

# FEBRUARY 2025 CTC CONNECTIONS

## Countryside Trinity Church

### FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER



Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

It appears as if the year is moving by rapidly, for we have already arrived at February. At least for myself, it seems that time is blitzing along. February brings with not a lot of holidays on our American Calander, we have Valentines Day approaching on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. If we look to our siblings in the Jewish faith, there are additional holy days we could observe in February. February 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> is, Tu Bishvat. This is a celebration of the New Year of the Trees" which in contemporary times is an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted in celebration. It is sort of similar to the Earth Day and Arbor Day being combined in our American tradition. In more traditional times, this was a festival celebrating the blossoming and new life that came in the month of Shevat. The fruits that ripened from Tu Bishvat, were counted for the following years tithes. If you would like to consider observing Tu Bishvat, I invite you to look it up and learn about it.

The second holy day is called Purim which is March 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. This is to commemorate the saving of the Jewish people from being annihilated from Haman, and his plot to ride the kingdom of them in the account in Esther. This is what is called a feast day, it is meant to be a celebration of gladness and sending food to each other and sending gifts to the poor. This story in Esther is a familiar story to many, I would invite you to sit and read through Esther and reflect on the story from the people's point of view. The fear of the unknown, the fear of being destroyed, the fear of now power in the face of a powerful government.

These celebrations from our spiritual heritage, are wonderful examples of the power of God in persevering and providing in all times of life. I, like many, are very concerned in the current time in America. There is a lot going on at the federal level, that can be overwhelming and for many their worlds are coming apart at the seams. Federal funding, medical coverage, libraries, education, diversity equity and inclusion programs, federal checks and balances, even church sanctity and sanctuary. Many things that have become constants are now being taken away. Even if you do not feel affected by the rapid changes of the last few weeks, I believe you could empathize with the fear that our fellow creations, who hold the image of God, feel in light of all these changes. There is much uncertainty as many people face the unknown of life, shelter, and support being up in the air.

I hope that as we sit and reflect on our lives in this time, others and how they are affected, as well as what the needs of those around us are, we can live into the spirit of Purim. Like the Jewish people in Esther, much is dependent on the faithful-even if reluctant and terrified-work of those who can act. Even if many fear becoming hungry, sick and homeless, we can see through the past the providence of God. I encourage you all to consider celebrating Purim, reading and reflecting on Esther, and engaging in the world where you can. In times of uncertainty, many will turn to the church seeking funds, shelter and help in their physical lives. The church is a place to support community, strengthen our spiritual lives, and to help the stranger and our neighbor.

As always, I am here to listen and help how I can as the Pastor. If you feel overwhelmed, scared or want to talk about ways to help those who need it amidst all the changes, please feel free to reach out. If you are confused, unsure, angry or not opposed to some of the changes that many are fearful of, you are also welcome to reach out and come chat with me. Wherever you are in life and in light of all that is going on, know that my office is open to all, and I would love to bring coffee/tea and meet you somewhere to chat.

2025 is still young, there is promise in what the future holds. As with Tu Bishvat, we plant now for the promise of the future harvest. We celebrate the goodness that we can see now, and we know that as Jeremiah says, Jeremiah 29:11" For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for salvation and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you until we meet again

-Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

# UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

<b>February 2, 2025</b> Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	The Lord knew and called the prophet Jeremiah before he was born. Be my refuge, O God; I have trusted in you since my birth. Without love, I have nothing; the greatest gift is love. A prophet is not welcome at home; a crowd tries to attach Jesus.
<b>February 9, 2025</b> Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Isaiah sees the Lord in the temple and says, "Woe is me! I am lost." I give you thanks, O Lord; I bow down toward your holy temple. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day. A miraculous catch of fish; Peter says, "Lord, I am a sinful man!"
<b>February 16, 2025</b> Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Curses and blessings; those who trust in the Lord are like trees. Happy are those who delight in God's law, like trees by the water. If there is no resurrection of the dead, our faith has been in vain. In his sermon on the plain, Jesus speaks of blessings and curses.
<b>February 23, 2025</b> Genesis 45:32-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	Joseph tells his brothers, "God sent me before you to preserve life." Trust in the Lord and do good; you will live in the land and be secure. How are the dead raised? There is a spiritual body, raised in glory. Jesus says, "Love your enemies. Be merciful. Do not judge, but forgive."

