



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World*

## June 2017 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

***Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. -Psalm 127:1***

I don't know how many of you get the chance to watch much TV, but Margo and I do not. Now that does not mean we don't watch any TV, Margo enjoys one channel that starts with "Q" ends with "C" and has a "V" in the middle. We also enjoy watching sporting events, but we make sure to take time every week to watch this reality TV show whose two main stars are Chip and Joanna Gaines called "Fixer Upper".

The main premise of the show is stated by Joanna Gaines in the opening introduction. They look for the worst house in the best neighborhoods and fix them up. Families of all types, shapes, and sizes come on the show to prove that they want to buy a fixer upper and work with the Gaines to create a beautiful home. The show really does follow a highly successful formula. The family works with Chip and Joanna to first choose a house that needs fixed up but also meets their needs. Second is Demo Day. The things that are a detriment to the house are torn out. Then comes the rebuilding and fine tuning. The show ends with the couple being asked, "Are you ready to see your fixer upper?" The answer is yes, and then they and everyone watching get to see the home in its new glory.

Margo and I looked at each other this past Spring and said, "Fixer Upper could be used to build a sermon series" (No pun intended). Starting June 18<sup>th</sup>, we are going to launch into what it means to be a Fixer Upper Christian and Disciple. We will spend five weeks following a similar style the show has, and use some video clips from the show to build upon (OK, the pun was intended that time).

**Week 1** – Good Choices

**Week 2** – Demo Day

**Week 3** – A Solid Foundation

**Week 4** – Still Tszujing (FYI it is a real word)

**Week 5** – Reveal Day

I have a photo that says, "The role of a pastor is not to grow a big church. The Pastor's role is to grow mature disciples who make disciples." (Rick Howerton) I am coming to embrace this thought more and more. As a pastor, and as a church, we are called to make disciples. This sermon series I believe will help us to grow in our relationship with God, but I hope you will invite others so that they too can come to grow in their relationship with God.

You may be saying to yourself, "Matt, if we invite others then we will grow a big church." Truth, but the early church, I mean the book of Acts early church, didn't worry about numbers. It worried about how to build disciples and many people came to set a foundation based on how God and Christ offer love, joy, and eternal salvation. In that, then, we are to help others build their spiritual house with God.

*(article continues on next page)*

**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  
**Adult Education Director/Accompanist:** Vicki Buras **Choir Director:** David Galant  
**Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley **Facilities Coordinator:** Jon Lindhjem  
**Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

**Fixer Upper** continued...

All too often churches “take the summer off.” I don’t believe in taking any season off. Is there to be times of rest? Yes, but not whole seasons. That is why I want to do this sermon series now. God is not calling me to wait. I am being called to do it now. I hope you will come and join with me in what I believe will be an interesting, fun and faith based time of worship.

Grace and Peace  
Matt

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## Mission Notes

It is good to report that our **UMCOR** giving was a great success. Donations amounted to \$505 which will go far in helping to support the US Disaster Relief and Water for Life projects. 100% of our donations go toward the projects.

We are making **sack lunches** again. 100 sack lunches were delivered to the Stephen Center this past week. We will make the lunches once a month so watch for the date and time. Volunteers are welcome.

This June we will be collecting items for the **Open Door Mission**. They are in need of the following items:

Men's jeans size 28-44 NEW or USED IN GOOD SHAPE

Men's underwear 28-34 NEW

Brushes, lotion, deodorant

There will be a container in which to place your donations.

Recently there was an article in the paper about Dr. Joseph Dumba's trip to Uganda where he distributes **mosquito nets** to refugees to help combat malaria. He has traveled there often and is in need of donations to help support his efforts. To help fund his trip in June, donations may be sent to *Healing Kadi Foundation, PO Box 8456, Omaha, NE 68108*. I have word from Dr. Dumba that 100% of the donations go for the purchase of the nets.

The **youth mission trip** is coming soon. We know that many church members have shown their support with monetary donations. For some youth this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, for others it may be the impetus for future trips. The world is so big and the opportunities for service are so plentiful. We hope the youth (along with Becky) will bring back an appreciation of the larger world and know that we can all make a difference in making the world a better place. We wish our mission team a safe journey, a fun time, and enlightening experience.

Judy Dappen  
Mission Chair

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## Thank you

Paul and Annette Wilson would like to thank everyone who remembered them on their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and also for the get-well cards for Annette. It was very much appreciated.

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## Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to the following graduating Seniors from High School and College: Kristin Berray, Aurora Fowler, Amanda Hindley, Seth O'Reilly, Keland Potthoff, and Emily Stanley.

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## Confirmands

We celebrate with Riley Pearson and Joey Tyner on their confirmation as Trinity members of faith.

## Education Notes

In May, the youth participated in **Box City** at First UMC. This was an overnight event to raise awareness of the homeless and at-risk youth of our city. We slept outside in boxes, heard speakers from the Salvation Army, YES program, and Project Harmony. We helped to gather and organize personal hygiene products for the YES group as well. It was a great experience.



*Pictured from left to right: Abbi Lyons, Aubrey Jensen, Madison Lyons, Becky, Skyler Lyons, Joey's friend and Joey Tyner.*



### Youth Fundraiser: Car wash and Rootbeer floats!

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-2:00pm

\$5 car wash, tickets available before hand or the day of. Ask Becky for details.

