

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

News Update for January 25, 2021

Sermon 1-24-2021 “Today Is the Right Day to Begin Mending Our Nets”

This has been a long, long political season. It's been a long, long pandemic season. Both of those are things that have led to a lot of strife between friends, neighbors, and sometimes even family. You see, we don't always agree about political candidates, or whether we should wear masks, or not, so sometimes we are not kind to each other. When we are not kind, that leads to brokenness, broken hearts, broken lives, broken relationships.

Last September when I was at Time to Sow (lectionary boot camp) reading through the Scriptures, I recognized that today's Gospel spoke of how the disciples were doing their regular work of mending their nets and were then called by Jesus, and how this scripture would fall just after we had just inaugurated a president. I hadn't a clue who that President would be, but I knew that we too would have net mending work to do.

Please let me share with you a couple of things that Vince Esparza, shared with me earlier this week. I called Vince, knowing him to be a fisherman and said, I know that you have been a fisher person much of your life, so could you bring me a net? Vince first apologized that he only had a net like this one, where you scoop up your fish after you have caught them, because Vince, when I told him the scripture lesson, realized that what I really needed was a hand cast net that would have been what the disciples probably were using, and therefore, mending. But those are relatively rare these days, unless you come across native people fishing at the edge of the ocean or the edge of the river using that type of net.

Vince brought this net, and I thought it was particularly good for today's purpose because there's a broken place in this net. It needs to be mended

because of the hole in it right here. I tried to get a video of how to mend nets, but it didn't seem very helpful for us to actually learn how to mend nets because maybe we need to be more about mending relationships, but there's a hole here, so you wouldn't want to use this net if you were out fishing because your fish might swim away, swim away like some of our friends and family and relationships may have done over the past few months.

Vince told me that the other reason I wouldn't want to use a net like this if I were out fishing is because this net is an old fashioned one, and it hurts the fish when you catch them. A net like this has sharp netting, and it catches in their gills and hurts them. The fish might not even live through that experience. As fly fisherman, Vince practiced catch and release most of the time, so he brought in the right net for me to see. Vince said that this one is the net I'd want to use if I were fly fishing. It's got magnets, so he could attach it to his fishing vest, so the net's always handy. This is a soft, silicone net that doesn't hurt the fish.

What does a fish net that is safe for fish have to do with us? It's about us, learning to mend our nets, and to once again make our words safe for friends and family, safe for neighbors. It's being able to rejoice when we can gather together, virtually or in person, knowing that we are able to care for each other, and respect each other.

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, had some particular advice when it came to elections. Because you see, this year was not the first time there has been a contentious election. In October of 1774 John Wesley was preaching in town near Bristol, where a contentious election for parliament was underway. The chief candidates were Edmund Bercy, and Henry Krueger, who differed in their political ideologies, their position on the American colonies, and their support from religious groups. Does any of this sound familiar in an election we might have just been through? In the days leading up to the election, while in the town of Pill, he met with members of the local Methodist Society, and offered this important guidance as they prepared to elect a new leader for the country. October 6, 1774 - "I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election and advised them, number one, to vote without fee or reward for the person they judged most worthy. Number two, to speak no evil of the person they voted against, and perhaps for us, the most important part of this advice is number three, to take care that their spirits

were not sharpened against those who voted on the other side. They were to mend their nets, to use that beautiful soft silicone net to gather in, and then, to set free those that they wanted to be in relationship with. Praises be to God that we can mend our nets. Amen.

