



**JANUARY 2026 CTC CONNECTIONS**

## **Countryside Trinity Church**

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

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

Here we are in the new year! For some, this is an exciting time to choose resolutions for this year. Or, it is deciding what new thing they are going to 'try' for a period of time. I am personally not a "new year, new me" kind of person, but I do believe in the importance of goals. When we think of Jesus and his ministry, I do not often hear people talk about goals. However, Jesus definitely had specific things in mind that he set out to accomplish.

Goals are an important thing not just in our personal lives, but to the life of the church. For instance, when the session started in 2025, we talked about our hopes and dreams for Countryside Trinity Church. Within a few months, we had things we wanted to accomplish. From dreams, we moved to goals, things that the Session wanted to create, set in motion or bring to completion in 2025. The Session brought 2 items from dreams, to goals, to accomplished work in Countryside Trinity Church. (Those items were creating a new staff position and starting the Needs Pantry, if you were curious.)

Goals give us meaning in our lives, and no matter our age, we need meaning. I went through seminary with 1 woman who was in her mid-70's, and 1 who was in her 80's. They both entered with different goals after seminary, but first with the goal of honoring God by earning their Master's Degree and becoming eligible to become ministers in the PCUSA. I earned my small engine technician certificate, with several men who were in their 60's. These folks all had goals to learn, grow, and then goals to go do something. I am not advocating to any of you to run out and sign up for a new degree. However, I am asking you what goals you have for yourself?

In my doctorate program last year, I had to really dig into my life, my core beliefs about work, leisure, and my goals in life. In this program, we needed to set goals, 1, 3, and 5 years out. These are things we want/need to accomplish in 7 areas of our lives. (That is 21 goals of varying complexity.) There is a lot of science, research, and recorded history to look at when we think about goals, and much of it shows that even poorly set goals can give one more meaning in life. Without meaning, we slowly do less and less, and satisfaction with our faith, our social lives, and other areas suffers.

As we think about goals in our lives and faith, I invite you to consider what goals you have for yourself. I will be starting a class on thinking about goals and setting reasonable goals for ourselves at all ages. This class will discuss faith and other areas of our lives that setting some sort of goal is useful for. We all struggle at some point to set goals or come up with something for a particular time of life, I invite you to consider coming to this new class.

This will likely be after my hip surgery, so, starting sometime in February. I hope everyone will consider what goals they have for themselves, and if you have none at this time, set some goals for yourself.

Until we meet again, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

Pastor Nathaniel

## UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

<b>January 4, 2026</b> Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-9, 10-18	God will bring the people home, turning their mourning into joy. The word of the Lord goes forth; God fills us with good things. We were chosen in Christ from the beginning to give glory to God. Those who trust in Christ have power to become children of God.
<b>January 6, 2026</b> Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Arise, shine; your light has come; the glory of the Lord appears. May the king reign forever and deliver the needy. An ancient mystery is revealed; Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ. Following a star, wise men visit Jesus and bring him gifts.
<b>January 11, 2026</b> Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	The Lord says: Here is my servant, my chosen, in whom I delight. Give glory to God; the voice of the Lord is over the waters. Peter preaches: God shows no partiality; Jesus is Lord of all. Jesus is baptized; the Spirit descends; a voice says: This is my Son.
<b>January 28, 2026</b> Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	The servant of the Lord is given as a light to the nations. I waited for the Lord, who saved me; now I sing God's praise. Paul writes to the church at Corinth, giving thanks for God's grace. John says Jesus is the Lamb of God; Jesus calls Andrew and Peter.
<b>January 25, 2026</b> Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-21	Light shines on those who walk in darkness; the people rejoice. The Lord is my light and salvation; therefore, I am not afraid. Paul calls for unity and proclaims the message of the cross. Jesus calls four disciples: Follow me, and you will fish for people.

## IMPORTANT

It has come to our attention that occasionally the doors have been left unlocked at the Church. Sometimes, they just aren't shut tightly, and the lock did not catch. **PLEASE BE SURE** if you are the last one to leave the building that the doors are **ALL** checked to be sure they are locked. When you get outside, give them a tug to be sure the lock has caught and nobody can get back in without a key. **THANKS!**

# YOUR SESSION AT WORK

December 16, 2025

## Minutes taken by Carol Van Arsdale, Clerk of the Session

The Session meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor and Moderator Nathaniel Asperger at 6:09 P.M in the fellowship hall.

Minutes of November 16, 2025, meeting were approved with corrections.

