



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

## November 2017 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

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November is full of so many different things, but it is most remembered as the month that has Thanksgiving in it. I have always enjoyed this holiday, for food, family, friends, and football. I came across a wonderful piece written by Sarah Ban Breathnach, in her book *Simple Abundance*, which I would like to share with you as you prepare for Thanksgiving in your own way.

***An open home, an open heart, here grows a bountiful harvest. -Judy Hand***

The turkey is in the oven, filling the air with the fragrance of anticipation, and my heart is glad. The pies are cooling on the rack, overflowing with the fruits of the earth, and my heart is full. Conversation, companionship, and conviviality transform the rooms of this beloved home, and my heart is at peace.

Soon dear ones – family and cherished friends – will gather at the table to rejoice in our bounty of blessings, and with us lift up their hearts in thanksgiving. As the table is set, my heart gratefully remembers the legacy of love and tradition represented in the talismans of freshly laundered linens, sparkling crystal, and gleaming china. The silver shines, the candles glow, the flowers delight us with their beauty.

This is good. This is very good. Let us hold fast to this authentic moment of Simple Abundance. Let us cherish this feeling of complete contentment. Let us rejoice and praise the Giver of all good. Let us exult in our souls' ecstatic accord.

Come, offer grace for the bounty of goodness. Raise the song of harvest home, the glass of good cheer, the heart overflowing with joy. We have so much for which to be thankful. So much about which to smile, so much to share. So much, that in this season of plenty, we can embrace the season of relinquishment. All we have is all we need.

O beloved Spirit, truly You have given us so much, an extravagance of riches. Give us, we pray, one thing more. The gift of grateful hearts. Hearts that will not forget what You have done.

So as we watch the parade, eat the food, and watch the TV, let us remember that we need to keep a thankful heart for the true blessings God has given us. It may be family and friends or something else. As someone once told me, "Any day you wake up is a blessing", that may be a great place to start.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Grace and Peace  
Matt

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**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  
**Director of Spiritual Development/Accompanist:** Vicki Buras   **Choir Director:** Dr. David Galant  
**Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley   **Controller:** Penny Holzbauer  
**Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers   **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

## Mission Notes

Our goal of 110 boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** has begun. In Fellowship Hall, on the mission table, is where you will find several items to help you with this project. First, there are wrapped boxes available, as well as a few unwrapped. Second, are a couple of lists of what you can and cannot donate. Next, there are envelopes that you will need to indicate the age and gender of the child the box is for. Each box requires a \$9 check for shipping/handling, and if you do more than one box, you may write one check.

Also in Fellowship Hall, is a container where you can place individual gifts; remember to purchase winter clothing items as well as summer ones. On Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have a wrapping party during Kids For Christ time, so any individual gifts received will be put in the boxes at this time. Join us to help the kids wrap their gifts, or wrap your own box.

Finally, all boxes are due by Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and during worship Pastor Matt will bless our gifts. If you have questions, talk to Judy Dappen or Judy Slavik.

In November we will also ask for **food donations** which will help Living Hope Church provide for Thanksgiving-- items such as, pumpkin, stuffing, cake mixes, gift cards to Walmart for turkeys, etc. Watch for details in the bulletin.

The **blankets and coats** we have been collecting will be delivered to Open Door Mission this month.

We will fill **sack lunches** on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9am. Volunteers are welcome.

Next mission meeting is Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:30 pm.

Judy Dappen  
Mission Chair

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### November Adult Studies and Group Opportunities

#### Adult Studies (beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>)

- Bob Folker's and Judy Dappen's class begins Adam Hamilton's study *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet*. In this six week class you'll gain a better understanding of Moses' significance in your life today, and you'll discover how you too, can turn your own reluctance into boldness. This group meets downstairs in Room 101.
- Marge O'Reilly's and Ray Loveland's class will venture into Adam Hamilton's study *When Christians Get It Wrong*. This is a compelling six week study which takes an honest look at topics including politics, judgment, salvation, sexuality, tragedy, and science. This class meets upstairs in Room 205.

**Young Adult Journey Group:** Come and join us as we go beyond learning about a topic and go deeper in faith by doing life with others. In the process, you'll experience fun, friendships, and faith. This group is led by Vicki Buras and meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm downstairs in the Garden Room. Nursery care provided.

**Advent Series: Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph** (beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>) How do you see the Christmas story and the birth of Jesus? This series by Adam Hamilton will help us understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand, and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. This promises thought provoking and stimulating conversation.

For more information contact Vicki Buras at 402-331-4054 or [vicki.b@trinityralston.org](mailto:vicki.b@trinityralston.org).

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### Special Music News

Once again, we will have the pleasure of being able to hear the **Nebraska Men's Christian's Chorus** this year. They will perform at Trinity between services on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. This group of male singers is from Lincoln, and directed by our own choir director, Dr. David Galant. They are eager to come and sing for us.

