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CTC Connections Newsletter March 2022

From Our Pastor:

Lent starts March 2! It always seems to catch me by surprise. Whether Lent starts in February, or in March as it does this year, I find that I want more time to prepare for it. While I don't give up food or comforts during the season, I do find that I think more about our Savior and spend more time in prayer. I don't do this as a conscious practice, it just seems that it happens. I guess because I am aware of the flow of Lent. We start with Ash Wednesday. Then each Sunday we ponder the journey to the cross. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and then Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Silent Saturday, and finally the joyous celebration of Easter! But to get to the joyous celebration of Easter, we must travel thru Lent.

The news as I write this is devastating. Russia has invaded Ukraine. As of this writing, we don't know what the outcome will be. We do know that there will be death and devastation. That is always the way of war. I have to wonder if perhaps the hymn: *Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me*, should be our theme. I have been praying for peace for the Ukraine. I have prayed and continue to pray that Putin will have a change of heart. I believe in prayer.

Will you join me in daily prayer for peace? I can't think of a more holy way to travel to the cross and on to resurrection.

Grace to you,
Pastor Jane



Lunch with Pastor!

Beginning on March 9th pack your lunch each Wednesday and join me for fellowship and Bible Study. We will be traveling through Lent studying the writings and art of Vincent Van Gogh. Come each Wednesday, or the Wednesday's you can. Together we can grow in understanding during this church season.

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Don't forget that we will begin our Lenten journey with the Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 March 2nd.

UPCOMING LECTIONARY READINGS:

<p>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</p>	<p>The day of the Lord is coming, return to God with all your heart. The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me. Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!</p> <p>Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13</p>	<p>We cried to the Lord, God of our ancestors, and God delivered us. The Lord says: I will deliver and protect those who call on me. The word is near to you; those who call on the Lord will be saved. For forty days in the wilderness, Jesus is tempted by the devil.</p>
<p>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35 Or Luke 9:28-36</p>	<p>Abram believes in the Lord; God makes a covenant with Abram. I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. God will transform our humiliation into glory; stand firm in the Lord. Jesus laments; Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets! On a mountaintop, Jesus is transfigured; God says: This is my Son.</p>
<p>Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9</p>	<p>Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; listen to me and live. O God, you are my God, I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. Our ancestors crossed the sea; they drank from Christ, the rock. Lessons from a tower and a fig tree; repent or you will perish.</p>
<p>Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</p>	<p>The Israelites keep passover at Gilgal; God rolls away their disgrace. Happy are those whose sin is forgiven; be glad, rejoice in the Lord. In Christ there is a new creation; everything old has passed away. The parable of the Prodigal Son; he was lost and has been found.</p>

Session reinstates the use of masks for all indoor gatherings

Sighting the increase of infections from the variants 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 until further notice.



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YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

February 20, 2022

Mary Ann Parker, Your Clerk of Session

Following prayer by Pastor Jane Lynn Young reports were received.

Minutes of the last month's meetings, the annual congregational, the called congregational meeting, and the last session meeting were approved.

Clerk's Report:

Church membership is now 114 with the deaths of Shirlee Scovill and Richard Easlick.

Communion was served to 34 parishioners on 2-6-2022.

Annual reports to Presbytery and UCC are being submitted as called for.

Ordination and installation of Sandy Redfield as elder and Ron Platt as deacon was celebrated on 2-20-2022. Lynne Groom was installed at that time also.

Pastor's Report: Officiated at the funerals of Shirlee and Dick and served the church in her ministry.

Denominational Reports: Roger Scovill will be elder commissioner at the Presbytery meeting on 3-5-2022 via ZOOM.

Pastor Nominating Committee Report: R. Scovill gave report of PNC, including that the Ministry Information Form is being formulated nicely and probably will be submitted to Presbytery within the month. Pastor Jane shared some ideas of reaching out to the marginalized population in a helpful way.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Outreach:

Kitty Blehm reported that backpacks for the children at Weiss School are being packed now. The women may have a baby shower in March for Underground Railroad and the Baby Pantry.

