

THE QUEST

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

April 2025

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 is available.)

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

Pastor - Benjiman Durfee

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

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From Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Dear Trinity,

I am happy to report that we have had 18 people sign up to participate in (or read along with) our Lenten small groups to discuss Kathy Escobar's book *Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power*. Each week, I have also been using the book's topics to craft a sermon series for Sunday mornings. I hope that you all have been finding as much depth in this journey as I have. Being able to participate in small group discussions has helped me to form deeper relationships with those participating, as well as challenging me to deepen my own relationship with God.

The work that we are doing this Lent is preparing us to better embody and sustain the message of Easter. If we truly wish to be an Easter people, filled with the hope of resurrection and new life, we first must be open to the truth about what needs to change within ourselves and in our world. Looking around at the world today, so much appears to be contrary to the life we long for. Our call during the season of Lent, then, is to build a bridge from a world that is broken to a world resurrected and beloved by God.

We can look to Jesus as our guide in that work. We can learn from the way that Jesus lamented the brokenness of the world, not because the world was condemned to die, but because he knew it was worth saving. We can heed Jesus' call to repentance that invites us to turn away from and disrupt the power structures that are no longer serving us, and choose to reshape them by sharing by

sharing with and empowering others; cultivating the resilience and power of community as Jesus did. And through all this work, we'll find that we're slowly letting go of the false security we find in unhealthy power and control and illuminating a path forward toward the way of Jesus.

The journey to Easter morning was not an easy journey for Jesus or his disciples and it continues to be a challenge for us today. But I believe that it is a journey worth taking. It's a journey that, when the whole body of Christ partakes, the whole world can be renewed and transformed by God's love and grace.

With hope,
Pastor Ben

APRIL COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET DATES



Saturdays, April 9 and 23 (10:00-12:00)
Wednesdays, April 12 and 26 (11:00-3:30)

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

At Trinity Church
4/13/25

Directly following the 10 am service
Please bring a dish to share
Sign up is at the back of the
sanctuary or simply show up on
Sunday following the 10 am service

SEE YOU THERE!



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

March came in like a lamb yet has certainly given us a number of lion like days. We are grateful to be sharing the season of Lent with all of you and Pastor Ben and we pray that your Lenten journeys will continue to be truly meaningful. Trinity's Lenten season began with an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. We look forward to Holy Week's Schedule: Palm Sunday at 10am on April 13th with Palm Sunday brunch following in fellowship hall; Maundy Thursday Dinner Church at 6pm on April 17th Followed by a prayer vigil until midnight in the sanctuary; Church "Open for Prayer" on Good Friday and Holy Saturday with no formal services; Easter Sunrise Service on April 20th at Apex Orchards at 6am followed by breakfast at the First Congregational Church of Shelburne and then Easter Service at 10 am at Trinity Church. Further Information about these events will be given during announcements.

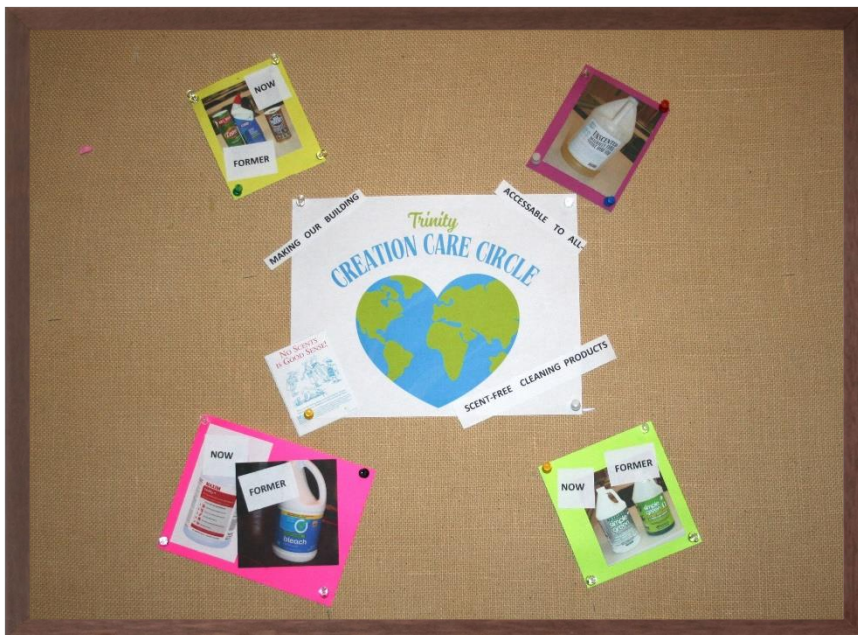
The Leadership Team is very happy to announce that Wayne Perrea has agreed to be Co-Chair with Beth Martin. The Leadership Team looks forward to continuing the faithful work of Trinity Church as needed together. One item on the coming month's agenda is to develop a policy for keeping the church open safely 24/7.

