

# TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 52 No. 10

OCTOBER 2024

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



## *The Wright Angle*

Greetings Church Family,

I once "Googled" the question, "Is the universe perfect?" and below is what I found. Although I don't fully understand it, I find it intriguing. I believe it leads to an important conversation, so keep reading; perhaps more than just a cosmic question will be answered.

Is the universe perfect?

"The universe is asymmetrical. There is no perfect balance of physical forces throughout it. In the beginning, matter and antimatter (atomic particles with opposite electrical charges and spins) are thought to have existed in almost equal amounts. The

key word here is 'almost'; if the quantities had been truly equal, matter as we know it could not have formed, as opposing particles would have annihilated each other, leaving nothing but gamma rays. Fortunately, enough matter remained to allow the physical universe to form. Other opposing forces are also unequal, such as the expansion of the universe versus total gravity. It turns out that gravity is greatly insufficient to have any effect there. It may be that the universe's imperfections are what allow it to exist."

I love that last line: "Imperfection is what allows the universe to be!" The parallel is clear: imperfection is what allows the church to be what it is meant to be. Jesus once responded to the 'perfect' Pharisees who accused Him of being a friend to sinners: "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

If we've read the Bible, we know that the Pharisees themselves were also sinners. In fact, Christ came to save all people because all are sick, broken, and sinful. He has called this collection of out-of-balance folks (humanity) to be the church. Like the universe, imperfection could be what allows the church to exist.

Like it or not, in the church, we are all in the process of smoothing out each other's rough edges. It is said that iron sharpens iron. In community, our humanity surfaces, and that is precisely where the Spirit of Christ begins to work on our hearts, transforming us from something broken into something beautiful. Isn't that wonderful? We are growing up in Christ and becoming more whole. Striving for perfection won't get us there; in fact, it may turn us into Pharisees. Instead, we should strive to be healed, whole, and good. This is what moves us in the right direction. Seeking wholeness means regularly confessing that we are not enough, that we have cracks, and that we need one another.



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### Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright      Senior Pastor

Rebecca Duque              Administrator

Destiny Robles    Director of Youth Ministry

Dina Guentensperger      Music Director-  
Traditional

La Mar Owens              Music Director-  
Contemporary

### Trinity Preschool

Cassi Torrez                      Director

Rebecca Duque              Administrator

Char Wickman      Circulation Manager

Thanks to many Volunteers!

## DEADLINE

FOR PUBLICATION

# 15<sup>TH</sup>

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

As we seek to grow this church, I believe we will grow just as God caused creation to grow. There will be light and dark, springtime and harvest, summer and winter. There will be the struggle of birth and the difficulty of loss and death. Yet, as we are shaped by Christ, as we submit to being His workmanship, we will be formed for good and for the good works we are called to do.

Can you imagine attending a church where everyone was perfect? You would feel like the odd person out, right? Now, can you imagine a church where everyone is broken? Not so hard to envision, is it? In such a community, you are not the odd one; you bring your unique gifts to bear. God works in all of us, imperfections and all, to create something beautiful. Just like on the sixth day of creation when God looked over all He had made and declared it "very good!"

Let us remember, in this season of church growth, that each of us is still the Lord's own workmanship. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are sinners saved by grace and anchors our hearts with this thought: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph 2:10).

That, my friends, is GOOD news!

Pastor Craig

### August 2024 Finance Summary

Fiscal Year = September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024

	ACTUAL	
	August	Year to Date
<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>		
Receipts	67,744	803,115
Expenses	72,333	885,894
Receipts over Expenses	-4,589	-82,779

In August, we brought in \$67,744 and spent \$72,333. This left us with a deficit of \$4,589 for the month. For the fiscal year, we spent \$82,779 more than we have received. We used funds received in prior years to make ends meet. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our ministry.



