



# TRINITY

C H U R C H

## June Newsletter

Printed May 26, 2022

From the Pastor's Desk...

Kristene DiMarco of Bethel Music sings a modern version of the hymn "It is Well." When you listen, you hear the powerful message that through the difficulties of life, the hills and valley, times of intimacy with God and times of distance, the truth never changes. It is well with our souls because God remains steady and present in our lives regardless of what life brings.

I find that truth a powerful reminder through the challenges of my own life. There is, as the hymn records, "peace like a river attending our souls." This peace is the presence of the Prince of Peace living in and for us.

Summer is a time to revel in the living presence of the Prince and Peace. In this season, our lives are often hectic and overfilled leaving little time to "be still and know God." (Psalm 46:10) So, hear this encouragement from your pastor - enjoy some down time to experience "peace like a river." Let me suggest some practices that can help.

First, worship! Our schedule does not change during the summer. Worship is a time to gather in community and experience the joy with the Trinity Family. Our summer series, Practicing the Way, will lead you closer to our Lord, and give practical tools for experiencing God's peace.

Gathering at our building is not the only option. When Sunday activities and travel preclude in-person worship, remember, we are online, too. I know people who gather with their families in one place, campers who watch from their campsite, and people who listen on their phones. It is a way to be connected to God.

For those who are less musically inclined, turn on Christian radio and sing along. I usually do that alone during the week because no one needs to be subjected to my full-strength joyful praise to God. Read from God's word. Sit by a river and pray as you experience the peace of Christ. It is right there for you.

Give of yourself. I have found something lifegiving and peaceful in supporting others. Take your family and serve at a local mission. Serve at worship on Sunday morning as an usher, greeter, preparing coffee, working in Trinity Kids. Summer is a wonderful time to try it out and experience the joy of serving.

Another important way to give is financially. I have found over the years that the more I give, the more I have. It is not always a financial abundance, but an abundance of blessing. God loves a "cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) You can give in person or online to support our mission. Take a risk. Try tithing one week of your income this summer and experience the blessing of God. I do not know how that will come, but I trust in God. And I know my own experience.

Enjoy summer! Draw closer to God and experience God's peace.

Your Pastor and Friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Your Pastor and Friend,".

