

# THE QUEST

## Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

February 2025

### 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 & Eileen McCusker Rauch  
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,

You'll see an article in this issue of the quest about a small group opportunity for Lent called Turning Over Tables. I am hoping that as many of you as possible will sign up to participate. The time and date will be determined by consensus of those who sign up and I am open to leading more than one group if we have a lot of interest.

I believe that small groups are an important part of our spiritual renewal as individuals and as a church. Small groups are an essential part of our Methodist roots. John Wesley used to organize small groups, facilitated by a leader, where members followed common spiritual practices and held themselves accountable for how they were attending to all the means of grace. Wesley knew that discipleship couldn't happen only during one hour of Sunday worship each week. Small groups helped people to integrate their faith into their everyday lives.

That's my hope for us. How can we take what we do on Sunday mornings and integrate it more into the way we live our lives? What is the practical application of all the stuff we do on Sundays? I'm convinced that when we support each other in our discipleship, we will continue to see and feel a spiritual renewal here in Shelburne Falls. I'm praying that, through these small groups, we will be transformed by God's grace, that we'll grow in our relationship with God and each other, and that we will continue to become a means of grace for our neighbors as we share God's love in this community.

With Grace, *Pastor Ben*

## COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET DATES

### February Community Clothes Closet dates

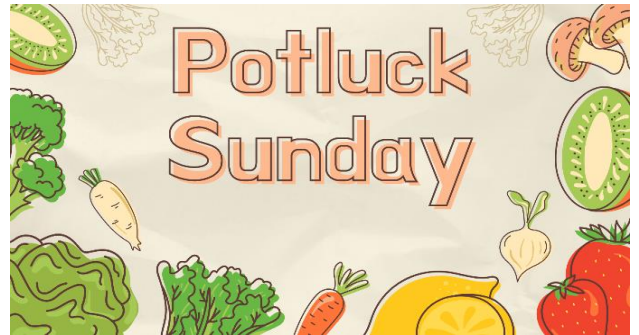
Saturdays (10:00-12:00): February 8th and 22nd.

Wednesdays (11:00-3:30): February 12th and 26th.

## SOUPER SUNDAY POTLUCK! FEBRUARY 16

Bring soup or a soup accompaniment (bread, cheese & crackers, salad, etc) or a dessert. There will be a basket to collect a free will offering to support the West County food pantry.

Or just come and enjoy soup!



## HELP FOR SYRIANS

Jackie Walsh of Bridge Street and five other sponsors are happy to announce that they have raised \$20,000 towards helping Mohammad and Khaled Rimah, their wives and six children, come to Shelburne Falls through Welcome Corps. Their goal is \$30,000: the \$25,000 that Welcome Corps requires and \$5,000 more towards cars.

**"We have been blown away by everyone's generosity," Jackie said.**

Some Trinity congregants met the Rimehs' mother, Safaa, and other relatives at the church late last year. Meanwhile, this past week, the president has frozen all resettlement agency work for four months, and the group, called Shelburne Falls Welcome Committee, expects all Welcome Corps applications to be paused. But they are continuing to work to get the Rimehs here. The families are in Jordan now, where they can't work and face discrimination. Returning to Syria isn't an option. There are no jobs or shelter. And the brothers fear being killed there.

Besides continuing to take donations for the effort, the committee has decided to also help immigrants who are already here. For example, the Rimehs have 32 relatives living in Hampden County who need help with resumes, finding jobs, getting drivers licenses and furnishing apartments. There are also Haitians in Greenfield who need help.

The sponsors include Jackie, Lynn Benander, Lynne Pledger, Cindy Snow, Maya Winfey and Janice Waldron-Hansen.

Please contact Jackie at [shelburnejackieb@gmail](mailto:shelburnejackieb@gmail.com) or 413 625 9413 if you want to donate or help.

Thank you so much!

## FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

January has certainly been a very chilly month. We hope everyone managed to stay warm throughout the days and nights! On that note, we are happy to inform you that the Narthex heat issue has been resolved after two visits by George Propane. The Buderus Boiler is now fully operational. We are grateful for Pat and Brook's assistance with this endeavor as well.

Trinity Church hosted the Friday night Community Meal on January 17th. We offered a menu of roast pork, oven roasted potatoes, garlic bread, tossed salad and cookies. Once again the food was well received and a great time was had by all who helped and all who attended the meal. The next meal we are hosting is on March 21st. Please let us know if you are able to assist with any aspect of the meal.

We are sending a shout of Thanks out to Eileen, Sue Mead and Sue's granddaughter for boxing up the Narthex decorations as well as to Ginny Ray and Frank for taking down the greens! All the decorations are put away for another year.

Our Fellowship Hall Warming and Cooling Center is being supplied with things for visitors to use. Crayons, colored pencils, blank paper, adult coloring books, jigsaw puzzles, decks of cards, board games, etc. Also a thick, warm blanket. These items are being stored in the corner closet, close to the kitchen. A selection of tea and coffee items with a hot pot are also being left for use on the side table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you Pastor Ben, Eileen, Sarah, Brook and Pat for organizing this! Information about other things to consider has been gathered by member Tom Williams who is chair of the Town of Shelburne Emergency Team. We will continue to coordinate with Tom about future plans.

