

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



About Trinity Church

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 & Wayne Perrea

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,

Getting sick before Holy Week just might be a pastor's worst nightmare. To be knocked down right when we're nearing one of the busiest times in the Church calendar can bring an extra level of anxiety. And, especially this year, when the theme I've been leaning into for Lent is all about reconnecting to self, each other, and God, it seemed especially ironic that I seemed to get "disconnected" from you these past two weeks. However, as I've reflected on my situation this past week, I've come to believe that God used this momentary separation to do even deeper reconnection work than I could have imagined.

The first reconnection happened within myself. This was my first time being admitted to a hospital. In the sterile, quiet environment of a hospital room, you are quickly stripped of your titles, your to-do lists, and your sense of control. You are simply a person in a gown, breathing and waiting. In that forced stillness, I had to confront my own vulnerability. Reconnecting with myself meant acknowledging that I am human and that my worth isn't tied to how much I produce or how well I lead a service, but simply that I am a beloved child of God.

From that place of stillness and solitude, I found there was still a way to reconnect with others. Even though I was physically isolated from our sanctuary, I felt the tether of this community more strongly than ever. Every prayer whispered and every message/card/flowers sent served as a reminder that the Church is not a building we visit, but a body we belong to. I also saw the face of Christ in the nurses, doctors, and chaplain who cared for me, as well as

my hilarious roommate, reminding me that our connection to one another often happens in the most unexpected and humble exchanges of care.

Finally, this season of "disconnection" became a profound way for me to reconnect with God. It is easy to find God in the music of a Sunday morning or the familiar rhythm of a liturgy. It is much harder to find God in the beep of a monitor, the frustration of a canceled plan, or the anxiety of waiting and not knowing. Yet, God met me there. I was reminded that God's work isn't interrupted by our human limitations; in fact, God often uses those very interruptions to clear away the noise and speak to us in the silence.

As we move toward Easter, I am struck by the truth that the resurrection cannot be contained. Just as the stone could not hold back the Life of Christ, the work of the Church cannot be limited to any one location, person, or imagination. Whether we are gathered in the pews or praying from a hospital bed, the spirit of God is moving, mending, and making us whole.

I am so grateful to be back with you, and I look forward to celebrating the boundless hope of Easter together!

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Ben

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Trinity Church welcomes the first sign of spring in our gardens with the vision of the white snow drops blooming. Hallelujah!

The Leadership Team had a brainstorming session at our March meeting. Moving forward we plan to work on a number of projects. Some of the ideas we discussed included: looking for ways to improve our lift, reviewing and rewriting of our bylaws as necessary, working on ways to improve Stewardship giving, updating our membership directory and ensuring we have representation to all the annual conferences.



Snowdrops, not snow, to greet us!

The paperwork involved in the future EV charging stations here at Trinity has been completed and submitted. We will keep you informed on this very exciting project.

All of us at Trinity Church continue to keep Pastor Ben close in our prayers. May he return to full health soon! Thanks to all of you who stepped forward to fill in during the service on the 22nd and to Rev. Kate Stevens and all others who will be assisting with our Palm Sunday service. Trinity truly is a faithful village of worshipers!

As the snow has slowly been melting bits and pieces of trash are appearing everywhere. It has been suggested that while passing through we should be aware of this and assist in cleaning up our beautiful grounds. Great ideas are always flowing.

May this Holy Week be a time of profound spiritual significance for each of us.

With Blessings and Love,

Sarah Neelon, Clare Chapman, Wayne Perrea and Beth Martin

MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM



Membership in a church is a very personal decision and is meaningful to different people in different ways. Respecting this diversity, Trinity Church encourages membership but does not require it for participating in the life of the church. All church ministries, events, and our communion table remain open to everyone. **If you would like to become a member of this church**, either by profession of faith or by transferring from another church or denomination, please reach out to Pastor

Ben at pastordurfee@gmail.com. A new member orientation class will be offered for those exploring membership.

Are you interested in being baptized or having your child baptized? Please reach out to Pastor Ben for more information! If you've been baptized in another Christian denomination, it is not necessary for you to be baptized again. We accept and believe in one baptism by water and the Spirit.