# AUTHENTIC MEN | JOIN THE JOURNEY

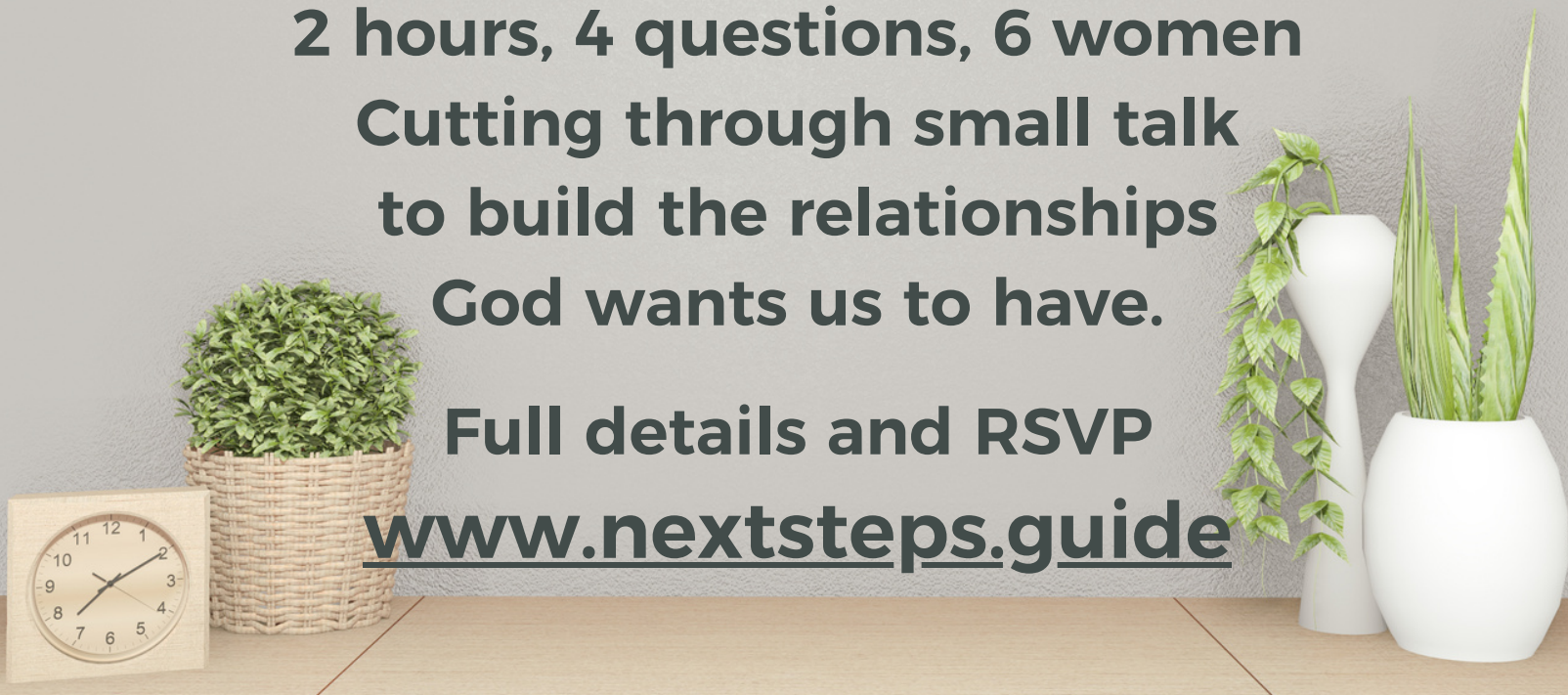
- **Where We've Been:** Walking through the series "**Accidental Pharisees**" and talking about how we all fall into the traps of being Pharisees in our lives, we have explored Pride, Exclusivity, Legalism, Idolizing the Past, The Quest for Uniformity, and Gift Projection. With calls for Christians to live radically changed lives, the downside can be a rising arrogance and self-righteousness that "accidentally sneaks into our outlook." The last session is Sunday, June 5th.
- **What's Next:** June 12th we begin walking through a series called "**How to Be God's Man**", exploring God's concept of masculinity. This 5-week series explores what it looks like for men to Step Up, Speak Up, Stay Strong, Stay Humble, and Serve the King. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. to explore what it means to be a man after God's own heart. You're invited.
- **The Big Thing:** Don't miss out on MAN-CAMP July 14-17. All men are invited to the Snowy Mountain Range of WY. Camp fires, share stories, explore scripture, worship, and **select your own adventure**!. Lots of options including hiking, kayaking, fishing, mountain biking, hot springs, and so much more.
- **On the Horizon:** As school kicks off in the fall, likely tons of activities will busy your schedule, too. We will combine with the women's group in August to take a dive into the book, "**The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry**". This 5-week series will explore an Unhurried Life, Silence and Solitude, Sabbath, Simplicity, and Slowing.

## Conversations for women IF:Tables | June 12 | 1-3 p.m.

2 hours, 4 questions, 6 women  
Cutting through small talk  
to build the relationships  
God wants us to have.

Full details and RSVP

[www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide)



1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Paul tells Jesus' followers to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." This is a pretty tall order, one that I cannot imagine getting close to accomplishing without having an active prayer life. Prayer is a foundational practice for every Christian because it is how we live in relationship with Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We need to talk to God, listen for God's voice, and sometimes sit with God in silence. There are many different prayer practices, or ways to pray, each with its own gifts and blessings.

Matt and I have shared four prayer practices during our weekly supervisory meetings. These practices give Matt options he can use in different situations as he is so inspired. The first practice was a gratitude basket. I encouraged Matt to write on a slip of paper something that he was grateful for that day for 45 days. It could be anything from God's providing of home and family, food and faith, to the goofy thing one of the boys said at dinner or the beauty of the sunset. Coming up with something to be grateful for every day helps turn us toward God and conditions us to look for the good in every situation.

