

## Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

*“The world is drowning in weirdness and lies.....and here we are, so used to it that we're actually bored!”*

— Inio Asano

Hello Trinity friends and family! Time for some wise words from your pastor... and instead of exploring a bible text, I will draw my focus today from the above quote, by the Japanese author and cartoonist Inio Asano. What I know about his art – *manga* – would fill a thimble, maybe. But what he knows about human nature is really something for a man just barely 40 years old.

I suspect that you would tend to agree that our world is indeed drowning, not only in weirdness and lies, but in greed, disease, poverty, racism, overextended medical systems and underemployed personal disciplines. It is a very strange time to be

alive... but I fear that Mr. Asano is right. Instead of being invigorated, we are incapacitated. Instead of being bravely burning, we are bored. How on earth did that happen?

Our boredom, our ennui, is a coping mechanism, of course. I don't think we are biologically designed to cope with this much weirdness all at once. Partly out of fear, and partly out of self-preservation, and partly out of the lack of ready answers, we shut down, board up the windows of our hearts, and turn inward. Makes for a stuffy summer in too many ways... but there are other responses, right?

I try to imagine the complexity of the political and social situation in Jesus' time, especially the week right before his cru-

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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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cifixion. His world was pretty complicated, too; not as populous as ours, but *much more* varied and unstable. People from *all over the world* were converging on Jerusalem, and the occupying Roman military was overwhelmed and jittery. Was there excessive violence? Of course. How about racism, group-shared disease, extreme poverty? Yep. *None of these* are new human experiences, as novel as they may currently feel. And *all of these* were weirdnesses that Jesus addressed, confronted, healed, and wept over. Our Lord has compassion for where God's world is right now because he has been there and done that.

As we peek out from our often overwhelmed lives, I am not saying we are unfaithful, or lacking in courage, or any such thing. We are continually in what feels like uncharted territory. What I *am* saying is that we are *not alone* in this, and we can draw inspiration and strength from understanding how Jesus and his first followers managed in a messed-up world. That understanding is something all of us have already begun, decades and decades ago for most of us. It is an understanding that can grow with once-a-week waterings from our worship gatherings, but will grow much more lush with more frequent infusions of prayer, and bible reading, and earnest conversations with other Christian folks. Spending some of our summertime

on these spiritual disciplines is a really good soul investment.

So, despite the swirling weirdness that threatens to drown us all, hang tight to your Life Preserver, and always, *always* remember that you are not alone in these choppy waves. Calmer days will come! Cooler heads will prevail! And Goodness will continue its forward march, with our help.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT for United Women in Faith, UWF (UMW) ladies,**

Consider joining Lily Loughlin and Suellen Rowilson at a United Women in Faith **Mission u conference at Centennial UMC, Sacramento August 25-27**. There is also a Mission u Conference in Oakhurst, July 28-30. Invite a friend or family member, children and youth are welcome. **For details, click [www.canvuwf.org/missionu](http://www.canvuwf.org/missionu)**, and scroll down to August 25-27 to register. Scholarships are available.

Katherine Parker, missionary to Nepal, supported by Trinity UMC, may attend the conference as she visits while on leave.

Several of us usually attend these wonderful fellowship and inspirational gatherings. I plan to drive to the Sacramento conference and have room in my car for others. Lilly and I plan to stay in a hotel so we don't have to drive back and forth. So, come join us! 🍷

Submitted by: Suellen Rowilson, Trinity UWF member

## UWF NOTES

The ladies' last activity before their summer hiatus was a trip to the Paradise UMC, arranged by Neva Wacker, on June 24th to walk the labyrinth. Members Selma, Mary Jane, Kay and Cleo who currently attend Trinity after the disastrous 2018 fire shuttered the church were their guides.

A story of of the labyrinth written by Mary Jane was available to read explaining the purpose of it as a "walking meditation path" and its creation at the church.

Eighteen women carpoled to attend the Saturday event to enjoy brown bag lunches, lemonade by Laura Wells, cookies baked by Selma Lippincott, and a tour of the church sanctuary and the labyrinth.

Last year, several of our group also visited and walked Carol and Urban Kern's labyrinth in their Chico backyard so now the ladies have good memories of meditating at two sites.

