



Weekly Newsletter

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz

November 27, 2025

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

This week, we enter Advent by paying attention to the moments when life exposes what we did not see before. Times of challenge or change can uncover both our vulnerabilities and God's quiet work beneath the surface. As we gather, consider what God might be bringing to light in your life or in our world.

The Rev. Diane Ford

Sunday's Scripture:

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44

Thursday Evenings in Advent



December 4, 11, and 18

- **Sacred Pause at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Pastor Diane leads us in Taizé-style prayer songs in a peaceful setting. Come as you are and enter a time for pause, prayer and healing music.
- **Potluck dinners in the Fireside Room 6:00 p.m.**
- **Conversations following dinner:** “Watching, Listening, Responding.”
Week 1 (12/4): Watching for God’s Promises. Scripture: Isaiah 40:1–5, Luke 1:26–38 (the angel’s message to Mary). Theme: Noticing what stirs in our hearts when God invites us to something new.

Week 2 (12/11): Listening for God in Our Midst. Scripture: Luke 2:8–20 (the shepherds hearing the good news). Theme: Recognizing God’s presence in unexpected places.

Week 3 (12/18): 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.



OFFICE CLOSED FOR
Thanksgiving
HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!



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. Please complete the form found in the pews, attach a check or cash for \$15 for each plant, and place in the plate or mail to the office. Please respond before Thursday, December 4.

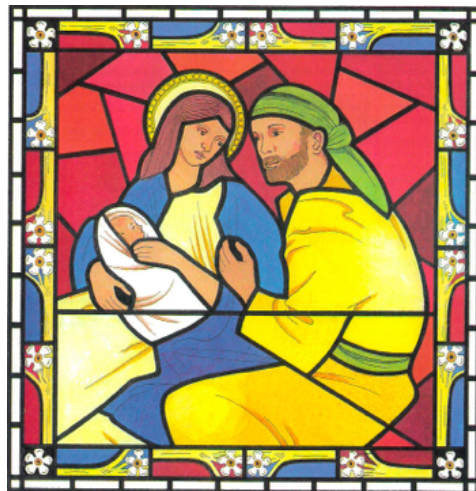


Trinity Staff Christmas Gifts. Our tradition is to thank church staff with a monetary gift at Christmas. Deacons are accepting these donations through December 14. Please make your check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church, write, "Staff Gift" in the memo line, and place in the offering plate. Your generosity is appreciated

Stewardship letters have been mailed including pledge forms for both financial contributions and contributions of time and talents. The forms will also be available in the church entry hall. Please prayerfully consider your proposed contributions for 2026 and, at your earliest convenience, place the completed forms in the offering plate during worship or mail them to the church or email the information to the church. Please address any questions to Michael Christie or Pastor Diane Ford.

December 7: Congregational Caroling after the 10:30 service.

December 14: Cantata Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Let the spirit and sounds of the season fill your hearts and ears on December 14 during the 10:30 am service! Trinity's own choir, joined by guest singers from choirs here and over the hill, will come together to present our annual Christmas cantata, Kirke Mechem's *The Seven Joys of Christmas*. We will also be treated to very special music by a professional brass quintet led by local trombone virtuoso Scott Wilkinson, including a piece written for brass quintet and organ. It promises to be a spectacular addition to our Advent season, and we look forward to seeing you there. Want more info? Please contact Nicki



December 21: Longest Night Service of Hope 5:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. 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



The Annual Chili Cook Off will be on February 20, 2026 at Twin Lakes Church at 6:00 in Monschke Hall. We are so appreciative to Twin Lakes for hosting this event! The registration and promotional information will come out after the holidays. Start thinking about your theme and chili recipe!



Presbytery Unity Candle: This week we pray for we pray for Cornerstone Church of Silicon Valley, and Pastor Joe Sohn.

Trinity Interactive

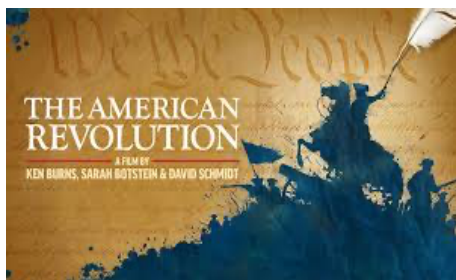
This week's conversation centers on the PBS documentary series the **The American Revolution, produced by Ken Burns.**

Lee: I had no remembrance from my high school history classes that the French and Spanish were involved. How ironic that those two monarchies provided critical assistance to the emerging democracy! I also didn't understand the complicated roles played by the indigenous peoples and the enslaved. I think the revolution is probably taught more comprehensively in schools near the actual scenes of the bloody warfare.

