

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 54 No. 7

JULY 2026

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



The Wright Angle

Another Sip of Koala Tea

Greetings, Church Family!

Romans 12 begins with a wonderfully practical invitation. Paul has spent eleven chapters telling the story of God's grace, faithfulness, patience, forgiveness, and covenant mercy. Then he turns a corner. In effect, he says, *"Now, because all of this is true, here is how we live."*

Christian living does not begin with fear, guilt, or religious pressure. It begins with mercy. We do not offer ourselves to God in order to make Him merciful. We offer ourselves *because He already is*.

Many of us were taught, directly or indirectly, that the Christian life is mostly about trying harder. Try harder to be good. Try harder to pray. Try harder to be patient with difficult people. But Paul doesn't start there. He starts with a view. Before he asks anything of us, he plants us in front of a panorama: in view of God's mercies. Before we ask, *"What must I do?"* we are invited to ask, *"What has God already done, and what kind of God has He shown Himself to be?"*

The mercy Paul has in mind is not thin or sentimental. It is the deep mercy of a God who forgives sinners, welcomes prodigals, keeps covenant, and brings life where there was only death. It is the mercy declared to Moses when the Lord revealed Himself as *"the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness"* (Exodus 34:6). It is the mercy we see in Jesus, who touches lepers, eats with sinners, forgives His enemies, and lays down His life for the world. This is no small mercy. This is mercy with muscle and tears and nail prints in its hands.

So how, then, should we live? We live as people who have been *mercied*. We offer our bodies, our ordinary lives, our hands, our calendars, our homes, our words, and our habits back to God. We practice patience because God has been patient with us. We show mercy because we have received mercy. We welcome strangers because Christ welcomed us. We forgive because we have been forgiven. We serve not to earn a place in God's family, but because mercy has



TRINITY UNITED

1600 Carver Road
Modesto, California 95350

(209) 529-3228

www.tupc.org

E-mail: tupc@tupc.org

Preschool

(209) 578-5625

tupc.org/trinitypreschool

E-mail: trinitypreschool@tupc.org

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.

already brought us home.

Here is perhaps the best question for all of us this month: *What would change in my life if I really lived "in view of God's mercies"?* Maybe I would be less anxious, less harsh, less defensive — and more generous. Maybe I would notice the person who feels unseen. Maybe I would make the phone call, write the note, offer the apology, or extend the kindness I have been postponing. Mercy is not something we admire from a distance. Mercy becomes the atmosphere we breathe and the road we walk.

Paul's point is beautifully simple: the mercy of God is not just the beginning of our salvation — it is the shape of our daily life. In view of such mercy, let us offer ourselves to God again. Gladly. Humbly. And with great hope.

And for goodness' sake, take some time this month to sit down with a cup of Koala Tea. Because, as we all know, the Koala Tea of mercy is not strained.

Blessings,

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

May 2026 Finance Summary

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

	ACTUAL	
	May	Year to Date
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
Receipts	\$48,940	\$590,596
Expenses	\$61,372	\$553,798
Receipts over Expenses	-\$12,432	\$36,798

In May, we received \$48,940 and spent \$61,372, so we spent \$12,432 more than we brought in for the month. Since the start of our church year in September, we have still received \$36,798 more than we have spent.

Giving often slows during the summer, so we are especially grateful for your faithful support of Trinity United and its ministries.



A Moment with Marcy

July 2026

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Hebrews 11:8

Obedience is a pertinent topic for children. They have to learn the importance of obedience: obedience to parents, teachers, and God. In class, we break it down to "do what the person in authority over you says." It is a lesson worth taking the time to learn, and it will benefit us for a lifetime.

Obedience is not just something required of us as small children; it follows us into adulthood. The "person in authority over us" changes, but the necessity for obedience does not. We are required to obey our boss if we want to keep our job. We are required to obey the law if we do not want to face a penalty. God has asked us to obey Him.

We obey our parents, teachers, bosses, and the law in large part to avoid consequences. The flip side is that we also obey for the rewards: the positive results. If we complete our assignments, we may be eligible for a scholarship. If we complete the tasks our boss wants done, we may receive a bonus. Obedience avoids negative consequences and often results in benefits.

