

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



# The Wright Connection

Dear Church Family,

On Sunday, August 25th, we gathered to honor the remarkable contributions of three devoted servants of Christ. Although their gifts and roles differed—one a pastor, another a children's minister, and the third an artist—their shared dedication to following Christ's call has profoundly enriched our church community. Each of them has left an indelible mark on our congregation, marks that will echo into eternity.

The kingdom of Christ thrives when individuals, responding to His call, commit their lives to service. Jesus transforms the gifts we offer, shaping His kingdom here and now. We are blessed to know that countless lives have been touched by Les, Becky, and Lisa, and the full impact of their obedience will be revealed in eternity. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to them for their vital role in weaving the beautiful tapestry of our church on Carver Road.

As we move forward, it is our responsibility to build upon the strong foundation laid by those who have served before us. Lay ministers, ordained ministers, elders, deacons, and volunteers of all kinds have generously given their time, talents, and treasures to the work of Christ at Trinity United. Looking ahead, I pray that we will carry the baton with faithfulness, touching lives across generations with the grace and worship we have inherited.

Change can be challenging, especially when it involves stepping out of our comfort zones. Yet, comfort has never been a hallmark of the kingdom. The late Reverend Tim Keller introduced the concept of the "missional church," which describes congregations like ours—ones deeply engaged in seeing our city through a missionary's eyes. By embracing this vision, we will honor our past while striving for a future that bears fruit worthy of our calling.

As we navigate these changes, let us remember that this is the Lord's church, and He will guide us in fulfilling His perfect will if we respond with a resounding yes, just as Becky, Les, and Lisa did. Let us say yes to being missional, yes to inviting others into our community, and yes to hopeful and prayerful anticipation of the harvest Christ will bring. In short, let us say yes to Jesus, with the enthusiasm and commitment of a missionary.

Thank you for being the living stones that build Christ's kingdom at Trinity. Your faithfulness has a profound impact both on earth and in heaven. As we journey forward, let's hold onto the promises of Scripture: Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will



1600 Carver Road Modesto, California 95350 (209) 529-3228 www.tupc.org E-mail: tupc@tupc.org Preschool (209) 578-5625 tupc.org/trinitypreschool E-mail: trinitypreschool@tupc.org

### Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright		Senior Pastor		
Rebecca Duque		Administrator		
Destiny Robles	Director o	f Youth Ministry		
Dina Guentensp	erger	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!



Materials are collated on the fourth Tuesday of each month. not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). And in 1 Peter 2, we are reminded, "you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

These verses assure us that Jesus will triumph, and He will do so with you as a vital part of His kingdom. What a fantastic promise!

Blessings to you all as we keep our eyes on Christ in this season of transition.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Craig

### Children's Ministries

Submitted by Craig Wright

Effective immediately, Marcy Wright has graciously offered to be our Children's Ministries Coordinator. For the past year, Marcy has enjoyed working with our Wednesdays United kids' program. She will step up her involvement to cover our needs in this department as we move into the future with energy and excitement. It is true, "where God guides, God provides!"

### July 2024 Finance Summary

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

	ACTUAL		
	July	Year to Date	
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Receipts	49,816	735,371	
Expenses	71,074	814,906	
Receipts over Expenses	-21,258	-79,535	

In July, we brought in \$49,816 and spent \$71,074. This left us with a deficit of \$21,258 for the month. Year-to-date, we have spent \$79,535 more than we have received. We are currently using funds received in prior years to make ends meet. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our ministry.



Dates with Desting

### Annual Youth Nighter September 13, 2024

Trinity United has the honor of hosting our annual youth night with many youth groups from around Modesto. Gathering between 200 and 300 students, our campus will be filled with teenagers from different church backgrounds (some being at a church for the first time) all coming together for a night of worship and fun.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you want to help serve dinner for this night, please contact me ASAP. The commitment would be a couple of hours of your time, making a lasting impact on a group of amazing teenagers, where you could be a welcoming and loving presence for these young people.

### Once Upon a Tea Party

### September 21, 2024

Ladies of Trinity United, we are delighted to invite women of all ages to join the TSM Youth Group for a special "Once Upon a Tea Party" event! This enchanting tea party will be held on Saturday, September 21st, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in Telle Center.



