchasing items.

Looking forward to early October we will be highlighting our Peacemaking and Neighbors in Need offerings.

CROP Walk will be Sunday October 14. If you would like to help coordinate our team of walkers, talk to Marcia Lacker. The recruiter meeting is on Saturday September 8, at Second Presbyterian Church at 9 a.m.

Your Session Council At Work!

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of August 21, 2018, that you may find helpful:

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

Administrative Commission of Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church were welcomed and each person introduced themselves. Following a discussion period, a **motion was sustained to commit to the blending of the congregations of Countryside and Warren Avenue.** Commission members were excused and on their way to meet with the session of Warren Avenue for the same discussion.

Clerk's Report: Church membership remains at 96. Matter of record: 1. a letter from Building & Grounds Committee stating that the insurance on the manse and the church provide adequate coverage for both properties was read. 2. a letter from Lou Diechman was read stating that he had reviewed the 2017 financial records and that all was in order. Communion was served to nine homebound people in July.

Pastor Myers Report: Pastor Dave asked to have one week of "floating vacation" including one Sunday. The dates will be determined by the arrival his new grandson. Motion sustained to send a honorium to the Linden Praise Band in the amount of \$125.00 for their participation in our worship service in July.

Committee Reports:

Administrative Committee: Motion sustained to approve the budget for 2018-2018. Parking Lot repair was discussed and an appeal for contributions from the members will continue until the end of September. **The goal is to raise about \$2700.00 for an asphalt company to make the repair which will last longer than if we patch it ourselves, but the type of repair on the money collected.** Facilitates use and rental fees were discussed by the committee and it was decided that all remain as it is at this time. New contracts for those who use the facility on a regular basis will be renewed annually. It was decided that some of our meetings will be held in the manse from time to time per the best option presented by the insurance carrier because of the manse being vacant at this time. A check list for closing the church will be posted in the fellowship hall for anyone who is closing up the church. They can review the list quickly and double check before leaving the church.

Spiritual Life: It was suggested that the usher list of duties be reviewed and have a check list of duties available in the sanctuary for ushers to check before leaving that area on Sunday morning. **Motion sustained to increase the price of the devotional "These Days" to \$1.00 as the church pays \$1.75 for each copy. The remainder of the leftover current copies will be donated to a correctional facility for use by the inmates.** Genesis Sunday will be September 9th. The advent programs will be entitled "Finding Grace in the Nutcracker" with the possibility of attending the Nutcracker ballet in Midland in December.

Mission & Evangelism: The missions of the summer months were reviewed. Two hundred twenty-five dollars was donated and sent to Emmaus House plus all of the items under the Christmas tree in July. Items are now being collected for the children at Weiss Elementary School.

New Business: Motion sustained to have a trunk sale on September 15th with a rain date of September 22nd. Indoor and outdoor spaces will be available. The money raised will go to the Women's Association. Motion sustained to allow Pastor Dave to plan an outing in Frankenmuth to go zip lining on the Sunday afternoon of September 30th. It will be open to all members who will pay their own way.

****All committee meetings' night will be at 6 PM on September 11, 2018.**

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mari McKenzie

	July				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	752.72	9,691.29	11,615.76	1,500.00	328.25
Memorial	8,711.83	50.00		(1,500.00)	7,261.83
Special projects	668.79	100.00			768.79
Mission					
Hunger	616.79				616.79
Heifer proj (Church School)	11.99	2.45			14.44
UCC/PCU	28.75				28.75
Good Samaritan	2,553.28	10.00			2,563.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	4,468.69	310.15	500.00		4,278.84
Local	85.00	225.00			310.00
Bricks	1,325.40				1,325.40
	19,223.24	10,388.89	12,115.76	-	17,496.37
Endowment	167,200.60				167,200.60
	186,423.84	10,388.89	12,115.76	-	184,696.97

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 23, 2018, following worship. Please plan to stay for the meeting as we will need a Quorum present.

