

2026  
APRIL

# Trinity Times

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • CAMARILLO, CA



*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".*

1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

**Trinity Times Monthly Newsletter**  
**April 2026, Issue No. 200**

**Published by:**  
**Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
**2304 Antonio Avenue**  
**Camarillo, California 93010**



*Loving Christ*

*Living for Christ*

*Leading others to Christ*

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**PRAYERS FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

Terry Ampaya	Ted Rains
George Anderson	Ed Vazquez
Marilyn Camper	Dorothy Vazquez
Betty Chavales	Nancy Wolf
Barbara Ewing	Carol Young
Bette Giles	Grant & Kathi Yule
Fawn Humphries	Marcia Zerkel
Esther Johnson	

**PRAYERS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:**

Jackie Brooks  
 Mac Dalgleish  
 Marilyn Holthouse  
 Curt Luft  
 Sets Umeda  
 Mati Varav  
 DeAnn Young

**PRAYERS OF HEALING AND COMFORT**

Jim Ampaya	Jerry Harman	Gerry Mann
Terry Ampaya	Pat Harman	Tom McWaid
Dona Breitbarth	Sandy Hess	Linda Packham
Arcelia Dios	Jeff Hilgaertner	Linda Riewald
Pam Egbert	Nancy Jacobs	Martha Sanders
Bette Giles	Craig Johnson	Brian Smith
Joyce Grasmick	Linda Kintner	Ed Vasquez
	Ted Rains	



**Weekly Prayer Gathering**

You are invited to join us  
 for a time of prayer  
 in the Reflection Garden  
 (or Fireside Room)  
 each Thursday at 1:00 PM.

Questions: Call the church office:  
 (805) 484-0530

## Trinity Celebrations

### April Birthdays

3rd Graham Hall  
 4th Don Arstein  
 5th Kendall Kelley  
 9th Mary Walling  
 11th Jeanne Michel  
 12th Jerry Harman  
 13th Tena Arstein  
 15th Ruth Fraser and Delilah Hartwich  
 18th Sandi Beattie and Bill Stermer  
 19th Mary Dall  
 22nd Barbara Hulac  
 24th Nancy Jacobs  
 25th Kathy Matsumori  
 26th Gary Cobb  
 27th Agnes Aragon  
 29th Wendy McClary



### Happy Anniversary!

Jim & Jenny Graham – April 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Jorge & Arcelia Dios – April 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Jim & Diana Gross – April 10<sup>th</sup>



- If you have an April birthday or anniversary that did not make it into the Trinity Times, please call the church office at (805) 484-0530, so we can update our database.

**Trinity Staff**

**Tom Straeter**, Pastor: [ptstraeter@gmail.com](mailto:ptstraeter@gmail.com)

**Kim Kelley**, Administrative Assistant: [trinitychurchcamarillo@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchcamarillo@gmail.com)

**Debbie D’Auria**, Financial Assistant: [finance@trinitycamarillo.org](mailto:finance@trinitycamarillo.org)

**Gary Cobb**, Organist

**Linda Rhymes**, Choir Director

**Dan Rhymes**, Bell Choir Director

**Frank Vazquez**, Worship Leader

**Daniel Szany**, Custodian

**Eliseo Zavala**, Custodian

**Elders**

Dan Bornhoeft, Ed Curtis, Lloyd Friesen, Steve Giles,  
Betsy Phillips, and Fred Raniere

**Deacons**

**2026:** Ruthie Kay, Pat Lagerstrom, Dory Raymond,  
Zoe Shirley, and Jeanne Spahr

**2027:** Janie Paulger, Karen Peters, Tim Phares and Brenda Schearer

**2028:** Peggy Antos, Corinne Dawson (moved), Michele Friesen,  
Sabrina Gilmor, and Sandra Henningsen

**Contacts: Other organizations on site**

**Beacon Hill Classical Academy**

Lindsay Leeds - Asst. Administrator - (805) 389-6581

**Iglesia Cristiana Reformada de Camarillo**

Pastor Ricardo Aragon - (805) 482-8511

**Taiwanese-American Presbyterian Church of Ventura County**

Ted Lin - contact for church - (805) 218-9340

## From the Pastor's Desk



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Jesus’ words from Matthew 11:28 have been what I’ve kept close to my heart all throughout the month of March. Grieving my Mother-In-Law’s passing and ministering to my wife and our children’s needs, led me to write this month’s Trinity Times article on grief.