Next Matt worked on coloring mandalas. The idea here is to color in a specific form or shape as printed on a piece of paper. In the process of coloring, a person detaches from the pressing issues of the day and allows their mind to wander, presumably to wherever God might be prompting. We then moved on to a practice what I call "Visio Divina" or Divine Visuals. Here we chose different pictures that corresponded to a bible passage, and reflected on the images. Taking time to really look at a photo helps us notice what God prompts in us as we think about and connect with the picture. This is a good way to listen to God in prayer.

Finally, Matt is now using a string of prayer beads as a method of prompting him to pray for certain people, situations and themes. Each individual bead that he holds in his hand is a unique prayer he lifts up on behalf of the person or situation he is praying about. One benefit of prayer beads is they prompt you to pray for more than one thing for a particular person or situation. Another benefit is they also produce a sense of completion after praying through the whole string.

My prayer for you is that you pray more and more often. I pray also that you find creative ways to pray that prompt you to connect with God both as a speaker and as a listener. Praying to God with intentionality and regularity brings us closer to God's heart and helps us realize the depth and multitude of God's grace that is with us always.

If you need help or suggestions on where to start, just ask Matt. 😊

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Ellen Stelzle

**Every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. the Chapel is open for prayer. The session includes praise reports, a word from the Bible, a short encouragement, and then the rest of the hour is spent in prayer. You are invited!**

## A note from the Associate Pastor

My greatest joy in ministry is helping followers of Jesus explore and become who God created them to be. Beginning June 1, my role as Associate Pastor at Trinity is expanding from half time to three quarters time, which will give me more time to help Trinity's members develop as followers of Jesus. Here are some of the things I'll be working on in the future:

**Discipleship Pathway:** A team from Trinity recently completed a pathway that will help everyone at Trinity Church identify and take a next step to grow as followers of Jesus. I'll be working with a team to implement this new pathway.

**Trinity Connection Courses:** The discipleship team also came up with a plan to create four courses that will help new and current members of Trinity connect and get more involved in the church. I'll be working with a team to create and launch these courses.

**Connection Groups:** I'll be working on casting the vision for connection groups, starting new connection groups, suggesting resources for connection groups, and coaching and training connection group leaders.

**Emotionally Healthy Discipleship:** I have a goal that every adult who is part of Trinity grows in their love for God and others by participating in the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality and Emotionally Healthy Relationships courses. Watch for new course offerings in the fall.

**Enneagram, Discipleship, and Marriage Coaching:** Individual and couple coaching is a great way to identify how you can grow in your relationship with God and others. A component of my expanded role is to meet with individuals and couples and to help them identify goals and implement steps toward achieving their goals. I'm a certified enneagram coach; if you're not familiar with it, you can learn more about it at [www.youenneagramcoach.com](http://www.youenneagramcoach.com). I've experienced a lot of growth through learning about the enneagram, and I'd love to work with you to see how enneagram coaching can help you know who you are and how you can grow.

Talk to me or email me at [prdave@trinitylife.org](mailto:prdave@trinitylife.org) to start a conversation about how coaching can help you grow as a follower of Jesus.

Pastor Dave

## SUMMER BOOK SUGGESTION

# THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY

by John Mark Comer

A pastor asked a professor, "What must I do to be spiritually healthy?" The professor answered, "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life." The pastor wrote down that answer and asked for the next step. The professor answered, "There is nothing else. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life."

If eliminating hurry interests you, get a copy of this book. In the pages you will be invited to change the pace of your life by taking on the lifestyle of Jesus. As an added bonus for transformation, starting June 15, I plan to hang out in the Trinity Café on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to meet and discuss the contents. I look forward to drawing closer to Jesus with you. I'm also considering a Wednesday evening group. Please email me at [prdave@trinitylife.org](mailto:prdave@trinitylife.org) if you would attend.