*Dates with  
Destiny*

**tsm**

trinity student ministries

## **Annual Youth Nighter**

**September 13, 2024**

Trinity United hosted an incredible event bringing together youth from about ten churches for a night filled with worship and fun! I've noticed that many of our volunteers seem to anticipate this event as much, if not more, than the students. This year, we welcomed over 250 youth and leaders who filled our sanctuary with worship and excitement.



I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the amazing team of volunteers who made this night possible.

A special shout-out goes to Mr. Jim Bucknell, who joyfully handled the cookies and the many kitchen details, ensuring that both students and leaders were well-fed. His heart for service and excellence was evident throughout the evening, and the smooth flow of the night was due in large part to his leadership. If you haven't had the pleasure of working alongside Jim yet, I encourage you to join him in the kitchen or on the Tuesday morning crew—you'll quickly see in Jim what Pastor Craig meant in his September 15th sermon about "kicking up the dust!" (If you missed that one and are curious, you will want to catch the message online!)

To the crew who served that night: Thank you for being such a loving and hospitable presence for our teenagers. Pat Mason, David Zellman, Tim and Judy Tweedie, Debbie Pearson, Tawn Schaffran, Liz Benson, Chris Ott, Sammi Ross, Trevor Stroud, and Teresa Mejia—I'm so thankful for each of you!

And to the dedicated volunteers who continually pour into the lives of our students year after year—Saylah Harvey, Clayton Bray, Lacey Campbell, DeeDee Robles, Justin Harvey, and Cassi Torrez—thank you for making a lasting impact in our church and community. You are changing lives! (Rick Crabtree and Matt Torrez were missed this year, but I know are looking forward to the next event!)

## **"Shame OFF You" Sermon Series**

**October**

Being a teenager today is incredibly challenging, with struggles that may feel very different from those that you and I faced growing up. Though I'm only 31, I've seen so many young people in recent years grapple with issues that even some of our leaders in their early twenties find unfamiliar. These students lived through a pandemic, and the anxiety and isolation that came with it have left lasting marks.

Dates with Destiny continued on page 4



In my one-on-one conversations with students, the topic of shame has surfaced repeatedly. But how beautiful it is to share the truth of God’s grace and forgiveness. We don’t need to hide or run from God, because He is always ready to embrace us with His loving-kindness. Our new series, “Shame OFF You,” will focus on peeling away the layers of shame and lies and replacing them with the truth of God’s love and grace. We’ll be reminded that His love covers all sin and offers freedom—Grace ON You.

**Prayer:**

*Thank You, Lord, for the many blessings You’ve poured out on our church. We lift up our students, praying for protection over their minds, hearts, and families as they go through their day. Surround them with the right friends and guide their leaders as they mentor and support them. Help us, as a church, to remember to pray for these young people daily. We thank You that You are at work in their lives, and we’re honored to be part of their journey. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

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*If you feel called to serve with our youth ministry, we’re looking for adults to assist on Wednesday evenings from 5:00–7:30 PM. I ask you to prayerfully consider how you might be part of shaping the lives of our young people.*

Blessings,  
Destiny

## Christmas by Candlelight

Submitted by Leslie Cooley

The Women’s Ministry Team invites you to

### Christmas by Candlelight... Letters from Bethlehem

- Friday, December 6 at 6:30 pm
- Dessert will follow our Christmas program.
- Childcare will be provided for children under 6 years old.
- Please invite your friends to this lovely evening as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

## Trinity Seniors Vote to Change Name

Submitted by Marilyn Sena

“PRIMETIMERS” is the name chosen by Trinity United Seniors who were formerly called Dinghy Mariners or just Mariners, at their reorganization meeting in September. The group felt a name change was in order since the Mariners were dissolved by PCUSA in 2011 and Trinity United is no longer associated with them. The new name will hopefully encourage all Trinity United’s adult members to participate in our monthly meetings.

Primetimers will continue to meet the first Saturday of the month at noon in the Telle Center to fellowship, enjoy a light meal, followed by songs, games, inspirations, and an occasional guest speaker. The cost of the meal is \$10 per person and you are asked to bring your own plate and tableware.

