

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



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 - Re. Dr. Donna Schaper
Leadership Team Co-chairs:
Beth Martin & Eileen McCusker Rauch
Music Director - Keith Rollinson
Church Secretary - Brook Batteau
Nursery Attendant - Lisa Porter
Facilities Staff- Lisa Mroczek

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.

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Pastor's Perch

Meeting our neighbors is fun. They give me the context I need to bridge! While I love doing the Community Entry System this month, I love even more hearing your stories and your music. (The Community Entry System walks the village in a kind of sequence, first the funeral and nursing homes, then the neighborhood, then the shops and restaurants, then the school and parks, ending up with the public leaders, like police, fire and electees, not to mention the post office.). I distribute a card which looks like this. ([see page 7](#))

One of you who lives close by remembered a famous wedding decades ago. David Neal was pastor. The groom had been warned by his bride to shave off his beard before their nuptials. He showed up with the beard on. David had to take him over to Dick's house to get his beard trimmed at the last minute. "Dick, do you have a razor?"

Knowing that children fill up the back driveway on Wednesday mornings makes me glad. One man comes regularly to the community meal and "lives around", left his umbrella last Friday night. He showed up to chat and get the umbrella, smoothing the fear off my face of the smog and the rain. "Why doesn't the pastor come on Friday nights any more? We do know how to pray for ourselves but somehow it's just not the same....we kind of fumble towards God." Yes, it is hard to be a part time pastor. You can't do it all.

Hearing one of you play beautiful Bach regularly in the sanctuary makes God glad and fills me with hope for this church. Imagine playing when no one is listening. Just like a bird. You know they sing to please themselves, not us.

And yes, the garden this time of year attracts hummingbirds. I've seen several.

One of our neighbors across the street warned me and Sybil, my dog, " to go home another way" one night. "A White Skunk was lurking in the bushes." We took her advice.

I'll be dancing at the Permaculture Sunday August 6th to the Gaslight Tinkers. I wish their name was Bang on a Drum, my other favorite local group. Anybody want to join me?

PITCH THE POTLUCK. If you have been looking for a way to invite a neighbor or newcomer or friend or inactive or pissed off former attender, here it is. We'll put our best food and best foot forward.

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We made a change in leadership when Lois Bascom stepped down as co-chair and Beth Martin agreed to step in. The co-chairs are now Eileen Rauch and Beth Martin.

Due to inappropriate activities in the church building late nights, the Leadership Team has regretfully decided to lock the doors at night. This was not an easy decision to make. We must protect the organ and the video equipment, among other things in the building. A designated person unlocks in the morning and another designated person locks late afternoon. There will soon be a lock box on the door, requiring a code to be punched in to use a key to get in. This will allow police and fire people to enter on an as needed bases, as well as people renting space in the building. The members of the Leadership Team staff and a few others have keys.

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper will continue to preach and lead services three Sundays a month through October 15. We will continue to fill in with guest preachers for now. We continue the long process of looking for a designated pastor.

The Leadership Team is providing the community meal on Friday, August 4th. We invite you to come to the meal, which will include grilled hamburgers and salads with ice cream and brownies for dessert. This begins at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Trinity Church neighborhood potluck picnic will happen Saturday, August 19th at 5 p.m., outside on the lawn, weather permitting, and inside if necessary. There will be special music, lots of fellowship opportunities and great food. We will provide the meat to be grilled and we ask you to bring other foods.

On Sunday, August 13th Rev. Thad Bennet will conduct the service from the Episcopal Prayer Book. On Sunday, August 27, Rev. Dr. Mary Miller, Executive Minister of the Baptist denomination, will lead our service and preach.

We continue to serve with Love and Gratitude for your presence in and around Trinity Church in all the ways you choose to be a part of this community.

The Leadership Team

POTLUCK AT TRINITY!



REFRESH YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR
COMMUNITY CHURCH

at the

TRINITY CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC
SATURDAY, AUG. 19

in the driveway/on the lawn
from 5-7 p.m.

Bring a potluck dish to share and we'll provide the protein.
Hear our beautiful, historic organ, listen to some piano music, and dance a bit.
We'll move indoors in case of rain.



Trinity Church is at 17 Severance St. Shelburne Falls (413) 625-2341

BOOK STUDY

OFFERED BY LOIS BASCOM

Tuesdays 10:30 to 11:30 AM, beginning September 19 for six weeks.

A book, the Rock, the Road and the Rabbi by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel.

I have been reading this book and found the Bible come to life for me in a way that brings excitement. Words lost their meanings in the translation from Greek or Hebrew to English, thus changing the message of Jesus, in many instances.

In this study, we journey to the Holy Land via DVD, use a Study Guide and the book itself, the Rock, the Road and the Rabbi. This six week, one hour study will enable us to journey deeper into our faith by including information about the times, Jewish culture, and geography in which the Bible was written.

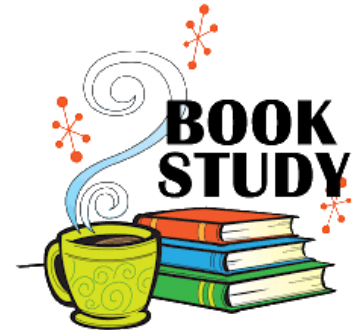
As Kathie Lee Gifford shares her story coauthor Rabbi Jason Sobel, a messianic Jewish rabbi, provides fascinating background details that make the story of the New Testament come alive. Jesus (the Rock) came into this world and walked the lands of Israel (the Road) to show us the way to God. And when we are introduced to the mysteries of God's Word (the Rabbi) and understand it in the context in which it was written, radical transformation begins to renew our hearts and minds.

