



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

## April 2019 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

**Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him, “Rabboni!” John 20:15-16**

As we begin to focus on what Jesus may look like in our life, there is a cute story about a little girl who is coloring one day in Sunday school. The teacher said to her, “What are you coloring?” The little girl said, “I am drawing a picture of God.” The teacher said, “Dear, no one knows what God looks like.” The girl responded, “They will when I am done!” This usually puts a smile on my face. I may have even told it as a joke before a sermon a time or two.

I have always found it interesting when Mary is still in the garden by the tomb, sees Jesus, but does not recognize him. For her mortal mind, and probably for the rest of us, we all would have assumed this person to be anyone other than Jesus. Yet, I still have to ask the question, “Shouldn’t you know who that is? Shouldn’t you know what Jesus looks like?”

If someone asked you to describe God and Jesus, how would you do it? There might be some quick answers, using creation, and the relationships we have with one another to describe God and Christ. But maybe you need to take a minute. Do you need a moment to think about getting your heart and mind in sync to answer?

Rachel Wojo, wrote an article entitled, *Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for Easter*. She listed five ways to prepare our hearts and minds. I would invite you to read this article. I want to focus on four of her points.

The first is to begin to focus on Easter the weeks before, and late into April. This gives us plenty of time to ponder this very point. We need to reflect on the journey, trial, death, and resurrection. For April, set your devotional time focusing on Jesus and God. One devotional book could be Max Lucado’s, *Six Hours One Friday*.

Second, keep a joy journal. It is so easy to get caught up in the negative of the world. We complain so much more quickly than complement. We need to recognize the blessings we have been given. For the last couple of weeks, our community and state have been experiencing flooding issues, quite literally in our own backyards. Trinity will continue to work with surrounding areas until each community is moving forward. We need to help others see the blessings and joys in their lives and our love for them. We will find as many ways as possible to be the feet on the ground to help others.

Third, take time around mealtime to discuss Easter. Ask questions like, “Why is Easter so important? Why did Jesus have to die? What is so significant about Jesus rising from the dead?” These are great questions to get whoever is sitting around the table talking.

~Article continues on 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:** Ashley Vandeloo   **Facility Coordinator** Koy Potthoff   **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers  
**Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

## Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for Easter continued...

Fourth, it is important to keep an open heart toward the Lord. This is a season of pointed forgiveness and grace. The gift God and Jesus gives us is meant to let us know that our sins are not held against us. We are not only forgiven, but we all have a place in heaven for all eternity.

Our April is full of activities. We have the Easter Egg Hunt, Cantata/Palm Sunday, Holy Week services culminating on Easter Sunday. Confirmation continues all of this month as well. Let us take this time of Lent to focus on what God and Jesus look like in our lives. The clearer we are in our own hearts and minds, the clearer we can be sharing the great news of His death and resurrection, grace and love for each and every one of us!

Grace and Peace  
Matt

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## Mission Notes

The mission team is gearing up for the visit from Pam and Stan Vaughn who will be at Trinity on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss their work with No Boundaries International. Their work is dedicated to promoting the welfare of those who are in need of so much, including not only physical support, but emotional and spiritual support as well. Stan is also part of a prison ministry.

At Trinity we will collect toiletry items for their clients to help support this ministry in Texas. Donations can be dropped in the boat starting mid April. There will be flyers available with the designated items, such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc., and new underwear for men and women.

Collections for the boat through mid April include canned meat, pasta products, soups, beef stew, Mexican or Chinese products.

Dining for Women will meet Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at noon. The program will highlight a dance program for young girls, Mind Leaps, that focuses on girls who are under the threat of prostitution. This program is in Mauritania.

Keep in mind the need for extra hands when we make sack lunches the third Thursday of the month at 9am.

Judy Dappen  
Chair

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We had a wonderful time at our annual Mardi Gras event. Enjoy some pictures, and plan to attend next year. *(photos courtesy of Judy Slavik)*



## Education Notes

The youth have been fundraising in the month of March. Red Wheel food and treats orders will be turned in Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and delivery to the church will be on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. You have until Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to order! On April 14<sup>th</sup>, when food arrives, we will be prepped on sorting and distributing. Please plan to pick up your orders that day.



Youth BAKE SALE has been post-poned. It will NOT be April 7<sup>th</sup>, but will now be scheduled for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Find these goodies in Fellowship Hall.



Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. Please bring a basket for gathering your eggs. The egg hunt will be closer to 10am with fun activities to follow.

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday. Kids in service are welcomed to wave the palms and walk during this Palm Sunday celebration!



YOUTH will be participating in this fun MAVERICK RUN. All are welcome to join, and we can meet as a group! There is a 5K walk or run, a 10K run, and a free kids run. Let me know ASAP if you signed up and we can meet up at the race.

**Go to [UNOmaha.edu](http://UNOmaha.edu) to sign up!**



Confirmands will take their FINAL on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for the continued support of the children and youth programs here at Trinity. Everyone makes a huge difference in our success and the kid's love for church. Fellowship has been so fulfilling when we have events, Kids for Christ or Sunday School. The kids are so unique and special, and I'm so proud of each and every one of them. Thank you for bringing your blessings to share with us! ~Becky McClanathan

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### Holy Week

We will have several special services throughout Holy Week that will take us from Christ's entry into Jerusalem, to his crucifixion, death, and eventual resurrection. Please join us as we experience this amazing example of God's love for each one of us.

- **Palm Sunday:** Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 & 11am services, Choir Cantata *Look to the Lamb*
- **Maundy Thursday:** Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7pm service
- **Good Friday:** Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm service
- **Easter Sunday:** Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 & 11am services



## April Birthdays

- 4/2 Carolyn Elledge  
 4/5 Kevin Johnson  
 4/7 Matt Gonzalez  
 Sandy Johnson  
 4/8 Autumn Evers  
 Suzanne Shannon  
 4/12 Jan Gorman  
 4/13 Marian Iversen  
 Jeff Lott  
 Matthew Winkelman  
 4/14 Nancy Gage  
 Easton Siske  
 4/17 Deb Schnackenberg  
 4/18 Jayden McClanathan  
 Dolores Weber  
 4/19 Madeleine Gregalunes  
 McKenna Zeller  
 4/20 Luke Wilson-Stepan  
 4/21 Cathy Bordwell  
 Nina Henry  
 4/23 Eldon Gustafson  
 4/25 Duane Boruff  
 Carl Dudzinski  
 John Fletcher  
 Ronnie Powell  
 Doug Rutherford  
 4/26 Evelyn Henderson  
 Rodney Polivka  
 4/27 Nathan Shannon  
 4/30 Harry Weichel

## UMW Notes

<b>Thurs, Apr 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
<b>Sat, Apr 6<sup>th</sup></b>	UMW Sunday Planning Meeting	9:30am
<b>Tues, Apr 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Mary Circle (in Fellowship Hall)	7pm
<b>Thurs, Apr 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Esther Circle	6:30pm
<b>Tues, Apr 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	UMW Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
<b>Fri, Apr 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Set up and decorate for Spring Salad Luncheon	
<b>Sat, Apr 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Spring Salad Luncheon	11:30am

### Spring Salad Luncheon

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 be sold Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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### Saturday Book Club

For April, Saturday Sisters will be reading *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty. You are welcome to join us for fellowship and our discussion of this book on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9am in room 205.

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### Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, April 27<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, April 28<sup>h</sup> from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.




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### Choir Cantata

The choir will share an Easter Cantata entitled *Look to the Lamb* at both services on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Come listen and enjoy as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through music.

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### Calendar insert

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