

Steeple Talk

Trinity Presbyterian Church ♦ Santa Cruz



The Pastor's Pen

Hello Folks,

I have such exciting news to share with you all! Santa Cruz County's Covid-19 numbers have continued to drop for the past few months. The county is now in the orange tier, which mean less restrictions on indoor worship. With that being the case, we will start indoor worship with 50% capacity in the sanctuary on May 16th!

For everyone's safety, we will be adhering to county Covid guidelines. Everyone will need to wear masks. Only the choir will sing. There will be hand sanitizer and temperature checks to enter the sanctuary. We will keep the windows and the door open for maximum air flow. We will continue to print the hymns and scripture on the bulletins so we do not have to share hymnals and bibles.

Nicki will be taking May 16th off to see her oldest child graduate from college (Congrats Charlie!), so the choir will resume on May 23rd. There will be some extra restrictions in place for the choir: we ask that all choir members wear the special singers masks and socially distance in the choir loft as much as possible.

Like the Easter services, reservations will be required to attend the service each week. This way we can assign seats to ensure social distancing standards are met and ensure we do not go over 50% capacity. If reservations fill up, those who were not able to sign up are the first on the list for next week. We will have a link to make reservations and more about the reservation system out soon!

We will continue to record the service and stream live on zoom for those who cannot make the service or do not feel comfortable attending in person. One thing that we all have loved about zoom worship is that it allows people from all over to attend our service so we are committed to continue offering the service online so we can reach people regardless of location.

I know this is a lot of information and guidelines, but they come from a place of love. Our top priority in this transition is everyone's safety. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I want everyone to feel safe and comfortable every step of the way. We follow the guidelines knowing that they will not be in place forever - there is a light at the end of the tunnel!

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I am so excited to begin to worship with you all in person. It feels a bit surreal to even be able to start this transition. It has been such a trying year for us all, and I am amazed by the resilience we have shown. We move forward looking to a world post-covid knowing the strength we all have within us - both individually and as a community. See you in the sanctuary!

Blessings,
Pastor Katheryn

Report of Session Meeting of April 13, 2021

Elders Present: Debbie Bates, Ellen Bauerle, George Bunch, Chuck Cobery, Emily Duffus, Richard Robinson, Ed Sams, Charlie May, Clerk of Session, and Katheryn McGinnis, Moderator.

A quorum being present the Moderator opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with prayer.

Time of Reflection: Katheryn McGinnis led Session in a discussion of Acts 4:32-35.

Clerk's Report: The minutes from the Session meeting of March 9, 2021 were approved. M/ S/P

Charlie reported the death of Jean Bowerman on April 9, 2021.

Pastor's Report: Katheryn provided her reflections upon how well the Easter Service progressed with no negative issues to report. Katheryn confirmed she will be taking vacation time April 19-25, and study leave May 3-9. During her study leave Katheryn will attend a workshop on art recreation projects. Katheryn has scheduled the guest minister for the April 25th Sunday worship service and will have the May 9th guest scheduled soon. Ellen Bauerle will host the Zoom Sunday services those Sundays.

Administration: Emily Duffus reported on Bob's Scott's work in obtaining a second PPE loan. Session approved a resolution for Bob to apply for this loan. M/S/P Session reviewed and accepted the "Budget vs. Actual" financial report for the period ending March 2021 M/S/P. Chuck Cobery reported on the security issues around the church campus. He recommended we continue having the shades closed in the Fellowship Hall when not in use and the mats outside of the doors should be brought inside. Chuck also requested the weeds in "alleyway" at the end of Fellowship Hall be mowed. Charlie May will inform the yard maintenance company. It was requested the hedges be trimmed to allow better visibility of the church signs. Charlie will inform the gardening service.

Mission: George Bunch reported that Santa Cruz al Salvador is continuing its efforts on renewing commitments and collections from Prayer Children sponsors. The organization is discussing a tentative January 2022 mission trip to El Salvador and is encouraging new participants. The January date is tentative based upon circumstances related to the COVID pandemic.

Outreach: The Outreach Committee has scheduled the April 27th Fourth Tuesday program in which local historian Frank Perry will provide a presentation about the history of the Henry Cowell family. The next all church hike, will be on April 29 to visit Moore Creek Ranch, meeting at the church parking lot at 9:00 AM.

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Worship and Christian Education: Ellen Bauerle reported that the committee was pleased with how well the Easter season went. The outdoor Easter Sunday services went “miraculously, so, so good.” The Bible study on Jeremiah has resumed on Thursdays at 1:00 PM. The committee is discussing future Faith, Ethics and Social Forums.