## **AMONG OUR PEOPLE**

### **Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years**

- 06/02 - DeAnna Bottrell
- 06/03 - Dorothy Mattea
- 06/04 - Tom Vitamvas
- 06/07 - Jean Daniell
- 06/17 - Jim Petersen
- 06/22 - Carol Richey
- 06/22 - Darrel Smith
- 06/22 - Farol Lofgren
- 06/28 - Polly Dietz

### **50+ Anniversaries**

- 06/03/72 - Lyle & Cheryl Hamrick
- 06/11/66 - Rudy & Marilyn Krueger
- 06/15/52 - Norm & Ruth Schuessler
- 06/23/62 - Darrel & Ellen Smith
- 06/24/72 - Rich & Pam Kuper
- 06/24/67 - Arlyn & Peggy Montgomery

### **Newly Married**

- 05/21 - Michael & Mackenzie (Gotch) McKown

### **New Babies**

- 05/18 - Emma Rae Staab, born to Nick and Rachel (Fordyce) Staabz)

### **Baptized into Our Faith Family**

- 05/29 - Poppy Grace and Emerald Mae McDonald, daughters of Zacharey McDonald and Laura Myslinski
- 05/29 - Cameron Jay Freeman, son of Jay Freeman and Laura Myslinski

### **Health and Healing**

- Bob Frederick, Gary Cordes

### **Sympathies**

- 05/22 - Norm and Ruth Schuessler on the loss of Norm's 99 year old brother, Earl

Stay up to date at all that's happening at Trinity Church  
[www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide)

**OUR VISION: A place to belong and become who God is calling us to be.**

**OUR MISSION: Connecting People to Christ**

**OUR STRATEGY: Love God | Grow Community | Serve Others**

# TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings  
Connect People to Christ!

## GIVING IN APRIL

**Offering Entries = 493**

# of: Donors = 232 | New Donors = 2 | Recurring = 90

Source: Electronic Giving = 279 | Cash & Checks = 214

**Total Gifts Received = \$90,995.31**

General Fund: \$74,796.87

Go Vision Appeal Fund: \$13,689.55

All other giving\*: \$2,508.89

\*includes Papio Creek, Lent, Trinity Kids, Stephen Center, Memorials, TK - Mary Kamara, Little Miracles

## APRIL ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ 4,920

Building Fund: \$ 137,493

Endowment\*: \$ 370,713

\*Endowment was reported incorrectly last month at \$931,830.  
The correct ending balance in March should have been \$ 391,830.

## GO Fund May 2021- April 2024

Received as of 05/25- \$517,805

43% of our \$1.2 million goal

has come in from 1732 donations

1320 from pledges/ 412 from non-pledged

## General Fund 2022

Received as of 05/25 - \$322,244

37% of our \$878,584 goal

has come in from 1861 donations

752 from pledges / 1109 from non-pledged

We have good work  
to do as we follow  
God's lead in 2022.



**SCAN ME**  
to pledge to the  
General Fund in 2022

God is doing great things.  
Join Him in His work for us through Trinity Church  
[www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide) and click **GIVE**

Summer is upon us! It is kind of hard to believe given the wild spring weather we have had. It is nice to finally get outside and do all of the things we enjoy this time of the year. With school letting out, summer sports are in full-swing and many Trinity families are eagerly anticipating vacation travel. We recognize that summer plans may take many of you camping for a weekend, on a road-trip to a ballgame, or across the country to see family and friends. In the event you are not able to attend worship on a given Sunday, we prayerfully encourage your family to make arrangements to continue regular giving. We typically see a bit of a drop in general contributions as a result of travel and summer activities. It is very helpful for our congregation to maintain consistent fund receipts in order for Staff and Council to plan and stay on budget. I would encourage you to review your giving statements and take the opportunity to catch-up contributions to-date and plan for any times you may be out of town.

