

Countryside Trinity Church

PASTOR'S CORNER

Genesis; the beginning of New Life. Sunday, September 8th.

On Sunday, September 8th, we will celebrate Genesis Sunday, our annual festival marking the beginning of a new Christian Education year. Christian Education not only strengthens our understanding of our scriptures and beliefs, but also works to provide the environment through which encouragement is found to clarify and live out our beliefs. Through these efforts all participants can experience the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ which empowers us to move beyond our flaws and failures as well as the hurts and resentments of our pasts.

Because of its essential nature, we are providing growth opportunities at a variety of times and places, and around a series to topics to explore. Please review these and decide which will work best for you. If you have ideas on other times and places and courses of study you believe will facilitate our growth, please suggest them to a member of the Spiritual Life team.

Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith

Wednesdays, 1-2pm, September 11th

This 8 part series will explore our experiences of God in the light of contemporary literature through excerpts of pieces written by well-known authors such as Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, Alice Walker, and Annie Dillard. The study will meet on Wednesday afternoons, starting at 1. The book will be available for purchase in the church office for \$11 and the study begins on Wednesday, September 11th at 1pm. Those who wish to come early and bring their lunches that they might enjoy a brief fellowship before the class begins are welcome to do so.

Mark, Interpretation Bible Study

Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm, September 18th

This 10 part series will explore the Gospel of Mark, the earliest telling of the story of Jesus Christ. The book will be available for purchase in the church office for \$8.

Great Ends of the Church

Sunday mornings, 9-10 am, September 15th.

In our Book of Order there is a listing of the six Great Ends of the Church, which directs our work as we seek to be the church in the world. This 6 weeks series will enhance our understanding of these great ends and how they mirror our efforts to both prepare ourselves for mission by deepening our faith, and send us out into the world on a mission to proclaim Christ. Guidebooks are \$6.

Sermon Series, "Great Ends of the Church," September 8-October 6th.

As part of our Genesis celebration, we will begin a 5 part series in exploring the Great Ends of the Church. These 6 statements, found in the first chapter of our Book of Order, direct the work of the church and challenge us to think through all of the essential parts of our mission.

September 8th Preservation of the Truth Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

September 15th Maintenance of Divine Worship, Isaiah 6:1-8, John 4:16-24

September 22nd The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God, Romans 12:9-18

September 29th The promotion of social righteousness, Amos 5

October 6th, World Communion Sunday, The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world; Matthew 28:16-20

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Your Session Council At Work

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of August 20, 2019, that you may find helpful:

Opening: Pastor Brant Piper opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk's Report: Church membership is 132 at this time with the passing of Robert Farnum on 8-9 2019. Communion was served to parishioners on July 7, 2019 and to 62 on August 4, 2019. Twelve homebound members have received communion with 2 pending.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brant gave his report on his service to the congregation since starting on July 15, 2019. He has made several hospital and assisted living visits as well as serving communion to three of our homebound members.

Denomination Report: Mary Ann Parker volunteered to serve as elder commissioner to Presbytery meeting in Mt. Pleasant on September 17th.

Session Training: Pastor Brant distributed information about leadership in the church and the processing of anxiety. Following a discussion of anxiety, anxious session members continued with the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: In the absence of C. Davis, Roger Scovill reported on the Warren Avenue school bus situation. **Motion was sustained to decline the acceptance of the school bus but to allow it to be parked on the church property until the administrative commission of Warren Avenue can dispose of it.** It was decided that this committee will explore various options regarding the future of the manse and to report back to session.

Finance & Stewardship: Mari McKenzie reported that they are working on the budget which will be narrative this year and the stewardship campaign which will conclude on November 10th with the collection of the pledge cards. **It was agreed upon by all session members to allow the Finance & Stewardship Committee to handle and monitor the endowment funds.** This was the work of an endowment committee years ago but the committee has not been active in recent years. **All session members also agreed to the recommendation of this committee that \$90,000 from the cash and cash equivalent fund be invested in CD's at the Cornerstone Fund to gain a better interest rate.**

Christian Outreach: Kitty Blehm reported that \$85.00 was received for the July "two coins a meal" offering. For the June mission of the month, ninety dollars was collected for Emmaus House. Our portion of the Pentecost offering, \$179.00, will be donated to the READ program. Pastor Brant will meet with this committee in the near future regarding supporting missions to which members are associated.

