

DECEMBER, 2024 CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church

FROM THE PASTOR

---- Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Greetings to you all in the name of the savior, Jesus the Christ!

Tis the season friends, Mariah Carry's "All I want for Christmas" has been blaring everywhere already. The radio stations are in full swing, bringing us the music of Christmas past and present. It is that time of year when Christmas dominates our lives. I love Christmas, but not necessarily the cultural and consumeristic drive for all of the things to go buy and events to attend. The lights and light shows are lovely. The decorations, cookies and everyone's take on peppermint hot chocolate are delightful. The reindeer in the park, live nativities and choir concerts are joyous and fun. However, I love those things less, then the moments at home, at friends' houses and in the fellowship hall where I get to hear, feel and see the companionship of this season.

I recall being a child and enjoying the cookie walk at church this time of year, but loving the days before when all the church ladies and all us kids gathered, baked, iced and sprinkled with laughter abounding. I recall going shopping with my mom, aunt, grandmother and all us kids, but enjoying that far less than the meal afterwards where we played cards and sang together.

The Christmas season is one for connections. Humans are built for community, even loners have their people, favorite pups, cats and gathering places. Jesus exhibits this in his ministry quite well. He had his family, that he spent some time with at various points, but he built up a community of friends, disciples and connections across the land. He connected people to one another, and after his death, those people came closer and built up more community across the ancient world.

As we go into this season, I wonder how we can best reflect this in our own lives? We certainly have wonderful opportunities at church. Gathering for worship, joining in fellowship hall, coming to lunch with the pastor, (shameless advertisement, we have a grand time on Wednesdays!).

Looking at the world today, there are many examples of community, there are however growing examples of isolation and exclusion. I invite us all to consider how we can build this fellowship outside of Sunday. In our homes, with our friends and family, and with all those who pass by the doors of our homes and church. I would welcome any ideas and conversation around these ideas. Above all, I encourage us all to grow in our connection to each other, and the stranger. Sit at a different table at coffee hour, invite someone new to a church event. Invite someone to coffee, brunch, or just to sit and chat, or go visit someone. Invite someone to one of the advent soup Sundays. There are many ways to grow in community and fellowship with those around us.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, let us be like the shepherds that announced it with fervor. Let us spread that joy and love, in community and fellowship. Know my door is open, and I am always happy to chat.

Wishing you all the best in this season.

Grace and Peace

-Pastor Nathaniel



UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

<p>December 1, 2024 Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36</p>	<p>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise. The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. A royal love song: God has blessed the king with beauty and grace.</p>
<p>December 8, 2024 Jeremiah 29:5-14 Mark 1:1-8</p>	<p>Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. In the wilderness, John baptizes and proclaims the one to come.</p>
<p>December 15, 2024 Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11 John 1:6-8 & 19-28</p>	<p>The spirit of the Lord is upon me; I will rejoice in my Savior. John came to testify to the light, so that all might believe.</p>
<p>December 22, 2024 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Luke 1:39-55</p>	<p>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,</p>
<p>December 24, 2024 Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20 John 1:1-14</p>	<p>Light shines on people in darkness; a child has been born for us. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. The Word of God became flesh and lived among us.</p>
<p>December 29, 2024 Isaiah 52:7-10 Matthew 2:13-23</p>	<p>How beautiful is the messenger who brings good news and peace. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream</p>

TREASURER'S REPORT – MARI MCKENZIE

<p>10/21/2024 08:48 PM</p>	<p>Countryside Trinity Church Changes in Equity January 2024 - September 2024</p>					
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CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS						
		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
<hr/>						
NET ASSETS	3000					
UNRESTRICTED	3100					
Memorial Fund	3105	20,782.13	4,376.00	0.00	0.00	25,158.13
General Fund	3110	29,570.75	68,843.67	(84,875.99)	13,015.00	26,553.43
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	5,923.52	0.00	(4,815.00)	78,458.62
Endowment - Expendable	3150	83,850.11	13,222.04	0.00	(8,200.00)	88,872.15
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	212,926.44	92,365.23	(84,875.99)	0.00	220,415.68
DONOR RESTRICTED	3200					
Food Account	3220	839.52	665.00	(1,100.00)	0.00	404.52
Good Samaritan	3230	1,750.64	0.00	(437.80)	0.00	1,312.84
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	998.63	(1,878.94)	0.00	5,489.70
Endowment Nonexpendable F	3310	153,477.00	(584.00)	0.00	0.00	152,893.00
Subtotal Donor Restricted	3200	163,499.22	1,469.63	(3,416.74)	0.00	161,552.11
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		376,425.66	93,834.86	(88,292.73)	0.00	381,967.79



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

Annual Meeting is coming up in January. If you are the Chair or Moderator of a Committee, please be sure to get your Annual Report to Kathy as soon as possible.

BEFORE HEADING OUT THE DOOR . . .



