

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

News Update for May 21, 2020

‘Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat what you grow in them. Marry and have children. Then let your children get married, so that they also may have children. You must increase in numbers and not decrease. Work for the good of the cities where I have made you go as prisoners. Pray to me on their behalf, because if they are prosperous, you will be prosperous too.

(Jeremiah 29:5-7 Good News Translation)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The above scripture was written by the prophet Jeremiah to the Israelites while they were in exile in Babylon.(597 to 538 BCE) Perhaps a couple of modern American analogies would be when Native Peoples were forced onto reservations or persons of Japanese heritage were sent to internment camps during WWII. In effect Jeremiah gives them the advice that they should thrive in the place that they have been planted, even if it was not a place of their choice. I believe that this is always God’s desire for each of us; to be able to thrive wherever we might find ourselves.

The past few weeks you may have felt a bit like a captive in your surroundings. Yet I know that you have been praying for the best outcome for everyone in the worshipping community of Trinity, our town, our country, and the entire world as the COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyone’s life. We are not all in the same boat, but we have all certainly been in the same stormy sea. We will get through this together!

I miss you and love you.

Blessings,

Rev. Ruth

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



This Weeks Worship

This week’s Worship video will be about “Ready to Fly Solo.” It will highlight the Christian holy day of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. The scripture lesson is Luke 24:44–53 if you would like to reference it before you watch the video. As always, the video will be available on our Facebook page on Sunday Morning and our YouTube channel by Monday. (See the last page for all the links.)



And behold, I send the promise of God upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

(Luke 24:49 NSRV)

Mary Dawson Hall Floor Restoration

Rob spent the last few days varnishing the Mary Dawson Floor to give it a wonderful shine. Next week the floor will receive several layers of new wax to preserve the shine.



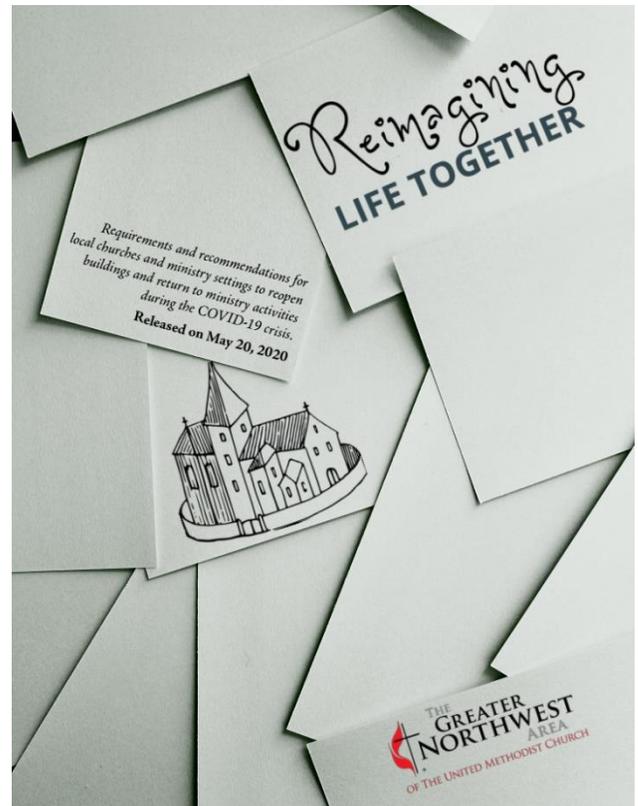
Preferences about returning to worship on June 21st.

We all have different feelings about the risk of catching Covid-19. If you are in a high-risk group, you may not feel like being in crowds until later this fall. Or maybe the thought of holding services outside, even with physical spacing and masks, seem like a wonderful way to finally get back together with some safety. Or maybe you can't imagine church outside in the parking lot. We now know that singing (even with a mask) is a highly effective way of spreading respiratory infections. There will be no singing inside the church.(even for worship videos) Maybe you can't imagine worship without singing and would rather wait until we can sing together again. With so many preferences to consider we thought we would ask you.

Your connection group leader will be calling you this week and ask the following three questions so we can understand what you desire. If we hold services on June 21st :

1. Would you be willing to attend the worship inside the building?
2. Would you be willing to worship outside in the parking lot in the fresh air?
3. Would you be willing to attend worship even though we can't sing?

The answers will help us decide how we design the first worship service.



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.

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

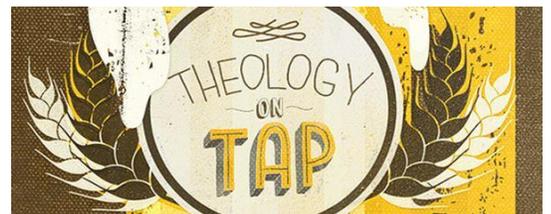
will set up a practice Zoom call so you can figure out how to run the program and get all the settings right while you are at home and Don is at church. Then you will be ready for this Sundays 10:15am Zoom Meeting. Zoom is free and once you learn it you can use it to contact your family and friends.



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

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.



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

Remember to hold
each other tightly in
your heart.