Come dressed as the princess you are after all, you are a daughter of the King! Enjoy a light brunch, warm fellowship, and a lovely time to fill your cup. This is a perfect opportunity to invite your friends, mom, or neighbor for a morning of grace and joy.

A \$10 donation is appreciated.

Register online or with Destiny by Sunday, September 15th.

We can't wait to share this magical time with you!

# SYATP - See You at the Pole (Youth Prayer Event)

### September 25, 2024

Students from schools across the nation will gather before school to take time to pray for their friends, the government, the teachers and administration, and countless other things that weighs on the hearts of young people. Our church's youth group will be connecting with Davis High School and Roosevelt Jr. High School that morning to support our students.

Please keep our students in prayer as they stand in the gap for their peers and boldly pray in front of their schools.

### **Prayer:**

Thank you, Lord, for this season we are in. Thank you that You are at work in the lives of Your people. Thank you also for our young people and that You have placed them in our care. We pray that You would bless them and keep them safe this school year. Help our church continue to minister to them and be the loving community that they are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

-Destiny



# Becky's Bridge

### VBS 2024: Twists and Turns

We spun the spinner, beat the clock, skipped ahead, leveled up, and played to win! Twists and Turns was a fantastical celebration of games, crafts, snacks, and Bible study. During our week, the kids played their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They even found out that even when they mess up it's never "game over." God provided an opportunity for all the "game leaders" to share Jesus' love to over 143 kids this week.

My final VBS ended on July 26th and it was a SAD day for me. I have done over 40 Vacation Bible Schools (including 5 on the Westside with Central Baptist Church). It was bittersweet, but I am so thankful for the many lives that were touched through VBS here at Trinity United.

I am also so grateful for the wonderful TEAM that God provided me with this year: Mike and Paula Sherman, Walter and Leslie Cooley, Michele Bray, Michelle Siemens, Rick Crabtree, and Marcy Wright. They poured their hearts out planning, painting, cutting, and praying for VBS 2024.

I was also blessed to have over 74 game leaders (volunteers) participate this year. I would love to give a great big SHOUT out to all the volunteers.

**Preschool Staff:** Jenni Calbreath, Crystal Garrett, Laura Strain, Zoe Ancira, Lynsey VanZwaluwenburg, Danielle VanZwaluwenburg, Cassi Torrez, Hanna Cunningham

**Our Kindergarten-Fourth grade "game leaders":** Michele Bray, Diane Quaresma, Cindy Tinajero, Jennifer Sanchez, Linda Dickinson, Rachel Bonilla, Renee Fellows, Joyce Uhl, Liz Benson, Mike Sherman, Rob Loeser

**Fifth and Sixth grade "game leaders":** Cassi Torrez, Danielle VanZwaluwenburg, Tim Tweedie, Bob McGrew

**Bible Study Leaders:** Stacy Hoekman, Destiny Robles

**Craft "game leaders":** Michelle Siemens, Sherry Borders, Regina Christopher, Ashley Pombo, Sandy Cooper, Debbie Pearson, Judy Tweedie, Marilyn Sena, Julie Anderson, Peggy Prevette

**Game "game leaders":** Rick Crabtree, Walter Cooley, David Tinajero, Kaiden Pombo, Dylan Pombo

**Snack "game leaders" for K-fourth:** Paula Sherman, Pat Mason, Chris Ott, Loretta Sutherland, Cheryl Smith

**Snack "game leaders" fifth and sixth:** Kathy Cunningham, Teresa Mejia

**Hostesses:** Jeanne Nelson, Sandy Bucknell **Registration**: Sue Ellwanger, Sue Pehl, Marilyn Sena, Katie McGrew

Mission: Marcy Wright

**Coffee Cart:** Destiny Robles, Stephanie Anderson

Photographer: Leslie Cooley

Tech: Denarly Reyes, Mike Siemens

Game Leader Assistant: Katie McGrew

Game Leaders: Pastor Craig Wright, Becky Pombo

Youth: Dallas Gil, Rosemery Mejia, Jianmin Gao, Catalina Pacheco, Payton Jones, Arlene Dominguez, Luzgloria Iñiguez, Kylie Hallford, Emily Pelayo, Alexis Anderson, Christopher Jones, Alizey Gonzalez, Kylie Eudy, Abby Hernandez

**Support Staff:** Ken Smith, Tony Ott, Gloria Smith, Pastor Les Malakian, Felix Mejia

Thank you TRINITY UNITED for 40 years of investing into kids lives through VBS. I have lots of memories to take with me. I will always cherish those times to see kids as they meet Jesus at VBS.

