



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

## November 2020 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

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Thank you! During the month of October, I received a card or note each day of the month. I have never received such a gift before as a pastor. Thank you!

During this month of November, I hope you take time to find something to be thankful for each day. I know we are still living with COVID-19. I know holidays will not be the same this year. I know there is a feeling of being stuck inside. I know life might be starting to look a little bleak. That is why I think a month of being thankful is a good idea.

Would you like some suggestions to get started? I'm thankful for:

◇ Family and friends. ◇ A house or apartment to live in. ◇ Work that provides me with purpose. ◇ The ability to vote. ◇ Food and water that nourishes my soul. ◇ My church family. ◇ Being able to help others. ◇ Being able to be helped by others. ◇ The gifts God gives to me and everyone. ◇ A chance to share love and grace with others. ◇ Forgiveness. ◇ Music. ◇ Healing. ◇ My passion for \_\_\_\_\_. ◇ The way people paved the way for the work I do today. ◇ Being able to make life better for others through my sacrifice. ◇ Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior who sets the example. ◇ A chance to give. ◇ Time I have been given. ◇ My talent of \_\_\_\_\_.

Did you happen to notice that there is a lot to be thankful for in our world? In fact, once I started thinking of what I am thankful for, the list just kept growing. I hope the same happens for you; that you take time this month to thank God. After all, that is really who we are saying thank you to. The creator of the world, God, who wants to hear from and connect with all of us.

As you are saying thank you, I want to take a moment to tell each of you thank you on behalf of Trinity Ralston UMC. Thank you for your gifts and support this past year. I know at the stewardship dinner last November, no one imagined a year like this one. Yet, you have kept mailing and giving your gifts. You have continued to donate to different ministries. Because of your gifts, God's love has continued to be shared. So thank you.

This November, we will be continuing with this theme of being grateful as we worship. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will share those we are thankful for who we have lost this past year. Then through the rest of the month we will share our thankfulness for how God provides. Do you realize that in the middle of a pandemic Trinity Ralston UMC opened a childcare center? What a blessing, some have even called it a miracle. I want to celebrate that as well as celebrate all of the ways we are being a community in unity with Christ. Here is a hint, a lot of the celebration will be thanking each of you and asking you to recommit to serving next year. There are still a lot of people who do not know God's love. They have no idea what grace is, much less experienced the gift of grace in their lives. Thank you for sharing this promise, I pray in 2021 we can share with even more people. Then we will have even more to be thankful for a year from now.

Blessings In Christ—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:** In-Person, Zoom, & Livestream @ 8:30am

**Pastor:** Rev Tessa Zehring **Associate Pastor:** Pastor Curt Copple **Pastoral Care:** Rev Dr. Bob Folkers  
**Children /Youth Director:** Grant Mills **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

## **Church Reopening**

The church will be reopening its doors to in-person worship starting on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will hold a single service at 8:30am, and are asking that several guidelines be followed should you choose to attend.

First off, masks are mandatory. They are still one of the most effective tools in slowing the spread of COVID-19. The church has some disposable masks for those who forget to bring their own. Hand sanitizer will also be readily available. Sanitizing of the church will occur both prior and following service.

Next, we ask that you enter via the North doors close to the office, and make your way to a designated seat keeping your belongings with you. Attendance will be taken for contact tracing.

While in the service, there will be no bulletins, hymnals, or Bibles available. You are free to print off a bulletin at home and bring it along with your Bible should you so choose. There will also be no singing of the hymns in person. The lyrics will be shown on screen as a devotional tool. Clapping along with the music is always welcome. A box will be positioned for you to place your offering if you have any.

Lastly, you will be guided to exit by rows through the Fellowship Hall doors.

We will continue to offer a live-stream through Facebook. The only change there is that it will be at 8:30am instead of at 10am. The video will then be free to watch at any time during the week.

We will also be starting the option of attending via Zoom. Zoom can be accessed by phone or internet with the information needed to do so below. It will be open on Sunday mornings by 8:25am and stay open for at least 15 minutes after the service's completion. Prayer requests can be shared before and after the service. On the first Sunday of each month communion will be shared. These interactions will not be available through Facebook.