EARTH DAY CREATION WALK

The Trinity Creation Care Circle invites you on a Creation Walk to Celebrate Earth Day at 5 pm on Wednesday, April 22. This 45-minute walk will begin and end at Trinity Church, 17 Severance St, 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, Bridge of Flowers, and 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



HOLY WEEK AT TRINITY**Good Friday and Holy Saturday**

The church will remain open
for self-guided prayer and reflection on April 3 & 4

Easter Sunrise Service

at 6am on April 5 at Apex Orchards

Easter Sunday Service

at 10am on April 5 at Trinity Church

THE BUILDING JOY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Dear Trinity,

On March 1st at our Annual Meeting, we at Trinity Church, with a huge leap of faith, voted unanimously to move forward with the proposed capital campaign. Fast forward a few weeks and this campaign is well underway. A Campaign Executive Committee (CEC) that is composed of the co-chairs of nine Task Groups, have been meeting weekly. Each Task Group co-chair has begun the process finding members to assist in their designated tasks. We will all be following the busy calendar designed by our invaluable campaign consultant, Jennifer Williams, who will be assisting us in any way necessary throughout this journey.

During one session we brainstormed about creating a theme/logo for the campaign. After fruitful discussions, the theme name of Building Joy was chosen. This is an exciting time! We look forward to work together with all our amazing Trinity Family towards the successful completion of the Building Joy campaign.

With Gratitude and Blessings,

Clare Chapman and Beth Martin co-chairs of The Building Joy Capital Campaign

MOTHER EARTH DAY CELEBRATION CONFLUENCE

SATURDAY, 18 APRIL 2026 9:00 AM - 3:00PM
THE RETREAT FARM, RT 30 BRATTLEBORO, VT

Join us at the confluence of two healing rivers.
Held in their sacred waters, let us explore together:

Mother Earth-Centered Wisdom and Practice
Multi-Faith Roots and Visions of Spirit
Historical Perspectives

How we got here and how we move forward
Space for Creatives

Music, art, yoga, dance, word, song, singing bowls,
sitting and walking meditation

FREE~ all are welcome

Confluence is being developed by
New England United Methodist Annual
Conference Creation Care, The Beloved
Community (Brattleboro, VT), &
Trinity Church (Shelburne Falls, MA)

- **Bill McKibben** offers reflections via video specifically for **Confluence**
- **Mindful walking in indigenous homelands**
- **Local activists and their work**
- **Local farmers and growers**
- **Delicious local food** for purchase
- **Children and youth activities**
- **Books & other resources**



Contact Information:

Grace Pugh Hubbard ~ Ghubbard@neumc.org

MEMORIAL GARDEN CIRCLE

The snow is melting from the garden path and daffodil shoots can be seen close to the building. They are inviting people to take a walk and see how spring weather is transforming this beautiful space.

Our garden circle is expanding to receive some new gardeners. Nancy Parland will join this circle, which includes Lois Bascom, Mark Naccareto, Eileen McCusker Rauch (with grandchildren), and Ginny Ray. Occasional helpers include April Engel, Janice Fleuriel (until the end of May), Wayne Perrea, Al Shippee, Tom Williams and Pastor Ben.

We have a crew of Muscle Men (LOL) who volunteer to spread mulch, etc. This includes Ben Durfee, Wayne Perrea, Al Shippee and Tom Williams.

We thank Sherry Clark for her many years of service. Also Janice Fleuriel for her year of service, even though she is not a Trinity attendee. We appreciate your gifts of time and talent in the garden.

Soon we will be meeting regularly, clearing away the detritus of winter, pruning as needed and doing general maintenance weekly.

Lois Bascom, for the Circle

PILLOW MINISTRY

Some of us experience back discomfort when we sit in the pew during the Sunday service. A nice, soft couch pillow would help relieve this. Therefore, we are collecting pillows for this purpose. Perhaps you have a couch pillow or two that you would be willing to donate to this. Or maybe you like to sew and would make one. If so, bring it/them and leave in any pew. Thank you so much.

Lois Bascom

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 15, 2026.

**Please inquire by email
or at the church office.**



CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2026

Wednesday	1	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	2	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 5:30 Maundy Thursday; 7 pm AA
Friday	3	Good Friday; 10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	Easter! 6 am Sunrise Service; 10 am regular service
Monday	6	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	9:30 Playgroup; 11 am - 3:30 pm Clothes Closet; Climate Chorus (7-8:30 pm)
Thursday	9	7 pm AA
Friday	10	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	11	10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	12	10 am service
Monday	13	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	14	
Wednesday	15	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	16	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	17	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	18	9:00 am Confluence (Earth Day Renewal)
Sunday	19	10 am service; 12:00 pm Creation Walk
Monday	20	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	21	
Wednesday	22	9:30 Playgroup; 11 am - 3:30 pm Clothes Closet; 5 pm Earth Day Walk
Thursday	23	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	24	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	25	10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	26	10 am service;
Monday	27	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	28	
Wednesday	29	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	30	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA

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LECTIONARY FOR APRIL 2026	
April 5	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
April 12	Acts 2:14a,22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31; Psalm 16
April 19	Acts 2:14a,36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35; Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17
April 26	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10; Psalm 23

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