We are very pleased to report that we have had two new groups utilize our Beautiful church for their meetings. The Shelburne Falls Business Community meeting and The Cultivating Resilience meeting were held with us. The Resilience group plans to utilize our church moving forward for their remaining monthly meetings.

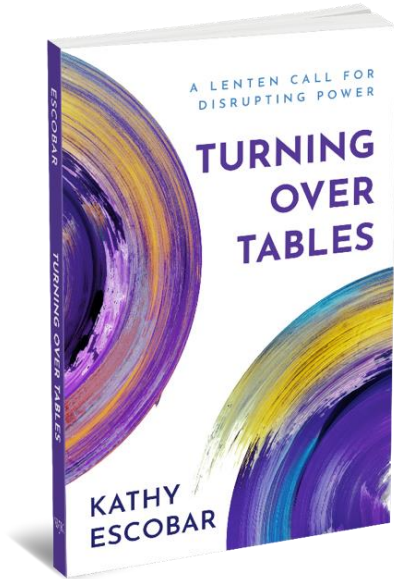
We have planned to hold a Fellowship **Souper Sunday** Potluck (See the ad above) following the service on February 16th for discussions and questions in regards to the Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend and bring an item to share. The formal Annual Meeting is on the calendar for February 23d.

Eileen McCusker Rauch's time with the Leadership team is coming to an end. She will be greatly missed for sure! We are extremely grateful for her immeasurable contributions to the team, all of which have tremendously benefited every aspect of our Beloved Trinity Church! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts Eileen! We are especially happy to know that Eileen will remain as a Co-Treasurer with Clare Chapman!

Let us now give a huge welcome to Wayne Perrea who has agreed to be a new member of the Leadership team. Thank you Wayne!

With Many Blessings from The Leadership Team,  
*Wayne Perrea, Nancy Parland, Sarah Neelon, Beth Martin and Eileen McCusker-Rauch.*

## TURNING OVER TABLES LENTEN STUDY GROUP



With keen insight and unwavering conviction in her book *Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power*, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. From flipping the moneychangers' tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, Jesus' actions and words turn the world's idea of power on its head. With each week of Lent, readers will dig deeper into Jesus' challenge to the pervasive influence of privilege and oppression that have dominated since ancient times.

This year, Trinity Church will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation navigating how, together, we can turn the tables and build a world where justice, healing, and equity reigns supreme.

**The group will meet for 90 minutes, once-a-week, beginning the first week in March. Meeting day/time will be determined by consensus of the group and a ZOOM option will be made available.** Suggested donation is \$17 to help cover the cost of the book, but financial assistance is available. The book features daily readings, which can be used as a personal Lenten devotion, but participation in the small group is highly recommended.

**Please sign up by February 21st using this form:**

<https://forms.gle/WDrBWgv2oxjo5hi27>

**and Pastor Ben will be in touch.**

For more information, view the publisher's website:

<https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664268315/turning-over-tables.aspx>

or email Pastor Ben [pastordurfee@gmail.com](mailto:pastordurfee@gmail.com).

## ANNUAL MEETING

Trinity Church's annual meeting will take place  
Sunday, February 23, 2025 after service.

Please attend to create a forum and discuss and learn about church affairs.

## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Saturday	1	
<b>Sunday</b>	2	10 am service
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	12:30 pm Recover Project
Wednesday	5	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	6	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	7	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday		10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
<b>Sunday</b>	9	10 am service
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	12:30 pm Recover Project
Wednesday	12	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	13	7 pm AA
Friday	14	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday		
<b>Sunday</b>	16	10 am service; Souper Sunday Potluck (after service)
Monday	17	
Tuesday	18	12:30 pm Recover Project
Wednesday	19	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	20	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA;
Friday	21	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	22	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	23	10 am service; Annual Meeting (after service)
Monday	24	
Tuesday	25	12:30 pm Recover Project; 7 pm Creation Café
Wednesday	26	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	27	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	28	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	10 am. Service
Monday	31	



**Save the Date!**  
**VIRTUAL CREATION CARE CAFE**  
February 25, 2025 | 7-8pm

*The Quest*  
*Feb 2025*

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join Pastor Ben and others from around the New England UMC Conference at our first Virtual Creation Care Cafe on February 25, 2025 from 7-8pm. This informal gathering on ZOOM is an invitation to connect with peers and find hope in our shared vision of a renewed Earth. Learn about how others throughout New England are caring for creation and bring your own questions and ideas to share. If you are interested in registering for this event, please email Pastor Ben ([pastordurfee@gmail.com](mailto:pastordurfee@gmail.com)) and he will send you the registration link when it becomes available.

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY 2025	
February 2	Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40; Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7-10
February 9	Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11; Psalm 138
February 16	Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26; Psalm 1
February 23	Genesis 45:3-11, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38; Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42