

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 53 No. 8

AUGUST 2025

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



The Wright Angle

Greetings, Church Family,

Call me crazy, but I read opposing opinions in the news every day. I try to approach them with an open mind and a humble heart. Often, the same story is reported through different eyes, and—no surprise—the conclusions land at opposite poles.

One of the most divisive conversations right now is about those crossing our southern border and seeking asylum. It's true that our asylum laws were designed as a legal and humanitarian effort to provide refuge to people fleeing systemic oppression. It's also true that some use those same laws to delay deportation or navigate a broken system.

But here's what makes me uneasy: when a humanitarian crisis becomes politicized, the people at the center of it—the ones actually in crisis—are often dehumanized.

I would make a poor politician for a very simple reason: I am too narrowly focused. While I make a point of reading widely, I have spent years cultivating what I half-jokingly call tunnel vision. That's because, as a pastor, I've vowed to view life through the eyes of Christ. This isn't always easy. But it's my calling. And when it comes to shaping my worldview, I don't care what media commentators or political strategists have to say. I refuse to let partisan voices set the agenda for my faith.

My goal—my daily struggle—is to allow the Holy Spirit within me and the Scripture on my lap to shape my words, my thinking, and my preaching. Of course, I still have political opinions; I'm a thinking, voting citizen. But in the pulpit and in my role as pastor, those opinions must take a back seat. My task is to shine the light of Christ into the darkness, not fan the flames of division. So here's my invitation: I encourage every follower of Jesus to stay informed. Listen to a wide variety of voices. Pay attention to what's happening in the world. But when you are face-to-face with a child of God—whether that person is an immigrant, an asylum seeker, someone without housing, someone struggling with addiction, or anyone in crisis—I urge you, by the mercies of God, to put on a holy kind of tunnel vision. See them as Christ sees them: beloved.

The Wright Angle continued on page 2



TRINITY UNITED

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E-mail: tupc@tupc.org

Preschool

(209) 578-5625

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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.

They are worthy of compassion.
They are worthy of dignity.
They are worthy of love.
They are worthy of the gospel.

Jesus spoke with profound urgency in Matthew 25 about how we treat "the least of these." If that sounds political, then remember the Apostle Paul. He lived through the dangerous politics of his day. He was imprisoned, beaten, and harassed—not for his opinions, but for his unwavering commitment to Christ in a world that had no use for grace.

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what the will of God is—what is good, acceptable, and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

So yes—pay attention to the news. Be informed citizens of our republic. But first and foremost, be informed citizens of the Kingdom of God. Read Scripture. Listen to the Spirit of Christ living within you. When you do, Paul's promise becomes your reality: you will discern the will of God—what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

Blessings,
Pastor Craig

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

	ACTUAL	
	June	Year to Date
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
Receipts	\$63,410	\$631,762
Expenses	\$64,018	\$632,593
Receipts over Expenses	-\$608	-\$831

In June, we brought in \$63,410 and spent \$64,018. This left us with \$608 less than we spent for the month, and for the year so far, we have spent \$831 more than we have brought in.



Dates with Destiny

tism

trinity student ministries

Summer camps are always a special highlight for teenagers in the church, and Calvin Crest is no exception. Each year brings a fresh wave of meaningful moments and lasting memories, but there's something uniquely sacred about a place so deeply woven into the history and heart of Trinity United. Every time I step onto the Calvin Crest property, I'm struck by the beauty of God's creation—and even more so, by His mighty hand at work in the lives of every camper.



This summer wasn't wildly different or out of the ordinary... but it was special. The energy of first-time campers meeting the wonder of the woods, paired with the joy of returning students stepping back into a place they love, created a buzz of excitement that could be felt across both weeks.

One key reason this experience continues to thrive is the faithful leadership of Joshua Kerr, one of our very own from Trinity United. Since joining the Calvin Crest staff, Joshua—alongside Executive Director Tiffany Staman—has helped shape a culture focused on intentional discipleship. The team they've built is one that pours into campers and leaders alike: spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. As both a youth pastor and a cabin leader, I've seen firsthand how deeply they care for every person who steps onto that mountain.

One word that kept rising to the surface for me this summer was unity. I saw it in the leaders, the students, the cabins, the teams, and even in how churches came together. One moment stands out vividly: a team-building challenge with our high school girls. The goal was to get the entire group from one platform to another using just two boards, with only two girls allowed to touch them, and no one allowed to speak. Seven girls from our church participated, along with one student from another Modesto church who is now interested in visiting Trinity United!



Dates with Destiny continued on page 4

At first, they didn't complete the challenge. But when they returned to it later, one student shared a reflection that stuck with me: "It can't happen when we're acting like two different teams when we're supposed to be one." That simple, profound statement has stayed with me. It's true for team-building games, but it's even more true in our churches and communities. We can't move forward if we're not moving forward together.

Each cabin leader is asked to reflect at the end of the week: "In what ways have you seen your campers grow in discipleship?" It's a beautiful question and I think it's one we should ask ourselves too. How have I grown in my walk with Christ this week? In what areas do I need to grow? And how can I come alongside others on that journey?

And in a way, that question "How am I growing?" echoes the heart of our theme this year: FOUND. Just like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, God meets us with open arms wherever we've been. Whether we feel like the one who wandered or the one who stayed, our growth comes not from striving alone, but from being found in His love. This summer, I saw students rediscover their identity in Christ, not because of a mountaintop moment alone, but because they were reminded they belong. They are seen, known, and welcomed... just as they are.

If we want to be united in purpose, growing in faith, and becoming more like Christ, we need to keep showing up: for one another, for our church, and for God. And sometimes that starts with simply asking the question: How am I being discipled, and how am I helping others grow, too?