### Red Bird Youth Mission Trip Dates

**June 11<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday at 11am we will hold a consecration before the youth mission trip.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Saturday, myself and the youth will leave on our journey to Beverly, Kentucky.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>:** Saturday, we all return home safely from our mission trip!

**Summer Sunday School!** I'm excited to share that we will be starting summer Sunday School classes this month. June 4<sup>th</sup>, will be the first class and we will end on August 6<sup>th</sup>. This is for kids who are in preschool-5th grade (older kids can volunteer as a helper). Please contact me if interested. Classes will take place during Worship times at 8:30 and 11am. Kids will sit with their family until Children's Sermon time with Pastor Cole. Once finished, they will join me in the back of the sanctuary, and we will do a short lesson in Fellowship Hall. Kids can be picked up from the children's area in there following the church services.



I'm excited to also share information about our **Summer Middle School Program** this year at Trinity. I am inviting kids in grades 6th-8th to participate. We will meet every Tuesday and Thursday in June and July (except July 4<sup>th</sup>) from 11am-3pm. We meet at the church and end at the church. This group will do a short Bible lesson each day, have lunch, and then do miscellaneous things. We will catch a Storm Chasers game, do some mission work and landscaping, go to the zoo, tour downtown, create hope bags for people in need, go to the Durham Museum... and more. Contact me to register and fill out our form. We begin June 6<sup>th</sup>. Kids can join at any time, even if they miss day one.



**Vacation Bible School 2017, Maker Fun Factory**, is well under way with planning and decoration prep. If you would like to volunteer and help with preparations, please contact me and we will schedule time to work together. **VBS is July 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and July 23<sup>rd</sup> is our fun day.** Registration is now open! Go to our website, [trinityralston.org](http://trinityralston.org), and register at the VBS logo or under the EVENTS tab. Paper forms can be found at church.

Thank you for reading the Education notes! If you would like to be a helper in any way, you can contact me at any time. There are many opportunities to help, even for one day! I would love help with VBS, crafts, decorations, ideas, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, etc. Take care and God Bless!

Becky McClanathan, Director of children & youth

(picture on this page courtesy of Becky McClanathan.)

## June

### Birthdays

- 6/1 Al Craven  
Janis Dwyer
- 6/2 Tom Pace
- 6/3 Sara Wilson-Stepan
- 6/4 Harold Fick  
Betty Hodgen
- 6/6 Barb Mitchell
- 6/8 Janet Brown
- 6/11 Don Miller
- 6/12 Brian Johnson  
Bev Woods
- 6/14 Steve Bolinger
- 6/15 Brett Shannon
- 6/16 Josh Siske
- 6/18 Mohammed Barakat
- 6/20 Carol Christensen
- 6/21 Scott Affleck
- 6/22 Presley Brown
- 6/23 Hope Birkel
- 6/24 Kyle Sramek
- 6/25 Beth Fletcher  
Riley Pearson
- 6/26 Don Groesser  
Bill Walsh
- 6/27 Dee Linse  
Karen Sorensen
- 6/28 Sydney Hanson  
Braiden McClanathan
- 6/29 Emily Birkel  
Josh Jasman  
Jaycelyn McClanathan
- 6/30 Cathy Grage  
Leni Mcallister

## UMW Notes

- Tues, Jun 6<sup>th</sup> UMW Executive Board 6:30pm
- Sun, Jun 11<sup>th</sup> UMW Sunday
- Thurs, Jun 15<sup>th</sup> Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake 2pm
- Wed, Jun 28<sup>th</sup> Resident Birthday Party @ Hillcrest Shadowlake  
Naomi-Ruth Circle to furnish 4 cakes

Naomi-Ruth Circle is responsible for kitchen cleanup for June.

### UMW Sunday-June 11<sup>th</sup>

The speaker on June 11<sup>th</sup> for UMW Sunday will be Anthony Freeman from the Alzheimer's Association. The month of June is dedicated to fighting the disease and all are encouraged to wear purple on that Sunday! Brenda Hindley will be making her cinnamon rolls, and the Women's Choir will sing. **Services will still be at 8:30 and 11am.**

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### Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will meet on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am in Room 205. This month our selection is *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. You are invited to join us at any time, even if you have not read the book.

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### Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group meets the last Saturday of each month at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. Join them on June 24<sup>th</sup> for coffee, breakfast, and guest speakers as they build their faith together. For more information, please contact Steve Gage.

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### Lawn Mowing Fund

As Spring is well under way, and Summer is just around the corner, the Trustees wished to update you regarding yard maintenance. A lawn service company has been hired for the season so there will be no clipboards being passed to ask for mowing volunteers. However, the Trustees would appreciate any monetary donations to help offset the cost. Money can either be placed in the offertory plates on a Sunday or handed in to the church office. Simply designate "Mowing Fund" on the check memo or on an envelope if using cash.

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### More Announcements

Check the back of the calendar insert for even more information regarding upcoming dates!

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### Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

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### Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for June. Please check the website ([trinityralston.org](http://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.