



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World*

## **March 2019 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church**

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As we come into the season of Lent, I believe it is important to see what others have to say. I came across this article and thought it would give us something to look at, talk about, and consider as we come to Lent and journey to Easter.

### **Renewing Our Lives This Lent**

by Andy Alexander, SJ, Maureen McCann Waldron

Preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing a sense of anticipation. If I imagine Lent as an “ordeal” or a time I dread in some way, then I’ve already predisposed myself to not get very much out of it. Lent is a time to anticipate something wonderful that is about to happen.

### **Our Focus: What God Wants to Give Us**

Our sense of excitement and anticipation will grow more easily if we begin to imagine what God wants to give us. Something is coming that we can truly look forward to. If we focus too much on what we are going to do or not do, we risk missing out on the gift God wants to give us. Lent is about God’s great desire to bless us. All grace comes from God and is, therefore, God’s gift. It is given to us to free us to love others as our Lord has loved us. What we want is to receive what God wants to give us.

### **God’s Invitation**

Lent is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. “Come back to me, with all of your heart,” our Lord beckons (see Joel 2:12). “We will,” we respond, but we aren’t quite ready; our hearts are not prepared. We want to squirm, evade, avoid. We note that our souls are not yet perfect. We think we are not ready for God to love us. Yes, of course I want to have a deeper relationship with God, we tell ourselves earnestly. And we will ... soon. God calls to us again: “Come back to me, with all of your heart.”

### **Beginning New Patterns During Lent**

Something all of us can do is committing ourselves to being more reflective during Lent. We can simply make a point of being more observant, more aware of what we’re experiencing, more cognizant of our automatic behavior. We can then start paying attention to our many desires. During Lent, we can examine these desires and see which of them we need to purify, which we may need to abandon, and which are positive desires that we need to act on. Naming our deepest desires will guide the choices we make to establish new patterns for Lent.

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

**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

## Mission Notes

There are several events coming up this spring that members are encouraged to attend. Our "thank you" reception for members will be Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> between services. This is our way of showing appreciation to members for all you do to help make mission projects so successful. The weather prevented our reception which was scheduled last month.

In May, Pam and Stan Vaughn will talk about No Boundaries International which is a faith based 501C3 ministry that helps fight human trafficking. They will speak between services on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. As we get closer to the date, I will give you more information about their work. Most of you remember Pam and Stan who played an integral part in Trinity's weekly worship services and have since moved to Amarillo, TX.

Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day, and Dining for Women will celebrate this at our regular meeting. Given the present day activism of women in the world of business, politics, education, science and technology, we can appreciate their efforts and how they are impacting the world. Join us on March 8<sup>th</sup> at noon for potluck and a rousing discussion.

Judy Dappen  
Chair

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### Nebraska Brass

We will be hosting a concert of the Nebraska Brass on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 7:30pm. The theme for the concert is "No Business Like Show Business: Tribute to the Legends". Cost is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (65+), and children/students are free. Tickets can be ordered prior to the date through the church, or at the door.

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### Stewardship Moment

Rev Michael Reeves observes, "One approach to considering a theology of stewardship is to review the biblical story through creation, captivity, deliverance, covenant, judgement, redemption, incarnation, resurrection and Pentecost. The subjects could include time, possessions, spiritual gifts, the gospel, ecology -- indeed all of creation." (Faith and Money)

That is exactly why we must begin at the creation story. The realization that all we have been given is from God, and that we have a responsibility to give a portion back to God and share the rest with others. This comes straight from the very first book of the Bible in the opening chapter. One can see that God gives generously at all levels of creation. The next step is to give back a portion to God. In the Bible, initially there was no discussion of how much or what percent to give. It was just give. The call is to give from the heart, with joy, and the first. Each of us must consider what God and the Bible is calling each of us to do to be the good stewards we are called to be.

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February volunteering at the Food Bank for the Heartland.

We sorted produce; oranges and carrots! A huge thank you for those who helped that night. We packed almost 2 tons of produce in 2 hours.

Pictured: Becky McClanathan, Madi, Faith, Abby, Sarah Woelfel, Braidon, Jaycelyn, Linda Burke, Carolyn & Tom Sullivan, and Connie Loveland

*(picture courtesy of Becky McClanathan)*



## Education Notes

**Nursery** - The nursery staff enjoys spending time with your special little ones each week. They do so many fun and neat crafts! Throughout the month of March, the nursery is open every Sunday as usual, with an exception of a few changes on Wednesday evening. During Kids for Christ hours on Wednesday evenings, the nursery will be unstaffed. We have not noticed a need for it through the winter months. If you need nursery care on a particular Wednesday, or notice a visitor needing help, myself (Becky), Pastor Matt, or any other staff member at the church, will be more than willing to assist. This will continue through May, unless needs change and you are informed differently. Thank you for understanding. **NURSERY CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS.**

**Preschool - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday School** - A big thank you to the preschool - 4<sup>th</sup> grade kids who shared a song with us this past month. You all did a fantastic job! Singing brings such joy during worship service.

