Looking Ahead:

February 1st — Dinner and a Movie Night
February 14th — Valentine’s Day
February 23rd – 26th — UMC Special General Conference in St. Louis
March 5th – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Races
March 7th – Thank You, Dedication & Spaghetti Dinner at Church (more info soon)
March 13th – 15th — Northwestern Leadership Institute (NLI) in Boise
April 21st – Easter
May 19th — Spring Handbell Concert

Sunday Schedule:

9:00am Sunday School for All Ages
10:15am Worship for Everyone & Kids Church

Pastor’s Perspective

“For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to make fun of him, saying, ‘This man started to build and wasn’t able to finish.’” 

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Upon approval by the church Administrative Council, Trinity’s budget for 2019 will be set at $206,233. This represents about a 1% decrease from last year. Please let me show you how your generosity will be at work through the actions of Trinity United Methodist Church this year. The pie chart on this page spreads our expenses across five different ministry areas. That way it’s easier to visualize what we DO with the money rather than just focusing on how much particular things cost. For instance, the total of all building costs add up to over $35,000, which seems like a lot, but when you spread that cost over all of the areas that the congregation and the community benefit from, then you can see what a good deal we get.

We are not just pouring our money into a building that needs to be fixed; we are making a difference in Idaho Falls. The term for this kind of thinking is called forming a “narrative budget.”

Again this year, the newsletter contains a “pledge” form. Use it anyway that is helpful to you. That might mean filling it out and then returning it to the church office, or it may mean having it at home as a reminder of your personal financial commitment to this worshiping community. You may also find a pledge form in the “Blast” or you may request one from the church office. Thank you for faithfulness in making sure that the church can continue to serve this community by keeping the lights on and the staff paid.

Blessings,
Reverend Ruth

New Church Email Address
TrinityUMCIdahoFalls@gmail.com
Isn’t Christmas great! It’s sort of the commercial, and for many, the spiritual climax of the togetherness season. It starts with Halloween with the giving of candy by strangers to children of the occult, followed by Turkey Day, then holiday parties, pageants, recitals, plays, and Christmas, but not over yet. Soon it will be time for romance remembrance day, Valentine’s, and green beer day, St. Patrick’s, ending in the child mosh pits of Easter egg hunting season.

Sadly, there is no commercial holiday for Agape Love, Jn 5.43-46. You know the kind of “ordinary” love between a long time married couple contently eating an entire meal in silence or two friends that have been arguing over the direction of the fundraiser, but put that aside to run the youth activity.

January is sort of a quiet month, except for Epiphany, and my wife’s birthday. Let’s make this month World Agape Love month. Serve oatmeal to your kids because it’s good for their heart. Teach Scouts the bowline knot. Get out your pocket knife and whittle a stick with your grandkid. Put together a jigsaw puzzle that you know is missing pieces with your spouse. Shovel snow off your grumpy neighbor’s walkway.

November and December have been anything but boring for Pack 6. We went to Green Canyon Hot Springs with Troop 6. We had a mini-day camp where we learned how to safely start fires and cook eggs in plastic Ziploc bags, and made bird houses. We made volcanoes, animal masks, gingerbread houses, self-propelled cars, and taught them about internet safety by feeding them salty cookies. Our Bears earned their whittling chip. These are Agape miracles in ordinary times. You can be ordinary too. - Sam Bays 208-520-8883

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During January, the grocery cart parked near the sanctuary doors could especially use the following items: applesauce, canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail)...and diapers (any size). Of course, other canned or packaged goods are welcome as well. Please, no glass containers, items from bulk food bins, or homemade goods.

All items will be delivered to Regional Council for Christian Ministry for our missions: The Community Food Basket and the Soup Kitchen, and FISH. Thank you for sharing your good fortune.

Jeannine Beckman is having a 90th birthday party on January 19th, 2019, from 2 to 4 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 325 Elm Street.

Girls and adult volunteers are still welcome to join this newly formed troop.

Four girls received their Cadette Silver Award on December 13 at a ceremony in the decorated Mary Dawson Hall. The evening was complete with a spaghetti dinner for the troop and families in attendance.

January plans include:
• Troop 713 girls will lead ~13 different stations for a younger girl cookie rally at Skyline High School on 1/10/19
• on 1/11/19 they will participate in a older girl cookie sleepover rally that they will also organize

Marilyn Piquet
6/1/1931 - 11/24/2018
A Celebration of Life was held for Marilyn Piquet on Monday, Dec. 3rd. She was active with United Methodist Women and a member of Trinity since 1992.

Edward Brown
8/20/1920 – 11/27/2018
Edward Sage Brown, age 98, passed away peacefully on November 27, 2018, in his home at Morningstar Senior Living in Idaho Falls. He was born in 1920 in Denison, Texas, to Elva Wesley and Alice Mary Brown. He was a long-time member here at Trinity, and he enjoyed playing the violin.

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Soup Sundays
The first, second and fifth Sundays of January will be Soup Sundays after church. Please call the office 208-522-7921 to sign up to bring a crock pot of soup, or surprise us and just bring one. Crackers and rolls are also welcome. This will be our hearty contribution to fighting off the chill of winter.

