



# JUNE 2025 CTC CONNECTIONS

## Countryside Trinity Church

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

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

I remember being a child and like most children, I complained about time. The adults in my life would often say something along the lines of, "don't worry, time gets faster as you get older". As we are already in June, I resonate with time seeming to go fast. Being in the midway part of the year brings with it a good moment to sit back and reflect on what we have done this year, and what we would like yet to do.

Towards the end of last year, I decided to reflect on the Jewish practice of sabbath this year. In reflecting, I have not done as well as I would like. In life things seem to keep popping up, kid's events, family events, responsibilities in all different directions. At times, it seems that sabbath, intentional resting both physically and spiritually, gets put off just a little. Someone calls, something happens, it's the best time to grocery shops, all sorts of things pop up on those days for sabbath rest. As I started to reflect on things, I realized one of the things I let go by the wayside was a Jewish prayer for the sabbath. The prayer that I had chosen is unique to some of our church prayers, in the way that it dedicates our rest. The prayer is as follows:

*"Our God and God of our fathers, accept our rest; sanctify us by thy commandments, and grant our portion of thy Law; satisfy us with thy goodness, and gladden us with thy salvation; purify our hearts to serve thee in truth; and in thy love and favor, O Lord our God, let us inherit thy holy Sabbath; and may Israel, who hallow thy name, rest thereon. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who hollowest the Sabbath".*

Now the language is old English, but the power of the statements is insightful to consider. The prayer starts with dedicating our rest, as a holy part of our discipleship. It highlights the goodness of God and all the blessings that come from the Almighty. It ends by returning to the fact that sabbath is holy, and hollowed by God, referencing Genises. I find the reflection of this prayer to be useful in recentering myself towards respecting good sabbath practices.

A couple of things for you to consider. First-like myself-what do you want to do better for the rest of the year? What has been good and blessed? What has fallen by the wayside? Second, I encourage you to consider your sabbath practices. Do you sabbath wholistically? Meaning do you rest in your physical, spiritual and mental energies? Do you seek renewal in the almighty, through scripture and prayer?

This year has moved past quickly, it seems every minute there are a multitude of events, news stories and things to read and do. Consider what you have done, and what you would like to do. Also, remember to sabbath with the Lord.

Grace and Peace -Pastor Nathaniel

# UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

<b>June 1, 2025</b> Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26	Paul and Silas are arrested, but an earthquake destroys the prison. The Lord reigns over all the earth: light dawns for the righteous. The Lord says: See, I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Jesus prays that his disciples may be one as he is one with the Father.
<b>June 8, 2025</b> Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17(25-27)	On the day of Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit upon the earth. At the Tower of Babel, the Lord confuses the languages of the earth. The Lord of creation sends forth the Spirit to renew the earth. In the Spirit, we are children of God and joint heirs with Christ. On the day of Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit upon the earth. Jesus and the Father are one; the Father will send the Holy Spirit.
<b>June 15, 2025</b> <u>Semicontinuous</u> Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	Does not wisdom call? I was present at the beginning of creation. O Sovereign Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Jesus says: The Spirit will guide you; all that the Father has is mine.
<b>June 22, 2025</b> <u>Semicontinuous</u> 1 Kings 19:1-4(5-7), 8-15a Psalms 42 and 43 <u>Complementary</u> Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:19-28 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39	Elijah meets Good-not in wind, earthquake, or fire-but in silence. My soul longs for you, O God; where are you? My hope is in you.  The Lord says: I will repay their iniquity, but I will not destroy them. The Lord did not despise or forsake me; I will praise the Lord. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. Jesus casts out a man's demons and they enter a herd of swine.
<b>June 29, 2025</b> <u>Semicontinuous</u> 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 <u>Complimentary</u> 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62	Elijah is taken to heaven in a whirlwind; Elisha picks up his mantle. You work wonders, O God; you make a path through the waters.  Elisha leaves his family and his oxen to follow the prophet, Elijah. Protect me, O God; you show me the path of life and fullness of joy. Christ has set us free; live by the Spirit, not the desires of the flesh. Jesus turns toward Jerusalem and warns those who would follow him.

