



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

January 2021 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Hopeful

It is almost time to ring in the new year. This is always a special time to reflect upon the past year, and then note hopes and dreams for the future. It might seem like there is not much from 2020 to celebrate, but I believe there is a lot to remember. We can remember that God created us as resilient people. We learned this past year that taking time for family matters. I hope to reflect on how we were reminded of how important it is to help each other and share with each other. Did this get you started? I hope so because the year of 2020 was not the easiest or the best, but it was still a gift from God, full of grace and love.

As 2021 begins I know we have hopes. We have hopes that the vaccine will help. We have hopes in being able to feel safer going out among people again. I hope we also dream that we will be able to be more free to share God's message of grace and love in person and not just online.

My plan in starting 2021 is to not just look back at 2020, but I want to look at the entire history of Trinity Ralston UMC. I want to learn about how it began in 1953 and why. I want to look at the different ministries that have been shared. I want to learn from the impact the different pastors had on the church and the different people who served more hours than anyone can count. I want to find out about the building campaigns. Why will we do this? It is because without a firm foundation of what this church has already done and not done to serve the Lord, we cannot really know how to move forward.

In February, my plan is to have a team in place to vision for the church. I believe the last time this was done was in 2008 or 2009. A vision helps an organization move in the same direction. It helps us know what we are going to do and what we need to leave to another church.

What can you do about this? First and foremost you can pray. Please keep in your prayers our future as a church, a country, a world, and as individuals. We are lifting three families a week up in prayer. I hope you are participating in that. Next, you can tell your stories. Why did you come to Trinity Ralston UMC? Why did you stay? What ministries have made the biggest difference to you? What have you tried that you liked, what did you not like? What special memories do you have of events, or even better, of people? I want to hear from you. Finally, please let me know if you would like to help vision. Visioning is not easy or simple and it takes commitment and passion to happen. If you want to see Trinity Ralston UMC better proclaim God's love, I hope you will let me know you want to help. My hope is to get a group of people who want the best for this church. It is important to be open to possibilities and come knowing each voice matters and will impact the direction we go. This will not be a time to further our own agendas to get the church to be more like another church. We are unique, and I want to celebrate and honor Trinity Ralston UMC.

Until then, I want to wish you a happy new year! Here's to the year 2021. May it be full of life, but even more, may it be full of the love of Christ for all.

Love In Christ, Pastor Tessa

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Phone: 402-331-4054 <http://www.trinityralston.org> [facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC)

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

A Mission Thank You

Seventy four residents of Papillion Manor received four Christmas cards as well as crocheted ornaments and candy (compliments of Carolyn Elledge). Thanks to all who took the time to write notes since a personal note means so much. We also sent out cards to homebound Trinity members. This is our second year of sending the cards, and due to its success we will most likely continue next year.

A Food Boat poem for January

We start this year out all fresh
needing paper for all of our places...
Kleenex to wipe our noses and faces
toilet paper for those regions...unmentionable...below
and paper towels for just about everything else you know!

Book Study

We will begin our third book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson in mid January. We will read about how the unspoken caste system has shaped America, and how those divisions are still part of our culture. The study is on Zoom on Tuesdays at 1pm, and we encourage your participation. If you have questions, contact Judy Dappen or Pastor Tessa.

Choir Practice

The choir will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 6th at 6pm via Zoom. Please contact David Galant at David.G@trinityralston.org if you would like to participate.

Christmas Cantata

We are now taking orders for DVD copies of the 2020 Christmas Cantata. If you would like to place an order, there are a couple of options available to you. First, you can call the church office during business hours at 402-331-4054. Second, you can email either Pastor Tessa at Tessa.Z@trinityralston.org or Matt Hindley at Matt.H@trinityralston.org.

We also want to extend our thanks to all of those who helped make it possible to provide the message of Christmas through familiar carols: David Galant, Alex Lunardi, Pastor Tessa Zehring, Matt Hindley, and especially the choir. The choir's willingness to step out of their comfort zones and be recorded singing individually in order to create a virtual choir was seen and much appreciated. Thank you all for sharing of your time and talent. You helped to make the season brighter.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Monday, January 18th in observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Education Notes

Please join us on Wednesday nights as we go through the book of Exodus. Kids for Christ (grades K through 6th) meets at 6pm. Youth (grades 7th through 12th) meets at 7pm.

