

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 53 No. 4

APRIL 2025

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

The Next Big Thing

I cannot even begin to describe how exciting the soft launch of our new tutoring and mentoring program was this past month. New and old faces all came together and smiled, laughed, played games, and even learned a little bit!

I want to tell you a little bit about our model from both a ministry and an educational standpoint (my two passions). My goal for this new ministry is for volunteers to work with one student, get to know them personally, meet their family, find out what they like and dislike about school, hear about the things they love and things they struggle with, and, through all of that, find ways to encourage them and show them Christ's LOVE! Educationally speaking, I can tell you that 85% of young people who have a solid, meaningful connection with a mentor will see positive changes and success in education. Practically speaking, for the life and mission of the church, I can tell you from my own experience growing up at Trinity how many amazing mentors gave my life purpose and mission! I have seen, time and again, at several churches how building connections with students has changed not just their lives but their families' as well.

And let me tell you, this is not a hard or difficult task! We read books and discuss them. We practice adding and times tables

(nothing too tricky!). And we play games that encourage speaking and critical thinking skills, Connect Four and Guess Who are some favorites. We have fun and interact, and it makes such a difference in the life of a child, in the life of their family, and, dare I say, in the life of those who tutor! Building connections and relationships is so meaningful! And isn't that what Jesus commanded us to do? The greatest commandment: love God. Have and build a relationship with God. The second greatest commandment? Love your neighbor! Have and build a relationship with your neighbors. Let the love of God shine through you to them!

The most exciting thing about the last few Wednesdays, to me, was seeing students welcomed and loved on. To see them leave smiling, excited to come back, and asking to invite their friends! This is God at work in our church and in our neighborhood and I cannot wait to see where it will go!

Stephanie





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Rebecca Duque Administrator

Destiny Robles Director of Youth Ministry

Dina Guentensperger Music Director-
Traditional

La Mar Owens Music Director-
Contemporary

Marcy Wright Director of
Children's Ministry

Trinity Preschool

Cassi Torrez Director

Rebecca Duque Administrator

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.



The Wright Angle

Spring Greetings, Church Family!

The Torah emphasizes that Passover is celebrated in the springtime. In fact, the Hebrew month when Passover occurs is called Aviv, meaning "spring." This is deeply significant because spring symbolizes rebirth, renewal, and the restoration of life. After the cold of winter, what appeared dormant or dead bursts forth into vibrant new life—and this imagery beautifully captures the essence of Passover.

Historically, Passover commemorates the dramatic deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. As told in Exodus 12, each Hebrew household placed the blood of an unblemished lamb upon their doorposts, a sign causing the Angel of Death to "pass over" their homes, sparing their firstborn sons. This powerful event marked Israel's passage from bondage to freedom, from despair to hope, and from death to life.

The Wright Angle continued on page 3

February 2025 Finance Summary

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

	ACTUAL	
	February	Year to Date
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
Receipts	\$47,131	\$392,898
Expenses	\$60,147	\$381,548
Receipts over Expenses	-\$13,016	\$11,350

In February, we brought in \$47,131 and spent \$60,147. This left us with a deficit of -\$13,016 for the month. However, thanks to our December surplus, we still have \$11,350 remaining to date.

Yet, this ancient story foreshadows an even greater event: the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the ultimate Passover Lamb. John the Baptist recognized Jesus as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Indeed, generations after the first Passover, God Himself took on flesh and became the perfect, spotless Lamb whose sacrifice would extend far beyond the redemption of Israel—it would reach to every nation, tribe, and tongue.

Just as spring brings life after winter, the world, dormant under the grip of sin and death, awakened anew through Christ’s sacrifice. Reflecting upon this at Good Friday, we remember Christ’s profound sacrifice. However, Jesus did not remain in the grave. His resurrection is the very embodiment of spring’s promise—new and everlasting life. As He declared, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

The Torah intentionally aligns Passover with spring to remind us annually that God is in the business of renewal and resurrection. Just as flowers bloom and fields come alive in spring, our souls too experience renewal and rebirth through the risen Lamb.