GET INVOLVED

Express yourself and your faith by joining the worship, music, or usher team today.

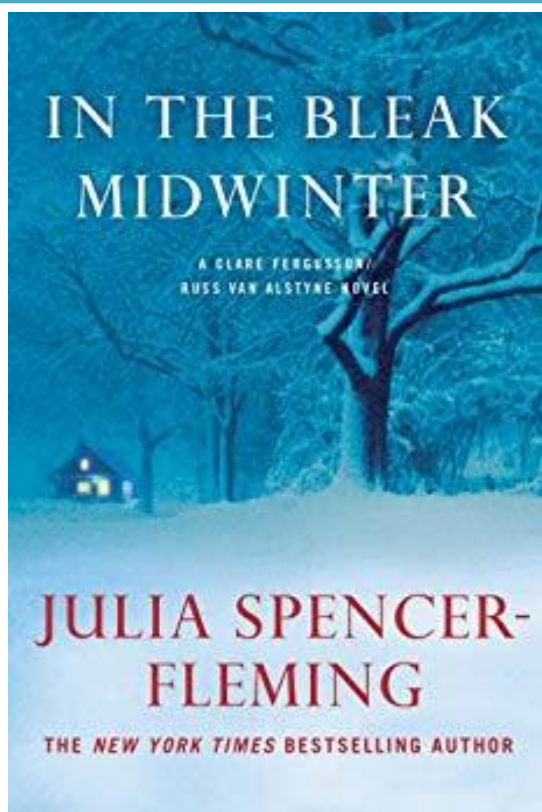


There are so many meaningful and fun ways to get involved, and there is something for everyone to do and **YOU** are needed in order for CTC to continue to grow and move forward. If you are interested in becoming a worship helper, sing in the choir or have any questions about how you can help, please speak with Darren Woodke, Dan or Barb Groom. If you can occasionally usher, talk with Pat Denno or sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

Also, I am looking for people to highlight in the upcoming Newsletters in the **"Getting to Know You"** spot. Please let me know if you would be willing to let me do an article about you and/or your family. Thanks - Kathy Loviska.

Christian Education

GENESIS SUNDAY - is scheduled for Sunday, September 9, 2018, following Worship. Come celebrate with us as our youth come back to begin a new year of Church School. There will be games, cake walk, food, fellowship and fun for all. Hot dogs, buns and beverages will be provided by the Deacons, however, please bring a dish to share and we are asking those who can to donate an item for the cake walk. If you wish to help, but cannot bake anything, you may donate cash to purchase a cake for the event. See Barb Groom to coordinate your donation.



BOOK STUDY TO RESUME

Book Study will resume soon. It will be on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and if you desire, you can bring lunch or a snack. Start date will be announced. Please fill out order form and give to Pastor Dave or turn it in to the office asap. Cost will be \$10.00 for the book.

In the Bleak Midwinter is one of the most outstanding Malice Domestic winners the contest has seen. The compelling atmosphere-the kind of very cold and snowy winter that is typical of upstate New York-will make you reach for another sweater. The characters are fully and believably drawn and you will feel like they are your old friends and find yourself rooting for them every step of the way.

Please Order A Book For Me!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you

DIAL 211 FOR HELP!



2-1-1 is a Health and Human Services Hotline for Northeast Michigan. "Non-Emergency" assistance is available by calling 2-1-1. To talk to a trained professional about hundreds of health and human services available, call 2-1-1. Staff are trained to assist those in need with referral for food, housing, utilities, child care, emergency shelter, clothing, legal aid, literacy, transportation, substance abuse, senior issues, disability, health care, and much more.

Choir Practice Resumes

Choir practice resumes and is moving back to Thursday evenings promptly at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 6, 2018.

Director, Dan Groom, is always in search of new voices. If you want to lend yours to the choir, please see Dan for more information.



