



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

July 2020 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Making Lemonade

Did you know that during the pandemic of 1918, one of the reasons the second wave was worse than the first was that people got tired of being quarantined and so they opened up earlier than was safe? In fact, some states who had a terrible outbreak did so because there were parties held to take off masks together. I can completely understand how this happened.

So, how do we keep history from repeating itself? Well, I believe we take the lemons we have been given and we make lemonade. I do not know about you, but I love an awesome glass of lemonade on a hot summer day.

At Trinity Ralston UMC we will be doing this in many ways. First, I would like to invite you to participate more in worship. The hardest part of what we are experiencing now is that when we come back we will not be able to sing. Music and prayer are the key ways we all worship together. So, how do we do this without music? We have been coming up with some fun ideas in how this can work.

Through the month of July, we will introduce those ideas as the month goes on. For July 5th, we are going to celebrate the 4th of July. It would help us all if you would send us videos, emails, or messages that share your favorite activities over the 4th of July. What is most meaningful to you? What will you be missing this year? Are you starting or trying a new way of celebrating? Do you need prayers because you had to make a decision others are not happy about? I can relate. You can email these messages to matt.h@trinityralston.org or tessa.z@trinityralston.org. You can also text or call me at 402-469-5734. I cannot wait to hear what you have to share. If you do not have a message, just send a picture of you and your family over the 4th of July.

Then, as the month goes on we will be making lemonade out of lemons during worship through an all church VBS experience. We will need help with story time, creating snacks, and singing the VBS songs. Join us as we embark on a journey as the Knights of North Castle! I cannot wait to see how this month goes.

Did you know making lemonade out of lemons is scriptural? Romans 5 reminds us of this promise. Romans 5:1-5 says,

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Let's cling to that hope as we continue to grow in our relationship with God. You might want to read the rest of Romans 5 to see how this gift of hope comes from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

~continues on next 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: 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

Making Lemonade continued...

The rest of this newsletter contains information about other ways we will be making lemonade out of lemons. Things like Kids For Christ (yes, I know it is summer), information about Facebook, what you can do for missions, possible Bible Studies to be part of, and so much more. The church building might be closed, but the Church is still alive and serving the Lord to build up the community of Christ!

Blessings, Pastor Tessa

Mission Notes

With the church remaining closed for now, it is even more important that as individuals we seek out "mission" in our daily lives. Maybe you shop for a neighbor who can't get out. Maybe you drop off supplies at a mission or shelter. Maybe you donate a fan to those in sweltering temperatures. MISSIONS, after all, is simply doing the daily work of taking care any way you can, and anytime you can, for those you know and those you don't. Call a fellow church goer and see how they are doing during these difficult and strange times. I had the wonderful experience of getting a call from fellow church member Joann Krohn in mid-June. She was just reaching out to check on me. Now she and I don't really know each other (other than to greet at church), but it was so nice to talk about so many things, the state of our church and the community in general. I felt so warm after that call. This is something you can do...reach out. We may be apart, but the heart of the church beats on!

~Cindy Jolly, Missions Member

Lost and Found Clothing Center

Lost and Found Clothing Center is in need of:

- New boys' socks, size large
- New ladies' socks, size 4-10, or 5-9
- New mens' underwear, size medium, boxers or briefs

These items can be placed in our collection container in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for all of your donations!

Lost and Found Clothing Center is also in need of a door monitor on Wednesdays from 1-3pm and Sundays from 1-3pm (or 4pm). This person would sit in the entryway by the locked exterior door and let people in to shop at their appointment time. Call Nancy Ramsey at 402-274-1586 to schedule your date to help!

Reopening

When will the church open again? Right now, it is looking like mid-August. Please keep Ad Council, and those who are on the sub committee about opening, in your prayers as we work to keep the community safe and connected. Thank you to all who are doing this important work: Bob Whitehouse, Connie Loveland, Don Miller, Carolyn Sullivan, Nancy Ramsey, Cathy Grage, Matt Hindley, and Pastor Tessa.

Outdoor Service

Ad Council would like to announce an outdoor worship service at 8:30am on Sunday, July 19th (weather permitting). Bring your lawn chairs and come worship together. We will ask for social distancing to be kept. Masks are requested. If you are not yet ready to gather, worship will still be live-streamed at 10am on Facebook or at TrinityRalston.org

Education Notes

Virtual VBS is coming to Trinity Ralston UMC!

Lessons will be available to pick up the week of July 6th. You can come get a packet each week for your kids, grandkids, neighbors, or anyone you think might enjoy learning about how amazing God created us to be. There will be science activities, music, Bible Story lessons, snack ideas, and mission work you can do. Each week, lessons will be included on Facebook to help you as we take VBS and make it all month long. We will even have a time when we will connect on a Zoom call for all who want to take part. Lessons will be for all ages: children, youth, and adults.

~~Register at TrinityRalston.org~~



Adult Bible Study

Faithlink Bible Study is every Thursday at 10am via Zoom. Lesson and Zoom link are sent out via email every Wednesday. All are invited to join in the conversation. Come find out how our faith and life matter to each other. Lesson is led by Pastor Tessa.



Trinity Learning Center

Reading and literacy are encouraged every day. We read to children from day one, and encourage them to read together as well as look at pictures and describe stories. 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.



Sunday Morning Fellowship

Do you miss seeing each other on Sunday? Join on Zoom every Sunday morning at 9:30am. Bring your cup of coffee and connect together. Want to meet with friends like you would at a table? Let Pastor Tessa know and she can make a room for you to talk. Don't have internet? Call in at 1-312-626-6799 anytime after 9:30am to listen to the service. The Meeting ID is 999 3699 9844, and the password is 417497.

Chancel Choir

Want to make a joyful noise to the Lord? Join the choir every Wednesday night at 6pm via Zoom. Contact Matt Hindley at matt.h@trinityralston.org for sign on information. Questions? Email David Galant at dgalant123@hotmail.com.

July Birthdays

- 7/2 Kody Uhl
- 7/4 Hannah Davis
Aubrey Jenson
- 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
- 7/17 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
- 7/27 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

Thank You

Thank you all for the prayers, cards and e-mails. Cards and emails helped fill up some long hours. Prayers are working. I have had unanticipated issues that slowed recovery, but I am improving. There is one more surgery coming up which should fix most everything. It will be lovely to have that over. Please keep the prayers coming. ~Update~ Somehow, I lost track of how and with whom I shared my good news. While the original biopsy showed cancer, the in-hospital biopsy did not. It was something very difficult to tell from cancer in that it looks and behaves much the same and needs to be closely watched, but is not cancer at this point. The power of prayer is huge. Life is good. Thank you all for your concern and encouraging cards and emails. ~Marian Iversen

I wanted to send a thank you out to the church. I am beyond blessed by all the cards, notes, stories, gifts and words of love and support that were sent my way when my brother passed in April. I was given a small light of love during those dark days. Every word sent to me was so appreciated and noticed. It is still not easy knowing that my brother is gone, but he will be forever in my heart. Again, I thank you for all of the love sent to me. I'm sure proud to have such an amazing church family. Sincerely, Becky McClanathan and family

Devotions

Available on our website are devotions written by members of Trinity's congregation. They can be found under the "Media" tab. As new devotions are written, we share this information on our Facebook page. If you would like to share a devotion you have written, you can send it to Matt Hindley at matt.h@trinityralston.org.

Along with devotions, each week on Facebook we share guided prayers, "food for thought" posts regarding each week's sermon, and activities for children. Follow us on Facebook to receive all of this and more!

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.

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.

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, July 26th. 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.