

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

It has been an interesting winter here in Chico... not the coldest since I have come to California, but surely the wettest. Locals tell me that it is *sometimes* cold, and *often* wet, but rarely as wet or as chilly as the last few months have been! I am relishing the bright green grass all around, and am absolutely ready for spring.

Spring for me is so much more than just the warming and blossoming of the earth... it is, in many ways, our most spiritual season. We have the symbols of new life all around us; baby bunnies and chicks and lambs, flowers bursting forth with renewed vigor... but unless we take the storm windows off of our souls, we risk having the *appearance* of renewal without its reality. And that would be sad, in a wintry kind of way, like spring flowers painted on a brick wall. I want the real thing, don't you?

I will never forget the

old Scottish story of the baby born in the Orkney Islands... think Arctic Circle-type of islands. All the young folks had moved away decades ago, with the net effect that there had been no baby among the people for – are you ready for this – over eighty years. Eighty years! And so, when a vacationing pregnant granddaughter got stranded and delivered her firstborn there, it was quite a celebration! New life, here, after all the cold and wet and bleak and barren! How wonderful!

And how wonderful for the faithful of Scotland, to have such a fine illustration of God at work so close to Easter... I am sure they identified with the disciples, who following the arrest and mockery and trial and crucifixion were as bleak and beaten as those old Scots had been. No new life, no hope, no promised future, not here, not ever... a cold, awful place to live. And into that dead, desiccated dough,

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Our Purpose
To ENGAGE people in joyful relationships with God and with each other, so we will GROW in Christ-like compassion, and SHARE the blessings of the Holy Spirit.



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God drops the leaven of new life, the yeast of Christ, who cannot and will not and never will die... How perfectly wonderful!

So even though, by Scottish standards, our recent winter was pretty tame, you don't have to live near the Arctic Circle to understand how tough life can be. We get plenty of examples every day, broadcast into our minds and hearts by our ever-so-thoughtful media, relentlessly coming into view as we navigate our lives in this little corner of Creation. And so, when times are tough, *I am glad for the Easter story*, that we might all be reminded of God's ongoing, continuing, unstoppable effort to make sweet heavenly lemonade out of bitter human lemons. Judas made tragic errors, as did Peter, and Pilate, and several dozen or hundred or thousand others, and Jesus ended up dead. What a mistake, such a tragedy... but only to us. To God, it was just another wrinkle in the cosmic sheet that was ironed out, smoothed, and changed us all forever.

So, when you nibble the ears off your chocolate bunny, or gently salt another hard-boiled egg, or enjoy another tender slice of lamb, give thanks for the rich symbols of new life that surround us this time of year, wherever we live. Whether it comes early or late, in a newborn or in the aged, God is in the new life business, and we are all not-so-silent partners. Happy Easter season to everyone!

GATHERING TOGETHER

After much discernment, your Membership Team would like to offer an ongoing opportunity for those of us who would like to deepen our faith and connect with other members of the congregation. We especially welcome those who love to visit other folks but are hesitant, unsure, and in need of a bit of 'training' to boost their confidence. If you are interested and wanting this kind of experience, please call Mary Wahl (530-321-5218) or Rich Wolff (530-343-1497) to add your name to that list. We will be setting up an initial meeting time when we have gathered the names of those who are interested. Meeting together is surely the way forward; when we are comfortable with one another, we will design the future of this vital ministry together.

Submitted by Membership Team

UMW Notes

The annual spring rummage sale on March 3 and 4 earned a \$2172.75, the best in years, thanks to the hard work of many including the Boy Scouts, volunteer ladies and a few men who helped to bring in items, set up the donated goods, sell them and then quickly clean up when it was finished. The adage, "one man's junk is another's treasure" was proven when buyers happily paid a pittance for sometimes new and items in like-ew condition of clothing, small appliances, household goods and gadgets as well as children's clothing, toys, and books/puzzles and some furniture and tools.

