



CTC Connections October, 2021



Session reinstates the use of masks for all indoor gatherings

Sighting the recent increase of infections from the Delta variant of Covid-19 in Saginaw County, the session has reinstated the requirement that masks be worn by all who gather indoors here at the church starting Sunday, August 8th. Coffee hours will continue outside when the weather cooperates and when members are able to provide for it.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW BRIDGE PASTOR, JANE YOUNG.



Hi! I am so excited to start this ministry with you! I have so much to learn about you. And you have much to learn about me! So, I'll start! I have been ordained since September 25, 1988. For most of my life as a pastor, I have served congregations as an interim. I love doing interim ministry, and being a Bridge Pastor is a type of interim ministry. It is also a type of ministry that many have never heard of!

A Bridge Pastor is a position for a church that is in search of their settled pastor, but does not need an interim. Because you are familiar with the steps needed to call your next pastor, the typical work an interim does is being taken care of by committees of the church. I am here to help with that process.

So, what exactly does a Bridge Pastor do? Well, we do what any Pastor would do! I am here to be your pastor! The work of the church goes on. Pastoral care needs go on. Committee meetings must go on (and on). Worship **must** go on! The Holy Spirit does not take a break.

In some ways it feels like you have been in this in-between time far too frequently, I know. But so many new and exciting things can happen in this time. And so many traditions can be maintained in this time. Covid has been so hard on all of us, but one of the gifts of this Covid season is that it has forced us to think about those things in our lives that are dear to us. And for most of us, Church is dear to us.

We have learned new ways to worship. Technology has become our friend! Really! Because of technology we have been able to be together thru the magic of internet. And even now, as we have in person worship, there are those who are not comfortable or able to worship in person. Yet they are still part of the church and are able to stay connected. Who would have thought that would be our reality several years ago!

I am excited to be your pastor - for whatever length that may be. Ministry is active. We are not trading water until there is a settled pastor here. The Holy Spirit will not allow us to sit still!

I would love to hear from you. I'm in the office Tue., Wed., Thur., mornings and will be available by phone and email. Stop in and and let's get to know each other.

Grace to you,

Pastor Jane

COVENANT OF CLOSURE WITH PASTOR BRANT PIPER

On September 19, 2021 at a special congregational meeting the "Covenant of Closure" between Pastor Piper and Countryside Trinity Church was accepted by the congregation. **It is extremely important that each member/friend and their families understand and abide by this agreement.** The following is a brief review of the terms in the agreement:

Pastor Brant cannot involve himself in any leadership or advisory role with the church.

He cannot intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute.

He cannot officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session.

He must refuse requests for pastoral services made by members or the Countryside congregation/friends and their extended families.

Pastor Brant must refrain from giving opinions or direction regarding church business that could undermine the transition necessary for the church and the development of the relationship between the congregation and the new pastor.

It is also understood that Pastor Brant's spouse, Leslie, and their family members adhere to the principles of this covenant.

Any violations of this covenant may be subject to disciplinary action under the Rules of Discipline from the Presbyterian USA Book of Order.

So, Please, Please, read these items through and refrain from calling Pastor Brant after September 26, 2021. The Session appreciates your understanding and support in this matter.

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

September 21, 2021

Mary Ann Parker, Clerk of Session

Reflection & Thanksgiving Time: Reflected on Isaiah 40:27-31.

Minutes of 8-17-2021 session meeting and called congregational meeting of 9-19-2021: Approved. The called congregational meeting action taken was to fulfill the request of Pastor Brant to dissolve his relationship with Countryside Trinity Church. The congregation approved it with "regrets."

Treasurer's Report: Financial information for August reviewed and accepted as printed.

Clerk's Report: Membership remains at 120.

Communion served to 40 congregants on 9-12-2021.

Seven homebound members and one family member received communion in September.

Pastor's Report: Served on Presbytery COM Transitional Team and Committee of Ministry and Ministry Preparation.

Served home Communion to 2 members. Visited 4 members in the hospital.

Conducted funeral service for Charlie Burr, non-member.

Held congregational gathering on 8-22-2021 to further explore core values and bedrock beliefs.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PRESBYTERY MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14TH VIA ZOOM GIVEN.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Chuck Davis, moderator. Instrumental in obtaining services to connect organ to the new sound system so it can be played during Sunday services. A roof leak in the church is under investigation.

