



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

January 2019 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. -2 Corinthians 5:17

As you read this, 2018 has changed to 2019. I once heard someone say, "The past is the past. The present is our gift from God. Use it wisely." The New Year is an opportunity to use God's gift of the now wisely. Have you begun to make plans for the year? Any new resolutions? Are you starting to look at how to work with God, and let God work in you to make those dreams he has placed on your heart happen in 2019?

Tony Robbins is a well-known speaker, author, business person, and coach. Busy does not even begin to describe this man's schedule. I recently read an article about him in which he offers a 5 Step Plan to an Extraordinary Year. I don't know about you, but I am ready for a new year. His five steps are: feed your mind, strengthen your body, find a great role model, take massive action, and get outside yourself. We should each take time to consider his invitation.

What if I invited us to look at this from a God calling point of view? We can still use this plan offered above, but let's put it into God's calling for each of our lives.

Step 1: Devotion time – Jesus often went up the mountain to pray to God. What if you make time to be in conversation with God daily? It does not have to be long or drawn out, just intentional. Find that book, that app, dare I say the Bible, and simply give your time to God as God wants to be in relationship with you.

Step 2: Sound Body – In the book of Daniel, Daniel and many other Israelites are taken to Babylon. While there, the King expects them to live a life more in line with the Babylonians. This included eating breads, wine, meat, and sugar. Daniel's request was to be allowed to eat a meal more in line with life back in Israel. Initially there was hesitation, but once everyone saw what a healthy meal that included vegetables and exercise looked like, it was deemed worthy for everyone to do. Gym memberships always jump at the beginning of each new year. We all know why. Let me invite us to simply understand that our bodies are a temple to God and we are called to care for them. We can do this simply by starting to take a walk, (goal of 10,000 steps a day), drink that water, and eat those vegetables.

Step 3: Get a mentor/Be a mentor – In 2 Kings we read about the friendship between Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was the well-known prophet from God who rained down fire on the prophets of Baal. During his life here on earth, God sent Elisha to help with Elijah's work, for the two to become friends, and for Elisha to literally take up the mantle (yes he took Elijah's cloak as Elijah went up to heaven). I hope we all have those individuals who have been there for us in the past. Mentors, who offered words of advice that helped us get through all the things life was throwing at us. Some of us may still be receiving insight from mentors, others are now given the opportunity to be a mentor. We are never too young or old to be there for one another.

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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

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: **Facility Coordinator** Koy Potthoff **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers
Building Supervisor: Judy Slavik

The New Has Come continued...

Step 4: Take action – In the book of Timothy, Paul talks with a young man named Timothy about not letting his youthfulness keep him from doing what God and Christ are calling him to do. Timothy was called to preach the word. What action is God calling you to take? We try and use excuses as to why we cannot do as God directs. But as Paul points out, we have to ignore the nay-sayers and the excuses and simply move forward knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

Step 5: Get outside of yourself -- The Bible is full of examples of individuals, families, and friends being there for one another. My favorite as a boy was the story of the four who tore a hole in the roof of a house and lowered their friend down so that Jesus could heal him. What are we each doing to care for one another? It may mean tearing open a metaphorical roof or some other act but may we all care for our brothers and sisters as we start a new year.

May we all let the old pass away and be that new creation in Christ!

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, new blankets, hats, and gloves. None of us want 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 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 Sunday, 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 requests. Dining for Women will not meet in January.

Judy Dappen

Chair

Christmas Cantata

Thank you to everyone who came to see and hear *The Song Heard 'Round the World*. The Chancel Choir, Kaneshville Symphony Orchestra, and sign language interpreters all worked tirelessly on it, and appreciated hearing all of the wonderful comments following it. We are currently working on getting a recording of the cantata on our website, trinityalston.org, for those of you who may have missed it or want to experience it again.



(picture courtesy of Diane Adams)

Education Notes

Trinity is a warm and welcoming church and I want to thank you for supporting the children's program. Whether it be through donations of goodies, time spent as a teacher or sub, or just spending time with the kids getting to know them, everyone sees how blessed we are and the kids feel the love given to them. The children's Christmas program was a fantastic way to end our year! So many talents were shown, the kids and parents, as well as myself, were proud to present this day.



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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

*Volunteer helpers are welcome, send an email to Becky.M@trinityalston.org

***Register online at trinityalston.org**

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- **January 6th**: Sunday school class resumes from 9:45-10:45am
- **January 9th**: Kids for Christ (KFC) resumes from 5:30-7pm. It's bring a friend night! Kids, please invite a friend to come with you to church.

Let your light shine!!

Becky McClanathan

Stewardship Moment

The very first chapter in Genesis reminds us that God not only created everything, but we are to care for all that was made. This is by its very nature a call to Stewardship. Everything we have is a gift from God, and we are to care for it. We are called to give a portion of that back to God. This is the very definition of making an offering and tithing.

Stewardship is what we do to manage the things we are responsible for. The Bible teaches us that a steward must be someone that can be trusted to care for things. Stewardship includes wise management of our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. God calls each of us to be good stewards.

Financial Stewardship is a spiritual issue. The word *believe* appears in the Bible 272 times, *prayer* is there 371 times, *love* 714 times, and the word *give* appears 2,162 times. Jesus talked predominately about Heaven. Second, was giving. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Obeying God can be scary. Obeying God when it comes to our money can be very scary. Sometimes we don't know how we are going to care for it all. But what God is calling us to do, is place our faith in God with ALL we have, including our money.

Putting God first in our finances will give clarity about how to put God first in all we are called to.

January Birthdays

- 1/1 James Birkel
- 1/2 Connie Harwick
- 1/3 Keland Potthoff
- 1/4 Lee Hodgen
- 1/5 Sidney Fraser
LaWray Kinsella
- 1/6 Walt Dudzinski
- 1/7 Diane Hansler
- 1/8 Don Johnson
- 1/9 Lynn Hendrix
- 1/10 Pat Hein
- 1/11 Kelly Colegrove
- 1/12 Terry Grage
Ethel Higgason
Marius Slavik
- 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 3rd	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Tues, Jan 8th	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Jan 10th	Esther Circle	6:30pm
Sun, Jan 13th	Installation of UMW officers	11am
Tues, Jan 22nd	Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm

Saturday Book Club

In January, Saturday Sisters 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 conversation.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, January 26th at 8am for coffee and fellowship. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then contact Steve Gage.

New Member

Trinity welcomes Barbara Tomlinson as a new member through transfer of membership.

Thank You

Thanks so much to our friends at Trinity for your kindnesses during Mary's recovery from shoulder surgery. We received calls, cards, meals, a beautiful prayer shawl, and most importantly your prayers. Our hearts are filled with gratitude.
~Don & Mary Berglund

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, January 27th from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will be open on Sunday, January 20th 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 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.