

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

Happy New Year! By the time you read this, the time of resolutions has probably come and is possibly already long gone... and many of us likely have *already forgotten* what we resolved! Interesting word, *resolve*... something that needs to be solved again, re-solved. Reminds me of one of my dad's often repeated phrases: "If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?" But so it goes in our busy and ever-changing world, there are issues and relationships and situations that just won't *stay* solved, and our only recourse is continual vigilance... *re*-solution, as it were.

Or is it our only course? It seems to be the preferred method in a world striving to make meaning out of the maelstrom, that we just continue to upgrade, to fix and

tinker and improve (and buy the newest version of the gizmo we just got so excited about buying a few weeks ago). It *feels* like the natural flow of events; we are so very conditioned to it. But is it the only (or even the most helpful) way to approach life?

It seems to me, from the perspective of faith, that in place of more management, what our lives truly need is more letting go, more surrender, more trust. This idea is the polar opposite of control and dominion and distrust, in which so much of modern life seems to be rooted. But it is the very stuff of the gospel, and the truth that liberates. We don't need more New Year's resolutions, adding some grand behavioral change to the already unmanageable list of things to accom-

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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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plish; we need more centeredness, more quiet, and more prayer. More time to sort out the “why” instead of so much focus on the “what.”

The imagery of plants and flowers comes to mind; certainly, we have all enjoyed magnificent growth and lush abundance in nature. The ‘greening’ of Butte County has already begun, and it is barely 2026! . At the personal level, if we are gardeners, we supply rich soil and adequate water and enough light, and the plants do what they do, *naturally*. But if we try to rush things, if we pull up the little plants every few days to see how the roots are doing, then our efforts are wasted and so are the plants. Too much management without enough musing leads to mayhem... and you can quote me on that!

Our task (individually, in our families, and in the Church) is not to force life to happen, but rather to provide the optimum space for new life to take root and blossom. And we Christian-folk provide that space through the nourishing medium of what John Wesley called our spiritual disciplines: worship, prayer, meditation, fasting, study, thoughtful exercise, acts of compassion. If we engage in *these*, all of our high-minded resolutions will become superfluous... for improved living will flow

naturally from our well-amended inner soil. God has planted the seeds of optimum health, balanced mind, abundant resources, and rewarding relationships in the crowded soil of our lives. We need to use our spiritual tools to clear out the rocks and weeds, give light and water, and let God’s design for us take root and flourish! So in addition to Happy new Year, let me also say Happy Cultivating, my friends...

SUPER GIGANTIC THANK YOU! Pastor Dave and Christina offer sincere thanks to the many, many folks who have given of their time, talent, and treasure to make the holiday season extra special at Trinity. From the lovely décor, to the brilliantly presented Christmas Bazaar, to the volunteer singers who have revived the Choir, and for all the little gifts and touches, songs and stories, we thank you all so very much. And extra special thanks to our leadership and teams, who have shouldered so many tasks in the last month or so. May the rich rewards of well-done work, appreciated and enjoyed, be yours in abundance! Happy New Year to us all!

UWF (United Women in Faith)

Join us on **Saturday January 24th** at 10 am in Hadley Hall, when we will have a special guest speaker!!

Nancy Morgans Ferguson, co-founder of the Shalom Clinic will be visiting us! Please come and learn with us the history of the clinic, and current news about this incredible mission!

There will be a brief business meeting after the presentation.

Katya Yarosevich

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Hadley Hall

By the time this is published, the mural in Hadley Hall should be completed. The artist, Caira Hart, will join us one Sunday so that we can meet her. Thank you Caira for the beautiful painting!!

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



Trinity United Methodist Church

285 East Fifth Street
Chico, CA 95928

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

ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 4 EPIPHANY

Happy New Year! Matthew 2:1-12 leads us yet again to the story of the arrival of the Magi, the hypocrisy of Herod, and the honoring of the infant Jesus. Holy Communion will be celebrated, and the message “Homage” will be offered.

Sunday, January 11 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

“Optics and Other Timeless Topics” will be our way of exploring this strange situation where Jesus comes to his cousin John for baptism. The story is from Matthew 3:13-17, and will be amplified through prayer, story, and great music.

Sunday, JANUARY 18

Today we shift away from St. Matthew and visit with the Gospel of John (1:29-34). Some of the earliest titles given to Jesus come courtesy of this passage. The music will be grand, and the message will be entitled “Peccata Mundi”.

Sunday, JANUARY 25

We return to our study of Matthew (4:12-23) and encounter again the famous story of the calling of the disciples. Beautiful piano music will enrich our morning today.