

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 53 No. 6

JUNE 2025

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



The Wright Angle

No Favoritism — Not Even the Reverse Kind

If you know me at all, you know I don't exactly linger in the Old Testament book of Leviticus. Just writing the word gives me pause and makes me want to shout how grateful I am to be living on this side of the new covenant. We Presbyterians celebrate that we are saved by grace through faith alone—not by works (or laws), lest anyone should boast. So yes, I spend more time in Romans than in Leviticus.

That is, until I stumbled across a verse last week that I didn't even know was in the Bible (and you thought I had it all memorized! Not even close). The verse is Leviticus 19:15:

"Do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly."

This caught me off guard.

We've been studying the book of James in our Adult Sunday School class, and James is very direct about our commitment to the poor and the dangers of favoritism. He pulls no punches—and neither did Jesus. But this verse from Leviticus adds a new and striking angle: it warns us not to favor the poor at the expense of others. Could it be that in our passion to honor the vulnerable, we might actually neglect the rest?

Leviticus would say yes.

Taking from the "haves" to give to the "have-nots" may sound like justic—ust ask Robin Hood and his merry men—but ask the millions displaced by systems like socialism and communism (that used this very rubric to justify power grabs), and you'll find injustice on a massive scale. Scripture's concern isn't forced redistribution—it's fairness. God is after equality in judgment, not the favoring of one group over another.

"Do not show favoritism in judgment—either to the poor or to the rich."

Okay, Pastor... is this a political newsletter article? Not in the least.

This is a reflection I believe could shape how we engage church growth—and one another—here at Trinity.

Let me put it this way: when someone enters our church with visible physical needs, and we



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Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright	Senior Pastor
Rebecca Duque	Administrator
Destiny Robles	Director of Youth Ministry
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.

reach out with compassion, that deeply honors Christ. But when someone else walks in who appears polished, self-sufficient, and “put together,” and we assume they’re fine — so we don’t extend ourselves to welcome them—that’s also partiality. It’s just harder to spot.

Scripture never instructs us to pick a demographic to favor. It commands us to love all with equal measure.

Some people who enter our doors look like they have everything—but on the inside, they’re barely holding it together. They may have all the trappings of success—the smile, the outfit, the confidence—but their soul is aching for belonging. They came not for coffee or even the sermon—they came because they’re looking for a family. For love. For meaning. For connection.

Helping those with obvious needs will always honor Christ. But failing to engage those whose needs are invisible—that’s a tragic oversight.

Jesus was the champion of the poor and downtrodden, yes—but He also spent time with Nicodemus, a wealthy Pharisee, and offered living water to a woman at a well who was socially isolated, not economically impoverished. He called Zacchaeus down from the tree—a rich man whose real poverty was relational. Jesus ministered to the full spectrum of human need, and not all of it looked like financial lack.

Imagine this: a couple walks into church, dressed in designer clothes, smiling and laughing through the narthex. Most folks assume they’re doing great—and they are warmly greeted, but no one digs deeper. A few weeks later, after someone finally asks how they are really doing, the wife breaks down in tears. They had lost a child the year before. They were drowning in grief, and this was their last-ditch effort to find hope. “We look like we have it together,” she says, “but we’ve never been more broken.”

That moment could change the way we think about first impressions.

So, let me ask you: Is there someone in your life whom you’ve placed on a pedestal? Someone you think doesn’t need anything from Christ or from the church? What if you’re wrong?

Maybe you could pray for them this week. And when the time is right, ask:

“What do you need—from Christ, from this church, from me?”

If they say, “Oh, nothing, I’m good!” — ask again.

With love and grace,
Pastor Craig

April 2025 Finance Summary
Fiscal Year = September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

	ACTUAL	
	April	Year to Date
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	\$55,562	\$504,124
Expenses	\$66,405	\$511,049
Receipts over Expenses	-\$10,843	-\$6,925

In April, we brought in \$55,562 and spent \$66,405. This left us with a deficit of -\$10,843 for the month and a deficit of -\$6,925 for the year so far.



