

The Quest

Trinity Church

August 2025

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 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,

I am so grateful for the time last month that I was able to spend in deep reflection and spiritual retreat. The Sunday I returned, you heard about my joyful experience of meeting a porcupine in the back yard of the retreat house where I stayed. That joyful moment was just one of many oddly synchronous symbols and experiences I encountered that seemed to affirm that God is calling me on a joyful journey in this next season.

With so much going on in our world today, the overwhelm is tangible. There are so many heavy things that we are collectively holding in our families, our communities, and for our planet. Many of us feel called to do something about it, but find ourselves burning out, losing hope, or being immobilized by grief and anxiety. The thought of being joyful in a time like this might even sound delusional.

But the thing is, Joy is not just something that comes and goes with the weather and the headlines. Joy is a spiritual gift that God equips us with to weather the storms and respond to the headlines. Joy is actually a form of resistance that enables us to continue yearning for beauty when the world around us has turned ugly. Joy is evidence of God working through us. I'm convinced that God's joy working in us is the only way we can co-create any semblance of God's justice on this earth.

And so, my friends, I want to invite you on this journey

with me. My hope is that our liturgy and our fellowship will shape us over the next weeks, months, years, and (God willing) throughout our whole lives, into a joyful people equipped to seed hope, seek justice, and make peace.

With budding joy and hope,

Pastor Ben

JULY COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET DATES



Saturdays, August 9 and 23, 10:00-12:00

Wednesdays, August 13 and 27, 11:00-3:30

CREATION CARE CIRCLE

We as a congregation, have been successfully using the Compost Bin. Hooray for us!! There is now a bucket of finished compost from Lois' pile, sitting near the bin. Every once in a while, if you are the one emptying church compost, please sprinkle some of the finished soil over everything. This helps in the decomposition process, and keeps the insects to a minimum.

Isn't it amazing how garbage and garden refuse, layered with water and soil, make this beautiful soil.

Wes Rice is donating his tumbling composter to Trinity, to use in place of the current black composter. This will enable the compost to decompose quicker, as it can be turned when adding garbage, etc. Turning compost introduces air, which keeps odor and insects away. Thank you, Wes.

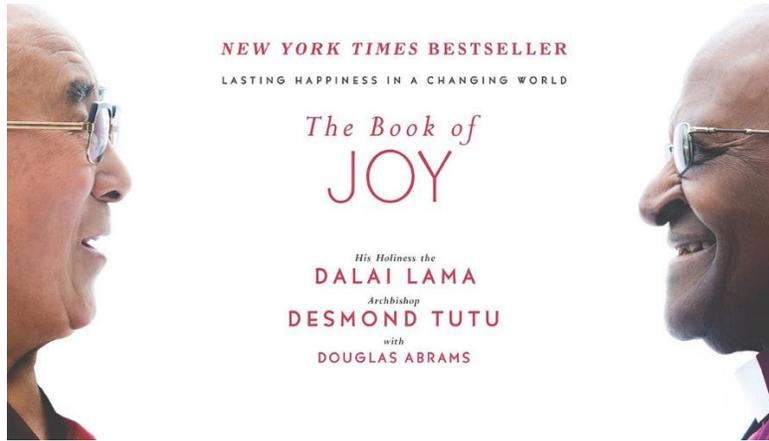
We will host a plant swap on Friday, September 26 from 2-5 pm at the Baptist Lot on the corner of Main and Water streets, at the Farmer's Market. The rain date is Friday, October 3. Bring a plant, take a plant, or come and get plants. There will be plants from the Trinity Garden to give away. Divided houseplants and perennials are all welcome!

Our next meeting is Thursday, September 4 at 6 PM. YOU are invited to meet with us.

Submitted by *Lois Bascom*, for the Circle



BOOK OF JOY



Join Us for a Joyful Journey Through "The Book of Joy"

Wednesdays at 1pm | Starting September 3rd | 12-Week Series

You are invited to a special book discussion group centered around *The Book of Joy* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In this uplifting and deeply inspiring book, two of the world's most beloved spiritual leaders share their personal stories and timeless wisdom about how to live with joy, even in the face of suffering.

Our group will meet **weekly on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM**, beginning **September 3rd**, and continue for **12 weeks**. Each session will offer space for thoughtful conversation, reflection, and fellowship as we explore what it means to cultivate lasting joy in our lives.

Whether you've read the book before or are picking it up for the first time, all are welcome!

To sign up, email Pastor Ben at: pastordurfee@gmail.com

Let's walk this joyful path together.

THE SEASONAL: GOOD NEWS FOR ALL CREATION



The Seasonal is a quarterly newsletter that is published by Pastor Ben's NEUMC Creation Care Circle group. You can read the July edition here: <https://neumc-email.brtaapp.com/viewinsite/52d274f1e66dc6a55d107f818a4d1922?>

If you'd like to subscribe to receive the newsletter to your email every quarter, use the link below. You can use this same form to sign up for any New England Conference publications. <https://neumc-reg.brtaapp.com/subscribe>

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are grateful for another wonderful summer month with July ending and are looking forward to all that August has to offer. While Pastor Ben was away for his vacation this month we were very happy to have Reverend Mick Comstock return to our Church to lead us in worship on July 13th. The following Sunday Lois Bascom, Sue Roberts and Amy Roberts Crawford lead us in an Amazing "Vacation Bible School" themed Service. The service included plenty of singing and laughing and praying throughout. Many Thanks for all the Joy you brought to Trinity Church!

