

CTC CONNECTIONS

Countryside Trinity Church
October 2026

FROM THE PASTOR ---- REV. NATHANIEL ASPERGER

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

The weather has brought a slight chill to the wind, and cooler nights have come. We are in October, and the harvest season is in full swing. Gardens are being cleared, orchards and commercial farms are gathering apples, donuts, and pumpkins for the coming festivities. It is a lovely time of year, and a symbolic one as well.

The fall harvest is a time when gardeners and farmers start to see the fruition and the completion of parts of their gardens. It is a time when notes are made about what needs to change next year. It is a time when we note what did not work, and what did. For our family's garden, we had our best cucumber planting and harvest yet at our house. We have already noted what changes we need to make for next year. As we think of our community of faith, it is a good time to consider similar things.

We are entering the stewardship month for October. Stewardship is always an interesting thing when it comes to churches. Many places do not like to talk about it, and some places put a great deal of pressure on stewardship. From the televangelist telling you to faithfully send them money, to the preacher who gently mentions it during the passing of the plate. Here at Countryside, we talk about finances periodically through the year. You can look in your newsletter and see the general numbers of what is going on. I do not talk about stewardship all that often specifically, because there is the stigma of the pastor pestering people for money. However, it is still an important part of the church to function. As we enter into this season, and a stewardship series for the month of October, I invite us to reflect.

There are always many ways to understand stewardship. We steward gifts in ourselves and in our lives from God. We steward our finances, our homes, vehicles, family members, pets. These are the things that we can care for, and either help to grow and flourish, or we can do less about them and see what might happen. In this particular time of life, all that we steward can be stressful. Everything costs more than it did in the past. The stability of healthcare, food, fuel, etc. is questionable. Stewarding can seem difficult when we do not know what is coming down the line. Stewarding the gifts in our lives from God, is a part of our discipleship. As with anything in our discipleship, it can be as full or absent of the Spirit of God as we choose to interact with. By that, I mean we can either view stewardship as faithful and spiritual, or we can look at it simply as dutiful and an obligation.

As we enter this month and this series, I invite you to explore and examine how you understand stewardship in your life and in our community of faith. If you have any questions about how we steward the finances, gifts, and grounds of Countryside, please come talk to a member of the session or me. Likewise, if you have ideas or things placed on your heart to better steward what the Lord has blessed us with.
May the Lord bless and keep you until we meet again.

-Pastor Nathaniel

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER

October 4, 2026 **Semicontinuous** Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 Psalm 19 **Complementary** Isaiah 5:1–7 Psalm 80:7–15 Philippians 3:4b–14 Matthew 21:33–46	At Mount Sinai, the Lord gives the Ten Commandments to Moses. The law of the Lord is perfect; God's commandments are clear. Isaiah sings of a vineyard that has failed to produce good fruit. Restore us, O God of hosts; have regard for the vine you planted. All that I have is nothing; knowing Jesus Christ is everything. A parable about a vineyard, wicked tenants, and the owner's son.
October 11, 2026 **Semicontinuous** Exodus 32:1–14 Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23 **Complementary** Isaiah 25:1–9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:1–9 Matthew 22:1–14	Aaron makes a golden calf; Moses intercedes with the Lord. We have sinned, exchanging the glory of God for graven images. God will make a feast for all peoples, destroying death forever. The Lord prepares a table for me in the presence of my enemies. Rejoice in the Lord; do not worry; God's peace will be with you. The kingdom is like a banquet; many are called, few are chosen..
October 18, 2026 **Semicontinuous** Exodus 33:12–23 Psalm 99 **Complementary** Isaiah 45:1–7 Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13) 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 Matthew 22:15–22	Moses watches from the cleft of a rock as God's glory passes by. Like Moses, worship at God's mountain; the Lord is holy. The Lord anoints Cyrus: I alone am God; I call you by name. Declare God's glory among the nations; all other gods are idols. Paul writes to the Thessalonians: We give thanks and pray for you. The Pharisees test Jesus with a question about paying taxes.
October 25th **Semicontinuous** Deuteronomy 34:1–12 Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 **Complementary** Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 Matthew 22:34–46	After seeing the promised land from Mount Nebo, Moses dies. Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Be holy, as the Lord is holy; love your neighbor as yourself. Happy are those who delight in the law of the Lord. We came to you to share the gospel; we also share ourselves. Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor as yourself.
October 31st (Reformation Day) **Lectionary Readings** Jeremiah 31:31–34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19–28 John 8:31–36	God says: I will make a new covenant, writing my law in your heart. Though the earth changes and the waters roar, God is our refuge. We are justified by the gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus says: You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