## Education Notes

Our church has been a place of worship, song, fellowship, fun, and educating through the Bible. Our kids enjoy crafts, lessons and bonding with each other. Trinity is like a small family of friends that really care about each other. Kids see each other in school, or out and about at Wal-Mart, and they are so excited to see someone from church. We all spread the love for each other and really have fun in the mean time. I'm so blessed to be apart of this church family. Enjoy some pictures of our church kids.



*Anya and Jaycelyn enjoying an object Bible lesson using oranges!*

*Youth were able to help make noodles for the Soup and Pie meal we serve for Election Day! (Madison Lyons)*

*Youth out on a Sunday night: hayrack ride, 3v3 football game, fire-pit with food and conversation. (Nate Brown (Tractor owner), his son, Josh Vance, Sophia Lyons, Sklyer Lyons, Joey Tyner, Abbi Lyons, Bekah Vance, Madison and Anna Lyons, Becky McClanathan, and Aubrey Jensen)*

### Some dates to mark down:

**November 8<sup>th</sup>:** Operation Christmas Child wrapping party. Kids for Christ children will participate in this as well. Everyone can bring their goodies and wrap their boxes together. Contact Judy Dappen, Judy Slavik, or me with questions!

**November 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>:** Date TBD, Youth will go watch *Legally Blonde*, a show put on by Ralston High School.

**November 18<sup>th</sup>:** Advent Family Crafting Day! Join us from 10am-Noon in the Johnson Community Center (our gym). Parents, you will enjoy time with your kids making a unique keepsake for your home for Advent. Please RSVP to me so I can prepare supplies. Thank you!

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>:** No Kids for Christ Classes. Have a nice Thanksgiving!

**December 16<sup>th</sup>:** Kids/Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal

**December 17<sup>th</sup>:** Kids/Youth Christmas Program (9:45am)

**December 31<sup>st</sup>:** Kids can join me at 9:45am to make "noisemakers" for a fun Noon Years Eve moment (same day at Noon).

**January 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:** Winter JAM (Jesus and Me) VBS



If you donated candy to our Trunk or Treat event, we thank you so much for the support. The event will be happening this weekend (as of writing this), and I'm so excited to see the community out visiting us!! Watch for pictures to come in the next newsletter!!

Let your  
*light*  
shine.  
Matthew 5:16

Becky McClanathan, Director of Children and Youth

*(pictures on this page courtesy of Becky McClanathan.)*

### More Announcements

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

## November Birthdays

- 11/2 Shirley Mecseji  
11/3 Andrea Gonzalez  
11/5 Tom Sramek  
11/6 Nikki Pace  
11/7 Barb Derby  
Lorri Hicklin  
Judy Johnson  
11/8 Payton Lott  
11/13 Arley Demarais  
Amber Kane  
11/14 Arlyne Weichel  
Everett Williams  
11/15 Cassie Lee  
11/16 Ramona Swett  
11/19 Dee Adams  
11/20 Hannah Edelman  
Chyler Kiolbasa  
11/21 Austin Hodgen  
11/24 Debbie Dodenhof  
Mason Johnson  
Shayla Karnish  
11/27 Ian Frazee  
11/29 Ryan Pearson Jr.  
11/30 Dustin Hodgen  
Amanda Russell

## UMW Notes

<b>Thurs, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
<b>Sat, Nov 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Meat pickup	9am
<b>Sun, Nov 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Meat Prep	9:30am
<b>Mon, Nov 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Meal Prep and Table Set-up	9am
<b>Tues, Nov 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Election Day Soup & Pie Meal	11am-7pm
<b>Thurs, Nov 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Esther Circle	6:30pm
<b>Sat, Nov 11<sup>th</sup></b>	District Meeting @ Springfield UMC	9am-1pm
<b>Tues, Nov 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Mary Circle	7pm
<b>Tues, Nov 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm

### Election Day Soup & Pie Meal

Come and enjoy homemade Chicken Noodle soup (yes, even homemade noodles!), Chili, and Pie on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11am to 7pm. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4 for children. Proceeds go to area charities including: Sienna/Francis House, Project Harmony, Tri City Food Pantry, Stephen Center, and several more. Hope to see you there!

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### Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will meet on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9am in Room 205. The selection for November is *A Great Reckoning* by Louise Penny. You are invited to join us even if you have not read the book.

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### Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will not meet during the month of November. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then please contact Steve Gage.

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### A Note about Scribblers

The Scribblers writing group, which focuses on family stories (or stories of any kind), is reorganizing. We invite you to join us as we journey through the retelling of each of our family's history. The group encourages one another and offers support by listening and talking about the writer's work. We will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 9:30am in Room 205. Due to the holidays, we will only meet the second Wednesday of November and December (November 8<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>).

*Scribbler Moment:* Write about the neighborhood where you lived when you were growing up.

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### Ralston Archives

Renew memories by visiting the Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum (NE corner of Woodlawn & Park Dr.) on Holiday Magic Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3pm and view various kinds of needlework and men's hats of many kinds. Bring your phone/camera and have your picture taken in front of the Howard Stove Works cook-stove, which was made in Ralston. For more information, call Jan Gorman at 402-331-1657.

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### Calendar insert

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