### **DEACONS' REPORT:** presented by Ron Platt

November 1, 2025, Beginning balance	\$611.84
<u>Income:</u>	
Coffee Hour	\$52.00
Poinsettia income	\$399.00
Total Income:	\$1062.84
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Kitchen supplies, eco cups	\$26.87
Poinsettia expenses	\$399.00
Total Expenses:	\$425.87
Deacons' donation to Samaritan Fund	\$200.00
November 31, 2025, Ending Balance	<b>\$463.97</b>
Cake Fund balance	\$145.00

### **Clerk of the Session:** Carol Van Arsdale

Baptisms since beginning of year	1
Deaths since beginning of year:	4
New members in 2025:	4
Current membership:	87
Average Attendance:	42
Communion served in November	42

**Presbytery/Denomination report:** Pastor Nathaniel was elected to the COMMP, the Committee of Ministry and Ministry Preparation.

**Building and Grounds:** The main door has been adjusted and is working better than it did. There is a temporary fix to the soffit.

**Personnel:** All job descriptions and evaluation tools have been revised and excepted by Session. Job evaluations will be completed as soon as possible. A motion to increase compensation by 2.5% for all staff and Pastor was approved.

### **Finance and Stewardship:**

## Changes in Equity: January 1, 2025, to November 30, 2025

<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Total Balance of all Funds</u>	
Beginning Balance:	\$28,977.52	Beginning Balance:	\$399,768.46
Income & Transfers:	\$87,036.60	Income & Transfers:	\$92,801.49
Expenses:	\$119,279.90	Expenses:	-\$124,468.92
Ending Balance:	-\$3,262.85	Ending Balance:	\$368,101.03

The Women's Association would like to restart having bazars. Tables would be available for the public to rent and sell their items. Scouts would be asked to help with set-up and would be welcome to sell wreaths or other items. Roger Scovill gave the Women's Association \$1300.00 in proceeds from his garden.

### Christian Outreach:

Weiss Food cards are going to the school on Wednesday. Gifts for the Underground Railroad are being delivered on Wednesday. There have been many thank you's received from the various missions we support. CTC received a gift from Kathy's friend who is a financial planner. When people give him money as gifts, he tells them to give it to CTC. Nancy Erndt's volunteers at the Caring Closet. They have requested assistance from CTC.

### Nominating:

Sandy Redfield reported that all current deacons are willing to be deacons for the next 3 years. Darren is stepping down from Session, but Carol Van Arsdale is willing to be in the next Session Class with Becky Pequignot and Bethany Scovill willing to continue serving.

### Church Office Report:

The new copier has arrived and is in use. The session approved the purchase and installation of the equipment needed from Audio Central for the alarm system. Money from the memorial funds will be used to pay for this. All reports for the Annual Report are due to Kathy by January 13. Please submit them digitally using Word. If you need help talk to Kathy before the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Pastor's Report:

Pastor Nathaniel will be holding liturgy training for anyone who might want to become a liturgist. Pastor and Dan Groom are looking for more ways for people to get involved in the church service. If you are interested in any way, please speak to Pastor or Dan.

A motion to hold the Annual Meeting on January 18 was passed.

Session was closed with prayer by Pastor Nathaniel.

Next Session meeting: Feb. 15 after church.

## 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.

### CTC CHOIR

**TALK WITH DAN GROOM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.**



## 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

## MISSIONS SUPPORTED BY COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

## HOW DO I CHOOSE?

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.**

**CHRISTIAN OUTREACH:** In December, we gave \$100.00 Kroger gift cards to eleven individuals. We also adopted a family of eight from Underground Railroad, which is an agency that helps families suffering from domestic abuse. Gifts were purchased for all eight individuals as well as giving them \$200.00 in Walmart gift cards so that they could have a blessed Christmas. All of us at Countryside Trinity Church should be extremely proud of how we take care of God's children. We are not a large congregation, but we are definitely a giving one! Thank you to all who have given to our many missions that we support throughout the year. You are truly special!

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### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Session has decided that for all Worship Services the doors will be locked fifteen minutes after the start time of the service and will remain locked throughout the service. If you know you are going to be late getting to the church, please call (989) 793-0125 and let us know so we can watch for you.