Diane: In the very first episode, there was the line that went something like, "the people in the colonies were more educated than the rest of the world, except for in Scandinavian countries." I wonder why that would be. Also, when people speak of the "world" sometimes they just mean White Europeans. Anyway, it made me curious.

Nicole: The documentary gives voice to the loyalists, the "opposing" opinion we're not taught about in school. History is indeed written by the winners. Loyalty to the crown doesn't seem so unreasonable considering the extreme risks of expansion, and how the notion of "freedom" can feel like flying without a net. Freedom takes courage.

The full series of the American Revolution is available to stream online at



PBS.org and on the PBS app.

We invite you to email (trinitysc@sbcglobal.net) a brief response to the question: What did you learn from this documentary or what surprised you most? This is a great opportunity to share your

thoughts, and hear what others found interesting as well. Responses will be published in the newsletter following the series event, and may be lightly edited for publication purposes. Thank you for participating in this pilot event!

Library Corner

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

This Thursday is Thanksgiving day. The library will be closed.

This Sunday, November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent. Beginning this Sunday and throughout the Advent and Christmas Season the library will show the annual “Nativity Scenes from around the World” display. This is one of our most interesting and popular displays; you will not want to miss it. It includes Nativity scenes from El Salvador, Spain, the Philippines, Cameroon, Native Alaskan tribes and Tanzania to name but a few. It also includes a new addition donated by the Yeanney Family in memory of Reverend Darrell Yeaney. The library will be open during regular hours during December (10AM-12 Thursdays and during Coffee Hour on Sundays). I will also keep the library open during our Advent dinners.

Warm Regards Larry the Librarian <https://www.trinitylibrary.org/>



8 Daryl Altieri
Joanne Clever
20 Jeanne Baker
Ari Palmer
Ron Weaver

22 Jill Francis
Dan Rutan
24 Erin Sams
26 Nancy Cobery
27 Jenny Ye

Special Holiday Events Pull-Out Page

Cantata Sunday, December 14, at 10:30 a.m.

Let the spirit and sounds of the season fill your hearts and ears on December 14 during the 10:30 am service! Trinity's own choir, joined by guest singers from choirs here and over the hill, will come together to present our annual Christmas cantata, Kirke Mechem's *The Seven Joys of Christmas*. We will also be treated to very special music by a professional brass quintet led by local trombone virtuoso Scott Wilkinson, including a piece written for brass quintet and organ. It promises to be a spectacular addition to our Advent season, and we look forward to seeing you there!



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. This year's concert includes Sweelink's "*Christus natus est*," "Run Ye Shepherds to the Light"—a work for soprano solo, choir and orchestra by Michael Haydn, Joseph's younger brother, Morten Lauridson's stunning "O Magnum Mysterium," and Arvo Pärt's world famous "Magnificat." We also sing three pieces by Kirke Mechem, and conclude with sing-along carols from around the world! Purchase tickets online

<https://santacruzchorale.org/concert/christmas-with-the-chorale/>

The Spring Lakes Park Choir presents a Christmas Concert Tuesday, Dec 2 at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., and Thursday, December 4 at 2 p.m. These events are FREE and open to the public. Spring Lakes Park Clubhouse 225 Mt. Hermon Road, Scotts Valley.

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.



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/>

Opportunities to Serve

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.

Donating Used Electronics. The Welcoming Network seeks computers and phones for our neighbors. Donated laptops (PCs up to 10 years old, MacBooks up to 15), iPhones (4G/5G), Androids, iPads, and tablets will be erased, refurbished, and given to those in need. Non-reusable items will be recycled at Grey Bears. If you are able to donate any of these items, contact Karen Wichelmann at (831) 588-9240

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

See more on our church Google Calendar via our website

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) 5:30-7pm, 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, 6-7 pm, Fireside Room

Thursdays at Trinity

- ❖ Librarian Corner, 10 am -12 pm, socialize in the library
- ❖ Bible Study with Pastor, 1-2:15 pm, Youth Room, beginning Sept. 18