

TRINITY TRUMPET

Since 1973 Vol. 52 No. 11

NOVEMBER 2024

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



The Wright Angle

Greetings, Church Family,

Many years ago, when I was a young minister in a different denomination, I picked up a book called *Love, Acceptance, and Forgiveness* by Pastor Jerry Cook. This book transformed my life and ministry focus, as it called the church to embody the same principles modeled in Christ: authentic love for all people, both inside and outside the church; acceptance of everyone, regardless of their station in life or perceived sinfulness; and forgiveness as a way of life. We are invited to receive the unlimited grace and forgiveness of Christ and to extend that same grace to others. Just as people flocked to Jesus, drawn by His love, acceptance, and forgiveness, individual Christians and entire faith communities can become magnetic attractions when they embody these qualities with authenticity. Is this not what our fractured world needs now, and what it has always needed?

Moreover, there is so much division within the church itself, as denominations struggle to stay united and believers across denominational lines hurl accusations at one another for various offenses. While I have studied doctrine and theology deeply and hold a commitment to doctrinal standards and historic Christian orthodoxy, I believe that nothing surpasses what I call the orthodoxy of the heart. A pure heart, committed to Christ and to His mission, seeks healing over division, love over hate, and the unity of all believers. It engages in a relentless proclamation of the Good News of God's love to all. This is why TUPC exists.

I am an optimist because I believe God is at work, and that God wins. There is so much darkness in the world today, but there is also an incredible amount of grace and light. The kingdom of God is not in retreat in this "post-Christian culture"; rather, it is actively bringing life and healing to this broken world. Never in history have so many identified as followers of Christ. The Gospel has proven to be the most powerful force on earth for over two thousand years, and it still is. There is nothing like the power of God unleashed when the Gospel is preached and lived out by Christians in the world. In Romans 1:16, the Apostle Paul calls the Gospel "the power of God that brings salvation."

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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
15TH
OF EACH MONTH
FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S
PUBLICATION

Materials are collated
 on the fourth Tuesday
 of each month.

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Paul provided a template for understanding love, acceptance, and forgiveness when he addressed the divided and fractured Corinthian church, struggling with issues of who was right and who was wrong, who was in and who was out. He said, "I will become all things to all people, that I might win some." That statement is more revolutionary than many realize; it is perhaps the most incarnational of all Paul's words. Like Paul, God changed for people, becoming flesh to win us (Philippians 2:5-11) and showing us in the flesh His love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

May we be a faith community that reflects the love of Christ to all.

May we be a faith community that accepts others just as they are.

May we be a faith community that forgives as we have been forgiven.

Blessings,
 Pastor Craig

September 2024 Finance Summary

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

	ACTUAL	
	September	Year to Date
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
Receipts	55,055	55,055
Expenses	61,713	61,713
Receipts over Expenses	-6,658	-6,658

In September, we brought in \$55,055 and spent \$61,713. This left us with a deficit of \$6,658 for the month. September is the first month of the fiscal year.

Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our ministry.



*Dates with
Destiny*

tsm

trinity student ministries

On the Same Team

During a recent visit to family in Nebraska, I found myself having the same conversation with my 6-year-old niece and 7-year-old nephew multiple times: “Not everything is a race. You don’t always have to compete to see who’s faster or better.” I kept reminding them that they needed to work as a team and encourage each other. If you’ve ever been around young kids, you know this is a conversation that gets repeated often. But, as I reflected, I realized this isn’t just a lesson for children—it’s something we, as adults, wrestle with more than we care to admit.

Have you ever found yourself comparing? It’s not something we like to openly talk about. Most of the time, we share about it from a past perspective, as if envy or jealousy is something we’ve already outgrown. But if we’re honest, comparison is still very present in our lives.

I know I’ve struggled with comparing myself to my siblings, maybe because I come from a large family—or maybe it’s just a natural part of having siblings. Even now, I find myself comparing my life, achievements,

or abilities to those around me. While healthy challenges can push us to grow, this kind of comparison often leads to negative self-talk and harsh judgment. It becomes easy to forget that life isn’t a competition. No amount of striving or working harder will make me more loved or more favored by God.

What if, instead of comparing, I took the time to truly love and appreciate the person God created me to be? What if I embraced the truth that God loves me fully, just as I am? By releasing myself from the grip of comparison, I could be a better example to my niece and nephew—teaching them not just with words but by living out the belief that we’re all on the same team. And the best part? God is on our team, our coach guiding and encouraging us to become the best versions of ourselves.