Trinity Meals
Scout Troop 6 will be cooking brunch for us Sunday the 20th. Donations are gratefully accepted. Our monthly pot luck lunch will be held on January 27th in the Parlor. Please join in!

There is still time to buy Restoration Bricks
Arrangements have been made for 134 bricks. Orders will be taken through February so there is a little time left. Contact Pam in the office or use the order form from the Blast.

Grocery Cart Wish List for December! - Linda Milam
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The Scouts of Troop 6 conducted the quarterly Court of Honor and Christmas Party on the 19th. This was the meeting where the scouts received all the awards, ranks advancements, and merit badges they earned for the last 3 months. Elections will be next quarter, so some of the scouts will be looking forward to fulfilling to leadership requirements needed for their next rank.

The busy holiday season caused the December Troop Committee meeting to be cancelled. We’ll meet again on the third Monday of January, the 21st, which is our normal committee meeting. There will not be a Troop 6 meeting on December 26th or January 2nd.

The troop has been busy taking advantage of a few breaks in their schedule to organize and clean our scout closet. We can actually see the floor, use newly emptied shelves, and we have eradicated some possible mold from patrol boxes. Good job, Scouts, in taking care of the gear we use, and donating gear we don’t to the Youth Ranch, which can hopefully use the equipment.

The boys are also getting ready for two big events in the scouting year, the annual Merit Badge Scramble, and the District Winteree. They have been working on building a Klondike sled from parts, acquiring skills in lashing and knots, as well as fire building skills and medical training. They have to feed ~300 Warm up the cold scouts after a morning of scouting skills.

The boys have thought of the merit badges they need to advance, and signed up for the January, February and March Merit Badge Scramble sessions. These events are sponsored by the leadership of Troop 382, who recruit counselors and scouts to attend the event.

One of our long time scouts, and now leader, William Lemer, has completed the advanced adult leadership course called ‘Wood Badge’ and was awarded his beads at a ceremony at the Idaho Falls Scout Office. Trained adults are essential to successful scouting and we’re thankful William had the desire and took the time to attend the course and finish his ticket to become the great leader our scouts deserve.

Several folks have asked about Trinity and the new Scouting Troop that will start in February. We have let parents and scouts know that Trinity will be glad to host a new girl troop, but we need to have the minimum required interest from new scouts and parents to provide leadership for a new troop. When we host a new troop, it will be linked with Troop 6, meaning that the troops will share a charter organization, and a committee. If you’re interested in a girl troop, let me know, and I’ll help in anyway I can.

I’ve also been asked about the news concerning the BSA having money problems. While our fees do support the national program, our local council and unit finances are not tied to anything national. Therefore national money problems do not really affect our council or Trinity scouting.

This is a time of change for scouting, but Trinity has almost 100 years tradition of success with scouting. We’re looking at the big picture of including scouts from our LDS neighbors who have lost their church’s sponsorship and girls interested in the BSA program. Change is good; and I’m looking forward to Trinity’s continued role with our youth in scouting.

Thanks - Robin

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A new kitchen deserves new equipment, accessories and gadgets! New appliances for the warming kitchen are already built into the renovation cost structure, but we will need to supply a number of other items. For some things, like a new matching set of silverware or glasses, money is the best gift. For other items, please contact Ruth Orr, who is keeping a master list of which accessories and gadgets are still needed, at 208-523-2976. She also is tracking which items have already been sponsored like kitchen aid and 80 sets of dishes.

On January 12th, we will open all of the wrapped gifts at the kitchen shower.

Here are some suggestions:

- Dish towels & pot holders
- Aprons
- Toaster
- Toaster Oven
- 2 cup chopper mixer
- Can opener
- Cookie sheet (bun Pans)
- Trivets
- Coffee Warmer carafe Stainless Steel
- Cash Donations and we will do the shopping
- (3) Box sets of Nonstick Cookware sets including Pots and Pans

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Celebrate the completion of the Restoration Project (which we have been involved in for a looooong time) with a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 7th at 6:00pm.

Enjoy tours of the fabulous new features in the wonderful rooms which have been updated to make Trinity more usable and accessible to congregation and community members. (I am so looking forward to my new view!)

Please call me at the office if you would like to volunteer to be on the kitchen crew or donate food.

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Rehearsals for the Wesley Handbell Choir and Beginning Bronze start again on January 7th.

New members are welcome in both choirs.

May 19 – Save the date! The bell choirs’ spring concert will be back home at Trinity.

Christian concert at The First Presbyterian Church >
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<td>Dec 31</td>
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<td>9:00 Bible Study 10:15 Worship &amp; Kids Church</td>
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<td>3:00 Confirmation Class</td>
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<td>7:00 Wesley Handbells</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>11:30 Scout Brunch</td>
<td>6:00 Beginning Bronze bells</td>
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January

Please have your articles for the February newsletter submitted to: donrohde@aol.com no later than Saturday, January 15th, so we can get the newsletter out in a timely manner. Thank you!