Reverend Ruth Marsh

Trinity United Methodist Church

United Methodist Women – Mary Nagel

The Paschal Meal was one of the finest projects the Trinity United Methodist Women did. It was held on Maundy Thursday and was started in 1953 by Rev. Henry Haines and his wife. The food was prepared and served in a very somber and quiet manner. Over the years and with the participation of Rev. Laron Hall, procedure changed. He stated the Paschal Meal (the Passover Seder) was a time of thankfulness and celebration. No one knew the outcome after “the Last Supper.” Tradition still held as far as the tables arranged in a cross with white and purple decorations, baskets of fruits and candles. The place settings were combined with communion elements and a salad sized plate of a small container of salt water, parsley, haroseth, a hardboiled egg, olives, dates, nuts and unleavened bread (matza bread). All symbolic of the Jewish Seder. After the Maundy service, a traditional lamb stew served over rice was offered. Each circle had workers in the kitchen for two days preparing for this. On reflection, it’s interesting to note, because of the cost of lamb, Mary Nagel substituted beef, telling no one except the “Mary Marthas” of the kitchen crew. Afterwards several participants, while thanking the workers, said it was the best lamb stew they’d ever eaten!!!!



Speaking of kitchens, in 1963, knowing the church was two years in arrears in its missionary pledges, the Society (WSCS) gave \$1800 to help the church out of difficulty. The Society was saving the money for a new kitchen. Trinity was giving \$900 a year at that time to the support of John Kaemmer, a missionary in Angola. Later, the Trustees saw that the women did get their new kitchen!!!

John Wesley Quote

“We are really a company of poor gentlemen! But we have food and raiment and content.” (In a letter to Christopher Hopper, 1774)



Work Around the Church

Last week the sump pump failed and blew its fuse. We think it was because the float switch got stuck. Over the years this had happened so often that Rob had provided a piece of conduit the reach down into the hole and tap the float switch. He was able to free up the pump rotor and replace the fuse to get us going again while I order another pump. These are special pumps because they handle the 200-degree boiler blowdown water. The new pump is installed, and we are saving the old one as a backup. Rob’s talents know no limits!



Gather at the Table for February!

Join us to reconnect during this time of COVID isolation. It would be wonderful see you on screen, and socialize with you, as we continue our faith journey. A brief deep-thought question and time for prayers will be available. Looking forward to seeing and visiting with everyone **Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30.**



New guests, please call the office if you would like an invitation to this zoom.

Do you have plans for your stimulus check? - Ruth Marsh

The second round of stimulus money from the federal government is beginning to arrive. I would ask you to prayerfully consider if you can afford to give this "found money" to the church. Clearly your loved ones are a first level priority but supporting Trinity's ministries and building is a way for you and your money to make a difference in this community.

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



Trinity United Methodist Church

This form is to help you remember the amount that you and God have agreed upon as your financial support towards ministry at Trinity in 2021. You may return this form to the church office to be recorded with our financial secretary who can help you keep track of your progress, or you may keep the pledge card at home to remind you of your commitment to participating in ministry at Trinity.

Trinity United Methodist Church - Pledge sheet for 2021

With the financial resources that God entrusts to this household, I/we desire to join with my/our siblings in Christ at Trinity UMC to be a blessing to this world that hungers for God's grace by sharing the following resources:

(1) Offering \$_____ per week/month/year (circle one).

OR

(2) Offering _____% of my/our income,
which currently equals about \$_____ per week/month/year (circle one).

Name(s): _____

If at any time you wish to increase, decrease, or cancel your estimate of financial support, please notify our church's Financial Secretary at 208-522-7921.

Contributions may be by cash, check, credit card,
PayPal, or online BillPay from your bank.

Vaccinations for 65 or older to start early February. – Don Rohde



Idahoans 65 years and older can expect vaccinations to start early February (final date to be determined). Since there are about 250,000 Idahoans in this group, a tiered approach may be needed depending on supply.

Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) will announce a schedule for vaccinating this group prior to Feb. 1st.

Individuals in this group may contact their local public health district, local pharmacy, or primary care clinician to learn more or schedule an appointment. Use the EIPH Vaccine Hotline: (208) 533-3235 or go to <https://eiph.idaho.gov/>



There will be a group #3 in March for people 16 to 64 with underlying medical conditions listed below. Contact your primary care clinician to learn more or schedule an appointment.

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²)
- Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Online signup is accomplished through the EIPC website and requires an email address to receive the confirmation. When it is your group's turn and if you need help in signing up or need help with transportation, please contact the Pam at the church office at 208-522-7921 and she will help make arrangements.