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**FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AT 10:45 A.M.  
FOR SERVICES BEGINNING AT 4:30 P.M., DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AT 4:45 P.M.**



# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC



## THE NEXT CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BEGINNING @**  
**11:30 A.M**

**WE HOPE YOU CAN**  
**ATTEND!**

## **PERSONAL NEEDS CABINET**

Our Personal Needs Cabinet is outside to the right side of the West End Door. If you wish to contribute, here is a list of items needed:

- Tooth Paste/Tooth Brush
- Mouth Wash
- Hair Comb &/or Brush
- Paper Tissues
- Wet Wipes
- Bandages/First Aid Kit
- Rain Poncho
- Chapstick
- Cotton Swabs
- Ziploc Bags
- Feminine Products
- Shampoo/ Conditioner
- Bath Soap Hand Sanitizer

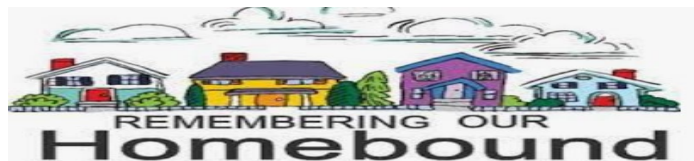
These items may change as needed and as weather indicates. Thank you for your help.

**CTC'S MISSION FOR JANUARY IS "ALL ABOUT THE CROSS". "SOCK-IT-TO-ME" SUNDAY WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> AND WE WILL BE COLLECTING "WHITE SOCKS" FOR THE INMATES AT THE COUNTY JAIL. PLEASE BRING NEW WHITE SOCKS TO THE CHURCH IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MISSION. THANK YOU.**

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# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
<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>Class of 2028</b> Carol VanArsdale Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	<b>Class of 2028</b> Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield



<b>John &amp; Leore Bethune</b> Traditions of Saginaw, West, Formerly New Hope Valley	<b>Dawn Curtis</b> @ Home	<b>Lois Krzak</b> @ Home
<b>Avis Leach</b> Roosevelt House/Hemlock	<b>Tom Kennedy</b> Adira Nursing & Rehab	<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 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.**



# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

## ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, following the worship service. If you are a moderator or chairman of a committee, please get your report to Kathy no later than, January 13<sup>th</sup>. If you need assistance in the preparation of your report or need further information, please contact Kathy Loviska at the church office during regular business hours, Tuesday or Thursday, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**There will be a dinner following the Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to bring a dish to pass, please contact Kathy or Dan for suggestions. Thank you.**



## 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.**

**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.**



**CTC Directory:** It's that time of year again, please give Kathy any changes or additions for the 2026 Directory. If you didn't get your picture taken last year and want to have one taken for the 2026 directory, let Kathy know. We will schedule a day or two for pictures. A form to update your information is on the table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

## 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.



## TREASURER REPORT Mari McKenzie

Countryside Trinity Church

Changes in Equity

January 2025 - December 2025

01/07/2026 07:39 AM

### CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS

		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS	3000					
UNRESTRICTED	3100					
Memorial Fund	3105	28,863.13	2,340.00	(3,347.00)	0.00	27,856.13
General Fund	3110	28,977.52	86,544.42	(128,968.42)	18,020.00	4,573.52
Bricks Fund	3115	1,335.85	600.00	(396.00)	0.00	1,539.85
Mission Fund	3130	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	3140	81,614.52	10,142.78	0.00	(6,420.00)	85,337.30
Endowment - Expendable	3150	97,592.58	24,693.47	0.00	(11,600.00)	110,686.05
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	238,421.10	124,320.67	(132,711.42)	0.00	230,030.35
DONOR RESTRICTED	3200					
Food Account	3220	(70.48)	3,415.00	(3,300.00)	0.00	44.52
Good Samaritan	3230	1,137.84	455.00	(799.64)	0.00	793.20
Youth Experience Fund	3241	455.81	725.00	(370.00)	0.00	810.81
Parking Lot Fund	3242	996.24	300.00	0.00	0.00	1,296.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3290	5,827.45	1,353.98	(1,500.00)	0.00	5,681.43
Endowment Nonexpendable F	3310	153,000.50	(3,204.00)	0.00	0.00	149,796.50
Subtotal Donor Restricted	3200	161,347.36	3,044.98	(5,969.64)	0.00	158,422.70
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		399,768.46	127,365.65	(138,681.06)	0.00	388,453.05



## **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

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

13 Sarah Gonzales  
13 Kevin Diggs  
17 Madisen J. Groom  
24 Chelsea Parker  
28 Irene Ohmer  
28 Tammy Charkowski  
30 John Bethune

### **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  
22 Michelle Martinez  
26 Leore Bethune

### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

1 Ron Platt  
2 Elaine Miner  
3 Carol VanArsdale  
9 Sandy Redfield  
22 Chong Ladner

### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

15 Joseph & Doris Ruth

### **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

6 Pervez & Ezra Yusaf  
7 Ron & Brenda Platt  
11 Robert & Jean Bortner  
28 Michael & Amanda Groom

### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

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

### **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

6 Chad & Karla Parker  
21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez

## **Countryside Trinity Church**

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

(989) 793-0125

