



# *Weekly Newsletter*

## *Trinity Presbyterian Church*

### *Santa Cruz*

January 8, 2026

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### *Featured This Week*

- Come Worship with us!
  - Announcements
  - Presbytery Unity Candle
  - January Birthdays
  - Community Events
  - Opportunities to Serve
  - Regularly Occurring Events
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***Come worship with us this Sunday at 10:30 am!***

### **Guest Preacher: Laura Hamby**

**Laura** is a life-long member of the Congregational Church of Soquel where she served on staff as Director of Christian Education & Youth for 25 years and currently serves as moderator. She is retired from a 35-year career as Site Program Coordinator of categorical programs and technology at Mission Hill Middle School. Laura Chairs *A Taste of Soquel* and is active in the Mid County Homeless Coalition. She is past moderator of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and president of the Congregational Foundation Board of Governors.

**Scripture:** Psalm 29 and Matthew 3:13-17

We tend to expect God to arrive with noise, power, and undeniable spectacle.  
But what if God shows up quietly instead—  
in a muddy river, in the middle of the line,  
right in the thick of ordinary life?  
Sometimes the most holy moments don't look impressive at all.  
If you're waiting for God to break in from above,  
you might be surprised to discover God already standing with you in the water.  
Come and listen—and see what happens next.

And come to celebrate the Baptism of Jesus!

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity. You may have heard by now that the longest standing member of Trinity, Betty Gangware, passed away on Sunday afternoon, January 4. She had been declining in recent days, and was home with her faithful caregiver at the time. Her upcoming birthday would have been her 99th. We do not have further information regarding plans for a memorial service, but will provide news as it comes.

Betty had no children, though there are other family members to keep in our prayers as they walk through these tender days. We have been blessed by this saint, and while we ache at her absence we rejoice that she now knows a closer communion with the One we for so long have worshiped alongside Betty.

In Christ's Safe Hands,  
Diane



**Pastor Diane's Schedule in January.** Diane goes to New Jersey, January 7-12 to attend the celebration of the merger of her previous congregation with First Presbyterian Church, Matawan. Laura Hamby will be preaching at Trinity on January 11. In the case of a pastoral emergency, please get in touch with our Moderator of Deacons, Kim Johnston, or our Clerk of Session, Ellen Bauerle. They will contact a pastor who is on call when Diane is away.



**Join us January 25 for our Annual Congregational Meeting** after the 10:30 service. Committee reports will be shared, along with our financial standing and budget for 2026.

**Nooner Meetings.** Darrell Yeane and Paul Seever started this group for those seeking critical insight into the lived history of the Christian tradition and what it means for the world today. We navigate the scholarship of religion together. Nooners is also concerned with the future of Christianity and how it relates to science and the environment. We have read “The Once and Future Faith,” which is a collection of essays, “On the Mystery,” by Catherine Keller, “Embracing the Human Jesus,” by David Galston, and “Process Theology,” by C. Robert Mesle, among others. We meet in the Fireside Room Sundays, from noon til 1:30 pm. All are welcome.

**Book Club** will meet January 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the fireside room. We will discuss “The Great Divide” by Cristina Henriquez.

**Presbytery Unity Candle:** This week we pray for Westhope Presbyterian Church, Saratoga, and Rev. Erik Swanson.



1	Skye Bell	17	Emily Duffus
2	Ti Lamb	18	Betty Gangware
3	Janet Eschen-Pipes	20	Carina Bunch
5	Nicki Kerns	26	Richard Robinson
	Karen Wichelmann	28	Gigi Giannini
7	Rosemary Teresi	29	Jeff Lawton
9	Arnie Serigstad	30	Laura Zucker



20 Paul Seever & Pegatha Hughes

## *Library Corner*

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

Yesterday was Epiphany, the day that the wise men are featured in song and scripture. The Wise Men never made it to the manger, although they often appear in art at that scene. They came later and visited Jesus and his family at his house. In honor of the wise men I will be leaving the Creche scenes up until a few more weeks. The Library’s next display will be a history of protest movements. Look for more info later.

Warm Regards, Larry the Librarian

## *Opportunities to Serve*

**Quilt Much?** Sweet Pea is the place to be! Interested in learning to quilt or looking to get back into it? Grab a sewing machine and join the Sweet Pea team! They meet in the Youth Room (enter door on Melrose Ave) from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. every other Saturday **starting January 10**. Their finished creations are donated to hospitals and shelters. Contact Emily for more information.

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

**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.

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## **Regularly Occurring Events at Trinity**

### **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, 9:00 am, Fireside Room
- ❖ Trinity Library is open during coffee hour.
- ❖ Nooners Class: 12:00 pm in the Fireside Room and on Zoom.
- ❖ Board of Deacons: 3rd Sundays (none in July), 12:00 pm, Youth Room

### **Mondays at Trinity**

- ❖ Book Club (Every 3rd Monday) 10:00 am-11:00 am, Fireside Room
- ❖ Monday Night Lectionary Study (weekly) 5:00 pm-6:15 pm, Fireside Room

### **Tuesdays at Trinity**

- ❖ Administration Comm. (1st Tuesday, in "odd" months), 4:30 pm, Fireside Room
- ❖ Session (every 2nd Tuesday) 5:30 pm-7:00 pm, Fireside Room

### **Wednesdays at Trinity**

- ❖ Association of Faith Communities (AFC) Board, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Fireside Room:00 - Overnight, Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Shower the People, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm, Parking Lot
- ❖ Urban Works Board, 1st Wednesdays, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm, Fireside Room

### **Thursdays at Trinity**

- ❖ Librarian Corner, 10:00 am -12:00 pm, socialize in the library