2025 Fireworks Booth
June 28-July 4, 2025

Our annual Fireworks Booth, raising funds for Trinity Preschool and Trinity Student Ministries (TSM), is more than just a fundraiser... it's a chance to connect, serve, and invest in the next generation, all while helping our neighbors celebrate the 4th of July.

Here's the truth: the week between VBS (June 23-27) and two weeks of summer camp, is a full week at the Fireworks booth. This season is absolutely packed with opportunities to pour into kids and students, and **we need all hands on deck** to make it happen!

Whether you've got a few hours to spare or can cover multiple shifts, your time and presence make a huge impact. Volunteering

at the booth is more than selling fireworks, it's about:

- Supporting our preschool to make needed renovations
- Helping to continue to send youth students to camp
- Investing in the next generation
- Building relationships while raising funds
- Being a visible and joyful light in our city

This is a tangible way for EVERYONE to take part in our mission. Grab a friend, your small group, or come solo (we'll pair you with great people.) The most crucial days are **July 1-4**, so if you're free, that's when we especially need your help.

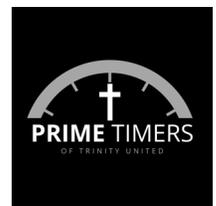
Cassi and I would be so grateful for the extra hands and hearts. Your support means the world to both of us and the people we have the honor of ministering to!

Let's rally together, show up strong, and be part of something that lasts far beyond the 4th... impacting lives for Christ.

Contact myself or Cassi via phone, email, or easily sign up at our table on Sunday mornings!

Prime Timers

Submitted by Marilyn Sena



Prime Timers Gather For June Social

Members will gather on Saturday, June 7, to enjoy fellowship, food, and fun before taking a two-month summer break. Lunch will be served at noon in Telle Center by Trinity's Chef, Jim Bucknell.

A brief meeting to nominate next year's leaders and a devotional will be followed by a entertaining group game.



Dates with Destiny

Ordination Retreat Reflections May 6-9, 2025

This past month, I attended the first of two ordination retreats for candidates in the ECO ordination process. As some of you may know (or maybe not!), I've been on the path toward ordination for quite a while now. Along the way, I've hit pause, hesitated, and recalibrated, mostly due to changes in my own life, in our church, and in the ordination process itself. But I'm learning that God's timing is everything. Attending this retreat was a significant and encouraging step forward, and I'm thankful for it.



The retreat was three days of learning, assessment, connection, and reflection. Each candidate is in a different place in the process depending on their current ministry role and educational background. Because I've been in ministry for many years and already hold seminary degrees, my remaining steps are fewer than some. Still, the retreat wasn't just about checking boxes—it was about preparing us for lifelong service to Christ and His Church and doing so from a place of emotional and spiritual health.

A Lesson in Waiting

Travel, of course, always comes with its own lessons. Before the retreat even began, I found myself in a familiar dance at the airport: "hurry up and wait." Determined not to miss my flight, I arrived early (so early, in fact, that the ticket counter hadn't even opened yet!) With little sleep the night before, I was groggy but calm. There was no traffic, no rush. I even dozed a little on the way. While others at the airport bustled about, I was strangely settled, sipping my coffee and easing into the day. And then, of course, came the notification: our flight was delayed by several hours.

Initially, I felt frustration rise. But then I remembered: I was already there, already prepared. And more importantly, I had the time and space to slow down.

In many ways, that's been the story of my ordination journey. It has involved plenty of delays, detours, and seasons of quiet waiting. I've known since I was seven years old that I was called to be a pastor. That sense of call has never wavered. And yet, there have been seasons when I simply wasn't ready in one way or another emotionally, spiritually, or circumstantially.