If anyone is interested in participating in the "Read Program" this fall at Weiss Elementary School, please contact Lori Halase for more information on how to volunteer. This **very important** program will be resuming in September following the start of the school year. **Get involved!** You can make a difference in the life of these young girls and boys!

Parking Lot Repair Fund!!! If you drive to church, you are well aware that our parking lot is in dire need of repair. Thanks to an anonymous contribution, coupled with church monies, the potholes at the east end of the lot have been remedied. However, two sizeable potholes remain at the west end. Last spring, Session/Council voted in favor of initiating a fundraiser which will enable the repair of the parking lot. This is just a reminder that such a fund exists and a plea for you to consider a contribution toward this much-needed project. How the repairs are made will depend on the amount of monies collected (i.e. filling the openings with individual bags of asphalt patch versus having the potholes filled by a professional asphalt company.) 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.



Engraved Memorial/Commemorative Bricks: Engraved bricks are always available for purchase here at Countryside. They are an ideal way to remember a loved one who has passed away or to commemorate a special day or accomplishment of those who are still among us. The cost for bricks remains \$25.00. Order forms are available in the church office or in the alcove in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or need help completing forms, please see or call Lori Halase, 792-4613.





Trunk Sale - Saturday, September 15, 2018

Plans are underway for our 2nd "Trunk Sale". This year we will be offering indoor and outdoor spots for vendors to set up their wares. We are hoping to get a good turnout for this event. There will be new and used merchandise and the church will also have a bake sale table. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Also pass the word around to your friends, relative and neighbors. The outdoor parking lot spaces will be \$10.00 and the indoor spaces will be \$20.00 and will hopefully generate some money to replace that of the "Rummage Sale" which has been discontinued.

For information on how to obtain a space, please contact Kathy Loviska. You can stop in at the at the office or call (989) 793-0125.

What's on your Bucket List?

Sunday, September 30th, following worship service, a group of us will be traveling to the Frankenmuth Aerial Park to go **ZIPLINING!!!** If we get at least 6 people who are adventurous and want to go ziplining, the cost is \$30.00. For under 6 people, cost is \$35.00. There are many courses from beginner to advanced and they also encourage folks to come along at no charge as watchers, picture/video takers and cheerleaders! Please see either Pastor Dave or Kathy Loviska if you have questions or want to sign up. Reservations need to be in no later than Friday, September 21st. **COME JOIN IN THE FUN!**

HOLIDAY **BAZAAR**

Don't forget to put Countryside Trinity Church's Holiday Bazaar on your calendar. This year the event is Saturday, November 3, 2018. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. and we close at 3:00 p.m. We are not offering lunch to our customers this year, but **WILL** have lunch for the workers so don't forget to sign up to help. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall on the Bulletin Board. Also, the bake sale will be **BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER**. If you can donate, homemade pies, cakes, cookies, candy, and other goodies, please see Barb Groom to make arrangements for those donations.

Gather anything you might wish to donate for the ever-popular **"Trash & Treasures"** room and for those who are crafty - we will be asking for and gratefully accepting, your donations of homemade items for our sales table.



