

## Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

As I write this, over a thousand folks from all over the globe are gathered in Charlotte, NC for a world-changing purpose. Of these, 862 elected, devoted, trained, and passionate delegates are beginning what will likely be the two most intense weeks of their lives. The much delayed, much anticipated, much feared **General Conference of 2024** has begun.

The last time we elected and sent folks to General Conference, there were several thousand more UMC churches in the denomination. During the hiatus, complicated by international travel in the COVID times, a new denomination has formed, and many of 'our' churches has disaffiliated and become a different flavor of Methodists, part of the freshly invented World Methodist Church. These are primarily more conservative, more evangelical, more Bible-bound Christians. And while we miss them (in some

ways, let's be honest), we now have a clear majority of more open-minded, more socially attuned, and more progressive brethren, the faithful remnant. And that remnant is energized to bring about changes and improvements that have been basically impossible for the last fifty years or so.

Here at Trinity, we voted long ago to become a Reconciling Congregation, that is, a congregation who openly welcomes and affirms the LGBTQIA+ community. We are able to do this because we have studied and pondered and debated and prayed and ultimately concluded that God makes neither junk nor mistakes, and these brothers and sisters have been persecuted and excluded for too long already. Despite some readings of the scriptures, we do not find non-heterosexual orientation inherently sinful, but just part of the spectrum of Creation with which God has

*(Continued on page 2)*

**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.**



### Inside this issue:

Membership	2
UMW Notes	3
Vacation Bible School	4
March Finance Report	5
Prayer List	7
Worship in May	8

(Continued from page 1)

blessed our human family.

Why bring that up? Because this is likely the General Conference when most, if not all of the inflammatory, exclusive, condemning language will be stricken from the Book of Discipline. Because this is likely the General Conference when our Church boldly steps into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and votes to ordain gifted, called people no matter whom or how they love. And because this is likely the General Conference when we regionalize for more effective ministry, moving from one 'rule of law' for all United Methodists the world over to more regionally, culturally specific parameters. The need to endure impossible conflicts with African and Asian countries who proscribe the death penalty for LGBTQIA folks are likely coming to a close. In our region, compassion will triumph over fear and biblical idolatry.

I encourage you to join in the fray online... there are many easily found resources and commentaries with which we can inform and enrich ourselves. Barring another pandemic, the next General Conference will be in 2028. And God willing, the time between now and then will be a healing time, a redemptive time, not just kicking the can of hate down the road for another four years...

## Membership News

We would like to welcome our new members that have been taken into our church this month, Brad Roy, Nancy Acheson, Vance and Kelly Sutton. Jonathan Snyder and the Sutton children, Oliver and Elodie were baptized that same day. We love bringing in new members and children to our Trinity family.

We are working very diligently on the new directory. But it will take time to get all of the information gathered to make sure it is complete and correct. So be patient with us, please. On Monday April 29th and Wednesday May 1st from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. you will be able to come in to get your picture taken for the new directory. We will be in the lounge, so you can use the south door to enter. If you are unable to leave your living situation we can come to you to get the picture taken. The best way to get a picture in the directory, if you are unable to get to us, is to send us a picture that you have with your current information (full address, phone number and cell and your email). Send to [chicotrinity@yahoo.com](mailto:chicotrinity@yahoo.com).

If you are getting this Trinity Times and would like to help out your Membership committee, please contact Mary Wahl (530-321-5218) or Rich Wolff (530-343-1497)

**Submitted by Mary Wahl**

## UWF News

### **SPRING FLING!!**

Ladies, set aside May 18<sup>th</sup> 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! ***Childcare will be provided!*** 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](mailto:jkyarose@sbcglobal.net)

### **UWF (United Women in Faith)**

Some of the UWF ladies will be reading “The Fire Keepers Daughter” by Angeline Boulley. A summary of the book follows:

Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team. Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug. Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. At the same time, she grows concerned

with an investigation that seems more focused on punishing the offenders than protecting the victims. Now, as the deceptions—and deaths—keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known.

This is part of a nation-wide UWF reading program. Copies of the book from the Butte County Library will be available. Join us if you'd like!

The **UWF Sewing group** is always pleased to have more ladies join them! One of their main projects is embroidering tea towels – best sellers at the annual UWF Bazaar! We can always use more help preparing these towels for sale! Contact Neva Wacker if you are interested in joining the group.

Also – please join us for our Spring Fling (see separate article).

We also have a special **June 15<sup>th</sup> outing planned** – we will have a guided tour of the chapel at the **New Clairvaux** monastery, followed by a bring-your-own-lunch picnic at Woodson Bridge State Park. If you are interested, please contact me!

-- Katya Yarosevich, President,  
[jkyarose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkyarose@sbcglobal.net)

## 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 [chico-trinity@yahoo.com](mailto:chico-trinity@yahoo.com).

**Submitted by Rich Wolff**

Trinity United Methodist Church

285 East Fifth Street  
Chico, CA 95928

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

**ENGAGE**

**GROW**

**SHARE**



## **WORSHIP IN MAY**

### **Sunday, May 5      A DAY of CELEBRATION**

The Gospel of John has some of the most uplifting, joyful passages in all of the Scripture, and today is absolutely one of these. We focus on John 15:9-17, on a joyful May Day, on Cinco De Mayo, and on a festive Lord's Supper, too! The message today will be jovially called "Just in Case You Missed It...". Kathy Eckart will be enriching all of this with her musical zest.

### **Sunday, May 12      MOTHER'S DAY**

We go back to basics and explore the fount of so much motherly intelligence when we visit Psalm 1. Caroline Fairchild will be with us today to create beautiful melodies for Moms, and the message is entitled "A Mother's Wisdom".

### **Sunday, May 19 PENTECOST!      BRIAN PREACHING, FIND MUSIC**

We get to hear the famous story of the dry bones again, as told in Ezekiel 37:1-14. Pastor Brian Peterson will be preaching, Kathy Eckart will fill the room with melody, and y'all will be wearing RED in honor of this festival day.

### **Sunday, May 26 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

I have never explored the 'Song of the Three Young Men', part of the apocalyptic book of Daniel and not usually part of the Protestant bible, but the themes were so well suited to this weekend of honoring that we will be hearing something new! In addition to our patriotic time and song, we will explore this passage in the sermon "Simply Glorious".