Personnel Committee: Mike Groom has returned to work following his knee surgery. Dan Groom and his grandson, Brady, cleaned the church while Mike was off. **Thank you so much, Dan and Brady.** Kathy Loviska has returned to work. **We appreciated Sandy Redfield filling in to do the Sunday bulletins and the newsletter.** Our organist, Angie Mitchell, will be moving to Florida. A special fellowship hour after church on September 1, 2019 will be held in her honor. We are presently looking for an organist.

Spiritual Life: Pastor Brant reported that three spiritual growth classes will be started in September.

New Business: Genesis Sunday events were discussed. Motion sustained to elect Marcia Lacker as our official delegate with payment for registration to the annual meeting of the UCC. Session will meet on September 17, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

	July				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	13,690.75	8,496.86	7,047.50		15,140.11
Memorial	6,345.00				6,345.00
Special projects	2,128.79		810.00		1,318.79
Mission					
Food	833.44	5.00			838.44
Heifer proj (Church School)	(0.00)				(0.00)
UCC/PCU	223.38	63.75	287.13		-
Good Samaritan	2,873.28	85.00	150.00		2,808.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	4,711.26				4,711.26
Womens Association	(11.20)				(11.20)
Local	163.37	346.25	429.63		79.99
Bricks	1,460.45		104.75		1,355.70
	32,418.52	8,996.86	8,829.01	-	32,586.37
Endowment	145,644.31	2,579.43			148,223.74
	178,062.83	11,576.29	8,829.01	-	180,810.11

Pastor's Corner - Continued from Page 1

**Homebound Communion Workshop, Monday,
September 23rd, 1 pm**

Whenever we celebrate Holy Communion in our worship service we have the opportunity to “extend the table” to those who are homebound. We are invited *“As soon as possible after the service,(ordinarily on the same day), the bread and cup may be shared with absent, homebound, or hospitalized members by two or more persons in ordered ministry.”* (W-3.0414) To equip elders and deacons who wish to participate in this ministry, there will be a workshop on Monday, September 23rd, from 1-2:30 pm. A workbook will be offered which provides guidelines for the sharing of the bread and cup, and to facilitate the pastoral ministry this sharing of communion provides. Please contact Mary Ann Parker or Dan Groom to find out more or to express your interest in attending.

Hymn of the Month

For September, our hymn of the month is “Come, Live in the Light! (We are Called), No. 749 in the purple Glory to God hymnal. This hymn, written in a folk song style, captures the energy and enthusiasm of this style, and urges us into action. Each of the three stanzas exhorts us with an imperative verb: “Come! Live in the light!” “Come! Open your heart!” “Sing! Sing a new song!” The action here is inspired by Micah 6:8: “. . . what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Of special interest is that the song’s author, David Haas, was born here in Saginaw and studied vocal music performance, piano, and conducting at Central Michigan University.

Through our Hymn of the Month effort, we are working to create a more hospitable worship service for our community, whose members may not be as familiar with the language and symbols of our faith as has past generations.



MISSION REPORT

Mission of the Month is The City Rescue Mission. Their mission statement is “To glorify God by serving people in need, proclaiming the Gospel and establishing disciples among disadvantaged people.”

The Saginaw Mission plans to build a 5,000 square foot warehouse adjacent to the current mission property. Donated household furnishings will be stored there until they are needed by clients who successfully complete Mission programming, and prepare to set up a new home. They call the process “Helping home happen”. It will turn a rented, unfurnished apartment or house into a warm and encouraging home.

Similar programs show that homeless families are more likely to sustain independent living in such an environment. Volunteers will help decorate. Families will also receive case management for 12 months.

Pantry immediate needs are: boxed cereal, canned tomato soup, canned peas, canned cream of chicken soup, canned carrots.

Monetary donations are always needed.

Peace and Neighbors in Need offerings will be received on October 6.

CROP Walk will be Sunday, October 13. Start your training. Perhaps we can form a team to walk together. More details will be coming.

