



Since 1973 Vol. 53 No. 11

NOVEMBER 2025

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



The Wright Angle

Greetings Church Family,

Oh no, '6 or 7'
strikes again! 😊

I have never thought that Jesus gave the *Lord's Prayer* so it could be something we recite without thinking about it. I'm convinced it is more than just a collection of religious-sounding sentences that were particularly meaningful to Jesus. Rather, I think the *content* is the big thing. And at first glance, that content isn't very long—**just six or seven** simple movements:

1. **Direction:** Our Father in heaven
2. **Worship:** Hallowed be your name
3. **Objective:** Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven
4. **Provision:** Give us this day our daily bread
5. **Transformation:** Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us
6. **Objective again:** Deliver us from evil and the temptation to do it
7. **Acknowledgment of authority:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

This can—and should—be deeply personal, as if Jesus were instructing each of us as believers on *what* to pray about. Many sermons and studies emphasize that personal nature: "Hey, you want forgiveness? Then forgive others."

But I want to challenge us, for a moment, to think of it as *global*—even *universal*—not just for individuals, but for the whole world, for all time, and particularly for the church universal today. When Jesus is asked to teach them how to pray, He begins with the upward direction: "Our Father in heaven." That's both an appeal and an acknowledgment that without God—without Jesus—we only have our own feeble selves to make this world a better place. *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

Then Jesus launches into the prime directive from heaven—the reason He came to earth in the first place: *Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* In heaven there is no need for bread and no need for forgiveness. That tells us that God, in Christ, desires two



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	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.

really big things: that all humans have food sufficient for each day, and that all humans—even human institutions—practice reciprocal forgiveness.

When the kingdom of Christ is realized on earth, there will be no hunger and no hostility between brothers or nations. These are God's will. We know this without a doubt.

But oh, how we are tempted to do evil—to commit the evil of unforgiveness and the greater evil of denying others daily bread. Jesus wants us to hear loud and clear that food and forgiveness are priorities in His kingdom, and the lack of either tempts us toward evil. We are here to smash evil—to defeat the demons of despair and loneliness, of hunger and retribution—in the name of Christ.

Now we see this simple prayer is much bigger than we thought. (I may have to preach this sermon soon!) But we shouldn't be intimidated by its scope, for we are praying for God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to bring these realities to life in us as we bring them to life in our communities. Feeding people and practicing forgiveness actively destroys the work of the devil. Church, we are already doing this in many ways—may God help us do even more.

Every ministry of the church can, in some way, be found in the layers of this blessed prayer—as long as we engage in worship, charity, reciprocal forgiveness, and resist the temptation to evil, the temptation to brush all this aside. As long as we remember the prime objective.

Finally, notice the biblical context in Matthew's Gospel. Before the prayer, Jesus speaks about the need to care for the poor—just as the prayer itself does. And immediately after the Lord's Prayer, Jesus says:

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."
It seems clear to me—food and forgiveness can destroy the work of hell.

Something to think about, no? Seriously, something to pray about—perhaps you could stop right now—and slowly pray the prayer that Christ gave us—and maybe read Matthew 6.

Blessings,
Pastor Craig

September 2025 Finance Summary

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

	ACTUAL	
	August	Year to Date
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
Receipts	\$51,410	\$51,410
Expenses	\$63,941	\$63,941
Receipts over Expenses	-\$12,531	-\$12,531

We started the new fiscal year with \$51,410 in giving and \$63,941 in expenses. That puts us \$12,531 behind for the month and for the year so far.

Guatemala Mission Trip 2026

Submitted by Marcy Wright

Our Guatemala Mission trip is scheduled for May 26 - June 2, 2026. Please let Pastor Craig or Marcy know if you are interested in joining the team!



*A Moment
with Marcy*

October 2025

"Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called the sons of God."
1 John 3:1.

In a month focused on things we are thankful for, there is not one much better than this. God has adopted us as His very own children. There is nothing greater. The extension of this is mentioned in the ladies' Bible study at least every other week. How thankful we are to have each other! As children of God, we are family. Our church family is a blessing that rejoices with us when we rejoice and mourns with us when we mourn. We have family to walk alongside us through the ups and the downs of life. Our church family gives and receives love to each other. What a blessing!

Children (and all of us!) enjoy coming to church to be with their friends. In November, we will look at how much richer being part of God's family is. As children of God, we are family.

**Trinity
KIDS**

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

(Hebrews 13:1-2)

TSM Update

Well, we are at it again. It's exciting to be back for another round of Youth Ministry with Trinity. I'd like to thank you all for the warm welcome both my girlfriend and I received. The students and volunteers have been great this first month. TUPC, you are truly blessed to have consistent leadership which cares about the longevity of ministry and influence. I am happy to play a small part in that with our youth.