Bickford Assisted Living

Elaine Kraenzlein

Edgewood Assisted Living Center

Betty Huber

Health Source

Bob Gulliver

St. Francis Home

Judith Lorenz

Wellspring Memory Support

Carolyn Pendell

Swanhaven Manor

Fern Evon Little

New Hope Valley Independent Living

Dorothy Gray

Wellspring Independent Living

Bob & Marie Lemmer

Mary Ellen Sierocki

Helen Reynolds

Wellspring Assisted Living

Shirley Roof & Carol Williamson

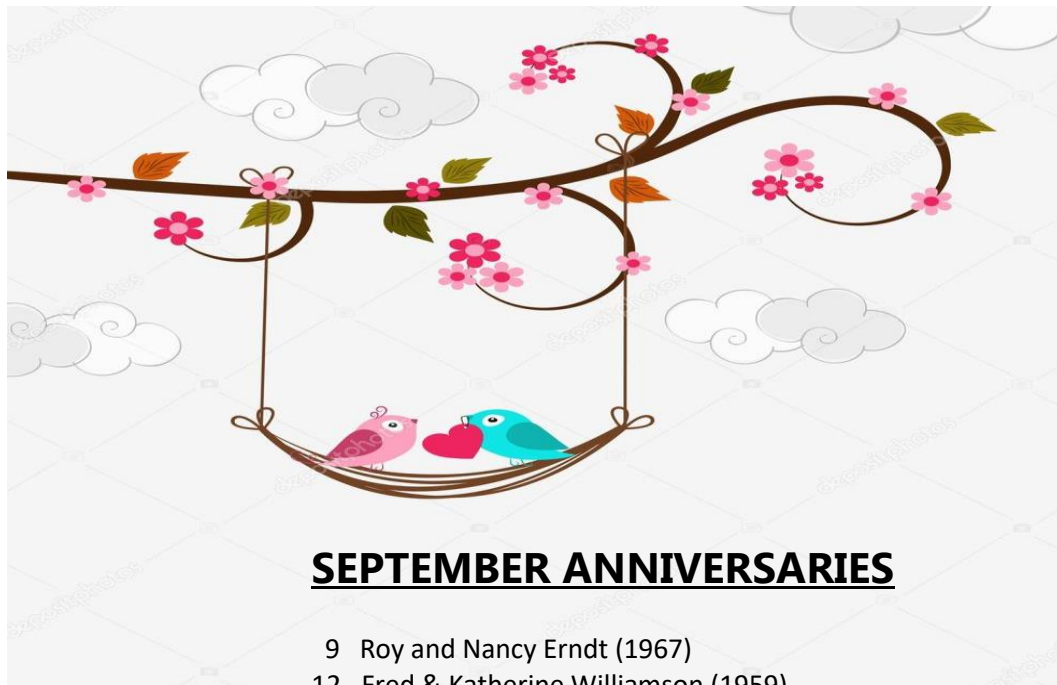
In Hospital or Private Homes

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Becky Pequignot (1964)
- 3 Rob Halase (1988)
- 3 Dora Fitzgerald (1966)
- 6 Jerry Brachear
- 13 Louis Diechman (1929)
- 14 Michael Patrick Groom (2013)
- 14 Jane Strom
- 17 Randy Blehm (1953)
- 17 Lois Krzak (1930)
- 22 Amanda Dean Groom (1983)
- 30 Vincent Martinez (1964)



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Roy and Nancy Erndt (1967)
- 12 Fred & Katherine Williamson (1959)

Things To Do

Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market

- 203 South Washington Avenue
- Saginaw, MI 48607
- From: May 25, 2018 – Oct 31, 2018
- Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
- Monday 12 pm-6 pm, Wednesday & Friday 10 am-3 pm, and Saturday 9 am-1 pm

If you have not been to visit our beautiful "Downtown Saginaw Farmer's Market" be sure to put this on your "To Do List". The indoor market is now open and chock full of wonderful shops, foods and fun!

Bay City Players Presents "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

- 1214 Columbus Avenue
- Bay City, MI 48708
- From: Sep 27, 2018 – Oct 07, 2018
- Every Sunday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- Thurs, Fri, Sat @ 7:30 pm; Sunday @ 3:00 pm
- Admission: TBA
- (989) 893-5555

Clay: Adult Workshops

- Painterly Pottery & Michigan art studio
- 923 North Water Street
- Bay City, MI 48708
- From: Aug 30, 201
- 8 – Dec 27, 2018
- Recurring monthly on the last Thursday
- From: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
- Admission: \$25.00 - Call to Reserve (989) 895-1029

MATINEE & DINNER SHOW: A BIT O' BUBLE

Date: 9/19/2018

Time: 11:00 AM TO 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM TO 9:00 PM

Bavarian Inn, 713 S. Main St., Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Bryan Dixon has wowed audiences all over the great state of Michigan with his high-energy, passionate performances that are sure to make you move your feet. Enjoy the smooth sounds as he sings and swings, in true Michael Buble fashion, with his "A Bit O' Buble" tribute show. Serving a Hearty Chicken Plate Meal \$45 per person – Matinees include: meal, show, milk, tea, coffee or fountain soft drink, tax & gratuity. Reservations & Prepayment Required.