Grief has a way of settling deep in the soul—quiet at times, overwhelming at others. In those moments, it is so important to remember that God does not stand distant. He promises to draw near. Psalm 34:18 reminds us that “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Throughout the month of March my heart was broken for what my mother-in-law was going through, and I often felt as though I did not have the words to say to her. I often felt numb, confused and even undone. Yet the Psalter reminds us that the nearness of God is not dependent on the strength of our faith, but on the tenderness of God’s heart. He is near — not soon, nor eventually and not even conditionally —but He is near now.

Even Jesus Himself entered into grief: “Jesus wept.” (John 11:35) At the tomb of Lazarus, though He knew resurrection was coming, Christ still wept. This shows us that grief is not a lack of faith—it is a human response in a fallen world. Our Savior is not unfamiliar with sorrow; He meets us in it.

And yet, grief is not the end of the story: “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more...” (Revelation 21:4). For those in Christ, sorrow carries hope. Tears are real, but they are not final. Death wounds, but it does not win. There is a coming day when every loss will be restored in the presence of God.

As you face grief and your heart is broken, remember that: **You are not alone in your grief. The Lord is near, Christ understands, and hope is certain.**

Lord, You see the pain we carry. Draw near to the brokenhearted and hold us fast. Remind us that You are with us, even in the valley of sorrow. Help us to trust Your promises and rest in the hope of Christ. Amen.

Respectfully,  
Pastor Tom





### **Holy Week (March 30th – April 3rd)**

- The Sanctuary will be open from 12:00 - 12:30 PM each day for quiet reflection and prayer.

**April 2nd - Maundy Thursday** (Worship Service - 6:30 PM)

**April 5th - Easter Sunday** (Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM  
& Easter Worship Service - 9:30 AM)

## **Easter Cross (flowers & photos)**

**Bring a flower from your garden on Easter Sunday (April 5th)  
to help decorate our Easter cross.**

We will be taking pictures in front of the cross  
after the service on Easter Sunday.

Afterward, we will display the cross near  
the street, where those passing by the church  
can also be reminded of the love of our  
Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



### Meal Share Camarillo

Trinity is serving Meal Share on Thurs, April 2nd. Look for the email from Mary Walling to sign up. If you want to help and do not receive the email, please contact Betsy Phillips at: (805) 795-7712.

**ALL are welcome to attend Meal Share.**  
Come for a hot meal & enjoy good company.  
Invite others to come too!



### Cake on the Patio

The Deacons will be serving cake on the patio on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to celebrate those with April birthdays and anniversaries.

### Mati Varav Celebration of Life

You are invited to the celebration of life for Mati Varav on Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 PM at Trinity. There will be a reception and light refreshments in Piper Hall immediately following.



### Deacon's Education Scholarship

Scholarships for students in our church family are an important part of the Deacons' work. Please keep our students in your prayers and remember them in your giving.



If you are a college student, parent of a college student, or are planning to start college in the fall, please inquire about the Deacon's scholarship application. Call the church office for information.

### Session Highlights

- Membership stands at 181.
- The Session voted to fix the hinges on the Sanctuary doors.
- Pastor Tom announced that he is looking to retire within the next several months. He gave the Session members a Pastoral Search and Transition Guide to begin the process of searching for a new pastor for Trinity.

### Church Life/ Happenings & Upcoming Dates:

- Holy Week Reflection & Prayer - March 30 - April 3 (12:00-12:30 PM)
  - Maundy Thursday Service - April 2 (6:30 PM)
- Easter Sunrise Service - April 5 (6:30 AM)/ Worship service (9:30 AM)
  - Mati Varav Celebration of Life - April 18
  - Flock Sunday - Sunday, May 17
  - Presbytery at Trinity - Saturday, May 23

### Financial Report - February 2026

#### **For the month ending 2/28/2026:**

- Total Income for February was \$56,754.
- Total expenses for February were \$44,529.
- There was a positive operating result in February of \$12,255.

#### **For the two months ending 2/28/2026:**

- Total YTD income is \$105,760.
- Total YTD expenses are \$95,886.
- There is a positive YTD operating result of \$9,874.

### Save the Date: Flock Sunday - May 17th

The Deacons are planning a Flock Sunday gathering for Sunday, May 17th, following the worship service. Please plan to come to meet up with your deacon flock leader and talk with others who are in your flock.

Look for updated flock lists in next month's issue of Trinity Times.



**Thank you, Trinity, for your *tremendous* support  
for Camarillo's 2026 CROP Hunger Walk!**

At press time, Camarillo's 43<sup>rd</sup> Crop Hunger Walk has raised **\$29,500.**,  
with Trinity bringing in **\$6,500** and donations keep coming.

