



February 2017 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

And they will know we are Christians by our Love.

-Peter Scholtes, author

The word LOVE can generate a lot of emotions. Love has three meanings in the Greek; familial, eros, and AGAPE. We sing about it. We write about it. We say it to one another. We even read about it; "For God so LOVED the world." (John 3:16)

Then there is Valentine's Day. It shows up every February. We use this time to share some of our feelings with those closest to us. Hallmark loves it. The floral shops think it is great and a headache, all at the same time. Children make boxes to give and receive cards in school (at least that was what I did, way back when). Some plan out major events for the day, others scramble to just come up with something. And if you haven't made a reservation yet at your favorite restaurant, you might want to get on that.

The thing about LOVE is that we all receive it differently. Some feel love by the words people speak. Others, by gifts they receive. Dr. Gary Chapman, the director of Marriage and Family Life Consultants, has written a book entitled, *The 5 Love Languages*.

Dr. Chapman suggests that all of us feel loved by one of these five love languages. The first is words of affirmation. The second is quality time. The third is receiving gifts. Number four is acts of service. Finally, there is physical touch. For the month of February and the first Sunday in March, we are going to look at each of these love languages as they apply to our faith and each other. Each week we will unpack the love languages to have a better understanding of them.

If we are to truly help others know that we are Christians by our love, then we need to understand our own love language. Then, understand all the love languages, and finally, how to show the right type of love to each individual we come in contact with. We must realize that we may not get it right the first time. The correct love language, that is. But the point is, that we are to keep trying and loving one another.

I would invite you to purchase the book if you would like to and follow along. Dr. Chapman has written several love language books, we will stick to the first one, *The 5 Love Languages*.

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Jesus, soften my heart. I do not want to harden my heart toward anyone. When I hear the Holy Spirit speaking to me, I want to obey with a willing heart. Whom do I need to encourage today? If you lead me to someone who is rude to me or who is unkempt, please help me to see that person through your eyes and to not harden my heart. Amen (from *Simply Praying*)

Matt

Trinity United Methodist Church 8009 Q Street Ralston, NE 68127
Phone: 402-331-4054 <http://www.trinityralston.org> [facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC)

Sunday Worship: Services @ 8:30am & 11am, Sunday School @ 9:45am

Pastor: Rev Dr. Matt Fowler **Associate Pastor:** Rev Curt Copple **Pastor of Congregational Development:** Rev Dr. Bob Folkers
Executive Pastor: Rev Dr. Cole Fowler **Children /Youth Director:** Becky McClanathan
Choir Director: David Galant **Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley **Accompanist:** Vicki Buras
Facilities Coordinator: Jon Lindhjem **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

Mission Notes

At our first mission meeting in 2017, we looked at our year in the context of the following statement: "The past is my experience; the present is my responsibility; the future is my challenge." (words of Joseph Torkpah, a Liberian missionary)

We reviewed our past, looked at the present, and planned for the future. We discussed our past mission outreach and decided to repeat some of our previous projects, due in part to the overwhelming support of our congregation.

January and February we are **collecting new blankets, gently used coats and winter wear** to deliver to the Stephen Center. Following that, we will be looking ahead to our Ralston Prom project and supporting One Great Hour of Sharing.

Dining for Women began with a look at Cambodia in January. On Friday, February 10th at noon, we will focus on Bolivia. Please consider joining this group. We always have room for more around the table.

Trinity members have such a generous heart. We hope that this generosity will continue to support the needs of our community and world.

Judy Dappen
Mission Chair

Ash Wednesday Service

Please join us on Wednesday, March 1st at 7pm as we start off our Lenten journey with an Ash Wednesday Service. Light refreshments will be available prior to the service. Please note Kids for Christ will not meet this evening, but the Choir will still practice at 6pm.

Thank You

My heartfelt thanks to all for your cards and expressions of sympathy for the loss of my brother, Dan. Your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time were very much appreciated. -Cathy Bordwell

Marriage Announcement

Congratulations to Doug Rutherford and Diane Beedle on their marriage here at Trinity on January 10th.

Congratulations

Diane Adams was recently honored by Fox42 KPTM with the Jefferson Award for all her hard work and dedication to the Lost & Found Clothing Center and the people it serves. Since its opening, the Clothing Center has helped provide clothing for over 1000 children, and that number continues to grow! Diane cannot do the work alone though, so please sign up to help on a given Sunday. The Clothing Center is open each Sunday from 1-4pm.

Past Sermons

For those of you who cannot always make it to church on a given Sunday, please note that on our website (trinityralston.org) you can find audio recordings of past sermons.

