



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

September 2017 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. -Psalm 23:5

Growing up in the Fowler household (I have no doubt) was like many homes, we were always on the run. But in the evening we sat down around the table to eat. Before eating, we would say grace. Grace is often understood as a short prayer to thank God for the blessings in our lives. When I was young, I would come home from camp and have a prayer ready for the meals. At camp, we would recite “Be present at our table Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we, may feast in fellowship with thee.” Or, if I was feeling a little ornery, “Good food, good meat, good God, let’s eat.” The important points were, together at the table and acknowledging blessings.

King David understood the importance of the table and the blessings that God provides. We live in a time where taking time to gather together around the table is becoming more and more a faded memory. Life gets busy, family gets busy, but let me suggest that when we sit down around a table, we can take time to share with one another and listen to one another.

I have noticed that before and after each service at Trinity, we gather in Fellowship Hall. More importantly, we gather around tables. We talk, share, listen, laugh, and at times, cry with one another. I often joke that we Methodists do eating well. But more importantly, we understand how relationships are developed and grow, when we gather together at the table.

In September, I am going to be providing a sermon series all based around the concept of inviting others and being present at the table. I have even got Jim Sederburg to build us a picnic table that I am going to put in the Sanctuary to drive home the point of being together at the table. The table allows us to not only eat together and share about our day, but to talk about our faith. Why else say grace? We are acknowledging our belief with grace, so why not take time when God opens the door to talk about our Savior in our lives.

For four weeks, we are going to look at how we can use the table. We will look at what it means to just show up at the table. There doesn’t need to be a huge plan or menu, just a genuine desire to engage others, to hear their story. Sometimes being at the table includes food. But sometimes being at the table means a place to sit and rest, engaging one another through crafts, or just talking, and/or looking at what God is saying to us in the Bible. Sometimes it comes easy, talking about God. Sometimes it helps to have some tools, phrases, and ideas to help with the conversation. One such tool is a post card that you can take and share with someone to invite them to church.

(Continued on the next page under **Come to the Table**)

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

Come to the Table continued...

I will be utilizing two books to help with the sermon, *The Turquoise Table*, by Kristin Schell and *Be the Message* by Kerry and Chris Shook. I hope that you will give prayerful consideration as to whom we may each invite to church. Fall is a good time to invite that new person, that family that you have not seen at church, a neighbor and/or a family member to come and join together at the table. It will be a casual conversation about building God's kingdom and making disciples as Jesus calls us to do.

See you in Church.

Grace and Peace,

Matt

Mission Notes

With fall on the horizon, our Mission Team is gearing up for some important projects, such as **Operation Christmas Child** and collection of blankets and winter apparel.

Last year, we had a goal of 100 Christmas boxes; this year we would like to collect 110. There are some changes in the way the boxes are sent, such as, no plastic boxes. They break in the shipping, and thus, need to be repackaged. So save your shoeboxes! Further details will follow.

In September, we would like to **collect new blankets, hats and gloves, and gently used coats**. We will deliver them to one of the local shelters.

Dining for Women will resume on Friday, September 8th, with a program featuring Burma's Humanitarian Project. We welcome everyone; bring a dish to share and your own table service. The program begins at noon.

For those who would like to support ways to help eradicate hunger and poverty, you are invited to walk in the **35th Annual Omaha CROP Hunger Walk** on Sunday, October 8th. You can register online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/omahane>.

The Mission Team continues to provide **sack lunches** once a month to the Stephen Center. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Judy Dappen or Judy Slavik.

Judy Dappen
Mission Chair

Trinity Ralston Young Adult Journey Group

Our vision is simple. We desire to create a place of love, belonging and companionship in the midst of the realities of life, and to meet you where you are in your spiritual walk. As we pioneer this dream, our prayer is three-fold:

- That this becomes, for you, a safe community where we are united in the living presence of Jesus; free to open our heart to the Spirit and ask questions which will take us deeper into our spiritual journey.
- That this becomes, for you, a place where young adults come together in shared life to discover their participation in God's mission.
- That all become a light that draws others in their search for truth and purpose.

Come! Join us as we journey together the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the downstairs Garden Room beginning September 6th. For more information, contact Vicki Buras at Vicki.B@trinityralston.org. Nursery care will be available.

Education Notes

Hello September! All kids are back to school, the weather is cooling down, and we are excited to launch into a new Sunday School year and continue our journey in faith. I'm very excited to meet with the teachers, finalize new classroom decorations and get our lessons started. The kids will spend even more time in the Bible this year with learning the books of the Bible and memorizing Bible verses. It's going to be so much fun! We will be running classes with stations and kids will have the opportunity to travel to different rooms when activities switch. Please get a hold of me with any questions you might have about Sunday School and getting your kids into a group.

