



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

July 2019 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

My favorite thing about the United States? Lots of Americans, one America.

~Val Saintsbert

On July 4th, the United States celebrates Independence Day, marking its freedom from rule by England. Mostly, it's become a national holiday marked by barbecues, fireworks, parades, picnics, and relaxation rather than a review of history.

The Rev. Sharron Riessinger Blezard shares this interesting thought about our faith and our 4th:

Maybe we would do well to celebrate our interdependence instead—especially when it comes to our faith. Sure, we've been set free in Christ, as we certainly know freed from sin and death, but just as importantly freed to live in community. We are freed into life, freed into relationship, and freed into love of God and neighbor. In short, we're freed into interdependence. No longer are we to be lone rangers doing our own thing without regard for others. Yes, our freedom depends on our interdependence. We are stronger together.

It is so easy to be swayed by the promises of the powerful and would-be powerful, to hear their empty promises of gain and wealth and freedom. We are bombarded on all sides by loud and often raucous voices jockeying for position to be on top, to be the winner, and to stand strong and independent. Even though our national holidays are certainly worth celebrating, and the abundance and bounty of this land worth giving thanks for, we must never forget that celebrating our interdependence in Christ is far more important. The kingdom of God has indeed come near, and in that reality is the freedom that truly is for everyone.

We are part of a community that truly celebrates our independence. But we do it as one. We do understand the importance of being interdependent. There is no better way to see this than simply be by the food stand for the parade on the 4th. We are lots of Americans, in one America. We are lots of individuals, but one Ralston. We are each a person of faith, but we are Trinity United Methodist Church. We care for one another and support one another.

Have a blessed, safe and wonderful 4th of July and a great month.

Grace and Peace

Matt

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
Facility Attendant: Cory Henson **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

Mission Notes

Many thanks for the book donations for the Stephens Center. They welcome the donations as they place the books in many areas around their building. Often, those who do not speak English enjoy our magazines. This seems to help them learn English. The HOPE Center next door also uses magazines as a way for their clients to make story boards of their lives.

We are hoping to serve a meal at Hope Lodge in August, and will promote our Santa in September for Youth Emergency Services.

There will be no July meeting. Recently our committee has had several members “retire” so we welcome any who are interested in serving on the mission committee. See Judy Dappen with any questions.

Judy Dappen
Mission Chair

Thank You

A big “Thank You” to Trinity for the wonderful retirement reception and gifts. I have been so blessed being part of Trinity and its staff. My job of cleaning and taking care of the building has been a joy. There have been challenges, but also satisfaction. So prayers that it will continue to be a place of worship, fellowship and fun; a welcoming building where Trinity continues to grow in faith, outreach and people. And a big “Thanks” to Casey Craven for the wonderful muffins (so yummy), and Don Berglund for the Cheesecake Sopie's (they were also yummy), and SPRC for a wonderful reception. All my love through Jesus Christ. ~Judy Slavik



New Staff Member

We welcome Cory Henson to the Trinity Staff! Previously, Cory was contracted to clean the Community Center and the portion below it. Since Judy's retirement, Cory has agreed to increase his duties to cleaning the building as a whole.



Please enjoy a few more pictures from the Youth Mission Trip. Plan on attending the July 14th services to see and hear more!



Education Notes

This year's mission trip was a huge success! The youth did so many things throughout the week! We all met on a Sunday to catch a Stormchasers baseball game and settled in at church after. We spent Monday through Thursday serving at King Lake near Valley, NE. Their community was devastated by the flooding in March 2019. A lot of homes are labeled Danger/Closed. We served a non-profit organization housed at King Lake. Part of our duties were mowing and weed control of the homes and lots, moving trash items, tires, barrels, mucking out items from homes, etc. The girls painted barrels to start a recycling area in this community hoping to gather paper, plastic and glass. We made friends with the group leader, leaders from Omaha Rapid Response and a couple community members who live there.

Friday led us to Adventureland in Iowa for our day off. We had SO MUCH fun just relaxing, laughing, and screaming on the rides!! We spent the night in Ames, IA at First UMC and woke up Saturday to help with a Community Creek Clean-up on Iowa State Campus. We literally walked in a creek in water and mud, cleaning any trash that we found. It was definitely an adventure. Saturday night we made it home safe and sound.

Please, please join us on **Sunday, July 14th**, as we present on this trip in church. Pictures and videos will be shown briefly during both service hours, and at 9:45am in between services, videos will be shared again as well as youth presenting and sharing about the week. We did so much more that I haven't shared in this article!

Pictured: **Back** (Left to right): Samantha, Hayley, Alexis (behind Sarah), Sarah, Sophia, Hannah, Joey, Becky, Madi
Front: Abby, Cindy (from King Lake), Skyler, Anna (more pics on opposite page)



June 19th was Kids Game Night Wednesday!

We had a great time playing mat-ball and human hungry, hungry hippo!!

July 3rd, is the annual Picnic in the Park. We will be there representing Trinity and passing out flyers for VBS. Please bring friends, enjoy good food, music and fellowship!

July 4th, is the annual Ralston Parade. We will be walking this year doing our best to promote VBS. If you would like to join the kids in walking and passing out flyers/candy, please email me ASAP. Parade is at 1pm. More information to come.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!

YEE HAW, CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

July 17-19th, 5:30-8pm

July 21st Sunday FunDay! 11am-2pm.

Register at trinityralston.org



Summer Sunday School!

Sunday, July 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th – During services, the kids are free to join me after Children's time. We will meet near the kid's "Quiet bags." July 28th will be the last summer class.

Summary of events:

July 3rd: Picnic in the Park

July 4th: Ralston Parade, 1pm, promote VBS

July 14th: Mission Trip Presentation

July 17-19th: VBS 5:30-8pm

July 21st: Sunday FunDay! 11am-2pm

July 26th: Church outdoor movie night!! 8pm

July 28th: Last Summer Sunday School Class

July Birthdays

- 7/2 Kody Uhl
- 7/4 Hannah Davis
Aubrey Jensen
- 7/7 Larry Berray
Steve Gilbert
- 7/8 Dilyn Gonzalez
- 7/10 Beau Brown
Glenn Fletcher
- 7/12 Martin Wilson-Stepan
- 7/14 Nathan Demarais
- 7/15 Thea Bottjen
- 7/16 Morgan Higgason
- 7/17 Todd Jasman
Roger Moritz
- 7/19 Eileen Tiede
- 7/21 Ron Hindley
- 7/23 Roger Brown
- 7/24 Steve Gage
Melanie Johnson
Justin Russell
- 7/25 Taylor Whitehouse
- 7/26 Josh Vance
- 7/27 Megan Black
Mason Kamara
Abby Lyons
Andrea Lyons
Ryan Pearson
- 7/28 Brad Groesser
- 7/29 Bev Sadler
- 7/30 Siena Lindner
Alex Shannon
- 7/31 Adelynn Bodfield
Diane Demarais

UMW Notes

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| Sat, Aug 3rd | UMW Yearbook Planning Meeting | 9:30am |
| Sat, Aug 10th | Soup & Pie Planning Meeting | 9:30am |

Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will be taking a break this summer. Returning in September, we will be reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. You are welcome to join us for fellowship and our discussion of this book on Saturday, September 21st, at 9am in room 205.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, July 27th at 8am for coffee and fellowship. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then contact Steve Gage.

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, July 28th from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in honor of Independence Day.

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.



Calendar insert

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