



Weekly Newsletter

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Santa Cruz

September 17, 2026

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Come worship with us this Sunday at 10:30 am!
September 20, 2026 ~ The Rev. Diane Ford



A parable is meant to be discussed, mined, and reflected upon in the presence of other faith travelers. And the more we look at the words, the phrases, the characters with their points of view, the more we appreciate the multiple gems in just one story.

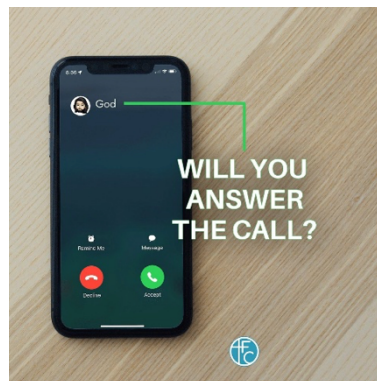
Then there's another layer -- what is said just before and after the parable? This can determine why the editor chose this particular parable and what they wanted us to notice first.

Sermon Teaser: When has someone's generosity ticked you off?

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

Who's Calling...?

Trinity's Nominating committee is currently undertaking the annual process of proposing members to serve in various roles which are necessary for the church to effectively carry out its ministries both to each other and the communities we serve, locally, and throughout the world. **As we look toward 2027, the committee is seeking members to serve in several positions as Elders and deacons, a Clerk of Session, and as members of the Nominating Committee itself.**



There are also many areas of our congregational life where **non-members** are invited and encouraged to apply their skills, gifts and personal interests: finance, buildings & grounds, worship & music, education, outreach, fellowship, and local & worldwide missions.

Scripture is clear that service to the congregation is a fundamental calling for every believer, modeled by Jesus Himself as an act of humble love, mutual support, and stewardship: *“Even the Son of Man did not come to be served; instead, He came to serve others.”* (Mark 10:45) Christian service involves every person actively contributing to the spiritual and physical health of the congregation's body. The apostle Paul admonishes us to *“Serve one another in love.”* (Gal. 5:13) and as expressed in Eph.4:11-16, service aims to encourage and mature the community where every part of the “body” works together to grow in unity and love.

If you sense a stirring and would like to explore opportunities to serve your congregation, contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Barbara Christie, Chuck Cobery, Lee Duffus, Ron Weaver.



WORLD COMMUNION

The PC(USA) World Communion offering. Our Presbyterian denomination uses these Churchwide Special Offerings for ecumenical and interfaith engagements promoting racial and gender justice, peace, global witness, and local missions. Please give generously in the envelopes provided on Sunday.

Trinity Staff Introductions

At Trinity we are blessed to have staff who are dedicated and share their talents with us in a way that reflects being the body of Christ. We will introduce them in the church service on *Sunday Sept. 20, 2026 at 10:30 am* so that all are able to meet our behind-the-scenes support staff.

Nicole Donovan – Office Administrator

Nicole comes to us with a background in accounting and church administration. She joined our team late in 2025, and has demonstrated that knowledge and skill set on a daily basis. She is a team player, fun and a calm, steady, organized administrator. She loves when folks stop by the office so she can get to know the congregation.



Hortencia Martinez – Custodian



Hortencia has a background of work experience, most recently with the County of Santa Cruz. She joined our Trinity team in 2023. She is truly a behind the scenes worker, so it is a joy to introduce her to the congregation. Hortencia is a humble, hard worker who makes sure our facility is clean and inviting to all who enter. Many groups use our church site during the week, and her work is one of the main ways community members know they are cared for when they come into our rooms. If you happen to be at

church when Hortencia is working, please say hi!

Thank you both Nicole and Hortencia for your gifts of service! You are appreciated!! – From the Admin Committee

Emergency Contact Information

We are asking each member and regular participants to provide basic emergency information for our church records. We hope we will rarely, if ever, need it—but having this information helps us care for one another well.

Please provide your legal name and the name and contact information of an emergency contact.

There is a practical reason for asking for your legal name: if you are ever hospitalized and would like a visit, the hospital may have you listed under your legal name rather than the name we know you by. Without your legal name,



Pastor Diane may not be able to locate you as a patient. We also want to know whom to contact if something happens to you during a worship service or activity and someone needs to reach a family member or friend on your behalf. This information will be kept with our church records and used only when necessary for your care or in an emergency. Please let us know if your information changes. **You can email the church office with the information, or fill out a card on Sunday.**

Thank you for helping us look after one another. – *Pastor Diane*



Habitat for Humanity is Coming to Trinity! The Mission Committee is delighted to welcome Aurelio Gonzalez, Development Director for Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, who will join us during worship on Sunday, September 27, to share the story of Habitat's work in our region.