While disobeying God (sin) results in consequences that we want to avoid, obeying God results in blessing. Abraham received the promises of God because of his faith. He acted upon that faith by obeying. God said, "Go, and I will bless you." Abraham went and received the promises of God.

Jesus takes it a step further. In John 14:15, He simply states, "If you love me, keep my commands." What are His commands? Love God and love others. Obedience is an act of love.



Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

Corinthians 3:17

Summer has been fun so far here at Trinity Preschool! We have enjoyed water play days, homemade ice cream, snow cones, pajama day, and so much more!

As we enter July, it also means it is time for the fireworks booth! Trinity United Presbyterian Church's fireworks booth will be located in the Staniford Avenue and Prescott Road shopping center parking lot, between Arby's and Leslie's Pool Supplies. You can sign up to volunteer through the church or preschool office, or stop by to purchase fireworks in the days leading up to the Fourth of July. All proceeds will help support campus ministries.

As we say goodbye to our Pre-K class, we will also be welcoming new students and families as the new school year begins next month. We are excited to see what God has in store for the preschool and our families.

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez

Faith and Finance at Chase Bank

Date: June 13, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Participants: 12 from Trinity Student Ministries (7 youth and 5 adults)

Trinity Student Ministries participated in a collaboration between community partners and Chase Bank. The topic was saving money. Three churches were invited to the event, but Trinity was the only church that participated. The youth had lunch at the mall afterward.



Pool Party

Date: June 7

Participants: 20 people (12 youth and 8 adults)

We combined our Graduation Sunday celebration with our first pool party of the summer. This year, five or six middle school students moved up to high school. We had no graduating seniors. There were no accidents, everyone was fed, and everyone enjoyed swimming. It was all smiles and no hospital visits!



Summer Camp Shirt Project

Date: June 10

Participants: 18 people (11 youth and 7 adults)

One of our youth brought a T-shirt project to us. The shirts were created for campers attending Calvin Crest. We decided to make them together as a youth group and wear them to the Chase Bank event on June 13. During lunch at the mall, the youths' shirts became a witnessing tool and sparked conversations with people around them.



Youth Worship Night

Date: May 31, 6:00–7:00 PM

Participants from Trinity: 5 youth

Trinity's youth were invited to attend a youth worship night. Three local Covenant churches brought their youth groups together to form an area youth band for the event. Trinity was invited to worship and then enjoy fellowship over a meal at In-N-Out. We worshiped, ate, and had a good night together.

Program Change

Monday's Home Economics classes were canceled due to a lack of sign-ups.

Summer Camp

Camp is coming up in July. We will attend high school camp at Calvin Crest and take seven or eight youth. At this point, all of the youth attending are girls. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel.

Wendy's Writings



*"Breathe on me breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what you would love,
And do what you would do!"*

I imagine this favorite hymn being sung very quietly, almost prayerfully. If I am inviting God to breathe on me, then I want peace and quiet. I don't want to miss a single part of His breath. If He is filling me with life, then I want to grasp it all! And with new life? What does that mean? A mystery?

A new vitality? A new direction? I must be very still, very quiet, and very patient. It may not all come at once. It may mean that I must wait through a few days, or more....

Then I begin to hear it, to see it, and to become aware of it as a vision grows.

Sometimes it is just too big. I am inclined to say "NO"! To God! It is too much! I walk away....

I fill my life with noise to escape the vision, but it won't be shut out. It keeps coming back! Bits and pieces keep pushing through the confusion and jumble of my meager attempts to escape. I increase the volume of my distractions!

Until at last, I give up. "You win!" I yell at God in tears. "I'll try it," I whisper.

And so, one small step at a time, God's vision begins to appear. The seemingly impossible dream takes form, oh so very slowly. Another part of what is to become a reality takes shape. Oh my, I forgot to include this important part! With renewed strength, I power on, finding myself filled with new energy and excitement!

As this elusive dream comes closer to reality, I find myself filled with joy! It is going to happen!

With God filling my soul with what will be, I am filled with a new song:

*"Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!"*

Paradise Rising

Submitted by Ted Benson

"This place soothes me."