Events

FREE Senior Day at the Zoo

- Recurring monthly on the 1st Wednesday of the month until October 3, 2018
- From: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Other Admission Prices: Zoo Admission \$5.00; Members FREE! Train and Carousel rides \$1

Enjoy our Tea and Tour

- Japanese Cultural Center and Tea House
- 527 Ezra Rust Drive
- Saginaw, MI 48601
- From: Apr 03, 2018 – Oct 30, 2018
- Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- From: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Admission: \$5.00 (cash or check only)
- (989) 759-1648

Arts In the Park 2018

- Tittabawassee Township Park
- 9200 Midland Road
- Freeland, MI 48623
- Sep 08, 2018
- Recurring on the 2nd Saturday of September
- From: 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- Admission: \$30.00 in Advance / \$40.00 at the Door (Adults 21+ only)
- (989) 695-9512

This one of a kind event features the work of area artists, entertainment from local bands, wines from around the world and delicious food. Come out and enjoy an extraordinary afternoon of wine, food, art and music.

ONGOING EVENTS

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.

California Church untouched by wildfire that took members' homes

August 06, 2018

Written by Connie Larkman

A UCC congregation in Redding, Calif., is planning a community meal on Tuesday, August 7, for friends and neighbors who have lost their homes and possessions to the wildfires burning in the area. While flames came within a mile of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, the church building, designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, was spared. The church family was not.

Elizabeth Cifu Shuster, who manages the office and the facilities at Pilgrim Congregational Church, said four members of the congregation have lost their homes entirely, and many are still under mandatory evacuation.

"The church was under mandatory evacuation for a time, and our congregation really stepped up to take care of the building and the church body," she said. "The fire came within a quarter to a half-mile of the church; two neighboring subdivisions were on fire at one point. Several members immediately began calling around to find out who had been evacuated and that everyone was safe."

Pilgrim Congregational is between pastors right now, so everyone is pitching in to share information and to provide care for others in their community.

Elizabeth and her husband Tyler, who also works for the church, started a congregation-wide email thread to get everyone in on the same conversation. "In this way, we were able to learn about most of the people who lost their homes," Elizabeth said. "I cannot guarantee that there are only four at this time, because many people are still evacuated and out of town, so they don't know the status of their home yet. It's too soon to give a final number."

The blaze that ravaged Redding and the surrounding area, the Carr Fire, is one of the largest of more than a dozen fires raging across Northern California. Six people, including two firefighters, have died. The fire has destroyed 112,888 acres in the past week, along with 1,060 homes and nearly 500 other buildings, including barns and warehouses, making it the sixth most destructive wildfire in California history, according to state fire officials. It was just 30% contained as of Wednesday morning.

On Thursday, August 2, representatives of Northern California Nevada Conference and UCC Disaster Ministries went to meet with the Cifu Shusters, to take them supplies to help start the cleanup process.

"It was deeply moving to join Associate Conference Minister Davena Jones and Revs. Bob Shore-Goss and Joe Shore-Goss in delivering 10 disaster clean-up buckets the Northern California-Nevada Conference made last month at our Annual Gathering to Pilgrim Congregational UCC," said Amanda Sheldon, program associate, UCC Disaster and Refugee Ministries. "When we made these buckets at annual gathering, we decided we wanted to keep them in our conference for when the next disaster came, but we had no idea that would be only one and a half months later!"