One thing I've appreciated about ECO is their commitment to preparing pastors not only theologically, but holistically. They want to see pastors who are healthy... who are grounded, aware, and maturing in Christ. Not perfect, but intentional. Not just busy with ministry, but shaped by the Spirit.

The Practice of Rest

Many of you have done well to establish a healthy rhythm between work, family, and rest. I, however, am still learning (and relearning) how to find that balance. One of my personal goals during this season is to deepen my spiritual discipline of rest—beginning with honoring the Sabbath, but also learning how to say "yes" and "no" with discernment.

As an extrovert, rest doesn't always come naturally to me. I tend to fill my schedule and thrive on connection. But I'm realizing that rest isn't just about absence of activity, it's about presence with God. And when I rush through life, even spiritual life, I often miss the gifts God wants to give me in the waiting.

So instead of resenting the delays, I'm learning to see them as invitations. The Lord is inviting me to trust His pace, His timing, and His process... not just for ordination, but for life.

Whether you find yourself in a season of activity or a season of waiting, I pray you'll also sense the Lord's invitation to slow down, rest, and lean into His grace.

With gratitude,
Destiny

tsm

trinity student ministries

Youth Camps!!

July 6-18 – AIM Session II

July 6-11, 2025 – Middle School Camp

July 13-18, 2025 – High School Camp

Summer is right around the corner, and we are so excited for what's ahead for our students! Before they head off to the mountains for Calvin Crest, many of our youth will first be serving as helpers at Vacation Bible School (June 23-27). This year's VBS theme is True North, (which we actually previewed the lessons with our students throughout the month of May) ... is all about discovering the direction and hope we find in Jesus, and knowing that we can trust in Him! And what a beautiful picture: our students leading and serving here at church, then heading off to be poured into at camp just a couple of weeks later!

This summer's Calvin Crest theme is "FOUND" (based on Luke 15), and our hope is that each camper will experience the deep love and grace of God in a way that sticks with them for years to come.

Please pray for the students attending, and also for the cabin leaders and staff pouring into them. Pray for those still considering going—that they would hear God's invitation and say "yes" to this life-giving experience.

Mark your calendars to join us in worship as we pray over and send off our campers!

Sunday, July 6 – We'll send off our Middle School campers, Sherwood Forest kids, and Payton, who's attending AIM Session II!

Sunday, July 13 – We'll pray over and commission our High School campers.

Let's surround these students with love and support as they step into a powerful week of faith, friendship, and fun!

Prayer for Our Youth:

Loving Father, we thank You for all of the teenagers we have the opportunity to share your love with. It is so good to know that You care about them so much and have called them by name. May this summer be one of connections with this church community, with one another, and above all: with You. We pray they would know You and Your heart for them so intimately, and be able to boldly declare You as their Lord and Savior. We ask for Your provision and protection over their hearts, minds, bodies, and families. Have Your way in this church and in this youth ministry. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

If you want to keep up-to-date with Trinity Student Ministries or would like to volunteer weekly or for special events, please contact me!

- Instagram: [@tsmmodesto](#)
- Website: www.tupc.org/youth
- Or contact me directly—I'd love to help you get plugged in! drobles@tupc.org



BASKET OF HOPE

COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Every third Friday from 10:00 - noon

Basket of Hope on Wings of Angels

Submitted by Sally Lindberg

Here's a different view of Basket of Hope for those who may be unaware that the first "baskets" packed each month are labeled and delivered to food-insecure patients and families who are receiving services from Community Hospice & Health Services of Modesto. This unique partnership between our two organizations is now in its second year. It was born when we discovered that some of our families on Hospice Service were in need and this was a natural connection. Social workers at Community Hospice provide a list of names of those in need with family size and zip code (ensuring Stanislaus County residence) to Trinity's church office and Friends of Community Hospice Committee members before the middle of the month so all are on board. To protect confidentiality, we have developed a process that allows us to put correct labels on the Baskets for delivery. All involved keep the confidentiality covenant.

