

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

April 2024

WHO WE ARE



Trinity Church is an ecumenical Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. We are affiliated with the American Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.

Sunday service hours:
10 a.m. (Nursery care available)

Office hours:
Monday - Wednesday - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thursday - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(413) 625-2341

Pastor - Rev. Kate Stevens
Leadership Team Co-chairs:
Beth Martin & Eileen McCusker Rauch
Music Director - Keith Rollinson
Church Secretary - Brook Batteau
Nursery Attendant - Lisa Porter
Facilities Staff- Pat Valeski

Sunday services can be viewed on
Falls Cable, channel 17.

The scheduled broadcasts are:
Tuesday - 10 a.m., Thursday - 10 a.m.
Sunday - 9 a.m.

Contents

Memorial Garden	2
From the Leadership Team	3
Community Meal Fundraiser!	5
Easy Easter Crossword	6
Calendar for April 2024	7
Lectionary for Sundays in April	7
Starkey Scholarship	7

From the Pastor

Dear friends,

In the midst of war, climate destruction and discrimination, religious Christians still pay attention to the liturgical calendar which tells us when to celebrate and when to mourn and fast. As I write, we are in the middle of Holy Week, the final week of Lent, our high holy days. The three pillars of Lent are fasting, prayer and almsgiving (generosity.) Ash Wednesday is a day when people often fast; (which is why we celebrate fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras the day before Ash Wednesday.) Others fast on Good Friday. We get to celebrate on Easter Sunday but only after a time (seven weeks) of prayer and reflection. Historically it has been a time of abstinence and self-denial. We are commemorating Jesus' final journey toward Jerusalem and his death.

But we aren't the only ones during the spring that are paying attention to holy days. Ramadan is said to have been an important and holy month for Arabs long before the advent of Islam. In this month, local feuds and warring would stop and the people would enjoy a period of uninterrupted peace. Muslims believe that in A.D. 610, the angel Gabriel appeared to the Prophet Muhammad and revealed to him the Quran, the Islamic holy book.

That revelation is believed to have occurred during Ramadan. Muslims now fast during that month as a way to commemorate the revelation of the Quran. For thirty days, beginning, this year on March 11 and concluding at sundown on Monday, April 8 religious Muslims fast (no food or water) from dawn to dusk. They spend time in prayer and reflection. The Jewish sacred season, like

Ramadan for Muslims, is determined by a lunar calendar. This year the Passover holiday begins before sundown on April 22 and ends after nightfall on April 30. Passover commemorates the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt and their ultimate exodus to freedom. Religious Jews are required to eat only unleavened bread during these eight days and abstain from eating wheat, barley, rye, spelt and oats.

The high holy days in Judaism, like Holy Week for Christians and Ramadan for Muslims, is Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the "10 days of Awe.") Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the Jewish High Holy Days leading up to Yom Kippur, a day of complete fasting called the Day of Atonement. This sacred holiday is closer to and sometimes overlaps with the time we celebrate Christmas.

I share all this because Christianity is the dominant religion in this country and so our holidays and celebrations and our sacred days are recognized in a way that others aren't. I heard a dear friend and Muslim speaking yesterday about Ramadan and I realized he had a much deeper practice during his high holy days than most of us do. I vowed to remember that others are practicing their religions while we are too. And my heart breaks that the population in Gaza, most of whom are Muslims, are required to fast dawn to dusk during a time when they are being starved. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters suffering throughout the world. And let us pray for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Blessings to you all in this our holy week, *Kate*

MEMORIAL GARDEN

TRINITY CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN HISTORY

This garden was begun with a request from Rev. David Neil soon after his wife, Linda, died, January 31, 1997. That was 27 years ago. He asked for a meditation bench outside the building. Lois Bascom, called for a meeting of people who would like to discuss this, in March of 1997.

At that time there were trees in clusters at each end of the building and it was decided to put a bench there. However, we were a bunch of gardeners, and didn't stop with a bench! We talked, planned, drew on large paper, a picture of the outline of the garden you see today. We decided to make the garden a Backyard Wildlife Habitat, certified by the National Wildlife Federation. We agreed not to use chemicals or poisons in or around this garden. This commitment continues to the present day.

In April of '97 we met and used spray paint to outline the garden beds as we know them today. We got advice from noted local gardeners and were told to make this a formal garden because the church is a formal building. We were flower lovers, so we compromised by planting the "bones" first- trees and bushes and then bringing perennial flowers from our gardens.