May this spring season fill your hearts with fresh hope, renewed faith, and abundant joy as we celebrate together the risen Christ—the eternal Lamb who brings everlasting spring.

May our church prayerfully remember the past, celebrate those who gave us such a magnificent foundation, and then rise to new life—springing up to become those who joyfully follow Christ into a great harvest! Winter is over; let new life begin.

Christ is Risen!

Pastor Craig



TRINITY
KIDS

*A Moment
with Marcy*

April 2025

If you are struggling with the doldrums, join our children on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night. Watching the children dance around the room as they sign “God’s Not Dead! He’s Surely Alive!” is incredibly invigorating. You cannot be in the same room without a huge smile spreading across your face. While you won’t all have the joy of witnessing their free dance, you can all enjoy them signing the song in service on Palm Sunday.

Communion Class

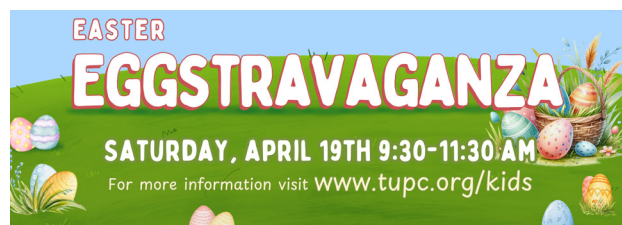
The children will complete their communion study and join us Maundy Thursday for communion.

Volunteer Opportunity

If you would like to catch some of their excitement, volunteer to help at the Eggstravaganza, Saturday, April 19 from 9:30-11:30 AM. This is a community outreach event celebrating the resurrection of Christ. We will have games, crafts, and snacks reminding us of Jesus’ great love for us.

Looking Ahead

Looking Ahead After Easter, the children will take a look at the early church and what part the Holy Spirit played in it and in us.





*Dates with
Destiny*



2025 Women's Ministry Conference

March 8, 2025

This year's Breathe Again Women's Conference was truly a blessing to all who attended. About 50 women gathered early on a Saturday morning to learn, fellowship, and worship together; it was a morning to remember.

With much gratitude, we thank our speaker, Diane Vaccaro, who so eloquently and genuinely spoke to us about what it means for the Lord to breathe life into us once again; our lovely and talented Beverly Vanderlinden, who played the keyboard with such heart and pizzazz; our audio/visual (and hero of the morning), Clayton Bray; and all the women who took time out of their schedules to be there. Special thanks to our women's ministry team, whose many gifts and efforts made this event possible. Though we do not yet have a date for our next Breathe Again Women's Conference, we hope all the women will join us again—and bring a friend!

I want to encourage each woman who attended, as well as challenge those reading this: ask yourself, What area of my life do I need the Lord's renewal in? And then, bring that question before God, asking Him, What and how do You want to renew it in my life?

A Prayer for Our Women:

Father, You know each woman connected to Trinity United and the unique needs they carry. I ask that You remind them today of how deeply loved they are by You. As they seek Your renewal, touch their hearts, minds, and bodies with Your refreshing Spirit. Encourage them to share Your faithfulness and love with someone You place on their heart. May their testimony of Your life-giving power bring hope to many. Lord, breathe again into our entire church. Have Your way. In the name of our Resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.



tsm

trinity student ministries

Faith & Flow Night

March 14, 2025

Music is powerful. It can impact our lives in unexpected ways. It's why so many of us remember songs from movies we watched decades ago or recall the music that played when we first encountered God. The Christian music industry spans genres—country, alternative, classical, rock, and rap—all of which have been used to reach hearts for Christ. One thing I have learned in my almost 32 years is that God often moves in unexpected places. I never want to put limits on how or where His Spirit is at work.