On the evangelism part of the committee, Lori Halase, financial secretary, presented financial statistics and the number of members who have not participated financially or participated in the life of the church in the last 3-5 years. This matter was discussed at length.

Spiritual Life:

Darren Woodke presented a request for approval for the following:

1. Sandy Redfield has requested that Shirley's Roof's memorial money be used for the music program at church. Motion sustained to approve \$600.00 be used from the Memorial Fund to move the baby grand piano from Warren Avenue to Countryside Trinity Church.
2. Motion sustained to purchase microphones for the back of the church at approximately \$500 from the spiritual life budget.

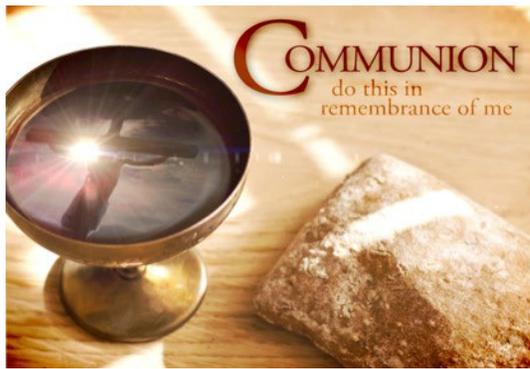
3. The committee is looking into the purchase of a TV monitor for the back of the sanctuary.
4. Pastor Jane will be holding a Lenten Study group at 12 Noon for at least five Wednesdays during the Lenten season. Bring your lunch and participate.
5. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services are scheduled for 6:30 PM.

Motion sustained to receive all reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. D. Davis proposed that we start standing periodically during the worship service. Pastor Jane will look into this.
2. R. Scovill related that the Boy Scouts' leader asked if they could use the monitor in fellowship hall with internet.
3. Motion sustained to add the following to the "Policy for Church Closure Due to Inclement Weather" : *The church office will be closed if the Saginaw Township Schools are closed due to inclement weather as posted and streamed on TV.*

****Since it is a new year, the various committees are in need of volunteers to help serve the church in doing the work that we have been called do. Please help us as we further our mission at Countryside. The officers of the church are approachable so feel free to speak to anyone of them and help us in serving Christ through our various committees. Join us, you may have some fun and laughs plus get that warm fuzzy feeling from helping someone outside your home. WE NEED YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



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“HOMEBOUND COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED”: A very important ministry at Countryside Trinity Church is serving communion to of our shut-ins We are presently in dire need of volunteers to be a part of this ministry. The Deacons are searching for people who are willing to visit and serve communion several times a year to those unable to attend worship.

We go out in teams of two and to get started you would be teamed up with one of our current team members or you could form your own team. We are called to serve God and ALL members of our church family and this would be a great opportunity to be a part of this rewarding ministry.

Please prayerfully consider joining our Homebound Communion Team. Our current servers are: Mary Ann Parker, Lori Halase, Jackie and Dallas Williams, Kathy Loviska, Pat Denno and Dan Groom. If you have any questions about this ministry, please talk to any of our current servers, and when you are ready to join with us please contact Dan Groom. Thank you , The Deacons



Betty Burr Samaritas Senior Living	Joan Comstock @ Home	Dawn Curtis @ Home
Betty Hauk Wellspring Assisted Living	Floyd & Lois Krzak @ Home	Marie Lemmer Wellspring Assisted Living
Fern Evon Little Swan Haven Manor	Virginia Lyon @ Home	Ruth Marsh @ Home
Norma Meacham New Hope Valley	Elaine Miner @ Home	Fran Prueter @ Home
	Helen Reynolds Wellspring Memory Care	



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CHURCH CLOSINGS CAUSED BY WEATHER: So far this winter has been very cold and challenging. We do not want anyone to get into an accident or fall. Therefore, going forward – as a reminder – if there has been a snowfall or icy condition over the weekend, make sure before making the trip to church on Sunday to turn on your TV and check with WNEM for closings. You can also go online to www.wnem.com to check their website. **WHEN THERE IS NO CHURCH BECAUSE OF WEATHER – THERE WILL NOT BE A WORSHIP SERVICE ON YOUTUBE FOR THAT SUNDAY.** This may change in the future, but as of right now – there would be nobody at the church to record anything.