Volunteers Needed

Beginning January 2025

Trinity Student Ministry (TSM) is seeking adult volunteers to help on Wednesday evenings starting in January 2025. Whether you’re available weekly, bi-weekly, once a month, or periodically, we invite you to be part of making a lasting impact in the lives of our teenagers. While I will personally ask some volunteers to join us, I want to extend this invitation to anyone who feels called to serve in this way.

We are looking for adults who:

- Love Jesus Christ
- Believe in what God can do in the lives of our teenagers
- Are willing to speak encouragement and truth into the lives of others
- Will commit to praying for our students

Dates with Destiny continued on page 4

You don't need to have prior experience working with teens, and there's no age limit to serve. Your unique life experiences and perspectives are invaluable to building connections between our teens and the wider church community. What an incredible opportunity to invest in the next generation, get to know their names and stories, and watch God work through your life.

You never know how your testimony or presence might bring hope and life to one of our students. Please pray and consider how you can be part of this exciting ministry!

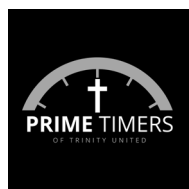
Prayer:

Lord, remind us that we are on the best team of all—Yours. Help all of us to appreciate each of the players on our team, encouraging one another and being challenged by one another to be better servants and disciples. We ask for Your guidance in the areas we are to work on and know that in and through it all, we are loved by You regardless. Thank you for loving each of us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Blessings,
Destiny

Prime Timers

Submitted by Marilyn Sena



Trinity Covenant Partner Jeff Anderson will be the guest speaker at the November 2 meeting of Prime Timers. Jeff is the Chief Program Officer for Sierra Vista Child & Family Services. The programs are designed to support the community and offer a diverse array of services in mental health, foster care, adoption, and mentoring for children and adults.

His talk will follow a 12 PM meal prepared by Jim Bucknell in the Telle Center. Attendees of all adult ages are welcome and asked to bring their own table service and a donation of \$10. Reservations may be made by calling Char Wickman at 209-497-3211.

The group (formerly known as Mariners) is hoping to attract Trinity attendees wishing to enjoy fellowship with one another in God's Love through good food, songs, and entertainment in the Telle Center the first Saturday of each month. A special holiday event is planned for December 7th, so mark your calendar now.



Cassi's Corner

Hello there family and friends,

“For the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” - Habakkuk 2:14

Fall has officially arrived, and we are so excited for sweater weather and all of what the Thanksgiving season brings. Starting November 1st our preschool and pre-k classes will be starting up their Blessing Jar. The children are taught that some families need certain items and need help to get it, so they are asked to bring loose change to donate to the Blessing Jar to be able to help provide for a family. The kiddos get so excited to be able to bring in their pennies and put them in the jar.

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The Blessing Jar is in the preschool building on the counter every morning if you would like to help and put away every day at closing.

Our annual Thankful Feast will be on Tuesday, November 19th at 11 AM in the Telle Center. The classes will sing some songs on stage and after, we will all enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch. We will provide the turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy while the preschool families will bring their child's favorite side dish and dessert. We look forward to this event every year!

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

Many Blessings,
Cassi Torrez



Children's Ministries

Submitted by Marcy Wright

On Sunday mornings, learn who the first king of Israel was, and why he was rejected? Who replaced him and why?

At Wednesdays United, continue to grow in Christ along with Sarah Sunflower. How can the needs of a plant (Water - Bees - Light - Air) compare with our needs in Christ? Come find out!

We have a special service project Wednesday, November 13: cookie baking for Basket of Hope food distribution.



Advent by Candlelight 2024

Submitted by Destiny Robles

Advent by Candlelight has been a beloved event for many women in our church over the years. Gathering with one another to prepare our hearts for the season, worship, and hear the story of Christ's birth has always been a special time. With so many wonderful things happening during the Christmas season, scheduling events can be a challenge. This led to a shift in our Advent by Candlelight event this year.

However, instead of canceling it, our Women's Ministry Team met and reimagined this cherished event in a new light. We are excited to announce that some of the meaningful content from Advent by Candlelight will be incorporated into our Sunday morning worship services throughout Advent.

