



Since 1973 Vol. 53 No. 10

OCTOBER 2025

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



The Wright Angle

Greetings, Church Family,

Can I ask a goofy question? Are you more than “half-saved?” In 1971 singer and songwriter John Lennon released a haunting song that asked his listeners to “Imagine there’s no heaven, it’s easy if you try, no hell below us, above us only sky.”

I am not sure why he wrote those lyrics; my guess is he believed our collective hope in an afterlife might be such a distraction to us that we neglect the care of the earth and the care of each other. Whatever Lennon’s motivation for writing, his question is an essential question for every follower of Christ. So, ask yourself, if there were no heaven, no afterlife, would you still be a Christian? Would you still seek to follow the way of Christ?

Your answer may reveal that you have only considered heaven as the purpose of salvation. It is a great thing to not worry about death and eternity. It is reassuring to leave our eternal state in the hands of a loving God. But again, what if there were no afterlife, what if this life was it? Would you still be a Christian? If you say ‘No, I don’t think I would’ then you are only half-saved. Is being half-saved a thing? Honestly, I don’t know, as I said, it sounds goofy. Let me take a shot at a less than goofy explanation.

Jesus came to ‘save’ the world. His very name translates as “God’s salvation.” But save us from what, or save us to what? Consider, if you did not know where your next meal was coming from and you joined a church community who said to you - you are now a sister in Christ, and we will never let you go hungry again, we love you that much, would that not be salvation? Of course, it would. If you walked through this life alone, having no one to love you, to care for you, to laugh or cry with you, and you found a church that invited you in, accepted you as you are, and gave you community as you have never had before, would that not be salvation? Of course, it would. If you had a child with a life-threatening illness, and a group of Christians walked alongside you, helping you to be strong when you were weak, bringing you meals, cutting your grass, and helping you survive the ordeal, would that not be salvation? Of course, it would.

The Wright Angle continued on page 2



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Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright	Senior Pastor
Rebecca Duque	Administrator
La Mar Owens	Music Director- Contemporary
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.

I hope you are getting the point. Salvation is both assurance for eternity, and it is a tangible help in the 'here and now.' That tangible part should be so significant in our lives that the gift of eternal life would be considered a bonus. In fact, the word salvation in the New Testament "Sozo" means to rescue. Speaking of imagination, let's imagine you are dangling from a thin branch on the side of a cliff, and someone shouts from above, "Would you like to be saved?" you would respond with a hearty "Oh Yes! Thank God!" Now if that person shouted back, "Great, repeat after me... Dear Jesus, I am a sinner - please forgive me of my sins." Well, that might be a time to get right with God, but that is not what you thought was happening, that is not the rescue you had in mind. If that person were offering you true salvation, that person would throw you a rope and then speak with you about eternity. By then, you might be ready to say yes to Christ. Half-saved means you are hoping for the heaven part but do not think the way of Christ has much to offer in the form of rescue in this life. How sad is that? The Psalmist wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46) God in Christ has gifted us with life and life eternal!

Amen!

Pastor Craig

August 2025 Finance Summary

Fiscal Year = September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

	ACTUAL	
	August	Year to Date
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
Receipts	\$52,291	\$746,875
Expenses	\$70,475	\$763,000
Receipts over Expenses	-\$18,184	-\$16,125

In August, we received \$52,291 and spent \$70,475, which means we spent \$18,184 more than we received. For the full fiscal year, we've spent \$16,125 more than we've received.



A Moment with Marcy

October 2025

"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen."

Hebrews 11:1-3 NLT

The rest of the chapter goes on to give many examples of Old Testament characters living out their faith. For the next two months, the children will be looking at what faith meant to these men and what it means to us. Each week we will focus on a different aspect of faith.

Believe God is who He says He is and can do what He says He will do.

Because you believe God is who He says is, **Obey** Him.

Trust that God is with you and will do what He says.

Our **Hope** is in His promises—forgiveness of sins, He is always with us, heaven.

Our faith should result in **Actions**, in Worship, and in Love.



Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

"Then you shall call and the Lord will answer, you shall cry and he will say, Here I am."

Isaiah 58:9

The first few months of the new school year have been fun, filled with laughs and diving into curriculum while learning about the love of Jesus! We have welcomed a few new families within this timeframe and will be welcoming three more throughout this month.

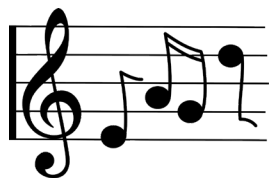
This month the preschoolers will be taking a field trip to Dutch Hollow Farms to have some fun and pick out a pumpkin. The whole center will participate in the Harvest Parade on Friday, October 31 at 10 AM. They'll be all dressed up in their cute costumes, parading around the church campus. If you would like to catch a glimpse of the cuteness, come on down! I may put you to work to hand out a goody to the kiddos!