CRAFTERS GROUP

If anyone is interested in getting together at church for crafting, knitting, crocheting, etc. to make items to be sold at our Holiday Bazaar please contact Judi Westendorf at 793-5315. Come join the

CTC Crafternooners



Back to School

*School starts Tuesday
September 3rd in
Saginaw County. Watch
out for children walking
to and from the bus
stops.*



Norma Meacham wishes to thank everyone for all of their prayers and kindness shown to the Rob Tubb family during his illness and passing on Sunday August 18, 2019.

Rob went peacefully to be with his loved ones and will be missed by many who knew and loved him.

Love Norma Meacham



Women's Association

- The Women's Association is preparing for the upcoming Annual Holiday Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2019. Volunteers will be needed to help set-up, tear down, and to work the event. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.
- If you are crafty, please think about donating items which could be sold at our "Craft" table.
- CTC has one of the best (if not THE best) bakeries around when it comes to Church Bazaars. Don't forget to make a few things for the bake sale.
- If you or someone you know wishes to rent a table for the event, please see Kathy or call the office at 793-0125 for more information.
- There are registration forms on the register in Fellowship Hall.



Genesis Sunday Picnic

September 8

Join the celebration!



Read with Me!

READ Program Resumes in October

The READ Program at Weiss Elementary will resume in October after giving the teaching staff the opportunity to organize their schedules and identify the students who might benefit from our help. Looking ahead, orientation for this year's volunteers will take place at the READ Association office (100 South Jefferson, Suite 203) via an open house format on either Tuesday, September 24th from noon until 2:00 p.m. or Wednesday, September 25th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It is not too late to join us as a volunteer. It's a very rewarding experience and a commitment of only one hour per week with lots of room for flexibility. Please see or call Lori Halase (792-4613) if interested or with any questions.



Eleanor Farnum wishes to thank all her friends at Countryside Trinity Church for their kindness, care and support during Bob's final illness and in the wonderful luncheon which was served following his funeral service.

Food Drive for Hunger



The last Sunday of each month is when we collect food for those in need. Please mark your calendar to drop off or bring your donation to church on September 29th.

Backpack Program



We are starting to see activity again across the street at Weiss Elementary School. The school bells will begin ringing on September 3rd.

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan backpack program attempts to reduce child hunger, educate students and families on proper nutrition and promote healthy lifestyles. It is designed to provide extra support on weekends for children who receive free or reduced-priced lunches at school. This program provides a backpack full of nutritious and easy-to-prepare foods for children to take home on the weekends when school meals are not available. For many of these children, this backpack is their only source of food when school is not in session. The new principal, Katie Stanley, is in the process of coordinating the backpack program with the Food Bank. As soon as logistics are worked out, the Mission Committee will develop a plan for church volunteers. We anticipate that there will be 48 backpacks to fill every other week during the school year. If you are interested in volunteering, see Kitty Blehm for more information.

AMAZON SMILE REWARDS

Please remember to go online to smile.amazon.com and select Countryside Trinity Church as your charity to support when shopping at Amazon.



Obituary - Robert Farnum
May 2, 1923 - August 9, 2019

Beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on Friday August 9, 2019, after a brief illness. Robert was born in Detroit, Michigan, on May 2, 1923, to the late Gerald and Eva Mae (Root) Farnum. He was a 1941 graduate of Millington high school where he shined in all athletics; primarily in baseball, basketball and football. While in his senior year, Robert's team went undefeated, unscored upon, he played both ways and called all plays from the end position . Following graduation, he attended the University of Michigan for his freshman year. Robert then enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps serving in both Cairo, Egypt, and Tel Aviv, Israel, ascending to the the rank of sergeant while receiving many awards and commendations before his honorable discharge. He married the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Eleanor June Lynch on March 23, 1944 in Hastings, Nebraska. Upon his return from the army, Robert enrolled and graduated from Pharmacy School at Ferris State University and became a licensed Pharmacist. He worked for his father at the Jerry Farnum Drug Store on 6th and Lapeer Streets in Saginaw. Robert then worked for Valley Drugs in Carrollton which was eventually acquired by Walgreens and later by Rite Aid, working for all three until he retired at 65 years old. Following his retirement, Robert began to work part-time another 20 years with Rite Aid; retiring at age 85. He was a long-time member of Grace Presbyterian Church and currently a member of Countryside Trinity Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and all Detroit sports teams. Robert also enjoyed square dancing, playing Bridge and bowling. Above all, he loved and cherished his family.

