



Weekly Newsletter
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Santa Cruz

February 19, 2026

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

This Sunday's sermon teaser: We have entered the season of Lent, a time of honest conversations with the God who loves you; taking on something that sustains your spiritual health; letting go of something that hinders you; or engaging in the age-old tradition of fasting and prayer. There are many ways to fast – fasting from electronics, for example. There are also various ways to marinate in Scripture. Beginning this Sunday, our Scripture readings will be presented by a narrator and multiple voices. This storytelling will happen early in the service so our children can hear them before going to Sunday School.

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness



Thursday Evenings: For 4 weeks throughout Lent we offer fellowship on Thursday evenings, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Join us for potluck, and conversations on topics of faith. All are welcome and encouraged to invite a friend.

The Board of Deacons relies on the generosity of members and friends of the congregation to provide financial support for their endeavors. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please use the envelopes in the pews this Sunday to designate your contribution to the work of the Deacons.

A Word About Presbyterian Officers. Presbyterians ordain Deacons, Ruling Elders, and Teaching Elders (also called Ministers of Word and Sacrament — these are pastors). It is a once in a lifetime experience that occurs during worship. Ruling Elders (usually referred to simply as “elders”) serve terms of three years on a board called the “session.” Deacons serve three-year terms on a “board of deacons.” Officers are nominated by a nominating committee or by members of the congregation during a congregational meeting, are voted for, and then trained and examined by the current session, and afterward are installed (or ordained and then installed) onto the board of deacons and session. While there are many elders and deacons in Trinity’s congregation, there are seven deacons on the board and six elders serving on session (that number varies from church to church). An officer can serve two terms, and then must take at least one year off before serving on the same board again.

People of Faith Say Love Over Fear. The Mission Committee is pleased to report that last Sunday members and friends of the congregation contributed \$630 to the Presbytery Legal Defense Fund for people in our community who face detainment and deportation, easily qualifying for dollar-for-dollar matches from both the Committee and the Presbytery. Additional donations are welcomed. Make your check payable to Trinity, and designate “legal defense fund” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Trinity Book Club: Members of the Book Club brought suggested books for the enjoyment of all. We voted on the books and made a list of the favored ones for future reading! Herein you will find that list....enjoy one each month or just read at your leisure. Hope to see you at future meetings!

March - "The Lost and Found Bookshop" by Susan Riggs

April - "That Librarian" by Amanda Jones

May - "Operation Mincemeat" by Ben Macintyre

June - "Miracles and Wonder" by Elaine Pagels

July - "The Women" by Kristin Hannah

August - "Out of My Life and Thought" by Albert Schweitzer

September - "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood

9th Annual!
The Great CHILI COOK-OFF
Faith communities Turn up the Heat!
LOCATION TWIN LAKES CHURCH

MENU
Chili
Cornbread
Dessert
Beverages
Live Music
Stuff the Ballot
Box for People's
Choice Award

PRIZES
People's Choice award
chosen by chili eaters
votes!
Blind Taste Champs
chosen by celebrity
judges!
Awards for Beef, Meat
not beef, & Veggie
Honors for Most
Spirited Chili Team

HOT! All Proceeds Benefit
Showers and More!
Live Music

Donations: Adults \$20.00
Children Under 12 Free
Tickets available at EVENTBRITE
Use QR Code or at the Door
This event may sell out.

MID-COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION
FAITH COMMUNITIES

Friday ★ February 20, 2026 ★ 6:00 to 8:00pm
Twin Lakes Church Building 7000, 2701 Cabrillo College Drive, Aptos
midcountyhomelesscoalition@gmail.com 831.325.9615

Presbytery Unity Candle: This week we pray for First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, and Rev. Tom Harris.



3 Sandy Thormann
5 Lee Duffus
8 Barbara Lang
9 Jerry Thormann
15 Byron Bunch
18 Natalie Serigstad
26 Kathy Willott



February 16 Jerry & Sandy Thormann

Librarian's Corner

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



For this Librarian's corner I am going to recommend a book that was selected as a read for the April 20 meeting of Trinity's book club, "That Librarian, the fight against book banning in America by Amanda Jones". I highly suggest that you read this book and come to our "Bookies" book club meeting to discuss it. Here is a link to a review:

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/that-librarian-9781639733545/>.

I recently watched an Independent Lens special on Book Banning. The insidious machinations of the book ban advocates are troubling. While in the public eye they focus on banning LGBTQ+ literature, playing the banning of books as a way to protect children. Yet the banned books lists that they have compiled tell a different story. Literature by minorities and persons of color are prominent. The books banned include: poetry, novels and history by people of color. Here are some other items from the Louisiana banned books list:

- [The Bluest Eye](#) by Toni Morrison
- [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini
- [The Handmaid's Tale](#) by Margaret Atwood
- [Flamer](#) by Mike Curato
- [A Lesson Before Dying](#) by Ernest J. Gaines
- [The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) by Mark Twain
- [To Kill a Mockingbird](#) by Harper Lee
- [Of Mice and Men](#) by John Steinbeck
- [Another Country](#) by James Baldwin
- [Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You](#) by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

This is a strange and terrifying trend. Fight back, read! Larry the Librarian

Community Events



Santa Cruz Lenten Series 2026

Reconciliation and Renewal.

Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM

February 24 to March 24

All sessions will be simultaneously translated into Spanish

- February 24 – Mr. Sam Altis (The Association of Faith Communities) – Personal and Social Healing and Reconciliation through Service to Those on the Margins of Society – at Holy Cross
- March 3 – Dcn. Patrick Conway – Healing Divisions in the Church and Society – at Holy Cross
- March 10 – Fr. John Shearer – Healing and Renewal in the Sacrament of Reconciliation – at The Shrine of St. Joseph – West Cliff Drive
- March 24 – Fr. Robert Sullivan – The History of the Rosary – Personal and social Healing and Reconciliation through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin Mary – presented at Star of the Sea

Tickets at the door - \$10 for 1 or 2 people

For more information or questions – Deacon Randy Pozos – randypozos@gmail.com

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

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Morning Lectionary School: Sundays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room
- ❖ 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) 5:00 pm-6:15 pm, 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: (every 2nd Tuesday) 5:30 pm-7:00 pm.

Wednesdays at Trinity

- ❖ Association of Faith Communities (AFC) Board Mtg.: 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Fireside Room.
- ❖ 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 pm-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. Johnny’s Harborside, 4-6 pm.

Saturdays at Trinity

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