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez

*We are devoted to love for one another, joyfully welcoming
the stranger, eagerly expecting heaven's surprises!*

(Hebrews 13:1-2)



Why do we have a choir in church?

The answer is in the Bible and varies slightly depending on which version you are reading. Here are just a few citations for us to think about!

1) In the Book of Exodus (Chapter 15) when the Lord had parted the Red Sea and saved the Israelites from the Egyptians, Moses and the Israelites sang a rather lengthy song of Praise to God! But just following that, Miriam, a prophet, sang a much shorter song of Praise to God, accompanied by tambourines and dancing and all the women!

2) Also, in the Book of Exodus (Chapter 28, verse 31) God instructed Moses to adorn himself with several garments, including "gold bells," the sound of which would serve as a protection so that he would not be killed!

3) Another instance of music in the Bible involved a summons of all the people of Israel by King David in I Chronicles (Chapter 16 ff). King David, at God's instruction, led the procession of the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, followed by Instrumentalists and Singers and their Leaders. And a Ministry of Music was born!

4) The Book of Psalms includes 150 hymns and prayers composed by various authors (many by King David!). These were quoted by Jesus and other writers of the New Testament and express our Praise for God, prayers for help and protection, prayers for forgiveness and salvation. A rich collection of songs and hymns both personal and national.

5) Moving to the New Testament we find four songs in the Book of Luke surrounding the Birth of Christ! When we say "YES!" to the invitation to be part of the choir, we are saying "YES!" to God's invitation to be part of the message of God's glory and power, God's salvation for ALL people, God's LOVE for all people! What an honor to be called to this service. Perhaps this is a call God has for YOU!

Rev. Wendy Warner
Music Director - Traditional



Celebrating God's Bountiful Harvest!

Submitted by Marcy Wright

Sunday, October 26, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Join us after church for a day of fun, food, and fellowship as we celebrate the harvest season here in the Central Valley. Come enjoy games, Photo Op, and crafts for all ages, and enjoy a delicious lunch. Please bring a fall dessert to share.

Let's gather together to celebrate all that God has blessed us with - a true harvest of community, joy and gratitude. So invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for this memorable day. We can't wait to see you there!

Trinity Resource Library

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

TUPC Library Help Needed!

Two or three people are needed to help in our Church Library and Resource Center. The help needed would be to volunteer once per month on Thursdays from 11 AM to 1 PM. As a library volunteer, the task would be to restock shelves, straighten books on the shelves, and get new books ready to file and shelve. Not all tasks are required every week. If you are a lover of books and are willing to offer your time to the ministry, please see Vicky Wolff, our Library Director or give her a call. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents. You are a blessing to our Church's ministry.

Prime Timers

Submitted by Marilyn Sena

Pizza Party for October 4 Gathering

PIZZA, PIZZA... Trinity Prime Timers will be treated to a favorite food selection along with a choice salad and dessert at the October 4 meeting in Telle Center. Lunch will be served at 12 PM followed by an inspiring devotion from Charlie Crane. The program will feature an informative talk by Rick Crabtree about what happens in Guatemala when Trinity volunteers go to serve there. His son, Bryan, is partnering with Bethel Ministries International.

All Trinity adults are invited to attend the event. You are asked to bring your own tableware and a donation of \$10. Beverages are provided. Reservations may be made in advance by calling Char Wickman at 209-523-6570.



Over 80s Brunch

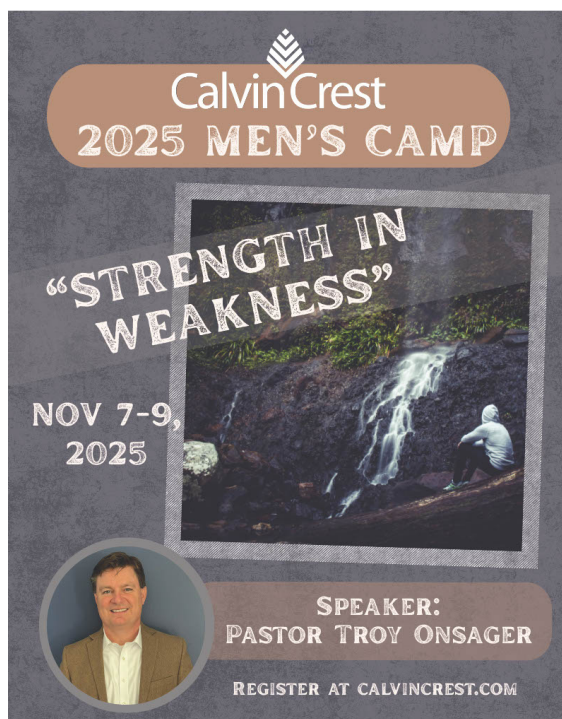
Sunday October 19 following worship

If you're over 80 years old, you're invited
RSVP to the church office at 209-529-3228.

