



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

January 2018 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on earth: -Ecclesiastes 3:1

Each and every January we have an opportunity to begin anew. We have time to look and focus on what we want to do for the coming time in our lives. New Year's means for many new resolutions for the year. We look at our personal situations; gym memberships are always on the rise in January. We look to eat better, stay in touch more, read and write, and any number of other things we put on our list. Michelangelo is often quoted as having said that inside every block of stone or marble dwells a beautiful statue; one need only remove the excess material to reveal the work of art within.

This is true not only for each of us individually, but as a church. The beauty of the past is that it tells us where we have been, what we have done, and how God and Christ have impacted our lives and used us to impact other lives. But we cannot stay looking in the past. There is a right time for everything. 2018 offers us the opportunity to see what God has in store for our upcoming present and future.

I believe God does have great things ready for us in 2018. I believe that God has placed thoughts, hopes, dreams, and goals on our hearts, souls, and minds. I believe that God has plans for our growth this year. I believe that we will average 175 people in worship this coming year. This happens because God wants it too, but also because we want to invite our family, our friends, and our neighbors to worship with us. I asked a few weeks ago, in a sermon, who you want to see in heaven. Let me suggest that worshipping our Lord and Savior together helps to answer that question.

I believe we will see growth in our community involvement. I know we are planning for events here in our church this year. I know that God has placed it on my heart to find ways to build his kingdom outside the walls of Trinity. I believe we will see growth in our Christian education programs with more children and youth. We have such a wonderful facility. I know it will get more and more use by our own youth. The more we engage the community, the more the community will choose to engage with us in wonderful and amazing ways.

I believe we will see a stronger financial base from which we will be able to do all the ministries that God is calling us to. This goal will not only help us to meet our budgetary needs, but help us to provide the ministry we are called to. We have given 100% to our Mission Shares in 2017. As always, our goal will be to once again pay 100%. Our giving is moving in stronger and stronger ways.

Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.

Jim Rohn

I am excited to see how we live into God's timing in our lives. How we choose to remove the excess stone, and get better by choice and not chance as God leads.

Grace and Peace
Matt

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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

As always, the Mission Team is looking forward to another year full of many opportunities for you to become involved in local and global mission projects. We will be determining just what projects we will participate in at our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, January 10th at 5:30pm, NOT the 3rd as we normally would.

Dining for Women will meet on January 12th at Noon if the weather cooperates. The meal and discussion are always something to look forward to. Since our inception over five years ago, we have donated nearly \$5400. We feel blessed that we do not have to face the challenges that many girls and women are confronted with, and that our donations can help impact the lives of so many.

Judy Dappen
Mission Chair

January Adult Studies and Group Opportunities:

- **Adult Study Groups** will continue with the Advent Series: *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*. 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. Current adult study groups have come together for this Advent series.
Meets in the Garden Room (lower level) from 9:45-10:45am.
- **GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy**. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. This is a 13 week support group series focused on the grief journey. The GriefShare experts address the emotional, spiritual, and practical needs of grieving people with foundational, biblical teaching in a nondenominational setting.
Tuesday evenings beginning January 9th, 2018 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Music Room.
- **Young Adult Journey Group** will not meet in January.

For more information regarding any of these groups, contact Vicki Buras at Vicki.B@trinityralston.org.

Lost and Found Clothing Center

The Clothing Center would like to thank the Ralston Middle School and the Esther and Mary Circles for their generous donations of clothing and diapers. All totaled there were over 400 pairs of socks and 300 pairs of underwear donated. That doesn't even include the hats, gloves and mittens, shirts, etc.

Please remember that as the temperatures drop, coats of all sizes are always needed.

Early Morning Prayer Service

Ray Loveland continues to invite you to join him in the Sanctuary on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:30-7:30am for a time of prayer. This is a time for all who wish to come together and pray for individual issues, the church, our local community, or the world at large.

Movie and a Meal

We invite you to mark on your calendars Sunday, January 21st as Movie and a Meal. Following the I I am service, we will gather together to enjoy a meal and watch a movie. The title of the movie will be revealed in the coming weeks, so keep your eyes open!

Education Notes

I want to start with a welcome to a brand new year!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

-2 Corinthians 5:17

December held the children's Christmas program, "The Symbols of Christmas!" It was a huge success, the teachers did an amazing job and the kids were wonderful! Readings, songs and actions were so fun to hear and watch, and everyone was in good spirits. Stay tuned to our website for the recording to be shared.



