



SUMMER 2026 CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church June-July, 2026

FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER

Pastor Nathaniel.

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord, Jesus the Christ!

Summer has arrived, and all the activities that come with it. Camping, gardening, traveling, and visiting with those who have been away for the colder months. My family has been enjoying the nicer weather for walks and nature hikes. As we have been out and enjoying the Michigan wilderness, I have been contemplative as I usually am.

There are lots of beautiful moments that are all around all the time. Sometimes they are rather small, but there is a lot of beauty in life. From seeing the flowers and other plants that we may grow in our yards and gardens, to the wildflowers that grow all over.

Chicory and dandelion are two that come to mind for me, because I find them quite lovely. These little blue and yellow flowers are often looked at as weeds, but even if they are weeds to us, they hold the beauty of creation around us. We might miss it when we are in a hurry, or when we are trying to manicure our spaces, but God created them as good all the same. And they grow everywhere!

Similarly, it is easy to miss at times how the Spirit is at work in the world around us. If we think of the Bible, we often think of the grand or huge moments. Mountains appearing to be set on fire, God in the whirlwind, water from rocks, mana from heaven, Jesus rising from the dead, etc. However, just like those little weeds in our yards and along the roadways, there is always something the Spirit is doing.

I reflect on how grateful I am to see the Spirit at work around Countryside. New faces at coffee hour are greeted with a welcoming smile. Community members and organizations are partnering with us to care for others and share our space. While we have an influx of people in the community calling in need and we are working to help them. It is not just what we might call those bigger moments, but also small ways as well. The way people come to into church with smiles and celebration to see others. The way that hugs are exchanged. The ways that we move to help each other all week long.

I could go on, but I hope that you can look around and see the Spirit at work in our community. I invite you to share how you are seeing God at work at Countryside. If you have not noticed the little works of the Spirit, I assure you they are there. If you have seen something I did not mention, share with others so that we can celebrate with the Spirit.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you

-Pastor Nathaniel Asperger

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE

<p>June 7, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12 <u>Complementary</u> Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm 50:7-15 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</p>	<p>The Lord will bless Abram and Sarai and make them a blessing. Rejoice in the Lord; happy are those who are chosen as God's own.</p> <p>On the third day God will raise us up; God desires steadfast love. Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving; call on God in trouble. The example of Abraham and Sarah; righteousness comes from faith. Jesus calls sinners; he heals a woman and raises a dead girl to life.</p>
<p>June 14, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 18:1-15(21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 <u>Complimentary</u> Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)</p>	<p>Three visitors promise Abraham and Sarah they will have a son. What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation</p> <p>The Lord says: Keep my covenant and you will be my holy people. Make a joyful noise to the Lord; we are the sheep of God's pasture. We are justified by faith; while we were sinners Christ died for us. The harvest is plentiful; Jesus instructs and sends the twelve apostles.</p>
<p>June 21, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 <u>Complimentary</u> Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10 (11-15), 16-18 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39</p>	<p>Hagar and Ishmael are sent away, but God remains with them. Be gracious to me, O God; save the child of your servant.</p> <p>Jeremiah laments the terror all around but must speak God's word. Zeal for your house consumes me; save me from my enemies.</p> <p>Crucified with Jesus, we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. Jesus says: Do not fear for your life; take up your cross and follow.</p>
<p>June 28, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 <u>Complimentary</u> Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42</p>	<p>Obeying God, Abraham prepares to sacrifice his son Isaac. How long, O Lord? Still, I trust in your steadfast love.</p> <p>Jeremiah speaks to Hananiah about the promises of prophets. I sing of God' steadfast love, God's covenant with David. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life in Christ. Jesus sends disciples; whoever welcomes you welcomes me.</p>

<p>July 5, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13 <u>Complementary</u> Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19</p>	<p>Isaac finds a wife, Rebekah, in the homeland of his father. A royal love song; come with joy to the palace of the king. One lover calls to another: Arise, my love, and come away.</p> <p>Rejoice, O people; the humble king is coming to set you free. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, full of love. Paul confesses his inner conflict with sin; only God can save. Jesus says: Come to me; my yoke is easy, my burden is light.</p>
<p>July 12, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 <u>Complementary</u> Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65(1-8) 9-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</p>	<p>Esau trades his birthright to Jacob for bread and lentil stew. Your word is a lamp to my feet; I have promised to observe it.</p> <p>The word of the Lord will go forth to flourish and bear fruit. Praise is due to God, who blesses the earth with abundance. The Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death. Jesus tells and explains the parable of the sower and the seeds.</p>
<p>July 19, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 <u>Complementary</u> Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</p>	<p>Jacob dreams of a ladder and hears the promise of the Lord. O Lord, you have searched me; if I ascend to heaven you are there.</p> <p>I am the first and last, says the Lord; there is no god besides me. O Lord, give me an undivided heart to revere your name. The whole creation waits for redemption with the children of God. Another parable of the kingdom; weeds grow among the wheat.</p>
<p>July 26, 2026 <u>Semicontinuous</u> Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 <u>Complementary</u> 1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</p>	<p>Tricked by Laban, Jacob first marries Leah, then Rachel. Children of Jacob, give thanks for the promise of the Lord.</p> <p>The young king Solomon asks God for wisdom and discernment. Your law is wonderful: the unfolding of your words gives light. The Spirit helps us; nothing can separate us from God's love. God's kingdom is like a tiny seed, yeast, a treasure, a pearl, a net.</p>