Trinity Church hosted another Friday Night Community Meal on March 21st. The roast pork meal was once again well received and all involved enjoyed a wonderful evening of dining and fellowship. Trinity will continue to host the meal every other month therefore the next meal that we will be needing volunteers for will be on May 16th.

With Many Blessings from The Leadership Team,

Nancy Parland, Sarah Neelon, Wayne Perrea and Beth Martin

TRINITY CREATION CARE CIRCLE



The Trinity Creation Care Circle invites you on a Creation Walk to Celebrate Earth Day at 12pm on Sunday, April 27th! This 45-minute walk will begin and end at Trinity Church and meander around Shelburne Falls, stopping along the way to offer a reflective prayer at important landmarks like the Deerfield River, Salmon Falls and the Potholes, the Bridge of Flowers, and the Baptist Lot. Gloves and garbage bags will be available for those who would like to help pick up

trash along the way. For more information, please contact Pastor Ben at pastordurfee@gmail.com!

Have you seen our new bulletin board? Located at the back of the sanctuary, the Trinity Creation Care Circle has started a bulletin board with information about our projects. Right now, you can see which cleaning products we've switched out for fragrance-free, environmentally-friendly alternatives. Perhaps you've been looking for alternatives in your own home, too?

Our next project is to sponsor a Creation Care Walk around Shelburne Falls on April 27th after worship. Stay tuned for more details! Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 16th at 11:30am. Please consider joining us in this important work to care for each other and the earth!

RECOVERY RESOURCES AT TRINITY CHURCH

Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support

Do you have questions about Substance Use Disorder? Connect with a Recovery Coach from the Center for Human Development every Thursday at Trinity Church, from 9:30-10:30am. Our coach will be available to talk about SUD, how to access recovery support and treatment, and community resources. Any questions, please contact Autumn Mercier, North Region Recovery Coach Supervisor at 413-262-0193.

Thursday Night AA

The Shelburne Falls Big Book Study Group of AA meets every Thursday evening from 7:00-8:00pm at Trinity Church. This is an open meeting. Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

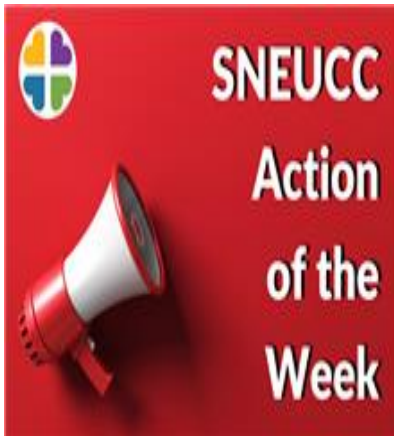
Friday All Recovery Meeting and Drop-In Recovery Coach Support

All Recovery Meetings are non-denominational and are open to all pathways to recovery. Meeting format is focused on peer support and invites participants to reflect on and share what they are doing for their recovery. Recovery Coaches offer 1:1 support to people in substance use recovery to build their recovery capital. The Drop-in Recovery Coach Support is held at Trinity Church on Friday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm followed by a hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) All Recovery Meeting at 7:30-8:30pm. All Recovery Meetings and Coaches are coordinated by The Recover Project of Greenfield.