This happened with volunteers, lots of love and joy pouring into this garden from all of us. A path of field stone- either Ashfield or Goshen -can't remember which, was created with lots of laughter and hard work. It has since been replaced by "The Walk of Grace" made of paver stones, laid by Justin Bardwell, who grew up in Trinity Church.

As the years go by, there are fewer people able to work in this garden, so we have planted decorative grasses, low bushes, and flowers that don't need deadheading, to keep maintenance manageable.

While the last few years we hired a gardener, we are making plans to maintain the garden this year with volunteers, keeping the tradition of volunteers in the garden.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have enjoyed a beautiful Lenten Season complete with lovely music, meaningful messages with the extinguishing of Lenten candles and thought provoking words from the pulpit each week. Palm Sunday was no exception culminating with a delicious Pot Luck in fellowship hall. Thank you to all who participated in making this season special thus far. By the time you are reading this Holy week will be over. We hope all your Easter celebrations brought you Joy and Peace.

Trinity Church's Annual Meeting was held on March 10, 2024. We wish to thank everyone who was able to attend in person as well as those who were on zoom or who gave proxy votes. Thank You to our Co-Moderators Ginny Ray and Nancy Parland as well as our Co-Clerks Sherry Clark and Clare Chapman. Highlights of the meeting include a unanimous vote to consider proposals for amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws. Thank you to Robin Cole and Clare Chapman for reviewing these with stated changes. Trinity Church's Officers for next year were unanimously voted in as follows: Co-Moderators Virginia Ray and Nancy Parland; Co-Treasurers Clare Chapman and Eileen McCusker-Rauch; Co-Clerks Sherry Clark and Beth Martin; and Co-Financial Secretaries Sue Mead and Julie Bailey. There was an announcement that our accountant of approximately 10 years, Ingebor Waldsmith, has resigned effective April of this year. We voiced gratitude for her services over all these years and noted we would appreciate any input from the congregation regarding suggestions for her replacement. Further discussion followed about future projects including an all-gender bathroom on the first floor and the renovation of the organ. Keith Rollinson gave another overview of this possible project. The Co-chairs of the Organ Restoration team Ginny Ray and Keith Rollinson and the Leadership Team will meet with fundraiser Jennifer Williams for her ideas. She led the First Congregational Church of Ashfield in their successful organ restoration project. Finally, after discussion on numerous line items on this year's Budget, the proposed Budget for 2024 was unanimously voted in favor. Further thanks go out to Brook Batteau for his invaluable assistance in putting together the Annual Report as well as Wes Rice for assisting Clare Chapman and Eileen McCusker-Rauch with the Budget.

We have accepted the resignations of Janice Waldron-Hanson and Clare Chapman from the Leadership Team as well as the withdrawal of consideration of a seat from Rob Johnson. Gratefully, all have voiced the desire to serve again when the time is right. Many Thanks to Clare for her years of dedicated service and Janice for her kind service over these last number of months. We are happy to report that Sarah Neelon has faithfully agreed to join the Leadership Team moving forward.

We are pleased to announce that we have completed a first online interview with our third profile candidate. We have plans to review sermons and check with references. Following protocol we will then set up a second online interview.

The wonderful family who are living in our parsonage building are looking for any information about possible rentals or for sale properties in the district. They are looking for a four bedroom property to rent or buy with a max budget of \$300,000. Please email or call them with any leads. Email: granthaffner@gmail.com
Cell phone: 631 903 3246

Time with our Beloved second Bridge Pastor Kate Stevens in drawing to a close at the end of April. Trinity Church will cherish every moment shared with her during this last remaining month.

With God's Blessings,

Eileen McCusker-Rauch, Beth Martin, Nancy Parland and Sarah Neelon of the Leadership Team.



WEEKLY
COMMUNITY MEAL
All Are Welcome
Eat In or Take Out



Friday Nights 5:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY MEAL FUNDRAISER!

