



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

December 2020 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Happy Holy Days!

The season of Advent is upon us. We just celebrated how Jesus Christ is King. We give thanks this week during Thanksgiving. The only thing I can promise about the holidays this year is that they will be unlike anything we have experienced before. Yet, there are some traditions that I know we will continue. Christmas decorations inside and outside, donations made, gifts received, and even some traditions that we might have let go because of lack of time will come back, like sending Christmas cards.

At Trinity Ralston UMC we are going to be talking about those traditions during worship, and we want you to join us. Last Sunday, I was able to share pictures of people doing stuff around the church. I did not have pictures of everyone though. So, I invite you to share your pictures. You are invited to send a picture of yourself and family with each picture you send. We will put the two together as we share them each week.

November 29th - We will share pictures of Christmas trees and wreaths.

December 6th - We will highlight pictures of angels.

December 13th - Pictures of Santa Clause (Saint Nicholas) and nativities.

December 22nd - Singing Christmas carols.

December 24th - Pictures of stars and lights and your family holding candles in the darkness.

If you have other traditions you would like to send pictures of, we will highlight them on Facebook and our webpage. I hope that this year we can wait and prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ together. By this I mean remember that we are all still connected. I hope as you read this newsletter you will keep each activity in your prayers and the people making it happen.

As a church we have some traditions that will still be happening. We will be decorating Christmas trees together on Zoom on November 29th at 11:15am. We will have a children's Christmas program on December 13th. On December 22nd, the choir will perform a virtual cantata for us. We hope to have a time of singing carols over Zoom together (it will not sound the best but I hope it will be fun). Plus, Christmas Eve we will worship at 5pm & 11pm on Facebook live and Zoom. Then at 8pm, we will join together outside in the parking lot to light candles and sing "Silent Night". We will stand apart and face the world as we remind all who drive by of the birth of a baby who would change the world with love.

These holy days will look different, but one thing will remain the same, God's love is still here! I hope we can share that with the world as Trinity Ralston UMC: A Community in Unity with Christ!

In Christ, Pastor Tessa

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Sunday Worship: Zoom, & Livestream @ 10am

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

Mission Notes

Yes! Yes! Yes! We are still going strong with missions! In fact, Trinity members have donated gift cards to the youth at Youth Emergency Services; donations from fast food were \$235, Family Fare \$145, and Walmart \$245!!!!!! This is part of our goal to extend a helping hand to a very vulnerable group of young people in our community. Many thanks!!

This week, we also took a boat load of food to Living Hope as well as \$300 worth of Walmart gift cards. As has been our custom for a number of years, providing this food and gift cards will ensure that people can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

Our collection for boat items for December will be soups and crackers.

*People sip and slurp because they are so good!
That soups and stews we need if you would.
Winter's coming and bellies need warmed,
so buy some cans before markets are swarmed.
Crackers are tasty to bring along,
and these can be bought for practically a song!
Let's fill the food boat with these warming choices,
and before long the angels will be singing rejoices!*

For our Christmas project we are once again writing Christmas cards to the residents of Papillion Manor. In the narthex there are baggies with a list of names and Christmas cards. Please feel free to take one or two baggies; write a short note and sign your first name with the name of our church. Return the cards in the baggies by Friday, December 18th and place them in the sacks on the table.

We want the Manor to have the cards before the holiday so they can be held for three days before they hand them out. Last year we made sure everyone had 4 or 5 cards. This year we want to send each person four cards.

Thank you ahead of time for this act of kindness. We were told that the patients were overjoyed to receive so many cards last year. As we all know, it is tough times for those who are in nursing homes. By taking time to share kind words, surely they will experience feelings of good will.

There will also be a list of Trinity members who are homebound. The names, addresses, and cards will also be in baggies. We are asking that you mail these cards yourselves.

If you cannot get to church and need us to drop off some cards, let the church office know or contact Judy Dappen.

With our donations of food, gift cards, and the writing of Christmas cards, we are hopefully sending out the spirit of joy.

Judy Dappen

P.S. Did you know that the Lost & Found Clothing Center not only provides clothing and shoes to those in need, but we also have a small collection of books for the children and young adults? They may choose a book to take home too. The Mission team discussed providing some culturally diverse books for the kids as well. If you have some culturally diverse books you would be willing to donate, please put them in the basket in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in making a monetary donation to purchase a few books, please contact one of the Mission team members.

Education Notes

Please enjoy these pictures from a couple of activities that happened this past month. The first is from when the Kids for Christ packed gift boxes for the Lost and Found Clothing Center. The rest are of the youth and volunteers helping with Trunk or Treat.



Trinity Learning Center



Trinity
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Center

We are working very hard at developing skills here at TLC. The children have been very interested in mixing things and light/reflections. To encourage these interests, we have offered many things to mix including spices, water, vinegar, paint and more. We have also been using our overhead projector as a light table and exploring different ways to see light. We have some prisms on their way to continue encouraging this interest.

Holidays can be a stressful time for children in the best of times, but even more so this year. We have included as an insert a survival guide with tips for helping children through this time happily.

Lastly, if you know anyone looking for a position or childcare, please have them call Megan Greise at 531-466-1707 or email her at info@tlcralston.org.



December Birthdays

- 12/2** Connie Folkers
Erin Gonzalez
Ron Hein
Steve Markowsky
- 12/3** Michelle Morrissey
- 12/5** Tom Sullivan
- 12/7** Joann Krohn
Samantha Lanam
- 12/8** Kris Martinez
Avery Shannon
- 12/9** Maxine Citta
Dayton Conley
Nancy Ramsey
- 12/12** Greg Johnson
Jerry Olson
- 12/13** Casey Craven
- 12/14** Josh Brown
Susan Jasman
- 12/15** Sandy Olson
- 12/18** Verlyn Farrar
Larry Woods
- 12/22** Bette Fink
- 12/25** Carl Citta
- 12/26** Emma Frazee
- 12/27** Pam Brown-Tritsch
Bob Price
- 12/29** Mary Berglund
Angela Gilbert
Josh Hanson

Advent Offering

Advent offering letters will be sent out the first week of Advent. The funds Trinity Ralston (TUMC) will be supporting this year are the Ralston School Foundation, TUMC technology for children and youth, and a TUMC fund for youth ministries. You might notice that mission shares are not included this year. This is because the conference waived two months of our mission shares, so we are on track to pay 100% without the Advent offering. Thank you all for your giving this past year. Every gift makes a difference for Christ.

Worship via Zoom

Worship with us through Zoom starting 10 minutes prior to the service and lasting until at least 15 minutes after the service's completion. On the first Sunday of each month, communion will be shared following the service.

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. We will still be live-streaming through Facebook for those who want that option.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Friday, December 25th and the week of December 28th through January 1st in observation of the holidays.

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, December 27th. 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.