Ministry Fair

Submitted by Craig Wright

Attention Everyone- On Sunday, September 15th, we will be having an All-church Sidewalk Ministry Fair and fellowship time. Immediately after worship you are invited to stop by ministry tables and grab a snack and information about what each ministry group of our church is up to. It will be fun, informative, and a great start to our fall ministry schedule. Did I mention tasty snacks?

# Operation Christmas Child

Submitted by Leslie Cooley

So... what is OCC? Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, led by Franklin Graham. It is a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, and fun gifts. Every child who receives a shoebox also receives a booklet in their language called The Greatest Gift and are presented the message of the gospel. Every child gets to hear about Jesus!

Sunday, October 20 will be our OCC Kick Off day where shoeboxes will be available for those who want to participate. Then on Sunday, October 27 we'll have our Operation Christmas Child Soup Luncheon and Shoebox Packing Party. This event is for everyone! National Collection Week is November 18-25, 2024 (our boxes will be collected on November 17.)

Please remember that our collection tote is in the church office on a full-time basis. You may bring items all year long! In the past few months, we've received baby dolls, dominoes, underwear, socks, bracelets, pencil sharpeners, lovies, and more! May God bless you as you bless children around the world!

With sincere thanks....

Marlin Sena, Marilyn Sena, and Leslie Cooley



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH



Massi's Corner

### Hello there family and friends,

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3

We are off to a new school year and boy have we been busy! All the kiddos looked so adorable in their first day of school outfits and had matching smiles to go with them. We had our Back-to-School event at the end of August that allowed parents to receive information about the preschool and view classrooms with all the art and classwork that has been done so far.

The coffee cart is back for our Monday Morning Coffee in the atrium. It has been a pleasure serving alongside Pastor Craig and Destiny on Monday mornings for our parents. The positive outpour (no pun intended!) of this ministry has been very humbling. If you are ever on campus on a Monday morning from 7:30-9:00 AM, come stop by for a good cup of Joe.

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

Many Blessings, Cassi Torrez

## From Short-Term to Long-Term

Submitted by Bryan Crabtree

There comes a moment in life when God's purpose begins to unfold. Over twelve years as a drummer here at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, I've had the privilege of deepening my faith, growing as a musician, and supporting many outreaches such as Bethel Ministries International (BMI), a cause close to our church's heart. Introduced to Guatemala by my friends and Chris Currie, who was instrumental in my growth with BMI, I found myself unexpectedly called to mission work. After my first trip in 2018, I felt a persistent tug that only grew stronger with time, confirming that Guatemala was where I belonged.

In 2019, I prayerfully reached out to the directors of BMI, eager for the opportunity to intern and discern if God was calling me to be a long-term missionary. BMI offered me a transformative 3-month internship, during which I worked in the warehouse, joined teams building houses, distributed wheelchairs, and helped at a Christian camp for people with disabilities. My experience with a young man named Julio at the camp profoundly shaped my ministry perspective. God used Julio to reveal where I stood spiritually and to deepen my understanding of loving others as He calls us to love. This internship solidified my commitment to serving Guatemala long-term.

It has been quite some time since that internship, and the journey has involved a lot of waiting and trusting in the Lord to make my paths straight as I leaned on His guidance. As 2024 unfolds, the call to mission work on my life is undeniable. When Benjamin Mooney asked me, "When are you coming to Guatemala as a missionary?" I knew it was time. Now, I seek the prayers, support, and partnership of my Trinity family as I embark on this mission. Trinity has been my home, and I'm eager to see how, together, we'll continue advancing God's Kingdom through missions and outreach.

1 John 3:16-18 Colossians 3:17

# Guatemala Mission Trip

Submitted by Marcy Wright

There will be an information meeting for those interested in joining the June 10–17, 2025 Guatemala Mission Team, or those who just want to learn more about the work we do in Guatemala on Sunday, September 29, at 11:30 AM, in Telle Center #503. Please join us!

### Bethel Bible Series New Testament Class

Submitted by Dennis Bray

Join us Sunday, September 15 at 8:30 AM for an introductory session. I'll introduce the Bethel Series for new folks joining us and an Old Testament concepts refresher for all of us. Then, we will look at the Intertestamental period leading us to NT Lesson 1 – "In the Fullness of Time."