Christian Outreach: Kitty Blehm, moderator. September mission is the City Rescue Mission. CROP walk will be 10-10-2021. Marcia Lacker is coordinator for CTC. Staffing shortages puts the Backpack program and the READ program on hold at the present time. Two hundred school supply items were delivered to Weiss School for the children.

Finance & Stewardship: Roger Scovill, moderator. Monthly goal for August is \$13,500 and \$7440.56 was collected. The team is in the process of preparing the budget for 2022. Had discussion regarding the investment of a portion of the endowment funds.

Personnel: Mary Ann Parker, moderator. Team met with Pastor Brant for a short exit interview. Terms for a part-time bridge pastor presented to session and approved.

Bridge pastor team: Carol VanArsdale gave brief report on Sunday regarding the search which was discussed. Roger will follow up with Carol.

Session will host a "farewell reception with regrets" for Pastor Brant on September 26, 2021 with light refreshments. A card box will be available for members/friends to send him off on his retirement with best wishes' cards.

Be Respectful: Please be respectful during worship service and refrain from talking. Remember that once the Prelude begins and until the Postlude ends the Worship Service **is in progress** and is being livestreamed. During this time we are to remain in our seats and listen to the beautiful music that is being played and the message our Pastor brings to us. We ask that you do not get up until the Postlude has concluded so as not to interfere with the livestreaming. Thank you.

The Crop Walk is scheduled for October 10, 2021. Here's how you can help:

- You can walk any part or all of the planned route on October 10th which leaves from the Saginaw YMCA and collect pledge donations from your friends, relatives and family;
- If you are not able to walk for whatever reason, you can still collect pledge donations for the cause.

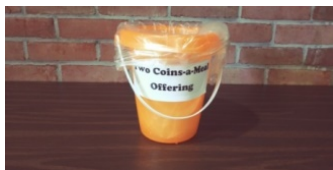
See Marcia Lacker for further information.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets: We are hoping that this year, we will be able to return to our normal food basket gift for some of the area families in need. We will begin accepting non-parishable food donations beginning in August for those able to help out. The following items will be collecting now - Non-parishable canned goods or jars, i.e. vegetables, gravy, fruit, tuna fish, spaghetti sauce, pork & beans, soup, peanut butter & jelly, etc.

As we get closer to Thanksgiving, we will post those items which are still needed. As always, we will need people to help out on "Packing & Shopping" Day so stay tuned for more information. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Angel Tree: We are hopeful that we can resume our Christmas Angel Tree this year. More information to come.



TWO COINS A MEAL will continue to be collected on the first Sunday of each month during Worship Service. There will be a pail at the back of the Sanctuary marked as such. Please bring your coins in a plastic baggie or envelope if you are able to do so and place in the pail either on your way in or out of Church. Thank you.

We have many ways to participate in reaching out to those in need this month.

Our local mission of the month is Old Town Mission. Old Town Outreach is a spirit filled church established to reach Saginaw with the hope and joy of Jesus Christ. The center is located on Gratiot near Michigan Avenue. They have a baby pantry, food pantry, worship services and bible studies, serve meals-soup kitchen and much more.

Please label your donations "Mission of the Month" or "Old Town".



Sunday the 10th is the day we celebrate Peace and Global Witness (PCUSA) and Neighbors in Need (UCC). 25% of the PC USA offering stays with our congregation to support our peace making and reconciliation efforts in our own community. 25% is for area efforts with other churches and 50% is used for global efforts (PCUSA).

Unfailing Love is the theme for NIN offering. 1/3 of the offering goes to support justice programs helping Native Americans. 2/3 is used to fund other justice programs. Local churches may apply for grants up to \$10,000 for their programs for justice.

Please use the envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall or mark your check for "Peace Offering". Collected donations are split 50-50 between our denominations.

Sunday, October 10th is the celebration of the Saginaw County CROP walk. Due to covid, the "walk" has taken on many different forms. You can walk where or when you wish. The group-walk starts and ends at the YMCA. You can "walk" on line. Kathy Loviska, Marcia Lacker and Michelle Martinez will gladly receive your donations. Kathy has set up an online page also. ¼ of the donations stay in Saginaw. Agencies receiving funds this year are: Hidden Harvest, East Side Soup Kitchen and Saginaw Rescue Mission. Church World Service distributes funds to programs around the world. Checks may be made out to CWS.

