

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



2024

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 - Rev. Kate Stevens
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

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.

Contents

From The Leadership Team	2
From the Music Director	3
Being and Believing (B&B)	4
The Refugia Group	4
Calendar for February 2024	5
Lectionary for Sundays in February	5
Thank you Lisa!	6
Word Search Puzzle	7

From the Pastor

"When she was good, she was very, very good. And when she was bad . . ."

Hi dear friends,

I was all set to preach on Sunday the 28th and I was going to preach on Jesus' "calling out" a demon from a man with an unclean spirit. It is the first healing story we hear in the book of Mark.

I couldn't come on Jan. 28 because I have, and still have, a terrible cold and cough.

At some point working on the sermon, I jokingly thought of my cough as a demon. I was possessed by a demon myself! It was just a personal joke and I thought I'd probably mention it when I preached.

But the demon seemed to totally take over my body and I realized it had a lot of power. The Hebrew people 2 thousand years ago took demons very seriously. They were real and had to be dealt with.

"Demons" today tend to appear to us mostly in the movies.

But I have learned a few things about the power of in-lodged demons and getting rid of them. One lesson is you can't fight them with their own weapons. They are vicious. Their bark is as bad as their bite. You cannot wrestle them out. They need to be coaxed out, gently. I learned to sit still and sit upright. I learned to move slowly and keep my head above my chest. I learned to keep quiet even when I wanted to say something. I learned that if I got riled or frustrated, the demon was delighted and went wild. . . and won that round.

I needed to go back to my corner and re-center. I had to slow down - walk more slowly, do tasks more slowly. I needed to sit in silence, quietly appreciating small, shallow breaths. I needed to treat the demon with total respect. (love your enemy? turn the other cheek?)

Did Jesus "call out" my demon? No, but I am learning to "call it in", to befriend it slowly and ask to be released. This, I realized, is deep spiritual work.

I hope to see you soon, without that particular demon.

Blessings to all, Kate

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team sends you all Very Happy New Year Wishes! We pray this will be a most Amazing year for our Beloved Trinity Church in all ways possible!

We wish to thank Lisa Mroczek once again for her hard work keeping Trinity Church in tip top, beautiful shape as well as for staying on another week to train Pat Valeski. We welcome Pat with open arms and send Lisa off with all our Love and best wishes, and many blessings.

The Christmas season has passed yet we have fond memories of all the beautiful celebrations that happened here at Trinity Church! We wish to thank our neighbors in the parsonage, Grant and son Griffin Haffner for their work in taking down all the greens in the church. Thanks also to Lisa Mroczek and Pat Valeski for putting the Crèche figures back in storage for next Advent. Of note, baby Jesus, missing since Jan. 5, has not been returned to us yet. We remain hopeful that He will be found and given back to us, without consequence.

We are happy to announce that we have added Janice Waldron-Hansen to our Leadership Team, effective immediately.

We are also pleased to report that research has been completed regarding the high cost of our Comcast bills for both the parsonage and the church. Our plan with Comcast has therefore been revised with significant savings. This will be a welcome decrease in church costs for the future.

The Team is beginning to work on plans for our **Annual Meeting set for March 10th**. This includes forming a Budget. One new line item which may have to be voted on is a new Buderus boiler for the narthex as Kevin Purington, the electrician who fixed our present unit, has reported that the unit is not going to last much longer.

The **Search and Call Team** received information from a second person responding to our profile. When they contacted this candidate to set up an initial interview, however, the candidate reported that they were pursuing another offer. They thanked us for our consideration as well as offered prayers for us moving forward. We are now awaiting word of further candidates from the UCC and may possibly look to place our profile ad on other sites as well. We welcome any suggestions in this regard.

Looking ahead to **Lent**, a new event to look forward to joining was dreamed up by Reverend Kate. There will be a Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras supper celebrated on Friday Feb. 9th at the Community Meal. Also, we are pleased to announce that the infamous Palm Sunday Brunch will be returning. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the back of the church. More information on these and other Lenten events will follow.

With Blessings,

Beth Martin, Janice Waldron-Hansen, Clare Chapman, Nancy Parland, Eileen McCusker Rauch
(Your Trinity Church Leadership Team)

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Trinity Church facility is now in its 141st year. Did you know this is also the age of its now historic Hook & Hastings organ? Remarkably, this instrument has survived all these years without restoration; due to environmental factors, an organ in a city such as Boston requires restoration every 25-40 years. So we can be thankful for the pristine local environment, and continuous maintenance of the organ for its lasting as long as it has without major work. However, this period of grace is nearing an end, and the organ will soon require its own extensive restoration, with some serious financial considerations associated with such a project.