Reopening: The committee has set a May 16, 2021 restart date for 10:30 AM worship, with an indoor service at 50% occupancy, and with no singing or congregational recitation. The choir will not be singing until the May 23rd worship service. Congregants will be required to preregister, wear masks, and sit in predesignated socially distanced locations. Ushers will seat and dismiss attendees in good socially distanced order. Session approved this reopening plan, **M/S/P**.

The Sweet Pea group plans to begin working together again at the church on May 8th and will be working on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays every month.

Meeting groups will be allowed to use the church after the May 16 opening date. They will be required to wear masks, socially distance, and use disinfectant on all surfaces with which they are in contact. Jana will be sending out the protocols for church usage by outside groups.

Old Business: Session was provided another update by Pastor Katheryn and Charlie May on Safe Spaces plans for moving the RV in the parking lot, and for the soon to be vacated parking lot space. Charlie provided an update on the current status of Urban Works, the new Presbyterian ministry being formulated. Several individuals have been working on this project for the past year and it is gaining momentum. Current plans include re-landscaping the back yard of the cottage to provide a wheelchair accessible “sanctuary” for outdoor meetings and workshops of a variety of mission programs. Horticulturist Carolyn Rosen from Los Gatos Presbyterian Church, and Trinity’s master gardener Marie Imai are assisting with the planning. Rev Ryan Altaus has purchased a 30 foot wheelchair accessible catamaran sailboat to be docked in the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor and used for the program. He plans to do commissioned sailing excursions in the Monterey Bay using a crew that includes special needs individuals.

New Business: Pastor Katheryn has been working with Jean Bowerman’s son Phil regarding the planning of a memorial service for Jean. The service will likely be held at the courtyard. Session approved moving forward with planning and having the memorial service for Jean. **M/S/P** Session discussed the church’s memorial garden and the requirements for anyone wishing to spread ashes there. It was agreed any requester should be in some way related to the church through friends or family; should provide a short biography, with photos if possible; and be approved by Session. There is a Trinity memorial book in which this information is to be documented. Jeanne and David Baker’s granddaughter, Melissa Macy, was approved by Session for whenever Jean and David are ready to spread her ashes in the memorial garden. **M/S/P**

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 5:30p.m. by Zoom.

Trinity Presbyterian presents

4th Tuesday

A Virtual Luncheon and Program

Be sure to save May 25 at noon to join us for another excellent program. More details will be announced soon. The program will be conducted on Zoom. The link will be available in the weekly Saturday announcements email.

Trinity Deacons

The role of the deacon in the Presbyterian church is to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress.

Deacons may be called on to provide meals, transportation, help with planning memorials, distribute Christmas and Easter flowers, and check in with members of the congregation with cards, phone calls, and visits.

The pandemic has made it even more important to reach out to members of our congregation. The deacons rely on your financial support. You can contribute to the Deacons Fund by mailing a check to the church, 420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Please indicate Deacons in the memo line. You may also contribute online at <https://www.trinitypressc.org/donate-to-trinity>

May Birthdays

- 2 Mary Blanchard
Kostas Spalaris
- 3 Harry Blanchard
- 6 Veronica Christie
- 7 Carolyn Brothers
- 8 Greg Blackwell
- 22 Larry Vilardo
Mayre Vincent
- 23 Jennie Edwards
- 29 Jesse May
- 31 Patricia Parshall



May Anniversaries

- 1 David & Jeanne Baker
- 2 Mayre and Tim Vincent
- 17 Larry & Lorraine Vilardo
- 25 Jake & Kathleen Eschen-Pipes
- 29 Reed & Sunshine Duffus

If you don't see your special date listed, please call the church office, at 831-423-8995 and let us know!

Newsletter Articles Due

- May 18 - Newsletter available May 30
- June 15 - July/August available June 27
- August 17 - Newsletter available Aug 29

Non Prophet Corner

Rev. Darrell W. Yeane

Christian Faith and History

The “niners” group that meets regularly at nine a.m. on Sunday mornings, now on ZOOM, has been reading and discussing the book by Dr John Cobb entitled “Salvation.”

Dr. Cobb, a religion and biblical scholar and writer of many books, has emphasized the place of “history” in understanding the Christian faith and practice. Dr. Cobb believes that the church has distorted the meaning and intention of Jesus’ life and ministry by ignoring the importance of the historical situation of Jesus’ day and thus of the focus and intent of his ministry. Jesus’ fundamental vision and work was to bring the “Kingdom of God” into being in his time. For him, this meant assisting Israel to fulfill its messianic role in history by throwing off its subjugation to the oppressive Roman rule.

Cobb believes the Christian church has substituted the centrality of belief in Jesus as personal savior and thus has removed the church from its true mission. That true mission is working for the establishment of the kingdom or “commonwealth of God” on earth in every historical period of the church’s 2000+ year history. Consistently, Cobb has subtitled his book, “Jesus’ Mission and Ours.”