TREASURER'S REPORT – BETHANY SCOVILL

Changes in Equity-April through May 2026

06/16/2026 12:05 PM

Countryside Trinity Church
Changes in Equity
 May 2026

**** Unposted transactions have been included on this report ****

CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS

		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS	3000				
UNRESTRICTED	3100				
Memorial Fund	3105	28,076.13	0.00	0.00	28,076.13
General Fund	3110	(7,465.01)	11,563.54	(22,002.24)	(17,903.71)
Bricks Fund	3115	1,539.85	0.00	0.00	1,539.85
Mission Fund	3130	37.50	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	3140	83,197.30	0.00	0.00	83,197.30
Endowment - Expendable	3150	107,524.33	0.00	0.00	107,524.33
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	212,910.10	11,563.54	(22,002.24)	202,471.40
DONOR RESTRICTED	3200				
Food Account	3220	(235.48)	400.00	0.00	164.52
Good Samaritan	3230	793.20	65.00	(150.00)	708.20
Youth Experience Fund	3241	810.81	25.00	0.00	835.81
Parking Lot Fund	3242	1,296.24	0.00	0.00	1,296.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3290	6,363.15	0.00	0.00	6,363.15
Endowment Nonexpendable F	3310	149,796.50	0.00	0.00	149,796.50
Subtotal Donor Restricted	3200	158,824.42	490.00	(150.00)	159,164.42
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		371,734.52	12,053.54	(22,152.24)	361,635.82

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - All community children age 4 (fully potty-trained) through entering fifth grade (for the 2026-27 school year) are invited for five days of fun in the summer sun at the free **"WILD!"** Vacation Bible School at Peace. Join us in our weeklong VBS adventure as our school transforms into Camp Whatchamacallit, a Christian nature ranger summer camp deep in the great, green Thingamajiggy Forest, where boys and girls are running wild in the beauty of nature and the glory of God's love.

Peace VBS is offered 8:30-11:45 A.M. June 15-19. Every day will be packed with craft, science and recreation stations, fun music, snacks, engaging Bible lessons and more! The registration deadline is June 1. Save your spot today at www.PeaceSaginaw.org/VBS.

WARMER WEATHER IS COMING, and we are beginning to look at Summer Camp for the children of CTC. If you would like to help with their costs, please submit your donation marked "Summer Camp" which can be dropped in the plate at church or mailed in, whichever you prefer.



If you have a family member who would like to go to camp, please contact Sandy Redfield for more information. There are also brochures on the table in the Fellowship Hall for those who may be interested.

YOUR SESSION AT WORK – May 31, 2026

Minutes taken by Kathy Loviska

Opening: The meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor and Moderator Rev. Nathaniel Asperger at 9:05 a.m. in the lounge.

M/S/A to approve the docket by Roger Scovill, seconded by Chuck Davis, All approved **Present:** Chuck Davis, Roger Scovill, Debbie Davis, Bethany Scovill, Sandy Redfield and Kathy Loviska, a quorum was present.

Excused: M/S/C to excuse those absent by Kathy Loviska, seconded by Sandy Redfield, All approved (Becky Pequignot, Sidney Diggs, Darren Woodke and Carol VanArsdale).

Minutes: M/S/A to approve April 26, 2026, minutes with corrections by Roger Scovill, seconded by Chuck Davis.

Agenda: M/S/C to approve Agenda with addition of two items by Sandy Redfield, supported by Chuck Davis.