## TREASURER'S REPORT – MARI MCKENZIE

Countryside Trinity Church

01/03/2025 12:52 PM

Changes in Equity

January 2024 - December 2024

**CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS**

		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3000</b>					
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>3100</b>					
Memorial Fund	3105	20,782.13	8,081.00	0.00	0.00	28,863.13
General Fund	3110	29,070.75	90,379.88	(107,823.11)	17,350.00	28,977.52
Bricks Fund	3115	1,335.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,335.85
Mission Fund	3130	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	3140	77,350.10	10,684.42	0.00	(6,420.00)	81,614.52
Endowment - Expendable	3150	84,350.11	24,172.47	0.00	(10,930.00)	97,592.58
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	212,926.44	133,317.77	(107,823.11)	0.00	238,421.10
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED</b>	<b>3200</b>					
Food Account	3220	839.52	2,290.00	(3,200.00)	0.00	(70.48)
Good Samaritan	3230	1,750.64	0.00	(612.80)	0.00	1,137.84
Youth Experience Fund	3241	65.81	390.00	0.00	0.00	455.81
Parking Lot Fund	3242	996.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	996.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3290	6,370.01	1,336.38	(1,878.94)	0.00	5,827.45
Endowment Nonexpendable F	3310	153,477.00	(476.50)	0.00	0.00	153,000.50
Subtotal Donor Restricted	3200	163,499.22	3,539.88	(5,691.74)	0.00	161,347.36
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>376,425.66</b>	<b>136,857.65</b>	<b>(113,514.85)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>399,768.46</b>

**DIAL 2-1-1 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, childcare, emergency shelter, clothing, legal aid, literacy, transportation, substance abuse, senior issues, disability, health care, and much more.**

## **IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER**

**BEFORE HEADING OUT THE DOOR, CHECK WJRT EITHER ON YOUR COMPUTER, PHONE OR TELEVISION AND CHECK THEIR SCHOOL CLOSING LINK. WE WILL REPORT ANY CLOSINGS TO THEM AS SOON AS WE MAKE THE DECISION TO CLOSE.**



## 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

The choir meets at 9:30 a.m. prior to worship most Sundays. Come join us!



## 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 December 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](http://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?

## LAST CHANCE FOR ENGRAVED PAVING BRICKS

We have been informed by Stone Quest that they will no longer be providing a service for engraving bricks. These bricks, positioned along the walkway at our center entrance, are a perfect way to pay tribute to a friend or family member, honor the memory of someone close to you or commemorate a birthday or any special occasion. Because we are a previous customer, Stone Quest has promised to fulfill one last order for the church. The bricks, measuring 4 by 8 inches and including 3 lines of engraving, are priced at \$25.00. Applications are available on the table in Fellowship Hall and in the church office. Checks should be made payable to Countryside Trinity Church; please write "Bricks" on the memo line. To take advantage of Stone Quest's offer, **all applications along with payment must be received no later than Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Orders will be completed by April 15<sup>th</sup> and bricks will be installed as soon as the weather allows. Please see or call Lori Halase (989-996-0769) with any questions.

**Pay tribute to a friend or family member . . .**

**Honor the memory of someone close to you . . .**

**Offer a birthday, Father's Day or Mother's Day gift.**

### ONE LAST TIME . . .

Countryside Trinity Church is offering a unique way to create a remembrance that will last forever! You may purchase a paving brick engraved with your personalized message. These bricks will be placed near the main entrance to our church, where they will be highly visible. Bricks are 4 by 8 inches and include 3 lines of engraving. The cost is \$25.00 per brick. To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for the last time, please fill out the application below and give it (with payment) to Lori Halase or leave it with Kathy in the office. Checks should be made payable to Countryside Trinity Church and should be marked, "Bricks" on the memo line. Additional applications are available on the table in Fellowship Hall or in the church office. All applications and monies must be submitted by Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. No exceptions!

### Instructions:

- \*There are 14 characters for each line. Count spaces between words as a character.
- \*Use as many abbreviations as possible.
- \*Don't use periods.
- \* - and / are permissible.
- \*Use one letter or symbol per square.
- \*Start at the left and work across. The engraver will center your text on the brick.
- \*A person's name may require two lines.
- \*If you need help call **LORI HALASE 989 996-0769**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

### 4x8 Brick


# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

## CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The next CTC Women's Association Meeting will be Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Hope you can attend!

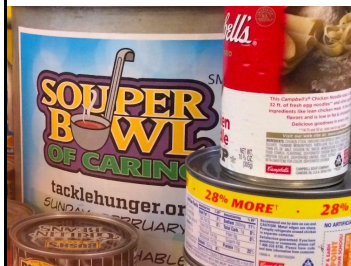


CTC'S MISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY IS MAJOR CHORDS FOR MINORS, "SOUPERBOWL" SUNDAY AND BOYSCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th. THANK YOU.

## Lunch with Pastor!



Pack your lunch on Wednesday and join Pastor Nathaniel for fellowship and Bible Study. Come each Wednesday, or the Wednesdays you can. Together we can grow in understanding.



We will be observing "Souper Bowl Sunday" and Boy Scout Sunday, on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Boy Scouts will be participating in the Worship Service that day and will be collecting for "Souper Bowl".

The Souper Bowl of Caring is the signature event for Tackle Hunger. This program has raised close to \$200 million for food charities with thousands of mobilized groups across the country helping support local hunger relief. For businesses who might be interested in sponsoring the Souper Bowl of Caring each year, we invite you to help us grow the power of community mobilization and the importance of local action that supports universal access to healthy foods. Since 100% of what is raised by local groups mobilized by Tackle Hunger stays at local food charities, sponsorships help us make this program grow and become even more effective.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

## BOY SCOUT TROOP #304

Boy Scout Sunday will be observed on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our Boy Scout Troop continues to do well and wish to thank us for the ongoing donation of our returnable bottles and cans. These donations have been an excellent source of income for the boys. Please continue to bring bags of your returnable bottles and cans to the church and leave in the back hallway for the troop. Thank you.