Zoom call in information:

- Dial 1-312-626-6799
- Enter Meeting ID: 931 8901 8272
- Then enter Passcode: 256771

The link to access Zoom via the internet will be sent through email each week along with a copy of the bulletin, weekly announcements, music lyrics, and any additional information needed.

To finalize, you should have received a letter covering the above in greater detail. We just wanted to reiterate these changes. We thank you for your continued showing of support as we journey this uncertain road together.

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## **Mission Notes**

With church not coming together to open our doors for services again as expected on October 18<sup>th</sup>, we have decided to extend our Holiday Spooktacular project into November - so that more people will have the opportunity to bring gift cards for Walmart, Family Fare, or to any fast food restaurant. (Just a hint Dollar General in the shopping center not far from the church has a pretty good assortment of \$10.00 fast food restaurant gift cards.)

The food boat has been generously filled once again and will be taken soon. Thanks to all with such generous hearts! For this month, just bring whatever you have extra to share.....anything a family like yours could use.

Looking forward - sharpen up your writing skills - we will soon be doing Christmas cards for nursing home residents again this year. We got such a positive response from this last year. It really brightened some hearts during the holidays!

## Education Notes

Thank You to everyone who donated candy, mac & cheese, and spaghetti to this year's Trunk or Treat!

Youth and Kids for Christ will not meet on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving break.

### Study Group

On Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm another study group began meeting to discuss Jon Meacham's book *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* led by Judy Dappen. This book tells us of the impact John Lewis and others had on the civil rights movement. It is unsettling to realize that even though we have come far in recognizing the disparities that many black and brown people have had to face, there are many similarities between those early days and what we are witnessing in our country today.

Anyone interested should let Judy or Pastor Tessa know so that your name can be included in the Zoom invitation. Even if you have not started the book, feel free to attend.

### Trinity Learning Center



Trinity Learning Center has had a great month. We have been learning about Halloween, pumpkins, leaves, and gluing this month. The children have loved exploring leaves of different shapes and colors. They have also been experimenting with glue. They have been loving to glue buttons. The different shapes, sizes, and colors really appeal to the children. Gluing is an important skill for kindergarten. At the beginning of this month the children were making huge puddles of glue and really had no control over what they were doing, but now they are experts! We have been having fun Fridays this month. The children have dressed up like super heroes, worn orange, had pajama day, and Halloween costume day.

We are looking forward to next month where we are starting the month learning about light and shadows per the children's interests.

As always, if you know anyone looking for a position or childcare, please have them call Megan Greise at 531-466-1707 or e-mail her at [info@tlcralston.org](mailto:info@tlcralston.org).



### The Lord's Prayer

T A R D S Y D K H D  
E E O E R I I X A K  
V T M O H N M E L R  
I E L P G T R S L E  
L G J D T B A X O W  
B Q O O Y A V F W O  
R M Q L Q I T M E P  
E V I G R O F I D Q  
X A X W I L L K O G  
D L J G F H B A J N

FATHER  
HALLOWED  
KINGDOM  
WILL

DAILY BREAD  
FORGIVE  
SINS  
TEMPTATION

EVIL  
GLORY  
POWER

## November Birthdays

## UMW Notes

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  
Amber Kane

11/14 Arlyne Weichel  
Everett Williams

11/15 Keaton Dudzinski  
Cassie Lee

11/16 Ramona Swett

11/19 Dee Adams

11/20 Hannah Edelman

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

**Thurs, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**

Esther Circle via Zoom

6:30pm

**Tues, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>**

UMW Executive Board via Zoom

6:30pm

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### Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the cards and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my sister, Sharon Jones. ~Judy Johnson

Thank you for the thoughts and prayers, cards, emails and the prayer shawl that I received on the passing of my sister, Phyllis Reynolds. ~Pam Brown

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### Daylight Savings

Remember to set back one hour any clocks that need to be set manually before going to bed on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

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### Office Closed

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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### Choir Practice

The choir is meeting both in-person and via Zoom Wednesday evenings at 6pm. Please contact David Galant at [David.G@trinityralston.org](mailto:David.G@trinityralston.org) for a copy of the practice schedule through December. As a reminder, they will not practice on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving.



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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.

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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### Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Their dining room is now open, along with the drive-through. Stop by anytime that day. Let them know you are with Trinity Ralston UMC, and the church will receive 20% of the cost of your purchase.