When the June 2025 list came in, it originally had 26 families listed—a goodly amount of folks in need. Then one more was added. And then another! When that increased our number to 47 family members which would mean 33 Baskets, my first thought was, "I need to call Don Jepson! He'll be so excited to have this many to help!" ... then I caught myself and

I smiled, realizing he already knew because he is watching over it all!

Since Don and I brought Trinity United and Community Hospice together in March 2023, we have served 1,614 Hospice patients and families—bringing them life-sustaining food, packed with love and laughter, prayers and joy, and the presence of our Lord in every Basket. One young woman told me, as her husband of 45 lay on his final bed in their living room, and who was the primary provider for their family of four, including two young children, that "Basket of Hope is a bright spot on a dark day."

Every Basket each of you pack brings hope to someone you may never know but whose life you are changing with your love. I, the patients and families you serve, and Friends of Community Hospice & Health Services, thank you so very much. And I know Don is smiling down on the whole wonderful, noisy, sometimes chaotic, and always beautiful bunch of you!



Guatemala Mission Trip

Submitted by Marcy Wright

It's time! The Guatemala short-term mission team will be in Guatemala June 10 through 17. Please pray for their physical health and safety. Pray that God would use them to communicate His love to those they come in contact with. Pray that God would prepare the hearts of the Guatemalan people so they will know He hears them and provides.



Trinity
KIDS

*A Moment
with Marcy*

June 2025

Jehovah Jireh – The Lord provides. The children will be learning through the stories of Elijah of God’s provision. Certainly, God provided Elijah with food and water in miraculous ways, but is that all God provides? It is not! God provides us with so much more than the bare necessities. Have you ever needed a friend and asked God for one? He will send one–or two, or three, or half a dozen! What about an encouraging word? Do you ever need encouragement? God often sends someone at just the right time to speak just the right words into your life. Have things ever been so difficult, you needed God just to get through with your sanity intact? Have you looked back and seen God’s hand at work in that time and thanked Him? What about guidance? Not sure what decision to make? Ask that God would fill you with His peace as you trust Him to guide you. Look around at how God provides for the lilies and the birds, and remember how much more God cares for you. Jehovah Jireh – The Lord Provides!



TRINITY
PRESCHOOL

Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

“This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

Another amazing school year has come and gone, and we are all looking forward to the summer! The Lord has blessed this past year and we know He will continue to bless us this summer. Our preschool, pre-k, and school-age classes will be joining VBS and all its activities. Our school-age class will triple in size as soon as school is out for the summer.

The teachers have fun activities planned that include water days, movie days, cooking projects, and much more! Trinity Preschool will be operating the Fireworks Booth this year alongside Youth Ministries and would love to have your help. Be on the lookout for sign-ups!

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez

FREE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 23-27

9:00 AM – NOON
ALL KIDS K-6TH GRADE

REGISTER AT TUPC.ORG/VBS



Grace's food pantry stands just inside the narthex to the left as you enter the center doors of the sanctuary. You can help fill the pantry with non-perishable food items (please be mindful of expiration dates on each product) and when full, those items are taken to a larger local food pantry for distribution.

Bring your non-perishable food items (please be mindful of the expiration date) to Grace's Pantry, located just inside the narthex when entering the center doors.

- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Canned Meat or Fish such as:
 - Tuna, Chicken, Salmon
 - Chili, Stew
 - Corned Beef
- Cereal
- Dried Milk Products
- Grain Products
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta
- Soup

Trinity Resource Library

The Trinity Library continues to be open each Sunday following the 10:00 AM Worship Service and during the week as needed. All has been inventoried and new books are labeled and shelved for your reading pleasure. Drop in to the library and say "Hello" to your librarian Vicky Wolff.



Stephen Ministers

For information,
please contact: Liz Benson at
209-522-2390
All is confidential.

