

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

February 2023

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.

Regular Sunday service time

10 a.m. (Nursery care available)

Office hours

Tuesday- Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Thursday- 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

(413) 625-2341

Leadership team co-chairs:

Lois Bascom & Eileen McCusker Rauch

Church Secretary - Brook Batteau

Music Director - Keith Rollinson

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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From the Leadership Team,

We are busy keeping things going at Trinity Church in the absence of a minister. How does just one person do all of this?! It may be that a team of people will become formed/come forward to do some of the Sunday morning activities, such as open the building, turn on lights, open the office, etc. These seem small, but they add up in the morning. Something to think about in the near future.

We also are excited to be accepted in a Coaching Program called Together We Thrive through the United Church of Christ denomination. This supports us in the best possible way through this time of transition. We will be helped to begin the process of creating a Behavioral Covenant for Trinity and a conflict resolution policy. As a team, we have a vision of shared leadership, seeing our team leaders as facilitators, and involving the congregation in committees/teams and tasks as much as people would like. We strive to be transparent in all we are doing. We have a long history of Lone Wolf-type leadership and we want to change this for all time going forward. So we are moving forward into the future, being informed by the past. There is a fee for this and we have been granted a scholarship, which keeps our financial obligation reasonable. We have met with our suggested Coach and we will meet once a month for 6 or so months.

We also are in the process of having a motion detector and lighting installed inside and outside the church and parsonage buildings. SimpliSafe is the company we are using and you will be hearing more about this soon.

We continue to meet once a month and more often on an as needed basis.

We look forward to our Supply Pastors this month: Rev. Mick Comstock, Rev. Kate Stevens, and Rev. Thaddeus Bennett (who is an Episcopalian priest—and will lead us in the Common Book of Prayer service on February 26).

Lois Bascom, Karyn Dufresne, Nancy Parland, Clare Chapman, Eileen Rauch

A NOTE FROM THE SEARCH AND CALL TEAM

We have been meeting to complete what is called the Local Church Profile for Churches Seeking an Interim Pastor. We finally have it complete! It goes to our Area Conference Minister next for review, then it will be posted and we will begin to hear from candidates to be with us and to assist us in the next steps as well as worshiping and being our pastor.

In the meantime, we are excited to be having a Bridge pastor, Rev. Donna Schaper, to be with us. It has been an interesting journey and we thank you for your patience.

Walker Miles, Dusti Dufresne, Al Shippee, Beth Martin, Eileen McCusker Rauch

THANK YOU

JANUARY 2023

THANK YOU FOR THE BIRTHDAY
ROSE!

IT IS NICE TO BE REMEMBERED

THANKS BETH FOR DELIVERING
THE ROSE.

WES RICE



STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES AND YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

Apologies for the delay in getting stewardship envelopes this year. There was a glitch in the ordering with our usual company so I ordered from another company. It ended up being a substantial savings in the cost of the envelopes. However, they are numbered differently, do not have dates on them, and don't have holiday giving envelopes. You can pick them up in the sanctuary. There are extra boxes for anyone who would like one. Let me know and I will get a box ready for you.

Thanks for your patience and flexibility.

The 2022 giving statements will be mailed in early February.

Sue Mead (financial secretary)

TRINITY WOMEN

Trinity Women will meet on Sunday, Feb. 26 immediately after the 10 a.m. worship service. We'll be talking about a possible spring parking lot tag sale and Easter bake sale as well as work bees to make crafts for the November 2023 Winter Market. Bring your ideas and see you then.

**FROM THE INTERUM PASTOR, REV. DR. DONNA SCHAPER**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 22 -- and it seems like we just put the Christmas decorations away. Palm Sunday will show up just as quickly on April 2nd with Holy Week beeping from behind wanting us to hurry up and get through the season. Easter on April 9th will initiate spring, even if the weather is still cold. Some courageous daffodils will poke their way through the hard dirt, encouraging us to do the same thing.

Some secular dates are emerging on the calendar too. Yesterday was the third anniversary of the World Health's Organization telling us we had a pandemic on the horizon. I believed them and stocked in beans and rice, thinking that a pandemic would last a month or so. I still have ten cans of pintos, just in case. March 12, 2020, will be the day my husband said to me, "The world will never be the same." That was the day most of us in the Northeast "shut down." My associate and I, then at Judson Memorial Church in NYC, conducted services all alone in our sanctuary and beamed them out to the world in a digital miracle. We put a bottle of hand sanitizer and Clorox bleach on the small altar we made in the middle of the sanctuary. We still had a lightness of being stemming directly from our love in the time of cholera.

I will start with you as Bridge Pastor on March 5th and be with you till the near end of May on Sundays, as well as some other times. Our second Sunday together will be the third anniversary of the shut down. In between all of this calendaring, we will hail the ancient patterns of ashes to lilies and betrayal to a claim of life after death. I look forward to being with you in real time. It will be short, it will do some bridging towards your new leadership, and I am looking forward to it immensely.

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper

RevDSchaper@gmail.com

Pronouns: she/her/hers



THANK YOU FROM CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CROP WALK)

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Franklin County, MA CROP Hunger Walk, it's my privilege to share with you the enclosed check for \$1,150.93.

This contribution to your work represents the commitment and compassion of CROP Hunger Walk volunteers, walkers, and donors, and is presented in recognition of the outstanding work you're doing to help stop hunger and poverty in your community.

Each year some 2,000 communities across the United States reach out in partnership to poor and hungry people, here and in many countries around the world. And they take advantage of an option unique to CROP Hunger Walks - they elect to share up to 25 percent of what they raise with effective local hunger-fighting agencies such as yours. Last year more than \$4 million went to local agencies to help alleviate hunger and poverty in the United States.

The Franklin County, MA CROP Hunger Walk Committee has indicated its desire to earmark a portion of its income for your work; this check reflects that portion of the CROP Hunger Walk income to date. If additional funds are received from the CROP Hunger Walk, a check to your agency will be forthcoming.

Thank you and God bless you for all you are doing in your community to help those in need.
Yours in Partnership,



Rick Santos, President and CEO Church World Service

THANK YOU FROM ST. PAULY TEXTILE, INC.

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year:

32,928 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2022. This was enough to clothe an estimated 6,066 people all over the world. Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$1,317.10

Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,

The Team at
St. Pauly Textile, Inc.



CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:30 Playgroup	2 7 p.m. AA	3 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	4 10:30 Ukulele
5 10 am Service. Mick Comstock-prchr.	6	7 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	8 9:30 Playgroup 11 - 4 Clothes Closet.	9 7 p.m. AA	10 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	11 10:30 Ukulele
12 10 am Service. Mick Comstock-prchr.	13	14 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	15 9:30 Playgroup	16 7 p.m. AA	17 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	18 10:30 Ukulele
19 10 am Service. Kate Stevens-prchr.	20	21 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	22 9:30 Playgroup 11 - 4 Clothes Closet.	23 7 p.m. AA	24 5:30 pm Community Meal. 10:30 Movement.	25 10:30 Ukulele
26 10 am Service. TBD-prchr.	27	28 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group				

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20; Psalm 112:1-9, (10)
February 12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37; Psalm 119:1-8
February 19	Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
February 26	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 32