Education Notes

Sunday School has been full of fun, educational activities. This past Sunday, the kids worked on team work and respect. We had races building solo cup towers based on certain directions to build. It was a lot of fun. I heard good strategies being used, and kids displaying good manners working as a team! Some days the kids read out of the Bible, act out verses and stories, or create snacks and recipes that apply to their Bible story. So much FUN!

The Preschool/Kindergarten class has started the new year working with a VeggieTale curriculum, while the 1st/2nd graders are working on a "Kids' Travel Guide to the Beatitudes." Their lessons explore 13 truths of the Beatitudes, each imparting deeper understanding and reliance on God. The 3rd/4th graders are learning how to navigate the Bible, while the 5th graders are learning "The 13 most important lessons for kids about Living For Jesus." The Youth have been working through a curriculum that explores the Bible, God's Word, and how it applies to everyday life. If you have a grandchild, neighbor, friend or family member that would like to join our classes, give them encouragement to come. All are welcome and encouraged to participate!



2017 Mission Trip! Exciting news! Some of the Youth and I will be traveling to Red Bird Work Camp in Beverly, Kentucky to participate in mission work and help the locals. We will be going with a few members from Living Faith UMC. We are hoping to host a few fundraisers, and share more information with the congregation as the time draws near. If you'd like to read about this mission, please go to the following link:

http://www.redbirdconference.org/red_bird_mission.php

February 12th: Kids sing in BOTH Sunday Services (8:30 and 11am).

February 12th: The Youth will be hosting a **Root Beer Float Fundraiser** in the Fellowship Hall. 100% of the funds made will go to the Youth Mission Trip to Red Bird. Bring some cash and buy a float or two!



February 12th: The Youth will have their gathering from 5-7pm. Dinner will be had, and we will also deliver Valentine gifts to Skyline Nursing Center.

February 26th: The Youth will have their second gathering of the month. Please stay tuned for any additional changes in the time or date (the date may change to that Friday or Saturday night, the 24th or 25th). We are looking at taking a trip to a place downtown called the SOZO Coffeehouse for fun and fellowship. I will be in communication, Thanks!

February 28th: **Fat Tuesday!** The day before Ash Wednesday! It is the day when people eat all they want of everything and anything they want as the following day is the beginning of a fasting period for Christians. Well, I'm not sure about eating everything and anything, but Trinity will be hosting a **Mardi Gras event** with pancakes at church from 6-7:30pm. We will have pancakes, fruit and sausage. King Cake will be made, and fun will be had. With Pancake races, music and more! There will be a photo op area for your family too. Please join us and bring your friends and family! Have fun and dress up for the occasion!! Contact me with any questions.

May Grace and Blessings Be in Your Path
Becky McClanathan
(pictures on this page courtesy of Becky McClanathan)

February

Birthdays

- 2/2 Sam Bolinger
Matthew Henderson
Patrick Shannon
- 2/7 Allyse Richardson
- 2/8 Kennedy Lee
- 2/9 Kip Dillon
- 2/10 Nancy Johnson
- 2/16 Greysen Jasman
- 2/20 Chantel Brown
Sandra Fraser
Jerry Hayenga
- 2/22 Amanda Uhl
- 2/26 Brianna Annan
Bill McPherson
- 2/27 Madison Lyons
Jon Olson



UMW Notes

Thurs, Feb 2nd	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Sat, Feb 4th	Spring Salad Luncheon Planning	9:30am
Thurs, Feb 9th	Esther Circle	7pm
Sat, Feb 11th	Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day (in Lincoln)	9am
Tues, Feb 14th	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Feb 16th	Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake	2pm
Sat, Feb 25th	Budget Planning Meeting	9:30am

Esther Circle will do kitchen clean-up on Tuesday, February 7th at 9:30am.

Save the Date!

The UMW General Meeting will be on Monday, March 6th at 7pm. Everyone is invited to hear Marian Iverson as she will be presenting her “Trip of a Lifetime” (UMW membership not required!).

Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will meet on Saturday, February 18th at 9am in Room 205. This month the selection is *Calling Me Home* by Julie Kibler. You are invited to join us at any time, even if you have not read the book.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men’s Group will meet on Saturday, February 25th at 8am. Join them for coffee, breakfast, and guest speakers as they build their faith together. For more information, please contact Steve Gage.

Don & Millie’s Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie’s on Sunday, February 26th from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will be open Sunday, February 19th from 1-3pm (weather permitting) with new displays.

Envelopes Included

If you have not been able to come to worship lately, then you might want to make use of the enclosed envelope for your offering. Mailboxes work just as well as offering plates to catch up with your yearly pledge. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month’s Beacon a copy of the current calendar for February. Please check the website (trinityralston.org) for the most up-to-date calendar available. Call the church office at 402-331-4054 for more information, or to schedule your event today.