



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

## June 2020 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

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When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, it was to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and spirit. And to love your neighbor as yourself. This message is found in Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:29-31, and Luke 10:27. Jesus learned this message from the book of Deuteronomy. It is what we are called to live as Christians.

It does not matter if we are making disciples for the transformation of the world or building a community in unity with Christ. All our actions and reactions are to reflect our love and worship of God. Love that then pours out to the people we meet so we are loving them too. At this time in the world, that love is shown by protecting one another. It is done by keeping each other safe. The question is how do we do this? The answer is not easy or simple. The reality is we miss each other. Isolation is not healthy. We need jobs and income. Yet, at the same time, we do not yet have a vaccine and so the coronavirus is still a threat to all of us, but especially the most vulnerable among us.

So, what is a church to do? Trinity Ralston is working on a plan. Ad council met on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The decision was made to start to have small groups meet in June. However, there will be rules that will need to be enforced, cleaning that will need to be done, and supplies that will need to be provided. So, keep watch for more information on plans as they are created.

Until then, how can we gather back together? The reality is it will take creativity. The good news is that in our day and age it is possible. For example, choir is now meeting via zoom. This is needed because singing in public is not safe, even with a face mask and six feet between us. Bible study is meeting every Thursday at 10am and talking about how our faith impacts our lives. KFC has weekly lessons posted on Facebook. Cards are being sent by many members. Other members are being personal shoppers for those who cannot get out. Gifts of food and monetary assistance are being given. The creativity is just amazing of how the church is still open, alive, and active. After all, we are more than a building.

So, I hope you know the decision not to worship in person yet is not an easy one to make. However, your safety and health is more important than anything to me. As a colleague shared as she thought about reopening, "If we all get together, even only 100 of us. One person happens to be positive for Covid-19 but is asymptomatic. This then infects 40 of the people gathered who get sick. Of those 40, 5 end up in the hospital and 1 dies. Even a person in their 80s or 90s. Who are we okay with losing?" The answer for me is no one, so we stay closed and we slowly open our doors. We continue to love one another, and we do it in the safest way possible.

And as we do, we celebrate the way God inspires us to be creative. We figure out how to do VBS virtually. We add a zoom call to worship so people who want to see each other, or who do not have internet, can worship too. We work together to love God and to love one another. We keep being the church, followers of Jesus Christ. A man whose life's work was to watch out for all people, especially the vulnerable, and to show them through his words and actions the love and glory of God. What a mission to continue. Blessings!

~Pastor Tessa

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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:** 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

## **Let Us Prayer Together**

Although we cannot yet physically meet together as churches of the Great Plains Conference, we can meet together in prayer. I ask that you pray the Lord's Prayer at noon until all gathering restrictions are lifted in the United States, and we can meet together again as churches. This act of solidarity will keep us prayerfully connected. It takes less than 30 seconds to pray the Lord's Prayer, but doing so will unite us with Christ, with each other, and it will change the world.

~Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.

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## **Lost and Found Clothing Center**

The Lost & Found Clothing Center is open for shopping by appointment only. Call 402-274-1586 to schedule an appointment. Thanks to all who have spent their "sheltering in place" time cleaning out closets! We greatly appreciate your donations.

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## **Financial Update**

Minutes are available of special meetings called for the Finance Committee and the Administrative Council over applying for a small business loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. The result of these meetings was that Trinity Ralston UMC applied for a loan in the amount of \$42,000. This will cover payroll, payroll costs, and utilities for an eight week period.

What does this mean? When we stopped meeting in person mid March, Pastor Tessa and our Finance Chair, Bill Dwyer, took action. They found out what it cost for payroll and utilities each month. The amount is \$21,000 a month. Then Pastor Tessa requested a freeze on spending for the staff. Bill also requested to be emailed the giving amounts for each week to keep ahead of how we were doing financially. Those reports have shown that you all have been giving enough that we can cover our basic bills. Thank you for that.

Yet, as a church, we have lost income from renting out the community center and with the cancelation of the Ralston 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and celebration. Not to mention the setback we are experiencing by not being able to open the daycare as we had expected in April. This loan money will help cover main expenses so your offering can then provide the funds needed to still do ministry. Normal ministry expenses like buying office supplies and materials for online VBS, Christian education, and mission work. Then there are the extra ministry expenses like purchasing equipment to live-stream and other unforeseen expenses because of the new use of technology, plus buying extra hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and cleaning supplies that will be needed as we reopen. It also allows us to help others who are struggling at this time and be the church who serves and reaches out. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Pastor Tessa or Bill Dwyer for more information.