While we can't cite every volunteer by name, Ken, Barb and Steve Edgar and Jody Gordon drove to different houses to pick up donations of big or bulky items, David Haynes was called upon for expertise in identifying unusual items as well as pricing and of course Coleen Schloman cashiered, counted the proceeds and banked them then announced to the congregation the large profit that will be used to gift the charities the ladies support.

The current checking balance is \$6,820.03 after expenses and donations to supported charities were made.

At the March 15th meeting, Eileen Brownell from the Suicide Prevention group informed about the many aspects of suicide. She is the police chaplain for Chico and related some experiences she has encountered. The vulnerable ages where suicide is a problem are 10-25 and 65-older. Depression leads to suicidal thoughts and action so she urged that we keep in touch with friends and church members as well as relatives. The national suicide line is 988.

The program for April 19th is on the Shalom Clinic. They are in need of some items so hopefully the gals will bring at least one item to donate. Everything listed can be gently used: Men's belts, and sox (any color); men's and women's tennis shoes, raincoats, sweaters, shirts, windbreakers.

Carol Riley had tea towels to be embroidered for the Bazaar by skilled needle crafters to do at home.

Submitted by Lily Loughlin

VBS IS RETURNING

After a 3-year hiatus due to COVID, Vacation Bible School is returning to Trinity this summer, although it will be significantly slimmed down from previous years. It will be a one-day event on Saturday, June 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. with lunch included.

We will be using parts of an earlier curriculum that we purchased, but did not use because of the COVID virus. The title of the curriculum is *Knight's of North Castle* where the participants search for the **King's Armor**. The participants will experience the activities in a single group with the staff (with the exception of The Bible story) conducting the activities in a team environment. Not all elements of the complete 5-day curriculum will be used.

We do anticipate a considerably smaller number of participants than in the past. However, it is our intent that the experience will be every bit as enjoyable. We are asking that anyone who has friends or relatives with children in the age range of 4-10, please inform them of this opportunity and then maybe we will be pleasantly surprised at the number of participants.

Anyone who would like to be part of the team, please contact Rich Wolff at the church office (530-343-1497).

Submitted by Rich Wolff

Easter News

Between services on Easter Sunday (approximately 9:45), there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn. Invite your relatives and friends with kids to come to Trinity on Easter Sunday and join in the fun.

