

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- PNC Report
- Genesis Sunday
- Farewell to Jane
- Welcome Reception

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Breaking News From the PNC . . .

Members and Friends,

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is delighted to announce the recommendation of Pastor Nathaniel Asperger as part-time minister of Countryside Trinity Church.

Our committee first met on December 9, 2021 and over the next few weeks worked diligently to develop our Ministry Information Form. We identified characteristics which we felt essential for our new pastor to possess, including:

~an enthusiasm for the Lord and for his/her work in ministry

~the sharing of his/her own faith in sermons, in his/her daily contacts and through his/her actions

~a minister who is personable and approachable, is a good listener and is empathetic and caring to all

~communication skills, both spoken and written, as well as communication

via technology

~interactions with others will be transparent, open and honest

~flexibility and openness to new ideas

~a pastor who will inspire our members to be involved and to take action

~a respect for our traditions while managing much-needed change

~one who is visible in the community, will assist in the recruitment of new members and who will be a hopeful advocate for the future of the church

Over the past thirty-two months we were matched with and reviewed 89 candidates. We watched or listened to scores of sermons and contacted numerous references. We conducted nine initial interviews, three second interviews and hosted two on-site visits.

It was definitely a long, arduous process for our committee but we felt God's presence throughout. Upon meeting Nathaniel, we immediately agreed that he was

the person God has called to minister to our congregation. Nathaniel possesses every one of the characteristics we desired and much more. It is with great elation and praise to God that we present to you Nathaniel Asperger as our recommendation for Countryside's newest part-time pastor.

Yours in Christ,
Your Pastor Nominating Committee,
Roger Scovill, Chair
Lori Halase, Corresponding Secretary
Carol VanArsdale, Secretary
Marcia Lacker
Mary Ann Parker (In loving memory)



Nathaniel Asperger Bio . . .



Grace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, My name is Nathaniel Asperger. I am excited to soon meet each of you and to learn how the Spirit is at work in your life, and the life of your community of faith. Through conversations with your PNC, and in talking to others in the Presbytery of Lake Huron, I have a growing sense of joy in learning the history of Countryside Trinity Church. It is evident that you continually seek to meet and work with the Spirit around you in Saginaw. I am excited for the privilege to come join you as you worship and honor God in your work. Myself and my wife, Andrea, live with our two children, Katherine and Tony, in Midland. We also have 3 pups, Bella and Gibs, (miniature dachshunds) and Indie, (Bulldog/Shar-pei mix). Andrea works for the Saginaw VA, as a Clinical Psychologist, and is the Chief of Psychology there. Andrea completed her doctorate at the University of Indianapolis, in her free time she enjoys knitting, reading, and running various race events. She has completed a half marathon and various other distance events this year. Katherine is 6 and heading into first grade this year. She enjoys bike riding, Girl Scouts and running in races. Tony is 3 and enjoys going to daycare with his friends, he likes to read about tractors and can tell you the names of many in the fields and construction sites alike. I myself can

often be found crocheting, gardening, woodworking, and training for different race events, (I'm trying to keep up with Andrea and the kids).

I have had varied life experiences, from inner city to out in farm country. I spent many formative years in the thumb of Michigan, just outside the village of Reese, where my folks had a poultry farm. When I wasn't studying and helping on our farm, I worked on family farms, in the village hardware store, and where possible helping neighbors, friends and family with their various projects. I worked as a prep and line cook in both Frankenmuth and Indianapolis, while completing a BA in Business administration degree from Northwood University online. I worked as a parts manager and trainer for AutoZone for several years, working in South Carolina, Ohio, and finally back home in Michigan.

In all that time, one thing was present in the all the places we have been, and that is work in ministry. When I was very young I told my mother that I believed I would be a pastor someday.

Nathaniel Asperger Bio Continued . . .

Which I believe helped lead to co-founding and leading a youth group when I was 14 at my family's church in Fairgrove. When I was 16 I started volunteering in Sebawaing Michigan, at Bayshore Christian Camp as a cabin leader, and eventually became a camp dean with Andrea, where we served in that position until 2023. I have also been a worship leader for several years for other camps, as well as becoming one of the camps health officers in 2023.

While Andrea was completing her doctorate, I worked as a Family Ministries assistant for our church as a staff member. I took on additional duties working for one of our ministry partners as their services and program coordinator. When we returned to Michigan at the end of 2018, I started to look into seminary. I started at the University of Dubuque Theological seminary in January of 2020, I completed my program with a Masters of Divinity in 2023. I left my position in the autoparts business in 2021. At that time I went undercare of the Presbytery of Lake Huron, to seek discernment and con-

tinued the process while completing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)'s ordination exams. In the presbytery I have been a pulpit supply individual since 2020, and have worked as an intern for the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant, and for Alma College. I spent some time traveling around our presbytery and up into the Presbytery of Mackinac. I have been contracted with Fairgrove Presbyterian and First Presbyterian of Caro since January of this year, as well as working with the First Presbyterian Church of Cass City. I was also blessed to be a Student Advisory Delegate at the 225th PCUSA General Assembly, and better practice the polity of the denomination. In that time, I have completed the requirements to seek ordination in the PCUSA.