Shortly after celebrating her one hundredth birthday, our beloved Virginia Mancebo passed away in mid-June. She had been a valued, contributing member of the UMW for many years and embroidered tea towels for the Bazaar until confined to an assisted living facility for the past three years. We shall cherish her in our memories.

For more than 60 years, Mary Coulter has been an active member of Trinity's women's group from the time it was known as the WSCS (Women's Society of Christian Service) till it transitioned to the UMW (United Methodist Women) and now renamed a year ago to UWF (United Women in Faith). She says she actively joined at the behest of the late Elsie Hibdon whom several current members still remember. Others were also remembered such as Waunita Walker, Dor-

othy Bedford, Velma Henman and of course Virginia Mancebo.

She chaired the embroidering project for many years and remained honorary chairperson after her centenary. She remembered embroidering tea towels that were 36x36, large enough to cover a card table. The embroidery group used to gather to embroider and have lunch from early in the year until their goal was achieved.

The towels have always been the center of the annual Bazaar, bringing in the most income to the popular fundraiser.

Mary celebrates her centenary plus two on July 5th and continues to wash and iron new fabrics, iron on the transfers and set needle and floss to the arcane art of embroidering that some younger women have learned to master as well. After each cloth has been embroidered,

Mary machine embroiders borders for each before they are washed, ironed and folded for sale at the Bazaar. UWF is proud to honor Mary on her unique and extraordinary milestone, a person whose sublime personality and character are unmatched. Not only does she sew and embroider, she is an avid sports fan and enjoys playing cards and living independently. CONGRATULATIONS, MARY, and best wishes for more Happy Birthdays!

Anyone else who can embroider and would enjoy crafting one or more tea towels are invited to see or call Carol Riley.

Submitted by: Lily Laughlin

## Membership Committee

First of all we would like to welcome Eleanor Calvert into our membership. She has been attending for quite a long time and been considered one of us and now she is officially a member of Trinity. Welcome Eleanor. We are looking forward to welcoming many more in the near future.

Your membership committee is putting out a plea to anyone who would be willing to write notes, make phone calls, or visit members of our church family who are no longer able to make it to church or are in need of a loving church family contact. Our list is getting longer. If there is a particular person you are interested in contacting for visitation, phone calls or notes, please let us know their name and what you prefer to do. If you are interested in making any of these contacts, please call Rich at the church office (530-343-1497) and give him your name. We will be in contact with you to give you a name or names to contact. Thank you for helping with this outreach to our wonderful friends.

Be on the lookout for more opportunities to get together toward the end of the summer as we are planning more events and surprises.

Submitted by Mary Wahl

## RECYCLING TIPS

Please help Trinity to Recycle. The **small clear cups have #1 & #2 recycle logos** and have the most value for recycling. Waste Management says that all plastics #1 to #7 are recyclable, except no styrofoam. So, pitch them all into the **blue** Recycle container in the social hall or in the big **black** Recycle container in the kitchen. From there they go to the large bin with **blue lid** outside. Throw them in loosely, not in the plastic bag which might be used again.

