



Weekly Newsletter

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Santa Cruz

July 16, 2026

Featured This Week

- Come Worship with us!
- Our Summer of Wonder
- Presbytery Unity Candle
- July Birthdays
- Opportunities to Serve
- Regularly Occurring Events

Come worship with us this Sunday at 10:30 am!
Sunday, July 19, 2026 ~ The Rev. Diane Ford

We continue our theme of wonder this Sunday, and welcome two new members to our church.

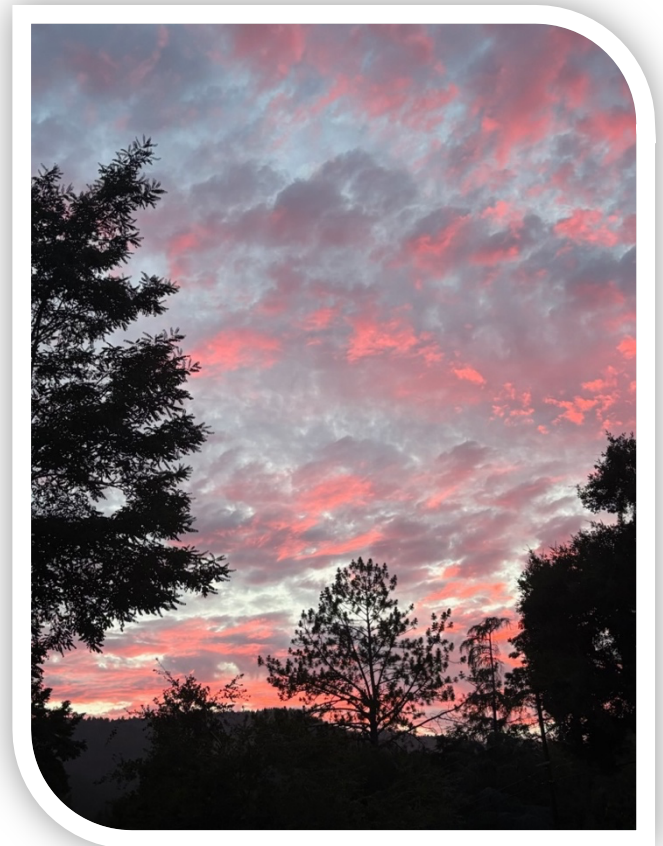
Sermon teaser:

"My frame was not hidden from you... when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth." (Psalm 139)

The Psalm doesn't try to explain the mystery of life -- it invites us to stand in awe before it. Before anyone could see us, God already knew us. In hidden places, where we have no awareness or jurisdiction, God's creative love is already at work.

Scripture: Psalm 139

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 1:12 - 2:4 and 3:17-19



Balmy Summer evening in Ben Lomond. Photo by Barb Christie

Summer of Wonder at Trinity

We continue our *Summer of Wonder* during worship where we include more music, shorter bulletins, and more sharing our faith stories with one another. We will sit in the front half of the sanctuary, and afterward, as always, enjoy fellowship and refreshments on the patio.

Natural wonders: Sandy with great granddaughter, Delilah.



“I love it when what I’m reading matches what we are learning.” – Sandra Thormann





From Neal Presa, Executive Presbyter
Excerpted reflections on the GA 227
From the Presbytery Digest 7/10/26

Of all the General Assemblies I have experienced, the sermon preached by our dear friend and colleague, The Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz (transitional executive presbyter of the Presbytery of San Francisco), was the finest one, in its incisive analysis and prophetic exhortation for the Church to interrogate, confront, and confess power and privilege, and counterfeit spirituality within the Church and in society.

We see this when the Church neglects caring for the vulnerable, the hungry, the thirsty, the immigrant, LGBTQIA+ siblings. No amount of Scripture memorization and enactment of worship liturgies will justify the Church falling short of doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. Watch Laura's sermon and/or read the transcript at: <https://www.reyes-chow.com/guest-laura-mariko-cheifetz-general-assembly-sermon-text/>

Our Presbytery's overture on repudiating Christian Nationalism was overwhelmingly approved with some amendments.