January Kids for Christ Calendar

6th - Welcome back get to know you

13th - Welcome back get to know you

20th - Lesson: Exodus 1:1-2:10 Memory Verse: Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find. -Matthew 7:7

27th - Lesson: Exodus 2:11-3:10 Memory Verse: Be Still and Know that I am God. -Psalm 46:10

January Youth Calendar

6th - Welcome back get to know you

13th - Welcome back get to know you

20th - Lesson: Exodus 1:1-2:10 Memory Verse: Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find. -Matthew 7:7

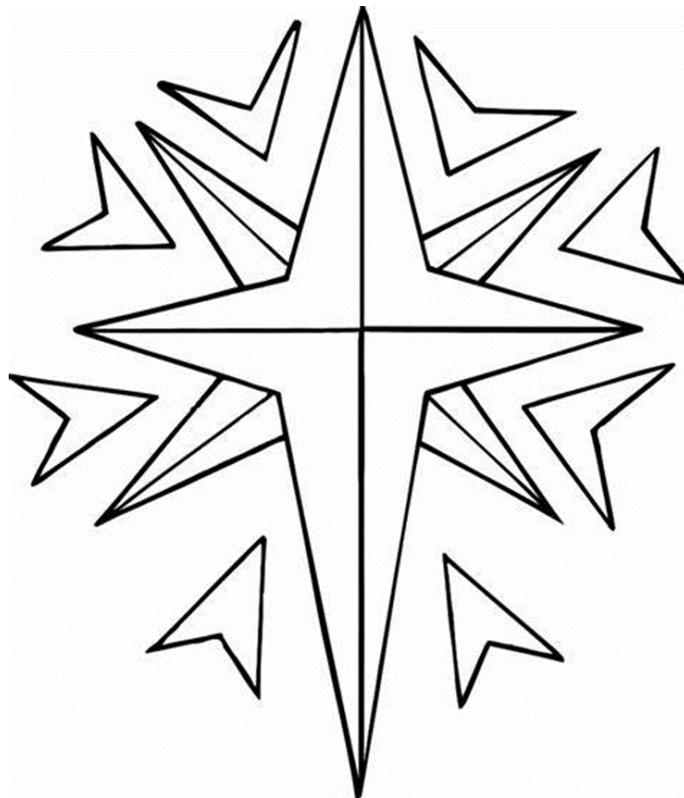
23rd - Youth Trivia Day at 1pm (This is a Saturday.)

27th - Lesson: Exodus 2:11-3:10 Memory Verse: Be Still and Know that I am God. -Psalm 46:10

Thursday, January 14, 2021, there will be a **Christian Education Meeting** via Zoom at 6pm . I will be sending the link out after January 1st.

Christmas Star Activity

Hello. I hope everyone had a good time celebrating Jesus' birth, but the Christmas story does not end at the birth of Jesus. In the church, we celebrate for twelve days after Christmas because the wise men were not at the manger. For January, please cut out the star below and hide it in your house (have your parents help). Then, try to find it like the wise men who allowed the star to light their path in the darkness to find the new born King. Each day you find it, please email me (Grant.M@trinityralston.org) a picture or a message showing you saw the star. When you find your star, take time to pray and give God thanks that He gives light to a dark world, and remember that God is always with us every day.



January Birthdays

UMW Notes

1/2 Connie Harwick

1/4 Lee Hodgen

1/5 LaWray Kinsella

1/6 Walt Dudzinski

1/7 Diane Hansler

1/8 Don Johnson

1/9 Lynn Hendrix

1/10 Pam Cambell
Pat Hein

1/11 Kelly Colgrove

1/12 Terry Grage
Ethel Higgason
Marius Slavik

1/15 JoAnn Gustafson
Scott Pace

1/18 Matthew Bolinger
Larry Swett
Anya Wilson-Stepan

1/19 Jett Hansen

1/20 Jayden Porchia

1/21 Chuck Babbel
Darlene Higgins

1/22 Sara Craven

1/25 Terry Shannon
Max Warnock

1/26 Patty Babbel
Kym Hansler
Donald Johnson

1/29 Lisa Bolinger
Clay Bowker
Karen Bowker
Virgil Winkelman

1/30 Mel Adams
Walter Lenczowski

1/31 Michaela Dodenhof

Tues, Jan 12th

Thurs, Jan 14th

Mon, Jan 25th

Mary Circle

Esther Circle

UMW Executive Board

7pm

6:30pm

6:30pm

Thank You

Dear church family, a great, BIG "Thank You" to all of my many friends and fellow church members at Trinity United Methodist Church for all your support with my current rehabilitation. Your love and prayers have been so deeply appreciated. It has been overwhelming to realize how many friends we have in our church. Thank you so very, very much for your prayers, calls, and cards. God bless all of you.

~Duane Boruff

The family of Gloria Pearson-Williams would like to thank you for your memorials in Gloria's name. She loved her Trinity family and was blessed with many friends.

Worship via Zoom

On Sundays, you can worship with us through Zoom starting 10 minutes prior to the service and lasting until shortly 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 continue to live-stream through Facebook as well.

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, January 24th. Both the dining room and drive-through are open, so feel free to 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.



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 us. 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, necessary bills, and any ministry areas we can.

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.