We will publish updates in the newsletter as they happen.

CAUTION: Remember there are 2 shots required, spaced a month apart. You will start to have some immunity seven days after your first dose. Your immunity will continue to build and will reach a peak about two weeks after the second dose (total of 6 weeks). Don't be lured into a false sense of safety. Wear your masks, wash your hands and keep your physical distance.

Continuing Needs for the Homeless Drop-ins:

Top Needs:

- Men’s Underwear – M & L
- Gloves & Mittens
- Thermal Underwear
- Winter Coats
- Snowmobile Suits
- Pillows
- Electric Can Opener
- Vienna Sausage
- Women’s Underwear – Small & Med.

Thank You for your donations!

Last Sunday’s Worship (1/24)

Last Sunday was the fourth week in the preaching series “New Skills for New Times.” The sermon was “Today is the Right Day to Begin Mending Our Nets.”

Vince Esparza was our liturgist and Mark accompanied on the piano.



You can read the scripture lesson below before you watch the livestream on Trinity’s Facebook page. Use this link for the worship video:

<https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>



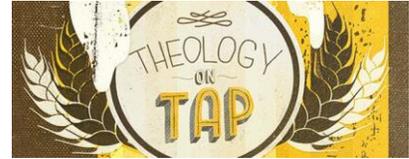
A Lesson from The Christian Scriptures - (Mark 1:14-20)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4609079844?pwd=OGxNaTNpRFdhNHhRUUVjczNtaE83UT09>
 Meeting ID: 460 907 9844 Password: 089437

Prayer Group



Trinity has a prayer group that originates from the office at Trinity. Please call 208-522-7921 or email TrinityUMCIdahoFalls@gmail.com with requests.

If the prayer request is for a specific person, it must be approved by the person named and they must okay the reason. Prayer requests will be sent out anytime there is a new one. Email the office to be put on the contact list of pray-ers.

After Church Virtual Zoom Coffee Hour



Have you been missing potlucks and coffee hour after church?

If you have, then show up at Virtual Coffee Hour” on Sunday morning at 11:30 on zoom. Stay in touch with your church family. The zoom invite will be posted on the Trinity Facebook page.

[\(https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/\)](https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4609079844?pwd=OGxNaTNpRFdhNHhRUUVjczNtaE83UT09>
 Meeting ID: 460 907 9844 Password: 089437

Things are Happening at Trinity this Week!

Monday (Jan. 25)

- **Newsletter Input** due every Monday by 10 am
- **Theology on Tap** 7pm (Zoom) meet with your church buddies and think heavy thoughts while partaking of your favorite spirits.

Tuesday (Jan. 26)

Wednesday (Jan. 27)

- **Upper Room** 10:00 am (Zoom - Contact Kathy Harder for an invitation)

Thursday (Jan 28)

- **ReOpening Committee** 6:30 (Zoom)

Friday (Jan. 29)

Saturday (Jan. 30)

Sunday (Jan. 31)

- **Video Worship** on Facebook Page 10:15 am
Do church from the comfort of your couch!
(<https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>)
- **Virtual Coffee Hour** - 11:30 am to meet with Ruth and your church friends on Zoom.



Upcoming:

- February 2nd - **Trustees Meeting** 6:30 (Zoom)
- February 3rd - **Gather at the Table** 6:30 (Zoom)
- February 10th - **Finance Committee** 6:30 (Zoom)
- February 14th - **Transfiguration Sunday & Valentine's Day**
- February 16th - **Admin Council Meeting** 6:30 (Zoom)
- February 16th - **Shrove Tuesday**
- February 17th - **Ash Wednesday (start of Lent)**
- February 17th - **Gather at the Table** 6:30 (Zoom)

You are welcome to visit the church

You can **always** drop by the church from 9 – 3 to visit with Ruth or just sit in the sanctuary to soak in the beauty and the good spirit.

If you would like to have a small meeting or worship in the sanctuary, that can be arranged by calling Pam in the office (208-522-7921).