Bear one another's burdens and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ.

—Galatians 6:2 NRSV

Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one, confidential, Christ centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulties due to Covid, or for other reasons, and would like to discuss having a Stephen Minister, call Liz Benson at 209-522-2390.

Due to life transitions, Stephen Ministry periodically needs to recruit and train new Stephen Ministers. If you are interested in this ministry, please feel free to call Liz Benson at 209-522-2390 to discuss more fully.

Worship Service, Sermons, and Info Online at tupc.org

Use your computer, laptop, iPad, or smart phone to livestream online worship Sundays at 10:00 AM through the Trinity United website, on the TUPC Facebook page, or on YouTube.

Miss an online worship service? You can watch past worship services by logging on to Trinity United's website at: www.tupc.org and selecting "MEDIA" then "Worship" or "Sermons Video" from the menu.

You can also find other important information about the life of Trinity United on the website such as current and past Trumpet Newsletters and an active monthly calendar. Use social media as a tool to connect with Trinity United family through Facebook.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Tony and Chris Ott La Mar Owens	2 Deborah and Clark Pearson Donna Pedersen	3 Dale Pederson and Tara McDonnell Sue Pehl	4 Patricia Phillips Dave and Rowena Pollard	5 Becky Pombo Dave and Peggy Prevetie	6 Gisele Pritchard Mark Purdom	7 Diane and Frank Quaresma Diane and Mervin Reed
8 Tom and Patti Reed Charlotte Reid	9 Denarly Reyes Alan and Patricia Reynolds	10 Dolores Roberts June Sargis	11 John and Tawn Schaffran Peggy Schaffran	12 Andy Schindler Tom and Liz Seaver	13 Marlin and Marilyn Sena Mike and Paula Sherman	14 Mike and Shell Siemens Lucille Sigala
15 Linda Silveira-Odom Kathy and Stephen Smart	16 Bill Smith Clay and Cindy Smith	17 Sookie Smith Donna Solari	18 Nancy Speltz Rose Steele	19 Mike and Loretta Sutherland Kadyn Sutherlin	20 Julia Swager Abel and Terrie Tagre	21 Bev Thomas David and Cindy Tinajero
22 Matt and Cassi Torrez Dwight and Lisa Traughber	23 Tim and Judy Tweedie Alma van Aalsburg	24 Burt and Polly Vasche Geneva Vasquez	25 Chick and Lynda Venturini Connie Vierra	26 Kristi and Rob Warren Char Wickman	27 Judy Wiegman Lynne and Chris Wilkinson	28 Jenny and Ken Willmarth Milly Wing
29 David Witt Margaret Wolfe	30 David and Vicky Wolff Deidre Wolfley					

- Advancing Vibrant Communities
Michael Douglass
- Bethany Christian Services
Sandra Hiatt
- Bethel Ministries International
Ben and Emily Mooney, Bryan Crabtree
- CRU Zimbabwe
Kelly and Vicki Londoni
- Guatemala Trinity United
Mission Team: Marcy Wright

- IDEAS, Bangladesh
Dr. Jay Litchfield
- 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
- The MomCo
Marisa Hooper
- Operation Christmas Child / Samaritan's Purse
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Liz Benson
- Rock of Ages
Sidney Stone

- Servant Partners
- 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

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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, June 17, 8:30 AM

DEACONS: Tuesday, June 3, 6:30 PM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, June 3, 5:30 PM

TRIP COMMITTEE: Monday, June 1, 10:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, June 20,
9:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot

FIREWORKS BOOTH: June 28-July 4

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP: June 10-17

TUESDAY GROUNDS CREW: Tuesday 7:00-8:00 AM

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING: June 1, following worship

NO WEDNESDAYS UNITED IN JUNE

STUDY

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 23-27, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, June 8

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

CHURCH TRIP-LELAND STANFORD MANSION: Wednesday,
June 18

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, June 7, 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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