A gentle rain washes over the emerald slopes west of Feather Falls on Monday, May 4, 2026, winter making one more curtain call before yielding to spring in Butte County. Behind the white wrought-iron gate guarding the entrance to Shady Creek Ranch on Lumpkin Road, homeowner Paul Welch stands on the porch of a tiny home temporarily bursting at the seams with the combined efforts of 15 volunteers from Trinity United's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance team. For the moment, the scene is not exactly soothing.

It's Day One of Trinity United's 19th PDA mission outreach, and the weather has dictated a day of indoor work. Flexibility has been a hallmark of TUPC's teamwork. Cramming 15 people into 400 square feet of living space (600 square feet when you include the overhead loft) would be a challenge for Gumby, the 1950s cartoon character familiar to Trinity's collection of "seasoned citizens."

Welch wisely gives the volunteers a wide berth, concentrating on keeping his chocolate Lab, Rosie, out of the house and the herd of goats inside the gate. "Mom's house was right here," he notes, pointing out the footprint of the family home lost to the Bear Fire of 2020. Welch's mother was blessed to escape with her life when a firestorm exceeding the intensity of 2018's Camp Fire in Paradise swept through Feather Falls and Berry Creek. While his mom chose to relocate following the blaze, Paul

Paradise Rising continued on page 6

elected to return and rebuild, all while dealing with post-traumatic stress brought on by the events of August 2020. After a life's work in heavy construction, Welch has opted for a quiet existence. "It'll never be the same—at least in my lifetime—but it's home."

Coming home accurately describes many of the feelings of TUPC's PDA team during our sixth trip to the "other Trinity," Trinity Presbyterian Church in Oroville. Once again, we partnered with the Tiny Pine Foundation, working at a number of locations as well as the distribution center. Monday, May 4, at Paul Welch's place near Feather Falls was the only day you had to step outside to change your mind. Cooperative weather allowed for interior and exterior work, plus jobsite debris removal, at five additional home sites between Paradise, Concow, and Berry Creek over the remainder of the week.

Four out of five workdays began at Home Depot in Oroville, where donations from the TUPC church family were turned into building supplies. The shopping list broke down as follows:

Siding (for one tiny home):	\$2,754.03
Dry wall (gypsum board):	\$554.26
Dry wall joint compound & tape:	\$207.44
Paint & painting supplies:	\$174.92
Gloves (paint and dry wall work):	\$131.83
Insulation (wall & ceiling):	\$404.56
Tools (painting, siding, insulation):	\$363.34
Total supply expenses for week:	\$4,590.38

Upon our return to Modesto, an additional \$3,300 was sent to Tiny Pine, earmarked for building supplies to continue TPF's various projects.

Exclusive of our construction projects, a group of TUPC women volunteers spent half a day preparing take-and-bake lasagnas for Tiny Pine for sale at TPF's weekly fundraiser.

Come Friday it was a tired but satisfied

Trinity United PDA team that gathered at Shakey's Pizza in Oroville to celebrate another rewarding week on the mission field. There was no denying the weariness. Some of us were two decades younger when we began this adventure. The satisfaction of work well done never gets old, but when it comes to the game on the mission field, Father Time bats last.

On the other hand, after five years of working with Alyssa Hofman at Tiny Pine and Mike Ratto and Audrey Adema at Trinity Presbyterian Church, a strong kinship has developed. Real progress is being made in Butte County. Considering the heart of TUPC's PDA mission, as New Jersey rocker Bon Jovi sang several years ago, "It's not old, just older."

While our hands may be weary, our hearts overflow with gratitude for every TUPC family member who has made your PDA team so successful. Your prayers sustain us and your donations make the work possible. So mark the week of April 18, 2027. God willing, we're going back to Oroville and Butte County—not old, just older.

In humble appreciation, your Trinity PDA Mission team:

Liz and Ted Benson, Esther Bradfield, Shirley Brooks, Jim Bucknell, Rick Crabtree, Rob DeKasha, Kathy Evans, Patty Howard, Duane and Susan Kirk, Bob and Katie McGrew, Becky Pombo, Ken and Cheryl Smith, Mike and Paula Sherman, and Jim Waterman



Guatemala Mission Update

Submitted by Craig Wright

How You Can Change a Life This Year

Every summer we go to Guatemala to serve - to build, to pray, and to sit with families whose lives look very different from our own. Every year we come home changed, carrying the faces of children, stories of faith that humble us, and a list. Not a wish list - a need list: real names, real families, real opportunities for our church to step in from right here at home.