**Donations can be accepted through April 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Give checks (made to **CWS/CROP**) to the church office

or Kris Armstrong OR donate online at [www.trinitycamarillo.org](http://www.trinitycamarillo.org).



**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, GENEROUS SPONSORS!**

**Many thanks to Trinity's dedicated walkers:**

(A shout-out to Pam Davis and Dominick Shirley for getting the most sponsors!

Kudos to first-time walker Sabrina Gilmor for her phenomenal fundraising!)

Kris Armstrong	Leah Jennings	Mike & Jeanne Spahr
Katie Barrett	Ruthie Kay	Bill Stermer
Sandi Beattie	Kim & Katelyn Kelley	Pastor Tom Straeter
Pam Davis	Fred Raniere	Willa Sterrenburg
Sabrina & Tony Gilmor	Brenda Schearer	Rachel Wooff
Jenny Graham	Dominick Shirley	

*and four-footed walkers Severus Wooff, and Porgy & Bess*

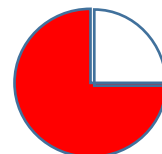
**For all their help, heartfelt thanks to:**

A/V Crew	Jay Dyer	Dory Raymond
Vaughan & Kris Armstrong	Ron & Nancy Lindsay	Zoe Shirley
Debbie D'Auria	Tim Phares	Pastor Tom Straeter
Elena Davis	Kim Kelley	Daniel Szany
	Fred Raniere	

*Dear Lord, thank YOU for making our participation in your ministry possible. Amen*



**HOW DONATIONS ARE USED**

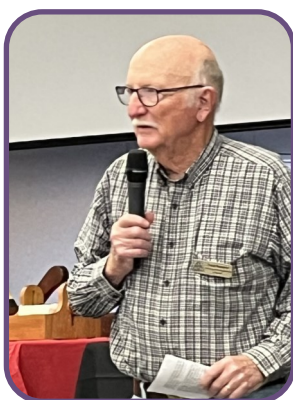


----Camarillo Food Pantries & RAIN

----CWS (Church World Service)  
self-development projects,  
disaster relief, aid for refugees



The Pancake Breakfast & Three Woodcrafters Presentation, put on by the Fellowship of Brothers, was a big success! Thank you to our presenters, chefs, MC, AV tech, and to everyone who helped out, as well as to those who attended. We had about 60 attendees, including a few guests.



Fred Ranieri, our fearless MC



Bill Stermer, Rick Riley, and Jim Henningsen, Some of our awesome chefs



Steve Michel - Artisan # 1



Don Sterrenburg - Artisan #2



Ron Lindsey - Artisan #3



Ed Curtis working the A/V system



Chef Lloyd Friesen and Jean Hakes



Chef George Hakes



Worker Bee, Kris Armstrong



Happy "customers"  
Mike & Wendy McClary



Another happy "customer"



We had over 60 people in attendance!



Steve Giles and Craig Johnson yukking it up

## Before your head hits the pillow

*Don Sterrenburg*

In this month's column I continue to babble a bit over Babel. You may remember from the Genesis chapter 11 account that "the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of man had built." Knowing where all this activity was leading, God noted, "This is only the beginning of what they will do. And now nothing they have *imagined* (emphasis mine) they can do will be impossible for them." Then God descended upon earth, took the people's one language, and pulverized it into a confusion of multiple languages.

Fast forward to the 21st century, and now it appears that those ancient mindsets may once again have reared their ugly heads. What kinds of things in current cultures might be covered with a similar gloss as those ambitions on the plains of Shinar? Take for instance, the desire to build architectural wonders to pinnacle heights (NY City One World Trade Center; Burj Khalifa, Dubai). Consider the exploration of outer space to its limits (future moon landings, Mars, other galaxies). Personal aspirations embedded in our culture also begin to share similarities: social climbing, a career path, political prowess, vaulting athleticism, technological gluttony, to name a few.

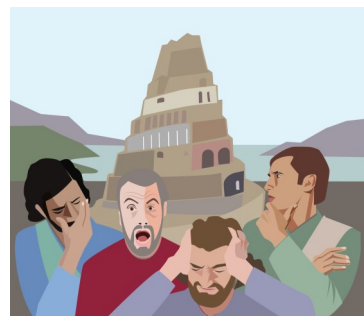
In the case of Babel, a statement that those ancestors made seems to share a common denominator with that list of ambitions above: "Let us make a name for ourselves!" This does not sound like the words of a people eager to put faith in God.

So, where do we direct our faith today? In cultural achievements? Financial status? Acquired possessions? Prestige?