Surviving are his wife of 75 years, Eleanor J. Farnum of Saginaw; their children: Daughter, Ellen A. Shoaps of Charlotte; her children: Robin Shoaps, PhD. of Fairbanks, AK; Son Dr. Jay (Teresa Hill) Shoaps M.D. of Duluth, MN; their children: Elyn (Casey) Roberts and their daughter, Zoey; Harrison Crane; twins, Carter and Finn Shoaps; Una Shoaps, Zelda Shoaps; son, Gerald J.(Michelle) Farnum of Flushing; their daughter, Amanda Farnum and her fiance, Stefan Russell. Also surviving are children of beloved, deceased, son, Dr. Gordon R. (Margery) Farnum, DDS; Christopher Farnum of Saline; his son, Sean Farnum; son, Michael Farnum, PhD and his wife Katherine of Exton, PA; their daughter, Zora; son, Daniel Farnum and his special friend, Alison Scribailo of Tulsa, OK; sister-in-law, Alice Lynch of Caro; many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Gaynard Farnum, DDS.



Betty V. Huber

Saginaw, Michigan

Jul 8, 1924 – Aug 8, 2019

Cederberg & Brietzke Funeral Home Obituary

Betty was born on July 8, 1924 and passed away on Thursday, August 8, 2019. Visitation is set for Tuesday August 13, 2019, friends may visit with the family from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., private burial will take place at Roselawn Memorial Gardens. Visitation at the Cederberg Brietzke Funeral Home from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM on August 13, 2019.

Note: Unfortunately we did not find out about Betty's death until two weeks after she passed away. Rest in peace Betty.



We wish the very best for Angie Mitchell as she prepares for her retirement. Angie plans on spending more time with her children and grandchildren and getting away from our cold Michigan winters as she enjoys the beautiful Florida sunshine.

Angie has truly been a blessing to the music ministry here at Countryside Trinity and she will be greatly missed. Angie has been more than our organist and accompanist, she has been a dear friend to all of us. As a dedicated musician she has always gone above and beyond to assist the choir and our soloists with her musical talents and her great sense of humor.

As Angie enters a new chapter in her life, she knows and we know that she will always be a part of our church family. On behalf of the choir, and everyone here at Countryside we thank you for your gift of music, your friendship and the love you shared with us in the name of Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Good Friends
Never Say Goodbye
They Simply Say
"See You Soon"

IN THE COMMUNITY

Y Celebrates Community

Date: 9/18/2019

Time: 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

YMCA of Saginaw
1915 Fordney St
Saginaw, MI 48601

Phone:

(989) 753-7721 ext 208

Event Description:

The YMCA of Saginaw invites the community to an evening of food, fun and fellowship. The event will showcase the Y Community Hub, feature tours of the newly renovated YMCA and celebrate community members and partners.

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

5:00pm – 7:00pm

5:00pm Social

5:30pm Partner Showcase & Y Awards *

6:00-7:00pm Open House & Tours

*During the partner showcase the Y will present: Emcee: Michael Webster, Chair Saginaw County Board of Commissioners, YMCA member and Board Chair.

50-year Life Members: +Philip Grimaldi, Matthew Hicks and Rev. Charles Stuart

Max Fisher Spirit of the Y Honoree: Tyrone E. Harge

Community Collaboration Award: Saginaw Intermediate School District

Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. RSVP by Sept 10 – No charge to attend – thanks to sponsor support

RSVP: (989) 753-7721 ext 208 or
ASzymanowski@SaginawYMCA.org

Mamma Mia!

Date: 9/20/2019 TO 9/29/2019

Time: 7:30 PM

Midland Center for the Arts
1801 West St. Andrews Road
Midland, MI 48640

Event Description:

SEP 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2019 / 7:30 PM

SEP 22 & 29, 2019 / 3 PM

Outstanding regional talent from Bay, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties comes together in this ultimate feel-good show!

Now it's your turn to have the time of your life at this hit musical that combines ABBA's timeless songs including, "Dancing Queen," "S.O.S.," "Super Trouper," "Take a Chance on Me," and "The Winner Takes It All," with an enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship. Whether it's your first time or your fourteenth time, see the show that has the world coming back for more!

Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus
Book by Catherine Johnson
Originally Conceived by Judy Craymer
Directed by Tommy Wedge
Choreography by Jennifer Hopkins



<p align="center"><u>Bickford Assisted Living</u></p> <p align="center">Elaine Kraenzlein</p>	<p align="center"><u>Swanhaven Manor</u></p> <p align="center">Fern Evon Little</p>
<p align="center"><u>New Hope Valley Independent</u></p> <p align="center">Dorothy Gray, Virginia "Ginny" Jarvi</p>	<p align="center"><u>Wellspring Assisted Living</u></p> <p align="center">Shirley Roof, Carol Williamson, Bob & Marie Lemmer, Mary Ellen Sierocki</p>
<p align="center"><u>St. Francis Home</u></p> <p align="center">Judith Lorenz</p>	<p align="center"><u>Wellspring Independent Living</u></p> <p align="center">Helen Reynolds</p>
<p align="center"><u>In Hospital or Private Homes</u></p> <p align="center">Dawn Curtis, Bessie Daugharty, Betty Hauk, Floyd & Lois Krzak, Ruth Marsh, Elaine Miner, Fran Preuter, Kathy Williamson, Betty Burr</p>	

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Becky Pequignot
- 3 Rob Halase
- 3 Dora Fitzgerald
- 5 Charles Davis
- 6 Jerry Brachear
- 8 Lindsey Groom
- 13 Louis Diechman
- 14 Michael Patrick Groom
- 17 Lois Krzak
- 22 Amanda Dean Groom
- 30 Vincent Martinez

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Roy and Nancy Erndt (1967)
- 9 Shirlee & Roger Scovill (1978)
- 16 Peter & Isabella Dominguez (1951)



Got Lunch! feeds 500 kids in New Hampshire community this summer

August 15, 2019

Written by **Connie Larkman**



A community collaborative in New Hampshire anchored by a United Church of Christ congregation is delivering groceries to local families every week over the summer, ensuring 500 children have access to healthy food.

Got Lunch! Laconia, housed in the Congregational Church of Laconia and led by the Rev. Paula Gile, associate pastor, is a 10-week program that was created in 2011 to feed school-aged children in the community over the summer months.

"Two things really stand out for me about the Got Lunch! Laconia program," said the Rev. Gordon Rankin, New Hampshire Conference Minister. "The first is the depth of the need. The program provides food to the families of all the children who receive free or reduced lunch in the school system. In Laconia that is around 60 percent of the children in town. The second thing that stands out to me is the depth of the support for the response."

This year that response includes local businesses, other religious institutions, an area grocery store chain and a partnership with the region's agricultural cooperative. Got Lunch! Laconia also involves more than 200 volunteers for 2019, a number that has grown steadily in the nine years since Gile and the community launched the ministry.

"I got here in December [2010], my first call out of seminary. The first week I was here I was asked if I had experience with a summer lunch program," Gile said, noting that she had worked on one previously in Vermont on a very small level. "People loved the idea of this delivery system. The first year we had 300 kids and 70 volunteers, 80 percent of whom were church members. This year we are feeding 500 kids with 240 volunteers, 20 percent who belong to Congregational Church of Laconia."



The Got Lunch! Laconia procurement team picks up food for the program at the food bank in Manchester, N.H. They start stockpiling supplies beginning in January, making the hour drive every other week until the beginning of June, when they go every week through mid-August.



Each Sunday and Monday from June through August, Got Lunch! Laconia volunteers report to the church a few hours at a time. After worship on Sunday, a group sets up long rows of tables downstairs in the church hall. Those work stations fall under the supervision of Mary Sorrell.

"I retired from my accounting job and read about this in the paper," said Sorrell, a volunteer from the community who has been with the program for about seven years. "I wasn't really looking for something to do, but my neighbor was a volunteer. I came with her, and the rest is history."

Sorrell started bagging groceries for delivery. She's now the Sunday set-up coordinator—handling the paperwork that involves the count of bags that need to be packed and delivered to Laconia families on each of a dozen different routes every week. One set of paperwork notes how many people are on each route. Another describes the products to be packed, so when the volunteers come in Monday morning everything is ready to go.