I'll answer questions about the Bethel Bible Study series and how we use pictures and chapter concepts to immerse participants in the Bible to help lock in the key concepts presented throughout the Bible. In the process of the study, we will lift from the pages of Scripture the wonderful story of God moving through history and showing us the plan of salvation.

Who can benefit from the Bethel Bible Series?

If you have never studied the Bible, Bethel is for you.

If you have studied the Bible but want to understand better how it all fits together, Bethel is for you.

If you are a seasoned Bible scholar but have never studied the concepts outlined by Bethel, Bethel is for you.

☑ If you would like to read through the entire Bible and would like help understanding what you read, Bethel is for you.

If you took the Bethel course years ago, you can benefit from a refresher course.

Whatever your situation, join our introductory session to see how Bethel might be for you.

### Dinghy Mariners MARINERS TO RECONVENE SEPTEMBER 7, TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION'S FUTURE

Submitted by Marilyn Sena

Trinity Mariners will gather at 12 PM on Saturday, September 7, in the Telle Center, after a summer hiatus to enjoy lunch and catch up on socializing with fellow attendees. Please bring your own table service. Cost is \$10 per person.

A report and discussion on the organization's future will be presented by the committee that has met several times this summer under the guidance of Dana Coates. All Trinity adults and guests are invited to attend and offer input during the discussion.

Please RSVP to Char Wickman at 209-523-6570 before Wednesday, September 4 to allow for food preparation.



### Wednesdays United

Join us for a meal at 5:30 PM and stick around for programs suited for all ages at 6:00 PM. We'd love to see you there!

#### Adult Bible Study

Pastor Craig will lead a study on 1 Corinthians.

#### **Children's Ministries**

Join us for Wednesdays United to see that God is holy, loving, light, and merciful. We will be learning about the character of God through games, activities, songs, and crafts.

#### **Youth Ministries**

Youth Center doors open at 5:00 PM. This fall, we're focused on teaching about Christ-Centered Communities and what it means to follow Christ though worship, small groups, messages, and activities.

## Fellowship Time

Submitted by Bert Lippert

Brothers and Sisters, under the leadership of Elder Debbie George, the time for gathering after the morning service has grown into what I consider a very important time of congregational fellowship. By that, I mean people are hanging around and talking to each other following the service until almost 12 PM. This time of gathering is important to the life of a church family, especially one like ours that places a high value on friendliness. During this time, the church family can bond and become one and visitors can be met and made welcome.

We were lucky that Debbie had this vision and made it one of her ministries at our church. She will be missed, and we need to take some time to thank her for her service. How did I get the honor to follow Debbie, well, I volunteered, and no one said I couldn't. Since I took Debbie's place there have been several members who have contacted me with concerns that this job is more than I can handle and others with offers to assist monetarily or physically if I limit the food that is provided. I appreciate the first concern and can assure you that I am able. As for the second, your time and money is needed to put our best foot forward.

You may not know that the fellowship time is nonbudgeted and the expense for the food and decorations has been covered by several families and volunteers in the past. If you want to volunteer your time or resources to provide for this ministry it would be much appreciated, but I would not want you to take from another ministry you're supporting now. I have been blessed and will continue to support this ministry above my church tithe. Fresh fruit or food from your garden is much appreciated and will never be turned down.

If you want to know more about how you can help, please speak with me when you see me or call or text me at 209-312-3045. I'll respond as soon as possible.

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Senior Ministries Trip Committee

Submitted by Margaret Wolfe

The trip committee has eight volunteers who try to select trips that we all will enjoy. Our goal is to create an atmosphere of camaraderie, fellowship, outreach to others in the community, and traveling together with fellow church friends and neighbors.

The following things influence how and why we set the price and deadlines for the trips.

- Storer Bus It cost about \$70 per person if we have 40 on a bus Cost includes fuel, driver tip, fees (bridge crossing, fast pass, and parking).
- Food Most restaurants charge a set up fee for groups over 10. Tip for over eight people is between 20-25%. Most require a 30-day guarantee for the number of guests.
- Venue We always ask about senior discounts. Many require a nonrefundable deposit

Step on Guide — \$700 to \$800.

Considering all of the above information, the committee sets the price. That information explains why we must have the money at least one month in advance.

