



Weekly Newsletter

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz

December 4, 2025

Featured This Week

- Come Worship with us!
 - Advent Schedule
 - Announcements
 - Presbytery Unity Candle
 - Library Corner
 - Birthdays
 - Community Holiday Events
 - Opportunities to Serve
 - Regularly Occurring Events
-

Come worship with us this Sunday at 10:30 am!

This Sunday we celebrate the second week of Advent, we will come to the Lord's Table for Communion and offer our 2025 stewardship commitments to Christ, trusting His work in and through our church.

Sermon teaser: Join us as we step into the fiery preaching of John the Baptist—and discover how Jesus fulfilled those prophecies in ways John never expected.

The Rev. Diane Ford

Sunday's Scripture:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 3:1-12

Thursday Evenings in Advent



December 4, 11, and 18

- **Sacred Pause at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Pastor Diane leads us in Taizé-style prayer songs in a peaceful setting. Come as you are and enter a time for pause, prayer and healing music.
- **Potluck dinners in the Fireside Room 6:00 p.m.**
- **Conversations following dinner:** “Watching, Listening, Responding.”
Week 1 (12/4): Watching for God’s Promises. Scripture: Isaiah 40:1–5, Luke 1:26–38 (the angel’s message to Mary). Theme: Noticing what stirs in our hearts when God invites us to something new.

Week 2 (12/11): Listening for God in Our Midst. Scripture: Luke 2:8–20 (the shepherds hearing the good news). Theme: Recognizing God’s presence in unexpected places.

Week 3 (12/18): Responding with Joy and Courage. Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12 (the Magi follow the star). Theme: Discerning how to act on what we’ve heard.



Trinity Staff Christmas Gifts. Our tradition is to thank church staff with a monetary gift at Christmas. Deacons are accepting these donations through December 14. Please make your check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church, write "Staff Gift" in the memo line, and place in the offering plate. Your generosity is appreciated

Stewardship letters have been mailed including pledge forms for both financial contributions and contributions of time and talents. The forms will also be available in the church entry hall. Please prayerfully consider your proposed contributions for 2026 and, at your earliest convenience, place the completed forms in the offering plate during worship or mail them to the church or email the information to the church. Please address any questions to Michael Christie or Pastor Diane Ford.

December 7: Congregational Caroling after the 10:30 service.

December 14: Cantata Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Let the spirit and sounds of the season fill your hearts and ears on December 14 during the 10:30 am service! Trinity's own choir, joined by guest singers from choirs here and over the hill, will come together to present our annual Christmas cantata, Kirke Mechem's *The Seven Joys of Christmas*. We will also be treated to very special music by a professional brass quintet led by local trombone virtuoso Scott Wilkinson, including a piece written for brass quintet and organ. It promises to be a spectacular addition to our Advent season, and we look forward to seeing you there. Want more info? Please contact Nicki





December 21: Longest Night Service of Hope 5:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Struggling with the Holidays? Not everyone feels merry in December. Pastor Diane and Yoga Instructor Marcee Meinhardt lead this service designed especially for those carrying sadness, loss, or weariness during the holidays. The service will include candlelight, music, somatic breath work, readings, and prayer. We'll honor the darkness and remember that light still finds us. Come as you are; all are welcome



December 24: Our Christmas Eve Service will take place at 5:30 pm



Presbytery Unity Candle: This week we pray for Stone Church of Willow Glen, and The Rev. Fred Harrell.

Library Corner

Our Library is open to the public Sundays after worship and Thursdays 10 – noon.

For this Advent and Christmas Season the library will host its popular Nativity Scene display. This year it will be a bit different. Several of the Nativity Scenes



have been placed in the Fireside Room so they can be enjoyed during our Advent dinners. In the library there are pictures drawn from the library's archives of Trinitarians participating in Christmas pageants and holiday winter scenes. There is also a new Olive wood Creche/ Nativity donated by the Yeaney Family. This is now the centerpiece on the Library Leagues conversation table.

