

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 54 No. 8

AUGUST 2026

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



The Wright Angle

Front-Loaded Forgiveness

Greetings, Church Family!

Sunday's message walked through Luke 15: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the story we usually call the Prodigal Son. All three follow the same pattern: something goes missing, and someone goes looking before anything is resolved. The shepherd doesn't wait for the sheep to find its own way home. The woman doesn't wait to see if the coin turns up on its own. And the father doesn't wait at the door for a rehearsed apology. He's watching the road, and he runs to his son while the boy is still far off, before a single word of confession is spoken.

That's the heart of the message: pre-forgiveness. Not forgiveness offered after someone cleans up, confesses, and proves they've changed, but forgiveness that was already in motion beforehand. Theologians have a formal name for this: prevenient grace, grace that comes before anything we do to earn it. But "pre-forgiveness" gets at the same idea in plainer language. God has already decided to forgive and is already moving toward us, long before we turn around.

The Pharisees in Luke 15 stand for the opposite posture. They're not grumbling because the tax collectors and sinners had done something new. They had already decided, in advance, that grace toward "those people" was out of bounds. That's pre-unforgiveness: a verdict rendered ahead of time, watching for infractions rather than watching for someone to come home. The older brother in the story carries the same posture. He'd been keeping score for years, and his brother's return didn't create his resentment; it just revealed it.

Here's the honest question the sermon leaves us with: Which one are we front-loaded with? Most of us can name a place where we've already decided, before anything has even happened, exactly what we would never forgive: a betrayal, a disappointment, or a line someone might cross. That's pre-unforgiveness sitting quietly, waiting for a spark.



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Ministerial Staff

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

The Wright Angle continued from page 1

But we're called to forgive as we've been forgiven, not after the groveling, but before it. Paul reminds us that God's love reached us while we were still in the wrong, not after we'd cleaned ourselves up. That's the pattern: love that moves first.

God so loved that He gave His only begotten Son. On the cross, before anyone repented of their sins or called out to Him for forgiveness, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Oh, how great the Father's love! Think about this, and you will be blessed.

Blessings,
Pastor Craig

*We are devoted to love for one another,
joyfully welcoming the stranger,
eagerly expecting heaven's surprises!
(Hebrews 13:1-2)*

June 2026 Finance Summary

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

	ACTUAL	
	June	Year to Date
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	\$54,885	\$645,480
Expenses	\$64,883	\$617,211
Receipts over Expenses	-\$9,998	\$28,269

In June, we received \$54,885 and spent \$64,883, which means our spending was \$9,998 higher than what came in for the month. Even with that, since September we are still \$28,269 ahead overall.

Summer can be a slower season for giving, so thank you for your faithful generosity and continued support of Trinity United.

Mid-Year Statements were sent out in July. If you did not receive yours, please contact the church office.



A Moment with Marcy

August 2026

"I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again."

Philippians 1:6

What a promise to cling to! God both began the good work and will continue His work. We are not on our own. God is at work in us.

I think of parents working on character development in their children. What a daunting task! So much time and energy are poured into training, guiding, and correcting. But it is so worth it! God, our Father, does that for us. The Holy Spirit is at work developing our character.

August sees our children's ministries heading into the lives of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. What a lot of work they were! But God had a plan. He was at work in their lives, and He continued that work to bring about His promises. There are times when we don't want to be the ones on the receiving end of all that training, guiding, and correcting. It is not always pleasant to see the error of our ways or to change course, but we can trust Him to complete the good work He began in us.

Let this hymn be our prayer:

Have Thine own way, Lord!

Have Thine own way!

Thou art the potter. I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after Thy will.

While I am waiting, yielded and still.



Cassi's Corner

Hello There Family and Friends,

Welcome Back!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

We are so excited to welcome back all of our returning families and extend a warm welcome to the new families joining us this year! As we begin this new school year together, our hearts are filled with gratitude and anticipation for all that God has in store.

We can't wait to watch each child learn, grow, build friendships, and discover the unique gifts God has given them. Here's to a year filled with faith, laughter, learning, and countless blessings. We are so thankful to have you as part of our Trinity family, and we look forward to seeing the amazing things God has planned for this school year!

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez



Well, we made it through camp! We took a total of nine students and three staff members to camp, and we made it.

Prior to arriving at camp, our students were experiencing a lot. Many of them had to make up classes during summer school. This was significant because any commitment they had made before summer school was now potentially in jeopardy. Their primary commitment was finishing the school year, which included summer school.