There are many different unique moments and experiences in between all of those places, positions and lots, and lots of learning moments. I have had the blessing of learning how to write and lead trainings on various topics, from carburetors to

Christian formation. I have learned how to discuss the issues of our world and our denominations, while learning to have more grace on myself and others. I have learned how to sit and listen, rather than rush off to take on problems that are not mine to fix. These and many other lessons are why I am excited to be with you all at Countryside Trinity Church. There is much to learn in this world, many ways to be a better disciple of the Triune God, and many ways to live life in a community of faith. You all and I have many unique gifts to seek and serve the Almighty God with. I am excited for the ability to do that together, and serve our Savior, in the community in and around Countryside Trinity Church.

Until we meet, may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord shine upon you with all grace and peace, and may you feel the Spirit ever present in your walk with Christ.

-Nathaniel A. Asperger -

Upcoming Lectionary Readings—September

<p>September 1, 2024 Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</p>	<p>One lover calls to another: Arise, my love, and come away. A royal love song: God has blessed the king with beauty and grace. Observe God’s law diligently; do not add to it or subtract from it. Who may abide in God’s presence? Those who do what is right. Every good gift comes from God; pure religion is to care for others. A debate about authority and tradition; evil things come from within.</p>
<p>September 8, 2024 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146 James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37</p>	<p>A good name is more valuable than wealth; seek justice for the poor. Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, abiding forever. Miracles of healing and streams in the desert signal God’s coming. Trust God, who does justice, sets prisoners free, and helps the poor. Care for those who are in need; without good works, faith is dead. Jesus heals a Gentile woman’s daughter and a man who cannot speak.</p>
<p>September 15, 2024 Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-28</p>	<p>Wisdom cries out in the street: Ignore my word at your peril. The heavens declare God’s glory; the law of the Lord is good. God has given me the tongue of a teacher, to sustain the weary. Lord, you deliver me from death, from weeping, from stumbling. Words have the power to bless and curse; use them wisely. Jesus says: You must take up the cross if you want to follow me.</p>
<p>September 22, 2024 Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37</p>	<p>A poem on the virtues and gifts of a strong and capable woman. Those who delight in God’s law will prosper like trees by the water. Jeremiah laments: I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me against my enemies. Wisdom from above is pure, peaceful, gentle; draw near to God. Jesus foretells his dying and rising; then we welcomes a little child.</p>
<p>September 27, 2024 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-14 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50</p>	<p>Queen Esther uses her influence to save her people from death. We have escaped from a trap; our help is in the name of the Lord. Among the elders erupts a controversy over who can prophesy. Clear me from hidden faults; let my words be acceptable to you. Pray for one another; faithful prayer brings healing and forgiveness. The disciples find someone else casting out demons in Jesus’ name.</p>

From the Pastor . . . As so often we say: “where did the summer go?” The kids are or soon will be back in school. The temperatures are getting a bit more reasonable - not stifling hot days, lovely cool nights! You can even see small signs that the trees are getting ready for fall. It is indeed the season of change. We are experiencing it in the church. Soon I will be re-retired. And this time it will stick! And on October 1st you will begin a new journey with Nathaniel! The winds of the Holy Spirit are indeed blowing!

It has been my privilege to have served you for the past three years. I am looking forward to being re-retired. And this time it will stick! I am also looking forward to seeing the new things God is doing here. Y’all are a great congregation! Thank you for allowing me to journey with you. And enjoy the new journey you are about to begin!

Grace and truth,
Pastor Jane

Treasurer’s Report—Mari McKenzie

Countryside Trinity Church
Changes in Equity
January 2024 - June 2024

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS					
UNRESTRICTED					
Memorial Fund	20,782.13	1,310.00	0.00	0.00	22,092.13
General Fund	29,570.75	51,389.83	(63,584.79)	8,680.00	26,055.79
Bricks Fund	1,335.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,335.85
Mission Fund	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	77,350.10	5,923.52	0.00	(3,210.00)	80,063.62
Endowment - Expendable	83,850.11	12,145.80	0.00	(5,470.00)	90,525.91
Subtotal Unrestricted	212,926.44	70,769.15	(63,584.79)	0.00	220,110.80
DONOR RESTRICTED					
Food Account	839.52	665.00	(1,100.00)	0.00	404.52
Good Samaritan	1,750.64	0.00	(300.00)	0.00	1,450.64
Youth Experience Fund	65.81	140.00	0.00	0.00	205.81
Parking Lot Fund	996.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	996.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	6,370.01	660.83	(1,878.94)	0.00	5,151.90
Endowment Nonexpendable F	153,477.00	(584.00)	0.00	0.00	152,893.00
Subtotal Donor Restricted	163,499.22	881.83	(3,278.94)	0.00	161,102.11
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	376,425.66	71,650.98	(66,863.73)	0.00	381,212.91

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 for CTC to continue to grow and move forward. If you are interested in becoming a worship helper, singing in the choir or have any questions about how you can help, please speak with Darren Woodke or Dan Groom. If you can occasionally usher, talk with Pat Denno or Ron Platt.