Fellowship

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank those of you who have generously donated refreshments on Sunday for our fellowship time after Church. We have all been blessed by your donations. We would like to give a shout out to our Covenant Partners once again and ask for food donations to help with our weekly Fellowship time. If you are able and willing to donate a food item or two to share, it would be greatly appreciated. Please use the new sign-up sheet on the refreshment table to let us know what item you will bring and which Sunday you plan to bring it, so the committee can ensure all needs are met. Also, if you are willing to volunteer in the kitchen once per month preparing these refreshments, please let Jim Bucknell or Coordinator Vicky Wolff know. Thank you for volunteering, your help and donations are appreciated!



Calvin Crest Men's Camp

Submitted by Walt Cooley

**Trinity Men,
Calvin Crest Men's Camp
is just around the corner, and you
should come!**

This is an exciting, fun, and spiritually fulfilling event that you will not want to miss. This year's topic is "STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS" and will be led by Pastor Troy Onsager from Escalon Presbyterian. Calvin Crest is a beautiful location if you have never been before. The staff will treat you like a king, feed you like you won't believe, providing a weekend you won't soon forget. It is truly amazing to be with 100+ men singing and worshipping our Lord.

The date is November 7-9, 2025. There are a variety of room options varying in price, but note Cedar Lodge fills up fast. To register, go to the Calvin Crest website at calvincrest.com. So grab a friend or two, and join us for a GREAT WEEKEND on the mountain top!

If you have any questions please call Walt Cooley (209-402-3661) or Dave Zellman (209-404-8163). Please let me know if you register and we will try to coordinate driving.

Praying that you will join us for Men's Camp 2025!

Walt Cooley

Operation Christmas Child

Submitted by Leslie Cooley



Operational Christmas Child is just around the corner! Shoebox Kick-Off is Sunday, October 19. Please be ready to pick up your empty Shoeboxes and information packets. Bring your filled boxes on Sunday, November 16 and also join us for our All Church Soup Luncheon and Packing Party.



BASKET OF HOPE

COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Every third Friday from 10:00 - noon

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Trinity Partner Robbie Loeser's father, Bob Loeser, died on September 16, 2025. There will be a private burial service held at a later date.

Trinity Partner Roger Gray died on September 21, 2025.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ryan and Kate Anderson Twyla Anderson	2 Donna Bakker Diana and David Beal	3 Krista Beal Martha Beasley	4 Rob and Susan Beasley Silvana Beasley
5 Ted and Liz Benson Virginia Berry	6 Barbara Bianchi Joyce Blank	7 Elizabeth Blixt Esther Bradfield	8 Phillip Bravard Clayton and Lacey Bray	9 Dennis and Michele Bray Emily Bray	10 Shirley Brooks Marilyn Brown	11 Grace Brummel Elizabeth Bucknell
12 Jim and Monique Bucknell Lee and Sandy Bucknell	13 Reva Burchett Greg Cash	14 Mike and Barbara Cash Mike and Kim Caskey	15 Karen Chamberlain Jeff and Debbie Chin	16 Rich and Sue Colla Loi Collins	17 Walt and Leslie Cooley Marty and Karen Cox	18 Rick and Bonnie Crabtree Bryan Crabtree
19 Charlie and Sherry Crane Jenny Currie	20 Carol Decker Chris and Linda Dickinson	21 Tim and Trish Duncan Rebecca and Earl Duque	22 Robin Eldaly Twyla Engel	23 Kathy Evans Renee and Fred Fellows	24 Elvio and Susan Filippi Frank and Betty Flaim	25 Bill and Joy Fox Liz and Jonathan Fung
26 Greg Fusi and Janice Lucero Debbie George	27 Darlene Ghiorso David and Judy Glaister	28 Sam and Claire Graham Janice Gray	29 Sarah and Chris Haberman Dick and Teresa Hagerty	30 Steve and Nina Hanna Lynnsey Hardy	31 Saylah and Justin Harvey Alicia Heim	

- Bethany Christian Services
Sandra Hiatt
- Bethel Ministries International
Ben and Emily Mooney, Bryan Crabtree
- Calvin Crest
Tiffany Staman
- Cru Zimbabwe
Kelly and Vicki Londoni
- Guatemala Trinity United
Mission Team: Marcy Wright

- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Lo McDermott
- LOVE Modesto
Jeff Pishney
- 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
- Shalem School
Pastor Helcias Reyes

- 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
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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 21, 8:30 AM

DEACONS: Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 PM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, October 14, 6:30 PM

TRIP COMMITTEE: Tuesday, October 7, 10:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, October 17,
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

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Room #203

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Thursdays, 9:15 AM, Room #203

PRAISE

WORLD COMMUNION: Sunday, October 5

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

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

FALL FESTIVAL: Sunday, October 26, 11:30 AM

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

OVER 80's BRUNCH: Sunday, October 19, 11:30 AM

PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, October 4, 12:00 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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