The book study includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions.

It is recommended that participants purchase the Study guide and preferably the book as well. The book itself can be borrowed from a library. Give yourself plenty of time to request it, as it might be an inter library loan. Also, I can make copies of the pages we use in each session and copies of the short chapters that are recommended to read before each session, saving you money.

Please let me know of your interest so I can prepare accordingly.

Lois Bascom



This is a picture of the blessed animals on Sunday, July 7 here at Trinity Church



THE MOHAWK TRAIL – OP-ED BY REV. DR. SCHAPER

Communities all over the United States are looking at their monuments and their road names and their public art. Richmond. New Haven. Montgomery. Baltimore. New York. Hudson. Stone Mountain, Georgia.

This look in the place mirror makes most of us nervous, but in different ways. Those who want to conserve fear changes of names; those who want to liberate welcome the changes. Both are right, and both are wrong. Refusing the need to be right, while knowing a piece of you is wrong, could go a long way to make us happy in our old and new places. Places are always both old and new, they are always aging and getting younger. They are perpetually renewing, even when interpretations don't so indicate.

Matters like the two so-called Indian statues that climb the hill with you on the "Mohawk" trail come to mind. They are both iconic, accessible, larger than life and mark our passage up and down. We know where we are when we see them. They comfort and then they confront. Many of us saw them we were ten on our first trip that way, then again when we were 70 on our potentially last trip up that way. Often, they give a good laugh and someone in the back seat says, "Don't they need a war paint job?" or some equally affectionate if weird remark.

Interestingly, the trail was there long before the last century's art. The hawks of many generations circled above and didn't quarrel or even name their places. They didn't know the meaning of the word "Their." That word is a human invention. Birds sing their songs for themselves; humans try to impress others with how much they "own" or "know."

Old-timer type people on Cape Cod remember when their security system for their front yards on the beach was to build a fire and invite whoever passed by to join them in a sit down. New-timers put up signs that say private property, as if someone could own the sea or the sand. These signs moderate themselves sometimes and argue that "No dogs or Fires allowed" and are signed by the beach association. They have no legal standing on the Cape but they assert a foolish anthropology, like private property or my tax dollar. But at least, if you think the human itself is that important, it gives permission to the so-called "right" for the human to pass without kindling or walking their (their?) dog.

Indeed, people who put up signs and think they own their land or trail or name of their trail or their dog are insecuritying themselves, while thinking they are

securing themselves. The only possible security is in deep respectful trusting community, the kind that invites in rather than shuts out. Knowing your neighbors, even the ones who come in via AERBNB, matters. Yes, some people will drink beers and drop cans and have reckless fires; others will leave rubbers behind or other less interesting detritus. Can you stop them? No. Can you get to know them? Yes. Over time. Even saying hello can help.

Back to the trail. Naming it the Mohawk Trail was both a kindness to the former so-called owners and a dog marking. Now it is ours.

The way to be both right and wrong, safe and not so, is to get in touch with the great paradox of time. Places last. They change. They last and change. Humans need to learn to think like birds and fly over with delight. The less concrete we pour on things, the better. So how about a Land Acknowledgement which is not good enough for the Hawk or its Trail? Something that hails the sunrise, that bridges the flowers, that greens the fields and dears the fields and sunders the land and does less naming and more enjoying. What about now renaming the Mohawk trail something new that will only last a century or so? What about Hawking the trail?

Or putting in your email signature: I acknowledge the land where I stand now, which some call the Mohawk Trail, others call the Hawk or the Trail, and still others call home. I acknowledge that people before me called this place home and those after me will name it home too. I share this home with the Hawks and the people who came before and who come after. That acknowledgement makes sure not to act like you own anything, and that is the important securing part. It's neither right nor wrong.

By the way, at our little church, Trinity, in Shelburne Falls, people say, "We have a bench in our garden." What a great security system. What a great name. How proud we are to invite others to come and kindle. There we remember our past and look forward to our future, as the hawks sail regardless of the name we use to name.

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper



TRINITY CHURCH

Set the button to refresh at Trinity Church, your open and affirming, open-minded, open-hearted, local source of spirituality, religion, resilient community, and belonging.

No matter who you are, who you love, or what you believe, you are welcome!

Join us to be inspired for the week ahead with music and message Sundays at 10 a.m.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2023						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 9:30 Playgroup	3 7 p.m. AA	4 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	5 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
6 10 am Service. Donna Schaper-Pastor.	7	8	9 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	10 7 p.m. AA	11 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	12 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
13 10 am Service. Thaddeus Bennett - Pastor	14	15	16 9:30 Playgroup	17 7 p.m. AA	18 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	19 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
20 10 am Service. Donna Schaper-Pastor	21	22	23 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet.	24 7 p.m. AA	25 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	26 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
27 10 am Service. Mary Miller-Pastor	28	29	30 9:30 Playgroup	31 7 p.m. AA		

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN AUGUST	
August 6	Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Peter 1:13-21; Luke 9:28-36; Psalm 99 or 99:5-9
August 13	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
August 20	Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
August 27	Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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August