



Weekly Newsletter

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz

December 18, 2025

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

The fourth Sunday of Advent is coming, when we light the Advent candle of "Love." And in the early evening, our Longest Night Service will be an opportunity to live into that love, as we pray with and for people who struggle with the holidays.

In this Sunday's reading, Joseph chooses compassion before he has answers, and courage even when it costs his reputation. Join us this Fourth Sunday of Advent as we explore what faithful love looks like in a world shaped by fear and judgment — and why Emmanuel matters.

The Rev. Diane Ford

Sunday's Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-25



A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.

Over this past year \$1.1 million of gifts from the Christmas Joy Offering were used to provide critical financial support and grants to current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need. They were provided income supplements; housing and long-term care supplements; and emergency assistance grants.

More than \$800,000 of gifts are used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Many students attending these schools and colleges are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

We are collecting Trinity's contributions to this special offering through Sunday. Please mail your check or use the envelopes provided at church to drop in the offering plates.

Thank you for joining the thousands of congregations and special ministries of the PCUSA in this act of care and support of church workers and students of color.



Dear friends, a date has been set for the memorial service for Darrell Yeane. This celebration of his life and our assurance of resurrection will be on **Sunday, March 21, 2025**, in Trinity's sanctuary at 1:00 p.m. A reception will follow, in the fellowship hall.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)



On December 21 Spillwords.com will publish **Ed Sams's short story, "Bag of Switches"** set in Ben Lomond during Christmas time. You can read it at <https://spillwords.com/bag-of-switches/> when it goes live on December 21.

Advent Thursday Evening Dec. 18. We gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. A potluck dinner follows at 6:00 p.m. **Conversations follow dinner:** "Watching, Listening, Responding." Week 3: Responding with Joy and Courage. Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12 (the Magi follow the star). Theme: Discerning how to act on what we've heard.



December 21: Longest Night Service of Hope at 5:30 pm, in the Fireside Room. Struggling with the Holidays? Not everyone feels merry in December. Pastor Diane and Yoga Instructor Marcee Meinhardt lead this service designed especially for those carrying sadness, loss, or weariness during the holidays. The service will include candlelight, music, somatic breath work, readings, and prayer. We'll honor the darkness and remember that light still

finds us. Come as you are; all are welcome



December 24: Our Christmas Eve Service will take place at 5:30 pm. Participants retell the story of the birth of Christ in song and scripture. We proclaim the light and love of God's eternal heart as we spread candlelight among the congregation, and walk out into the world with the traditional carol,

Silent Night. The service runs about 45 minutes, and is child-friendly!

Book Club is taking the month of December off. The January book will be "The Great Divide" by Cristina Henriquez. We'll meet on Monday, January 19 at 10 am in the Fireside Room.



Presbytery Unity Candle: This week we pray for the Taiwanese American Presbyterian Church, San Jose; the Rev. Ting-Ying Lee, and Elder, Jeremy Mah.

Library Corner

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

We have three displays up, how perfect for the library at Trinity. We have our Creche/Nativity Scene display in the Fireside Room and a beautiful display in the library from Darryl and Sue Yeane. In the Fellowship hall there is Art posted by the Urban Works differently abled artists. The third display is of great interest for long time Trinitarians. In the library itself we have posted pictures from our archives of Trinitarians participating in Christmas Pageants over the years. Many of the names of the folks are lost in the mists of history, but they tell a story of our church being faithful during every Advent and Christmas Season. Warm Regards Larry the Librarian



Is your church's story being told?
Share it today in the Mission Yearbook!

PCUSA is collecting stories for the Mission Yearbook website and want to feature yours! Share how God is moving in your congregation, through ministry, mission, or spiritual growth and inspire others across the Presbyterian community. Send 300–600 words, a photo or link to a video! Find all the details here: <https://hubs.ly/Q03z9Ich0>

Please coordinate with Diane before you submit a Trinity story.