To this end, I would ask you to please come to **coffee hour after the service on February 4**. I will briefly speak to what the possibilities are for addressing the organ's needs, and provide more information as to what a restoration would entail. This would be a significant undertaking for the church, and the Leadership Team would very much like to hear your thoughts and concerns surrounding a potential restoration. If you're unable to attend this coffee hour, please feel free to grab me or one of the LT members to discuss; this is a major project that will only launch with the strong support of the Trinity community. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you on the 4th!



Keith Rollinson, Music Director

BEING AND BELIEVING (B&B)

Kate Stevens is leading a group called "Being and Believing" on a bi-monthly basis for the next few months. The group meets Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The next get together is Thursday, on February 8.

Each week we take on one aspect of our own theologies – for example, 'God', or 'Grace', or 'what happens when you die?' or 'What do you worship' or whatever topics we want to talk about. Each week we will suggest an idea for the following week.

We take time each Thursday to hear several short readings on the topics and then take some time to write or just sit in silence to respond ourselves. Then we use the rest of the time for sharing with one another.

It is a way to help each other articulate our own theologies, which will all be different. Please bring paper and pencil if writing helps your thinking process. We take 10 or 15 minutes in silence to think and write. There are no wrong answers only right answers for each of us.

All are invited, whether members or attenders of Trinity or not.

Please share this information with others.

Call Kate with questions. (413) 695 - 4367

THE REFUGIA GROUP

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

This past fall, Trinity Church was selected to participate in a Small Church Group program of the BTS Center for Spiritual Leadership* in Portland, ME. Several members of our congregation (Barbara Beall, Clare Chapman, and Robin Cole) began representing our church in that year long program that we refer to as Refugia.

There are only 5 New England churches involved, coming from New Hampshire, Maine and our own Trinity Church as the only one from Massachusetts. The program consists of two monthly zoom sessions focused on readings and other assignments, as well as three in-person retreat days in Maine ending in May 2024.

The primary goal of this program is to maximize the gifts and opportunities of small faith communities by deepening resilience, meaningful ministry, and congregational connections in these times of cultural and societal transition and upheaval. In the near future we hope to share more of this experience with you all in a variety of ways. So, please keep an eye out for that!

Blessings, *The Refugia Group*

*With roots dating back to 1814, The BTS Center is a private foundation in Portland, Maine, building on the legacy of the former Bangor Theological Seminary. Inspired by the vision of human hearts renewed, justice established, and creation restored, they are focusing much of their programmatic attention on equipping faith leaders — ordained and non-ordained, clergy and laypersons, leaders of traditional religious communities and other communities of practice — with the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and practices that are needed for effective and faithful ministry in this moment marked by the dual urgencies of a changing religious landscape and a global climate crisis.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7 pm AA	2 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	3
4 10 am Service. Coffee Hour organ discussion.	5	6	7 9:30 Playgroup	8 10 am Being and Believing. 7 pm AA	9 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal (Fat Tuesday Supper)	10
11 10 am Service.	12	13	14 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	15 7 pm AA. 6 pm LT Meeting	16 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	17
18 10 am Service.	19 5 pm Palestine meeting.	20	21 9:30 Playgroup	22 10 am Being and Believing. 7 pm AA	23 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	24
25 10 am Service.	26 6:30 Climate Emergency Panel	27	28 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet.	29 7 pm AA		

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY	
February 4	Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39; Psalm 147:1-12, 21c
February 11	2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9; Psalm 50:1-6
February 18	Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15; Psalm 25:1-9
February 25	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38; Psalm 22:22-30

THANK YOU LISA!



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



CHURCH

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

- ALTAR
- BALCONY
- BELIEF
- BELL
- BENCH
- BIBLE
- BOOKS
- BULLETIN
- CANDLES
- CHOIR
- COMMUNITY
- CONGREGATION
- DOORS
- FAITH
- FLOWERS
- FOYER
- GOSPEL
- GUESTS
- MINISTER
- PEACE
- PEW
- PIANO
- PRAYER
- TRAY
- WORSHIP

S N I T E L L U B C E R H O W
 X W O B F E I L E B I C E C E
 M R A N Z P E W E O O T C A L
 O R E Y A R P C H N G A A N B
 T S L T W I A C G I U G D D I
 R G E G S E P R B S E F O L B
 A B P I P I E E K B S O O E P
 Y E S H T G N O V A T Y R S I
 I L O N A C O I T L S E S M H
 T L G T H B X V M C X R Y K S
 Y T I N U M M O C O A L T A R
 D O S R E W O L F N H O R B O
 N F A I T H E R B Y I B A D W

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
 Find and circle each word.