Some of the guidelines for groups include:

1. Up to 10 persons may meet in the sanctuary at the same time.
2. Your group needs to call ahead to schedule a time when it is not being used by other groups, or Rob is not in the middle of ripping down the ceiling, and so we can turn the heat on for you.
3. You will need to sign the contact tracing log when you arrive.
4. Masks must be worn inside the church.

We are in Phase 2

1. Face masks are required in the building.
2. Sign the Contact Tracing Log.
3. 6-foot physical distancing is required.
4. High risk population please stay home.
5. Small groups allowed in the Sanctuary
6. Meetings limited to 10 people.

Updated 10/10/2020 Don Rohde

The Trinity COVID policy is consistent with Governor Little’s return to Stage 2 with the group limit of 10 or less, encouragement of mask use and physical distancing of 6 feet.

Checkout all the Worship Videos

Each Sunday Worship videos will get posted on Trinity’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>). 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:

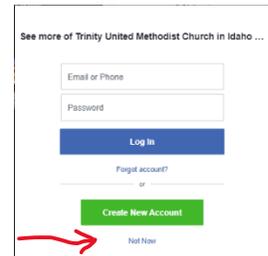
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZz1YGrdRCH6HIND2LpVCgg>

Watching Trinity Worship Video Without a F.B. Account.

Yes, you can watch Trinity Sunday morning worship video without a Facebook account.

ON THE LAPTOP:

1. go to GOOGLE CHROME web browser and type in:
2. <https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>
3. The Trinity Facebook page comes up and you can see the video.
4. Then a Facebook "sign on" window comes up
5. At the bottom of the Sign on Window there was a "NOT NOW" button
6. Push that button and you are free to watch the live stream on a laptop without a Facebook account.



ON THE APPLE CELL PHONE:

1. go to GOOGLE CHROME web browser and type in:
2. <https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>
3. The Trinity Facebook page comes up and you can see the video.
4. Then a Facebook sign on window came up
5. Using your finger scroll down the screen
6. A second Facebook sign on window comes up
7. Close that 2nd window by pressing the "X" box up in the top right corner
8. You can see the video on the screen and play it by pressing the play triangle
9. It only shows the latest videos.
10. If you press SHOW ALL you can see all the videos back to March.
11. You are free to watch the live stream on an iPhone without a Facebook account.

Trinity Leadership

Below are listed the names and contacts for the leadership positions for the next year. Please let the appropriate leader know how you are willing to serve.

- Bev Kemp, Chair of Staff/Parish Relations
208-569-6149 bevmkemp@gmail.com
- Don Rohde, Chair of Trustees
860-810-3227 donrohde@aol.com
- Robin Stewart, Chair of Administrative Council
208-521-6358 robin.s.stewart@gmail.com
- Scott Taylor, Chair of Finance
208-201-5593 auditpatroller@yahoo.com

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
January		19 <u>6:30 Admin Committee (Zoom)</u>	20 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom) 6:30 Gather at the Table (Zoom)	21	22 Office Closed	23
	24 <u>Epiphany 3</u> 10:15 - Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Virtual Coffee Hr.	25 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	26	27 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom)	28 6:30 ReOpening Mtg (Zoom)	29 Office Closed
31 <u>Epiphany 4</u> 10:15 - Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Virtual Coffee Hr.						
February	1 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	2 <u>6:30 Trustee Meeting (Zoom)</u>	3 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom) 6:30 Gather at the Table (Zoom)	4 6:30 ReOpening Mtg (Zoom)	5 Office Closed	6
7 <u>Epiphany 5</u> 10:15 - Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Virtual Coffee Hr.	8 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	9	10 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom) <u>6:30 Finance Meeting (Zoom)</u>	11 6:30 ReOpening Mtg (Zoom)	12 Office Closed	13
14 <u>Transfiguration</u> 10:15 - Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Virtual Coffee Hr.	15 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	16 <u>6:30 Admin Meeting (Zoom)</u>	17 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom) 6:30 Gather at the Table (Zoom)	18 6:30 ReOpening Mtg (Zoom)	19 Office Closed	20