Submitted by Rich Wolff

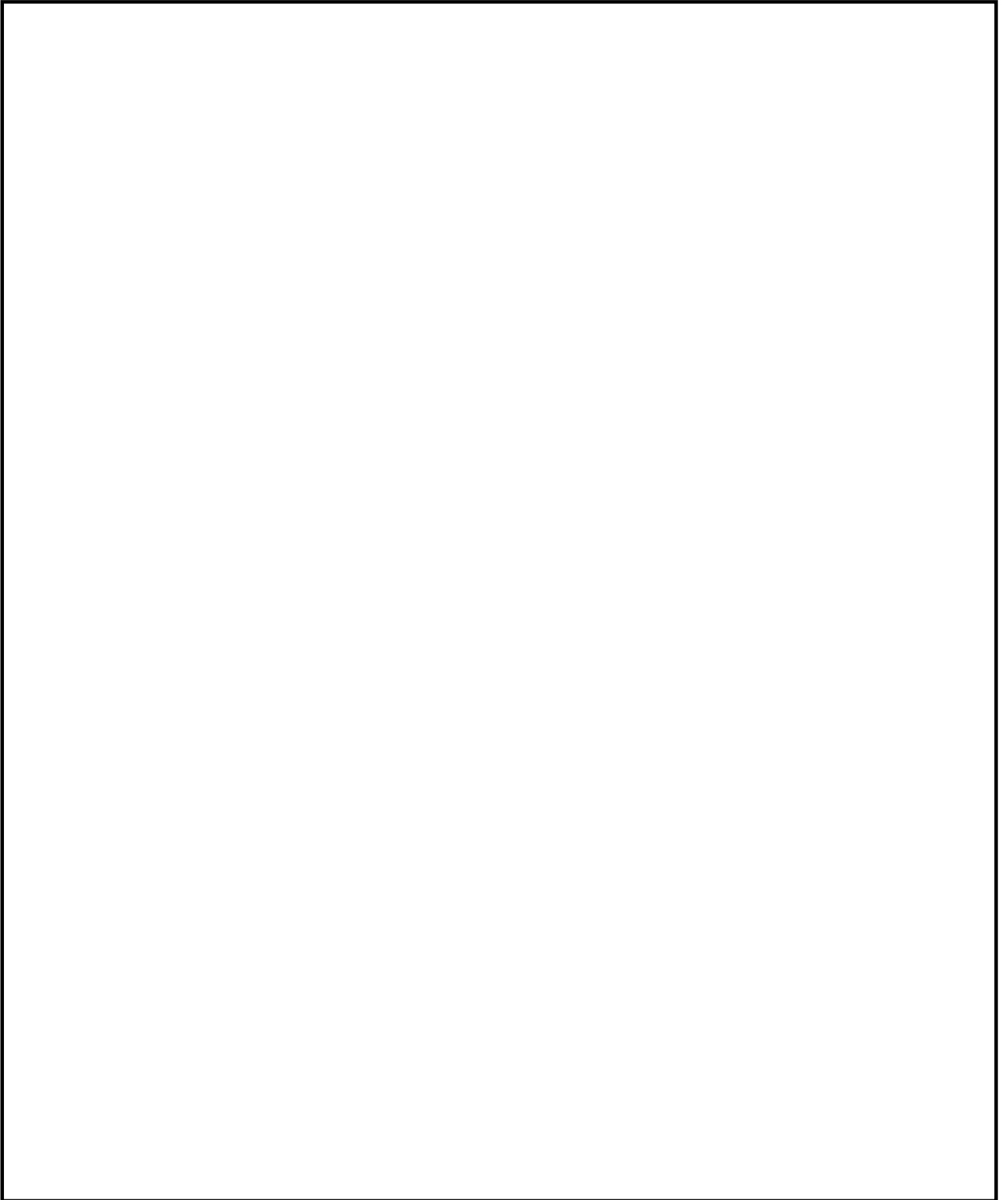
Hadley Hall Furnace

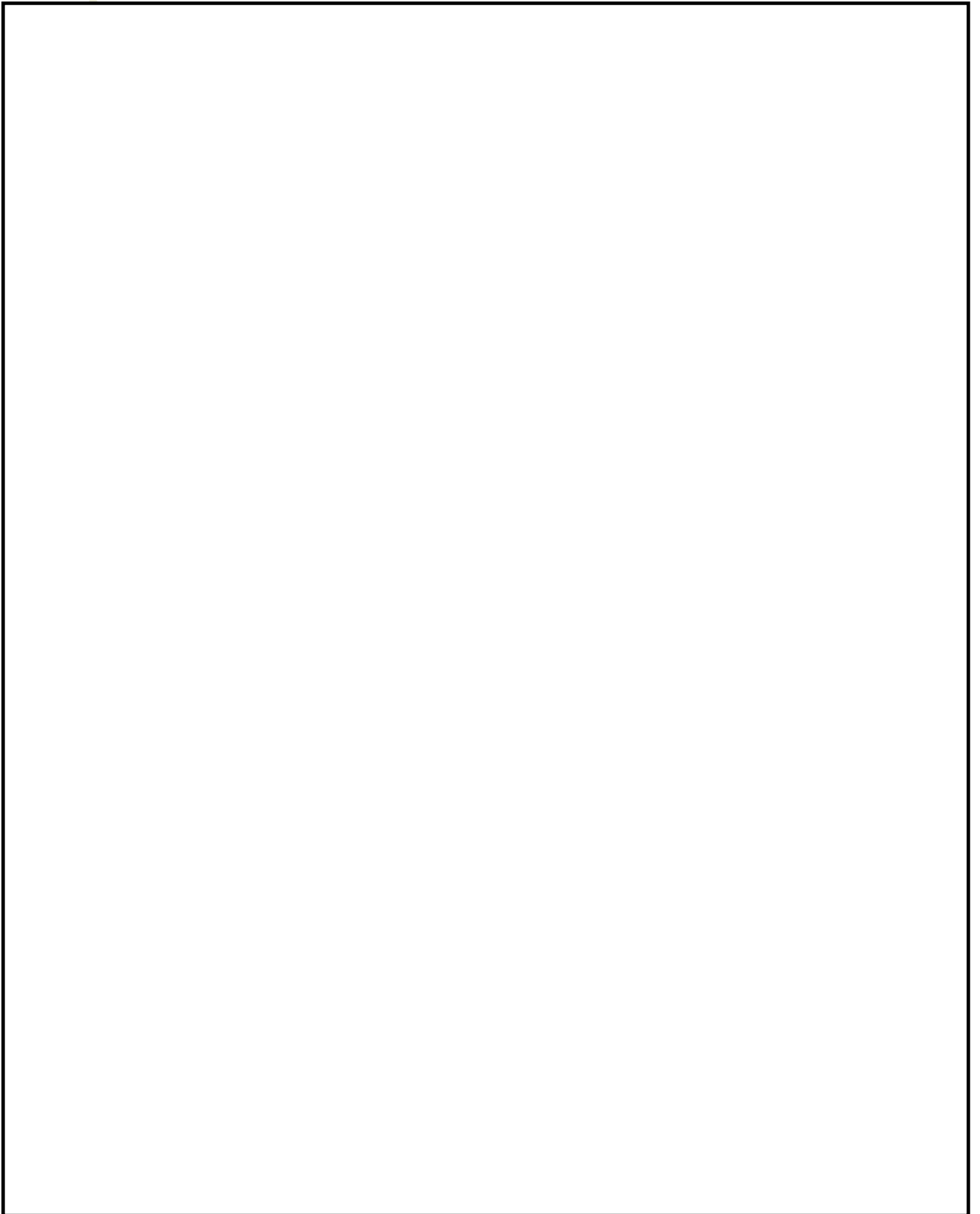
This communication is to inform the Trinity membership about the difficulty of repairing the malfunctioning furnace in Hadley Hall. The repairman has been here 3 times and is currently working on finding a part. This is a lengthy process because the ownership of the furnace manufacturer has changed since the furnace was installed. This means a shortage of parts.