We are collecting food and money for Thanksgiving Baskets.

TREASURER'S REPORT	August				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	(3,794.25)	7,440.58	10,114.34	1,095.00	(5,373.01)
Memorial	9,470.00				9,470.00
Memorial - Lyons Troop 304	-				-
Manse	-				-
Special gift	17,800.02				17,800.02
Special projects	2,195.36				2,195.36
Mission					
Per capita	360.60				360.60
Two-coins-a-meal	107.00	40.00			147.00
Food baskets	237.52	5.00			242.52
Heifer proj (Church School)	-				-
UCC/PCU/Blankets	-				-
Good Samaritan	2,397.28				2,397.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	7,516.06				7,516.06
Womens Association	-				-
Local	120.00	80.00			200.00
Bricks	1,335.85				1,335.85
	37,745.44	7,565.58	10,114.34	1,095.00	36,291.68
Minister Compensation	93,647.95			(535.00)	93,112.95
Endowment	256,489.99	1,024.16		(560.00)	256,954.15
	387,883.38	8,589.74	10,114.34	-	386,358.78

Remember Our Shut-ins



Betty Burr Samaritas Senior Living	Joan Comstock @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home
Betty Hauk Wellspring Ind. Living Temporarily @ Saginaw Rehab	Floyd & Lois Krzak @ Home	Doug and Marilyn Leffler New Hope Valley
Bob & Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living	Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Judy Lorenz St. Francis Home
Virginia Lyon @ Home	Ruth Marsh @ Home	Norma Meacham New Hope Valley
Elaine Miner @ Home Temporarily @ Symphony on Bay Road (Formerly Cartell)	Fran Prueter @ Home	Helen Reynolds Wellspring Independent Living
Shirley Roof Wellspring Assisted Living Currently @ Covenant Hospital		



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Zachary Plater
- 2 Drew Pequignot
- 2 Dan Groom
- 3 Joseph Ruth
- 5 Mary Longstreth
- 6 Amanda J. (Groom) Fulton
- 11 Dick Easlick
- 11 Jerry Paquette
- 13 Ethan Parker
- 13 Ruth Marsh
- 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 (Scovill)
- 27 Marie Lemmer
- 29 Scott Jacob
- 29 Lori Halase

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paige Pequignot
- 3 Sam Nolan
- 7 Judi Westendorf
- 7 Christine (Dowling) Greenwood
- 8 Duncan Redfield
- 9 Stephanie Plater
- 10 Anjel Vernon
- 11 Dave Fitzgerald
- 12 Jacob Plater
- 15 Dick Woodke
- 16 Pervez Yusaf

- 19 Martin Bethune
- 19 Bethany Scovill

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS CONT'D

- 20 Judith Lorenz
- 21 Ronald Miller
- 22 Jacob Groom
- 22 Lucas Gonzales
- 23 Bethany Scovill
- 23 Virginia Jarvi
- 28 Jennifer Nolan-Heyn
- 28 Avis Leach

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Rhashell Hunter
- 8 Garth Westendorf
- 12 Melissa Paterson (Shalhoup)
- 16 Alexa Mahan
- 17 Nancy Easlick
- 18 Paula Plater
- 22 Ed Halase
- 24 Nancy Scott
- 25 Brecque Woodke
- 26 Craig Gates

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Aaron & Paula Plater
- 8 Robert & Marie Lemmer
- 10 Eric & Sue Smith

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Jerry & Virginia Brachear
- 22 Dave & Dora Fitzgerald

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Joseph & Doris Ruth
- 24 Bruce & Patricia Denno
- 27 Dick & Nancy Easlick

**Countryside Trinity Church
4690 Weiss
Saginaw, Michigan 48603**



I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the people of Countryside Trinity for your warm well wishes to me for my time of ministry with you, my retirement, and even my birthday. Your cards and gifts were a pleasant surprise and very welcomed as I use this month to travel and visit with friends and family. May God continue to bless your ministry and discipleship and lead you to places of abundant life.

Take care, Brant