

## Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

As I write this, the fog is close and dense. I know, I know, nothing like the infamous Tule Fog used to be, but still... this is a new experience for me in our relatively mild Chico winter season. And it has the same effect on me as it probably does on most of you... unsettling, limiting our vision, maybe even depressing.

It seems an apt metaphor for our national and global life right about now. Things are certainly unsettled, and our ability to see forward is more constrained than usual. Some of us are depressed, even more are anxious, and everybody is kind of walking on egg shells these days. It is, as the Bard so famously penned, a winter of our discontent.

It is likewise an apt metaphor for our spiritual life as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians of the more inclusive

and progressive kind. We are used to an unsettled world – we even have a hymn by that title, # 2183. We struggle more than usual to be *in* this world but not of this world. We cling to our faith in the triumph of goodness but it is more challenging these days than it has been in decades. We may feel guilty to have a creeping anxiety, a lingering depression, thinking that if we were truly faithful, this stuff wouldn't bother us.

Actually, the reverse is true... the more faithful we are, the more we are marinating in the words and ways of God, the *more painful* our worlds clear departure from those words and ways will be. It has always been thus, but rarely has the intensity of godlessness been so pronounced. Many find themselves withdrawing, seeking comfort and safety in

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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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solitude, but the healing awaiting us is more communal in nature. What a time for us as people, as Americans, as Christians!

A bit of comfort comes from science, and it relates to the fog we have been dancing in and out of here. I have read that a fog bank ten feet high and ten feet wide and 100 feet long (that's 10,000 cubic feet of fog, if my math is correct) contains only – can you believe it? – about eight ounces of water, a cup, not that much. My learning here is that *appearances* and *realities* are often vastly different. So while the current fog we inhabit (actual, political, spiritual, personal) may *seem* impenetrable, the reality is... it's mostly air. A lot of inflated mist. And this is good news if we are intimidated by these various fogs, because with our faith we see and progress more clearly, more surely, and Jesus' principal teachings about faith are that a little goes a long way, like yeast in the dough. A few tablespoons of yeast can yield sourdough starter that, properly fed, can grow and flourish for years, if not indefinitely. Our faith is like that: a little faith, properly nourished, can be vital essentially forever. More than adequate to disperse some fluffy fog...

So, take heart. Our world will do its share to lower the temperature and inhibit our flourishing, but we have a strong starter, handed down over hundreds of genera-

tions. Feed your soul, tend your relationships, stay in love with God... and even this fog will soon dissolve. Amen.

### **Membership Team**

We are going to ask everyone to wear their name tags to church, so visitors and congregation can see our names. We will have disposable ones for visitors to fill out so we will know who they are also. If you go to the early service, we would like you to participate also. If you do not have a name tag or have lost yours, we will be making new name tags for all who need them. Just email Rich with your full name and what you prefer to be called. We will start wearing them in Feb. every Sunday. We wish for everyone to feel welcome and comfortable. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.. We will make them available at the first service and on our board in the narthex of the sanctuary.

**Submitted by Mary Wahl**

**UWF (United Women in Faith)**

The schedule for UWF meetings is provided below. We meet at 10 am in Hadley Hall on the days indicated. Please join us whenever you can!

Feb. 18 - Regular monthly meeting [Rummage Sale March 6/7]
March 18 - Regular monthly meeting
April 22 - Spring Fling - Short meeting and Flower arranging for shut-ins
May 20 - Regular monthly meeting
June - June Outing (to be determined)
July - No meeting (summer break)
August - No meeting (summer break)
Sept. 23 - Regular meeting (+ possible activity to be determined)
October 21 - Reg. monthly meeting, Bazaar planning
Nov. 18 - Reg. monthly meeting, Bazaar planning

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**RUMMAGE SALE COMING!!!**  
**March 6/7**

Time for Spring Cleaning!! UWF (United Women in Faith) is once again offering an opportunity for you all to clean out and get rid of stuff for a good cause! Our spring Rummage Sale will be Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 2 pm and Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon. Starting February 16<sup>th</sup> (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

*Trinity United Methodist Church*

*Semi-annual* **RUMMAGE**

*Clothing, Housewares And More!!*

**SALE**

*Friday, March 6, 9 am - 2 pm*

*Saturday, March 7, 9 am - noon*

*5th and Flume Streets*

## **HEALTHBRIDGE GLOBAL UPDATE**

On July 19th, 2025, after 2 years of work, 3 years of planning, and nearly 6 years of relationships and dreaming, Healthbridge Global and partners in Romania opened the Rise Together Trauma Therapy and Transitional Living Center in Targu Mures, Romania. This unique project is helping state-institutionalized orphans find Christ as their healer, transition into a healthy adulthood, and in turn help others who are behind them. They are truly rising together.

### **Who is Healthbridge Global?**

Healthbridge Global is a non-profit that Trinity UMC supports. It began after seven years overseas convinced founders, Jonathan and Rebecca Hallsted, of the power of healthcare ministry to carry the Gospel to closed nations, closed cultures, and closed hearts. Meeting medical needs in the spirit and name of Christ builds bridges for true Gospel impact, and transformation of people and communities. It's what we are instructed to do. "Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'the kingdom of God has come near to you.'" Luke 10:9. "Our model is to partner with local leaders to bring lasting medical impact, while allowing the Gospel and the hope of Christ to shape and flow through everything we do. We believe that nothing less than strategic, thoughtful, compassionate, and sustainable approaches should be

employed. In this way we honor our Creator as we care for His creation in the form of other human beings. Our name communicates it well; we use healthcare to build bridges for the gospel to hearts around the globe." For more info, visit [healthbridgeglobal.org](http://healthbridgeglobal.org)

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

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**ENGAGE**

**GROW**

**SHARE**



## **WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY**

### **Sunday, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Holy Communion, The Beatitudes, wonderful music and peaceful togetherness... we open this February time with grace and inspiration today. "Beatitudinous" is the title of the homily this morning.

### **Sunday, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

"Use Your Spices!" is the title of the message derived from Matthew 5:13-20, where we are reminded that we are the salt of the earth, the seasoning in the stew of the human experience. "Spicy" music will compliment the themes of the day!

### **Sunday, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Come enjoy the loveliness created by Shari Summers and Caroline Fairchild on piano and violin, and enjoy the message of a guest speaker who has not quite been secured as of this writing!

### **Sunday, FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

Matthew 4:1-11 is the well-known story of Jesus being tempted in the desert by the Adversary. We will explore the nooks and crannies of this story for fresh wisdom, hopefully summarized in the message "Not Quite Irresistible."