



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

November 2019 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Counting many blessings and Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you, God!!

Being a Pastor Isn't Always What You Expect or Hope It to Be

Sometimes, life goes in cycles; our activities ebb and flow, our priorities get re-arranged and then re-arranged again a few years later. Job and family responsibilities cause us to move to new locations causing dramatic changes in our lives. We know that sometimes people drift in and out of regular church attendance, not because they lack faith, but because their lives have changed. It is our prayer that they will continue to grow in knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ.

That's why I'm writing to you today. I know this sounds basic, but it's one thing to know something in your mind, and a completely different thing to really understand it. My example: one day it hit me. God was neither in my goals nor my means. Deep down, the reason I was leading a church and the reason I wanted to grow it was for me. I felt God teaching me one foundational lesson: "This isn't about you, and you can't do this thing called church without Me. It's about Me— My power, My name, My glory." Success is about faithfulness to the call of God on my life, faithfully joining Him in what He's doing. Success is about *His* glory, not mine. Success is about *His* name, not mine. And the amazing thing is, that life is much more restful. It isn't always easy, but it's restful. His yoke truly is easy, and His burden *really is light*.

Thoughts about Trinity Ralston United Methodist Church:

Staffing and other operating expenses are required for a continuing operation. Staff costs are managed and approved by the SPRC committee and are intended to compensate staff at a level that will limit turnover and be competitive for the services they provide.

Financial Position: While special donors' funds reflect a very good overall financial position, we currently fund operations from current income. (Please see Consecration Sunday information on following page.)

Day Care Program: We currently expect the income generated from the program to be enough to cover current operating costs and eventually to be enough to repay the cost of renovation.

I wonder if our ministry focus should be shifting from a traditional Sunday school model to a combination small group/training class model? (i.e. the book *Fresh Expressions*) We must be innovative regarding creating disciples. We must go to the people!

(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

Interim Pastor: Rev Curt Copple **Pastor of Congregational Development:** Rev Dr. Bob Folkers

Children /Youth Director: **Daycare Director:** Megan Greise

Choir Director: Dr. David Galant **Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley **Accompanist:** Alex Lunardi

Controller: Ashley Vandello **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers

Facility Attendant: Cory Henson

Counting blessings continued...

I believe the absolute first step to bringing about successful change in a church is making the ministry of the church about “us” and not about a leader. Should we ask God to change congregants so He can lead this church to become what He designed it to be? How does an interim pastor begin to empower them to be the leaders God called them to be?

Leadership is ultimately about who we are in Him, allowing Him to overflow through our hearts to a church and a world in desperate need of Him, but how does a leader build trust in the vision of Trinity Ralston United Methodist Church to move forward and begin again in transition?

Lastly, I'm *Very Thankful* for the blessings and members who have helped make this my church home for the last three plus years during personal changes, the passing of my father, birth of first granddaughter, and many more items in my faith journey and life. I can't wait – or maybe I can – to see what I'm going to learn in the next year!

Pastor Curt Copple

Mission Notes

The report of the visit to Youth Emergency Services proved to be very rewarding. The recipients were extremely grateful for the many sheets and diapers that were donated. Thanks to the congregation for another great partnering with YES!!

Stephens Center is looking forward to the baked items that we will take to them in early November. All donations need to be at the church by Sunday, November 3rd. We will have a designated area for drop-off. It is our goal to take all the items to the center on Monday, November 4th. Be sure to package the baked items for freezing and note the ingredients such as peanut butter, chocolate and nuts. Thank you for your generosity and your baking skills!

Dining for Women will focus on the families of AIDs orphans in Swaziland this month. The project Young Heroes helps to empower the youth and their caregivers to help receive their full potential through health care and education. We meet Friday, November 8th at noon.

It has been a tradition for us at Trinity to provide food items for Thanksgiving for members of Living Hope. Items for the boat may include boxed cake and cornbread mixes, frosting, canned vegetables like carrots, peas, sweet potatoes, and mixed vegetables, mac and cheese, dressing and gravy mixes, boxed potato mixes, jello with cans of fruit, or any other item you think appropriate. We will take the donations to Living Hope later in November.