Wouldn't it be a fascinating turn of events today, if God elected to descend on the earth and address our penchant to "make a name for ourselves" in the same spirit as Babel. Think about what would happen if His solution would totally reshape communication – reshape it to being a *reverse of the first!* All of the languages of the world flip-flopped back into *one*. Havoc! Sentences all spoken in a single tongue. No more secrets among cultures or nations. No more one-upmanship. Competition upended. International trading afloat. Economies befuddled. Stock exchanges plunging. Record-keeping at a standstill. Practically every aspect of human mobility, interaction, and existence frozen. You may think of myriads of other consequences that could throw global society into a tailspin. Babel revisited.

So, where should one place his/her hope to utter one word? How about looking to the Word Himself. The Lord Jesus *is* the Word. Anything that distracts us or thwarts our desires from being like Jesus will lead us down a treacherous path. What God wants from us, His creation, is to follow Jesus. He sent Jesus not only to rescue us from sin, but to draw us *to* Himself, to be like Him. To what degree, and with what ambition are we doing this? Perhaps this is a question to be asking ourselves before our head hits the pillow tonight.

It's all part of popping the Babel bubble.



**March 2026**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# April 2026

**May 2026**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2:00p Cust.Mtng- SL	2 5:00p Meal Share (Trinity) - PH 6:30p Maundy Thursday - Sanc.	3 7:00a Men's Bible Study - FS 1:00p BH Path Prayer - CY	4 6:30p Iglesia - FH
<b>12:00p Holy Week Meditation &amp; Prayer - Sanc</b>						
5 6:30a Sunrise Service- OMC 9:30a Easter Service - Sanc. 10:00a TAPCVC- 5:00p Iglesia-	6 6:45p CIH Chorus - FH	7 9:30a Staff meeting - PO 7:00p Brass Band - FH	8 6:00p Ladies Study - FS	9 6:30p Choir Prac. - Sanc.	10 7:00a Men's Bible Study - FS 1:00p BH Path Prayer - CY	11 6:30p Iglesia - FH
12 9:30a Worship Serv.-Sanc. 10:00a TAPCVC- FH 10:45a "Tactics" - FS 11:00a HandBells - Sanc. 5:00p Iglesia- FH, SR, Rm 8	13 6:45p CIH Chorus - FH	14 9:30a Staff meeting - PO 6:30p Deacon's - FS 7:00p Brass Band - FH	15 6:00p Ladies Study - FS	16 5:00p Meal Share (NOT Trinity) 6:30p Choir Prac. - Sanc.	17 7:00a Men's Bible Study - FS 9:00a BH - Path Prayer - CY 1:00p BH Path Prayer - CY	18 1:00p Mati Varav Memorial - Sanc/PH 6:30p Iglesia - FH
<b>8:30a BH Chapel - Sanc.</b>						
19 9:30a Worship Serv.-Sanc. 10:00a TAPCVC- FH 10:45a "Tactics" - FS 11:00a HandBells - Sanc. 5:00p Iglesia- FH, SR, Rm 8	20 6:45p CIH Chorus - FH	21 9:30a Staff meeting - PO 3:30p Personnel - PO 7:00p Brass Band - FH	22 6:00p Ladies Study - FS	23 6:30p Choir Prac. - Sanc.	24 7:00a Men's Bible Study - FS 9:00a BH - Path Prayer - CY 1:00p BH Path Prayer - CY	25 6:30p Iglesia - FH
<b>8:30a BH Chapel - Sanc.</b>						
26 9:30a Worship Serv.-Sanc. 10:00a TAPCVC- FH 10:45a "Tactics" - FS 11:00a HandBells - Sanc. 5:00p Iglesia- FH, SR, Rm 8	27 6:45p CIH Chorus - FH	28 9:30a Staff meeting - PO 7:00p Brass Band - FH	29 6:00p Ladies Study - FS	30 6:30p Choir Prac. - Sanc.		
<b>8:30a BH Chapel - Sanc.</b>						

PH = Piper Hall  
 FS = Fireside Room  
 Sanc. = Sanctuary  
 SL = Staff Lounge  
 FH = Fellowship Hall  
 PO = Pastor's Office  
 YR = Youth Room  
 CY = Court Yard  
 OMC = Outdoor Ministry Center

# **Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**2304 Antonio Ave.  
Camarillo, CA 93010**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Not for Temporarily Away)

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**2304 Antonio Ave  
Camarillo, CA 93010**

**Phone: 805-484-0530**

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.TrinityCamarillo.org](http://www.TrinityCamarillo.org)**