March will be a fun month of learning. Lessons will involve an activity called God's love glows, discussions on "what they know," Fruit of the Spirit BINGO, My hands belong to Jesus, and a lesson on "What is Ash Wednesday?"

**Kids for Christ** (K - 5<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday Nights) - Anyone can join us and bring a friend. We have so much fun learning the word of God in a kid-friendly way!

**Youth Group Schedule** (7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) - Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, volunteers help at the Mardi Gras pancake dinner and event at church beginning at 6pm.

Confirmation classes have started. Confirmands will be meeting *every Sunday of March at 9:45am.*

**Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**, Youth outing - Dinner/Movie time TBD.

**Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**, Youth volunteer at the Food Bank from 5-7pm.

**Fundraisers** (happening for the Youth Mission Trip) - Red Wheel Sales- all orders are due to be turned in to Becky by **Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**. **NO JOKE!** Delivery date with goodies will be Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at church. Please visit the youth to order and support our mission trip to Kentucky.

On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, kids will host a bake sale in Fellowship Hall.

**Donations** - The children's program at Trinity, often thrives with the support of the congregation through donations. Some volunteers teach, guide, help, work an event or donate. A board will be put up near the restrooms/nursery area that will list donations that would be helpful throughout this year. If you are able to donate, please use the basket located in Becky's office. A few items we are looking for: \$5 gift cards to Target, Scooters, McDonalds, Burger King or Pet Smart. Box of oil pastels, nail polish, small trinkets, and gum (variety of kinds.) Please ask me if you have any questions. Thanks for considering!

**Mission Trip** - We are heading to Red Bird Mission work-camp during the week of June 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. June 8<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of travel. I am in need of an **adult male** to help chaperone on this trip. If you are feeling a call to help and think you may want some more information about this trip, please get ahold of me ASAP. I would love to share this experience with others and get the help we need with the boys on the trip.

Let Your Light Shine  
Becky McClanathan

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### Envelopes Included

If you have not been able to come to worship lately, then you might want to make use of the enclosed envelope for your offering. Mailboxes work just as well as offering plates to catch up with your yearly pledge. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

## March

### Birthdays

- 3/3 Jen Markowsky  
Sylvester Porchia III
- 3/4 Susan Berray  
Ed Hansler
- 3/6 Linda Buckman
- 3/7 Don Berglund  
Jim Kane
- 3/9 Kim Johnson  
Diane Lenczowski
- 3/11 Beckam Kiobasa  
Karev Lindner
- 3/12 Brooke Brown  
Skyler Lyons
- 3/15 Madison Black
- 3/16 Dorothy Daugherty
- 3/18 Sophia Lyons
- 3/21 Vicky Segers  
Bill Startzer
- 3/22 Anthony Figueroa
- 3/25 Chuck Rogers
- 3/26 Adilyn Dudzinski
- 3/29 Jada Brown  
Jason Hindley  
Connie Loveland  
Dave Ramsey
- 3/30 Carol Palmeiro



## UMW Notes

<b>Mon, Mar 4<sup>th</sup></b>	UMW General Meeting	7pm
<b>Mon, Mar 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Esther Circle	8pm
<b>Mon, Mar 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Mary Circle	8pm
<b>Thurs, Mar 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
<b>Tues, Mar 26<sup>th</sup></b>	UMW Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm

### UMW General Meeting - Henry Doorly Zoo

The United Methodist Women will be holding their annual general meeting on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7pm. This year the program will be given by a representative from the Henry Doorly Zoo. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Spring Salad Luncheon

Save the date! The Spring Salad Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11:30am. The theme will be "Spring on the Prairie" with the program presented by the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer. Tickets are \$10, and will go on sale starting Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

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### Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters has made a change to the reading schedule. For March, we will be reading *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. This book will tie in with the exhibit "30 Americans" at the Joslyn Art Museum. The Visualizing Literature Book Club for Art Lovers at the Joslyn will be discussing this book on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am to Noon along with a tour of the exhibit. Reservations are required. It is free to Joslyn members and \$5 to the public. You are welcome to join us for fellowship and our discussion of this book on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9am in Room 205.

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### Thank You

To my many friends at Trinity - a change of address: We have moved to 3080 Westridge Dr. Blair, NE 68008. As I count my blessings, at the top of my list are the many good friends at Trinity. Thank you for being my friends.  
~Maxine Wilkins

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### Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8am for coffee and fellowship. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then contact Steve Gage.

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### Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

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### Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for March. Please check the website ([trinityalston.org](http://trinityalston.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.