



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

February 2019 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

And they will know we are Christians by our Love.

~Peter Scholtes, author

The word LOVE can generate a lot of emotions. Love has three meanings in the Greek; familial, eros, and AGAPE. We sing about it. We write about it. We say it to one another. We even read about it; "For God so LOVED the world." (John 3:16)

Then there is Valentine's Day. It shows up every February. We use this time to share some of our feelings with those closest to us. Hallmark loves it. The floral shops think it is great and a headache, all at the same time. Children make boxes to give and receive cards in school. At least, that was what I did way back when. Some plan out major events for the day, others scramble to just come up with something. And if you haven't made a reservation yet at your favorite restaurant, you might want to get on that.

The thing about LOVE is that we all receive it differently. Some feel love by the words people speak. Others by gifts they receive. Dr. Gary Chapman, the director of Marriage and Family Life Consultants, has written a book entitled *The 5 Love Languages*.

Dr. Chapman suggests that most all of us feel loved by one of these five love languages. The first is words of affirmation. The second is quality time. The third is receiving gifts. Number four is acts of service. Finally, there is physical touch.

If we are to truly help others know that we are Christians by our love, then we need to understand our own love language. Then, understand all the love languages, and finally how to show the right type of love to each individual we come in contact with. We must realize that we may not get it right the first time. The correct love language, that is. But the point is that we are to keep trying and loving one another.

I would invite you to purchase the book if you would like to look deeper into what each type of love language is and how it applies. Dr. Chapman has written several love language books, all with special attention to varying demographics.

Grace and Peace

Matt

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Jesus, soften my heart. I do not want to harden my heart toward anyone. When I hear the Holy Spirit speaking to me, I want to obey with a willing heart. Whom do I need to encourage today? If you lead me to someone who is rude to me or who is unkempt, please help me to see that person through your eyes and to unhardened my heart.

Amen.

(From *Simply Praying*)

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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

Dinner With All We Love

Casey Craven will be preparing a four course Valentine's Day Dinner on Thursday, February 14th. The evening will begin with mocktails at 6:30pm followed by dinner at 7pm. Tickets are on sale at \$30 for two until Wednesday, February 13th. This event is open to all family members. You can contact the church office during the week to purchase your tickets.

Mission Notes

The mission team will be setting up their schedule of projects for 2019. We continue with our boat, sack lunches and prayer shawl ministry, as well as Dining for Women which will feature the issues facing young women of Tanzania where sanitation and hygiene are huge issues. Join us for a potluck at noon on Friday, February 8th.

We would like to repeat our Santa in September project for Youth Emergency Services which was such a great outreach for those youth who are homeless. Another project that was very fulfilling was preparing dinner for Hope Lodge which offers support to cancer patients and families.

Our "thank you" reception for the congregation will be rescheduled in the near future. We want to show our appreciation for the continued support of a generous congregation.

Just an FYI: We need about 5 or 6 people each month to help with our sack lunches. We meet the third Thursday of the month at 9am and are finished by 10am. If you have a spare hour, contact Judy Dappen or Judy Slavik.

Judy Dappen
Chair

Trinity Learning Center

We have been busy planning and working on getting the daycare ready to open. We have completed: bids for sprinkler system, researching and contacting of state, city of Ralston, and the Fire Marshal, researching necessary items for childcare licensing, creating parent and staff policy and procedures, inventory supplies/donations, creating TLC board, enrollment packet, staff forms, supply list, and a budget. While we have accomplished so much, there is a lot left to do. We are working as fast as we can be to complete these goals. Many of these things will be happening at the same time, while others cannot happen until first steps are completed. The next goals are:

- Sinks and wall bid (still working on)
- Sprinkler system install
- Ralston zoning permit
- Sink and wall install
- Supply order
- Marketing
- Classroom set up
- Interview staff
- Licensing application
- Hire staff
- Orientation

I have had many people ask me how they can help. Here are some things you could do to help: sign up with skills you have that could be of use (building, crafting, knowledge), help with construction (painting, laying floor), help clean up after construction, help unpack and set up classrooms.