The next day, bright and early, the bulk of the work begins. Farmers drop off fresh vegetables purchased by the program, which are bagged up at 8 a.m. Got Lunch! Laconia also provides dairy vouchers redeemable at Vista Foods so families have access to milk, eggs, cheese or yogurt. By 8:30 a.m., between 60 and 120 volunteers go to work to bag up the rest of non-perishable items, assembling a week's worth of food for each child.

"Grandparents love to bring their grandkids here," Gile said on Monday, Aug. 12. "I bet we had 110 people packing today. At least 30 of them were kids."



Jacob Marshall, 17, has been volunteering since he was 9, first coming with his grandfather and his sister, Chelsea. Even though he no longer attends Laconia Congregational, he said he's always here, filling in wherever he's needed – from bagging groceries, to running them out to drivers, to parking cars.

"I really enjoy it a lot. I love to do community service," Marshall said. "I have also encouraged my cousins [who are] 10 and 14 to join us, along with some people from my high school in Concord, N.H. We do this every year."

Diane Tinkham, a member of the UCC church, has been involved eight of the Got Lunch! Laconia program's nine years. She now oversees the allergy bags operation with a team of three.

"As someone who has food allergies, we figured out how to do it efficiently and safely for the families," Tinkham said noting they can accommodate the four most common allergies —peanut butter, tree nuts, gluten and tuna. "We do sun butter, chicken instead of tuna. Special pasta for gluten free families, gluten free bread. We are precise about getting the right modifications."

Being careful to get it right includes packing the products in bright red bags, each prominently labeled with the names of the families.

All the grocery bags are color-coded. In addition to the red bags labeled for kids with food allergies, there are blue bags for one-child families, and green bags packed for two children. So, a family with five kids, for example, is provided with one blue and two green bags every week.

"It's organized chaos here on Mondays," said the Rev. Neil Wilson, senior pastor. "But everyone knows exactly what they are doing. We've got six rows of tables, several different stations where the food is organized and bagged for delivery. What's neat about it is different groups or businesses from the community will come in and man a station to be part of the effort. It's amazing to watch."

In just about an hour, hundreds of colorful bags are taken out to the delivery drivers who usually get back to the church between 11 a.m. and noon.

"The drivers are our ambassadors to the families," Gile said. "Some drivers develop nice relationships with the kids and ask to be drivers for the same route so they can see 'their kids.' Members of the Advisory Board who manage the families getting their deliveries also interact with the families."

The UCC church is the program's fiscal sponsor. The community collaborative is run by an advisory board of six members, five from the church and one from the community. Most of them have been with the program since its inception. Got Lunch! Laconia is not a non-profit, so it allows the board to apply for grants. "Our first year we applied for the 'UCC Make a Difference Grant,'" Gile said, "which really helped us get started in those early years."

Gile said it costs \$130 to feed one child for the 10 weeks of summer. The money is raised through those grants, fundraising events, raffles and donations. Got Lunch! Laconia, she said, also gets tremendous support from the schools.

And the work doesn't end after the last week of the program, Aug. 26. In September the advisory board conducts surveys—one for volunteers and one for the families. In October, they close the books after paying all the summer bills. They write grants in November then break until January, when the process begins again.

"The commitment of the people who are on our board, they are so organized and open to suggestions," Tinkham said. "We have hundreds of volunteers because they make everyone feel needed. It's amazing to be a part of. It takes place in our church but is truly a community event. It's really a great way for fellowship."

"It's like family," Sorrell said. "These people that I didn't know – I really didn't know anybody when I started here. Now we're like best friends. We banter back and forth, but everybody just jumps in and gets it done. I miss them over the winter."

Got Lunch! Laconia has helped 18 other programs like it get started by sharing how they do what they do.

"This, for me, is what love of neighbor looks like," Rankin said. "It is when we say, 'I see you, I see your need and I see that we can make a difference.' The people of the Congregational Church and the wider town of Laconia are saying that loud and clear."

Mississippi Presbyterian church, PDA help neighbors affected by ICE raid

Disaster Response August 19, 2019

Canton churches establish crisis center to meet families' immediate needs

by Rich Copley | Presbyterian News Service



Together with a neighboring church, First Presbyterian Church in Canton, Mississippi, is ministering to families caught up in the Aug. 7 raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. (Photo courtesy of First Presbyterian Church)

LOUISVILLE — The morning of Aug. 7, the Rev. Steven Bryant of First Presbyterian Church in Canton, Mississippi was leading a Bible study on the book of Exodus, noting God's preference for helping the widow, the poor, the stranger, the person in a foreign land.