Trinity's partnership with Habitat runs deep. For at least fifteen years, this congregation has supported Habitat's mission financially, helping fund the simple, decent, affordable homes that Habitat families build alongside volunteers. And for just as many years, Trinity volunteers have loaded up cars and carried lunches out to the Santa Cruz build sites, most recently in Live Oak — feeding the crews who frame walls, hang drywall, install electric wiring and plumbing, and raise roofs.

Aurelio will speak about Habitat Monterey Bay's new building project in Watsonville, the 13 families who will call those houses home, and how congregations like ours make that work possible. It's a chance to put faces and names to a ministry many of us have supported for years, sometimes with a bowl of chili or a dozen sandwiches.

Please plan to join us, and stay afterward to greet Aurelio and ask your questions. If you've ever packed a lunch, swung a hammer, or written a check for Habitat, this Sunday is partly a thank-you to you.



Happy Hour will take place Thursday, September 17, from 4-6pm at the Back 9 in Pasatiempo. Come for fellowship, deepen friendships, and bring someone new.

Book Club meets the third Monday of each month. On September 21, we will discuss "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood. Join us in the fireside room on Monday, at 10:00 am.

Save the Date! All-Church Retreat Saturday, October 17, 9 am – 1 pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Aptos.



All Church Workday Saturday October 10, 9AM-Noon. Mark your Calendars! Come join in and experience the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment that comes on a Church Work Day. Bring work gloves, garden tools and cleaning supplies if you can, but most importantly bring yourselves! We will be cleaning up the flower beds and plants, refurbishing the birdhouse library, and general spring cleaning duties.

Save Our Shores is sponsoring a county-wide beach cleanup on Saturday, September 19, from 9am-12pm. Save Our Shores is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting the beaches, ocean, and wildlife of Monterey Bay. This event is part of the larger California Coastal Cleanup Day, which is the state's largest annual volunteer cleanup. I'll be volunteering at New Brighton Beach, I would love to see friends of Trinity PC out there. You can pick from one of 50 sites that day. Register at: [Annual Coastal Cleanup Day](#)
Submitted by Deb O'Connell, deb_oconnell@hotmail.com

To schedule a visit with Pastor Diane, please email her directly at TrinitySCPastorDiane@gmail.com, or bring your calendar on Sunday morning and she will set a time with you.

One Night Only! Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 7 pm. The Santa Cruz Opera Project presents Puccini's beloved **La Bohème** in a fresh, accessible production that brings the timeless story of love, friendship, and dreams to present-day Santa Cruz. This special remount features an expanded chorus, including the **Cabrillo Youth Chorus**, and takes place outdoors at the beautiful Audrey Stanley Grove. Tickets available at:

<https://santacruzshakespeare.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/events/a0Scx000000oF2HEAU>

Presbytery Unity Candle



This week we pray for Trinity Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz, and Urban Works.



September 13 Linda Weaver
September 27 Paul Sams
Bob Scott



September 3 Richard & Roberta Zakarian

Librarian's Corner

Our Library is open Thursdays 10 – noon.

Larry the Librarian will post updates to the Library Website at <https://www.trinitylibrary.org/>

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. Their finished creations are donated to hospitals and shelters. Contact janedevette@aol.com 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 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

- ❖ Choir rehearsal: 9-10:15 am through the end of June, then off until after Labor Day.
- ❖ Morning Lectionary Discussion: 9:00 am, Fireside Room
- ❖ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am in the Sanctuary & streaming live on YouTube and FB.
- ❖ Coffee Hour: Immediately following our Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ 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) at 4:30 in the Fireside Room

Tuesdays at Trinity

- ❖ Administration Committee: (1st Tuesday, in "odd" months), 4:30 pm, Fireside Room
- ❖ Worship and Christian Education (WCE): 1st Tuesdays at 10:30 am, Fireside room.
- ❖ Session: 2nd Tuesdays, at 4:30 pm in the Fireside Room

Wednesdays at Trinity

- ❖ Association of Faith Communities (AFC) Board Mtg.: 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Fireside.

- ❖ Faith Community Shelter: 4pm - Overnight, Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ Shower the People: 3:00 pm-6:00 pm, Parking Lot.
- ❖ Urban Works Board Mtg.: 1st Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Fireside Room.

Thursdays at Trinity

- ❖ Library Corner: 10:00 am -12:00 pm, socialize in the library.
- ❖ Trinity Happy Hour: Every Third Thursday from 4-6. Place to be determined.

Saturdays at Trinity

- ❖ Sweet Pea Quilting: Every other Saturday from 9:30 am – 3:45 pm, Youth Room.