Deacon's Report: Ronda Otway

April 1, 2026,	Beginning balance	
		\$1,239.51
	<u>Income:</u> Coffee Hour	<u>\$58.00</u>
	Total Income:	\$1297.51
	<u>Expenses:</u>	
	Kitchen supplies, communion	
	Supplies and Easter Flowers Payment	<u>\$ 452.37</u>
	Total Expenses	\$ 452.37
March 31, 2026,	Ending Balance	\$ 845.14
	Cake Fund Balance	\$ 174.00

Deacons voted to move \$300.00 to the Good Samaritan Fund. Duncan is working on how to collect data on attendance sheets. Home Communion will be Sunday, June 7th following worship. Marie Lemmer has moved to Candlestone Senior Living Community in Midland.

Elder Training: In the interest of saving time, Pastor Nathaniel asked Elders to review the Training Moment in the Agenda at a later time.

Clerk of the Session:

As Carol VanArsdale was absent, there was no Clerk's report. Kathy Loviska presented a letter from Carole Kaster who was a former CTC member. Carole wishes to reinstate her membership and M/S/A to approve her reinstatement was made by Roger Scovill and supported by Chuck Davis.

Presbytery Report: Pastor Nathaniel

Nathaniel is now the Board of Pensions Liaison for the Presbytery. The Presbytery office is looking for churches to host next year's Presbytery Meetings for June, September and December. We will consider hosting one of them and decide in a future meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds: Roger Scovill.

No report.

Christian Outreach: Kathy Loviska

No report

Finance and Stewardship: Roger Scovill

Since our Internet is down, Roger could not get the documents to review Financial Standings. Roger advised that he will be reporting during an upcoming worship service on the Pledge results.

Sandy Redfield reported that Carol VanArsdale has been added as a check signer at the bank and that Mari McKenzie has been removed. Bethany Scovill will still have to go to the bank to be added as a signer on the account. She will do that as soon as she can.

The committee will need to address the investment accounts to determine if changes need to be made with the transition of Mari's leaving and Bethany taking over as the Treasurer.

Spiritual Life: Sandy Redfield

We discussed the 2 Coins a Meal program and how to get the children more involved. The percentages of giving were discussed and whether we can change who we give the monies collected. It was also discussed that we may want to get the children more involved possibly in the Worship Service.

Nominating Committee: Sandy Redfield

No report

Church Office: Kathy Loviska

Kathy discussed the Newsletter schedule for the summer. She indicated that while she was out for medical leave some of the Newsletters were combined. Depending on if there is important information to get out to the parishioners, she may combine the Summer Newsletter and begin monthly newsletters again in August.

Kathy Loviska informed the Session that she will be retiring by the end of the year. Personnel Committee will need to meet to discuss how to proceed with her replacement.

Ashley from Weiss School left a voice message asking if we would be interested in providing space for them for a program they are looking to start. Kathy will get together with Ashley to get more information.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nathaniel

Nathaniel is taking an emergency responders course to maintain his accreditation as a Camp Health Officer for the State of Michigan

Nathaniel reported that we have received a request from the **Saginaw READ Association** from its president, Samantha Engel. They are asking for CTC to host a Summer Mentoring Program. They are asking CTC to open the church for 1-4 hours 1 day a week for 8 weeks starting the week of June 30th through the week of August 17th and to store a medium-sized tote with their supplies during that time. We would also need to have someone from the church present during these mentoring sessions. They have asked for Tuesday. Motion made by Sandy Redfield to allow **READ** the use of CTC's Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. beginning the week of June 30th through the week of August 17th for the Summer Mentoring Program. Kathy Loviska supported the Motion and approved by all.

Nathaniel has asked for Paternity Leave for up to 2 weeks when Andrea has the baby. He will record a couple sermons to be used if necessary and Dan Groom will be asked if he would be willing to prepare and provide a sermon if needed.

Nathaniel reminded the Session that he will be on vacation in Sebawaing June 14th – 19th to volunteer as a health officer. He will do the service on June 14th but will leave immediately after the service.

Existing Business:

Chuck Davis will coordinate date(s) and time(s) for Brian Leach to do First Aid/CPR training in September. We need to make everyone aware of this class and find out who wants to join. Kathy will put in the announcements and Newsletter.

Pastor Nathaniel reported that there are two potential Presbytery grants CTC may wish to look into. One is for Mission/Outreach where we may be able to obtain funds to increase or add to our Personal Needs program and the other is for Church Technology where we may be able to replace or enhance our sound system. We will continue to explore these grant possibilities.

Next meeting of the Session: **June 14th at 9:00 A.M.** in the lounge.

M/S/A to adjourn the meeting by Roger Scovill, seconded by Kathy Loviska.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 after a prayer by Pastor Nathaniel.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Loviska

Administrative Assistant

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Pastor and Moderator

YOUR SESSION AT WORK – June 14, 2026

Minutes taken by Kathy Loviska

Opening: The meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor and Moderator Rev. Nathaniel Asperger at 9:52 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Present: Chuck Davis, Roger Scovill, Debbie Davis, Bethany Scovill, and Kathy Loviska, a quorum was present.