But summer school wasn't the only priority for our students. They also faced some life-changing situations that were personal or family-related. Some experienced the loss of a family member, some had parents who separated, other students' passions changed, and my personal favorite, just "plain ol' life" was happening.

These situations followed our students to camp and made the experience challenging. Many of our students come to church but don't display a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So, when faced with a dilemma, their first response is not prayer or faith. It is "fight or flight."



For the past several years, Calvin Crest has added a mental health counselor to its summer

staff. This year, Trinity took full advantage of this resource, using the counselor to help navigate both personal and collective issues while at camp. We're not sure of the long-term effects of the support that was given, but for the rest of camp, the conversations that came up were both real and honest. Camp was truly



a different experience.

For the summer, TSM had scheduled Monday courses in sewing, basic carpentry, and sound. Because of other commitments, life circumstances, and low attendance, I decided to cancel all the Monday classes and keep only the Wednesday night gatherings. This proved to be the best choice because it took some of the pressure off students who needed to finish their courses, and it helped with planning for a few other events.

So, what do we have to look forward to in the fall? Great question. Our focus is going to be on the family of God. All of our students have been blessed to come from some kind of family support. However, when they come to church, many of them don't see the church as a family.

With much prayer and intentional event planning, we are introducing the students to the family of God, starting with the Gospel message. We ask for your prayers as we move in this direction.

Wendy's Writings



Today I have some questions for you to answer! What hymn, when you hear it, brings you the most JOY?

Okay, you can choose three hymns! Or three songs!

Next, what hymn or song makes you want to burst into song?

What hymn or song makes you want to tap your foot?

What hymn or song makes you want to pray or talk to God?

What hymn or song can soothe you when you are upset?

Several years ago, Reader's Digest published an article titled "When Music Is Medicine," which included the statement that "playing and listening to music had mental and physical health benefits, improving our immune systems and reducing stress" (*Reader's Digest*, June 2023).

Share some of your answers to these questions with someone you trust. It is amazing how music can reach places nothing else can. Sometimes music arrives just when we need it most, like a hug. Have you ever had that experience?

When music is selected for worship, we intentionally choose from different styles and genres, works by composers of all ages, music expressing a variety of feelings, and instruments that appeal to many kinds of worshipers. So, if the music this week does not suit your preference, come back next week for other choices that may be more to your liking! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Blessings,
Wendy

Women's Ministry Event

Submitted by Leslie Cooley

Our Women's Ministry event on Saturday, September 5, is entitled "Falling in Love with Jesus." The event will be held from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Telle Center and will include brunch and a craft activity. The cost is \$10 per person.

Participants will decorate canvas bags with painted fall leaves, vines, and other designs. The bags will be preprinted with the words "Falling in Love with Jesus."

Sign-ups will be taken on the patio beginning August 16

Trinity Men... Let's Head to the Mountains!

Submitted by Walt Cooley

The mountain air is crisp, with a slight breeze. Shades of red and gold flutter in the trees. Autumn is in the air, a time to reflect on the year, count your blessings, and draw nearer to God. Men of Trinity, come join us at this year's Calvin Crest Men's Camp as we gather with other men from around the Central Valley to seek God in His mountains.

This is a weekend of praise, worship, singing, fellowship, adventure, laughter, great food, teaching, and, yes, Irish road bowling!

This year's camp is November 6-8. Reservations can be made at calvincrest.com/mens-camp, with rooms available in both Cedar Lodge and the Mountain View Cabins. If you have questions, please visit the website or contact Walt Cooley at 209-402-3661 or David Zellman at 209-521-6396.

Our prayer is that you will join us for this weekend of blessing. Let's fill the church bus!

Men's Ministry Experience

Submitted by Ted Benson

Open Cockpit Day at Castle Air Museum Saturday, September 5, 2026

Castle Air Force Base needs no introduction to longtime members of Trinity United. Established in 1941 as an Army Air Force basic flying school, the Atwater facility was renamed Castle Field in 1946, finally becoming a United States Air Force base in 1948 following the creation of a separate military service. Named in honor of Brigadier General Frederick Castle, a founding father of World War II's legendary Eighth Air Force who died to save the crew of his blazing B-17 on a mission over Belgium on December 24, 1944, Castle proudly served the nation until its closure in 1995.

Home to several bomber and aerial refueling squadrons, Castle AFB hosted a variety of heavy aircraft, ranging from B-29, B-47, and B-50 bombers to KC-97 and KC-135 air tankers. Most notable in the skies over Merced and Modesto were the beloved "Bufs," Boeing B-52 bombers that were based at Castle from their inception in 1955 until the closure of the Strategic Air Command 40 years later.

The establishment of the Castle Air Museum in 1981 made possible the preservation and restoration of more than 80 aircraft over the ensuing 45 years, including examples of all the bombers and tankers based at Castle,

plus various rare bombers, transports, and fighter jets. Today, Castle is the largest air museum between Southern California and Washington State.

Open-Cockpit Day, a biannual showcase at Castle, offers a rare chance to get up close and personal with the collection. While details for the fall 2026 event were not available at press time, we do know that this May's event featured the museum's newly restored B-52, among others. "Plane talks" by various aviation personnel will be part of the September 5 festivities, along with live music, expanded food offerings, and a variety of vendors.

Trinity United's Men's Ministry has anticipated visiting Castle for quite some time. Now that time has come. We will meet for coffee and doughnuts in Room 203, across from the sanctuary, at 8 AM on Saturday, September 5, prior to boarding the church bus for Atwater.

Attention, Knitters and Crocheters!

Submitted by Leslie Cooley

We would love to have you make small 7" x 7" washcloths for our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Please use 100% cotton yarn, available at Hobby Lobby, Michaels, or Walmart.

You can place your finished washcloths in the OCC Joy in a Box in the church office.

Questions? Please contact Leslie Cooley at 209-402-1653.

Trinity United Mission Partners

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Bethany Christian Services
Sandra Hiatt | 6. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
Lo McDermott | 11. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Liz Benson | 16. Valley Recovery Resources
Steve Berkowitz |
| 2. Bethel Ministries International
Bryan Crabtree | 7. Mesa Global
Todd and Sarah Hunnicut | 12. Reclaim, Bangladesh
Dr. Jay Litchfield | 17. Vine House
Cheryl Van Horn |
| 3. Bethel Ministries International
Ben and Emily Mooney | 8. Modesto Gospel Mission
Jason Conway | 13. Rock of Ages
Sidney Stone | 18. Youth for Christ
Ken Sylvia |
| 4. Calvin Crest
Tiffany Staman | 9. Modesto Pregnancy Center
Erin Koolhaas | 14. Trinity United Basket of Hope Food Distribution
Jim Bucknell and David Zellman | |
| 5. Cru
Kelly and Vicki Londoni | 10. Operation Christmas Child /
Samaritan's Purse | 15. Trinity United Guatemala Mission Team
Marcy Wright | |

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

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Jeanne Nelson Kathy Nelson
2 Tony and Chris Ott La Mar Owens	3 Deborah and Clark Pearson Donna Pedersen	4 Dale Pederson and Tara McDonnell Sue Pehl	5 Patricia Phillips Dave and Rowena Pollard	6 Becky Pombo Dave and Peggy Prevette	7 Gisele and Jan Pritchard Diane and Frank Quaresma	8 Diane and Mervin Reed Tom and Patti Reed
9 Charlotte Reid Denarly Reyes	10 Alan and Patricia Reynolds Dolores Roberts	11 June Sargis John and Tawn Schaffran	12 Peggy Schaffran Andy Schindler	13 Marlin and Marilyn Sena Mike and Paula Sherman	14 Mike and Shell Siemens Lucille Sigala	15 Linda and Butch Silveira-Odom Kathy and Stephen Smart
16 Bill Smith Clay and Cindy Smith	17 Ken and Cheryl Smith Sookie Smith	18 Donna Solari Nancy Speltz	19 Rose Steele Robert Stone	20 Mike and Loretta Sutherland Kady Sutherlin	21 Julia Swager Abel and Terrie Tagre	22 Bev Thomas David and Cindy Tinajero
23 Matt and Cassi Torrez Dwight and Lisa Traugher	24 Tim and Judy Tweedie Alma van Aalsburg	25 Burt and Polly Vasche Geneva Vasquez	26 Chick and Lynda Venturini Connie Vierra	27 Kristi and Rob Warren Todd and Anne Whiteside	28 Char Wickman Judy Wiegman	29 Lynne and Chris Wilkinson Jenny and Ken Willmarth
30 Milly Wing David Witt	31 Margaret Wolfe David and Vicky Wolff					



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, August 18, 8:30 AM

DEACON MEETING: Tuesday, August 4, 3:30 PM

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

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM MEETING: Tuesday, August 4,
9:00 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, August 21,

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

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

WEDNESDAYS UNITED: STARTING AUGUST 19

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

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:00 AM, Youth Center

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, August 9

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Wednesdays, Starting August 19, 6:15-7:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

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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