Weekly Newsletter
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Santa Cruz

November 25,2026

Featured This Week

- This Sunday at Trinity – Advent!
- Announcements
- Community Announcements
- Librarian's Corner
- Birthdays
- Opportunities to Serve
- Regularly Occurring Events

Come worship with us this Sunday at 10:30 am!
November 29, 2026
The Rev. Diane Ford



This Sunday at Trinity

For our first Sunday of Advent, the theme is Hope, with Elizabeth and Zechariah as the central characters. We will light the first candle of Advent as we enter the season of the "comings" of Christ: into the world embodied as Jesus, into our hearts as the Holy Spirit, and into our future when God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Past, present, and future. Christ comes into all times and places! One of the mysteries and marvels of life.

Sermon teaser: The angel Gabriel announces to the priest Zechariah that his elderly wife, Elizabeth, will bear a son, whom they are to name John (later known as John the Baptist).



Advent begins Sunday, November 29.
Advent Theme: The People Who Welcomed Christmas

Christmas is a familiar story. We know the characters, the setting, and how it all unfolds. This Advent, we'll revisit the story through the experiences of four sets of people who welcomed the coming of Jesus: Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds.

Their stories remind us that God often comes into our lives in unexpected ways, in the midst of waiting, uncertainty, and ordinary circumstances. As we prepare for Christmas, may we find something of ourselves in their stories and be inspired to trust and welcome God's presence into our world and into our lives.

Advent Evening Potlucks and Conversations
Thursday Evenings, **December 3, 10, and 17** in the Fireside Room.
This annual time of fellowship, food, and conversation is a beloved tradition. If you have not attended, we hope you will this year.

6 p.m. Fellowship, wine and appetizers.
6:30 p.m. Potluck dinner begins
7:15 p.m. Conversations around this year's Advent theme of *The People Who Welcomed Christmas.* We end at around 8:15 p.m.

On preceding Sunday mornings, **you can RSVP,** choose what to bring for the potluck, and whether or not you can assist in setting up the room. Come to one or more of these evenings and invite someone new!



Join us in remembering **Jim Atwood** on Saturday, December 6 at 1:00 pm with reception to follow in the fellowship hall.



Book Club will be taking a break for the month of December. Starting in January we will be changing the time that we meet from 10 a.m. to 9 – 10 a.m. Parking at 10 o'clock has become very difficult. We will still meet on the 3rd Monday of each month.



Let's once again decorate our sanctuary with **poinsettias** for the Advent and Christmas season! Honor and remember loved-ones, or simply send a holiday greeting to our church family. Complete a form on Sunday, attach a check or cash for $15 for each plant, and place in the plate. Alternatively, you may email your dedication to the office. Please respond by Sunday, November 29.

Join us on **Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 AM for our annual Christmas Cantata**! Our choir will be joined by guest singers and a brass quintet to put on the cantata *Sing Christmas!* by Joel Raney and Mary McDonald.
Sing along with us on some familiar and beloved carols. Bring your friends and family, and prepare to be inspired.



Trinity Staff Christmas Gift. Our tradition is to thank church staff with a monetary gift at Christmas. Deacons are accepting these donations through December 13. 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.





For people who are struggling with the holidays: Our "Longest Night Service" will take place **December 21, at 7 p.m.** Safe space, breath work, gentle chair yoga, readings, candles, and prayers. Refreshments afterwards.



Trinity Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

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.

Presbytery Unity Candle

This week we pray for Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church, Salinas, and Rev. Jason Barraca.



8 Joanne Clever
9 Nicole Donovan
20 Jeanne Baker
Ari Palmer
Ron Weaver
22 Jill Francis
Dan Rutan
24 Erin Sams
26 Nancy Cobery
27 Jenny Yeaney



3 Jackie Watson
8 Marta Narus
23 Quinn Sams
Lorraine Vilardo
24 Elizabeth Bunch
21 Mona Gifford
31 Juanita Stock



November 19 Charlie & Gwen May
November 30 Jenny Yeaney & Ti Lamb

December 29 Dan & Vickie Rutan

Librarian's Corner

This Thursday is Thanksgiving Day so the library will be closed. You can visit the library after church this Sunday to access a book or item.

This Sunday is also the First Sunday of the Advent Season, so look for the Library Advent Creche and Pageant displays throughout December.
Regards Larry the Librarian trinity library.org



Community Events

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Housing for Health
PARTNERSHIP

Annual Homeless Memorial

- **Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2026
- **North County:** 10–11:30 a.m.
- **South County:** 1:30–3 p.m.
- **Locations:** Currently being finalized. We'll share the locations and additional event details soon.

For more information: Please visit our Homeless Memorial website. For nearly three decades, our community has gathered in conjunction with National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day to recognize and remember those who have passed away during the year. The event is meant to honor people who died while experiencing homelessness, those who experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, and individuals who worked in our community to support people experiencing homelessness.



Farley's Christmas Wonderland: Open Nov. 27, 2026 through January 1, 2027. Closed if rain. 108 Seaview Ave, Santa Cruz. **We are the first and only Christmas Museum with Christmas antiquities dating back to 1755.** Our exhibit is very traditional with Christmas trees, garlands, sleighs, miniature villages, and a log cabin that Santa uses for his rest stops. On certain nights we display a fairy grotto. The event is free, but donations are welcome for electric bill, storage, and maintenance. https://www.facebook.com/farleys.christmas/

Plan Ahead: Santa Cruz City Ballet presents the Nutcracker
Saturday and Sunday, Dec 19 & 20.
Look for performances from our own Rosie Bell
Tickets can be purchased here : https://nutcrackersantacruz.com/tickets/



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) NEW TIME: 9:00 - 10:00, Fireside Room. No mtg in Dec.
- 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.