With gratitude,
Destiny



TRINITY
KIDS

*A Moment
with Marcy*

August 2025

Wednesdays are about to get messy! August 20, the children start a six-week unit on Sin and Consequences. Sin is messy and to show that, the children will be getting messy too. While learning about what sin is and why we should avoid it, we will also see God's everlasting love and never-ending grace. Yes, we all sin. Yes, we are all guilty. Yes, there are consequences for sin. But 1 John 1:9 tells us that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God promises to forgive us not once, not twice, not even three times, but every single time we ask. Every time we go to God and ask for forgiveness, His answer is a resounding, "Yes! Yes! Yes! I forgive you!" It is important for children (and all of us!) to know that sometimes we do make bad choices. Sometimes we do the wrong thing. It does happen. But we are not left in despair, God has made a way. He knows our weakness. He knows we cannot make it on our own. He's got us. We are safe in His forgiveness and love.

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.



Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

As we start the new school year, it is so comforting knowing God is with us wherever we go. He is with us as we start new chapters in our lives, He is with us as our graduating Pre-K class starts TK/Kindergarten, He is with our new babies that have started their care with Trinity Preschool, He is with our teachers as they start another school year, He is with us always!

We had a fun summer here at Trinity Preschool filled with water days, Farmers' Market week, field trips, and much more, but we are looking forward to a new fun-filled year. We will be gearing up for the new school year with teacher in-service, fresh bulletin boards, and some deep cleaning to make everything fresh and ready for the new students.

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez



Ladies Bunco Night

Bring a Friend and Join the Fun!

Submitted by Destiny Robles

Saturday, September 20

Doors Open at 6:00 PM

\$5 per person

Get ready for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and sweet fellowship at our **Ladies Bunco Night!** Whether you're a seasoned Bunco pro or brand new to the game, this is the perfect chance to relax, connect, and invite a friend to join in on the fun.

We'll kick off the evening with a **Coffee Cart from 6:00-6:30 PM**, (we will also have decaf coffee, iced tea, and water available). Each attendee will also receive a snack bag filled with both sweet and savory treats to keep the energy up as the dice roll!

Prizes will be awarded for categories like **Most Wins, Most Losses, Most Buncos**, and more—so you never know what you might walk away with!

Cost is **\$5 per person**, and it's a great way to make new memories with old friends and new faces. So, sign up, bring a friend (or two), and come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship! Sign-ups begin Sunday, August 24th, at the Women's Ministry table after church, or you can contact the church office!

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.



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.



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

Parking Lot Safety Check

Please be mindful of your surroundings and LOCK your car when parking at Trinity United Church.

Do not leave ANYTHING in your seats or dash; best to lock it up in the trunk or leave it at home. Also try to come and go along with others. Lighting can be difficult at night too, so please, watch your step.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Bill and Joy Fox Liz and Jonathan Fung	2 Greg Fusi and Janice Lucero Debbie George
3 Darlene Ghiorso David and Judy Glaister	4 Sam and Claire Graham Roger and Janice Gray	5 Sarah and Chris Haberman Dick and Teresa Hagerty	6 Steve and Nina Hanna Lynnsey Hardy	7 Saylah and Justin Harvey Alicia Heim	8 Melinda Heim Chris and Marti Hennings	9 Devon and Rosalie Hill Brian and Stacy Hoekman
10 Lois and Rex Holm Sue Husted	11 Helen Johnson Sharon Johnson	12 Doris Jones Dave and Gayle Kerr	13 Joy Kerr-Owens Duane and Susan Kirk	14 Lilly Knight Nannette Knockum	15 Dyann LaMantia Christina Latino	16 Merilyn Lewis Sally Lindberg
17 Bert Lippert Robb Loeser	18 Sue Lorenz Eunice Lovi	19 Wendy Lucas Luther and Vicky Lundeby	20 Monica Maddock Les and Leslie Malakian	21 Catherine and Alex Martinez Patricia Mason	22 Myrna McDaniel Richard and Isabell McKay	23 Ross Sr. and Lee McKenzie Ross Jr. and Kellie McKenzie
24 Terri McNabb Felix and Teresa Mejia	25 Judy Michaelis Lachelle Mills	26 Jeanine Monteith Jeanne Nelson	27 Kathy Nelson Tony and Chris Ott	28 La Mar Owens Deborah and Clark Pearson	29 Donna Pedersen Dale Pederson and Tara McDonnell	30 Sue Pehl Patricia Phillips
31 Dave and Rowena Pollard Becky Pombo	<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. Calvin Crest Tiffany Staman 5. Cru Zimbabwe Kelly and Vicki Londoni </div> <div> 6. Guatemala Trinity United Mission Team: Marcy Wright 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. Operation Christmas Child / Samaritan's Purse 13. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Liz Benson 14. Reclaim, Bangladesh Dr. Jay Litchfield 15. Rock of Ages Sidney Stone </div> <div> 16. Servant Partners 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

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

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, August 19, 8:30 AM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, August 5, 6:30 PM

TRIP COMMITTEE: Monday, August 4, 10:00 AM

WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING: Thursday,
August 14, 11:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, August 15,

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

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

WEDNESDAYS UNITED STARTING AUGUST 20

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

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, August 10

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

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

CHURCH TRIP-ANGEL ISLAND: Wednesday, August 13

Bus loads 7:30 AM; Returns 6:00 PM,

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

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

TSM BACK TO POOL PARTY: Wednesday, August 13, 4:00 PM

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

(Hebrews 13:1-2)

Electronic Version Online at www.tupc.org

See Online Calendar for changes.

Worship Services are livestreamed on www.tupc.org



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram