

News Update for August 10, 2020

The sermon from August 9:

So there are three really important takeaways from this lesson today. Number one, as Christians, we are adrift until we notice that Jesus is walking beside us.

Number two, we know that this is really important scripture, because Jesus uses "I am" language. Remember when Moses had a little visit with God and God said, "I am who I am."

And number three, and this may be the most important part for us today, and that is “when even the wind is against you, take Jesus' hand.”

So, this is a fabulous story. It reads well if you just say, “I'm just going to read it as a nice story,” but there are some really important things going on. Like I said, Jesus uses that “I am” language, and Peter and all the disciples recognize that this is a 'Son of God' moment.

And, in fact, when they get back to the boat, Jesus is there. The disciples are all worshiping him and they say, “You are the Son of God,” which is the exact same language that the centurion uses at the foot of the cross at the time that Jesus is crucified. ("Truly this man was the Son of God.") Exact same language. So, the author who writes Matthew wants us to see that connection between the saving grace of Jesus out there on the water holding Peter by the hand, and the saving grace of Jesus at the cross, not withholding his life, because we are worth not the sacrifice, but we are worth making the point that Jesus loves us, even though, humankind is willing to go so far as to kill the Son of God. That's how deeply we had fallen into sin, and Jesus wants us to see that.

So we have some really important lessons in this beautiful story, lessons that we are loved and cared for like when we're sinking, and I can't imagine there is anyone among us who hasn't had the feeling in the past few weeks that they are about to have the water slip over their head.

We're only this far out of the water, and its getting deeper and deeper, and then there's Jesus to take our hand and to comment that even if we have little faith, it is still worth Jesus' time to take our hand, take us out of the water and back into the boat, and for us to get where we are going. Even though we have been wind-battered and stuck in this weird place, it is time for us to take Jesus' hand.

So, remember the three lessons? We are adrift until we notice that Jesus is walking beside us. Jesus uses the "I am" language so that we can understand that the Son of God loves even us. And, last but not least, when even the wind is against you, take Jesus' hand. Amen.

I miss you and love you.

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth

Remember to hold
each other tightly in
your heart.

Sunday's Worship

Sunday's worship theme was "When even the wind is against you, take Jesus' hand." The scripture lesson was Matthew 14:13-21, if you would like to reference it before you watch the video. The video is available on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel. (See the last page for all the links.)

Quick ZOOM Links:

Sunday Prayer and Connect Time

August 16, 2020 10:15 AM America/Boise

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4609079844?pwd=OGxNaTNpRFdhNHhRUVJjczNtaE83UT09>

Meeting ID: 460 907 9844 Password: 089437

Theology on Tap

August 10, 2020 07:00 PM America/Boise

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4609079844?pwd=OGxNaTNpRFdhNHhRUVJjczNtaE83UT09>

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4.2 Earthquake in the Sawtooth Mountains

On Saturday night at 8:11 pm there was a 4.2 earthquake in the Sawtooth Mountains about 33 miles north the Methodist Sawtooth Camp where Ruth is staying. I got a text from Ruth on Sunday morning at 9:36 am and she did not mention anything about it. She was more concerned that everything was ready for Sunday morning.

– *Don Rohde*

A message from Lay Pastor Ryan Atwood

It is a strange time to be a new pastor. For those who don't know, in July I started a new position as the lay pastor assigned to the UMC churches in Chubbuck, American Falls and Aberdeen.

Before I get too much into what that's been like, I do want to take a moment to thank all of you. This new opportunity that I am so happy to have would have never been possible without the love and support that my church family here at Trinity have shown.

The covid virus has been a part of my new position since before I began the work. Like Trinity, my churches have been physically closed down for months, but their situation also left them without alternate options for church services.

Their beloved Pastor Davey Lefler had passed away in December, and until I started in July, they had not had a pastor, relying on volunteers to preach each week up until the church closures, and after that had pretty much gone silent. With no web presence for a video church, they were staying in the Word by watching videos or receiving printed sermons from other churches, but they had no weekly service of their own.

When I first heard about the prospect of serving these churches, I got used to, embraced, and even romanticized the idea of spending Sunday mornings on the road, driving from church to church, picturing myself as a modern-day circuit rider, with my Ford Taurus as my trusty steed. For my first Sunday service, instead of preaching to their welcoming faces from within each of their three beautiful churches, I found myself in a chair in my apartment, preaching to the webcam in my laptop.

One of the churches is so remote that the small congregation consists of eight people who do not have computers or internet access, so, for them, I've been printing out a transcript of each week's service and mailing it.

Each challenge has brought me the chance to learn new skills and find new ways to look at parts of church that I had taken for granted. I am learning something that I'm sure Pastor Ruth has known for years, that a pastor has to rely on the skills, knowledge, and willingness to serve of the members of the congregation. In the 4 short weeks since I began the job, I've had to lean on the support of church board leaders, the choir director and the pianist, and on volunteers willing to film themselves for weekly liturgy.

As I get further into this new venture, I'm discovering new strengths and abilities I didn't know I had, and in the opportunity for service, I'm finding a joy I never knew I could experience.

I think that these lessons I'm learning as a new pastor mirror what people all around the world are seeing in their jobs, their churches and their lives. We're all having to find new ways to work, new ways to communicate, new ways to gather.

That also means new opportunities, new ways to serve, new ways to show God's love to our families, our friends, our churches, and communities.

In these uncertain times, I implore you to look for new ways to love one another, to serve those in need and to be in fellowship with each other.

Love and Peace,
Ryan

Qũæčk Pickens live from Trinity.

If you have been missing the sound of church music played on the Trinity grand piano you can listen to Qũæčk Pickens Live on the Trinity Facebook page. This Sunday Qũæčk recorded 24 minutes of favorite hymns for you to listen to.

Reopening Committee – Phase 2

In Phase 2 the church staff is allowed back full time. Pam will be in the front office from 9 am to 1pm Monday – Thursday. Volunteers are also allowed in the church building as needed for the homeless mission work and producing worship videos. Technically the church building is still closed to the public.

We are in Phase 2

1. Face masks are required in the building.
2. 6-foot physical distancing is required.
3. High risk population please stay home.
4. No in-person worship allowed.
5. Entrance limited to staff, designated volunteers and persons receiving services.

Updated 7/29/2020 Don Rohde

UMW Update

It is with a heavy heart that the UMW Executive Board decided to cancel the Ice Cream Social in August. Due to the Corona Virus, we felt it is not time to have social gatherings. We have missed five meetings (including the Sunshine Circle) where Mission money would have been collected. Please mail your pledge money to Joni or the church office (237 N Water Avenue, 83402). Our mission work must go on. Hopefully, we can all meet in September.



The United Methodist Reading Program has a variety of books on various topics that help fulfill the mission of United Methodist Women, which is to help women, children, and youth financially and turn love into action. When you read the books in the Reading Program list, you are called to action,



whether in prayer, giving to mission, advocacy or going on a mission trip to help women, children, and youth. (This excerpt was taken from a notice by Katie Willis in the UMW 2020/2021 Program Book.) Our UMW library is open at Trinity. Just call ahead, wear a mask, and check out these great books we have made available. Happy reading!!!!

Mary Nagel



A familiar quote reminds us, “Teachers encourage minds to think, hands to create and hearts to love.” #IGiveUMC wants to inspire you to support local United Methodist churches by donating in honor of influential teachers to continue the act of kindness.

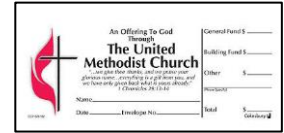
Starting August 1 until August 15, United Methodists are being asked to honor teachers who have made an impact in their life. They are invited to give to a local United Methodist church and share a special message about how a teacher has shaped their life. Please encourage your church families to pay tribute to these amazing role models and mentors, along with posting about their gift on social media and challenging others to do the same!

Proverbs 22:6, CEB, tells us: “Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won’t depart from it.” Indeed, it takes a village to raise a child. Teachers can be defined in a multitude of ways, whether they are schoolteachers, Sunday school teachers, clergy or parents stepping into the roles of professional teachers.

Do you have a teacher in mind as you read this? Sow a seed in a local church, just as your teachers have sown in you. Together, we can continue to support our church’s mission and celebrate our teachers by giving to local churches. Will you join us?

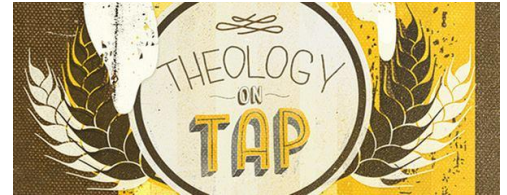
Thank you for your continued financial support of Trinity by:

- 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



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.



Monday Theology on Tap 7:00 pm ZOOM Link:

August 10, 2020 07:00 PM America/Boise

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Continuing Needs for the Homeless Drop-ins:

Top Needs:

- Disposable Razors
- Body Wash (large)
- Shampoo (large)
- Conditioner (large)
- Deodorant (stick)
- Ice Cream
- Hand Soap
- Gold Bond Powder - Travel Size
- Shaving Cream
- Laundry Soap Pods
- Canned Soup (hearty)
- Beef Stew (pop top lid)
- Chili with meat
- Ramen Noodle Packs
- Vienna Sausage

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 page 3 or the Trinity Facebook page.

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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