



TRINITY BEACON

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

December 2018 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

December at a glance

1st

**UMW Coffee &
Carols**
10am

2nd

**NE Christian Men's
Chorus**
9:45am

9th

Christmas Cantata
8:30 & 11am

16th

**Children's
Christmas Variety
Show**
9:45am

24th

**Christmas Eve
Services**
5, 7, & 11pm

25th

Church Closed

31st

Church Closed

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior which is Christ the Lord. -Luke 2:11

I don't know about you, but one of my favorite activities as a child was opening those calendar cardboard boxes that had the little chocolates in them each day in December. Each little door meant we were one step closer to Christmas morning. Some days would fly by and others seemed to drag on. I was walking through a store the other day and saw those same chocolate calendars, and it drew me back to that day of innocence and anticipation. Yes, some days still fly by and others drag!

The birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the day we know as Christmas, is that celebration of anticipation. It is that day of waiting for the hope of the world, prophesied, and now realized in our lives. The scripture makes it clear that we are all God's children. As children of God, we all get to receive this hope. The hope is having Jesus Christ in our lives. To have eternal salvation found in the birth of the Christ Child.

This hope is meant to give joy. Each of us are in this journey called life. Some of us are in a season that can receive this joy with eager excitement. Others of us are weary and worn. While we want joy, it seems unattainable for us at this time.

We believe that joy has to be some over the top excitement and energy exhausting time. We just don't have that excitement. It will be for any number of reasons we view this holiday with anxiety. We may be mourning the loss of a love one. We may be without a job. We may have a medical condition that makes it difficult to even see a way to move forward. We don't believe we are worthy of the gift of the Christ Child.

Let us each go to the manger, in our own way. Let us join there to see the hope for all the world. It is a hope that is not strived for, but an invitation to simply abide in the presence of Jesus. It is in Jesus' presence that we all find mercy. It is at the manger that we can simply sit and meditate on this special season; to meditate on the greatest gift ever given.

Continued on the following 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

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 **Daycare Director:** Megan Greise
Choir Director: Dr. David Galant **Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley **Accompanist:** Alex Lunardi
Controller: Penny Holzbauer **Facility Coordinator** Koy Potthoff **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers
Building Supervisor: Judy Slavik

Gift of the Season continued...

Know that the gift of Jesus is a gift meant to stir your heart. This gift shows mercy, joy, and peace that only God can give through the Son. Being a Christian does not insulate us from feeling hurried or harried during this season. But as Christians we are invited to take time, to make time, to focus on the gift. We are also to focus on the blessings we have been given in our lives. They may not always be easy to see, but they are there. The blessings are family, home, health, joy, and salvation, to name a few.

Come to church this December. Come to worship, and let us all join together at the manger. We may come because of the Cantata, the Children's program, the other events, and the Christmas Eve worship services. Whatever brings us together, let us sit and receive this wonderful gift.

Grace and Peace

Matt

Mission Notes

The Thanksgiving food items were delivered to Living Hope. Miss Barb is always so appreciative of our support and says that more requests are made during the holidays so thanks to all who contributed. Just keep filling the boat, and we will keep delivering the food.

This time of the year, we are also asking for donations of gently used coats, and new blankets, hats and gloves. None of us wants to be thrust into the path of the cold and wind, and sadly our community has too many homeless people, many of whom are our youth. There is a container for your donated items in the Fellowship Hall.

The mission team talks about the generosity of our congregation as you all give in so many ways. We would not be able to reach out to others without your support. In response to that generosity, we will host an old fashioned "thank you" between services on January 20th. More details will follow after the first of the year.

As an FYI, our Dining for Women ladies have contributed over \$6000 to projects that speak to the needs of women and girls around the globe. Our mission goals are in response to local as well as global needs, and I think our church plays an important role in supporting those needs. Dining for Women will not meet in December and January.

Judy Dappen

Chair

Child Care Center



I would like to introduce myself. My name is Megan Greise, and I am your new child care director. I have 14 years' experience in organized child care and five more babysitting prior. I have my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. I am passionate about providing the highest quality care for young children. I have a daughter, Alexandria, or Allie for short, who is 18 months old. She keeps me very busy! I have been a member of Olive Crest UMC for five years. I love animals and have two cats, a dog, and a bird at home.

I am very excited for the opportunity of setting up and running your child care center. I hope we can work together to make it the best in Ralston. If you have any questions or help to offer, please e-mail me at Megan.G@trinityralston.org. Here are the steps we are working on to open this center.