## PER CAPITA DONATIONS

As church members we are reminded annually that we must pay a per capita tax to our denomination. This money usually goes toward paying expenses at the higher level than our own immediate church. Since we are a two-denomination church (Presbyterian and United Church of Christ), we receive two bills for per capita. . The denominations base the total per capita on the number of members that the church reports. Also, please bear in mind that since we are two denominations, all of our membership statistics that are submitted to the two denominations annually are divided in half. For instance, if we have 100 members, the report to each denomination will be 50 members. The Presbytery bill for us covers 50 members, so it is actually to our benefit. We also receive a bill for a lesser amount from UCC based on 50 members.

**With this in mind, the Session has approved a request to be made to the members to pay \$30.00 per capita for 2025. Just a gentle reminder that the per capita is per member, not per household.** So, if you have four people in your household that are members of Countryside Church, you are asked to pay for all four people a total of \$120.00. In order to defray the expense of the per capita, the Session is asking that members assist the church by paying their own per capita of \$30.00/member for 2025. We do not want to put a hardship on anyone, but these bills must be paid whether our treasury gets help from the members or not. There will be an envelope marked "per capita" in your box of contribution envelopes that you will be receiving in the next few weeks that you can use.

The Session appreciates your help in this matter.

---

## SEARCHING FOR VOICES:

We received the following message from Mary K. Freel, Exultate Deo. They are looking for voices to join them for an upcoming concert. Please follow-up with Mary if you are interested.

*Hil: This is Mary K. Freel—I help organize the choir group Exultate Deo. We are a group of singers from the Great Lakes Bay Region who sing 3 concerts a year from Trinity Episcopal Church in Bay City. Our concert to mark the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) at 4 pm. We need singers who are willing to commit to 2-3 rehearsals and the concert. As you can imagine many of our regulars are out of town or on vacation, so I am asking for your help. Our possible rehearsal dates are below:*

### **POSSIBLE REHEARSAL DATES**

<i>Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>6:30 or 7:00</i>
<i>Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>6:30 or 7:00</i>
<i>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>6:30 or 7:00</i>
<i>Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>6:30 or 7:00</i>
<i>Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>2:00 or 3:00</i>
<i>Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>6:30 or 7:00</i>

*We ask that you attend at least 2 of the 3 rehearsals so that we can have a stellar performance. All rehearsals and the concert are at Trinity Episcopal Church, Center at Grant, Bay City, MI. Could you please spread the word to your singers?? They can contact me at [sunbeamf@att.net](mailto:sunbeamf@att.net) or Rayechel Berger (our director) at "Rayechel Berger" [rvneiman@svsu.edu](mailto:rvneiman@svsu.edu). Maybe once you sing with us you'll join us for our Christmas concert and Holy Week concert.*

*Many thanks to those people who are spreading this to their singers and friends. All are welcome!!!*

*Mary K. Freel  
Exultate Deo*



Our Member, Sidney Diggs, wishes to invite all CTC members and friends to attend the Annual All Men's Health Fair on Saturday, June 14, 2025. See the information below. **Sidney wants to make sure we all know that IT IS NOT JUST FOR MEN, ALL MEN AND WOMEN ARE INVITED.**



# MEN'S HEALTH




**SPONSORED BY:**  
Saginaw Alumni Chapter of  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity  
PO Box 6684, Saginaw, MI 48608

**THE ANNUAL ALL MEN'S**  
**HEALTH FAIR**

**SATURDAY,  
JUNE 14, 2025**

**11AM - 2PM • HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER  
6200 STATE ST. • SAGINAW**

TAKE PART IN  
OUR RAFFLE FOR  
A CHANCE TO  
WIN AN  
ALL EXPENSES  
PAID TRIP FOR  
TWO TO  
LAS VEGAS!  
**MORLEY**



*FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS  
& WELLNESS ACTIVITIES*

**12 - CYLINDER SPONSORS:**





**4 - CYLINDER SPONSORS:**



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association















4 | Page

Countryside Trinity Church. 989 793-0125

June 2025

## 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

CHOIR IS ON SUMMER VACATION. WE WILL RESUME IN THE FALL. TALK WITH DAN GROOM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING OR DOING "SPECIAL MUSIC" DURING THE SUMMER.



