

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 54 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2026

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



The Wright Angle

Greetings Church Family,

I was reminded recently of a moment many of us experienced as children. In a grade school classroom, we took dry, lifeless seeds, placed them into paper cups filled with soil, watered them, set them on a windowsill, and walked away. A few days later, something astonishing happened. The seed cracked open, and a tender green shoot pushed its way upward toward the light.

On one level, this is among the most ordinary events on earth. Grass grows. Seeds sprout. Fields turn green. And yet, on another level, it is nothing short of miraculous. Life emerges where there was none. Grace breaks through what appeared dormant. It is no wonder Jesus used this very image to describe the Kingdom of God—a seed falling into the earth, quietly doing its work. The Apostle Paul picks up this same imagery when he writes to the church in Corinth: *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow”* (1 Corinthians 3:6–7). It is a reminder that faithfulness, not visibility, is the calling of the church—and that growth, in all its forms, belongs to God.

In that spirit, I want to offer a word of heartfelt thanks to the faithful Tuesday morning crew who gather week after week, year after year, to tend our grounds and flowerbeds. Their quiet work makes our campus welcoming and beautiful, a visible sign of care long before anyone steps inside for worship or fellowship. Some of these men are master gardeners, deeply knowledgeable about what grows in the dirt and how best to tend it. And yet, their work reminds all of us that we are called to something even greater.

For whether or not we know the difference between perennials and annuals, we are all tending the Master’s garden—the hearts and souls of those we meet in life and those God brings into our orbit here at TUPC. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every prayer offered is a seed planted in soil we may never fully see.

Trinity United Presbyterian Church is no stranger to faithful planting. Over many decades, seeds of worship, prayer, service, generosity, and compassion have been placed into this community’s soil. Some bore fruit quickly. Others rested unseen for years. That is the way of God’s garden. Growth is not always immediate, but it is always intentional.



TRINITY UNITED

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Ministerial Staff

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

We are tending relationships. We are caring for one another. We are serving our neighbors in ways both visible and unseen. We are continuing the quiet, faithful work of being the church—gathering at the table, lifting prayers together, extending hospitality, and trusting that God is at work even when progress is slow or subtle.

History reminds us that seeds can remain dormant far longer than we expect. In 2008, scientists successfully germinated a two-thousand-year-old Judean date palm seed found among the ruins of Masada. Against all expectations, life emerged when the conditions were right. God's grace works much the same way. What has been planted in faith is never wasted.

As we look ahead, I am filled with hope—not because everything is perfect, but because God remains faithful. I believe we will continue to see signs of life: deeper connections, renewed purpose, fresh expressions of care, and moments when people discover in this place what they thought they might never find in a church—grace, welcome, patience, and love.

The seeds are germinating. The garden is being tended. The light is steady.

Will you continue to join us in this holy work—planting, watering, trusting, and waiting—confident that God gives the growth? And, the Tuesday morning crew could put you to work as well if you have the time—7 AM, coffee and donuts await.

With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Craig

December 2025 Finance Summary

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

	ACTUAL	
	December	Year to Date
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	\$130,907	\$331,235
Expenses	\$62,092	\$247,599
Receipts over Expenses	\$68,815	\$83,636

December giving totaled \$130,907, with expenses at \$62,092—leaving us with a strong surplus of \$68,815 for the month. Thanks to this generosity, we're now \$83,636 ahead for the year.



A Moment with Marcy

February 2026

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

The first question we asked the little ones during our ten-week unit on God's love was, "Does God love you when you do everything right?" Every one of them responded immediately, "Yes!" The second question was, "Does God love you when you don't do the right thing?" This was a much harder question. Several were stumped. Many insisted, "No!" They are young, just learning. What a wonderful opportunity to instill in them the truth that God ALWAYS loves us - no matter what! We will continue to focus on just how amazing God's love is and what it means for us. The children will see Jesus demonstrate loving compassion with His healing miracles. They will learn that God's love does not change by looking at the extreme ups and downs of Israel's and Judah's history. Over and over, they will hear the truth that God's love is forever, unchanging, and faithful. They are planting their roots deep in a firm foundation of God's love. Knowledge of God's unending, sacrificial love gives us the foundation we need to stand.

By the end of the first lesson, having asked the two questions every few minutes, 100% of the children were able to confidently answer, "YES!" God loves us even when we don't do what is right.



Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

We have been busy, busy, busy entering the new year and have been having fun in between all the learning, growing, toilet training, and activities.

All the classrooms will be having Valentine's Day parties and will be passing out all their cute Valentine goodies.

We have welcomed five new families and will be welcoming more in the future. It is exciting for us to be able to spread our love and share the Word of God with more kiddos and their families.

We are looking forward to continuing to teach all the kiddos their letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and Bible stories.

As always keep the preschool in your thoughts and prayers.

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez

Calvin Crest Women's Retreat

April 24-26, 2026

Join us for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and time in the mountains (meals and activities included, with options like crafts, hiking, and ziplining). Register at calvincrest.com (lodging is \$295-\$345). Questions? Call Calvin Crest at 559-772-4040 or connect with one of the ladies on the Women's Ministry Team.

