



Weekly Newsletter
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Santa Cruz

September 24, 2026

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Come worship with us this Sunday at 10:30 am!
September 27, 2026 ~ The Rev. Diane Ford



We have an exciting weekend coming up. Saturday is the NEAR Gathering, there are two vigils in solidarity with our Gilroy neighbors, and we have a special guest from Habitat for Humanity with us Sunday morning.

Sermon Teaser: We have opportunities every day to change our approach, our attitudes, our way of doing things. We can change our mind. What might the Spirit want you to adjust, or reconsider, or embrace?

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16



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.

On Sunday, September 27



Meet Aurelio Salazar, Jr.



The Mission Committee is delighted to welcome Aurelio Salazar, Fundraising and Development Manager for Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, who will join us for worship this Sunday, to share the story of Habitat's current work in our region.

Trinity's partnership with Habitat runs deep. For at least fifteen years, our congregation has supported Habitat's mission financially, helping fund affordable homes that Habitat volunteers build, working along side members of the fortunate families who will live in them. And for just as many years, Trinity volunteers have loaded up their cars and provided lunches at 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 newest building project in Watsonville, the 13 families who will call those houses home, and how congregations like ours make that work possible. This will be an opportunity to learn more about a ministry many of us have supported for years, sometimes with a personal check or with a pot of chili and a dozen sandwiches.

Please plan to stay after worship to greet Aurelio at the coffee hour and ask questions. If you've ever packed a lunch, swung a hammer, or written a check for Habitat, this Sunday also is a thank-you to you.

Our Mission - A Statement of Faith by Trinity Presbyterian Church

Welcome to a new 5-week series on the Mission of our Church

To proclaim the "Good News" that we humans can be transformed. We believe that through God's grace, individuals and communities can change for the better and are not bound by the past. Our faith and hope for transformation is strengthened as we work together to follow the teachings of Jesus. We see this as an on-going process not a one-time event — a journey, not a destination.

– *Our Mission, paragraph 1*

Sunday,
September 27th
3pm - 4pm

ICE out of GILROY

 **FREEDOM VIGIL**

STOP DETENTION CENTER NEAR GILROY FROM OPENING!

7240 Holsclaw Rd
Gilroy, CA 95020

Sign up here! 

Bring signs!
And a chair if you'd like to sit!

This is a recurring monthly vigil for peace in our communities and in the world, in solidarity with our friends, neighbors, and community members who are being unjustly detained and deported by ICE. Join us every 4th Sunday of the month!

This is a peaceful, family friendly event open to people of all faiths and of none

Let's lift our voices to stop the deportations, shut the detention centers, and end the inhumane attacks on migrants

Sponsors:



A Message from Pastor Diane:

Why Would We Gather for These Vigils or Protests?

We gather because our immigrant neighbors are our neighbors.

As Christians, we believe every person is made in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and humanity. When our government takes people into custody, it has a duty to respect their legal rights and to treat them humanely.

Our concern is both who is being detained and what happens to people once they are detained. Immigration arrests have increased dramatically, and many of those arrested have no criminal record. People who are legally in this country can also find themselves caught up in immigration enforcement. Recent court proceedings have raised concerns about the use of factors such as race, language, and occupation in deciding whom officers stop or arrest.

We are also concerned about what happens after someone is detained. Federal inspections have found that some ICE detention facilities have not met the government's own standards for medical care, safety, communication, and other basic conditions.

That is why building a new detention center matters to us. More detention beds mean more capacity to hold people as immigration enforcement expands. And when enforcement is reaching more deeply into our communities—including people who may be stopped or questioned because of their appearance, language, or work—the question of whether we should build more places to detain people is not simply a question about a building. It is a question about what kind of community we want to be.

We do not gather because we have to agree on every question of immigration policy. We gather because we believe our neighbors should be able to live in their communities without fear, and because when people are vulnerable, the church should show up.

This is also part of who we are as Presbyterians. In 2022, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) declared itself a “Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church,” calling on congregations and members to support immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and their children.

We gather in prayer, in solidarity, and in peaceful public witness—for our immigrant neighbors and for a community where every person is treated with dignity, fairness, and compassion. – Pastor Diane

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I hope you've heard the recent news that construction on any ICE detention site in Gilroy will continue to be paused while legal proceedings continue. While this is hopeful news, we also realize it is important to continue to faithfully witness our love and support for immigrant neighbors by remaining engaged and present until it is certain that ICE will not create detention sites in our communities.



