



Remember to hold
each other tightly in
your heart.

News Update for March 19, 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

New times call for new formats. Welcome to the twice-weekly blast designed to keep you up to date with the church and each other. As I mentioned in the worship video for March 15 that is posted on the [Trinity United Methodist Church in Idaho Falls](#) Facebook page, although we cannot gather in person to worship, we are still the Body of Christ. We are still the beloved of God who are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be in ministry to the world with each other. Remember, it may be more useful to use the phrase "physical distancing" rather than "social distancing." We will get through these uncertain times together!

It is not clear when the congregation will be allowed to worship all together in the Sanctuary. Bishop Elaine Stanovsky had asked that all United Methodist Churches in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area not hold corporate worship on March 15 or 22, but since then, the Center for Disease Control has asked that people not gather in groups of more than ten. It seems to change daily as to when that injunction will be lifted.

As a congregation WE CAN:

1. Keep Trinity's office open for regular hours Monday - Thursday 9am to 3pm. You are welcome to call or drop by. Our ministry with those who need showers, food, and a compassionate ear will continue.
2. Check in with each other. I'll be forming the entire congregation into groups of 5 to 7 people so you can call, text, or email the folks in your group to make sure they are "OK," not in need of supplies, and that you know what their prayer concerns are.
3. View Worship and Sunday School videos that will get posted on Trinity's Facebook page ([Trinity United Methodist Church in Idaho Falls](#)). If you go to Trinity's web page (www.TUMCIF.org) you can find a link to the Facebook page. This link (<https://youtu.be/jR0SSnNyD9s>) will take you to the worship video in YouTube. 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.
4. Continue to support Trinity financially. You could:
 - a. deliver your regular giving personally
 - b. go to Trinity's website and give via credit card or PayPal
 - c. call the office and give via credit card
 - d. sign up for bill-pay at your bank so they can send a check
 - e. or, use US Postal Service to send a check (rec'd \$370 today)

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

In response to the health challenge

The Center for Disease Control recommends:

- ✓ Staying home when sick
- ✓ Covering coughs and sneezes
- ✓ Washing hands often for 20 seconds with soap and water
- ✓ Limit close physical contact with others

With Trinity's recommendations:

- ✓ Do what you can to stay healthy
- ✓ Stay in touch with friends and neighbors
- ✓ Let us know what your prayer concerns are
- ✓ Express your needs so that we can attempt to find resources
- ✓ Talk with God

Pam Traugher

Available Resources

- **The Soup Kitchen** hands out lunches to go from noon to 1 pm daily at 301 S. Blvd.
- **The Food Basket** at 245 N. Placer can provide groceries. Call 208-524-0994 for information qualifications and hours.

You Can Help

- Soup Kitchen Needs volunteers to prepare to go meals, and monetary donations.
- Idaho Falls Food Basket needs food and monetary donations.
- Consider buying gift cards from your favorite restaurants to keep them from going bankrupt.
- Leave large tips to support servers and staff who may be losing hours or their jobs.

FYI (as of this date)

- Idaho Falls Public Library is still loaning books, tapes and disks which are quarantined for 5 days when they are returned.
- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Sites Service Suspended Until Further Notice. (Do you know of other free or low-cost tax preparation aides?)