



Weekly Newsletter

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Santa Cruz

January 22, 2026

Featured This Week

- Come Worship with us!
- Call to Action from Neal D. Presa, Executive Presbyter
- Announcements
- Presbytery Unity Candle
- January Birthdays
- Opportunities to Serve
- Regularly Occurring Events

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

The Rev. Diane Ford

When Christians come together to worship God, we step away from the words the world offers and listen for God's voice. We come not to be entertained or convinced, but to listen for what God is doing among us. In worship, we open our hearts to a power that meets us not by impressing us, but by loving us. We gather to return to the Ground of Our Being and ask, "Holy One, what word do you have for us today?"

Sermon Scripture: I Corinthians 1:10-13, 17-18; Matthew 4:12, 17-23



Presbytery of San Jose
January 21, 2026

Special Call to Action & Prayer (Abbreviated for this newsletter)

Dear Members and Friends of the Presbytery of San José,

[On] Thursday, January 22nd, I will join the leaders and members of Gilroy Presbyterian Church as we accompany one of their congregants, Mathias, to the ICE field office in downtown San Francisco at 630 Sansome Street. Mathias is a legal asylum seeker from Cameroon and has been an active worshipper at Gilroy Pres. Our siblings in the faith at Gilroy Pres have overwhelmed Mathias with their expressions of love and support, contributing towards his legal defense, and, this past Sunday, tearfully laid hands upon him in prayer. His attorney advises that there is a high likelihood that he may be apprehended tomorrow and eventually deported.

We as a faith community who follow the life and ways of Jesus Christ are called to not only consider refugees among us as citizens, but to love them as ourselves (Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 10:19). In fact, the Lord Christ equates and connects caring for and loving the vulnerable among us as caring and loving Himself (Matthew 25:35-36). We have a moral imperative and as an act of faithful discipleship, to care and love, not an abstract human being or the concept of "humanity," but actual real people. Mathias is one among so many in our communities, nation, and world who are experiencing the real consequences of policies that are striking fear in the lives of people.

If you cannot join us in person, please hold Mathias in prayer, his attorney, as well as ICE officials who will process his case. We pray the Holy Spirit of freedom and love will surround Mathias with peace, and will work in the hearts and minds of ICE officials to allow him to remain in the United States and grant him the asylum he seeks, as his home country of Cameroon is in the midst of a yearslong civil war.

Whether here in northern California, in Minneapolis, or in many places around the world, let us be in fervent prayer to the Lord our God, whose call to love neighbor and stranger, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God becomes ever more salient with every passing day.

Yours in the joyous service of Christ,
Neal D. Presa
Executive Presbyter



This Sunday! Join us January 25 for our Annual Congregational Meeting after the 10:30 service. Officer nominations will be heard; committee reports, current financial standing, and budget for 2026 will be presented.

Also this Sunday: Having served 30 years as Trinity's Chief Financial Officer, Bob Scott is handing over the reins to Sandy Thormann. We are very grateful to him for his dedicated service and the tireless work he did for over three decades. On Sunday, we will be showing our appreciation with a special cake during coffee hour. Please join us in celebration of Bob's devotion to Trinity Presbyterian.

The 2026 Per Capita assessment for Trinity is due to the Presbytery on February 6. The total amount per person is \$45.50. If you would like to contribute to Trinity's payment, please note "Per Capita" in the memo of your check. Thank you!

Presbytery Unity Candle: This week we pray for Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Hardy H. Kim.



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



20 Paul Seever & Pegatha Hughes

Library Corner

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

Last Sunday Glenn Joy generously provided a variety of protest signs for our Library. See photos below. This display will stay up for a while. In the spirit of the theme, “Stamping out Racism” you can have your paper money stamped at the library with a “resist” or other icons we will provide later.

Yes, stamping paper money is generally legal in the U.S. as long as you don't intend to defraud, destroy the bill, or use it for advertising, which would violate laws against defacing currency (18 U.S.C. § 333) or creating likenesses for commercial use (18 U.S.C. § 475). Messages for political speech, like those from the Stamp Stampede, are often protected by First Amendment expression. However, banks and businesses can still refuse to accept stamped or marked bills.

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 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, 9:00 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
- ❖ Faith Community Shelter, 4pm - 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