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL 2025	
April 6	Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8; Psalm 126
April 13	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49; Psalm 31:9-16
April 20	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
April 27	Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31; Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

OUR CONNECTIONS

United Church of Christ



The Executive Team of the Southern New England Conference is continuing to encourage everyone to observe Lent by participate in an economic boycott of those institutions that have cancelled their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives.

[Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin speaks about the fast in this video](#) 6 Min Watch or Read

American Baptist Church

Given the current climate of uncertainty and the challenges we all face, now more than ever, we are called to stand together in faith, unity, and encouragement. As the body of Christ, we are not alone—we are strengthened by one another and by the unwavering faithfulness of our God.



We invite you to join us for our upcoming Annual Gathering (#TAG2025), themed *"The Authentic Church in Challenging Times,"* inspired by the powerful words of Hebrews 10:23-25. As we gather, we will explore what it means to be an authentic church—a people of bold faith, resilient love, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel, even in the face of difficulty. **Our Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. David Fitch.** You can read more about David on our [TAG2025 website](#). Registration will be open soon.

The United Methodist Church

Following a Jan. 30, 2025, prayer service and information session on the challenges facing our immigrant neighbors, the NEAC has created a resource page for immigrants and allies. [Read more.](#)



The Episcopal Church

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

14 BOLTWOOD AVE., AMHERST, MA

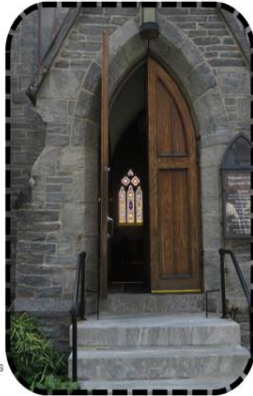
SAT. APRIL 5TH, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT LENTEN RETREAT DAY

FOR AGES 18-40

Join young adults from across the diocese in intentionally making space in the middle of Lent for quiet, prayer, creativity, and friendship. This is a free program!

Register at
<https://forms.gle/wMXypzmNjKbpC79>
or email Rev. Megan McDermott at
mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org for more
information.



**Apr 5, 10am
Amherst, MA**

"The Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN) is holding its second annual Lent retreat day on Sat. April 5th at Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst. We ask that you spread this news to any young adults you know who might be interested and eligible. Please register by Thurs. Mar 27th or as early as possible, so the retreat organizers can make plans for lunch and worship.

[Learn more and register](#)

HOLY WEEK AT TRINITY CHURCH

Journey through the week leading up to Easter with Trinity Church!



Palm Sunday

at 10am on April 13th



Maundy Thursday Dinner Church

at 6pm on April 17th followed by a prayer vigil until midnight in the sanctuary



The church will remain Open for Prayer and reflection on

Good Friday (April 18th)

Holy Saturday (April 19th)



Easter Sunrise Service

at 6am April 20th at Apex Orchards
with neighboring congregations



Easter Sunday Service

at 10am on April 20th at Trinity Church

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2025

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet, 1 pm and 6:30 pm Lenten Study Group 11 am Staff Check-in meeting
Thursday	3	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	4	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal. 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	10 am service
Monday	7	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday		
Wednesday	9	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet, 1 pm and 6:30 pm Lenten Study Group
Thursday	10	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	11	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal, 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	12	
Sunday	13	10 am service; Palm Sunday Brunch
Monday	14	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday		
Wednesday	16	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet, 1 pm and 6:30 pm Lenten Study Group
Thursday	17	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA, Maundy Thursday
Friday	18	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	19	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	20	10 am service; Easter!
Monday	21	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	22	7 pm Creation Café
Wednesday	23	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	24	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	25	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	10 am. Service
Monday	28	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	9:30 Playgroup

Time to order spring plants in honor and memory of loved ones for Easter Sunday



If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter by ordering a plant, please fill out this form and put it in the collection plate or return it to the church office by *Palm Sunday, April 13*.

Plants available to order are Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths—depending on availability. This year lilies are \$11/each and the others are \$7/ each.

Please make checks payable to **Trinity Church**.

Plants not picked up will be delivered to our elder parishioners and others who are not able to attend the worship service.

In memory of _____

Given by _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Number of lilies you are ordering _____

____ I will pick up my plant(s) on Easter Sunday.

____ Please give my plant to someone to enjoy.

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