Choir Practice Resumes

Choir resumes on Sunday, September 1st @ 9:30 a.m. 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.



SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Senior Center Activities: There are many centers in the Saginaw area offering continuing weekly activities from dancing and exercise to cards. I have placed the August Newsletter for the Commission on Aging on the table 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 Resources" 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.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?



**Join us following worship on
Sunday, September 8th
For our annual GENESIS
SUNDAY CELEBRATION!
FUN, FOOD AND GAMES
FOR ALL!**

~

**Join us following worship on
September 15th as we say farewell and
congratulations to Jane Lynn Young as she
begins her path to retirement. Hope you
will be able to join us.**



This Photo by Unknown Author is li-

~

The September Women's Association Meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be October 12th.

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The last Lunch With Pastor Jane will be on Wednesday, September 11th as we say "Farewell and Happy Retirement" to Jane.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

CTC'S MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER IS CITY RESCUE MISSION



In July and August your Christian Outreach committee collected for Emmaus House, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Weiss Elementary School. Thanks to all those who participated and donated.

Facebook Prayer Group: Don't forget we have a Facebook Prayer Group on our FB Page. It is a private group where only those who are invited can see the messages posted for those in need of prayer. If you are on Facebook and would like to be invited,



Please consider hosting a coffee hour following worship service. There is a chart on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall – check for available dates if you can be a coffee hour host. For those who would like to help, but don't think they would be able to handle it – help is always available. Check with Kathy Loviska, and Marcia Lacker. Thank you.

Our Community Rewards from Kroger for May through July has been received in the amount of \$42.69. This is a result of 26 households shopping at Kroger and having named Countryside as their charity of choice. If you shop at Kroger for groceries, prescriptions, gas, etc. and have not yet named Countryside, please consider doing so. If you need help, see Kathy Loviska.



HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
Class of 2024 Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	Class of 2024 Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt
Class of 2025 Darren Woodke Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	Class of 2025 Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield
Class of 2026 Roger Scovill Kathy Loviska Chuck Davis	Class of 2026 Barb Groom Dan Groom Paige Pequignot



John & Leore Bethune @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home	Floyd & Lois Krzak Floyd @ St. Francis Home
Avis Leach @ Roosevelt House/Hemlock	Marilyn Leffler Traditions of Saginaw, West Formerly New Hope Valley	Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living
Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Elaine Miner @ Home	Elaine O'Keefe Great Lakes Rehab
Fran Prueter @ Home		Dick Woodke Hoyt Nursing Home

Our Homebound members and friends would all love to hear from you. Please drop them a card or give them a call. Their contact information is in the Church Directory.



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Becky Pequignot
- 3 Rob Halase
- 5 Charles Davis
- 8 Lindsey Groom
- 13 Louis Diechman
- 14 Michael Patrick Groom
- 17 Lois Krzak
- 20 Liz Saperstein
- 25 Thomas Kennedy
- 29 Tom Ladner
- 30 Vincent Martinez

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Sidney & Kermit Diggs

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Zachary Plater
- 2 Drew Pequignot
- 2 Dan Groom
- 3 Joseph Ruth
- 5 Mary Longstreth
- 11 Jerry Paquette
- 13 Ethan Parker
- 13 Charlotte Armstrong
- 14 Mike Yusaf
- 14 Tania Yusaf
- 16 Randy Groom
- 17 Elizabeth Jacob
- 19 Christopher Davis
- 22 Jean Anne Miller
- 22 Pat Denno
- 25 Ezra Yusaf
- 25 Aaron Plater
- 26 Ashley Huizar (Hanson)
- 27 Marie Lemmer
- 29 Scott Jacob
- 29 Lori Halase

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

None Known

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paige Pequignot
- 3 Sam Nolan
- 8 Duncan Redfield
- 9 Stephanie Plater
- 12 Jacob Plater
- 15 Dick Woodke
- 16 Pervez Yusaf
- 19 Martin Bethune
- 19 Bethany Scovill
- 21 Ronald Miller
- 22 Jacob Groom
- 22 Lucas Gonzales
- 28 Avis Leach

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None Known

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 12 Melissa Paterson (Shalhoup)
- 16 Alexa Mahan
- 17 Nancy Easlick
- 18 Paula Plater
- 22 Ed Halase
- 25 Brecque Woodke
- 26 Craig Gates
- 30 Kermit Diggs

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Joseph & Doris Ruth
- 24 Bruce & Patricia Denno

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THIS IS RIGHT ON THE NOSE.READ IT SLOWLY... I DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT, BUT I AM GUESSING IT WAS A SENIOR!!! THIS IS VERY THOUGHT-PROVOKING. MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK.

AND THEN IT IS WINTER You know. . . time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change....Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's NOT over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY!

REMEMBER:....

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

"LIVE HAPPY IN THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR! LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

~Your kids are becoming you.....

~Going out is good.. Coming home is better!

~You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything

~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..

~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... "what?" . ???

~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!

~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

~Everybody whispers.

~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in AGREEMENT!!!

It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.

Copied from a Facebook Post.

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

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All are welcome here!

Happy Labor Day