Dates with Destiny continued on page 5

On March 14, we had the opportunity to attend a free Christian hip-hop night hosted by Youth for Christ. (A HUGE shoutout to Trevor Stroud for driving the bus and getting our youth there!) None of our students or leaders had ever been to a rap concert before. Rick even joked that he could always turn his hearing aid down if it got too loud! But as the night unfolded, I watched our students not just be entertained but truly hear the message of the Gospel in a fresh, impactful way.

EGR (Extra Grace Required), a local Christian rap artist, shared through music, Scripture, testimony, and poetry that no matter our mistakes or how much we feel



like outsiders, God still has a purpose for us. His grace covers our flaws. I witnessed many of our students deeply moved, and four of them took significant steps of faith—either dedicating their lives to Jesus for the first time or recommitting to following Him.

One thing EGR emphasized was the importance of sharing our “I’ve been there” stories. Young people today feel immense pressure to have everything together. They need to hear that they’re not alone in their struggles. Our testimonies matter. When we sit with others, listen to their stories, and offer the hope of Jesus, it makes a difference. Don’t let a genre of music, a style of clothing, or a generational gap stop you from sharing what God has done and is doing in your life—you never know the impact it may have!



Prayer For The Youth:

Gracious Lord, we are so grateful for the ways You are moving in the lives of our students. May they encounter Your presence in fresh and personal ways. Surround them with the right mentors and adults who will encourage and invest in them. May none of us ever put limits on where or how You choose to work.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prime Timers

Submitted by Marilyn Sena



Prime Timers to Celebrate Easter at our April Luncheon

“O, I could write a sonnet... About your Easter Bonnet...” but instead, we will just invite you to the Prime Timers April 5th Easter gathering in Telle Center. Attendees will share in fellowship, great food, fun games, and an inspiring devotional.

Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite bonnet or hat to the event and bring a plate and silverware. A lunch of ham, scalloped potatoes, salad, bread, and dessert will be served at noon for a \$10 donation.

Reservations may be made in advance by calling Char Wickman at 209-523-6570.



Descants by Dina

A New Start

Have you given much thought to the different “new starts” throughout the year? Sure, we all make attempts at New Year’s resolutions. When those don’t take hold, we think about starting our diets next Monday. We also look at a particular area of disarray at home and tell ourselves that we’ll tackle it after we clean out the garage, but the garage never gets cleaned out, so the area at home that requires attention doesn’t get cleaned out until we get visitors.

Spring comes and we consider Spring cleaning. We might get our carpets cleaned, the roof pressure washed, or our car’s annual service scheduled. We then add more to that list: getting our dental work done, getting the home repairs started, planting our gardens, buying a few chickens, and planning a weekend getaway with old friends before summer travel gets too expensive. It’s a wonder we find time to appreciate the beauty of Spring when there’s so much to accomplish during this season.

How does Spring relate to Christianity?

- Spring brings rebirth and renewal. So does the resurrection of Jesus.
- Spring brings new life. So does our faith in Jesus.
- Spring brings the warmth of hope. So does the life of Jesus.
- Spring awakens what has been dormant. So do the words of Jesus.

As we awaken to the life, words, and resurrection of Jesus Christ this Spring, let’s not forget the importance of renewal, no matter what the season.

Here is the link to *King of Kings* by Brook Ligertwood:



Praying you all have a blessed Easter,
Dina



Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

“Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:4

This month, we will be teaching the Easter story to all our kiddos at the Preschool. We will also have our classroom Easter parties which will include fun activities and an egg hunt. Our preschool families will be invited to join the Church’s Eggstravaganza as well!

We are looking forward to the warmer weather that is to come, but we have been very appreciative of the rain. We always know when it’s raining because we will hear screaming from the kids followed by giggles and laughs.