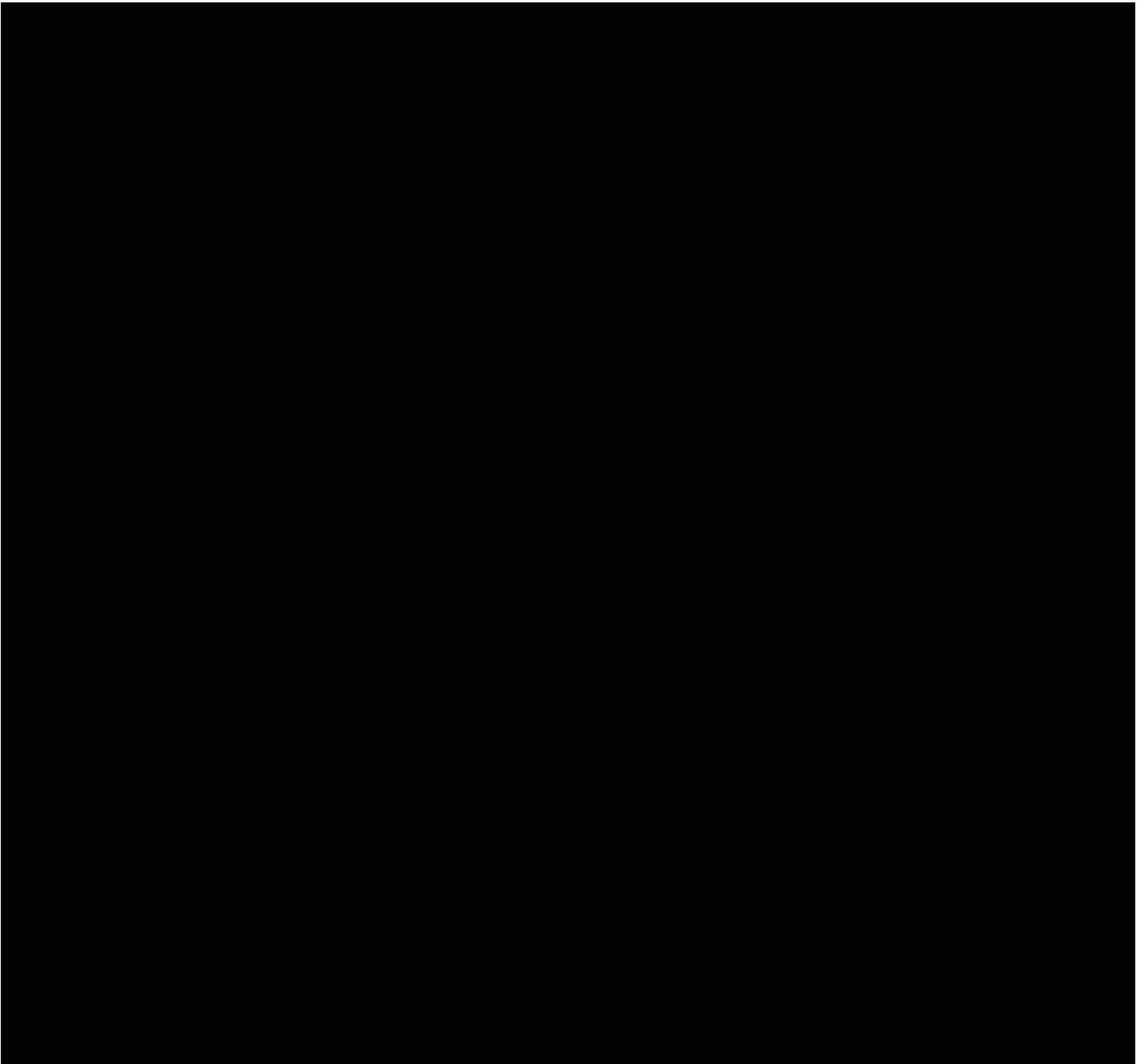
Coffee cups and paper plates with plasticized linings are not recyclable.