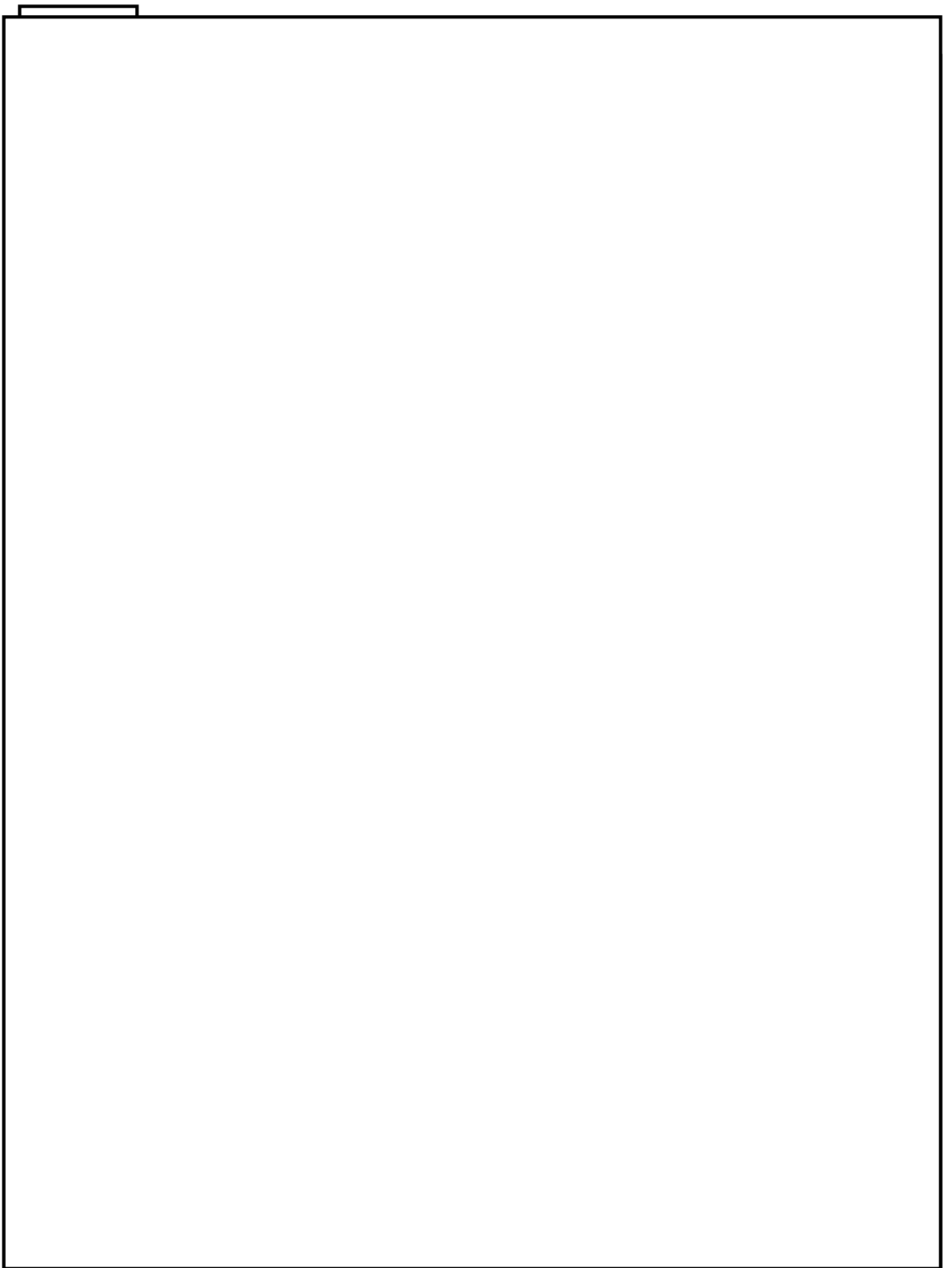
We appreciate your patience. Shifting coffee hour to the Library is an option for the near future.

Submitted by Trustees









Trinity United Methodist Church

285 East Fifth Street
Chico, CA 95928

Phone: 530-343-1497
Email: chicotrinity@yahoo.com

ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN APRIL

Sunday, April 2 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY ONE SERVICE ONLY

We gather today at 10:30am only for a truly special service of word and music. The entire Passion story from St. Matthew will be presented in song, hymn, solo, and speech. We will begin with a brief celebration of Palm Sunday, but the majority of the time will be devoted to retelling the Passion of our Lord.

Sunday, April 9 EASTER SUNDAY!

Our festival of renewed Life comes 'round again, this year told from the perspective of Matthew 28:1-10. Festive singing, Holy Communion, and uplifting preaching will all be featured, and the message will be called "Leaving the Tomb of Fear".

Sunday, April 16

We enjoy the Gospel of John today, chapter 20:19-31. We get another go at the familiar struggles of Thomas, and we sing some great songs and hymns. The message is entitled "Our Friend Thomas".

Sunday, April 23

Continuing our Gospel tour, our guide today is St. Luke (24:13-35) and the fantastic story that unfolded on the road to Emmaus. "The Good Kind of Heartburn" will be the message today.

Sunday, April 30 MAY DAY SUNDAY!

I know, we are a day ahead of the calendar, but our annual celebration of May Day should not be missed. The very pastoral, yet also provocative reading, John 10:1-10, will set us firmly down amid shepherds dancing and accordions squeezing and yes, there will probably be a bit of dancing, too. "Knowing Your Shepherd's Voice" will be the message today; please join us!