West County Community Meals

BOWL-A-THON

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH, 12-2PM

\$25 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF 4
PRIZES, RAFFLES, & MORE

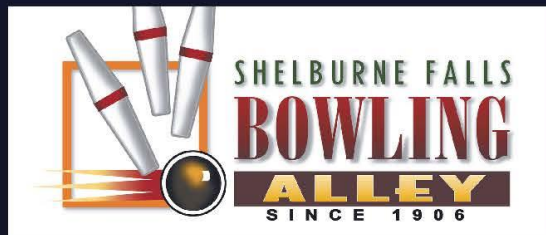
CANT MAKE IT? DONATE NOW @

WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/MANAGE/WEST-COUNTY-
COMMUNITY-MEALS

OR SCAN
THE CODE

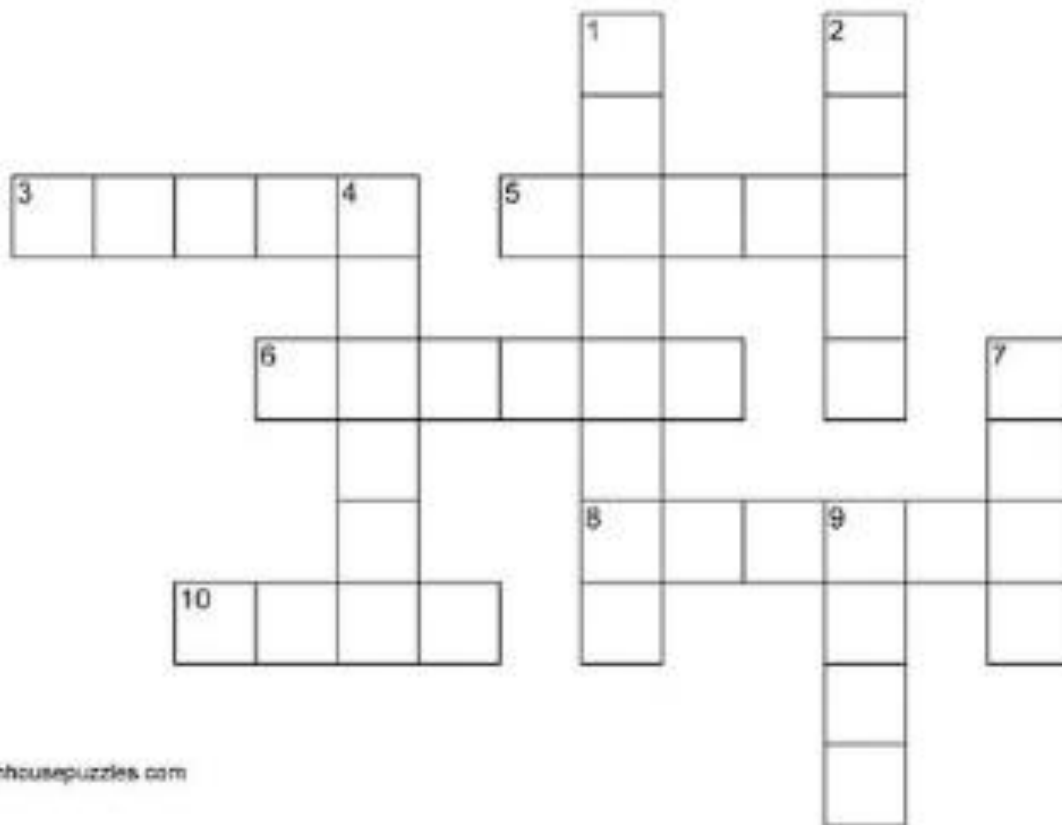


WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT!



SIGN UP TODAY! CALL OR TEXT 413-522-9937

EASY EASTER CROSSWORD



www.churchhousepuzzles.com

ACROSS

- 3 This was left behind in the tomb
- 5 Jesus died on this
- 6 The body of Jesus was prepared after his death and they put what on it
- 8 Holiday we celebrate for Jesus rising
- 10 Jesus died on a cross for our what

DOWN

- 1 Mary thought Jesus was this
- 2 Who rose from the dead on the third day
- 4 This was folded up in the tomb
- 7 She looked in the tomb to find Jesus gone
- 9 Jesus was placed in this after his death

WORD BANK: Cross, easter, gardener, jesus, linen, mary, napkin, sins, spices, tomb.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 9:30 Playgroup	4 7 pm AA	5 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	6
7 10 am Service.	8	9	10 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	11 7 pm AA	12 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal	13
14 10 am Service.	15	16	17 9:30 Playgroup	18 7 pm AA. 10 am Being and Believing.	19 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	20
21 10 am Service.	22	23	24 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	25 7 pm AA	26 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	27
28 10 am Service.	29	30				

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL	
April 7	Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31; Psalm 133
April 14	Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48; Psalm 4
April 21	Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18; Psalm 23
April 28	Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8; Psalm 22:24-30

STARKEY SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now available for the **Starkey Scholarship** grants. Applicants must be members of Trinity Church. Please return the applications to the office no later than May 1, 2024.

Please inquire by email or at the church office.