Most of all, thank you for giving your money, your prayers, your time, and your own special ways of serving God. The building might be closed, but the Church is still building up the community in unity with Christ! Thank you!

## Education Notes

### Kids For Christ

KFC explores the creativity of people serving God. Join on Facebook live each Wednesday at 5:30pm as we explore our faith!

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>**—The Pretzel and Prayer

**June 10<sup>th</sup>**—Story Time! The Power of a good book about God.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>**—We Are Creatively Made!

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**—Where is God in the world?



If you have a good lesson or something that you can share for these lessons, please let Pastor Tessa know. She is open to sharing this spot with others as we explore together.



### Trinity Learning Center

The Trinity Learning Center has enrolled their first child! If you know someone who would like to enroll now or in the future, please have them contact Megan at 531-466-1707 or [info@tlcralston.org](mailto:info@tlcralston.org).



Scan this code in the  
Connected Faith App

### Connected Faith App

Would you like a way to connect weekly with others in the church? How about having a daily Bible devotion? Download the Connected Faith App on your phone. Set up your profile and select join existing group. The QR code to the left is what you will then scan to join the group. As people join, we will figure out when we will meet and how this will look. I look forward to seeing how this works!

### UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund

Since the start of the novel coronavirus outbreak, UMCOR has been working with health boards, medical professionals, disaster management coordinators and faith leaders to prevent the further spread of this disease. Through the UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund, grants will be rapidly released to equip partners to assist vulnerable populations around the world impacted by COVID-19, including racial/ethnic and indigenous communities in the United States. Grants from this fund will be disbursed quickly and efficiently to address health concerns, food insecurity, water and hygiene limitations and other pressing needs. You may donate online at UMCOR – COVID-19 Response Fund or by sending a check to the church made out to Trinity UMC with Advance # 3022612 in the memo line.

## June Birthdays

- 6/1 Al Craven  
Janis Dwyer
- 6/2 Tom Pace
- 6/3 Sara Wilson-Stepan
- 6/8 Janet Brown
- 6/11 Don Miller
- 6/12 Brian Johnson  
Bev Woods
- 6/14 Steve Bolinger  
Ryder Conley  
Billy Uhl  
Isaiah Warland
- 6/15 Bob Marr  
Brett Shannon
- 6/16 Josh Siske
- 6/18 Helen Noland
- 6/20 Carol Christensen
- 6/21 Scott Affleck
- 6/22 Presley Brown
- 6/24 Kodi LaMasters  
Kyle Sramek
- 6/25 Beth Fletcher  
Riley Pearson
- 6/26 Don Groesser  
Bill Walsh
- 6/27 Dee Linse  
Karen Sorensen
- 6/28 Sydney Hanson  
Braiden McClanathan
- 6/29 Emily Birkel  
Josh Jasman  
Jaycelyn McClanathan
- 6/30 Cathy Grage  
Leni McAllister

## UMW Notes

Sun, Jun 7<sup>th</sup>

UMW Sunday

10am

### UMW Sunday

Plan to join us online at 10am for our live-stream UMW Sunday worship service. The guest speaker for the day is Rev. Nancy Phillips who will be sharing about camp.

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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.

Want to text or give online? Download the Give Plus (by Vanco) app onto your phone from the App Store, or go to the Donate tab at [trinityralston.org](http://trinityralston.org).

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### Thank You

I want to thank everyone for their prayers for our family and provide an update. Skyler is much better, but is still coming back positive so we have at least one more week to go on our stay at home orders. The good news is no one else has the virus and Abby just came back negative on her test. Sophia was safely moved out of the house in temporary lodging, but she won't be able to return home as long as Skyler is still positive. I want to offer a special thank you to Pastor Tessa and her sister for helping us find a safe place for Sophia. Assuming we are virus-free, she will be allowed to come home; thanks to Becky and her wonderful family for being our back up plan. Also, a big thanks to the Lott family and Roxanne for being our personal shoppers. Our church truly is a supportive community, not sure what we would do without our wonderful church family.

Love and thanks, Penny and family

~PS: Jasper James Lyons-Whiteeagle was safely delivered to mom Sophia on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 20 inches long and weighing 6lbs 3oz. Thanks to Becky for getting her safely to the hospital as the Lyons family was still in quarantine (quarantine was lifted on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>).

### Thank You

Thank you to all who participated in my birthday celebration through cards, calls and drive-by parade. We've been led to believe in this day and age that drive-bys are not good, but in this case, it was great. God Bless you all and Thank You for my special day. ~Duane Boruff



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### Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, May 28<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.