## 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?



At CTC we support many different Missions through "Special Offerings" including **One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost/Strengthening the Church, Peace & Global Witness/Neighbors in Need** and **Christmas Joy/Fund** as well as our "Missions of the Month" throughout the year.

It is not necessary to contribute to each of the Mission's CTC supports. If you are able and wish to do so, we invite you to select those missions you are most passionate about and donate to them. Any contributions you make are greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU.**

## SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER

We had a "Spaghetti Dinner" following worship on May 18<sup>th</sup> to help fund the cost of our youth's Summer Camp. At last count we have collected \$625.00 for this purpose. If you would like to make a donation, you can still do so, just mark the envelope or memo on the check "SummerCamp".  
the dinner was delicious and enjoyed by all!



# **CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**THE NEXT  
WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION  
MEETING WILL BE  
SATURDAY, JUNE  
14<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:30  
A.M. HOPE YOU  
CAN ATTEND!**



## **COUNTRYSIDE HISTORIC COMMISSION**

The Session is considering the formation of a new Historic Commission for the purpose of compiling an up to date "History of CTC". If you would be interested in working on this commission, please let Pastor Nathaniel know.

Thank you.

## **SUMMER NURSERY CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sandy Redfield will be retiring soon, and we congratulate her and wish her the best going forward. In light of that happening, and the possibility of her traveling to visit family, there may be times when she will not be here on a particular Sunday or Sundays. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers who would be able to fill-in when she is away. Please see Sandy if you are interested in helping.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

## BOY SCOUT TROOP #304

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.



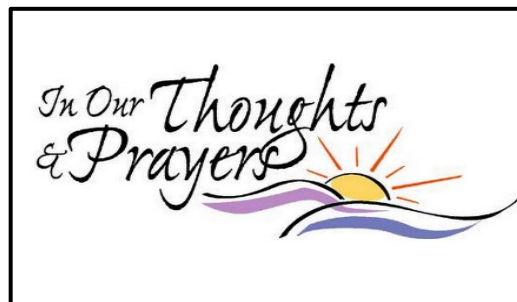
New Scout Frank Dill & Donny placing flags

304 joined by New scouts Andrew And L.J.

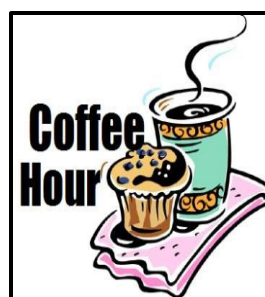


Jesse from Canada with Owen, Marshall And Dakota

New Crossover, Lincoln Gets his neckerchief



**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.



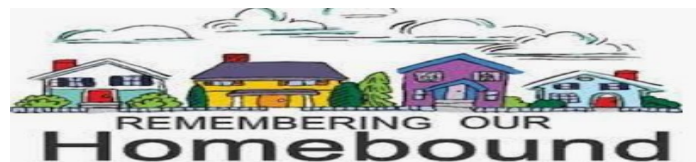
Please consider hosting a coffee hour following worship service. There is a chart on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall

– 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.



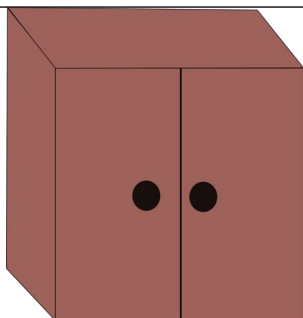
# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC?

