



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

## April 2020 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

**God is Good! All the Time!**  
**All the Time! God is Good!**

This is a call and response used so often in the church. As we begin the month of April, I thought it would be a good reminder for us all. What I did not want to start with was “updated information about COVID-19”. Yet, we are living that updated information as I type this. I do not know about you, but I have been looking for testing sites, vaccine information, and any new information about this disease daily. My main reason for looking is in hopes that a miracle will happen, and we can end this social distancing. However, that is not going to happen.

This newsletter is full of ideas of things you can do during this time of social distancing. I hope you read it and figure out things you can do as a family, as individuals, and what we can do as a community. I want you to know how proud I am of the staff you have hired. The work they have done to help us all stay connected is amazing. We are livestreaming worship, working on material for holy week, planning Good Friday services, keeping the bills paid, and getting ready for when we can come back together.

Many think that through this time we do not have much to do as a church. That is not the case. Right now, we are working on finding ways to keep us connected and share Christ in ways we never have done before. For a community who is known for the way we have always done it, this is not easy, but with God’s help we will stay connected and ready when we all gather together again.

Until then, I hope the different ideas in this newsletter help you feel less alone. I also hope you call the church or me if you need anything. My number is 402-469-5734. You can also message us at [Facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC). Do you need an address, a phone number, or any information to help you keep in touch with others? The office is still open from 9am to noon daily. Call Vicky at 402-331-4054.

And remember, God is good all the time.  
Pastor Tessa



**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:** Livestream @ 10am

**Pastor:** Rev Tessa Zehring **Associate Pastor:** Pastor Curt Copple **Pastoral Care:** 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  
**Comptroller:** Terry McGinnis **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers **Facility Attendant:** Cory Henson

## Mission Notes

As many are at home wondering what can be done at this time, one of the ways you can still help is through donations of items.

Ministries in need of donations are Tri-City Food Pantry, Midwest Missions, Stephen Center, Open Door Mission, and Pearl Food Pantry.

Also, don't forget if you want to sort through your clothes, the Lost and Found ministry here at Trinity Ralston is always taking donations! While they are not open under normal hours, they are still available on an as needed basis. You can contact Nancy Ramsey for more information by emailing her at [clothingcenter@trinityralston.org](mailto:clothingcenter@trinityralston.org).



Recent donations of sack lunches and cereal to the Stephen Center.

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### Worship Services

Worship the Lord with Gladness!

I want to take a moment and thank everyone for working to adjust to worshipping via livestream on Facebook. A special thank you goes out to Matt and Jason Hindley. When they were asked to help get the worship out to each of you, both jumped right in and made it happen! Thank you both!

Good Friday Service will be livestreamed at 7pm on April 10<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a Maundy Thursday service, but we will offer prayers for an Easter Saturday Vigil. Let's pray for our world and the promise God gives of life conquering death.

I am not sure how long we will be worshipping at <https://trinity-ralston-umc.freeonlinechurch.com/live> which can be accessed on Facebook or through our website (bulletin and song lyrics will be on the website), but I know it will be through Easter. I have a plan.

Palm Sunday will be a congregational cantata. This is a worship service I created to remind us of the last week of Jesus' life. If you want to make palm branches for this occasion, watch for instructions on our Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](http://www.Facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC)) or look up how to online.

Easter Sunday worship will be at 10am via Livestream. I then invite you to an Easter Caravan at 3pm on Easter Sunday. You are welcome to decorate your cars, make signs, or just show up at the church parking lot at 3pm. We will then make a car caravan around the neighborhoods so we can see each other, wave to each other, and celebrate the Risen Christ. If you cannot make the caravan, we will make sure to drive by your place.

I know we cannot physically touch, but we can take the message of the resurrection to a world in need of some hope, especially now. See you Easter Sunday, if not before.

Let's keep worshipping together as a community in Unity with Christ!