Check **WJRT** on your TV or **COMPUTER** for closings to see if CTC has cancelled worship services.

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 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?

IN MEMORY OF THOSE LOST DURING 2024

John Furlo – June 20, 1945 – January 7, 2024
Mary Ann Parker – January 22, 1943 – February 3, 2024
Betty Hauk – January 14, 1923 – March 28, 2024
Judi Westendorf – November 7, 1939 – May 8, 2024
Virginia Lee Lyons – April 1, 1936 – June 20, 2024
Barbara Groom – May 12, 1942 – July 11, 2024
Norma Meacham – January 5, 1937 – August 4, 2024
Richard G. Woodke – November 15, 1931 – September 3, 2024
Bruce E. Denno – September 1, 1934 – October 2, 2024



**Join us following worship on
Sunday, December 1st and
December 15th for Pastor
Nathaniel's Advent Program
and Soup Luncheon.**



We have received our "Community Rewards check from Kroger's in the amount of \$43.89. If you shop at Kroger's for anything and have not yet made Countryside Trinity Church your charity of choice, please do so. If you need assistance, see Kathy Loviska.



CTC Directory: It's that time of year again, please give Kathy any changes or additions for the 2025 Directory. If you didn't get your picture taken last year and want to have one taken for the 2025 directory, let Kathy know. Thank you.

**Your donation envelopes are available for pick-up.
They are in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to
pick yours up, let us know and we will get it to you.**

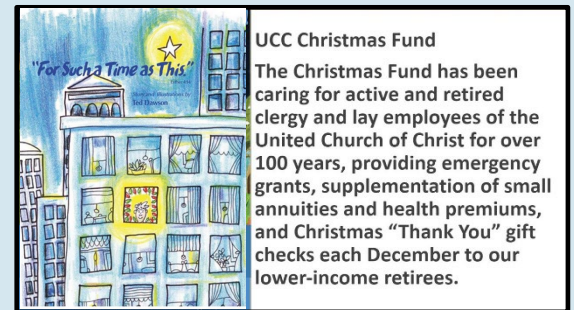
HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The next
CTC
Women's
Association
Meeting will
be Saturday,
December
14th at
11:30 a.m.
Hope you
can attend!



CTC'S MISSIONS FOR DECEMBER ARE 1) CHRISTMAS FOOD CARDS, 2) CHRISTMAS JOY, AND 3) THE CHRISTMAS FUND. MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. MARK YOUR ENVELOPE "CHRISTMAS FOOD" OR CHRISTMAS JOY/FUND". THANK YOU.



Please donate to the one or ones you have an interest in supporting. Mark your donations accordingly.



In October we collected for Old Town Mission, Peace Offering & Crop Walk

In November We collected for Hidden Harvest And gave ten Thanksgiving Food Cards to underprivileged families from Weiss Elementary School.

Lunch with Pastor!



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

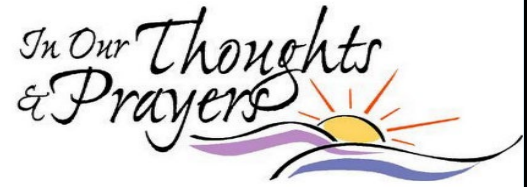
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Facebook Prayer Group: Don't forget we have a Facebook Prayer Group on our FB Page. It is a private group where only those who are invited can see the messages posted for those in need of prayer. If you are on Facebook and would like to be invited,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



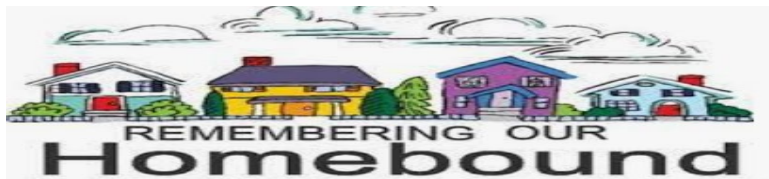
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:30 p.m. on December 24, 2024. Hope you will be able to come to celebrate Christmas with us. If you need further information, please contact the office during regular business hours, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

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 Dan Groom Paige Pequignot



John & Leore Bethune @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home	Floyd & Lois Krzak Floyd @ St. Francis Home Lois @ 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	

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 5 Tony Asperger
- 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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Sarah Gonzales
- 13 Kevin Diggs
- 17 Madisen J. Groom
- 24 Chelsea Parker
- 28 Irene Ohmer
- 30 John Bethune
- 31 Peter Dominguez

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Pervez & Ezra Yusaf
- 7 Ron & Brenda Platt
- 11 Robert & Jean Bortner

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 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
- 18 Brady W. Groom
- 22 Michelle Martinez
- 26 Leore Bethune

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS MARCH

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

ANNIVERSARIES MARCH

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

Countryside Trinity Church

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(989) 793-0125