Land Sale Update: As many of you know, Trinity voted as a congregation in January to enter into a contract to sell the corner lot at 90th and HWY 370. The Purchase Contract was extended in April to allow for additional time for buyer due diligence, mainly to receive approval for a special use permit to operate the funeral home. At a public City Planning Commission Meeting in April, there was some opposition voiced by homeowners in the Walnut Creek Hills neighborhood. Despite the recommendation of the City of Papillion planning staff to approve the permit, the Planning Commission Members voted to not recommend. The City Council has the official vote to approve or deny the special use permit, and the buyer has been working to provide supporting information to the city to help alleviate concerns that were raised at the Planning Commission meeting. It is not known at this time when the permit application will be discussed at City Council, but we will share updates as the process continues.

**General Fund (4-Months Ended April 30, 2022)**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Revenue	\$322,323	\$342,644
Expense	\$330,073	\$356,113
Net Income	(\$ 7,750)	(\$13,469)

- Congregational Contributions were \$278,112 or \$14,750 less than YTD budget

- Expenses were \$26,493 favorable to budget mainly due to unfilled staff positions and lower expenses in multiple categories. All was partially offset by a one-time technology service expense that prepays for the next 4 years and saves \$6,000.

**Respectfully Submitted, Josh Tresemer, Trinity Church Council Treasurer**



**TRINITY**  
CAFE

**HOURS**

Monday - Friday

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Sundays during worship

\*not open Memorial Day

**Welcome Jena Cruse**

Jena Cruse joins the Trinity Staff in the role of Café Manager for the summer months. She is currently studying Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special Education. Some of Jena's favorite pass times are tennis and board game nights. Stop by for a great beverage and to say hello to Jena.





THE HEART OF TRINITY KIDS  
IS TO EQUIP PARENTS  
TO WALK ALONGSIDE  
THEIR KIDS AS THEY  
LEARN ABOUT & EXPERIENCE  
THE LOVE OF JESUS.



TRINITY  
KIDS

**Welcome Kayla Florum as our new  
Children's and Family Minister**

On May 31, Kayla Florum joined the Trinity Church staff as the Children's and Family Minister. With Kayla's experience as a mother and her career as a Structured Behavior Systems teacher at Cottonwood Elementary in Millard, we look forward to how she will implement her skills and creativity in Trinity Kids.

Married to our Trinity Students Minister, Chase Florum, they have two children, Crew (2) and Chloe (3 mo). Kayla and Chase love outings to places like the Orpheum and Top Golf, while Crew's favorite is everything Mickey Mouse. They are still waiting Chloe's favorites to develop. The Floroms have recently been certified as Foster Parents which has currently expanded their family by three.

Kayla joined the team just a week before Vacation Bible School. This provides an exciting time for her to connect, not only with Trinity families, but with those from our community whose kids will also participate at VBS.

As Kayla gets acclimated to her new ministry role, please keep Kayla, her family, and the whole Trinity Kids Ministry in prayer in the weeks ahead. We look forward to all that she will bring to children and families through Trinity Church.



VBS is almost here!  
June 6-10 from 9-11:30 a.m.  
PreK - grade 4  
[www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide)



Make waves this summer with  
Trinity Kids! Each Sunday morning  
at 9:00 and 10:30 am Trinity Kids  
provides kid-friendly worship,  
messages and activities!  
Trinity Nursery is open, too.