This year the needs include school sponsorships, food bags, medical care, urgent home repairs, small-business investments, and debt relief. Some are small monthly commitments; others are one-time gifts. All of them are connected to real people we know and love.

A school sponsorship of \$30-\$60 a month can keep a child in the classroom. A \$60 monthly food bag can help keep a family fed. A doctor visit, glasses, a retaining wall, a bathroom structure, or a small business investment can change the daily life of a family in practical ways. If something below stirs your heart, please reach out and let us know which need you would like to meet.

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." -Proverbs 19:17

Pastor Craig

Specific Guatemala Needs

Dora, Marisela, and Ruth Sicajan

- Convenience store investment: \$600 (refrigerator, sign, shelves, food stock)
- Ruth education sponsorship for 2027: \$30/month

Leila Estrada

- Food bag for 6-12 months: \$60/month
- Education: Neylin (14), \$60/month; Genesis (8), \$30/month
- Genesis heart-check doctor visits: \$15/month
- Prescription glasses for Leila: \$250

Lopez Children - four orphans

- Education: Leticia (13), \$60/month; Josue (10), \$30/month; Andrea (6), \$30/month
- Doctor visit for Josue's eyesight: \$150 to start
- Hiring a nanny: pending - let us know if interested

Pedro Tiquiram

- Food bag for at least one year: \$60/month
- Sandra (19) high school completion: \$135
- Sandra college in 2027: \$60/month
- Debt payment: \$8,250 total (\$1,250 food/medicine; \$7,000 land)

Rosalina

- Retaining wall to keep water out of house: \$1,000
- New bathroom structure and wash station: \$900
- Convenience store investment: \$500

To help meet one of these needs, contact the church office or Pastor Craig and identify the family or project you would like to support.



Men's Ministry Experience

Submitted by Ted Benson

Save the Date

Open Cockpit Day at Castle Air Museum Saturday, September 5, 2026

Ever had the urge to sit in the pilot's seat of a Mitchell B-25 bomber flown by legendary World War II Lieutenant General James Doolittle? Check out the controls of a B-52? Get up close and personal with an F-16 or SR-71?

Your chance is coming on Saturday, September 5, 2026, the date of Castle Air Museum's Fall Open Cockpit Day in Atwater.

Save the date and plan to join Trinity's Men's Ministry Experience for some outstanding fellowship and a great opportunity to view one of the nation's premier air museums with a rare degree of access.

Details will follow in the August Trumpet.

Prime Timers

Submitted by Marilyn Sena



Prime Timers Recess for Summer

Trinity Prime Timers agreed to recess for the months of July and August following their June Father's Day celebration. The group enjoyed sharing photos of their dads and telling stories about them. One interesting fact was that most of the fathers had served in the military during World War II.

Dana Coates gave an inspiring devotion titled "What Can I Do?" encouraging attendees to reflect and consider ways they might volunteer before the group reconvenes in September under the leadership of Vicky Wolff.

Attention, Knitters and Crocheters!

Submitted by Leslie Cooley

We would love to have you make small 7" x 7" washcloths for our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Please use 100% cotton yarn, available at Hobby Lobby, Michaels, or Walmart.

You can place your finished washcloths in the OCC Joy in a Box in the church office.

Questions? Please contact Leslie Cooley at 209-402-1653.

Thank You from the Fellowship Committee

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

Thank you to everyone who has donated food for our Fellowship Time after worship. Your generosity helps make it possible for our church family and guests to gather, enjoy refreshments, and spend time together.

As we move into July and August, many people will be traveling or away on vacation. If you feel led to bring something to share during these summer months, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Every donation, large or small, helps us continue offering this time of fellowship.

Thank you again for your generosity and for helping create a warm and welcoming place for everyone.