So, here's what we've been up to with our youth. Destiny left us with a great team of volunteers who serve and love our youth. She also left a team of teachers that helped to keep the group together as well as doing a few activities. It has been a pleasure supporting that vision.



As we move forward, the Lord has directed my attention in three areas as the interim ministry leader:

(1) Appreciate the Volunteer staff. This means highlight them and what they offer the ministry, as well as support what God is showing them for the ministry.

(2) Give direction to Youth Culture. This requires us to establish the youth community at Trinity as one that worships and fellowships with other believers. Part of that vision will be repurposing items in the room to fit the current culture. Some items will be moved to other areas of the campus and others removed. In doing this, we will make it clear that "Jesus leads the culture and not the other way around."

(3) Teach on the Tabernacle. This is something I've been rediscovering the last couple of years. God used the Tabernacle to be close to the Children of Israel and to teach them about "Sacrifice unto God/others, as well as knowing, the purpose for them." This is something that is missing from youth culture. It's a tall task but needed.

Please be praying with me for current leadership of TSM and future leadership.



TRINITY
PRESCHOOL

Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you."

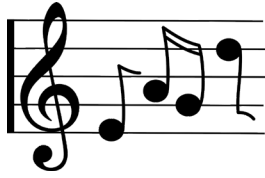
1 Thessalonians 5:18

We are so thankful for all the families, children and teachers here at Trinity Preschool. We are grateful to come to work every day and teach the love of Jesus.

We will be having our annual Thankful Feast on Tuesday, November 18th at 11 am in the Telle Center. We will be inviting all preschool families to join and watch the kiddos sing some songs and want to extend the invite to you, the congregation! We will be providing the turkey, mashed potatoes and stuffing while families will be bringing their child's favorite dish to add to our not so traditional feast!

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez



*"Enter the Temple with Thanksgiving
Go into its courts with praise!"*

Psalms 100:4

November signals to us a season of Thanksgiving! It seems that the entire month is consumed with thoughts of Thanksgiving. Setting aside the ideas about the food, let's think about the hymns which remind us of giving Thanks to God for all the blessings with which we are surrounded each day!

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come is a hymn which brings to mind the bounty of a fruitful harvest (oops, back to food!). Though most of us do not grow our own food, one step into a grocery store overwhelms us with the variety and choices we are faced with in selecting the food we will eat!

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow Do we stop to think about how God has provided for our needs every day? If we were to stop and give thanks to God for everything given to us by God — well, we might not have much time for anything else!

Count Your Blessings (the Chorus continues) **name them one by one!** That would take all day! And that would be just the blessings for a single day! God has been so good and filled our lives with such abundance!

And what is the **GREATEST** blessing for which we give thanks to God? Oh — but that is the blessing — for next month!

In November, we give God one day of our lives to say "Thank You" for all that we have received from Him! Perhaps we should say it more often. Perhaps once a month — or once a week — or even...

Thankfully yours,
Rev. Wendy Warner

November: A time to be thankful, Prime Timers will be reminded

Attendees at the November 1 Prime Timers social will be reminded of the hardships enslaved people faced prior to the Civil War, and how over 50,000 of them were able to escape with the help of quilts hung on fences and houses. Guest speaker Margaret Wolfe will share a display of reproduced quilt blocks that were used to signal safe routes and instructions for travel on the Underground Railroad. These coded quilts, along with the courageous leadership of their hero, "Moses" Harriet Tubman, guided many to freedom.

The Saturday noon lunch in the Telle Center will feature ham, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, and pumpkin or apple pie. Guests are asked to bring their own tableware and give a \$10 donation at the door. There is no age restriction. All adults are welcome and encouraged to attend.

At the group's October meeting, Rick and Bonnie Crabtree gave an informative slide presentation highlighting what Trinity volunteers accomplish during mission trips to Guatemala. These trips involve constructing homes and assembling wheelchairs for those in need. The presentation also included a video from their son, Bryan, who is serving with Bethel Ministries in Guatemala. Bryan shared what he is doing in both ministry and hands-on carpentry to improve living conditions for the community.

Before the Crabtree presentation and lunch, Charlie Crane, a hospice chaplain, sang a hymn and shared his testimony of how he came to know Christ as a child through his grandmother's faith and prayers. Although he drifted away from his faith while in the military, he returned to Christ through her continued prayers before she "went home."

Annual Modesto Sing-Along "Messiah" Returns Nov. 23

Community sing-along welcomes vocalists of all ages and abilities to participate in free musical event

The free, public-participation performance of G.F. Handel's "Messiah," a Modesto tradition, will return on Sunday, November 23. Singers of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in the community-wide event, which will take place at 3 p.m. at Trinity United Presbyterian Church.

Conductor John Carter will again take up the baton. "This is great music! I hope lots of singers come out to support our efforts as we continue to keep this music alive in our society," said Carter. "Even if you don't sing but merely enjoy classical music or are a "Messiah" enthusiast, you are welcome to attend and be "in the sound" of this stunning masterpiece."