Grades 6-12

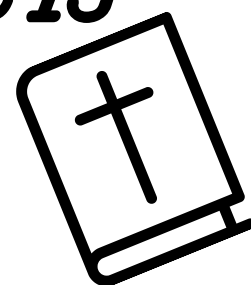


TRINITY  
STUDENTS

**HAPPENING THIS SUMMER**

*Summer Bible Study starts June 15*

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



**Grab a friend and join the fun!**

**Open gym at 5:30!**

**We are not serving food during the summer,  
however, the Student Store will be stocked and open.**

**Incoming 6th graders, this includes you!!**

**Middle School**

**ADVENTURE TRIP**

**July 24-28**

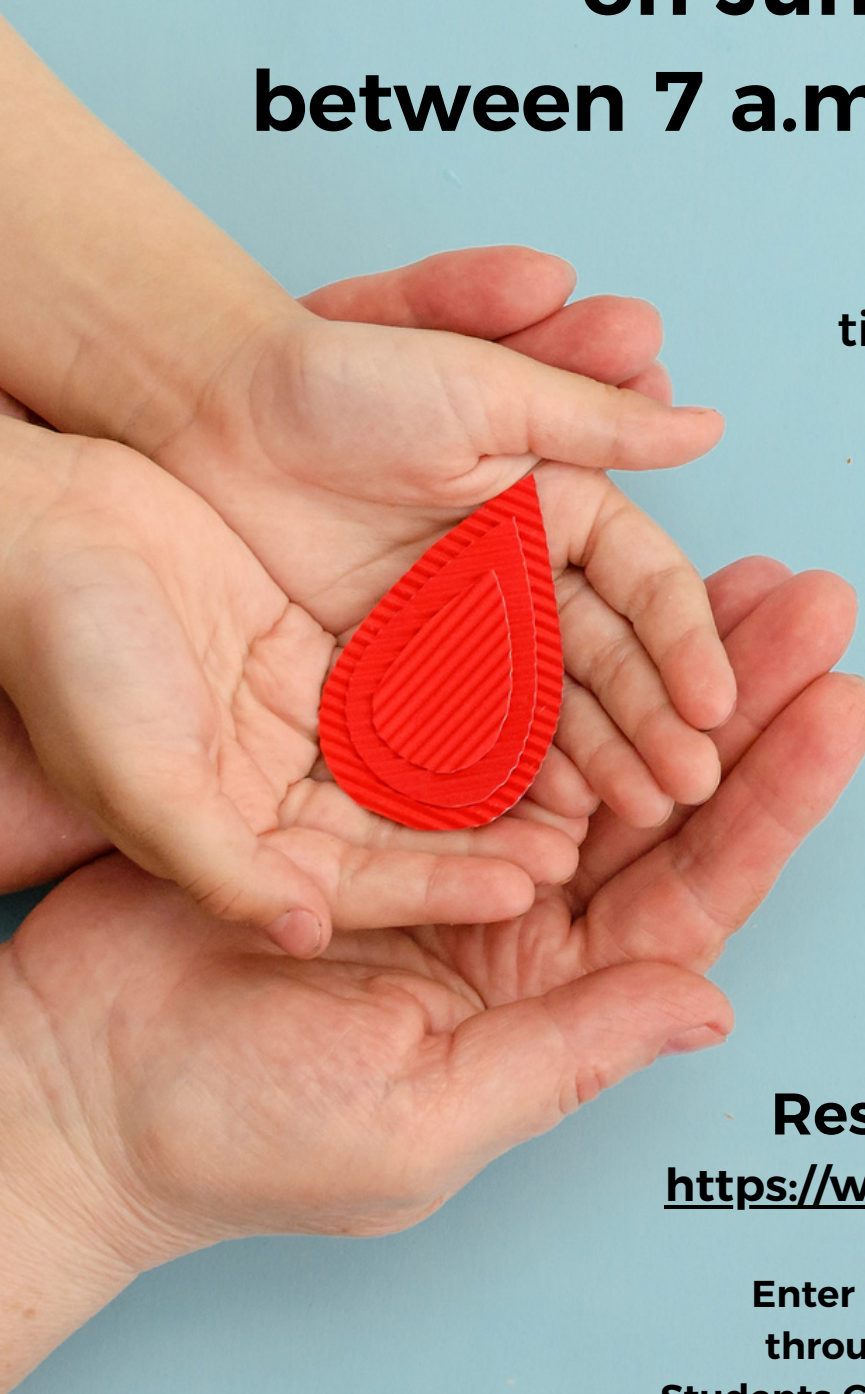
**High School**

**MISSION TRIP**

**July 24-31**

**All the details at [www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide)**

**Trinity Students invite you to**  
**DONATE BLOOD**  
**on June 25**  
**between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.**



Trinity Students have 57 time slots available with the American Red Cross. Their goal is 40 donors. Register today with the link below, or stop in the Commons on Sunday to sign up with one of our Trinity Students.