TREASURER'S REPORT – BETHANY SCOVILL

Changes in Equity- July-August 2026

August 2026 - September 2026

CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS

		Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS	3000					
UNRESTRICTED	3100					
Memorial Fund	3105	28,201.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,201.13
General Fund	3110	(10,659.44)	8,030.00	(12,624.08)	1,535.00	(13,718.52)
Bricks Fund	3115	1,539.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,539.85
Mission Fund	3130	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50
Minister Compensation Fun	3140	81,662.30	0.00	0.00	(535.00)	81,127.30
Endowment - Expendable	3150	107,363.26	6.75	0.00	(1,000.00)	106,370.01
Subtotal Unrestricted	3100	208,144.60	8,036.75	(12,624.08)	0.00	203,557.27
DONOR RESTRICTED	3200					
Food Account	3220	164.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	164.52
Good Samaritan	3230	966.81	30.00	(150.00)	0.00	846.81
Youth Experience Fund	3241	835.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	835.81
Parking Lot Fund	3242	1,296.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,296.24
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3290	6,706.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,706.09
Endowment Nonexpendable F	3310	149,796.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	149,796.50
Subtotal Donor Restricted	3200	159,765.97	30.00	(150.00)	0.00	159,645.97
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		367,910.57	8,066.75	(12,774.08)	0.00	363,203.24

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

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

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

MISSIONS SUPPORTED BY COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH - HOW DO WE 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: The Missions of the Month for September were the City Rescue Mission and the Old Town Mission. Mission of the Month for October is the Peace Offering. If you wish to donate, please mark your donations accordingly.

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



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.



John & Leore Bethune Traditions of Saginaw, West,	**Dawn Curtis** @ Home	**Lois Krzak** @ Home
Avis Leach Roosevelt House/Hemlock		**Marilyn Leffler** Traditions of Saginaw, West
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.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CTC

September was a busy month for us at Countryside. Here are some of the highlights:

- We are happy to have Pastor Nathaniel back following the birth of his son, Thomas and anxiously looking forward to meeting him.
- Choir is back from summer vacay and as always, we are enjoying their talents during the worship service.
- Genesis Sunday on September 13th featured a luncheon, cake walk, children's games, wonderful fellowship, and—as always—amazing food. Everyone had a great time!
- We were pleased to welcome Brian Leach back to provide First Aid and CPR training. Seventeen members of our church family participated, and we sincerely thank Brian for generously helping us keep our skills and knowledge current.
- We welcomed two new members to our Church Family:
    - Carole Kaster; and
    - Noah Davis.
- Planning for the Cribbage Club, which will start on October 17th has been finalized. If you wish to participate – come at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 17th prepared to have a good time. Bring your own snacks and beverages. Don't worry if you don't know how to play, our own Roger Scovill will be on hand to give lessons.

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 JUST RETURNED FROM SUMMER VACAY – SO NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN!





THE NEXT CTC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH BEGINNING @ 11:30 A.M

WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND!



CTC Directory: The Directory has been completed. You can pick your copy at church. If you would like one mailed to you, please call the office at 989 793-0125

Andrea & Nathaniel welcomed their new baby into the world. His name is Thomas Edward Asperger, he was born on August 21st, and he weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

Congratulations to the Aspergers!

YOUR SESSION AT WORK
Carol VanArsdale, Clerk

Opening: The meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor and Moderator Rev. Nathaniel Asperger at 9:14, in the lounge.

Deacon's Report:

August 1, 2026,	Beginning balance		$628.00
	Income:	Coffee Hour Donations	
		From July	$82.00
		From August	$107.00
		Total	$817.00
	Expenses:		
	Kitchen supplies, eco supplies		
	Communion supplies		$42.25
	Approved donation to Genesis Sunday		$100.00
		Total	$140.25
August 31, 2026,	Ending Balance		$**674.75**
	Cake Fund Balance		$205.00

Elder Training: Pastor Nathaniel asked what signs of the Spirit we have witnessed at CTC.

1. More educational options: Goals class going well. Nathaniel wants to have a stewardship class following this one.
2. CPR training done by Brian Leach with two nights of classes and 17 people trained in adult and infant CPR and first aid. Participants should watch for emails from HSI with their certifications. Gift card was given to Brian for his time and instruction. Chuck will follow up with Brian about those who have not received their certifications.
3. Cribbage event: Kathy reported that 10 people have signed up for the event (Chuck and Debbie also want to be put on the list). The first event will be October 17 at 2:00. They will continue the 3rd Saturday of the month. Invite your family and friends. All are welcome. Bring your own drink and snacks.

Clerk of the Session:

Baptisms since beginning of year:	0
Deaths since beginning of year:	0
New members in 2026:	2
Carole Kaster	
Noah Davis	
Current membership:	87
Average Attendance:	37
Communion served in July	37

Presbytery Report: Pastor Nathaniel

The next Presbytery meeting is Dec. 1 at Flint First Presbyterian.

There are 44 churches in the Presbytery. 19 have pastors and the rest rely on Supply pastors or commissioned ruling elders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds: Roger Scovill No report

Personnel: Roger Scovill Kathy is not leaving in December as Church Administrator. She will stay at least another year.