The Fellowship Committee

Never forget: Nothing is more powerful than prayer, nothing is stronger than faith, and nothing is greater than God.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Jenny Currie Milt David	2 Delma Davis Leonard Davis	3 Carol Decker Chris and Linda Dickinson	4 Tim and Trish Duncan Rebecca and Earl Duque
5 Robert Edson and Joyce Decker Robin Eldaly	6 Twyla Engel Kathy Evans	7 Renee and Fred Fellows Elvio and Susan Filippi	8 Frank and Betty Flaim Bill and Joy Fox	9 Liz and Jonathan Fung Greg Fusi and Janice Lucero	10 Debbie George Darlene Ghiorso	11 David and Judy Glaister Sam and Claire Graham
12 Janice Gray Sarah and Chris Haberman	13 Dick and Teresa Hagerty Steve and Nina Hanna	14 Lynnsey Hardy Alicia Heim	15 Melinda Heim Chris and Marti Hennings	16 Devon and Rosalie Hill Brian and Stacy Hoekman	17 Lois and Rex Holm Sue Husted	18 Helen Johnson Sharon Johnson
19 Doris Jones Dave and Gayle Kerr	20 Joy Kerr-Owens Duane and Susan Kirk	21 Nannette Knockum Dyann LaMantia	22 Christina Latino Merilyn Lewis	23 Sally Lindberg Bert Lippert	24 Robb Loeser Sue Lorenz	25 Eunice Lovi Wendy Lucas
26 Luther and Vicky Lundebay Monica Maddock	27 Les and Leslie Malakian Catherine and Alex Martinez	29 Richard and Isabell McKay Ross Sr. and Lee McKenzie	29 Ross Jr. and Kellie Mckenzie Terri McNabb	30 Felix and Teresa Mejia Judy Michaelis	31 Lachelle Mills Jeanine Monteith	

- Bethany Christian Services
Sandra Hiatt
- Bethel Ministries International
Bryan Crabtree
- Bethel Ministries International
Ben and Emily Mooney
- Calvin Crest
Tiffany Staman
- Cru
Kelly and Vicki Londoni

- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Lo McDermott
- Mesa Global
Todd and Sarah Hunnicut
- Modesto Gospel Mission
Jason Conway
- Modesto Pregnancy Center
Erin Koolhaas
- Operation Christmas Child /
Samaritan's Purse

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Liz Benson
- Reclaim, Bangladesh
Dr. Jay Litchfield
- Rock of Ages
Sidney Stone
- Trinity United Basket of Hope Food Distribution
Jim Bucknell and David Zellman
- Trinity United Guatemala Mission Team
Marcy Wright

- Valley Recovery Resources
Steve Berkowitz
- Vine House
Cheryl Van Horn
- Youth for Christ
Ken Sylvia

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



TRINITY UNITED

1600 CARVER ROAD MODESTO, CA 95350
(209) 529-3228 | WWW.TUPC.ORG

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #131
MODESTO, CA

WORSHIP WITH US!

8:30 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Onsite and Online

Fellowship after Worship in Telle Center

or Current Resident

LEADERSHIP

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION:

Tuesday, July 16, 8:30 AM

PRESCHOOL COMMISSION: Tuesday, July 28, 10:30 AM

STEPHEN MINISTRY: 2nd/4th Mondays, 3:00-4:30 PM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, July 17,
9:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot

FIREWORKS BOOTH: July 1-July 4

TUESDAY GROUNDS CREW: Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 AM

SUMMER FAMILY NIGHTS:

Wednesdays, July 1 - July 15, 5:30 PM

STUDY

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 8:30 AM, various locations on campus

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 20-24, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:00 AM, Youth Center

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, July 12

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Wednesdays, July 1-July 15, 6:15-7:30 PM

CHURCH TRIP- THE STEINBECK HOUSE: Thursday, July 9,

Bus loads 6:45 AM; Bus leaves 7:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP AT CALVIN CREST: July 12-17

JR HIGH SCHOOL CAMP AT CALVIN CREST: July 5-10

KIDS SUMMER READING CLUB: Wednesday, July 1-July 15, 4:00 PM

SHERWOOD CAMP AT CALVIN CREST: July 5-10

TRINITY QUILTERS: Mondays, 12:00-3:00 PM, Telle Center

Electronic Version Online at www.tupc.org

See Online Calendar for changes.

Worship Services are livestreamed on www.tupc.org



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram