

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

It has become our habit to celebrate Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday together, as we did to great effect just a few days ago. I am not sure exactly how this habit evolved; probably just a concession to our busy lives and the resistance to attending mid-week services, even during Holy week. I think it is a bad teacher who skips the hard parts and just floats on the joy from Palm Sunday directly to Easter, because the hard parts are pretty important. And so I wanted to share my theological thinking that has contributed mightily to this habit, and recommend it in other arenas of our lives.

In this case, the hard parts are hard because they invoke strong emotions and sadness, maybe even fear about our own inevitable concluding times in this world. I think

that featuring these aspects in such a dramatic way, while limiting the drama to basically once a year, gives us the benefit of the full dose without overdosing on the pain, betrayal, and grief of this story. Frankly, I feel that everyday life in 2024 offers abundant opportunity to dwell on the negative sides of life, but that is not the point of our faith, not really. As our bible study friends heard just last night, when it comes to the life of the Spirit, the worst thing is never the final thing.

I do respect and sometimes even admire my brothers and sisters in more orthodox Christian expressions, but I cannot follow them in their evident obsession with the suffering and the sacrifice and the never-ending guilt slinging that often flows

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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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from their theology. They don't want us to forget the high price of our redemption, but I fear that stressing it every Sunday numbs us and encourages us to take it less seriously. I also feel that the real core of Christian practice is never going to be about death, but about Life, now and evermore. The Resurrection is the distinctive part of our faith, not the death of Jesus, even as horrible as it was. We are, and must always be, aware of the horror that led to Jesus' execution, but more aware of the appropriate gratitude that fills us when we accept that death is not the final word, and live every day with a fullness and fearlessness that changes the social landscape around us.

The worst thing is never the final thing. Our limitless God *always* has more in store!

Vacation Bible School

Our new one -day VBS is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The theme will be a summer camp called *Camp Firelight*. There will be Bible Study, a science activity, recreation time outside, and craft time. Lunch will be served.

The curriculum is designed for ages 4-11. If you know of families with children in that age range, please let them know about this event. Anyone who would like to participate in this event, please contact Rich Wolff at (530) 343-1497 or chicotrinity@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Rich Wolff

Healthbridge Global update

Trinity UMC has supported the mission work of Healthbridge Global, specifically supporting their project in Lower Egypt. Here is a summary of that project:

"We are partnering with Harpur Hospital to build their first spaces dedicated wholly to the medical care of children. This is actually two projects in one, and we've adopted both due to their integrated nature and impact.

The Pediatric Out-Patient Unit will be a spacious, child-friendly unit, with ample room for both patients and their parents. It is now completed and open and will care for approximately 23,000 children per year."



You have been a part of this!! Now they will focus on support for the Pediatric In-Patient Unit! For more info, you can visit: <https://healthbridgeglobal.org>

--Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

SPRING FLING!!

Ladies, set aside May 15th to join us at the **UWF Spring Fling!** We will meet at 11:30 in Hadley Hall. It will be a potluck luncheon and your "admission price" will be for you to bring your favorite recipe, with the recipe written out on an index card. We plan to print all the recipes so we can all have them to enjoy with our families! ***If you can't bring a dish, come anyway!!!*** Methodist potlucks have plenty of food! If you can, send an email or call to let us know you are coming! There will be surprises **so please come** – and bring a friend if you like! – Katya Yarosevich, 530-228-0215, jkyarose@sbcglobal.net

UWF (United Women in Faith)

The spring Rummage Sale was quite successful!! We had more donations than ever (wow, those tables were piled high!) but we also had great sales, so not that much was left over! Many thanks to all those who helped set up, helped with the sale and who helped with the last-minute hauling away of what was left! So many hands made the whole process go really smoothly! The sale netted \$2,587.81 + (the "+" is because we have some monies still coming in). We will add this to our donation fund. Using funds from last year's events, we were able to donate a total of \$10,800 to local charities and to our church obligations. In addition, we had many Rummage Sale items purchased by folks who are sending them off to those in need in other countries such as Africa and Mexico. See how far-reaching our efforts are!

Some of the UWF ladies will be reading "The Fire Keepers Daughter" by Angeline Boulley. Join us if you'd like!

Also – please join us for our Spring Fling (see separate article) and our June outing – we have something special planned, so stay tuned!! -- Katya Yarosevich, President

Financial Secretary Note

We welcome JAN MORRIS to the job of Collection Counter! Thank you, Jan! Ongoing thanks to Scott Giannini, and to all our substitutes.

Easter giving was wonderful and generous, and it reminded me to remind you all to please be sure to make checks out to TRINITY, then use the MEMO LINE for any specific giving, like "Torres Shelter" The bank is getting quite particular and we've had a number of checks returned. If you're concerned that your gift might not reach its intended place, use a pew envelope to specify. Thank you all again for your generosity!
Pamela Beeman
Finance Secretary

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN APRIL

Sunday, April 7 Easter 2, Holy Communion

The Sunday after Easter is invariably one of the favorite sermons of the year, featuring the Patron Saint of Humankind, Doubting Thomas! The story is told in John 20:19-31, and the message today will be called “A Deluge of Doubt”. We will enjoy the sacrament today, as we always do on the first Sunday of a new month.

Sunday, April 14 Easter 3

Today we enjoy another popular resurrection story, this time from Luke 24:36b-48. A joyful and uplifting service of prayer and praise, and the sermon “Flesh, Fish, and Fulfillment” will be shared today.

Sunday, April 21 Easter 4

We return to the fourth gospel, John 10:11-18, and the timeless teaching about Jesus being the good shepherd. An excellent text and so many hymn choices! The homily is entitled “Invested”.

Sunday, April 28 Easter 5

And again with the great stories from John! John 15:1-8 shares Jesus self-understanding as the true vine, the one who funnels sustenance and growth into all the smaller vines, allowing them to flourish and produce. The light-hearted sermon will be called “The Courage to Be Fruity”.