Other areas of intense debate, discussion, and discernment included:

- Establishment of an independent General Assembly commission to investigate the closure of the former Presbyterian World Mission ministry and the termination of mission co-workers.
- Approving the location of the 228th General Assembly (2028) to be in San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Naming the Israeli government's policies and conflict against Palestinians as constituting acts of genocide as defined by international law.
- Sending for further study at every level of the Church (congregations and sessions, presbyteries, synods) the draft new confession and the establishment of another special committee to report back to the 228th General Assembly (2028) on what was learned from the churchwide study and bring a recommendation to that General Assembly on whether a new confession in the Book of Confessions is needed and a proposed text.
- Sending to the General Assembly Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy for further study and possible policy proposals on monogamous relationships.

- Approved a new Organization for Mission, which codifies and operationalizes the new unified agency now called Presbyterian Life & Witness (formerly the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly), and which establishes the relationship of national agencies one to another and with the General Assembly. With that, an inaugural governing board for Presbyterian Life & Witness was elected.
- Approved balanced budgets of \$90.5 million and \$97.9 million for 2027 and 2028 for Presbyterian Life & Witness, respectively, with accompanying General Assembly per capita apportionment rates of \$13.04 for 2027 and \$12.72 for 2028.
- Approved a bilateral dialogue with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with the stated aim of making steps towards full communion between our two denominations.
- Approved a fourth round of bilateral dialogue between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from 2026-2032; I have been elected to again serve on this bilateral dialogue

One matter that generated much conversation at the Assembly, and which continues on social media, among mid council leaders, and among General Assembly moderators is the presence of a group called Presbyterian for the Kingdom (PftK). Pftk belongs to an umbrella movement/organization called Operation Reconquista, whose stated self-aim is to bring biblical orthodoxy to mainline denominations such as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We will continue to watch and engage the actions, statements, and activities of PftK. For my part, I have pastoral, ecclesial, theological, and ecumenical concern having met with and seen PftK's leadership at the General Assembly. I will have more to say in the months ahead.

Announcements

Book Club will meet on Monday, July 20 at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room to discuss "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.



Habitat
for Humanity®
Monterey Bay

Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay warmly invites the Trinity community to join us on Saturday, July 18, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, for an inspiring "Dusty Boots" tour of our latest housing project in Watsonville. This event is an opportunity to engage directly with the impact of our involvement and financial support and ask any questions you may have. If you are interested in this tour, contact Lee Duffus at 831-295-3025.

Pupusa Lunch Fundraiser Delmy



This is Delmy Escobar. She is standing next to her older brother and her niece at her high school graduation last year. Seven years ago, we met Delmy and heard her story of finding a hand grenade when she was four years old. The grenade went off, one of her brothers was killed and she sustained some paralysis in her right arm. Delmy was fourteen when we met her and because of her injuries, we discovered she had been unable to attend school. Your generosity allowed us to help her to get transportation to school and arrange for some tutors. She did very well in school, and after seven years she graduated from high school and is now taking English lessons in nearby Suchitoto.

Delmy is just one example of how Santa Cruz al Salvador is changing lives through education and sustained relationships.

Please plan on attending the **July 26, 2026** pupusa lunch in the Fellowship Hall after church services and donate generously to this worthy cause.

Presbytery Unity Candle:



This week we pray for Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Jose, Rev. Dr. Vincent Arishvara, and Gereja Kristen Indonesia Church.

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/>



2 Sejin Oh
4 Amanda Bell
7 Vickie Rutan
8 Glenn Joy

11 Gary Edwards
18 Chuck Cobery
25 Richard Zakarian
30 Esther Lauer



July 5 Arnie and Natalie Serigstad
July 17 Jeff and Patti Lawton

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: Third Thursday of the Month.

Saturdays at Trinity

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