"We didn't know that outside, these horrible events were transpiring,"

Bryant said.

Across the Magnolia State, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were raiding chicken processing plants and ultimately took 680 people in custody who were suspected of working without documentation.

That was also the first day of school. Hundreds of students finished the day and found their parents — both, in some cases— were missing. For most of the families, their primary source of income vanished.

"It was chaos," Bryant said. "It was a heartbreaking situation."

The church went to work.

Partnering with its cross-street neighbor, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, First Presbyterian helped set up a crisis center to help families with immediate needs such as food, child care and legal services.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is partnering with its neighbor, First Presbyterian Church of Canton, Mississippi, to aid the families of workers caught up in the Aug. 7 ICE raid. (Photo courtesy of First Presbyterian Church)

"By Monday morning (Aug. 12), 125 families affected by the ICE raids were under the care of the legal team," Bryant said of a group of 40 attorneys, headed by a First Presbyterian member Elizabeth Penn. "It has been a wonderful thing to see people in the community come forward and help."

And help has come from outside the community, as well.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has granted an initial request of \$7,500 to the Presbytery of Mississippi to help families affected by the ICE raids.

"PDA is grateful to come alongside the presbytery to meet immediate and urgent needs of these families," said the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

"The ICE raids came on a weekend that was already horrific and brought an additional layer of suffering and desperation," Kraus said, referring to the racially motivated mass shooting in El Paso, Texas on Aug. 3, followed by another mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio that night. "But the faith communities of Mississippi came through."

The Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA Associate for National Disaster Response, said, "I was very impressed and grateful for the presbytery's engagement with the needs of the people in the community and thankful the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in a position to help with compassionate and Christlike actions."

Bryant says the nature of the response has changed daily and the impact of the raids will reverberate through the community for a long time. In addition to the immediate physical needs of people in the community, there is a fear and loss of trust to be addressed, as well as the prospect of families trying to find new sources of income in the poorest congressional district in the poorest state in the nation.

Add to that, Bryant noted, after the raid, employers in the area are reluctant to take on employees from the Hispanic community, whether they have documentation or not.

"These are our neighbors, so the whole community is rallying behind them to raise financial support to pay for food, rent, utilities," Bryant said.

"These are not criminals. These are neighbors trying to make a living, sending money back to their home countries. These are people who did jobs no one else wanted."

Bryant said parishioners on both sides of the political aisle jumped in to lend their assistance.

"A lot of folks in our churches voted for people cheerleading these raids," Bryant said. "But when it comes home, they see this is our community, and these are our neighbors. Some people are conflicted."

Human-caused disasters do fall under PDA's purview, Kraus and Kirk say. A response team was sent to Dayton after the Aug. 3 shooting, and PDA has responded to other mass shootings as well as situations such as the Flint Water Crisis.

"A human caused disaster is a human caused disaster, whether it is caused by a crime or a policy," Kraus said.

In the wake of the raids, the church is working to set up a free or low-cost day care center, stocking a food pantry, and a bank of baby supplies. Bryant also cited the critical need of financial resources for families with "no income and no safety net."

"We're working to answer the question of how 135 families will sustain themselves," Bryant said. "The grant from PDA is going to help a lot of people.

"The Presbyterian family just wants to help, and that's a glorious thing to see."

The following was posted on our Facebook Page by our own Lori Halase. It is so powerful that I wanted to put it in the Newsletter so that everyone will get a chance to read it and share it with your family and friends.

TAKE YOUR KIDS TO CHURCH

Make the effort. Wake them up early. Fool with the belts and the buckles and the fancy hair bows. Endure the sleepy, grumpy faces and the misplaced shoes. Run around like a mad woman gathering everybody's everything and trying to get out the door on time. Hop to the car with a shoe in one hand and your make-up bag in the other. Give those babies a pop-tart and some milk and let 'em eat it in the car. If its raining, get wet. If its cold, get a jacket. If you're tired, go tired. But take those babies to church. You know why?

Because Jesus is there.

