

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

It is currently 9:25 am on Election Day, November 5, 2024. The country is pretty energized and pretty exhausted and pretty much anything could happen in the next 72 hours or so. Our nation is being offered two vastly different leadership plans and I really don't know who will prevail, but I do know this: that my life allegiance is not to a party or an ideology or even to my country, a country I love. My allegiance, as a pastor and as a Christian, is to Christ.

No one could ever legitimately say that Christianity is easy, but it is *simple*. Jesus basically had just two wide planks in his platform, the same two he proclaimed when asked about the most important, the most weighty, the most binding of all the commandments. And though there were two –

love of God and love of neighbor – it is pretty simple to reduce them to one, the commandment to love. That's it. The foundation of our faith, the core of our identity, the reason we get up in the morning. **Love.** Simple? Yes! But easy? Not remotely...

Our inescapable political reality has surely contributed mightily to making loving one another less easy. Both sides have encouraged the American infighting in their own particular ways, because an energized, polarized electorate will possibly actually get out and vote! Since the days of Machiavelli politicians have known and embraced the value of controversy, fearmongering, exaggeration, and other 'motivational' tactics as tools to advance their own agendas. It is now several hundred years in practice and seems unlikely to ever leave the stage, which

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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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complicates things considerably for us Christian folk.

Because, despite the endless complexity and speculation and projection of scenarios, *our agenda is simple*. Our agenda is to demonstrate the superior way of Love as the arbiter of human interactions. And when we are actively encouraged to distrust one another, to suspect one another, to revile and demonize and even persecute one another, Love is harder to demonstrate and model and engage in. And if there was ever a litmus test for loving one another here in America, I think that the next week or so of our communal lives will be that test. Worse in its own ways than the Civil War and both World Wars and all the international conflicts we have seen since the founding of our nation, worse because we are deluged continuously to feel and act and behave badly. This may advance the agenda of whoever wins our national election, but it hardly advances the cause of Christ.

So, even though everything is so uncertain right now, at 9:48 on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, there is one thing that I believe to be dependable and essential and redemptive: that our mandate, despite all of the world's distraction, is to love. This was not and never was a biblical sugges-

tion – it is a commandment! It will not be easy, but it still can be simple. Whatever others do in the next days and weeks, we need to be about Love.

Join us Friday December 6 to view *The Chosen*, the third episode of the first series at Aldersgate UMC on Cohasset Ave.

Vernita Bernadett and I attended the first one. It is a very believable look at the life of Jesus, his disciples and the women who follow him. It starts at 6pm-7pm and includes popcorn. ☎ Call me if you would like a ride. Suellen Rowison 530-897-0226

Mark Your Calendars



Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

United Women in Faith (UWF)

We had a wonderful meeting in October, starting with an inspirational reading about how our Lord is with us in tough times – followed by ladies sharing moving examples of this in their lives! We then discussed many ways we could outreach to others, including offering meals to Safe Space, to Torres Shelter, and to our own Harrie & Carol Riley (if you'd like to help with the latter, let me know!).

Our **Christmas Bazaar** is coming up December 6 & 7, and there was considerable discussion about that. One of the aspects of this event is the camaraderie that we all feel during the whole thing, including the prep and the event itself. If you can help out – even for an hour or two – we would love to have you join the “party” and feel some of that warmth that comes only with person-to-person involvement!!

Join us at our next meeting, November 20th at 10 am in Hadley Hall!

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

Bazaar News

Christmas is arriving at Trinity. The United Women of Faith are having their annual Bazaar on Friday and Saturday, December 6th and 7th. We will have all of our booths with wonderful goodies from apple pie to zippy tea towels. But, of course, we rely on the help of our congregation and members to contribute what they can. We will have sign ups in Hadley Hall Sunday after church or you can telephone Mary Wahl at 530-321-5218 if that is better for you. We are in need of Jams, Jellys, Breads, Wreaths, Mistletoe, Persimmons, Lemons ETC for the Country Store, cookies for the Cookie Booth, Candy for the Candy Booth, and handcrafted goods for that Booth. Next to New and Jewelry will also be accepting items for their booths. Tea Towels are already being worked on for our celebrated Tea Towel Room. **We are so appreciative** of any items you can help us with. All of the proceeds go to 15 different charities locally. We are so proud of our support of the community we live in and love.

Submitted by Mary Wahl

Membership Committee

A Big Thank you for those of you who have helped with the Directory. Without Katya Yarosevich and Candy Murphy we would not be where we are. This has been an enormous job. It is almost finished and ready to go to the printers. Thank you for your patience and consideration. We have not decided how it will exactly be distributed, but you will know as soon as we do.

We are still looking for loving members who would be willing to help us out with writing cards, calling and visiting our friends who are unable to make it to church, new attendees, or those who have not been attending lately. This too is a big job and we need the help of those that would be able to give of their time. Thank you again.

Submitted by Mary Wahl

Trinity United Methodist Church

285 East Fifth Street
Chico, CA 95928

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

ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 10

We will enjoy a visit with Psalm 146 today, one of those writings that manages to be uplifting and challenging at the same time. The message will be entitled “Ya Gotta Know Who to Trust”, and music of many moods is planned. Our Fall financial Campaign also begins this morning.

Sunday, November 17

The complicated book of Hebrews (chapter 10:11-25) will claim our attention today. The sermon will be called “Provoked to Piety!”, and I sincerely hope that we are!

Sunday, November 24 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

“The Whole Enchilada” is not a recipe suggestion, but rather is the title of this morning’s message, drawn from Revelation 1:4b-8. Expect a vibrant Sunday full of gratitude and tender joy!