Associate Conference Minister the Rev. Davena Jones is also serving as the interim Conference Disaster Coordinator.



"As I drove from Fairfield to Redding, I watched the sky change from a clear blue, to a foggy, smoky, haze. I saw once grassy areas now charred for miles," Jones said. "Once I arrived to Pilgrim Congregational Church I immediately noticed the ash on the ground, the steps, in the plants. The air was so bad that a mask should have been worn, especially for someone like me who has asthma. So I can't help but feel a deep concern for those with respiratory problems."

"I know for a fact that the Pilgrim family is very grateful for your love, prayers, calls and support thus far," she continued. "As they discern in the next couple of weeks the type of support they will need moving forward please contact me, Pastor Davena Jones, Associate Conference Minister with your questions and ways to support this Congregation and Community. Pilgrim is currently in transition and without a pastor, so for now, our Conference office will be their Pastor and contact."

Jones said Pilgrim Congregational Church is the only church in the Conference with members who have reported loss of their homes. There were, however, other UCC congregations and affiliates threatened by the fire. Two other UCC churches and three Retirement Housing Foundation (RHF) facilities are in the Redding fire area.

"Alturas-Federated Community UCC (in Alturas) and Cedarville-Surprise Valley Community UCC (in Cedarville) are taking in a lot of smoke," Jones said. "Pastor Ben Zandstra has encouraged members of the churches (he is Pastor to both congregations) to pack important items, medications, and photos case a fire starts. Pastor Ben stated that the air is really bad, causing issues for those with respiratory problems."

Two of the RHF homes were evacuated for a few days because of approaching flames, but as of last week, the residents of RHF Housing: Butte Home and Cottonwood Home are back in community, safe and accounted for. The people of Redding Pilgrim House still have bags packed in case they need to evacuate quickly, though the fires are not currently posing an immediate threat to that community.

But the fire season in California is just beginning. And UCC Disaster Ministries is standing by to assist churches through gifts to the Emergency USA Fund. Disaster Ministries has already provided a solidarity grant, partnering with the Conference to fund Pilgrim Congregational Church's community dinner August 7.

On Sunday, August 5, Northern California-Nevada Conference Minister the Rev. Diane Weible joined Pilgrim members in worship. She said their former Pastor, the Rev. Ann Lougee, came back to preach for them. "She did a wonderful healing circle for the four families that lost their homes and for the families that were evacuated," she said.

"This fire took so many people's homes," Elizabeth said. "It also took from us six lives, most of a national park, a gem of a river trail, countless hiking trails, housing opportunities, and friends who are deciding not to rebuild and are leaving the area. We had a budding tourist economy here, and at least for the foreseeable future, that has been brought to a halt. It's impossible to name all of the loss we have encountered as a community. We will be grieving for some time."

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance prepares to send national response team to Texas

August 28, 2017

Team to assess damage from Hurricane Harvey and catastrophic flooding

By Rick Jones | Presbyterian News Service



Texas National Guard soldiers assist residents affected by flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Aug. 27, 2017. (National Guard photo by Lt. Zachary West)

LOUISVILLE – Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still pounding parts of Texas. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks, submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is maintaining constant contact with Mission Presbytery and the Presbytery of the New Covenant.

"We know that in Mission Presbytery, the major impact of the storm has taken place," said Jim Kirk, PDA's associate for national disaster response. "Presbytery leaders are doing an assessment and addressing immediate response needs. But the latest forecast calls for torrential rains to continue for the next 48 hours so it's still an ongoing, dynamic event."

Mission Presbytery includes the cities of Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Rockport and more. Harvey's landfall was near Rockport and authorities say wind damage was devastating.

"A large chunk of the presbytery was impacted one way or another," said Alan Ford, who oversees the presbytery's disaster recovery efforts. "We're still trying to get information on the impact of the storms and flooding because it varies from the coastline to inland communities"

Ford says it's the worst flooding to hit the area in nearly 50 years.