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Trinity Partner Don Jepson died on February 23, 2025. A celebration of life was held on March 22, 2025.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Alma van Aalsburg Burt and Polly Vasche	2 Geneva Vasquez Chick and Lynda Venturini	3 Connie Vierra Kristi and Rob Warren	4 Char Wickman Judy Wiegman	5 Lynne and Chris Wilkinson Jenny and Ken Willmarth
2 Milly Wing David Witt	3 Margaret Wolfe David and Vicky Wolff	4 Deidre Wolfley Craig and Marcy Wright	5 Adelle and Joseph Yonan Jim Young	6 David and Cindy Zellman Twilla Zellman	7 Miriam Acevedo Bob and Tippy Achterberg	8 Cameron and Stephanie Anderson Jeff and Julie Anderson
9 Randy and Doreen Anderson Ryan and Kate Anderson	10 Twyla Anderson Donna Bakker	11 Diana and David Beal Krista Beal	12 Martha Beasley Rob and Susan Beasley	13 Silvana Beasley Ted and Liz Benson	14 Virginia Berry Barbara Bianchi	15 Joyce Blank Elizabeth Blixt
16 Esther Bradfield Phillip Barvard	17 Clayton Bray Dennis and Michele Bray	18 Emily Bray Shirley Brooks	19 Marilyn Brown Grace Brummel	20 Elizabeth Bucknell James and Monique Bucknell	21 Lee and Sandy Bucknell Reva Burchett	22 Greg Cash Mike and Barbara Cash
23 Mike and Kim Caskey Karen Chamberlain	24 Jeff and Debbie Chin Rebecca Clover	25 Rich and Sue Colla Loi Collins	26 Hal and Lucy Conkey Walt and Leslie Cooley	27 Marty and Karen Cox Rick and Bonnie Crabtree	28 Bryan Crabtree Charlie and Sherry Crane	29 Jenny Currie Milt David
30 Delma Davis Leonard Davis	31 Carol Decker Chris and Linda Dickinson	<div> <div> 1. Advancing Vibrant Communities Michael Douglass 2. Bethany Christian Services Sandra Hiatt 3. Bethel Ministries International Ben and Emily Mooney, Bryan Crabtree 4. CRU Zimbabwe Kelly and Vicki Londoni 5. Guatemala Trinity United Mission Team: Marcy Wright </div> <div> 6. IDEAS, Bangladesh Dr. Jay Litchfield 7. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship Lo McDermott 8. LOVE Modesto Jeff Pishney 9. Mesa Global Todd and Sarah Hunnicut 10. Modesto Gospel Mission Jason Conway </div> <div> 11. Modesto Pregnancy Center Erin Koolhaas 12. The MomCo Marisa Hooper 13. Operation Christmas Child / Samaritan's Purse Liz Benson 15. Rock of Ages Sidney Stone </div> <div> 16. Servant Partners Liz Heim Fung 17. Shalem School Pastor Helcias Reyes 18. Valley Recovery Resources Steve Berkowitz 19. Vine House Cheryl Van Horn 20. Youth for Christ Ken Sylvia </div> </div>				

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



TRINITY UNITED

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JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday - April 13, 10:00 AM
Wednesdays United - April 16, 5:30 PM
Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 PM
Good Friday - April 18, 7:00 PM
Eggstravaganza - April 19, 9:00 AM
Easter Sunday Service - April 20, 10:00 AM

or Current Resident

LEADERSHIP

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION:

Tuesday, April 15, 8:30 AM

DEACONS: Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 PM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 PM

TRIP COMMITTEE: Monday, April 7, 10:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, April 18,
10:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot

PDA MISSION TRIP: APRIL 27 - MAY 3

TUESDAY GROUNDS CREW: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 AM

TUTORING: Wednesdays, 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS UNITED

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

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

Childcare Provided

OFFICE CLOSED: MONDAY, APRIL 21, FOR EASTER

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

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY: Mondays, 4:00 PM

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, April 13 and Thursday, April 17

EASTER SUNDAY: April 20, 10:00 AM

GOOD FRIDAY: Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM

PALM SUNDAY: April 13, 10:00 AM

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

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

EGGSTRAVAGANZA: April 19, 9:30-11:30 AM

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, March 5, 12:00 PM

THE MOMCO: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 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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