The next meeting is Saturday, October 5. Lunch reservations are requested for food preparation by calling Char Wickman at 209-523-6570.



## Cassi's Corner

Hello there family and friends,

“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.” Ephesians 4:32

As we enter the fall, it brings lots of fun activities around the preschool. We have our field trip to Dutch Hollow Farms, our Harvest Parade, classroom harvest parties, and so much more! Our Harvest Parade will be on Thursday, October 31st at 10 AM if anyone would like to come and watch the kiddos walk around in their cute costumes!

We have welcomed three new families to Trinity Preschool and continue to have a waiting list for all classrooms eagerly waiting to join. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting fall season!

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

Many Blessings,

Cassi Torrez



## It's Shoebox Time

Submitted by Marlin Sena, Church Relations Coordinator

Time to spread the love of Jesus to children around the world by packing a Shoebox to give to a child somewhere in this big, wide world of ours!!! Kick-off is Sunday, October 20th at Trinity United. Attendees will be able to get shoeboxes after church that day to take home and fill with school supplies, hygiene items, toys, or age-appropriate personal accessories.

Church attendees will also have the opportunity to help pack Shoeboxes at a Soup Luncheon and Packing Party on October 27, following church services. This event is open to everyone, and Shoebox items will be available for packing. Donations for Shoeboxes will be accepted in the church office until that date.

Trinity Shoeboxes will be collected Sunday, November 17. National Collection Week is November 18-25, 2024, with a goal of 11 million boxes



## Church Work Day

Submitted by Jim Bucknell

Come join us for a fun and meaningful church work day on Saturday, November 9th, from 9 AM to noon! This is a wonderful opportunity to serve together, show love for our church campus, and enjoy great fellowship. We'll have a variety of projects for all ages and skill levels, so everyone can get involved. Afterward, we'll share a fellowship lunch to celebrate the hard work and time spent together. Rain or shine, this will be a great time to make a tangible difference alongside your church family. Signups for the lunch will begin a few weeks prior. For questions, contact Jim Bucknell at (209)484-2568. Let's work together, serve with joy, and make our church shine!

## Children's Ministries

Submitted by Marcy Wright



"Samuel, Samuel..."

Where was Samuel? Why was God calling him? Why didn't Samuel answer? All these questions and more will be answered Sunday mornings. Sunday school is 8:30-9:30 AM. Children's worship dismisses from the sanctuary at Passing of the Peace.

"Grow in every way to be more like Christ." Come meet Sarah Sunflower and learn what growing in Christ is all about. Wednesdays United, dinner is at 5:30 PM, Bible study is from 6:00-7:30 PM.

## Women's Ministry Event

Submitted by Leslie Cooley

The Women's Ministry Team invites you to join in the fun! Yes Ladies, let's go shopping!

- Saturday, October 26
- Fresno's Fig Garden Village...many lovely shops for retail therapy!
- 8:30 am - 5:00 pm... Meet the church bus in the North parking lot at 8:15 am
- Lunch on your own... there are many restaurants available!

Sign up and reserve your seat on the Trinity bus for only \$20.00 (22 seats available) Others may carpool and meet us there!

Food | Trivia | Games | Potluck Fall Treats | & MORE!



**YOU ARE INVITED**

Join us after church on Sunday, October 20th for a day of fun, food, and fellowship as we celebrate the harvest season here in the Central Valley. Come enjoy games and crafts for all ages, and enjoy a delicious hot dog and chili lunch, followed by our favorite fall treats. If you are interested in entering our Apple Pie Contest, let us know by October 16th.