On shorter outings, we have been using the church bus. Walt graciously volunteers to be our driver. The bus isn't as comfortable as the bigger one and of course there is no restroom. We pay the church for gas for the bus.

If any of you have suggestions for a trip, please reach out to any member of the committee. Please keep in mind it takes up to 3 months to get a trip started, advertised, and collect the money.

Children's Ministries: Sunday School

Submitted by Marcy Wright

Who is Joshua? And why is he in charge? Sunday mornings, come find out how God used Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Sunday school is from 8:30-9:30 AM. Worship hour dismisses during Passing of the Peace, 10:15-11:00 AM in Covell.



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

### Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sally Lindberg	Robb Loeser	Sue Lorenz	Wendy Lucas	Monica Maddock	Alex and Catherine Martinez	Myrna McDaniel
Bert Lippert	Willie and Bob Loeser	Eunice Lovi	Luther and Vicky Lundeby	Les and Leslie Malakian	Preicia Mason	Bob and Katie McGrew
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Richard and Isabell McKay	Ross and Kellie McKenzie	Felix and Teresa Mejia	Anita Mould	Kathy Nelson	Roberta Ohland	La Mar Owens
Ross and Lee McKenzie	Terri McNab	Jeanine Monteith	Jeanne Nelson	Louise Nelson	Tony and Chris Ott	Debbie and Clark Pearson
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Donna Pedersen	Sue Pehl	David Pollard	Dave and Peggy Prevette	Mark Purdom	Diane and Mervin Reed	Jean Reeves
Dale Pederson and Tara McDonnell	Patricia and Jim Phillips	Becky Pombo	Gisele Pritchard	Frank and Diane Quaresma	Tom and Patti Reed	Charlotte Reid
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Denarly Reyes	Dolores Roberts	John and Tawn Schaffran	Andy Schindler	Marlin and Marilyn Sena	Mike and Shell Siemens	Linda Silveira
Alan and Patricia Reynolds	June Sargis	Peggy Schaffran	Tom and Liz Seaver	Mike and Paula Sherman	Lucille Sigala	Kathy and Stephen Smart
29	30					
Bill Smith	Sookie Smith					
Clay and Cindy Smith	Donna Solari					
<ol> <li>Advancing Vibrant C Michael Douglass</li> <li>Bethany Christian Se Sandra Hiatt</li> <li>Bethel Ministries Inte Ben and Emily Moon</li> <li>CRU Zimbabwe Kelly and Vicki Londe</li> <li>Guatemala Trinity U Mission Team: Marce</li> </ol>	ervices ernational eey oni nited	<ol> <li>IDEAS, Bangladesh Dr. Jay Litchfield</li> <li>Intervarsity Christian Fe Lo McDermott</li> <li>LOVE Modesto Jeff Pishney</li> <li>Modesto Gospel Missio Jason Conway</li> <li>Modesto Pregnancy Ce Erin Koolhaas</li> </ol>	M Ellowship 12. O 13. P Li 14. R n S 15. S. nter 16. S	he MomCo Marisa Hooper Operation Christmas Child resbyterian Disaster Assist. iz Benson ock of Ages idney Stone amaritan's Purse ervant Partners iz Heim Fung	18. Mesa ance Todd 19. Valley Steve 20. Vine I Chery	r Helcias Reyes Global and Sarah Hunnicut r Recovery Resources Berkowitz House I Van Horn I for Christ

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



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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, September 17, 8:30 AM DEACONS: Tuesday, September 3, 6:30 PM SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 PM

#### SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, September 20, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot GUATEMALA INFO MEETING: Sunday, September 29, 11:30 AM in Telle Center #503 MINISTRY FAIR: Sunday, September 15, following worship 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

#### Electronic Version Online at www.tupc.org

See Online Calendar for changes. Worship Services are livestreamed on www.tupc.org

### STUDY

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 8:30 AM, various locations on campus BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Room #203

#### PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, September 8 WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

#### **FELLOWSHIP**

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 PM FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM, Telle Center LADIES' TEA: Saturday, September 21, 10:00 AM MARINERS LUNCHEON: Saturday, September 7, 12:00 PM THE MOMCO: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 PM TRINITY QUILTERS: Mondays, 12:00-3:00 PM, Telle Center YOUTH NIGHTER: Friday, September 13, 7:00 PM

**OFFICE CLOSED: September 2 for Labor Day** 



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