**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 call Kathy in the office so she can invite you to join. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Kathy in the office to do so.



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.

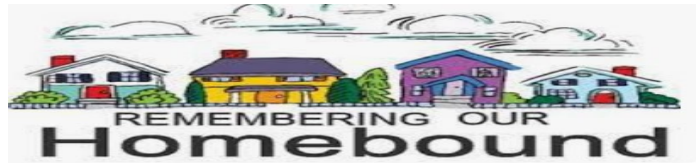
## ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 19<sup>th</sup> and was followed by a delicious luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone for getting their reports in on time and for those who brought food for the meal.



# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
<b>Class of 2025</b> Darren Woodke Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	<b>Class of 2025</b> Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield
<b>Class of 2026</b> Roger Scovill Kathy Loviska Chuck Davis	<b>Class of 2026</b> Dan Groom Paige Pequignot Lori Halase
<b>Class of 2027</b> Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	<b>Class of 2027</b> Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt



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



PLEASE COMOPLETE THE FOLLOWING SURVEY AND EITHER MAIL IT TO THE CHURCH OR DROP IT OFF. THANK YOU.

## Countryside Trinity Church: Worship Experience and Statistical Survey

Please submit you feedback regarding in your in-person and online worship experience. Please include any additional feedback at the bottom.

\* Indicates required question

This Survey is in part for some statistical info we submit to the denomination(s); and in part so that we can provide the best worship experience within our abilities. Please answer as honestly as you can.

1. Please write your name below (this is used only if we need clarification) \*

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2. Age Demographic

*Check all that apply.*

- 18-25
- 26-50
- 41-55
- 56-70
- 71 and above

3. Do you have any of the following, select all that apply:

*Check all that apply.*

- Hearing impairment (do you have a hearing aid device, etc)
- Sight impairment
- Mobility Impairment
- Other less easily discerned disabilities such as heart disease, diabetes, epilepsy, or mental health conditions

4. Do you worship primarily in person or online?

Mark only one oval.

Primarily In Person

Primarily Online

5. Technology and Service

Mark only one oval per row.

	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Very good	Excellent
<b>Quality of the Sound System</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Quality of the Video</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>How informative do you find the Announcement Slides</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>How useful do you find the Worship Slides</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Quality of Music</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Overall Quality of the Worship Service</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Do you find some of the music to be difficult to sing or to follow along?

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes (If so please explain below)
- No
- Indifferent
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. If you selected yes above, please elaborate in the line below

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8. Do you follow any of our social media accounts?

*Check all that apply.*

- Facebook
- Youtube
- Neither

9. Are there any social media platforms you would like to see CTC on?

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10. Is there anything from the past or other church services, you would like to see included in CTC's worship service? (Aspects during service, such as affirmation of faith. Before service, Postlude)

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11. Do you have any other additional suggestions for improving worship or do you have any additional comments on anything listed above?

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**Google Forms**



## **BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

### **BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY**

- 3 Roger Scovill
- 5 Pastor Jane Young
- 6 Angie Mitchell (Organist)
- 8 Mark VanArsdale
- 9 Matthew Davis
- 9 Aaron Plater II
- 10 Victoria Parker
- 11 John VanArsdale
- 12 Jackie Williams
- 13 MariAnne Vega
- 22 Michelle Martinez
- 26 Leore Bethune

### **BIRTHDAYS MARCH**

- 1 Ron Platt
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 22 Chong Ladner
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna VanHautte

### **BIRTHDAYS APRIL**

- 2 Lysithea Evans M=Alexa Mahan
- 4 Jeanne Krugielki
- 5 Nancy Erndt
- 5 Evon Little
- 12 Kathy Loviska
- 12 Matthew VanArsdale

13 Dallas Williams

19 Debra Davis

### **BIRTHDAYS MAY**

- 1 Gwen Henderson
- 4 Joshua Gonzales
- 5 Sue Smith
- 6 Marcia Lacker
- 18 Doris Ruth
- 21 Seth Diggs
- 24 Katlyn Hanson
- 26 Charles Ohmer
- 26 Lore Woodke
- 28 Sue Paterson

### **ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY**

- 11 John & Leore Bethune
- 12 John & Carol VanArsdale
- 25 Sarah & Tony Gonzales

### **ANNIVERSARIES MARCH**

- 6 Chad & Karla Parker
- 21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez

### **ANNIVERSARIES APRIL**

NONE KNOWN

### **ANNIVERSARIES MAY**

- 4 Tom & Chong Ladner
- 7 Floyd & Lois Krzak
- 18 Randy & Lynne Groom

# Countryside Trinity Church

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Saginaw, Michigan 48603  
(989) 793-0125