Let's gather together to celebrate all that God has blessed us with— a true harvest of community, joy, and gratitude. So invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for this memorable day. We can't wait to see you there!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

**Sunday, October 20th | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

join us for worship at 10:00 AM

# *Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar*

## **OCTOBER 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Nancy Speltz  Rose Steele	<b>2</b> Mike and Loretta Sutherland  Kadyn Sutherlin	<b>3</b> Julia Swager  Abel and Terrie Tagre	<b>4</b> Bev Thomas  David and Cindy Tinajero	<b>5</b> Matt and Cassi Torrez  Dwight and Lisa Traugher
<b>6</b> Tim and Judy Tweedie  Alma van Aalsburg	<b>7</b> Burt and Polly Vasché  Geneva Vasquez	<b>8</b> Chick and Lynda Venturini  Connie Vierra	<b>9</b> Kristi and Rob Warren  Char Wickman	<b>10</b> Judy Wiegman  Jenny and Ken Willmarth	<b>11</b> Milly Wing  David Witt	<b>12</b> Margaret Wolfe  David and Vicky Wolff
<b>13</b> Deidre Wolfley  Craig and Marcy Wright	<b>14</b> Lynne and Chris Wilkinson  Adelle and Joseph Yonan	<b>15</b> Jim Young  David and Cindy Zellman	<b>16</b> Twilla Zellman  Miriam Acevedo	<b>17</b> Bob and Tippy Achterberg  Cameron and Stephanie Anderson	<b>18</b> Jeff and Julie Anderson  Randy and Doreen Anderson	<b>19</b> Ryan and Kate Anderson  Twyla Anderson
<b>20</b> Donna Bakker  Diana and David Beal	<b>21</b> Krista Beal  Martha Beasley	<b>22</b> Rob and Susan Beasley  Silvana Beasley	<b>23</b> Ted and Liz Benson  Virginia Berry	<b>24</b> Barbara Bianchi  Joyce Blank	<b>25</b> Elizabeth Blixt  Esther Bradfield	<b>26</b> Phillip Bravard  Clayton Bray
<b>27</b> Dennis and Michele Bray  Emily Bray	<b>28</b> Shirley Brooks  Marilyn Brown	<b>29</b> Grace Brummel  Elizabeth Bucknell	<b>30</b> Jim and Monique Bucknell  Lee and Sandy Bucknell	<b>31</b> Reva Burchett  Greg Cash		

1. Advancing Vibrant Communities  
Michael Douglass
2. Bethany Christian Services  
Sandra Hiatt
3. Bethel Ministries International  
Ben and Emily Mooney
4. CRU Zimbabwe  
Kelly and Vicki Londoni
5. Guatemala Trinity United  
Mission Team: Marcy Wright

6. IDEAS, Bangladesh  
Dr. Jay Litchfield
7. Intersivity Christian Fellowship  
Lo McDermott
8. LOVE Modesto  
Jeff Pishney
9. Mesa Global  
Todd and Sarah Hunnicut
10. Modesto Gospel Mission  
Jason Conway

11. Modesto Pregnancy Center  
Erin Koolhaas
12. The MomCo  
Marisa Hooper
13. Operation Christmas Child
14. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
Liz Benson
15. Rock of Ages  
Sidney Stone
16. Samaritan's Purse

17. Servant Partners  
Liz Heim Fung
18. Shalem School  
Pastor Helcias Reyes
19. Valley Recovery Resources  
Steve Berkowitz
20. Vine House  
Cheryl Van Horn
21. Youth for Christ  
Ken Sylvia

*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](http://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, October 15, 8:30 AM

DEACONS: Tuesday, October 1, 6:30 PM

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

### SERVE

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS UNITED

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

WORLD COMMUNION: Sunday, October 6

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

### FELLOWSHIP

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

FALL FESTIVAL: Sunday, October 20, 11:00-1:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM,

OCC LUNCH/PACKING PARTY: Sunday, October 27, 11:00 AM

OVER 80'S BRUNCH: Sunday, October 13, 11:15 AM

PRIMETIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, October 5, 12:00 PM

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

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

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Electronic Version Online at [www.tupc.org](http://www.tupc.org)

See Online Calendar for changes.

Worship Services are livestreamed on [www.tupc.org](http://www.tupc.org)



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