Also, if you have any of the following items that you are getting rid of, please consider donating them to the Trinity Learning Center: recyclables such as paper towel tubes, envelopes, egg cartons etc., nature items such as rocks, seashells, feathers, walnuts, acorns, sticks less than 6" etc., containers with sections for sorting such as veggie trays, dress up clothes, M and L t-shirts to use as paint shirts, non-working phones, bibs, wash cloths, bath towels, children's books, or toys.

-Megan Greise

Education Notes



Winter JAM 2019 kids event was a success!! Last year we had about 12 kiddos, and this year we had 22. The weather was perfect for us to even walk to a neighboring park. We enjoyed discussing the story of the Good Samaritan, the Bible verse: Love your neighbor as yourself, and the theme of Jesus' love is cool.



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Kids for Christ (K-5th graders)

Kids for Christ Wednesday night classes have been a fun time. Kids have been learning about the Parable of the Talents and working on the Bible verse "Let Christ rule in our hearts." We will have another night of lessons followed by two Wednesday's of art night. We have so much fun. After our first week included, "Bring a friend night," we've had "friends" continue to come the following week!! Our class size has grown. If you know of a Kindergartener-5th grader who would like to join, come from 5:30-7pm on Wednesdays!



Youth events (7th-12th graders)

February 8th, 5:30pm: Youth will meet at the church for a fun night. Dinner included!
February 19th, 5-7pm: Youth will meet at the Foodbank for the Heartland to volunteer.

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching, and I have some boxes of Valentine's cards for kids to share! We have received a donation of boxes, and I have plenty. Kids usually take them to school and need them. If you have kids or grandkids that would like to get some for free, stop in my office and look at them. Help yourself and enjoy!



Sunday school classes will share a song during service, Date TBD.

Let your light shine!!
Becky McClanathan

Stewardship Moment

In the book, *The 33 Laws of Stewardship*, authors Sutherland and Nowery discuss the law of eager willingness. They observe, "In stewardship, choice is a never-ending concern, for we must constantly decide how to manage everything that God puts in our care." (p.43) That can stress a person out. How do we manage the blessings God has given us? God does not ask us to stress about our stewardship and giving. Rather, God invites us to find joy in the way we support God's ministry here on earth.

For us to live in eager willingness, we have to be willing to be open toward God and humanity. We need to be an example for others to see that stewardship is to be joyful, not stressful. Giving that portion back to God's mission and ministry is not meant to cause pain. We are all called to support the mission and ministry of God and the church. May we each continue to see joy in our support of all that God calls us to be.

February Birthdays

- 2/2 Sam Bolinger
Matthew Henderson
Patrick Shannon
- 2/8 Kennedy Lee
- 2/10 Nancy Johnson
- 2/16 Greysen Jasman
- 2/20 Chantel Brown
Sandra Fraser
Jerry Hayenga
- 2/21 Cruz Shannon
- 2/22 Amanda Uhl
- 2/26 Brianna Annan
- 2/27 Madison Lyons
Jon Olson
- 2/28 Jacqueline Jasman



UMW Notes

Sat, Feb 2nd	Spring Salad Luncheon Planning Meeting	9:30am
Thurs, Feb 7th	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Tues, Feb 12th	Mary Circle (in Fellowship Hall)	7pm
Thurs, Feb 21st	Esther Circle	6:30pm
Sat, Feb 23rd	UMW 2020 Budget Planning Meeting	9:30am
Tues, Feb 26th	UMW Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
Mon, Mar 4th	UMW General Meeting	7pm
	-Mary & Esther Circle meetings to follow	

Saturday Book Club

For February, Saturday Sisters will be discussing *A House in the Sky* by Amanda Lindhout and Sarah Corbett. You are invited to join us in Room 205 at 9am on Saturday, February 16th, for fellowship and conversation.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, February 23rd at 8am for coffee and fellowship. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then contact Steve Gage.

Thank You

Thanks to all the folks who sent me birthday cards. It was a wonderful surprise. Many thanks.
~Ethel Higgason

Hello, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your donations to the Omaha Housing Authority program which gave out Christmas toys to the kids. Everything went well. The kids were so happy and excited to see the gifts. Their smiles are everlasting. Thank you so much!
~Sammie (Clothing Center guest)

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, February 24th 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, February 17th from 1-3pm, weather permitting. There are new exhibits of old costume jewelry, old games, and more to remind you of childhood, plus bulletin boards on Holiday Magic.

Calendar insert

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