Judy Dappen
Chairperson

Advent Study

Trinity invites members and non-members alike to join us for an all church Advent Study of the book *Down to Earth* by Mike Slaughter and Rachel Billups. This four week study reveals to us God's Christmas surprise and how it changed everything. Available group times will be available for sign-up in November.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for their prayers and support during Dale's service, and to the ladies who provided the luncheon and cleanup services. Looking back, I don't know if I would have been able to add that need with everything else. ~Connie Harwick

Education Notes

The 8th annual Trunk or Treat was a blast this year! We had face painters, bounce houses, games and cookie decorating. Thank you to all those who helped to make it a success! Fun was had by all who helped and attended.



A Reminder that Sunday School meets every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am. We have classes for children 3 years through 18 years, as well as adult Sunday school classes. We have lessons, crafts, games and more! Please remember to sign your child in when they arrive in their classrooms.

KFC is continuing to meet every Wednesday night from 6-7:15pm in the Community Center. We are having a great time learning about Moses and the Israelites journey from Egypt.

Trinity Learning Center

Construction is well underway; walls have been framed, the washer and dryer have been moved, all the plumbing rough-in has been completed. We are continuing to purchase items that will be required for the childcare center. Be on the lookout for a sign up to deliver the items to the correct classroom as well as a time to paint shelves and build items that we have purchased such as cribs, trikes, and shelves. We are within 90 days of opening!!! If you know anyone interested in childcare at TLC please have them contact me at info@tlcralston.org ASAP. We currently have a list of interested clients who will have access to the first open spaces.



Consecration Sunday

Sunday, November 17th, is our congregation's Consecration Sunday. I urge you to plan now to attend two important events: Sunday morning worship and the Celebration Luncheon immediately following the I I am service that same day (Free catered meal).

This spiritual-growth-oriented process is designed to enrich our biblical understanding of Christian stewardship. Rather than focusing on the need of the church to receive, the experience concentrates on the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development.

We believe that you are concerned enough to attend on Consecration Sunday and make your financial commitment as an act of worship in the church sanctuary. No one will call on you at your home for a pledge, but we will contact you personally to secure your commitment to attend morning worship on Consecration Sunday and the Celebration Luncheon to follow.

Cordially,
Bob Wiley, Administrative Council Chairperson

November

Birthdays

- 11/3 Andrea Gonzalez
11/5 Bob Parker
11/6 Nikki Pace
11/7 Barb Derby
Judy Johnson
Lorri McKean
11/8 Payton Lott
11/12 Kim Moore
11/13 Arley Demarais
Donald Holzbauer
Amber Kane
11/14 Arlyne Weichel
Everett Williams
11/15 Keaton Dudzinski
Cassie Lee
11/16 Ramona Swett
11/19 Dee Adams
11/20 Chyler Kiolbasa
11/21 Austin Hodgen
11/24 Debbie Dodenhof
Mason Johnson
Shayla Karnish
11/25 Greg Moore
11/27 Ian Frazee
11/29 Ryan Pearson Jr.
11/30 Dustin Hodgen
Amanda Russell



UMW Notes

Sat, Nov 2nd	Meat Pickup	10am
Sun, Nov 3rd	Meat Prep	9:30am
Mon, Nov 4th	Relish Prep & Set Up	9am
Tues, Nov 5th	Election Day Soup & Pie Meal	
Thurs, Nov 7th	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Tues, Nov 12th	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Nov 14th	Esther Circle	6:30pm
Tues, Nov 19th	Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
Sat, Dec 7th	UMW Coffee & Carols	10am

Election Day Soup & Pie Meal

The United Methodist Women will serve their annual Election Day Soup and Pie Meal on Tuesday, November 5th from 11am until 7pm in the Johnson Community Center. An adult ticket costs \$10 and children 10 and under are \$5. The price of the ticket includes either a bowl of homemade chili or freshly-made chicken noodle soup with homemade noodles, crackers, raw veggies, a piece of pie, and drink.

Proceeds will go toward supporting the UMW mission projects which include Epworth Village, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity and other projects. For more information, call the church office at 402-331-4054 or check the website, www.trinityalston.com.

Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will be reading *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson as our November selection. You are welcome to join us for fellowship and our discussion of this book on Saturday, November 16th, at 9am in room 205.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th.

Harvest Salad Luncheon, Bake Sale & Boutique

Faith Presbyterian Church (8100 Giles Rd, LaVista) will hold a luncheon, bake sale, and boutique on Thursday, November 7th. The luncheon portion of this event will be from 11am-1pm for a cost of \$9. The bake sale and craft boutique are from 10am-1:30pm the same day.

Don & Millie's Sunday

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

Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for November. Please check the website (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.