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.



Christian Outreach: Please remember our local ministries during this time, as they work to provide additional resources to our community in this time of pandemic and need your support. The Missions of the Month for March are "Easter Food Baskets"

The Scovill and Easlick families wish to send a big thank you to everyone for their cards, telephone calls and support during the last illness of Shirlee Scovill and Dick Easlick. They were so greatly appreciated.

Also, Nancy Easlick wants everyone to know that her son and his family is taking her to Florida for the month of March but **SHE WILL BE BACK** in April.



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God took more angels home

Obituary of Jerry Wayne Brachear

Brachear, Jerry W. age 81 passed away at Covenant Healthcare-Cooper with family at his side. Jerry was born September 6, 1940 in Elkhart, IL the son of Carl and Marguerite (Melvin) Brachear. After high school Jerry, proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. He was united in marriage to the former Virginia Kirkpatrick on November 17, 1962 in Springfield, IL; she survives him. Jerry retired from Swift Meat Company after 25 years.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife of 59 years; Virginia, son; Kevin (Marie Vorndam) Brachear, three grandchildren; Wayne, Lauren (Tyler) and Zackery, one great-grandchild; Garrett and two sisters; Rita (Darrell) Stoll and Marcy (David) Thompson. Besides his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by two brothers: Carl Jr. and John Brachear.

In keeping with Jerry's wishes cremation has taken place and no services are being planned.

Deisler Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Brachear family; please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with the family by visiting www.DeislerFuneralHome.com To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Jerry Brachear, please visit [Tribute Store](#). There are no events scheduled. You can still show your support by sending flowers directly to the family or planting a memorial tree in memory of Jerry Brachear.



Shirlee Elsie Scovill

January 2, 1953 - February 5, 2022

Our courageous wife, mother, and grandmother, Shirlee Elsie Scovill, 69, of Bay City, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 5, 2022. Challenged with various health problems her entire life, she battled with grace until she was called home.

Shirlee was born to the late Harold and Marie Johnson. She grew up in Lansing, graduated from Lansing Eastern High School and went on to attend the Lansing Business University. Roger and Shirlee were united in marriage on September 9, 1978, at First Presbyterian Church of Lansing. Soon after, the happy couple bought a home in Bay City where they resided ever since. Shirlee worked off and on in administrative positions throughout her life, but her most important job was raising her two daughters, Bethany, and Katlyn. She was actively involved in their schools and extracurricular activities. She worked at MacGregor Elementary School as a lunch cashier for many years, led a Girl Scout troop, was involved in Band Boosters at Bay City Central High School, and got the girls to music lessons or whatever sport they decided to try. In more recent years, you may have seen her behind the desk at any of the Bay City Public Schools as a substitute secretary.

One of Shirlee's biggest passions was her church and church family. The Scovill family were faithful members of Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church of Saginaw until its closing in 2018. Shirlee was the Clerk of Session and helped cater many meals and coffee hours over the years. Her baking skills were legendary, and she was well known for her delicious cookies and pies. She and Roger were involved with Habitat for Humanity in Saginaw, and she did her part by making a multitude of pies for the volunteers and families. Shirlee and Roger were proud Michigan State sports fans, attending most home football games over the years. GO GREEN! GO WHITE! She enjoyed bowling for many years and was an impressive crafter; she made many quilts and crocheted blankets. She most recently became interested in greeting card making, with many of her loved ones receiving them in the mail. Shirlee and Roger enjoyed traveling around the country and worked together to grow bountiful gardens of produce and flowers. You would often hear her talk of freezing, canning and trips to obtain quality fruit to preserve for those pies that were mentioned. With all that kept her busy, she always made time for her kids and grandkids, providing unconditional support in whatever joys or challenges they were facing.