Here are two opportunities to participate in prayer vigils this weekend:

Saturday, September 26 after our Presbytery NEAR Gathering

Our NEAR gathering will conclude by 1pm. We will gather in the Gilroy Presbyterian Church parking lot at 1:30 to organize carpooling to the [7240 Holsclaw Road](#) site. We will carpool for the 12 minute drive to the site. From 2:00 - 2:30pm, we will participate in a prayer vigil (rooted in Christian faith) at the site. After concluding our service, we will carpool back to Gilroy Pres. NOTE: Holsclaw Road is a curvy agricultural road, please exercise caution while driving and when exiting the car. DO NOT walk in the road, as it is very dangerous and the site is near a blind spot on a curve. We need to take as few cars as possible because space is limited. Please email me if you'd like to volunteer to be part of the prayer vigil liturgy program.

Sunday, September 27: Monthly Interfaith ICE Out of Gilroy Freedom Vigil (3-4pm)

For this vigil, there is a shuttle service from Valley Health Center [7475 Camino Arroyo Dr, Gilroy, CA 95020](#). The shuttle service will run from 2:30 pm until 3:10pm. Please park at the Valley Health Center and do not drive to Holsclaw Rd. We need to keep the road clear for safety reasons and to ensure that we can continue to gather at this site. If you have an accessibility or mobility concern that prevents you from being able to get into another vehicle/shuttle, please reach out to organizer Bee Pollicino (Santa Cruz Interfaith Network) [631.469.4570](#) directly by Wednesday, September 23rd and we will accommodate (Or email me, Veronica, asap and I'll get in touch with Bee). You are invited to bring flowers to this vigil for our offering table.

Peace,

Veronica Ota, Peacemaking and Justice Advocate, Presbytery of San Jose



Hello Friends! Let me introduce you to the **PC(USA) Administrative Personnel Association**, of which I am a proud member! Over the weekend of September 17-21, we had our annual conference which took place at the Presbytery's own Zephyr Point Conference Center in South Lake Tahoe. I attended by Zoom.

This was a very joyful and purposeful weekend, giving administrative staff of our region the opportunity to bond, learn, and grow together in faith. The Session of Trinity Church was kind enough to sponsor my participation in the many classes offered. We have our own certificate program which allows participants to gain expertise in many aspects of Presbyterian Church life. Classes include topics on the history of the Church, Presbytery governance, Book of Confessions, admin & finance policies, communication, ethics & inclusion, and clergy transition procedures. The time was memorable, and I look forward to joining the conference again next September!

- Submitted by Nicole Donovan



Save the Date! All-Church Retreat
Saturday, October 17, 9 am – 1 pm
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.

Please complete an **emergency contact form** found in the Narthex. Alternatively, you may email the church office with your full LEGAL name, and 1 or 2 emergency contacts with names and phone numbers. Thank you for helping us look after one another. – *Pastor Diane*

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 Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church.



September 13 Linda Weaver

September 27 Paul Sams

Bob Scott

Jolynn Carrington-Khoury



October 1	Ellen Bauerle	27	Ryan Althaus
5	Marie Imai	29	George Bunch
10	Glyn Lutrell		Kim Johnston
		31	Jim Atwood



September 3	Richard & Roberta Zakarian
October 1	Michael & Barbara Christie

Librarian's Corner

Our Library is open Thursdays 10 – noon.

This is my first library email since I finished my duties at St. Stephen's Lutheran. I would like to thank Nicole for encouraging me to resume this weekly note. To speak of encouragement, I would like to honor Ed Sams in memoriam. I am grieved over the loss of a good friend and mentor. Ed was also a librarian and a writer. He encouraged me in both endeavors.

We were both published in an Anthology "Santa Cruz Ghost Stories, and I had the very great honor to be a beta reader on his last novel, "Witch Country" soon to be released. I plan to honor him by faithfully continuing as a librarian and writer. We have several Ed Sams and Sally Sams books, and papers and anthologies in our Library, which we will display in October. The month of Halloween is appropriate to honor Ed when we remember his "Bloody Heads" of the Bible Sunday School lesson.

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.