"One of the problems is access to many of the flooded areas and a lot of the people have been evacuated. They don't know what they will be going back to," he said. "From what I've heard, many of the churches have been devastated by the storms and water."

Members of PDA's National Response Team, will be in the area on Wednesday to begin the review process.

"The team will connect with presbytery leadership to offer support, lend their efforts to assessing the damage and offer a ministry of presence to congregations as well as assist the presbytery in developing a short term response plan," said Kirk. "They will also connect with interfaith partners on the ground."

By the end of the week, forecasters say the Texas coastal areas could see as much as 50 inches of rain, the average yearly rainfall total for the area. The upper Texas coast and parts of southwestern Louisiana could see up to 25 additional inches according to the National Hurricane Center.

"There could be a lot of damage further inland as flooding proceeds downriver. The amount of rain we've seen inland has just been enormous," said Ford. "However bad it has been for us, it's bad or worse in the Presbytery of the New Covenant and we want to keep those folks in our prayers as well."

The Presbytery of the New Covenant includes Houston, Galveston and Bay City among others. Thousands of people have been evacuated and thousands more are still awaiting rescue according to the Red Cross as torrential rainfall from Harvey continues to deluge the area and bring additional threat to Louisiana as well.

"Just like with Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy and Matthew, we are relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with these communities and the Presbyterian families," said the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, PDA director. "This is a catastrophic event of wind and water, the likes of which Texas has not seen. In the Song of Solomon, Scripture says 'Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it,' and we will be there with them. Our love and partnership will be with the people of Texas for the long run."

Kraus estimates PDA will be making a three-to-five-year commitment to help communities recover from the disaster.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency response and refugee program of the denomination, committed to the long-term journey of recovery of communities adversely affected by a crisis or catastrophic event. It is funded by One Great Hour of Sharing and raises designated funds for responding to specific disasters.

To support recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, go to this website to donate securely and quickly - <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/>

If you prefer to mail a check (please designate Disaster Relief – U.S. Hurricane Response, DR000169), send it to:

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

You may also call 800-872-3283 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT), to donate by phone.

Visit the PDA website @ <http://pda.pcusa.org/> for continuing updates.

2018

CALENDAR YEAR

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR MONTH


Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603

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

Website: www.ctcsaginaw.com

SUNDAY
FIRST DAY
OF WEEK
Wednesda
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02 10:25 am-Announcements, Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service. 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Celebration of September Birthdays & Anniversaries	03 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	04 6:30 pm-Family Game Night Resumes! Bring a snack to share and come prepared to have fun.	05	06 6:30 pm Choir Practice	07 OFFICE CLOSED	08
09 10:25 am-Announcements Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service w/communion 11:30 am-Genesis Sunday Picnic 4:00-6:00 pm-City of God	10	11 6:00 p.m. All Committees Meeting	12	13 6:30 pm Choir Practice	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 9 am-3 pm Trunk Sale/Flea Market Sign-up sheet for helpers on Bulletin Board
16 10:25 am-Announcements Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour:	17	18 6:00 p.m. Joint Deacon Session Council Meeting	19	20 9:00 Presbytery Mtg, Tawas, GA Clerk Speaker. 6:30 pm Choir Practice	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 10:25 am-Announcements Sanctuary;10:30 am-Worship Service 11:30 am - Annual Mtg. 11:45 am - Coffee Hour: 4:00-6:00 pm - City of God	24 Deadline for October Newsletter	25	26	27 6:30 pm Choir Practice	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 Women's UCC Fall Conference Detroit
30 10:25 am-Announcements Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Ziplining-Frankenmuth Aerial Park. Time TBD	01	02	03	04 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	05	06 

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

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BLESSINGS FROM COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

Don't pray when it rains, if you don't pray when the sun shines...