Warm Regards, Larry the Librarian <https://www.trinitylibrary.org/>



8 Marta Narus
23 Quinn Sams
Lorraine Vilardo

24 Elizabeth Bunch
31 Juanita Stock



29 Dan and Vickie Rutan

Holiday Events in our Community

A Christmas Carol: a theatrical and music-filled adaptation of this classic play. November 26 – December 24, 2025. Vets Hall. Tickets:

www.santacruzshakespeare.org

Farley's Christmas Wonderland at 108 Seaview Ave, Santa Cruz
November 28 – December 31, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This is an incredible walk-through FREE Christmas display. Decorated trees, garlands, sleighs, an elf village, and fairy grotto! Bring the family. Donations appreciated, but not necessary.



Christmas with the Santa Cruz Chorale December 20, 8:00 pm and December 21, 4:00 pm at Holy Cross Church, 126 High St., Santa Cruz. This year's concert includes Sweelink's "*Christus natus est*," "Run Ye Shepherds to the Light"—a work for soprano solo, choir and orchestra by Michael Haydn, Joseph's younger brother, Morten Lauridson's stunning "O Magnum Mysterium," and Arvo Pärt's world famous "Magnificat." We also sing three pieces by Kirke Mechem, and conclude with sing-along carols from around the world! Purchase tickets online

<https://santacruzchorale.org/concert/christmas-with-the-chorale/>



Santa Cruz City Ballet at the Cabrillo Crocker Theater
Saturday/Sunday, December 20 and 21 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm
Purchase tickets here: <https://nutcrackersantacruz.com/>



Opportunities to Serve

AFC Dinners, Every 2nd & 3rd Wednesday. Looking to contribute to your community through cooking or small donations? Contact Debbie Bates at debates44@aol.com to see what can be provided. The Association of Faith Communities (AFC) is a coalition of congregations serving Santa Cruz County.

Donating Used Electronics. The Welcoming Network seeks computers and phones for our neighbors. Donated laptops (PCs up to 10 years old, MacBooks up to 15), iPhones (4G/5G), Androids, iPads, and tablets will be erased, refurbished, and given to those in need. Non-reusable items will be recycled at Grey Bears. If you are able to donate any of these items, contact Karen Wichelmann at (831) 588-9240

Urban Works. Urban Works embraces art and recreation to break through faith, social, and economic barriers, to create community for adults with disabilities and their support networks. Watch the bulletin board outside the church office for updates, and see Diane if you are interested in volunteering.

Regularly Occurring Events at Trinity

See more on our church Google Calendar via our website

Sundays at Trinity

- ❖ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am in the Sanctuary and streaming live on YouTube and Facebook
- ❖ Coffee Hour: Immediately following our Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ Morning Lectionary School: Sundays, 9 am, Fireside Room
- ❖ Trinity Library is open during coffee hour.
- ❖ Nooners Class: 12pm in the Fireside Room and on Zoom.
- ❖ Board of Deacons: 3rd Sundays (none in July), 12pm, Youth Room

Mondays at Trinity

- ❖ Book Club (Every 3rd Monday) 10am-11am, Fireside Room
- ❖ Monday Night Lectionary Study (weekly) 5pm-6:16pm, Fireside Room

Tuesdays at Trinity

- ❖ Administration Comm. (1st Tuesday, in “odd” months), 4:30pm, Fireside Room
- ❖ Session (every 2nd Tuesday) 5:30pm-7pm, Fireside Room

Wednesdays at Trinity

- ❖ Association of Faith Communities (AFC) Board, 11am-1pm, Fireside Room
- ❖ Faith Community Shelter, 4pm - Overnight, Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Shower the People, 3pm-6pm, Parking Lot
- ❖ Urban Works Board, 1st Wednesdays, 6pm-7 pm, Fireside Room

Thursdays at Trinity

- ❖ Librarian Corner, 10 am -12 pm, socialize in the library
- ❖ Bible Study with Pastor, 1pm - 2:15 pm, Youth Room, beginning Sept.