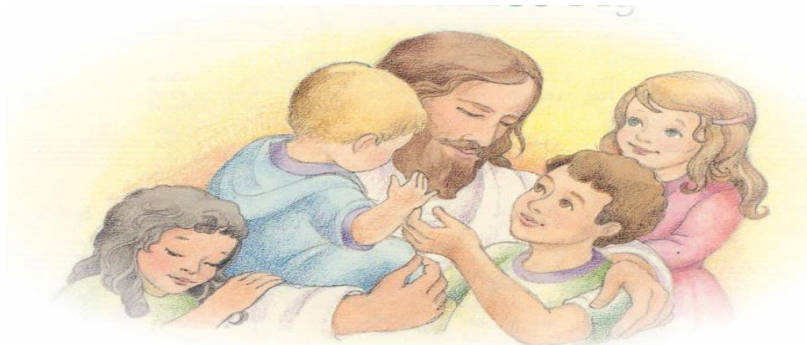
He's there. And He'll meet them there. And you too, Mama. He'll be there in the sweet smile of their Sunday School teacher as she greets them into their room. He'll be there in the goldfish and the apple juice and the filling of their little bellies and hearts. He'll be there in the hug from a sweet friend and the encouraging smile that assures you that they "just barely made it" too. He'll be there in the sacred words read from the Bible speaking truth to their little impressionable hearts. He'll be there in the worship and the raised hands and the watery eyes and whispers of praise.




So take them. Carry all of their Bibles and drawings and toilet paper tube creations. Sit by them in worship. Open your Bible and open theirs. Show them how to find the scripture the pastor is preaching from. Show them how to worship. Explain to them why He's worthy of worship. Let them see you laugh and cry and praise and study. Forgive their wiggles and paper rustles and know that they're listening even when it seems like they aren't. Ask them questions and answer the ones they ask you. Introduce them to Jesus. Tell them of His greatness - his power - his faithfulness. Tell them with your words and show them with your life. Tell them what he's done for you and how you've been changed by His grace and forgiveness and goodness and love. Tell them how they can be too. Point them to Jesus. Over and over and over again.

Take your kids to church. They'll love it there. It's the only place where they can go and just be themselves. They don't have to "be" good enough or smart enough or athletic enough. They don't have to perform for approval or achievement. They just get to go and hear how much God loves them. Just because they're them. Just because He created them, they're valued. Wanted. Their worth isn't based on the grades they make or their ability to throw a curveball. Its not dependent on their performance or skill level. And they need a little more of that, don't you think? A little more grace and a little less pressure. A little more love and a few less demands.

Take them to church. Before you take them to the ballfield or the dance studio or the gym. Before you take them on vacation or to grandma's or to the backyard to play. Take them to church. Let them know its a priority. Show them it has eternal value. Let them see you set aside schedules and extra curricular activities and work and busy-ness to be present with the Lord in His house. I promise you won't regret it. I promise you it won't return back void. Take them to church.

Author unknown.



2019	SEPTEMBER		SUNDAY	Countryside Trinity Church 4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603 Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com Phone: 989-793-0125		
CALENDAR YEAR	CALENDAR MONTH		FIRST DAY OF WEEK			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
10:25 am- Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service ; 11:30 am - Retirement/Card Shower for Angie Mitchell	 Labor Day					
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
10:25 am- Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service with Communion and 2 Coin Meal Offering; 11:30 am - Genesis Sunday Picnic			1:00-2:00 Book Club Bring Lunch if Desired 6:30-8:00 Bible Study Gospel of Mark	Private Group Zonta Club @ Noon		Private Party (Pat Denno) in Kitchen & Fellowship Hall Noon- 6:00 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9-10 Great Ends of the Church Study 10:25 am- Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am Coffee Hour		6:30 p.m. Session Council Meeting	1:00-2:00 Book Club Bring Lunch if Desired 6:30-8:00 Bible Study Gospel of Mark			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9-10 Great Ends of the Church Study 10:25 am- Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am- Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour	Deadline for October Newsletter	6:30 pm Bead Club	1:00-2:00 Book Club Bring Lunch if Desired 6:30-8:00 Bible Study Gospel of Mark			
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
9-10 Great Ends of the Church Study 10:25 am- Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am- Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour			1:00-2:00 Book Club Bring Lunch if Desired 6:30-8:00 Bible Study Gospel of Mark	Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	
06	07	08	09	10	11	12

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

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