## Education Notes



Trinity Ralston UMC has put the hiring of a Children and Youth Ministry director on hold. However, we still can learn about Christ. Check out [trinityralston.org](http://trinityralston.org) or [Facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC) for lessons that you can do at home. Some previews of what will be shared are how to make palm branches for Palm Sunday. We may not be able to come together to have the procession, but how fun to have processions at our homes and then around the neighborhood with palm branches you make. Keep watch for lessons and activities coming soon!

### Trinity Learning Center

Trinity Learning Center is officially Licensed!!!! Our open date was scheduled to be Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We are still using this as an open date, but things will look a little different than expected. With the epidemic that is going on, the Department of Health and Human Services has issued guidelines for childcare centers. Centers are required to maintain 10 children or less in a classroom, and not combine rooms. They are also not allowed to share spaces, such as a gym or playground, without extensive cleaning in between.

I read a quote that said there are two meanings of the word fear-Forget Everything And Run or Face Everything And Rise. The board has decided to do the second, and open the center for only 10 children maximum specifically to first responder and essential workers' children. At this time, we will take children from age 3 through 12 knowing that families of school agers are looking for emergency care. We are excited to be able to help the community now, and will continue to advertise and enroll families for when we are allowed to open as planned.

We may be asking for donations of food as they are limiting how many gallons of milk etc. can be bought by one person. Please watch your email for more information, or if you do not have email, you may call the office and leave your information to be contacted.

If you know of someone who would like to enroll now, or in the future, please have them contact Megan at [megan.g@trinityralston.org](mailto:megan.g@trinityralston.org) or 531-466-1707.



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### Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for your kind words and support and sharing in the celebration of our mom, Betty Hodgen's life. She was a beautiful person and we have wonderful memories that we hold in our hearts. With deep appreciation, Terry & Suzy Shannon, Lee & Terri Hodgen, Lori & Tom Zagozda, Scott & Teresa Hodgen and all our families.

I would like to thank all for the many texts, phone calls, cards and most of all the many prayers during my illness. I am feeling better every day, and when we can all come back, I hope to be ready to join my Trinity friends. ~Judy Slavik

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### Spring Clean Up

If you are available, please come help with the spring yard clean-up on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30am. Or, you may come any time during the week if that fits your schedule. The dumpster is located in the north parking lot.

## April Birthdays

- 4/1 Allie Greise
- 4/2 Carolyn Elledge
- 4/3 Barbara Tomlinson
- 4/5 Kevin Johnson
- 4/7 Matt Gonzalez  
Sandy Johnson
- 4/8 Autumn Evers  
Suzanne Shannon
- 4/12 Jan Gorman
- 4/13 David Galant  
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 Gregalunas  
McKenna Zeller
- 4/20 Cory Henson  
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
- 4/29 Gloria Rosenkrantz
- 4/30 Harry Weichel



## UMW Notes

All meetings of United Methodist Women have been cancelled for the month of April. A decision will be made later about the Spring Salad Luncheon.

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### Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club has been put on hold until further notice.

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### Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will have also been placed on hold until further notice.

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### Card Shower

Dolores Weber's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday is Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. If you or your children have some time on your hands, would you please take a few minutes and send her a birthday card? Handmade cards are super! Thanks in advance for your kindness!

Dolores Weber  
WEL-life Assisted Living  
801 N. Adams Street #120  
Papillion, NE 68046

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### Envelopes Included

Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope addressed to the church. Please feel free to use this envelope to share your offering with the church. We realize this is a time when financial situations are up in the air, if you can give please do. At this time our goal is to keep paying our staff and necessary bills. We have suspended all unnecessary purchases in an effort to be faithful stewards of your gifts. Keep watch for ways we will be connecting online and over the phone as we continue to work together and serve each other with Christ's love.

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### Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Their drive-through is open, so stop by at anytime that day. Let them know you are with Trinity Ralston UMC, and the church will receive 20% of the cost of your purchase.