

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 54 No. 10 OCTOBER 2026

A Newsletter for Covenant Partners and friends of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Modesto, California



The Wright Angle

Greetings, Church Family!

Hopefully, by the time you read this, you will have heard the sermon on the same topic. Perhaps the redundancy will move the needle a bit. Henry Ford had it right when he said, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” Welcoming people in is only step one.

Here's the thing: you can't do these things from a couch or a cell phone in a café. Working remotely can be a real blessing, but church remotely has some real loss attached to it.

I want to be careful here because I'm not talking about our shut-ins, the ones who can't get to a building anymore. For them, watching from home isn't a compromise; it's a gift, and I'm grateful every week that technology lets us bring the service to people who'd otherwise be cut off from it entirely.

What I'm talking about is something a lot of folks picked up during COVID and never quite put down: the habit of staying home just because we can. It's not a judgment. Those were strange years, and staying home became normal for good reasons. But normal has a way of outliving the reason for it. And I think some of us are still living in that habit without noticing it's become one.

Here's why it matters. The New Testament has 59 places where it tells us to do something “to one another”: love one another, bear one another's burdens, encourage one another, confess to one another, pray for one another. Andy Stanley calls this “one-anothering,” and he points out something I think about a lot: one-anothering is hard to do sitting in a pew, let alone sitting on a couch. It happens before the service starts. It happens during the passing of the peace. It happens standing around with a cup of coffee afterward, when someone asks how your week really went.

You don't have to go to church to be the church. Songwriter Keith Green once put it this way: going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going into the garage makes you a car. But you do have to be in community, actual, in-the-room, can't-look-away community,

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Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright	Senior Pastor
Rebecca Duque	Administrator
La Mar Owens	Music Director-Contemporary
Wade Patton	Director of Youth Ministry
Wendy Warner	Music Director-Traditional
Marcy Wright	Director of Children's Ministry

Trinity Preschool

Rebecca Duque	Administrator
Cassi Torrez	Director

Char Wickman — Circulation Manager

Thanks to many Volunteers!

DEADLINE
FOR PUBLICATION
15TH
OF EACH MONTH
FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S PUBLICATION

Materials are collated on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

to be a connected part of the body. Paul told the Corinthians that a body isn't a body if the parts stay separated. An eye that never touches a hand isn't part of anything; it's just floating.

A screen can hand you the sermon. It can't hand you a hug, a shared burden, or a "How can I pray for you?" It can't pass you the peace. That only happens in the room, with people who know your name and notice when you're missing.

Coming together got us here. Keeping together, showing up, staying connected, doing life with one another in person when we're able, is what turns a room full of individuals into a body. And when we do that, working together isn't far behind.

Christ has called each of us, as the body of Christ, to be in each other's presence as much as we can. Sunday, Wednesday, or anytime together in the same room is a blessing. So come on in, the water is fine! And if you need a ride or a visit where you are, please just call the church at 209-529-3228, and we will make that happen.

Blessings,
Pastor Craig

August 2026 Finance Summary

Fiscal Year = September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026

	ACTUAL	
	August	**Year to Date**
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	$48,082	$742,019
Expenses	$57,548	$737,336
Receipts over Expenses	-$9,466	$4,683

In August, we brought in $48,082 and spent $57,548, so we spent $9,466 more than we received for the month. With August closing out our fiscal year, we finished the year $4,683 ahead overall, meaning we brought in slightly more than we spent from September through August.



A Moment with Marcy

October 2026

"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

God's Word, the Good News, Scripture, the Word of God, the Bible. There are many ways we refer to God's Word. No matter what title we use, the important thing is to absorb it, read it, learn it, memorize it, and hide it in your heart. Why? That is something the children will be addressing for the next ten weeks. What does "hide it in my heart" mean, and why is it important?

There are stories of soldiers being saved from a deadly bullet by the New Testament they were carrying in their pocket that will give you goosebumps. That is not what we are talking about. We are not talking about hiding a physical Bible in a pocket. We are talking about taking the truths in God's Word and making them our basis for living. We learn right from wrong based on what Scripture says is right and wrong. Repeatedly reading the Good News of God's great love for us builds the strong foundation we desperately need. We understand the gracious and loving character of God by witnessing His relationship with Israel. We know what right relationships require and why we should strive for them, as revealed in the Word of God.

There are many things seeking our attention. God's Word should be the one we make a conscious, consistent effort to hide in our hearts.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105



Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8

As we start to welcome the cooler mornings and the leaves begin to change colors, we have much to be grateful for. Our infant-toddler center is at maximum capacity on some days, and we are continuing to welcome new families.

The center will be having a Harvest Parade on October 30 at 10:00 AM. This includes the toddler class, the two's class, the preschool class, and the pre-K class. The kiddos will be dressed in their adorable costumes and will parade around the church campus, stopping to gather some treats from the church staff. Please come watch and smile at all the cuteness! We are looking forward to a fun October!

As always, please keep the preschool in your thoughts and prayers.