If Cobb is correct, the Christian church today should be giving its attention and its energy to discerning the ignorance and distortions of Jesus’ call for establishing the Commonwealth of God in today’s American and world history. And it should be devoting its time, its wealth and its energy, indeed its life, by joining the spirit of Jesus in changing today’s world into the Commonwealth of God.

What might this mean for each of us? for Trinity ? for the PC(USA)?

Visit us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Presbyterian-Church/135556766517>



Like us on
Facebook

Book Club

Join us via zoom for great fellowship and discussion of good books! We gather via zoom every third Monday evening at 7:00. Books for the next few months are:

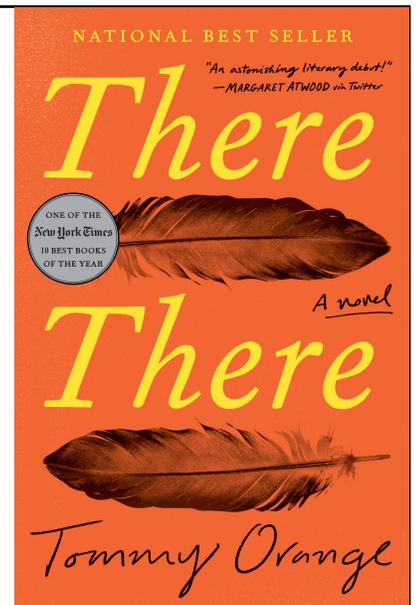
May - “There There” by Tommy Orange

June - “Destiny of the Republic” by Candice Millard

July - “The Fire Next Time” by James Baldwin

Emily Duffus has spent a good amount of time finding and finishing a list of all the books the Book Club has read since it began in 1989. Enjoy spending time reading through this list.

<https://www.trinitypressc.org/book-club-list>

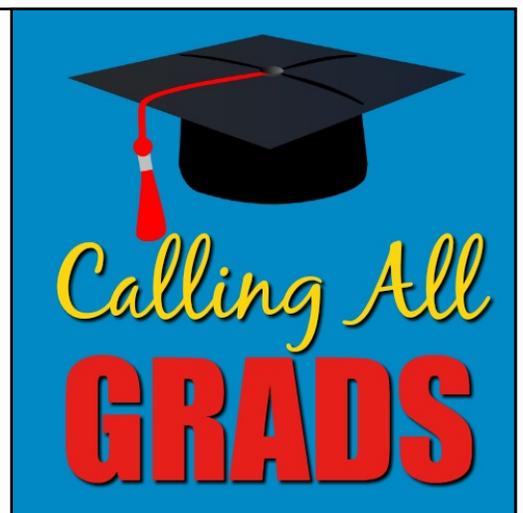


Tentative plan for Trinity in mid May (13th, 18th, or 19th) is church hike at Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley to enjoy Spring wild flowers and many interesting trails including a historic barn and farm machinery. Optional lunch after the hike at Earth Bound Farm. Contact George Bunch at geobunch@gmail.com for further details and to state which date you prefer.

Calling all Graduates

If anyone has a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college, the deacons invite you to give their names and physical addresses to Jana, in the office.

And congratulations to all!



The Librarian's Corner

After movies like “The Name of the Rose”, “The Librarian”, “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”, “The Body in the Library” and “The Breakfast Club”, everyone knows there are secret histories and arcane mysteries both ancient and modern in every library. It is the same with the “Hazel R. Nutt” Memorial Library at Trinity located just off the fellowship hall. Here is a list of mysteries right here for you literary detectives, placed in order of intrigue.

1. Who is Shawn Lockbie? That is the name I found inside a Bible in a bag of donations* when I came in to work in the library on Tuesday April 20.
2. Who is Rev. Darrell Darling? His name is on a bulletin from Sunday, September 19, 2010, which was lodged in one of the books.
3. Among our holdings there is a book “Christ on the Rue Jacob” by Severo Sarduy. The mystery concerns the bookmark which states, “Village Voice 6 Rue Princesse 75006 Paris”. I am guessing that someone in our congregation visited France, frequented “Village Voice” Bookstore and brought this book back with them. Was it you?
4. There is one more mystery that is wonderful. There is a certificate in Spanish printed in beautiful color that says, “Diploma de Reconocimiento A: Trinity Presbyterian”. It is from El Salvador but has no date. If you were on that trip give me a call. I hope to frame it and mount it on the library wall* with a short explanation.