A few of our backstage elves.



Teachers: Becky, Lori, Katrina, Erin, Amber, Deb, Lisa and Jim



Winter JAM (Jesus and ME)

January 4th-5th: Winter JAM (Jesus and Me). Registration is open. This is just like our summer VBS. Preschool-5th graders are welcome to register. If you are older and would like to be a teacher's assistant, register online or get a hold of me at Becky.M@trinityalston.org. This will be held on Thursday and Friday from 9:30-11:30am. Snacks are given each day. Sunday, January 7th, the Winter JAM kids are invited to the I Am service to share the songs they've learned, a prayer and anything else we need.



12-2pm will be a luncheon for these families and a few fun games in the gym. (Sunday FunDay!) Register at trinityalston.org.

Kids for Christ (KFC) will resume Wednesday, January 10th.



Sunday School will resume Sunday, January 14th. 9:45-10:45am is Sunday School. Please meet in the children's music room downstairs. From there, the different ages will go to their own classes: Pre-school/Kindergarten, 1st-5th, and Middle School/High School. Thank you!

Youth Gathering in January!

Sunday, January 14th from 5-7pm. Youth will meet for dinner at church. We will do some service work for the church; painting in the youth room, cleaning, putting together the Youth pool table area, etc., anything we need to do to help. We will be working at the church this evening. Dress appropriately.

Sunday, January 28th from 5-7pm unless otherwise stated. Dinner and a movie! Movie TBD and times may change due to movie.

Let your
light
shine.
Matthew 5:16

Becky McClanathan, Director of Children and Youth

(pictures on this page courtesy of Becky McClanathan.)

Stephen Ministry

Training for Stephen Ministry will commence January 11th at 6:30pm at St. Paul's UMC in Papillion. Volunteers can meet at Trinity to carpool. If interested, contact Pastor Cole Fowler or Ray Loveland.

January Birthdays

- 1/1 James Birkel
- 1/3 Keland Potthoff
- 1/4 Lee Hodgen
- 1/5 Sidney Fraser
LaWray Kinsella
- 1/6 Walt Dudzinski
- 1/7 Diane Hansler
Annette Wilson
- 1/8 Don Johnson
- 1/9 Lynn Hendrix
- 1/10 Pat Hein
- 1/11 Kelly Colegrove
- 1/12 Terry Grage
Ethel Higgason
- 1/15 JoAnn Gustafson
Scott Pace
Maxine Wilkins
- 1/18 Matthew Bolinger
Larry Swett
Anya Wilson-Stepan
- 1/19 Jett Hansen
- 1/20 Jayden Porchia
- 1/21 Chuck Babbel
Darlene Higgins
- 1/22 Sara Craven
- 1/25 Terry Shannon
- 1/26 Patty Babbel
Kym Hansler
Donald Johnson
- 1/29 Lisa Bolinger
Clay Bowker
Karen Bowker
Virgil Winkelman
- 1/30 Mel Adams
Walter Lenczowski
- 1/31 Michaela Dodenhof



UMW Notes

Thurs, Jan 4th	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Tues, Jan 9th	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Jan 11th	Esther Circle	6:30pm
Sun, Jan 14th	Installation of UMW Officers	11am
Thurs, Jan 18th	Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake	2pm
Tues, Jan 23rd	UMW Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
Thurs, Feb 1st	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Thurs, Feb 3rd	Spring Salad Luncheon Planning Meeting	9:30am

Saturday Book Club

It has been discovered that the previous selection for January is not available at our local libraries. Instead, the Saturday Sisters selection is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. You are invited to join us in Room 205 at 9am on Saturday, January 20th.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, January 27th at 8am. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then contact Steve Gage.

Thank you

I want to thank everyone who sent cards and attended my 80th Birthday Party. It was the BEST birthday ever, and I want to thank all of you for helping to make the day so special for me. -Joann Krohn

New Members

Trinity welcomed as new members Ryan & Megan Pennington, Scott Haines & Michelle Jones, and Ed & Deb Schnackenberg on December 17th.

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, January 28th from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will meet for their annual meeting on Wednesday, January 17th with the monthly meeting following. The Archives will be open Sunday, January 21st from 1-3pm. This is free and open to the public.

Calendar insert

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