

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

As I write this, it is late June, only a few days *officially* into Summer, although it has been sweaty weather for several weeks already. And as always, we are all on red-alert status about ways to manage the warmth and endure the broiler in which we live in this part of California. If mind over matter is a real thing, we have a plan that should help quite a bit.

Our plan is called **Christmas in July**, which we will celebrate on July 26th. Apart from the weather, it will look, feel, taste, and sound a whole lot like our favorite December holiday. Much more will be shared about our festivities in the next few weeks, but just like the actual Christmas, we can't start preparing too soon, right?

The interesting ministry angle on all of this is

that December 26th is known in many parts of the world as Boxing Day, a several centuries old tradition of offering gifts, gratuities, and other life-enhancing things to those in need. Originating in Great Britain, it supplemented the custom of sending the servants home to their families on the day *after* Christmas, since they were exhaustively employed on Christmas Day itself. Eventually, sending them home with a little extra food and gifties and gratuities expanded into the habit of blessing the less fortunate, whether they were your servants or not.

And since we have July 26th for our day of holiday cheer, we are going to have our own version of Boxing Day. Stay tuned for the interesting and creative ways we will gather,

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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wrap, and distribute gifts in the weeks ahead. This looks to be a lot of fun and uplifting to our spirits as well. Needless to say, there will be celebratory song, food, and décor, and please feel free to come to church that day in red and green, or gold and blue, as your habits are.

I wish for you all the most helpful, useful, and beneficial ways we can discover to establish and maintain comfort in our hot Chico summertime. And I hope that our Christmas in July brings us tidings of comfort and joy in many, many ways.

Membership

We are so excited to let you all know that we will once again be celebrating Christmas in July. On July 26th our service and church potluck will be Christmas time in July. We will be decorating the church, singing **Christmas** Carols, having activities inside and outside for the children and even small gifts. Your potluck contribution can be summer dishes and the membership committee will be providing the Christmas meat dishes. We had such a wonderful time last year that we decided to do it once again. **COME ONE AND COME ALL. HO-HO-HO.**

Submitted by Mary Wahl

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN JULY

Sunday, JULY 5th INDEPENDENCE DAY SUNDAY

“A 250 Year Balancing Act” will be the homily today based on Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. We will celebrate patriotically, we will enjoy Holy Communion, and we will reinforce some of the values that led to the founding of this country of ours.

Sunday, JULY 12th

One of the Gospels most memorable agricultural metaphors is found in our text for today, Matthew 13:1-9,18-23. It offers a thorough examination of our relatedness to God, and the message “How Deep Are Your Roots?” will be a partial answer for some of us. And Caroline Fairchild will be joining the music team today!

Sunday, JULY 19th

Jesus continues to illustrate from the world of sunshine, soil, and seed, as discovered in Matthew 13:24-30,36-43. The message will be called “Primitive Biological Warfare Remediation”, and will be a harvest of food for thought.

Sunday, JULY 26 CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

We will have a wonderful out-of-season experience today as we celebrate Christmas in July! The familiar holiday text from Luke 2:1-14 will be recounted; carols will be sung, cookies will be enjoyed, and we will be offering tangible gifts in honor of the Christ child and to the enrichment of our local community. The homily today is aptly entitled “Good News of Great Joy.”