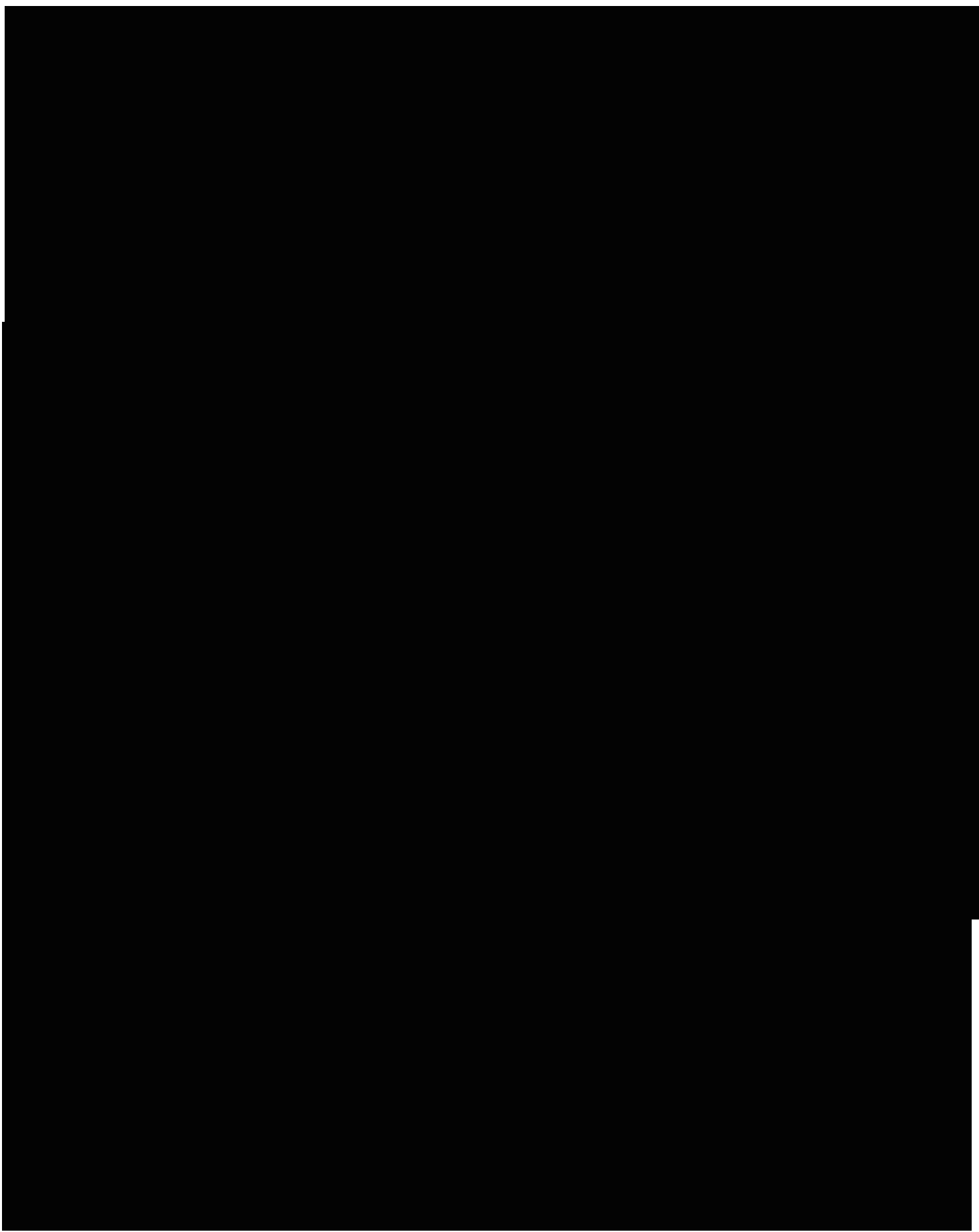
TIP: If top lid of Pizza box is not soiled, it can be torn off and recycled.  
Thanks, the Kitchen Crew. ☐

Submitted by: Suellen Rowlison









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**ENGAGE**

**GROW**

**SHARE**



## **WORSHIP IN JULY**

*Beginning July 9<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Dave will depart from the Lectionary and commence a Summer Sermon Series. This summer we will enjoy “Vices and Virtues – Seven Sure Strategies to Sabotage or Sanctification”, an exploration of the Seven Deadly Sins and the Seven Heavenly Virtues.*

### **Sunday, July 2 INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND**

We will discuss the curiously inter-dependent aspects of independence today with guidance from Matthew 10:40-42. Holy Communion will be served, as well as heaping plates of patriotism. The message will be entitled “For the Welcome Never Ends”.

### **Sunday, July 9 SERMON SERIES, WEEK 1 PRIDE**

We kick off this summer’s sermon series with readings from Psalm 10. 1-6 and Philipians 2. 1-4, both of which address the deadly sin of PRIDE. “Eating the Biggest Rat First” is the apt title today.

### **Sunday, July 16 SERMON SERIES, WEEK 2 GREED**

Ezekiel 33:30-32 and Proverbs 11. 24-26 lead us into a much-needed discussion of greed and generosity. The message today will be called “The Practice of the Open Hand”.

### **Sunday, July 23 SERMON SERIES, WEEK 3 WRATH**

[We will enjoy one or more guest speakers today in addition to readings from](#) Psalm 37:7-9 and Ecclesiastes 7:8-9, and a homily from Pastor Dave called “Retiring Your IRA”.

### **Sunday, July 30 SERMON SERIES, WEEK 4 ENVY**

“Rotten Bones or Grateful Hearts?” will be the thought-provoking exploration of Proverbs 14:30 and Colossians 3:15-16, as we learn to better deal with envy.