- Building adjustments to meet all fire and state codes
- Applying for license
- Creating handbooks and all forms needed
- Advertising and marketing
- Ordering supplies and setting up classrooms

As we prepare for the holidays, many people are going through old items to discard or donate. If you think that the childcare would benefit from them, please put them in the back of the choir room. Items we could use include toys suitable for children under age 5, towels, child sized blankets, pants under size 5, infant items, art supplies and furniture. Please e-mail me photos of any large items prior to donation so that we can determine if it will be useable. Any small items that are unusable by the daycare will be donated to the Lydia House.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

Education Notes



Thank you for attending this year's Craft Fair at Trinity. The donations of baked goods and time was much appreciated. The youth made \$548.31 from the concessions, the silent auction of an afghan, and crafter fees.

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- **December 12th** is our last Kids for Christ class of the 2018 year. It will resume on **Wednesday, January 9th**. That night will be "**BRING A FRIEND TO CLASS Night**".
- Saturday, December 15th: Children's program rehearsal at the church at 9am
- **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES on December 23rd or December 30th**
- Christmas Eve: 5pm & 7pm Services—the nursery is OPEN,
- Christmas Eve: 11pm Service—the nursery is CLOSED.
- **January 6th**: Sunday school class resumes 9:45-10:45am

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Children's Christmas Variety Show

Sunday, December 16th
9:45am in the Sanctuary

Cookies and juice after the show...

Singing, acting, poems, musical instruments, etc!!



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Sunday, December 30th

Kids fun activity at **10pm** in Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the new year and making noise makers! If you are planning ahead and know you will be there, let me know so I have enough supplies. Thank you.

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Winter JAM (Jesus and me) 2019

All kids welcome! Aged K-5th, **Friday, January 4th**

Theme: Jesus' Love is *Cool*

9am-2pm

Free to attend, snack and lunch provided

Register online at trinityralston.org

*Volunteer helpers are welcome, email beckym@trinityralston.org

Let your light shine!!

Becky McClanathan

Christmas Cantata

The Trinity Chancel Choir, directed by David Galant, invites you to attend this year's Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 9th at both services. Come and listen to *The Song Heard 'Round the World*, a selection of music that celebrates the global impact of the Christ Child's birth. This year will be even more special, as the choir will be accompanied by the Kanesville Symphony Orchestra. In order to better accommodate the orchestra and choir, the cantata will be performed in Fellowship Hall. See you then!

Poinsettias

Poinsettias can be ordered beginning the 2nd of December. For \$10, you can purchase a flowering plant to beautify the Sanctuary this holiday season in memory or honor of a loved one. Please return your filled out order forms, along with payment, to the church office by Sunday, December 16th.

December

Birthdays

- 12/2** Connie Folkers
Erin Gonzalez
Joe Hansler
Ron Hein
Steve Markowsky
- 12/3** Aurora Fowler
Michelle Morrissey
- 12/5** Tom Sullivan
Rosemary Whittaker
- 12/7** Joann Krohn
John York
- 12/8** Kris Martinez
Avery Shannon
- 12/9** Maxine Citta
Dayton Conley
Nancy Ramsey
- 12/12** Greg Johnson
Jerry Olson
- 12/13** Casey Craven
- 12/14** Josh Brown
Ruth Heyde
Susan Jasman
- 12/15** Sandy Olson
- 12/18** Verlyn Farrar
Larry Woods
- 12/22** Bette Fink
- 12/25** Carl Citta
- 12/26** Emma Frazee
- 12/27** Pam Brown-Tritsch
Bob Price
- 12/29** Mary Berglund
Angela Gilbert
Josh Hanson

UMW Notes

- Sat, Dec 1st** Christmas Coffee and Carols 10am
- Thurs, Dec 6th** Naomi Ruth Circle Luncheon 11am
At Farmhouse Cafe
- Tues, Dec 11th** Mary Circle Potluck 6:30pm
At Dianne Fowler's House
- Thurs, Dec 13th** Esther Circle 6pm
At Farmhouse Cafe
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Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Soup & Pie fundraiser a huge success! Volunteers spent many hours cooking chickens and ground beef, baking and bringing pies, and being a scheduled worker for our many fun project days. It wouldn't have happened without you! Many charity organizations will benefit because of you. Thank you all!

Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters will take a break in December. For January, we will be discussing *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. You are invited to join us in Room 205 at 9am on Saturday, January 19th, for fellowship and discussion.

Baptisms

We had the blessings of two baptisms on Sunday, November 18th: Chase Charles Baber at the 8:30am service, and Alice Sullivan Black at the 11am service.

Clothing Center Toy Drive

Our Clothing Center is looking for toys for kids in need this holiday season! We are looking to supply 40 toys (new or gently used) to boys and girls ages 3 to 12. Please drop them off at the church by Sunday, December 16th so we can have our opportunity to give this Christmas season! Jesus loves our little children, and came to show His love to ALL of us!



Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will not be open in December. Plan to visit January 20, 2019, with new displays of costume jewelry, board games, and more to remind you of childhood.

Calendar insert

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