Shirlee leaves behind husband, Roger; daughters, Bethany Scovill and Katlyn Scovill (Rylan Hanson); grandchildren, Asher, Olivia, Raegen, Evan and Ashley; sisters, Carolyn (Jim) Teremi and Sharleen (Bill) Maynard; mother-in-law, Elaine Scovill; brother-in-law, Doug (Pam) Scovill; sister-in-law, Amy Scovill; brother-in-law Tom Hawkey, as well as several nieces and nephews and many dear friends that were like family. Along with her parents, Shirlee was welcomed home to Heaven by granddaughter, Matilda; father-in-law, Russel Scovill; brother-in-law, Ken Scovill; sister-in-law, Jenny Adams and nephew, Kurt Teremi.

Shirlee's family would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers over the last few months. Due to COVID, they have decided to keep her memorial service private. The ceremony will be available to view online at <http://www.skorupskis.com> in the coming days. The family is planning a Celebration of Shirlee's Life in the summer of 2022. Memorial contributions may be made to Countryside Trinity Church. Final arrangements have been entrusted to Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 821 N. Pine Rd., between Ridge & Center. Expressions of sympathy may be given at <http://www.skorupskis.com>



RICHARD L. "DICK" EASLICK

October 11, 1932 – February 10, 2022

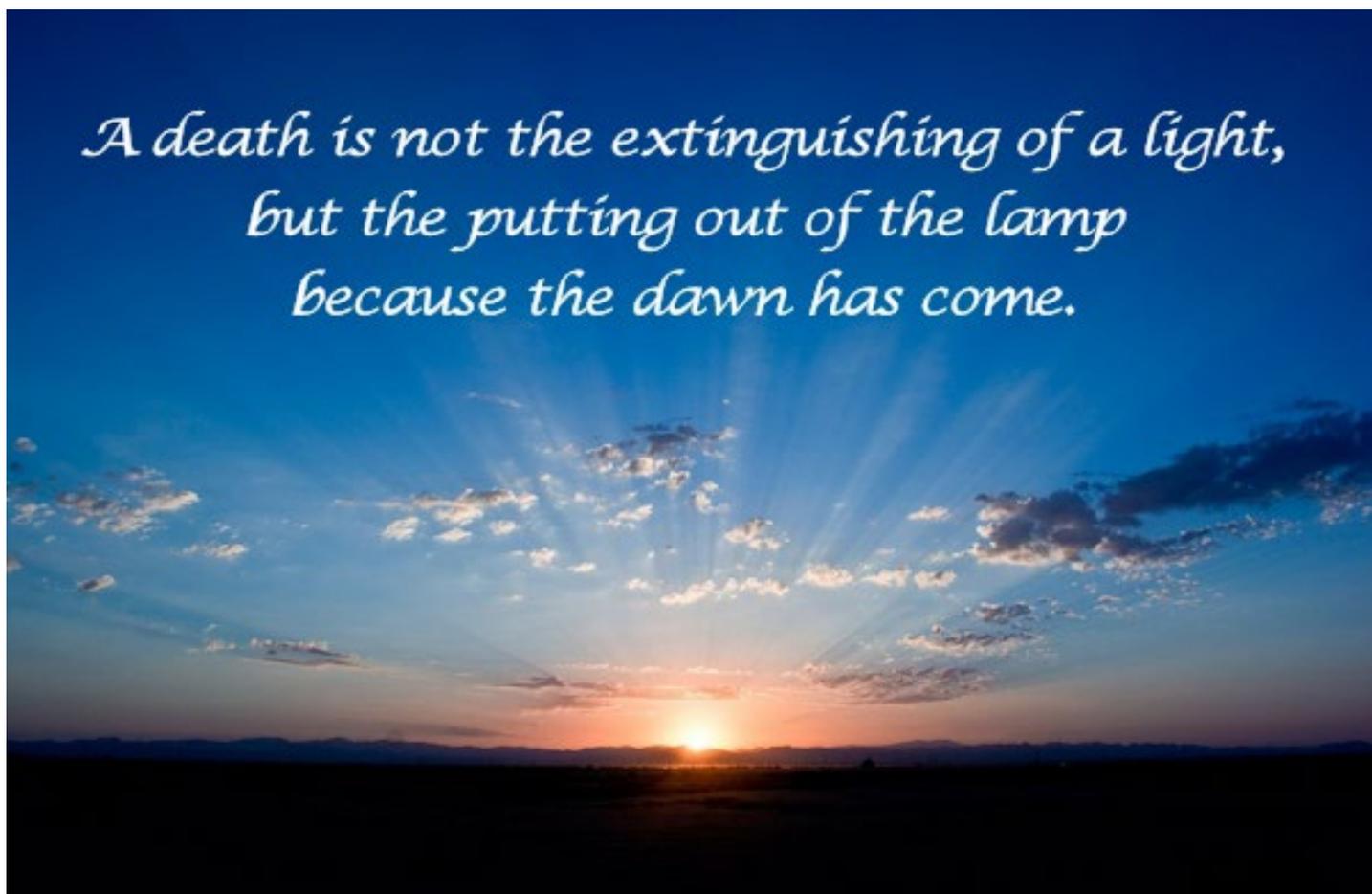
Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother passed away Thursday, February 10, 2022 at Covenant HealthCare Harrison. Age 89 years. Son of the late Clyde and Leona (Draves) Easlick, Richard was born October 11, 1932 in Saginaw, Michigan. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Richard married Nancy C. White, his loving wife of 69 years, on December 27, 1952. She survives him. Richard had been employed at General Motors for 37 years and then at Bronners Christmas Wonderland. He was a member of Countryside