Story Ideas: We would love to hear about how God has been at work in your church. You might consider including:

- The history of your congregation: How did your church begin? What are some milestones or significant moments in your journey?
- Mission and ministry efforts: What outreach programs, local or global mission efforts, or community engagement activities have been significant to your church?
- Spiritual growth: How have your worship practices, prayer life, or Bible studies shaped your congregation?
- Testimonies of lives transformed: Share stories of individuals whose lives have been changed through the ministry of your church.



8 Marta Narus
23 Quinn Sams
Lorraine Vilardo

24 Elizabeth Bunch
31 Juanita Stock



29 Dan and Vickie Rutan

Holiday Events in our Community

A Christmas Carol: a theatrical and music-filled adaptation of this classic play. November 26 – December 24, 2025. Vets Hall. Tickets: www.santacruzshakespeare.org

Farley's Christmas Wonderland at 108 Seaview Ave, Santa Cruz
November 28 – December 31, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This is an incredible walk-through FREE Christmas display. Decorated trees, garlands, sleighs, an elf village, and fairy grotto! Bring the family. Donations appreciated, but not necessary.



See our own Rosie Bell perform at the 4:30 showings this weekend!
Santa Cruz City Ballet at the Cabrillo Crocker Theater
Saturday/Sunday, December 20 and 21 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm
Purchase tickets here: <https://nutcrackersantacruz.com/>



Christmas with the Santa Cruz Chorale December 20, 8:00 pm and December 21, 4:00 pm at Holy Cross Church, 126 High St., Santa Cruz. Purchase tickets online <https://santacruzchorale.org/concert/christmas-with-the-chorale/>

New Year's Eve Interfaith Vigil for Peace

"Steadfast in Hope: Being Peace in Troubling Times." Wednesday, December 31, 7:30 PM—9:30 PM / Doors open at 7:00 PM. Holy Cross Parish Hall, 170 High Street, Santa Cruz. Prayers, Music, Labyrinth Walk, Meditation, and Conversation with Leaders from our Local Faith Communities.

Information: bgsangha1@gmail.com
Free-will offering.



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of San Jose celebrate their

19th Annual Epiphany Tea at Stone Church of Willow Glen

Sunday, January 4th, 2026 at 2 PM

1937 Lincoln Ave, San Jose, CA
And you are invited! RSVP by December 28, 2025
to Rosaleen Zisch, rmgzisch@gmail.com



Begin the New Year with food for body and soul.

All are warmly invited to join Presbyterian Women for tea and cake, followed by candlelit worship in the style of the Taizé Community: chanted song in prayer, meditation on scripture and seasonal readings.

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 9:30a.m. to 3:45 p.m. every other Saturday, and donate their finished creations 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 am, Fireside Room
- ❖ Trinity Library is open during coffee hour.
- ❖ Nooners Class: 12pm in the Fireside Room and on Zoom.
- ❖ Board of Deacons: 3rd Sundays (none in July), 12pm, Youth Room

Mondays at Trinity

- ❖ Book Club (Every 3rd Monday) 10am-11am, Fireside Room
- ❖ Monday Night Lectionary Study (weekly) 5pm-6:16pm, Fireside Room

Tuesdays at Trinity

- ❖ Administration Comm. (1st Tuesday, in "odd" months), 4:30pm, Fireside Room
- ❖ Session (every 2nd Tuesday) 5:30pm-7pm, Fireside Room

Wednesdays at Trinity

- ❖ Association of Faith Communities (AFC) Board, 11am-1pm, Fireside Room
- ❖ Faith Community Shelter, 4pm - Overnight, Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Shower the People, 3pm-6pm, Parking Lot
- ❖ Urban Works Board, 1st Wednesdays, 6pm-7 pm, Fireside Room

Thursdays at Trinity

- ❖ Librarian Corner, 10 am -12 pm, socialize in the library
- ❖ Bible Study with Pastor, 1pm - 2:15 pm, Youth Room, beginning Sept.