

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

News Update for June 4, 2020

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.

(Matthew 5:14-16 New Revised Standard Version)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Trinity, you are one of the bright spots! You have been being the hands of Christ this week by helping people who have found themselves stranded in Idaho Falls. Harold arrived at the Trinity B & B on a not-so-awesome bike headed toward his home in Sioux Falls SD. We were able to provide lodging for a couple of nights until there was a seat available on an east bound bus. When the colleges all shut down, Eric lost his university food service job in CA and headed to MT where there would be someone to stay with until the school in Billings opens. He only made it to Idaho Falls before the transmission on his pick-up failed. We couldn't provide lodging for Eric because he has a lovely Black Lab named Bear with him. We have, however, been able to pitch in some money towards the rebuilt transmission so they can safely get on the road as soon as the total bill is paid.

It is always a good idea to collect sound data as you make a decision. Last week I invited our phone connectors to ask each person on their calling list 3 questions about returning to in-person worship with reference to a date in late June. Since the inception of that questionnaire, some clarification of the instructions from the Bishop and new local information has become available. Although the state of Idaho has opened just about everything to everyone, all United Methodist Churches in the Greater Northwest Area remain closed. The only reason that I and some support staff are at church is because we are doing “essential” community services. In phase 2 of the UMC church plan only staff and committees are allowed in the building. No in-person worship will be allowed until phase 3. Since we have no idea when phase 2 will start or how long it will last, it is almost impossible to estimate when the Bishop will release churches to begin phase 3.

If this all seems restrictive, then take a few minutes to read the story about Potters House church just a few blocks from Trinity where 41 people gathered and now 30 are diagnosed with or are suspected to have COVID-19. <https://www.eastidahonews.com/2020/06/30-confirmed-or-probable-cases-of-covid-19-after-religious-revival-in-idaho-falls/> Wouldn't it be heartbreaking if this story had been about our church?

At the Trustee meeting on Tuesday, it was decided that Trinity will wait until two weeks beyond the start of phase 3 to open the building for regular use and in-person worship. We do not have a date; but at least we have a goal!

I am available by phone or in person (with careful physical distancing and face mask) at just about any time. Please let me know if you would like to stop by for an in person visit.

I miss you and love you.

Blessings,

Rev. Ruth

Remember to hold
each other tightly in
your heart.

Sunday's Worship

It is Trinity Sunday when we celebrate the nature of God as three in one. This Sunday's theme will be "Three ways to succeed in spreading the Good News."

The scripture lesson will be Matthew 28:16-20 if you would like to reference it before you watch the video. The video will be available on our Facebook page on Sunday morning and our YouTube channel on Monday. (See the last page for all the links.)



Mary Dawson Hall Floor Restoration

The Mary Dawson Hall floor has ben restored. It has an amazing shine after all Robs work over the past few weeks.



Are you still waiting for your stimulus check?

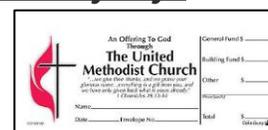


The stimulus money from the federal government is showing up in bank accounts and in mailboxes soon. Thank you so much to those who have already donated stimulus money to Trinity so it can be used for ministry. If your income has not been negatively impacted by COVID-19, I would

ask that you prayerfully consider whether you can afford to do this also

Thank you for your continued financial support of Trinity by:

- a. delivering your regular giving personally
- b. calling the office and give via credit card
- c. using US Postal Service to send a check
- d. going to Trinity's website and give via credit card or PayPal
- e. or, signing up for bill-pay at your bank so they can send a check



Our graduates for 2020:

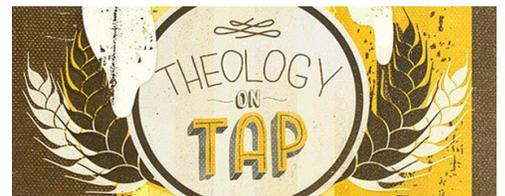
We would normally celebrate our graduates at church on Sunday. Since that was not possible they will each receive a custom engraved Contigo spill proof coffee mug to always remind them of John Wesley's three basic rules 1) Do no harm, 2) Do good, and 3) Stay in love with God.



Mario Estrada, Tia Leonard-Durrant, Not pictured: Kaden Cutler

Theology on Tap - The Home Edition

Theology on Tap is going strong with the weekly Zoom calls. On Monday afternoons check the Facebook page for the Zoom meeting number and password. At 7pm pour your favorite beverage, warm up an appetizer and be prepared to think deep thoughts with your Monday night community. Call or email the office if you want to be added to the Theology on Tap Facebook group.



Sunday Morning Gathering of Prayers by ZOOM

The Sunday morning Zoom call is a good opportunity to chat about the morning scripture lesson, share your prayer requests, to see each other and hear each other's voices.

If you are new to Zoom and would like some training and a practice a Zoom session call, text or email Don Rohde (860-810-3227 - DonRohde@aol.com

) and he will set up a practice Zoom call so you can figure out how to run the program and get all the settings right while you are at home and Don is at church. Then you will be ready for this Sundays 10:15am Zoom Meeting. Zoom is free and once you learn it you can use it to contact your family and friends.



Look for the Zoom invitation from Ruth on the Trinity Facebook page.

Checkout all the Worship Videos

Each Sunday Worship videos will get posted on Trinity's Facebook page ([Trinity United Methodist Church in Idaho Falls](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedMethodistChurchIdahoFalls)). If you go to Trinity's web page (www.TUMCIF.org) you can find a link to the Facebook page. Be sure to "like" and "follow" Trinity's Facebook page if you want our content to show up in your personal Facebook feed. Please call Ruth at 208-419-7870 if you have difficulties finding the videos.

Check Trinity's YouTube channel for videos of weekly worship at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZz1YGrdRCH6HIND2LpVCgg>

Please know that I am holding you and the entire Trinity community in my daily prayers. - Reverend Ruth Marsh

Trinity United Methodist Church - www.tumcif.org