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Our prayers of love and support are extended to Patti Reed and family. Her husband, Trinity Covenant Partner Tom Reed died on September 15, 2026.



tsm
trinity student ministries

Words from Wade



What: TSM Wednesday Scavenger Hunt
Who: TSM
Where: Trinity
Participants: 6 students, 6 leaders

Every Wednesday night, we have an activity for the youth to do. This night, we challenged them with the question, "How well do you know your church?" The students were given clues leading them to specific places around campus. The pictures served as proof that they found each place while also showing that they stayed together as a group.



What: "Give a Life Day"
Who: Youth for Christ Student Leadership Training
Where: One Church, Modesto
Participants from Trinity: 2 students, 1 leader



Every year, Youth for Christ puts on a training for student club leaders. Two of our young ladies decided to attend even though they haven't been a part of the Christian club at their school.



What: Joint Pool Party
Who: Escalon Presbyterian and TUPC
Where: Escalon, CA
Participants: 20 people combined

After leaving camp, Escalon Presbyterian and TUPC decided to have a joint event a couple of times each year. This pool party was one of at least two events planned.



Current Series: Family of God
When: Wednesday nights, 6:00–7:30 PM
Where/Participants: TUPC / TSM
Where/Participants: TUPC / TSM

Our current series is *Family of God*. We're showing our youth that the Body of Christ is an extension of their family. The same components that are part of their families, including love languages, family values, fun, work ethic, God, and boundaries, also exist in God's family.
We have two main questions we're asking as we go through this series with our youth:

1. What are they?
2. How do we identify them?

We've also updated our tab on the church website with a few resources for our youth. Check it out!



Trinity Learning Zone

Submitted by Stephanie Anderson

It is absolutely amazing to me how fast each year seems to go by! As we come up on October, the Learning Zone tutoring program is in full swing! We just completed week four and are desperately needing more tutors to help us reach the number of students enrolling.

We were very excited to represent Trinity again at Garrison Elementary's back-to-school event, and we already have several new students this year. This week, we also sent home flyers with all of the students at Enslen Elementary School, and we are excited to meet some new faces there as well. It is always so exciting and encouraging to hear how Trinity has impacted people in our neighborhood. The Learning Zone tutoring program has really bloomed, and we have a full house on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00.

Our goal for this ministry is for volunteers to work with one student and get to know them personally, meet their family, find out what they like and dislike about school, hear about things they love and things they struggle with, and through all of that, find ways to encourage them and show them Christ's LOVE for **them!** Educationally speaking, I can tell you that 85% of young people who have a solid, meaningful connection with a mentor will see positive changes and success in education. Practically speaking, for the life and mission of the church, I can tell you from my own life growing up at Trinity how many amazing mentors gave my life purpose and mission! I have seen time and again, at several churches, how building connections with students has changed not just their lives, but their families' lives as well.

And let me tell you, this is not a hard or difficult task! We read books and discuss them. We practice adding and times tables (nothing too tricky!). And we play games that encourage speaking and critical-thinking skills. Connect Four and Guess Who are some favorites. We have fun and interact, and it makes such a difference in the life of a child, in the life of their family, and, dare I say, in the life of those who tutor! Building connections and relationships is so meaningful!

And isn't that what Jesus commanded us to do? The greatest commandment: love God. Have and build a relationship with God. The second greatest commandment? Love your neighbor! Have and build a relationship with your neighbors. Let the love of God shine through you to them!

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up soon, and we always see an increase in the demand for tutoring at that time. If this is something you might be interested in getting involved in, we would love to have you!

A few hours after I wrote this article, a mom called asking to sign her twins up for tutoring. She was so excited and grateful to find us online because she cannot afford to pay for tutoring. We would love to be able to give these kids the individual attention they need!

Please consider helping out!

We are devoted to love for one another, joyfully welcoming the stranger, eagerly expecting heaven's surprises! (Hebrews 13:1-2)

2026 Operation Christmas Child

Dear Church,

Please remember that our Operation Christmas Child Soup Luncheon and Packing Party will be here soon! Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 1, at 11:00 AM.

We'll gather in the Telle Center for prayer and lunch, followed by packing all those red shoeboxes in the name of Jesus to be sent to children all over the world. What an exciting day this will be!

Thank you, and God bless you,
Leslie Cooley



Prime Timers

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

The Prime Timers Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 3, in the Telle Center at 12:00 noon. We will be celebrating "Oktoberfest" and ushering in the fall season. We have a fun-filled day planned for you to enjoy, with lots of great food.

Prime Timers is open to all ages, and we would love to have you join us. Please call Char Wickman at 209-497-9211 if you plan to attend. The cost of the luncheon is $10 per person. There is no charge for first-time attendees.

Let's ring in the fall season together!