August 13th was our Back Pack Blessing during church services. Students and teachers were prayed over as we wished them a successful school year. Here is a picture from the I Am service.



THANK YOU

In between services, the youth helped serve breakfast to the teachers, students and congregation, while accepting a free will offering.

\$278 was raised to help the children and youth programs at Trinity. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Youth will meet on September 10th and 24th from 5-7pm.

Kids for Christ (KFC) will start on September 13th from 5:30-7pm. Dinner will begin when you arrive for KFC. Serving will have been started before 5:30pm, so please begin eating when you arrive otherwise the KFC group will begin dining at 5:30pm, and then proceed into the gym for free time before class. Kids can go into the gym once an adult is in there to supervise.



Sunday School Kick Off will be Sunday, September 10th!! Mark you calendars and plan to join us at 9:45am for Day 1 of Sunday School this Fall at Trinity!! Meet in the children's music room downstairs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL September 10th is also **Grandparents Day!** We would love for your kids to bring their grandparents to church service that day, OR Grandparents, please bring your grandkids to church with you that day!!



Let your
light
shine.
Matthew 5:16

Becky McClanathan
Director of Children & Youth

(pictures on this page courtesy of Becky McClanathan.)

Adult Sunday School

Bob Folkers' and Judy Dappen's adult Sunday School class will be studying Adam Hamilton's *When Christians Get It Wrong*. This is a six-week study and deals with the topics of politics, judgment, salvation, sexuality, tragedy, and science. You can order the book on Amazon at a reasonable price or if you want us to order the book from Cokesbury, let Judy Dappen know. Class begins September 10th at 9:45am in Room 101.

The adult Sunday School class led by Marge O'Reilly and Ray Loveland will meet upstairs in Room 205 beginning September 10th. They will be embarking on a six-week study of Moses by Adam Hamilton. Anyone interested is welcome.

September

Birthdays

- 9/1 Rick Derby
- 9/2 Ken Anderson
Gary Fletcher
- 9/4 Addy Bottjen
Logan Groesser
- 9/5 Jeanne Siske
Carrie Winkelman
- 9/6 Steven Broughton
Rory O'Doherty
Cheryl Van Cleve
- 9/9 Kevin Hobson
- 9/10 Jacob Johnson
Marissa Tillman
- 9/12 Carter Lee
- 9/14 Pat Shannon
- 9/15 Jackie Hendrix
Riley Shannon
Taylor Sramek
- 9/16 Annette Dillon
- 9/19 Virginia Hilbers
Thomas Siske
- 9/20 Gloria Pearson-Williams
Kim Whitehouse
- 9/21 Sara Dappen
- 9/22 Terry Van Cleve
- 9/23 Maddie Archer
Doug Leypoldt
- 9/24 Marlys Van Deusen
- 9/25 Kelsey Johnson
Dennis Kentfield
- 9/27 Melva Johnson
Vaughn Richardson
- 9/28 Anna Lyons
- 9/29 Marc Dodenhof
Bill Dwyer
Bob Kramer
Shirley Kramer
Phillip Richards
- 9/30 Debbie Dudzinski
Brenda Hindley
Christina Pearson

UMW Notes

Thurs, Sept 7th	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Tues, Sept 12th	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Sept 14th	Esther Circle	6:30pm
Thurs, Sept 21st	Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake	2pm
Tues, Sept 26th	Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
Fri, Sept 29th-Sat, Sept 30th	Conference UMW Annual Meeting in York, NE	

Esther Circle and Naomi Ruth Circle will jointly be responsible for kitchen cleaning in September.

Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will meet on Saturday, September 16th at 9am in Room 205. The selection this month is *Desert Flower: The Extraordinary Journey of a Desert Nomad* by Waris Dirie and Cathleen Miller. 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, September 30th at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to join them for coffee, breakfast, and a guest speaker as they build their faith together. For more information, please contact Steve Gage.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone for your cards, phone calls, and prayers while I am recovering from my fall. It was very gratifying to know so many of you were ready to step up and help me in any way you could. I truly appreciate your kind offers. A special thank you to Pastor Matt for his calls and concerns. I promise I'll try harder to stay upright from now on, Matt! -Cathy Bordwell

Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum is looking for men's hats of all kinds, along with all kinds of needlework items (sewing, knitting, crocheting, etc.) for the next display at the Archives. We will be open on Sunday, September 17th from 1-3pm.

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, September 24th from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for September. 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.