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> Traditions of Saginaw, West, Formerly New Hope Valley	<b>Dawn Curtis</b> @ Home	<b>Floyd &amp; Lois Krzak</b> Floyd @ Hoyt Nursing 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

**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.**



**IN SEARCH OF:** Session is looking for a cabinet to be used to hold miscellaneous toiletries, personal items, and possible canned items which will be placed in our Parking Lot area for the community to take as needed. Our members and friends may donate items, and our Christian Outreach Committee will oversee the mission going forward. If you have something you think might work, please contact Kathy in the office at 989 793-0125. Thanks.

# THINGS TO DO IN SAGINAW



## Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market

203 South Washington Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48601

Telephone: 989-758-2500

SUMMER SEASON MARKET HOURS:

May 21 - October 31, 2025

Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-3pm

Saturdays, 10am - 1pm



## SHOP SENSATIONAL Saginaw

June 6 - 8, 2025

"A celebration of Saginaw's flavor, creativity, and local pride"

Featuring: **The Food Truck Round-Up**  
Live Entertainment + More!

**SHOP | EAT | VIBE**

SVRC Marketplace Pavilion

Friday 5 pm - 10 pm  
Saturday 4 pm - 10 pm  
Sunday 12 pm - 7 pm

**CALLING ALL FOOD TRUCKS & VENDORS**  
Register to Become a Vendor!

Sponsored By:




### The Saginaw Eddy Concert Band

Joseph Radtke, Conductor

Invites you to join us for our  
**Season 99**  
2025 Summer Concert Series

**Sundays at 7 p.m.**



June 15th	July 13th
June 22nd	July 20th
June 29th	July 27th
July 6th	August 3rd



**FREE ADMISSION and PARKING!**

At Jolt Credit Union Event Park  
Across from Dow Event Center  
300 Johnson St, Saginaw, MI

For more information visit [saginaweddyband.org](http://saginaweddyband.org)





## **BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

### **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

### **BIRTHDAYS JUNE**

- 2 Michael Groom
- 3 Eric Smith
- 11 Robert Bortner
- 11 Dana Hansen Cooper
- 19 Kitty Blehm
- 20 Marilyn Leffler
- 30 Darren Woodke

### **BIRTHDAYS JULY**

- 2 Elaine O'Keefe
- 5 Dawn Curtis
- 11 Graham Parker
- 13 Jean Bortner
- 18 Sidney Diggs IV
- 23 Bobby Diggs
- 24 Zayden Evans (Alexa Mahan)
- 24 Dick Mallette
- 26 Nathaniel Asperger
- 29 Holly Furlo
- 30 Lynne Groom
- 31 Rachael Barerra

### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Taylor Hansen (M=Dana Woodke Cooper)
- 4 Marianne Bird
- 5 Daniel Groom
- 8 Chad Parker
- 8 Rylan Hanson
- 10 Randy Jacob
- 13 Kyle Redfield
- 15 Ainslee Mahan
- 15 Aubree Mahan
- 21 Karla Parker
- 21 Casey Redfield
- 31 Jim Lorenz

### **ANNIVERSARIES MAY**

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

### **ANNIVERSARIES JUNE**

- 11 Rylan & Katlyn Hanson
- 21 Edward & Lori Halase
- 29 Ronald & Jean Anne Miller

### **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 28 Charles & Irene Ohmer

### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10 Andrea & Nathaniel Asperger
- 17 Dallas & Jackie Williams
- 29 Darren & Joann Woodke
- 29 Duncan & Sandy Redfield



# Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss Street  
Saginaw, Michigan 48603  
(989) 793-0125

## "WE WELCOME SUMMER"

Summer Days

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

The sun shines bright, the skies are blue,  
Each moment feels so fresh, so new.  
A gentle breeze through trees does play,  
Bringing joy to every day.

Laughter echoes, fields in bloom,  
Chasing away the smallest gloom.  
Summer days, a gift so sweet,  
A precious time that can't be beat.