Christian Outreach: Goodie bags will not be passed out until before Christmas to Weiss students.

Finance and Stewardship: Roger Scovill

Changes in Equity: July 1, 2026, to July 31, 2026

General Fund		Total Balance of all Funds	
Beginning Balance:	$(8,680.60)	Beginning Balance:	$370,233.63
Income & Transfers:	$5,189.27	Income & Transfers:	$4,963.63
Expenses:	$7,168.11	Expenses:	($7,286.51)
Ending Balance:	($10,659.44)	Ending Balance:	$367,910.57

The finance report for July was presented. Offerings for the month were $3,300.

Summary of Pledges for 2026:
30 families pledged
4 new families made pledges, for a gain of $3,040
3 families who previously pledged, did not make a pledge for a loss of $2,900
7 families increased their pledges for $6,424

Spiritual Life: Debbie Davis

Genesis Sunday is September 13 was a big success. Sandy thanked all who helped.

Nominating Committee: Sandy Redfield No report

Church Office: Kathy Loviska

The Pension Plan needs to be addressed. Roger Scovill will do this.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nathaniel

Several more people are interested in learning more about our church. Nathaniel will engage them in conversation.

Other business:

1. Troop 304: Now meeting at Novel Catholic Elementary for 2 months. Troop participating in weekend Clare Witch Project in October. One new member and 2 thinking about joining and currently attending meetings. Cour of Honor planned at 2nd Presbyterian Church at 7 PM on October 6. Next Committee meeting will be October 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

2. The paperwork for the new Cub Pack is completed as much as possible without knowing what youth and adults are joining. Carol will let Abel know. Scouting professional are planning to recruit in Saginaw Township public and private schools. They hope to present at a PTO meeting at Hemmeter School. We are responsible for the Charter Fee of $102 when the Pack has membership and leaders. Pastor Nathaniel as Head of the Organization and Roger Scovill as Charter Organization Representative have the responsibility of interviewing and approving Pack leadership after their background checks by Scouting.
3. Area 22 Special Olympics: Carol Van Arsdale asked that CTC consider allowing a monthly Management Team meeting at CTC. They currently have a Team of 7 and 2 athletes that meet but are hoping to increase the Team by several people. M/S/A to approve the use of the building for Special Olympics Management Team by Kathy Lovista and supported by Roger Scovill.

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

Next Session Meeting on October 18, at 9:00 A.M.

CRIBBAGE CLUB: Cribbage Club will begin on Saturday, October 17th at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and continue each month on the 3rd Saturday of the month. If you need to learn or a refresher, Roger Scovill will teach you. Please let Kathy know if you plan to attend.



NEWS FROM OUR BOY SCOUT TROOP 304: We have been busy ending our summer and getting ready for the school year. At about the same time as our summer camp, a group went backpacking for a week in the porcupine mountains. Not long after, the troop as a whole, went on a 4-mile hike through Shiawassee Wildlife Refuge in place of our Tuesday meeting. The following Saturday we took a guided tour of the USS Edson in Bay City. Each scout that attended received a sample of decorative knotwork from a retired chief petty officer who is part of the crew. Our troop was presented with a decorative framed drawing of the Edson underway, which is now displayed in the troop room. We had three new scouts elected by the troop into the Order of the Arrow: Frank Dill, Andrew Szuran and Ryan Birchmeier. The troop grew with the addition of Matthew, Vincent and Liam to our crew. One of our scouts: Donny Treadway, used skills he learned in Lifesaving Merit Badge to come to the rescue of a boy who'd flipped his kayak over in the lake where Donny was vacationing. Assisting this youth, who was trapped in the overturned craft Donny showed how one scout can make a difference. Attached are just a few photos.



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

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 (M=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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Becky Pequignot
3 Rob Halase
3 Charles Davis
8 Lindsey Groom
13 Louis Diechman
14 Michael Patrick Groom
14 Jane Strom
17 Lois Krzak
20 Liz Saperstein
29 Tom Ladner
30 Vincent Martinez

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Zachary Plater
2 Drew Pequignot
2 Dan Groom
3 Joseph Ruth
5 Mary Longstreth
8 Karen Blankenship
11 Jerry Paquette
13 Ethan Parker
13 Charlotte Armstrong
14 Mike Yusaf
14 Tania Yusaf
16 Randy Groom
17 Elizabeth Jacob
19 Christopher Davis
22 Jean Anne Miller
22 Pat Denno
25 Ezra Yusaf
25 Aaron Plater
26 Ashley Huizar (Hanson)
27 Marie Lemmer
29 Scott Jacob
29 Lori Halase

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

28 Charles & Irene Ohmer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

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

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

20 Sidney & Kermit Diggs

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

None Known

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Autumn Months

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

- Author Unknown