Wendy's Writings



*"Praise the Lord!
Sing a new song to the Lord!
Let them praise His name with dancing
and make music to Him with tambourine and harp."
Psalm 149:1, 3*

But Read the above quote again – and then again! Sing it! Make up a tune! Then dance it! Move your body! In your chair – on your couch – move your feet! Make some kind of movement – in praise to God! Read the rest of Psalm 149! Feel your heart being lifted up! Then Psalm 150!

Remember that "This is the day that the LORD has made! Rejoice and be glad in it!" Look outside! Find a beautiful flower, or colorful leaf, or a silly bird taking a bath! Or a very tall tree! God has created all of creation for us to admire!

How often do we walk past this fantastic garden without noticing the amazing delights that are on our path? Too rushed to feel the soft breeze on our face? Too consumed with the never-ending pressures of the calendar?

This is a short article – so now you might have a minute or three to stop – and breathe – and look around you – and enjoy at least some of what God has placed in your path today! And then Sing a New Song, or an old one, or a silly one – but one that is in praise of the bounty that has been provided for us by God!

Blessings,
Rev. Wendy Warner

Men's Ministry Experience

Submitted by Jim Bucknell

Join us for this Kick-Off Event featuring a steak and egg breakfast followed by fellowship and a meaningful conversation with Pastor Craig. Doors will open at 8:30 AM with breakfast at 9:00 AM. See Jim Bucknell or Ted Benson with questions.

All Aboard for Paradise

Submitted by Ted Benson

Oroville Mission Trip: May 3-9, 2026

It seems like yesterday when the weather was so foggy you couldn't see across the street. Now the almond orchards are in full bloom, the skies are increasingly blue, and Trinity United's Presbyterian Disaster team is focusing on the green hills of Oroville and Paradise in advance of our 6th mission outreach to wildfire survivors in Butte County.

February is also a perfect time to concentrate on sharing our mission goals with the TUPC family at large. To that end, we ask the congregation to save the date of Sunday, March 22, for a tasty, informative presentation outlining our ongoing efforts in northern California. Look for details in next month's Trumpet.

Meanwhile, the next PDA team meeting is Sunday, February 22 at 11:30 AM in Telle Center Room 503.

See you there!

For further information, contact Liz and Ted Benson at 209-522-2390.

Prime Timers

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

Happy Valentine's Day! This is the theme of our next Prime Timers luncheon to be held on Saturday, February 02, 2026. An Italian luncheon will be served at 12:00 PM followed by a delicious chocolate dessert. Ester Bradfield will be doing the devotion and Valentines cards and games will be shared. Everyone is invited to attend. Please remember to bring your own table service and a \$10.00 donation for the luncheon. Come and experience God's Love with friends from TUPC.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sally Lindberg Bert Lippert	2 Robb Loeser Sue Lorenz	3 Eunice Lovi Wendy Lucas	4 Luther and Vicky Lundeby Monica Maddock	5 Les and Leslie Malakian Catherine and Alex Martinez	6 Patricia Mason Myrna McDaniel	7 Richard and Isabell McKay Ross Sr. and Lee McKenzie
8 Ross Jr. and Kellie McKenzie Terri McNabb	9 Felix and Teresa Mejia Judy Michaelis	10 Lachelle Mills Jeanine Monteith	11 Jeanne Nelson Kathy Nelson	12 Tony and Chris Ott La Mar Owens	13 Deborah and Clark Pearson Donna Pedersen	14 Dale Pederson and Tara McDonnell Sue Pehl
15 Patricia Phillips Dave and Rowena Pollard	16 Becky Pombo Dave and Peggy Prevetie	17 Gisele and Jan Pritchard Diane and Frank Quaresma	18 Diane and Mervin Reed Tom and Patti Reed	19 Charlotte Reid Denarly Reyes	20 Alan and Patricia Reynolds Dolores Roberts	21 June Sargis John and Tawn Schaffran
22 Peggy Schaffran Andy Schindler	23 Tom and Liz Seaver Marlin and Marilyn Sena	24 Mike and Paula Sherman Mike and Shell Siemens	25 Lucille Sigala Linda and Butch Silveira-Odom	26 Kathy and Stephen Smart Bill Smith	27 Clay and Cindy Smith Sookie Smith	28 Donna Solari Nancy Speltz

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. Intersvarsity 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.

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

(Hebrews 13:1-2)



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

or Current Resident

LEADERSHIP

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION:

Tuesday, February 17, 8:30 AM

DEACON MEETING: Tuesday, February 3, 3:30 PM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 PM

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

TRIP COMMITTEE: Monday, February 2, 10:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, February 20,

9:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot

PDA TEAM MEETING: Sunday, February 22, 11:30 AM

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

TUTORING: Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30 PM

VBS WORK DAY: Tuesday, February 24, 8:30 AM

WEDNESDAYS UNITED:

5:30-6:00 PM Dinner in Telle Center

6:00-7:30 PM Bible Study Programs for everyone!

Childcare Provided

STUDY

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Wednesday, February 18, 6:00 PM

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

WHO WE ARE CLASS: Sunday, February 1, 8:30 AM

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

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, February 15

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

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

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, February 7, 12:00 PM

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

YOUTH WINTER CAMP AT CALVIN CREST: February 20-22

OFFICE CLOSED: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

Electronic Version Online at www.tupc.org

See Online Calendar for changes.

Worship Services are livestreamed on www.tupc.org



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