Trinity Church, an Elder and sang in the choir. Richard enjoyed camping, fixing things and especially spending time with his family.

Surviving besides his wife Nancy are two sons and one daughter, Michael and Carol Easlick, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Tammy and Kevin Charkowski, Benton Harbor, Michigan; Mark and Lori Easlick, Battle Creek, Michigan; ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one brother, Gerald Easlick, San Diego, California; one sister, Gloria Hildebrand, Albuquerque, New Mexico; two sisters-in-law, Dorothy Easlick, Saginaw; Sally LeClaire, El Paso, Texas; many nieces and nephews. Richard was preceded in death by two sisters, Sally Lewis and Sande Crawford; two brothers, Jack and Bob Easlick; and a sister-in-law, Marge Easlick.

Funeral Service will take place 1:00 p.m. Sunday, February 13, 2022 at the Snow Funeral Home, 3775 N. Center Rd. (between Shattuck and McCarty). Pastor Jane Young will officiate. Honoring Mr. Easlick's wishes cremation will follow with entombment of cremains in Great Lakes National Cemetery. Friends may visit at the funeral home where the family will be present on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until time of service. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Countryside Trinity Church or Saginaw Rescue Mission.

*A death is not the extinguishing of a light,
but the putting out of the lamp
because the dawn has come.*



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Per Capita Contributions continue to be collected: We are continuing to collect the Per Capita contributions. Again this year, we are inviting all members to contribute \$30 to cover the costs of providing support to "Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ and the "Per Capita Offering" of the PC(USA). This donation empowers the Presbytery of Lake Huron, the Michigan Conference, and our denominations to provide us with guidance and support as we seek to carry out the work of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world. A fuller description is below:

PER CAPITA FOR 2022

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 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 for the per capita for 2022. 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 2022. 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.



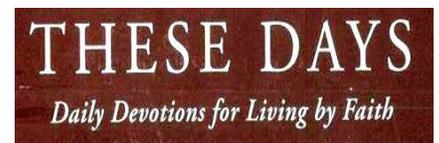
Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up: Lori Halase has made the boxes of offering envelopes available for pickup. They are on the table in the alcove area of Fellowship Hall. If you cannot get to church on Sundays to pick them up, the church is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Come to the door at the east end of the building and ring the bell. If you are not able to get here at all, we can mail them to you. Please call the church (989) 793-0125 and if we don't answer, leave a message on the answering machine and they will be mailed out to you.

Please 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.



Telephone Directory: Don't forget to let Kathy in the office know about any change of yours or a family member's address, phone numbers or email addresses so she can update the church records and mailing lists. Please email changes to countryside@ctcsaginaw.com or leave a message at 989 793-0125.

These Days: *These Days* magazines are on the entryway table in Fellowship Hall if you would like to pick one up. A donation jar is on the table.



Greeting Cards: A variety of greeting cards are on the table inside the East entrance to the building. Please leave your payment in the basket provided.

Muriel Lakey Scholarship: If anyone is interested in applying for the Muriel Lakey Scholarship you can pick up an application at the church office or one can be mailed or emailed to you. Please contact the church office of Sandy Redfield if you would like an application. Applications are due Monday, March 1, 2022.

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.





Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS MARCH

- 1 Ron Platt
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 14 Andy Smith
- 22 Chong Ladner
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna VanHautte
- 30 Robert Furlo

BIRTHDAYS APRIL

- 1 Virginia Lyons
- 2 William Nolan
- 2 Lysithea Evans M=Alexa Mahan
- 4 Jeanne Krugielki
- 5 Nancy Erndt
- 5 Evon Little
- 12 Kathy Loviska
- 12 Matthew VanArsdale
- 13 Dallas Williams
- 19 Debra Davis

BIRTHDAYS MAY

- 1 Gwen Henderson

- 4 Joshua Gonzales
- 5 Sue Smith
- 6 Betty Burr
- 6 Marcia Lacker
- 8 Dorothy Hughes
- 12 Barbara Groom
- 18 Doris Ruth
- 21 Seth Diggs
- 24 Katlyn Scovill
- 26 Charles Ohmer
- 26 Lore Woodke
- 28 Sue Paterson

ANNIVERSARIES MARCH

- 6 Chad & Karla Parker
- 21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez

ANNIVERSARIES APRIL

None Known

ANNIVERSARIES MAY

- 4 Tom & Chong Ladner
- 7 Floyd & Lois Krzak
- 15 Christine & Paul Greenwood
- 16 Kathryn & Kevin Barnum
- 18 Randy & Lynne Groom
- 28 Christian & Bradley Saxton



"Easter Flowers 2022" Order Form

<u>Flower</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Price Each</u>		<u>Total</u>
Easter Lily	_____	x	\$ 11.00	=	_____
Mums 8"	_____	x	\$ 11.00	=	_____
Daffodil 8"	_____	x	\$ 9.00	=	_____
Hyacinth 8"	_____	x	\$ 9.00	=	_____
Tulip 8"	_____	x	\$ 9.00	=	_____
Azalea 7"	_____	x	\$ 16.00	=	_____
Hydrangea	_____	x	\$ 16.00	=	_____
Total due for all flowers ordered: =				\$ _____	

NAME: _____

IN Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Please check one:

____ Will take plant with me (or)

____ Will leave plant at church for outdoor planting

Payment: Cash Payment: \$ _____ Attached (or)

Check Payment: \$ _____ Make checks payable to "The Deacons."

The deadline to place your order for Easter flowers is Sunday, April 3, 2022.

Please drop off or mail your completed form and payment to:

**Countryside Trinity Church
4690 Weiss St.
Saginaw, MI 48603**

Thank you & Happy Easter!

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH
4690 WEISS
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48603

Spring is Coming!!!

Springtime!

Your message of hope to a world tiring of winter's starkness, longing for that first crocus to push through snow's icy blanket and spread its leaves, like arms outstretched, to its creator. Springtime! Our yearly reminder, if we needed one, that to a world that was dark and cold, a world devoid of love's sweet warmth, you sent your Son to break through sin's icy blanket, and, arms outstretched on a cross, he brought us hope. Thank you

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