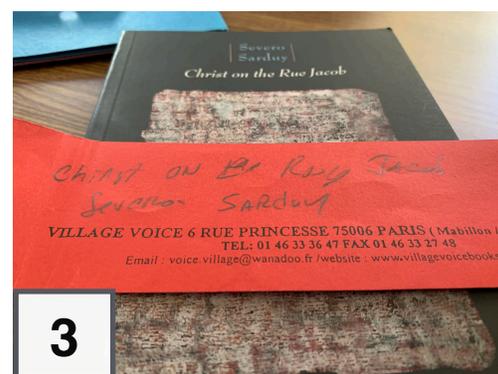
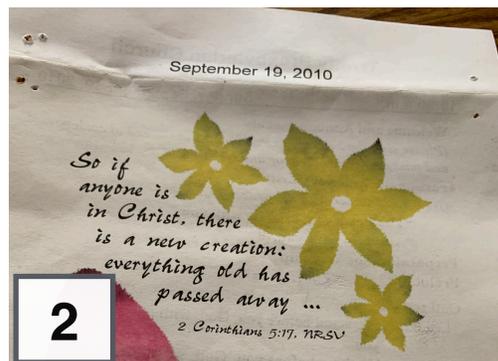
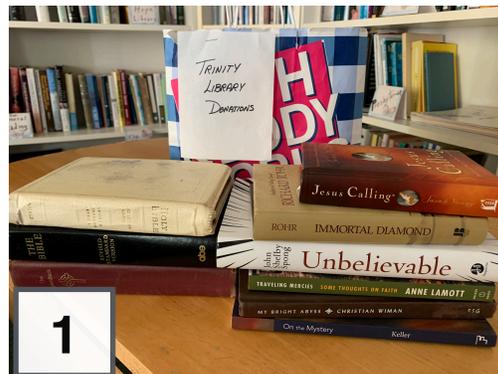
These mysteries bring up two points which I will address in forthcoming articles.

1. *Donation Policy, I really appreciate the donations, however it would be great to know who donated and why.
2. *Library wall art, I am hoping to display some artwork from some of the parishioners in the library on a rotating basis.

If you know the answers to any of these mysteries or wish to use the library, give me a call at 707-372-2958 or email me at lawrence.vilardo@gmail.com (a new email for me).

Happy Reading!

Larry the Librarian





**God,
from my youth
you have
taught me.**

— PSALM 71:17

Building a Life of Faith



We know how important it is to give young people a good foundation in faith, in education and in life.

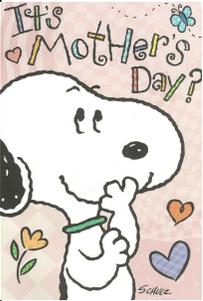
The Pentecost Offering helps us support the development of our young people through ministries of education, spiritual formation events like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, and through service as Young Adult Volunteers.

It also encourages us to see how children, youth and young adults teach us new things and help us shape our faith, too.

As we make our gifts to the Pentecost Offering, remember that 40% stays with your congregation to support local ministries with children, youth and young adults. The gifts we share will help young people learn important lessons about life and faith, and because they teach us, we will get to learn some lessons, too.

Please give generously, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. <i>Zoom</i>	7	8 <i>Sweet Pea</i> 9:00 a.m, Y & FS
	10	11 <i>Admin</i> 4:30 p.m. <i>Fireside Room</i> <i>Session</i> 5:30 p.m. <i>Fireside Room</i>	12 <i>WCE</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Zoom</i>	13 <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. <i>Zoom</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>Book Club</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Zoom</i>	18 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i>	19	20 <i>Outreach 10am</i> <i>Zoom</i> <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. <i>Zoom</i>	21	22 <i>Sweet Pea</i> 9:00 a.m, Y & FS
23	24	25 <i>4th Tuesday</i> <i>Lunch</i> Noon <i>Zoom</i>	26	27 <i>Bible Study</i> 1:00 p.m. <i>Fireside Room</i>	28	29

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If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send us an email or give us a call. Thank you!

Trinity Memorial Garden

A lovely little garden, complete with native plants, a small soaker hose, and a plaque lies on our lawn, just outside the fellowship hall (and more specifically, the place we all call “beside the picnic table.”). This is the Trinity Memorial Garden, designed several years ago and planted by member and professional landscaper Beth Hooley (along with other lawn plantings and the beautifully arranged boulders). Pastor Evie put together a handsome book to use through the years to register the names of people whose ashes have been added to the garden, and a dedication ceremony was held after coffee hour on a lovely Sunday morning amidst sunshine and bird songs.

Some Trinity folks have already expressed an interest in having their ashes sprinkled in the Memorial Garden in conjunction with a memorial service. The Session must approve a request, and a photo and brief biography of the deceased person would need to be provided by the family to be placed in the Memorial Book located in the narthex. Contact the church office or Pastor Katheryn for more information.