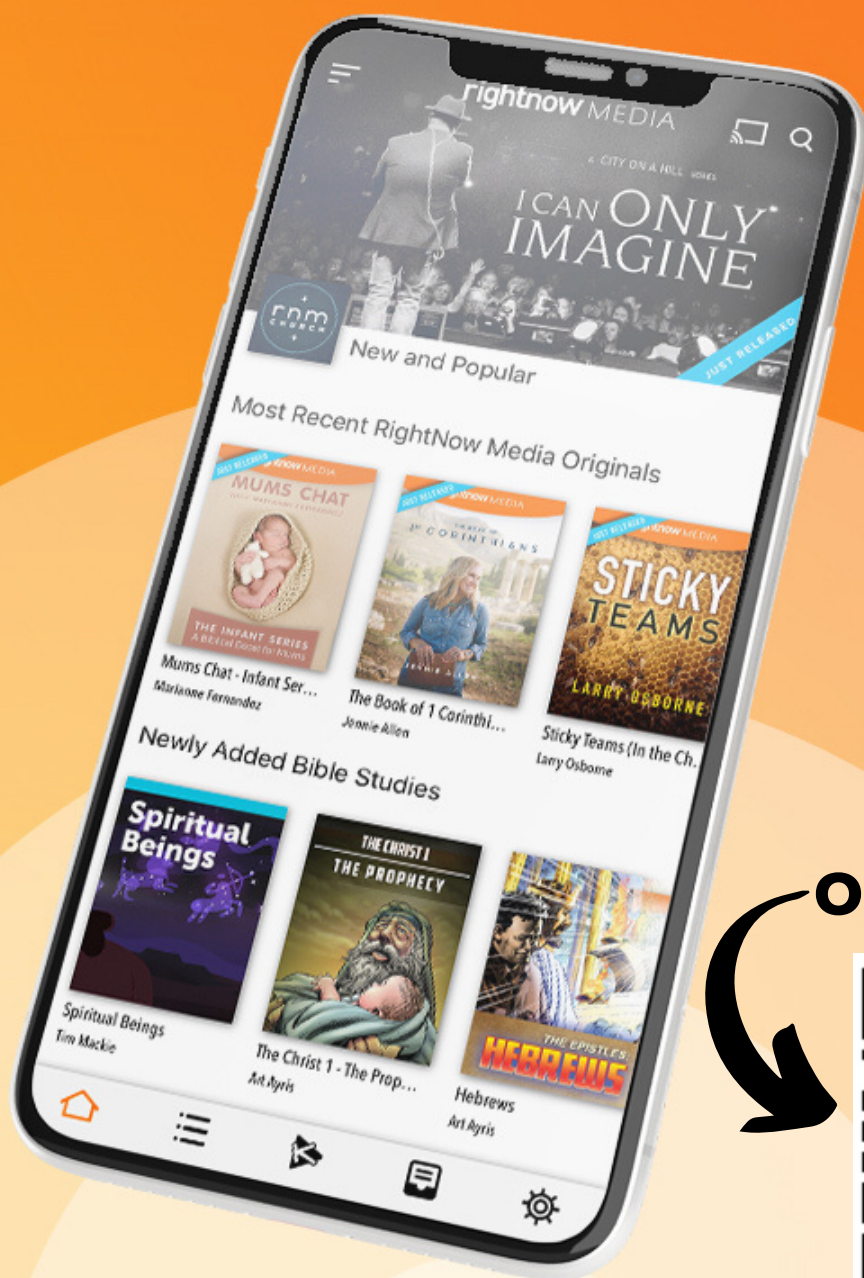
**Reserve your spot at**  
**<https://www.redcrossblood.org>**

Enter the Trinity Church building through the NE door. The Trinity Students Center is inside on the right.

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# rightnow MEDIA

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**or scan me**