Excused: M/S/C to excuse Becky Pequignot, Sidney Diggs, Darren Woodke and Carol VanArsdale.

Deacon's Report: Nathaniel Asperger

May, 2026,	Beginning balance	
		\$845.14
	<u>Income:</u> Coffee Hour	<u>110.00</u>
	Total Income:	\$955.14
	<u>Expenses:</u>	
	Kitchen supplies	<u>19.84</u>
	Ending Balance	\$ 935.30
	Cake Fund Balance	\$ 221.00

Clerk of the Session:

As Carol VanArsdale was absent, there was no report.

Finance and Stewardship: Roger Scovill

Roger reported that the offerings were above \$5,000 in May and things are moving in a positive direction. Upcoming expenses were discussed and no large bills are expected.

The Good Samaritan Fund was discussed – there have been quite a few requests for assistance, and we are hopeful that since this month the GSF is a "Mission of the Month" that we will get some donations to build the fund back up again.

Our homebound were discussed.

Chuck Davis reported that we are all set to hold the CPR class in September. A date has yet to be set.

Pastor Nathaniel will be out this coming week, and Ted McCulloch will be filling in for him in his absence in the case of an emergency.

Next meeting of the Session: **August 9th at 9:00 A.M.** in the lounge.

M/S/A to adjourn the meeting by Kathy Loviska, seconded by Roger Scovill.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 after a prayer by Pastor Nathaniel.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Loviska

Administrative Assistant

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Pastor and Moderator



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Elaine O'Keefe
- 5 Dawn Curtis
- 8 Dave Strom
- 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

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Tom & Chong Ladner
- 18 Randy & Lynne Groom

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Charles & Irene Ohmer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Dallas & Jackie Williams
- 29 Darren & Joann Woodke
- 29 Duncan & Sandy Redfield

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. CHOIR IS OFF FOR THE SUMMER. BUT THEY'LL BE BACK!!!



THE NEXT CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

**SATURDAY, JULY 11TH
BEGINNING @
11:30 A.M**

WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND!



CTC Directory: If you didn't get your picture taken last year or want to have a new one taken for the 2026 directory, Tom Ladner will be taking photos after church on June 21st. Please plan to stay and have your photo taken for the directory and make sure Kathy has your most up to date information. Thank you.

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.**

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH: On May 3rd we were joined by Teen Challenge who presented information about their organization during our Worship Service. Our Missions for May were Blanket Sunday, Habitat for Humanity, and Pentecost Sunday, Our Missions for June will be the Eastside Soup Kitchen and Good Samaritan Fund. Please mark your donations accordingly.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING: CTC will be offering a First Aid/CPR training class at a date to be determined in September. If you are interested in taking the class, please give your name to Chuck Davis and when the date and time has been determined, he will let you know. Thanks.

"SCAM TEXTS, EMAIL, CALLS, OH MY! It seems that scammers are hard at work again. If you receive an email, text or some other communication, asking for you to buy gift cards, send money, click a link, scan a code, or anything of the like, IT IS A SCAM! If you receive any contact from someone from the church, whether Pastor, Kathy, Dan or anyone else, please call Kathy or Pastor Nathaniel to verify. Use the numbers listed in our directory to do so. Thank you!"

"Pastor Nathaniel is starting a new class on Sundays, looking at setting discipleship and life goals. This class is part of Nathaniel's doctoral program, where he shares some of the lessons he has learned and then work together on practices to help us in our faith and lives. If you are interested, please talk to pastor Nathaniel for more information."

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

SESSION COUNCIL	DEACONS
Class of 2026 Roger Scovill Kathy Loviska Chuck Davis	Class of 2026 Dan Groom Paige Pequignot Lori Halase
Class of 2027 Sidney Diggs Debbie Davis Sandy Redfield	Class of 2027 Lynne Groom Jackie Williams Ron Platt
Class of 2028 Carol VanArsdale Becky Pequignot Bethany Scovill	Class of 2028 Pat Denno Ronda Otway Duncan Redfield



John & Leore Bethune Traditions of Saginaw, West, Formerly New Hope Valley	Dawn Curtis @ Home	Lois Krzak @ Home
Avis Leach Roosevelt House/Hemlock		Marilyn Leffler Traditions of Saginaw, West Formerly New Hope Valley
Marie Lemmer Candlestone Senior Living Community-Midland, MI	Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Elaine O'Keefe 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.

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.



Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

(989) 793-0125

