

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 num-

ber 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.

Your church, as al-

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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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ways, 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 UWF Christmas Bazaar December 5th and 6th, fun, exuberant carolers visiting homes all through the month, the newly re-formed choir singing near the end of this holy month, and our wonderful gatherings on Christmas Eve at 3pm (Chapel) and 7pm (Sanctuary). Please join in as often as you can, and let our time together sooth 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!
Pastor Dave

SUPER SPECIAL THANKS FOR SUPER SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS!

Our church is better prepared for the holiday season than it has been in years because of the fantastic efforts and volunteerism of so many of you. The Stable was built again this year by the Dailey Family, with Kathy and Jeff leading the way. The decorations all over the building were installed by friends from as far away as Los Angeles and as near as mere blocks from the church. Among the many volunteers (I apologize in advance if I missed you in the mayhem) were Kristine Busse-Dohm, Gabriella Mace, Rich and Linda Wolff, Jim McCollough, Leatha King, Matt and Nick Dolan, Laura Wells, Eleanor Calvert, Sarah Townsend, Sueanne Miller, Pattie Hitchcock, Maggie Banes, and the Trinity sherpa, Pastor Dave. I am sure there were others behind the scenes, but it all adds up beautifully to a welcoming, festive church for the many who will join us this December from beyond these walls. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

UWF (United Women in Faith)

Christmas Bazaar is Dec. 5 (9-2, with lunch available 11-1) and Dec. 6 (9-12! Come take advantage of the wonderful gift, craft and food items to bless your holidays! At the same time, you will bless our community, as all proceeds go to local charities!!

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

Trinity United Methodist Church, 285 E. 5th St. presents it annual

Christmas Bazaar!

December ~Friday 9 -2 
5 & 6

with Friday lunch available for purchase from 11-1

~Saturday 9-12



Handmade crafts, cookies, jams, jewelry and MORE!!

All proceeds go to LOCAL charities!

ALTERNATIVE GIVING IDEAS

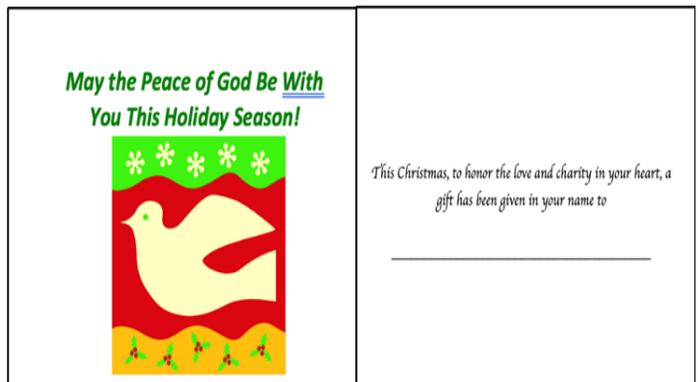
If you don't know what to give – give to a charity in your loved-one's name!!

Below is a list of suggested charities that you might want to consider for such a gift – these are just suggestions!!

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|----------------------|---|
| 6th St. Youth Center | <u>Other Charities Supported by UWF</u> |
| Jesus Center | Boy Scouts |
| Shalom Free Clinic | Iversen Wellness Center |
| CHAT | Boys & Girls Club |
| Healthbridge Global | Catalyst |
| UMCOR | Meals on Wheels |
| Heifer Project | Passages |
| Katherine Parker | Torres Shelter |
| | Safe Space |
| | Chico St. Food Pantry |

But how does your loved one know you've given a gift in his/her name?

There will be **FREE** Alternative Giving gift cards available in Hadley Hall beginning Dec. 7th. Below is an example of such a card...



Hadley Hall

We hope you are enjoying the progression of the beautiful mural in Hadley Hall! The design and work are by local mural artist Caira Hart. Caira has painted several murals about town. The mural should be done in time for the bazaar. Thank you Caira!!

Hadley Hall Committee - Katya Yarosevich, Marian Ware, Leatha King and Laura Wells



Join the Christmas Choir

Our talented and friendly pianist SHARI SUMMERS is also a gifted **choir director** and has offered to re-form a choir for the holidays and hopefully beyond! This fresh start would certainly open a door for those of you who haven't sung in choir here before but might want to participate in a less rigorous commitment than a full-time, sing-every-Sunday kind of choir.

The 'Christmas Choir' will sing either Sunday, December 21st, or Christmas Eve, December 24th, all based on the availability of the singers. We are creating a practice schedule that can accommodate both daytime-only folks and night-time folks. Here is her availability to practice with us here at Trinity:

Mondays, December 8th, 15th, and 22nd (22nd only if we are singing on Christmas Eve), 10-11:30 am

Thursdays, December 11th and 18th, 6:30 -8:00 pm

Sunday, December 21st (between services), 9:40-10:10 am

Interested? Please reply to this email and let's get to singing! You need not attend all of the practices, but at least two or three will be needed to get us back in the groove.

THANKSTHANKSTHANKS and Happy Holidays!

Pastor Dave

REMEMBERING LUCY GOULD - Dec 13

All are invited to a special gathering on Saturday, December 13 at 2 pm in Hadley Hall to remember the life of Lucy Gould. Lucy's daughter will bring pictures to share, and the UWF (formerly UMW) will provide cookies, fruit and coffee. There will be an opportunity to share stories and memories, with Olav presiding.

Submitted by Leslie Johnson

THANKS FROM CHAT

On behalf of CHAT (Chico Housing Action Team), I want to personally thank all of you for your wonderful generosity, individually and as a church family, in donating toward CHAT's Founders' Legacy Campaign. For those of us retiring after 12 years of hard work in creating and operating this organization, it really means a lot to know our community and our church believe in this work, and care about creating permanent solutions to homelessness. Your kindness and your dollars are making a difference in the lives of so many in need, including veterans, families with children, college students, seniors, and people with mental illness or other disabilities, enabling them to have a home not just for the holidays, but all year round. Merry Christmas to you all.

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Thanks,

Leslie Johnson

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Sunday, DECEMBER 7 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Our scripture today is Matthew 3:1-12, the saga of John the Baptist. “Surviving the Winnowing Hook” will be the homily today, and Holy Communion will be celebrated with carol singing and lovely festivity.

Sunday, DECEMBER 14 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT GAUDETE!

Isaiah 35:1-10 leads us into the joy of this day, the pink candle day, the Sunday known as Gaudete. Christina Wong will make her hammered dulcimer ring through the room and it will be a dancing day for sure. The message will be called “Everlasting Joy.” And in the afternoon, the Children’s Choirs of Chico will have their holiday concert right here in our Sanctuary.

Sunday, DECEMBER 21 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Joseph and Mary and angels... we are nearly there this Christmas season! Matthew 1:18-25 is the text, Caroline Fairchild is the guest musician, and “Engaged? Disengaged?” is the message. Please join us for a holiday feast of music and merriment!

Wednesday, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE! 3PM AND 7PM

Luke 2:1-14 and Isaiah 9:2-7 are paired this year as we celebrate Jesus’ birth in style! The 3pm service is in the Chapel, and the 7pm service in the Sanctuary. Both will feature carols and candle lighting and all the usual holiday magic. The later service will feature the Methodist Merry Makers, our holiday band of *at least* six skilled musicians. Join us for the full experience of Christmas Eve! The message will be called “Savoring the Secular /Sacred Spectrum.”

Sunday, DECEMBER 28 CHRISTMASTIDE

“Childlike Faith and Practice” seems appropriate as we navigate the gentle time between Christmas Eve and Epiphany. Our text is Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, and gentle, rollicking music will be featured.