Join us on December 1, 8, and 15 during our normal 10:00 AM worship service as we extend the message of Advent through Letters from Bethlehem, a powerful drama presentation that will help us prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Christmas.

This invitation is open to everyone—men, women, families, friends, and neighbors—so come and be a part of this meaningful Advent experience. And rest assured, we are already looking at future plans to bring back our Women's Advent by Candlelight!

It's That Time

Submitted by Marlin Sena,
Church Relations Coordinator



Shoebox Collection Sunday will be on November 17th during the morning worship service. Trinity attendees are urged to bring their packed shoeboxes to the service for dedication and deliverance safely to children around the world for them to hear and feel the love of God and learn about Jesus as their Savior.

Various disaster events around the globe this past year have left many children without shelter and food. Samaritan's Purse is able to respond to a child's desire for both, and they also receive small personal items in a Shoebox through the Operation Christmas Child project.

Your participation in packing Shoeboxes is greatly appreciated by everyone involved in the organization, especially the children who receive a shoebox. Thank YOU.

Tidings of Comfort Service

Submitted by Pastor Craig Wright

On Wednesday, November 20, you are all invited to a Thanksgiving dinner followed by a brief service of reflection called "Tidings of Comfort." It is almost universal that as we prepare our hearts for the holidays, we become acutely aware of those who are no longer with us. This service is a time of remembering those who have gone before us, a time of hope and worship, and a time to prepare our hearts for the coming season. Please consider joining us for dinner at 5:30 PM or the service at 6:15 PM. You will be blessed.



CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

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!

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.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Mike and Barbara Cash Mike and Kim Caskey	2 Karen Chamberlain Jeff and Debbie Chin
3 Rebecca Clover Rich and Sue Colla	4 Loi Collins Hal and Lucy Conkey	5 Walt and Leslie Cooley Dave and Mary Couchman	6 Marty and Karen Cox Bryan Crabtree	7 Rick and Bonnie Crabtree Charlie and Sherry Crane	8 Jenny Currie Milt David	9 Delma Davis Leonard Davis
10 Carol Decker Chris and Linda Dickinson	11 Bill and Leanne Donahue Tim and Trish Duncan	12 Rebecca and Earl Duque Robin Eldaly	13 Twyla Engel Kathy Evans	14 Renee and Fred Fellows Elvio and Susan Filippi	15 Frank and Betty Flaim Bill and Joy Fox	16 Liz and Jonathan Fung Greg Fusi and Janice Lucero
17 Debbie George Darlene Ghiorso	18 David and Judy Glaister Sam and Claire Graham	19 Roger and Janice Gray Sarah and Chris Haberman	20 Dick and Teresa Hagerty Steve and Nina Hanna	21 Lynnsey Hardy Tom Hardy	22 Saylah and Justin Harvey Alicia Heim	23 Melinda Heim Chris and Marti Hennings
24 Devon and Rosalie Hill Brian and Stacy Hoekman	25 Lois and Rex Holm Sue Husted	26 Don Jepson Helen Johnson	27 Sharon Johnson Doris Jones	28 Dave and Gayle Kerr Joy Kerr-Owens	29 Duane and Susan Kirk Lillian Knight	30 Nannette Knockum Dyann LaMantia

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 /
Samaritan's Purse
14. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Liz Benson
15. Rock of Ages
Sidney Stone

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

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, November 19, 8:30 AM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMISSION: Sunday,
November 17, 11:30 AM

DEACONS: Tuesday, November 5, 6:30 PM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, November 12, 6:30 PM

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

SERVE

TRINITY WORK DAY: Saturday, November 9,
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, November 15,
10:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot

GREENING OF THE CHURCH: November 22, 3:00 PM

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

NO WEDNESDAYS UNITED: November 27

STUDY

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

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Room #203

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, November 10

MESSIAH SING-ALONG: Sunday, November 24, 3:00 PM

TIDINGS OF COMFORT SERVICE: Wednesday, November 20,
6:00-7:30 PM

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

CENTRAL VALLEY BRASS CONCERT, Sunday, November 10,
3:00 PM

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

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM

PRIMETIMERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, November 2, 12:00 PM

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

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: November 28 and 29, 2024

Electronic Version Online at www.tupc.org

See Online Calendar for changes.

Worship Services are livestreamed on www.tupc.org



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