Invitation to Join the Youth Service Trip to Mexicali on the Weekend of Jan 15-17, 2027



November 19, 2026

Dear Youth Group Families,

I am excited to share an opportunity for Trinity's Youth Group to continue the tradition of participating in a meaningful weekend service trip to the La Cobina Posada del Migrante Border Shelter in Mexicali, Mexico. This trip is planned for **MLK weekend: January 15-17, 2027**, and will be co-led by Trinity and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara in collaboration with Sister Suzanne and Border Compassion International, the nonprofit organization that operates the shelter. Every youth is invited, from middle school onwards!

On our last trip in February, I was able to cross over with a number of our youth and it is always a humbling and powerful experience. We led a special Ash Saturday service when we visited last year. The trip as a whole is a ton of fun and the youth all get to know each other much better as a result. This year, I plan to join the group again, which will include about four other adults and several students from the Unitarian Society. Parents and Youth Mentors are also welcome to join us! Shawn Carey, Robin Selzler, and Aaron Sizer have all participated in this trip before and can also attest to how impactful it can be.

If your student is interested in joining, we are going to be holding a **mandatory planning meeting for students and parents on Thursday, January 7, from 6:30 PM to 7:15 PM** on Zoom. RSVP to Theo via email (cydirector@trinitysb.org) or text (805) 705-9622. Please be sure that your student has a passport with an expiration date no sooner than July 2027 if they would like to participate on this trip. Expedited renewal may still be possible if you act quickly!

Trip Details:

- **Dates:** Friday, January 15 to Sunday, January 17, 2026
- **Itinerary:**
    - Departing Santa Barbara around 1:00 PM on Friday (students will need to leave school early).
    - Traveling by carpool to Calexico, CA, and staying overnight each night in a hotel on the U.S. side.
    - Making day trips across the border to the La Cobina shelter in Mexicali to engage in activities such as games, crafts, prayer, and singing with the families there.
    - We taxi to the border and cross the border on foot in small groups and then taxi on the other side to the shelter.
    - Possibly making a stop at a cemetery for migrants on the way home. We also stop for a meal on the way back at Charlie Brown Farms, which is a fun tourist trap.
    - Returning to Santa Barbara by 6:00 PM on Sunday.
- **Cost:**
    - Youth are asked to cover lodging and food expenses, which are estimated to be $300-$500 per person.
    - Scholarship funds are available through the Elizabeth Hess Memorial Justice Fund to assist with costs.
    - Additionally, our faith communities will make a $2,000 combined donation to the shelter, which will be raised through bake sales at both before and after the trip.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to engage in meaningful service and build connections across communities. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional details. I look forward to sharing this impactful experience together!

With love and solidarity, Theo :)