

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

It was the world famous Charles Dickens who wrote: *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way...”* This famous opening was published in 1859, and was immediately popular, because it really resonated with most people’s experience of the world. In our church life, we feel its timeless pull as well; leaving Epiphany and leaning into Lent, claiming the grace while recovering from the sin; wondering if the good we try to do will ever heal the world, and so forth. But what Dickens doesn’t discuss is our notion of living, not in the best or the worst of times, but *between* the times; specifically, between

the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry, and the still-hoped-for consummation of that ministry. Every Christian there ever was has lived between these polarities of *already* and *not yet*... we all live between the times.

But no one has ever said that living between the times was going to be simple... and our month of March is a fine illustration of this spiritual truth. Not really winter, but not yet purely spring... done with the busyness of the holidays, but more of them waiting around the corner... not exactly a time of leisure, nor really a time of full exertion, March is betwixt and between. So if you feel a little ungrounded, a little imbalanced, a bit disoriented in the weeks ahead, give yourself some space and grace... it is *March*, after all!

Our northern hemisphere world experiences this inner complexity at its very core – trees sort of but not fully in bud, infant ani-

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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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mals born but not yet able to go life alone. We are swept up in forces both natural and unnatural, and it is easy to panic a bit in this time between the times...

The best story I ever heard about this feeling was narrated by a pebble; a pebble at the bottom of a river. Day after day she would watch the fish playing and the leaves dancing on the surface of her home, while she tenaciously clung to the soil in which she reposed. Sometimes the water rushed so quickly that she worried she would be torn loose and lost forever, for no one had ever come back upstream to tell them what lay ahead. She longed to join the dance, to trust the current, but she just couldn't bring herself to do it... and then one day, courage won the day, and she let go and joined the flow. Immediately she was carried along by the powerful river, filled with exuberant joy as she turned, this way and that, seeing new things and never, never going back. Her life was forever changed, but she liked it that way. She had learned to trust the river.

I really do think that God is like that; immeasurably broad and big, ever moving, always offering us new ministry and rich life. It is downright scary to trust the current, to go with the flow, but what is the other option? Hang out where the fish and turtles use the toilet, and eventually become fossils? Is that really all we want from our lives? Perhaps March actually brings us good gifts, not confusion and in-between-ness. Maybe March is the

time to dust off our wintry bones and suit the action to the word. For I am certain that it is our spiritual heritage to become more than muddy lumps at the bottom of Life's river; that we not settle for life in the sludge. I am pretty sure it is time for us to march! See you out in the world God loves so much...

Lenten Worship Series, In Search of the Promised Land

Each week, we'll follow this format:

5:30pm: Book Group of [Welcoming the Stranger](#), led by Rev. Ben Colahan

6:15pm: Soup Supper

7pm: Worship led by the 'Congregation of the Week'.

And here they are, the participating leader congregations:

March 12th: Trinity United Methodist

March 19th: Faith Lutheran

March 26th: First Baptist/First Christian

April 2nd: Congregation Beth Israel

April 9th: Bethel AME

As always, we are leading off the series, providing the soup for supper and the preacher for the service. I hope we can involve ourselves joyfully and usefully this Lenten season!

THE JOSEPH BRADLEY KOEHLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Koehly Family is soliciting applications from this year's High School seniors who wish to compete for a scholarship. This award is made each year in memory of Joseph Bradley Koehly to an outstanding high school senior who is accepted in an institution of higher learning this Fall. If the recipient attends a 2-year college, the award will be \$500, and if he/she attends a 4-year college, it will be \$1000. The applicant must be an active, participating member of Trinity United Methodist Church. The primary criteria in determining the recipient of the scholarship will be academic excellence, church activity, school activity, personal recommendations and personal goals.

The recipient will be determined by a committee of one family member and two from the church and will be notified by June 30. Applications are available in the Church Office. Deadline for submitting applications is 3:30 p.m., May 1, 2025. The completed applications are to be mailed or hand delivered to the Church Office, 285 East Fifth Street, Chico, CA 95928.

Donations to the scholarship fund may be made through the Church Treasurer at any time.

Submitted by Rich Wolff

Trinity United Methodist Church

Semi-annual **RUMMAGE**

*Clothing,
Housewares
And More!!*



SALE

Friday, March 7, 9 am - 2 pm

Saturday, March 8, 9 am - noon

5th and Flume Streets

Our spring Rummage Sale will be Friday, March 7th from 9 am – 2 pm and Saturday March 8th from 9 am to noon. Starting February 16th (once Safe Space has vacated), bring your donations to the stage in Hadley Hall. If you need help (i.e. a truck) to haul stuff, contact Jody Gordon at 309-371-1610.

Keep in mind that any items left-over are taken to Salvation Army – **BUT...**

Salvation Army limits what it can take, so DO NOT BRING THE FOLLOWING TO THE RUMMAGE SALE:

Car seats, microwave ovens, humidifiers, mattresses, toilet-related items, medical devices, cribs, tires, car parts, blinds, anything flammable, chemicals, refrigerators, hide-a-beds, exercise equipment

If you have any questions, please contact Katya Yarosevich, 530-228-0215



“LOVE THE CHURCH” EVENT!

Do *you* have a vision for the future of our church? Please come and share it on **Thursday March 27th from 6-8 pm**, at the “**Love the Church**” event. We will share what we love about Trinity and what we hope for it in the future. Molly Knappen has graciously agreed to moderate the discussion. Dessert will be provided.

Childcare will be available.

If you need a ride or can provide a ride, please contact the church office or Katya Yarosevich (530-228-0215).

If you have any questions, please contact Katya Yarosevich or Leatha King.

UWF

Rummage Sale Help - We are lucky to have many ladies to help with the spring Rummage Sale (thanks to you all!!), but if you'd like to join in on helping, please feel free to do so!! We will be setting up the items for sale on Wednesday (3/5) and Thursday (3/6) mornings from 9-12. The Rummage Sale runs Friday (3/7) from 9-2 and Saturday (3/8) from 9-12... although...we will be staying after noon to clear out the leftover items. Any help with that would be greatly appreciated!!

Our regular meeting will be March 19th at 10 am in Hadley Hall. Please join us!

Our **April meeting** will be something special. We will meet **Saturday April 26th to make flower arrangements** for delivery to our shut-ins. Come share in the fun!

Trinity United Methodist Church

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN MARCH

Sunday, March 9 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Luke 4:1-13 recounts the time of testing in the wilderness that Jesus endured before beginning his ministry more officially. The sermon title is “Hunger Vs. Appetite” and a somber, thoughtful worship experience is being planned.

Sunday, March 16 CELTIC MUSIC SUNDAY

“Like Herding Cats, but Harder” is the title of this morning’s message, and refers to Jesus’ frustration with his chosen ones and their inability and/or unwillingness to accept his teachings. The text is Luke 13:31-35, and on this Sunday nearest St. Patrick’s Day, our music will be uplifting, charming, and thoroughly Celtic.

Sunday, March 23 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

One of the central themes of Lent, repentance, will be explored today, with inspiration from Luke 13:1-9 and a sermon called “Repentance in an Unrepentant World”. We also expect to enjoy the fine violin playing of Caroline Fairchild this morning.

Sunday, March 30 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

We find ourselves on familiar ground when the preaching is from Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32, the story of the Prodigal Son. The message this morning will be called “Grace, Party of One”.