Don Rohde-Editor
donrohde@aol.com
Alan Clark poured cement in the basement for the bathrooms. He reinforced the floor joists cut by plumbers, and framed the downstairs bathrooms. Change orders include new light fixtures and ceiling in the library, and new flooring down the stairs leading directly into the Mary Dawson kitchen.

Two more portable toilets were ordered and delivered for Christmas events.

The roof shingles (five layers) were finally removed in early December. A change order for the muscle and extra time needed to remove them was submitted for $3,500. Recently a change order for $2,500 for five additional roof drain pans was also approved.

Lynn Seymour and Nancy Smith submitted a grant request to Idaho Heritage Trust in September to repair three spalling columns in the Mary Dawson Hall. The 1:1 grant was received in December and Alan Clark will honor his $7,800 add alternate bid that we could not fund in August. We will use Capital Reserve funds if necessary to pay our $3,500 half of the bill.

The plumbing is basically done in the building and framing will be completed soon. Electrical work is well underway so late December and January will be a time of great transformation. We are very excited for the new bathrooms, windows, lights, ceiling, flooring, basement emergency exit, warming kitchen, copy room and office.

Partners for Sacred Places and National Trust for Historical Preservation are making reservations to fly to Idaho Falls the week of March 4 to ensure that the work for their $190,000 grant has been completed properly. During their visit Trinity will have a dedication party on March 7th to thank all of our donors.

**Trustees Corner**

December issues at Trinity included:

- There was water running down the wall near the elevator in the sanctuary.
- The radiator in the back of the sanctuary was leaking and the shut off valve did not close. Rocky Mountain Boiler disconnected the radiator pending decision on how to fix it. They also fixed a broken radiator steam trap that in the UMW closet by the stage.
- Rob using cement to make a ramp on the lifted sidewalk square on Water Street.
- Robin and Rob replaced a light bulb in the front spotlight in the Sanctuary.
- They also extended the catwalk in the attic to the front of the Sanctuary (the next upgrade is to extend the catwalk to the sides).
- New carpeting was installed in the dinning and living room areas at the parsonage.
- 3 Plexiglas covers were replaced in front of the main stained-glass window. They had done their job in protecting our beautiful windows from a vandalism.
- Robin installed the first of three Wireless Access Point (WAP) transmitters that will form the new WIFI network for the church.

Meetings have included time to discuss Trinity Restoration change orders and funding to date. Our next meeting is January 8 (changed to second Tuesday).

**United Methodist Women—UMW - Mary Nagel**

- Susannah Circle will meet Jan 23rd at Garcia’s for their annual dine out (6:00).
- Ethel Clark Circle will meet January 24th at 1:00. The meeting location will be announced.
- Remember there will be no unit meeting in January.
- January 27th is U.M.W. Sunday. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our local unit had a very successful year:

- $200 given to FISH,
- $200 to Community Food Bank,
- $200 to CASA,
- $150 to IF Soup Kitchen,
- $150 to the Haven GED,
- $100 to Hospice of Eastern Idaho and $300 for camp scholarships.
- $ 90 was collected at our Christmas unit meeting for the Crisis Center.

Remember this is above the $2,250 we gave to our mission giving both nationally and internationally.

Great job ladies!!! No wonder we are a “Gold Star Unit”!!
Regional Council for Christian Ministry

FISH -

- More than 800 orders for backpacks and school supplies were provided to date this school year.
- Forty clients were assisted in November, often for health related issues, enabling them to access the Community Family Clinic and obtain prescriptions.
- With help from the Food Basket, FISH supported the Homeless Stand-down with many take-away food and other items.

Community Food Basket - by the end of the year, the Food Basket will have served more than 12,300 families; 43% of those people are children under the age of 18. The families are provided with a 4-day supply of food. On average, the Food Basket distributes 3000 pounds of food daily! The majority of those served, 87%, live in Bonneville County.

Soup Kitchen - A grant was received to replace the coolers and freezers at the Soup Kitchen; the older appliances were moved to the Food Basket warehouse to store bulk Soup Kitchen items.

Other monies received or anticipated include $2,500 from the Race to Feed the Hungry, $10,000 to support the urban farm, and partial distribution for a $200,000 bequest.

Little Church in the Pines - will hold a Christmas Eve service at 7 PM.

Other news:

- RCCM officers will continue in their positions for another year: Chair Jane Kaestner, Vice-chair JoAnn Biery, Treasurer Sara Jensen.
- Promise Ridge, the temporary family housing located adjacent to First Presbyterian Church will be the beneficiary of ticket sales for the recent and well-attended Home Tour.

Promise Ridge Family Shelter

Promise Ridge, the new family shelter in our neighborhood is currently providing a safe and comfortable home to six families composed of six women and 13 children. Since our doors opened in May, we have consistently been close to full with families continually coming to us for shelter and then, with our help, moving on to more stable housing situations.

We are so grateful for the kindness and generosity of our community in helping to provide this valuable service and making a difference in peoples’ lives.

If you would like to help, we have an ongoing need for consumables through FISH – right now
- toilet bowl cleaner,
- laundry soap
- dryer sheets.

You can drop them off at church, or call me, Bev, at 208-569-6149 for pick-up. We also have a one time seasonal wish list including rakes and snow shovels.