Carter will lead the singers in more than a dozen of oratorio's choruses as well as several pieces that are normally reserved for soloists. Vocal soloists include Linda Carter (soprano), Bruce Merchant (tenor), and David Hughes (bass). The choir will be accompanied by a seven-piece orchestra including trumpet (Robert Stone) and tympani; Carol Hughes will play the organ.

Scheduled each year for the Sunday before Thanksgiving, "The Sing-along is a great way to kick off the Holiday season," said event organizer, Denise Nordell. "Singers come from throughout the region to sing with us. Whether you've sung "Messiah" once or a hundred times, or just enjoyed listening to it from the audience, the "Messiah" sing-along gives vocalists of all skill levels the opportunity to enjoy the experience of sharing this beautiful music together." The sing-along typically attracts up to 150 singers from throughout the region.

Singers are encouraged to bring their own scores; however, copies will be available to borrow. For more information, call (209) 480-8825.



Operation Christmas Child

Submitted by Leslie Cooley

So... what is OCC? **Operation Christmas Child** is a project of Samaritan's Purse, led by Franklin Graham. It is a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, and gifts. Every child who receives a shoebox also receives a booklet in their own language called The Greatest Gift and are presented the message of the gospel. Every child gets to hear about Jesus!

Shoeboxes are available now for you to fill. In addition, please join us for our **Operation Christmas Child Soup Luncheon and Shoebox Packing Party on Sunday November 16**. This event is for everyone!

If you are filling your own box, please bring it to church on Sunday, November 16.

All boxes will be taken to the distribution center on November 17.

Please remember that our collection tote is in the church office on a full-time basis. You may bring items all year long! In the past few months, we've received baby dolls, dominoes, underwear, socks, bracelets, pencil sharpeners, lovies, and more! May God bless you as you bless children around the world!

With sincere thanks,
Marlin Sena, Marilyn Sena, and Leslie Cooley

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Melinda Heim Chris and Marti Hennings
2 Devon and Rosalie Hill Brian and Stacy Hoekman	3 Lois and Rex Holm Sue Husted	4 Helen Johnson Sharon Johnson	5 Doris Jones Dave and Gayle Kerr	6 Joy Kerr-Owens Duane and Susan Kirk	7 Nannette Knockum Dyann LaMantia	8 Christina Latino Marilyn Lewis
9 Sally Lindberg Bert Lippert	10 Robb Loeser Sue Lorenz	11 Eunice Lovi Wendy Lucas	12 Luther and Vicky Lundebry Monica Maddock	13 Les and Leslie Malakian Catherine and Alex Martinez	14 Patricia Mason Myrna McDaniel	15 Richard and Isabell McKay Ross Sr. and Lee McKenzie
16 Ross Jr. and Kellie McKenzie Terri McNabb	17 Felix and Teresa Mejia Judy Michaelis	18 Lachelle Mills Jeanine Monteith	19 Jeanne Nelson Kathy Nelson	20 Tony and Chris Ott La Mar Owens	21 Deborah and Clark Pearson Donna Pedersen	21 Dale Pederson and Tara McDonnell Sue Pehl
23 Patricia Phillips Dave and Rowena Pollard	24 Becky Pombo Dave and Peggy Prevette	25 Gisele and Jan Pritchard Diane and Frank Quaresma	26 Diane and Mervin Reed Tom and Patti Reed	27 Charlotte Reid Denarly Reyes	28 Alan and Patricia Reynolds Dolores Roberts	29 June Sargis John and Tawn Schaffran
30 Peggy Schaffran Andy Schindler	<div> <div> 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 </div> <div> 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 </div> <div> 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 16. Trinity United Guatemala Mission Team Marcy Wright </div> <div> 16. Valley Recovery Resources Steve Berkowitz 17. Vine House Cheryl Van Horn 18. Youth for Christ Ken Sylvia </div> </div>					

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



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

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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, November 18, 8:30 AM

DEACONS: Tuesday, November 4, 6:30 PM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 PM

TRIP COMMITTEE: Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, November 21,
9:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot

OCC LUNCH/PACKING PARTY: Sunday, November 16, 11:00 AM

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

NO WEDNESDAYS UNITED: NOVEMBER 26

OFFICE CLOSED: NOVEMBER 27 AND 28 FOR THANKSGIVING

STUDY

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

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

PRAISE

BELLS OF BLESSING: Sunday, November 2, 3:00 PM

COMMUNION: Sunday, November 9

MESSIAH SING-ALONG: Sunday, November 23, 3:00 PM

TIDINGS OF COMFORT SERVICE: Wednesday, November 19,
6:00-7:30 PM

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

CALVIN CREST MEN'S CAMP: November 7-9

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

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, November 1, 12:00 PM

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



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