Trinity Men's Ministry Experience

Submitted by Ted Benson

Open-Cockpit Day at Castle Air Museum

Glorious weather and an endless array of vintage flying machines at the Castle Air Museum combined to give Trinity United's MME group a star-spangled start to Labor Day weekend on Saturday, September 5. Eighteen participants ranging in age from 8 to 89 took part in the fall edition of Castle's Open-Cockpit Day. The biannual showcase offered the chance to get up close and personal with the collection of more than 80 military aircraft, enjoy "plane talks," and tour the museum's restoration hangars. A big thank-you goes to all who participated.

What's next for MME? Stay tuned, and feel free to offer suggestions for future events. Contact Ted Benson in person at church or call 209-522-2390.



Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Kathy Evans Renee and Fred Fellows	**2** Elvio and Susan Filippi Frank and Betty Flaim	**3** Bill and Joy Fox Liz and Jonathan Fung
4 Greg Fusi and Janice Lucero Debbie George	**5** Darlene Ghiorso David and Judy Glaister	**6** Sam and Claire Graham Janice Gray	**7** Sarah and Chris Haberman Dick and Teresa Hagerty	**8** Steve and Nina Hanna Lynnsey Hardy	**9** Alicia Heim Melinda Heim	**10** Chris and Marti Hennings Devon and Rosalie Hill
11 Brian and Stacy Hoekman Lois and Rex Holm	**12** Sue Husted Helen Johnson	**13** Sharon Johnson Doris Jones	**14** Dave and Gayle Kerr Joy Kerr-Owens	**15** Duane and Susan Kirk Nannette Knockum	**16** Dyann LaMantia Christina Latino	**17** Merilyn Lewis Sally Lindberg
18 Bert Lippert Robb Loeser	**19** Sue Lorenz Eunice Lovi	**20** Wendy Lucas Luther and Vicky Lundeby	**21** Monica Maddock Les and Leslie Malakian	**22** Catherine and Alex Martinez Patricia Mason	**23** Myrna McDaniel Richard and Isabell McKay	**24** Ross Sr. and Lee McKenzie Ross Jr. and Kellie Mckenzie
25 Terri McNabb Felix and Teresa Mejia	**26** Judy Michaelis Lachelle Mills	**27** Jeanine Monteith Jeanne Nelson	**28** Kathy Nelson Tony and Chris Ott	**29** La Mar Owens Deborah and Clark Pearson	**30** Donna Pedersen Dale Pederson and Tara McDonnell	**31** Sue Pehl Patricia Phillips

1. Bethany Christian Services
   Sandra Hiatt
2. Bethel Ministries International
   Bryan Crabtree
3. Bethel Ministries International
   Ben and Emily Mooney
4. Calvin Crest
   Tiffany Staman
5. Cru
   Kelly and Vicki Londoni
6. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
   Lo McDermott
7. Mesa Global
   Todd and Sarah Hunnicut
8. Modesto Gospel Mission
   Jason Conway
9. Modesto Pregnancy Center
   Erin Koolhaas
10. Operation Christmas Child / Samaritan's Purse
11. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
    Liz Benson
12. Reclaim, Bangladesh
    Dr. Jay Litchfield
13. Rock of Ages
    Sidney Stone
14. Trinity United Basket of Hope Food Distribution
    Jim Bucknell and David Zellman
15. Trinity United Guatemala Mission Team
    Marcy Wright
16. Valley Recovery Resources
    Steve Berkowitz
17. Vine House
    Cheryl Van Horn
18. Youth for Christ
    Ken Sylvia

Pray for one of our supported Mission Families each day of the month.

TRINITY UNITED

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WORSHIP WITH US!

8:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Onsite and Online
Fellowship after Worship in Telle Center

LEADERSHIP

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION:
Tuesday, October 20, 8:30 AM
DEACON MEETING: Tuesday, October 6, 3:30 PM
SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 PM
STEPHEN MINISTRY: 2nd/4th Mondays, 3:00-4:30 PM
TRIP COMMITTEE: Monday, October 5, 10:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, October 16,
9:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot
TUESDAY GROUNDS CREW: Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 AM
TUTORING: Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30 PM

WEDNESDAYS UNITED:

5:30-6:00 PM Dinner in Telle Center
6:00-7:30 PM Bible Study Programs for everyone!
Childcare Provided

STUDY

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 8:30 AM, various locations on campus
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Thursdays, 9:15 AM, Room #203
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:00 AM, Youth Center

PRAISE

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: Sunday, October 4
WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 PM
CHURCH TRIP- YOSEMITE: Thursday, October 29,
Donuts 6:45 AM; Bus loads 7:15 AM; Bus Returns 6:00 PM
FALL FESTIVAL: Sunday, October 25, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM
PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, October 3, 12:00 PM
TRINITY QUILTERS: Mondays, 12:00-3:00 PM, Telle Center
YOUTH CITY-WIDE LATE NIGHTER: Friday, October 16, 6:00 PM
YOUTH NOT-A-HALLOWEEN PARTY: Wednesday, October 21, 5:00 PM

Electronic Version Online at www.tupc.org
See Online Calendar for changes.
Worship Services are livestreamed on www.tupc.org

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