

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be behind us (barely), we may be growing heartily sick of turkey, The annual Bazaar will be just moments away, and we will be careening, like a fully loaded toboggan down an icy hill, towards our numerous holiday activities. Of all the seasons of the year, this is the time when our spirits will be raised the highest, but also when they will be lowered the most – and so this is the time for more silence, more prayer, more meditation... this is the time for more balance.

So let it be written: **BALANCE IS THE KEY TO HOLYDAY HAPPINESS.** This may seem contrary to the excess we all enjoy at this time of year – gifts, parties, presents, and way too many goodies...but these are all about balance, too. Cheerful givers need willing receivers, and hopefully all

the kids get the same number of gifts and cookies and new undies and socks. *In the wildly imbalanced way our society approaches Christmas, we need to stay centered.*

Most of the spiritual traditions that practice centering – ours included – focus on the breath as a tool of bringing inner equilibrium. It is the perfect metaphor for balance, isn't it – taking in oxygen and other useful things, giving out carbon dioxide and other toxins, sustaining the body in balance, millions of breaths per year, for decades. A perfect balance of receiving and giving! And a perfect reminder that we need *both* sides of the process, to give *and* to be given to, if spiritual health is to be maintained. If you can do nothing else, keep breathing, deeply, and trust God a little more to manage stuff.

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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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Your church, as always, offers many *giving opportunities* – and you can offer gifts of food, money, time, energy, in lots of ways around here, and it feels good to do it. But let's not fool ourselves into a false feeling of radiant holiness by giving in excess...giving blood at the Red Cross is one thing, and a gaping wound in your femoral artery is an entirely different thing! Give the *right amount for you*, and don't forget to let yourself receive...it is the second partner in the dance.

We also offer many *ways to receive* – our rich Sunday services, the annual UMW Christmas Bazaar December 1st and 2nd, fun, exuberant carolers visiting homes all through the month, the choir singing for worship on December 10th and 24th and our wonderful gathering on the holy night at 7pm. Please join in as often as you can, and let our time together soothe your brow with the soft touch of a newborn child...

It has been yet another rewarding year as your pastor – giving and receiving, squeezing and traveling with your blessing, and often enough managing to find the balanced way of Christ as life unfurls before me. May all manner of goodness and blessing be yours in abundance! Happy Holydays!

UWF Notes

The Nov. 15th meeting was held in Hadley Hall and called to order by President Neva Wacker to discuss pending business and finalize plans for the Dec. 1-2 Bazaar.

[REDACTED]

down payment for the purchase of a house and Katya about donations for charitable groups.

Neva reported correspondence with former member Kay Loo who, though now living in Texas, continues to embroider tea towels for the Bazaar. Sadly, Kay's health has had a downturn that required moving to assisted living,

Signups to work in the Country Store booth and donations for it and for the Candy, Next to New and Jewelry Booths were also circulated.

Pomegranate juice donated by Jodi Gordon was cooked for the traditional jelly by: Cleo Reed, Kristine Busse-Dohm, Neva Wacker, Pam Beeman-Rabut and Lily Loughlin on Thurs. Nov. 16th and yielded 56 half pint jars. The cost was defrayed with sugar and cash donations.

Preparations for the Bazaar will be held Thurs. Nov. 30th, and Priscilla Hanford is organizing the potluck lunch for volunteers and asked for signups. Katya has planned and will set up two banners

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advertising the event in front of the church for passersby to notice. Neva said her neighbor will announce the Bazaar on her radio program KZFR 90.7 FM and flyers have also been printed for dissemination to offices, the Saturday farmers market and other public places.

Mary Wahl announced church members will have the opportunity for a Pre-Sale between 5-7 pm Thursday Nov. 30th.

After Lucille read an amusing poem about how to payback one's kids when mothers become elderly, Neva announced the next meeting will be on Jan. 17th to include a Bazaar wrap up and the election of new officers.

Submitted by Lily Loughlin

Membership

We continue to remind you to sign the folders in the pews on Sunday. It helps us know who is with us. If you have any needs or know of others who have needs please call the church office to make sure we know how we can help. (530-343-1497) If you are interested in joining the church as a member we will be having a class during December. Please call the number above if you are ready to join our church family.

Submitted by Mary Wahl

Healthbridge Global Report

Some of you may remember a visit from Jon Hallsted of Healthbridge Global a couple of months ago. Jon spoke during Sunday services about Healthbridge Global's ministry of bringing health care "offered in the name and character of Christ" to various parts of the world. Below are some excerpts from their most recent quarterly report.

Lower Egypt - We are partnering with a group of Egyptian Christian doctors to build the area's first dedicated pediatric inpatient and outpatient units. This project is in Menouf, Egypt, which is in the Nile Delta region and is 99% Muslim. This is part of the long-term strategy that the Christian healthcare providers have in this region. This project is 80% complete and the expectation is that the first children will be cared for in November!

Sacramento - Nearly 40,000 Afghan refugees call Sacramento home now. Providing access to quality healthcare and soul care in their own language is one of the best ways we can serve and reach this vulnerable population for Christ. Something amazing happened a few weeks ago...The first Afghan refugee was baptized! This is a man who experienced healing when one of the community advocates prayed for him on a visit to his home. This is how Muslims are coming to faith in Christ. Some are experiencing visions, dreams, and miracles. Others develop long-term trusting relationships with true Christians. Often, it is both. Others in the Afghan community have come to faith via the work of the health clinic, but many of them are women and the implications for them to publicly de-

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clare their faith are different. Please pray for them.

Romania - This is our second project with the ProVita Foundation of Romania. They have been working for nearly 30 years to address the interrelated issues of Romania's abortion epidemic and a general lack of dignified maternity services. This is our most ambitious project ever from both a missional and a financial perspective. LIFE Medical Center will be the first non-abortive maternity hospital in Romania. Pregnancy crisis services and other supporting medical specialties will surround and support the core of LMC - baby delivery services. We have completed another step since our last quarterly update. All documents have now been submitted to the planning authorities! We have this to be grateful for- God has already provided funding to pour the foundation of LIFE Medical Center, as soon as we have approval to start!

India - Indigenous Indian church planters have been using periodic village-based healthcare clinics to meet needs, demonstrate compassion, and build trust in rural areas. This has been a collaboration between Indian and US doctors and volunteers. The focus has been on providing vision, dental, and primary care services. We are in the process of collaborating with the leaders on the ground to help define scalable and sustainable approaches that will have an on-going medical/gospel impact. Our approach dictates that the local leaders must initiate and lead this process, with us coming alongside of them to provide help and support. It is possible that we will make a strategy/scouting trip in 2024 to help support them in this process.

Future Projects – Romania - We are in the final stages of evaluating a mental healthcare project for orphans who are living in the government care system. Our potential partner is caring for this marginalized group of Romanian youth emotionally, mentally, and spiritually, to help them transition successfully into independent adulthood with a firm faith foundation. They have a clear vision to increase and enhance their work. West Africa - After being invited to connect with some potential future project partners in the Francophone regions of Africa, we have sent some preliminary questions off to their leadership. This is the first step in the long process of evaluating good missional and project fit. We hope to get further clarity on these potential relationships and projects as we move into 2024.

Please keep this tremendous mission in prayer!

For more info, their website is www.healthbridgeglobal.org

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

From Your Bazaar Team

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you!! This is a reminder of our upcoming UMWIF 71th Annual Bazaar on December 1st and 2nd, Friday and Saturday.. We are open on Friday at 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with **lunch served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Lunch will be soup, salad, pie and Coffee. Bring friends and family for fellowship and to help support the 15 Charities that the UMWIF gives to annually. Saturday the doors will be open from 9:00 a.m. to noon for those of you who cannot make it Friday or who need a second visit. We will also be opening Thursday Evening from 5 pm to 7 pm for the Congregation only to come and see our wares as well as buy before opening to the public on Friday.

We still need items for the different booths. They are listed below and include what kind of things we are looking to sell. WE continue to have sign-ups in Hadley Hall after church. Bring Thurs morning NOVEMBER 30TH to church for set up.

We are in real need of cookies (2 batches) for the Cookie Booth as well as candy for the Candy Booth. Pies would also be appreciated if you want to contribute. If you feel you can contribute please call Mary Wahl 530-321-5218. These will need to be at the church on Thursday Morning at 9 a.m. We are also reminding you to

bring your next-to-new , jewelry, and handicraft donations at the same time. We will be getting ready for the opening that evening. We want to thank you in advance for contributing to our Bazaar and we hope to see all of you during our festivities.

Submitted by Mary Wahl

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3 ADVENT 1

Our new liturgical year begins with the ‘infamous’ little apocalypse found in Mark 13:24-37, where we enter again into the ‘end of the world’ fray that always begins Advent. Holy Communion will be celebrated today; the homily “Restless” will be delivered, and we will enjoy extra special music from Caroline Fairchild, Christina Wong, and Pastor Dave.

Sunday, December 10 ADVENT 2

The Second Sunday in Advent nearly always features John the Baptist, and since he is literally the first character revealed in the Gospel of Mark (chapter 1:1-8), we will focus on him this morning. The Choir will be singing, Minda Fernish will be playing, and the sermon “Learning from Loonies” will be proclaimed.

Sunday, December 17 ADVENT 3 GAUDETE SUNDAY

Pastor Dave’s favorite Sunday by a wide margin, Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of joy during Advent. Our text is 1 Thesalonians 5:16-24; the message will be called “Joyous Living 101: Gaudete”, and special music will abound!

Sunday, December 24 ADVENT 4 10:30 service ONLY

We will enjoy something rare for us – to dwell with Mary and the angel (as described in Luke 1:26-38) when the big news is shared about her upcoming yet unexpected pregnancy. Fantastic Christmas music by the Choir and Minda, and the message “Confused Yet Compliant” will all be shared.

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7pm

Christmas Eve with all the trimmings... candles, caroling, choir, our favorite holiday readings from Luke 2:1-14, the light-hearted message “Special Delivery”, and more. A family-friendly event for sure!

Sunday, December 31 CHRISTMASTIDE

Our final Sunday of the year will feature the epic verbiage of John 1:1-18, the Prologue, truly fantastic writing and teaching. The sermon “Full Circle” will also be offered, and we will enjoy yet a few more Christmas carols.