Nancy Parland is busy researching the many different types of ways to tithe other than by cash or check. We are grateful for all the time she has spent trying to find the best option for Trinity Church and will inform everyone on which format is chosen.

During the extreme heat wave a few weeks ago we nearly lost the two new lovely new bushes by the front sign. Thankfully Lois and a few others on the team saved them by lugging buckets of water out to nourish them. Since our present irrigation system only covers the main garden she wondered whether we should look into extending our system to include the front plantings and she received a quote from Snow and Son's. Ginny Ray shared that there is money left in the Trinity Women's Account and that this would certainly be a worthy cause. Snow and Son's were able to complete the job last week. Thank you Trinity women and everyone else involved in making this come to fruition!

A huge thank you to Gayle Davidson for discovering a large oil spill in one of our fridges last Friday prior to the Community meal. She used her amazing cleaning skills and cleaned out the entire mess herself. She is suggesting that we think about having a "full kitchen" cleaning day where people could sign up for an hour of cleaning throughout the day. More information on this will follow.

Our Trinity Church and Community Potluck picnic will be held on the Church lawn Sunday August 24th following the service. Please look for a sign up sheet in the back of the church. We will be grilling hamburgs and hotdogs as well. Our own Dusti and Karyn Dufresne will be playing for our listening pleasure and of course dancing will be encouraged as well. We plan to put up fliers around town and go door to door to invite our closer neighbors.

The Leadership team had a very special pot luck meeting which Ben hosted at the parsonage. We enjoyed some delicious food and conversation together and then got the business at hand completed before embarking on a "Trinity Leadership Team Retreat" that was led by Pastor Ben. We Reflected on the Past year, discussing what we were grateful for in this year's ministry, where we have seen God's work in our church and what challenges we faced that taught us something. We then discussed Visioning for the year ahead, including what are our hopes and dreams, what are somethings we would let go of and what are things we should lean into more. Out of the word cloud we created, Pastor Ben fashioned a beautiful vision

statement: **This year, we sense God calling us to nurture trust and joy; to lean into small groups, meaningful and fun projects and events and our food ministries; and to boldly reach out in love as we grow and become more integrated in our community.**

Thanks be to God and Jesus who will guide us in moving forward in ministry together this year.

With Many Blessings from The Leadership Team,

Sarah Neelon, Nancy Parland, Wayne Perrea and Beth Martin.

TRINITY CHURCH COMMUNITY PICNIC

The Trinity Church and Neighborhood Potluck picnic will be held on the church lawn on August 24th, after the 10 am service at 11:30. We will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert or just bring yourself. Our own Dusti and Karyn Dufresne will be entertaining us with their beautiful voices and yes dancing will be encouraged!

Please plan to join, and bring along family and friends!

ELEVATOR UPDATE

Last month, we discovered on a Sunday morning that our elevator was not working. Unfortunately, it was not a quick fix and we have been waiting for a replacement part to arrive.

Garaventa is scheduled to come to Trinity on August 12th to make the repair. If they have a cancellation, they will try to come sooner.

We apologize for the delay and we hope to have our building fully accessible again in just a couple weeks!

STEWARDSHIP TEAM FORMING

Last fall, you may recall that we spent time traveling through a season we called "Grounded in Gratitude." It was an opportunity to learn gratitude practices and give thanks for the many gifts we've received from God through the community at Trinity Church. You heard from individuals who spoke during Gratitude moments in the service and you were invited to fill out a gratitude card at the end of the season to offer your gifts to our mutual ministry in the coming year. This was not put together just by Pastor Ben, but by a team of Trinity's members who helped to shape our Stewardship season. It is time again for the stewardship team to meet and plan for this fall's stewardship themes and programs. If you would like to help with this ministry, please reach out to Pastor Ben! The goal is to have our first meeting in mid-August. Thank you!

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2025

Sunday	3	10 am service
Monday	4	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	5	
Wednesday	6	9:30 Playgroup; Climate Chorus (7-8:30 pm)
Thursday	7	9:30 am Recovery Support; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	8	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal; 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	9	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	10	10 am service
Monday	11	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	12	
Wednesday	13	9:30 Playgroup; Climate Chorus (7-8:30 pm); 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	14	9:30 am Recovery Support; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	15	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	10 am. Service
Monday	18	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	19	
Wednesday	20	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	21	9:30 am Recovery Support; 7 pm AA
Friday	22	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	23	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	24	10 am service; 11:30 Church Picnic
Monday	25	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	26	
Wednesday	27	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	28	9:30 am Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	29	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	30	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	31	10 am service

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST 2025

August 3	Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11 ; Luke 12:13-21
August 10	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
August 17	Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
August 24	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
August 21	Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

WEST COUNTY CLIMATE CIRCLE

The West County Climate Circle will offer "A Peaceful Walk of Lament and Commitment," reflecting on the very real effects of recent executive orders, court decisions, extra-governmental actions and congressional legislation on our local community. This will be a guided walk through Shelburne Falls, stopping at places which will bear the brunt of the cuts in funding, court decisions, changes to populations served and more in order to raise awareness of the actions of our federal government which have a very real effect on our - and our neighbors' - lived lives. On our way, we will be hearing the voices of those directly affected by these actions, as well as offering opportunities for silence and meditation, and information to register opinions with elected officials and others. The Walk will take place on Wednesday, August 20th, 5:00 - 6:00 pm (rain date, Thursday, August 21st, 5:00 - 6:00 pm)

We invite the community to join us by gathering at the steps of the Arms Library on Wednesday, August 20th, 5:00 pm. For more information, please be in touch with Alison Cornish, acornish@uuma.org