



Weekly Newsletter

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz

December 11, 2025

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

Cantata Sunday, December 14

Join us this Sunday as our choir and guest musicians fill the sanctuary with joyful sound! As we enter this space, we remember that joy is not simply a feeling—it is a practice, a quiet *resilience* that steadies us when life presses in and narrows the spirit. Like leaning toward light on a dim morning, joy invites us to open our hearts, to breathe deeply, and to trust that God is still shaping goodness among us. May this time of worship kindle that steady, joyful flame within us.

The Rev. Diane Ford

Sunday's Scripture:
Isaiah 35, selected verses



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.

Over this past year \$1.1 million of gifts from the Christmas Joy Offering were used to provide critical financial support and grants to current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need. They were provided income supplements; housing and long-term care supplements; and emergency assistance grants.

More than \$800,000 of gifts are used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Many students attending these schools and colleges are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

We are collecting Trinity's contributions to this special offering over the next two weeks. Please mail your check or use the envelopes provided at church to drop in the offering plates.

Thank you for joining the thousands of congregations and special ministries of the PCUSA in this act of care and support of church workers and students of color.



Advent Thursday Evenings Dec. 11 and 18. We gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. A potluck dinner follows at 6:00 p.m. **Conversations follow dinner:** "Watching, Listening, Responding." 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

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 Fireside Room. 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: we pray for Westminster Presbyterian Church, San Jose, and Rev. Bryan Franzen.

Library Corner

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

As mentioned in last week's Librarian's Corner, our Advent Christmas Creche display is split between the library and the Fireside Room. There are still openings. If you are willing to loan a Creche or Nativity Scene please bring it this Sunday. 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.



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/>



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

SANTA CRUZ SYMPHONY PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Festive music by Tchaikovsky, Anderson, Rimsky-Korsakov, Bartholomew-Poyser, Williams, and more!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
7:30 PM
CIVIC AUDITORIUM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
1:00 PM
CIVIC AUDITORIUM

TICKETS: CALL 831-420-5260 OR VISIT SANTACRUZTICKETS.COM

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of San Jose celebrate their

19th Annual
Epiphany Tea
at Stone Church of Willow Glen
Sunday, January 4th, 2026 at 2 PM

1937 Lincoln Ave, San Jose, CA
And you are invited! RSVP by December 28, 2025
to Rosaleen Zisch, rmgzisch@gmail.com



Begin the New Year with food for body and soul.

All are warmly invited to join Presbyterian Women for tea and cake, followed by candlelit worship in the style of the Taizé Community: chanted song in prayer, meditation on scripture and seasonal readings.

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.

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

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.