

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

January 2022

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:
Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
(413) 625-2341

Pastor - Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
Music Director - Keith Rollinson
Church Secretary - Brook Batteau
Nursery Attendant - Lisa Porter
Sexton - Greg Sudak
Leadership Team Chair- Virginia Ray

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

Adopt a family	2
Community Clothes Closet	2
From the Leadership Team	3
New Member Service!	3
Red Kettle Campaign Thanks	3
Epiphany Sunday January 2	4
Lectionary in January	4
Calendar	5
Christmas Decorations in the Sanctuary	5
Christmas Crossword Puzzle	7

From the Pastor

Dear Faithful Friends,

I am writing this letter to you a few days before Christmas. As I write this, knowing that you will receive it after that special day I am thinking about the Apostle Paul. We know Paul primarily through his letters, or epistles. He wrote to teach and inspire and encourage the new Christians who at that time were often called People of the Way. His letters did not get to travel at cyber speed or even postal service speed. My guess is that they were carried by hand, passed from one traveler to another, and arrived "after the fact." And still, at his best, they were indeed spirited and encouraging.

So here I am, in the last days of Advent, writing to you. Today I do not know now how our candlelight service will go – who will come and who will not. I do not know how our towns will be faring in the pandemic by the time you get this. I imagine that many of your will be at least a bit, if not a lot, weary, as winter, never mind Christmastide, takes a lot out of us. And I hope that the Light that shone on Jesus as an infant and throughout his life, death, and resurrection, is shining in your hearts. No matter what.

Paul was, if nothing else, faithful. He was not certain. He was not overly optimistic. He who had "seen the Lord" in a vision but not in person, was heavy on trust and faith. As we walk through Christmastide now and into the season of Epiphany, we too get to practice faithfulness which to me is all about staying with what and who (the good, the bad, the ugly and the magnificent) is in front of us and knowing deep in our heart that God is out and about in our world and is guiding us, holding us, and loving us. On January 23rd we will be holding our Annual Meeting, to look back at 2021 and onward to 2022.

As of this writing I do not know if we will be able to meet in person or on Zoom. I am greatly encouraged that we will be having a new members service on Sunday January 9th. It is a very good thing that our church body is growing and changing, as that is what we are asked to do as People of the Way.

Paul, in his letters always began with an introduction of who he was and a call to those to whom he was writing. So let me begin again.

Dear faithful friends, I Marguerite, a servant of Jesus the Christ, called to be your pastor, set apart for the gospel of God, and sent to the church of God that is in Shelburne Falls, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, grace to you and peace and strength in this new year. I give thanks to God always for you, not because of who you are, and not because of what you have done or not done but because of this precious grace of God, given to us all, today and every day.

May the New Year call you forward to be gentle of heart and faithful to the Way of Peace.

Marguerite

Marguerite may be reached at 413-687-1418 or 413-489-303

Adopt a Family



Once again Trinity Church has been very generous in our giving to those in need. We were able to send \$936.50 to Adopt-A -Family of Franklin County to help area families with their holiday needs.

Thank you so much for your compassion and generosity.

Sue Mead

COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET

We are looking for a volunteer to help customers in the Community Clothes Closet once or twice a month on Wednesdays for two and a half hours. If you are interested in this opportunity to help our community please contact me or Marguerite for more information.

Thank you,

Sue Mead (625-9070)



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We don't have too much for the newsletter today but we will be in touch soon again via U.S. Mail and email to talk about our budget for the coming year.

Please plan to join us after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Jan. 23 for our annual meeting. If things change and we need to meet otherwise, we'll let you know.

Wishing you the blessings of happiness and health in the New Year,
Ginny, Juanita, Beth, Eileen, Clare, Nancy, Dusti

NEW MEMBER SERVICE!



Please join us for worship on Sunday January 9th when we will welcome four new members into our church! Julie Bailey and her father Roger Parland, Sheila Clinton, and Karyn Dufresne. All of these men and women have been attending our good church for a while and now call this place home! January 9th is the service when we remember Jesus' baptism. What a wonderful way to acknowledge each of our spiritual journeys and how we are all beloved.

RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN THANKS

Thank you to all who helped this year with the Red kettle Campaign for Salvation Army. All the gifts collected go to meet local West County needs.



Here's Julie Bailey at good work

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 2



We will celebrate the Epiphany on Sunday January 2. Here is one of the Wise Ones!

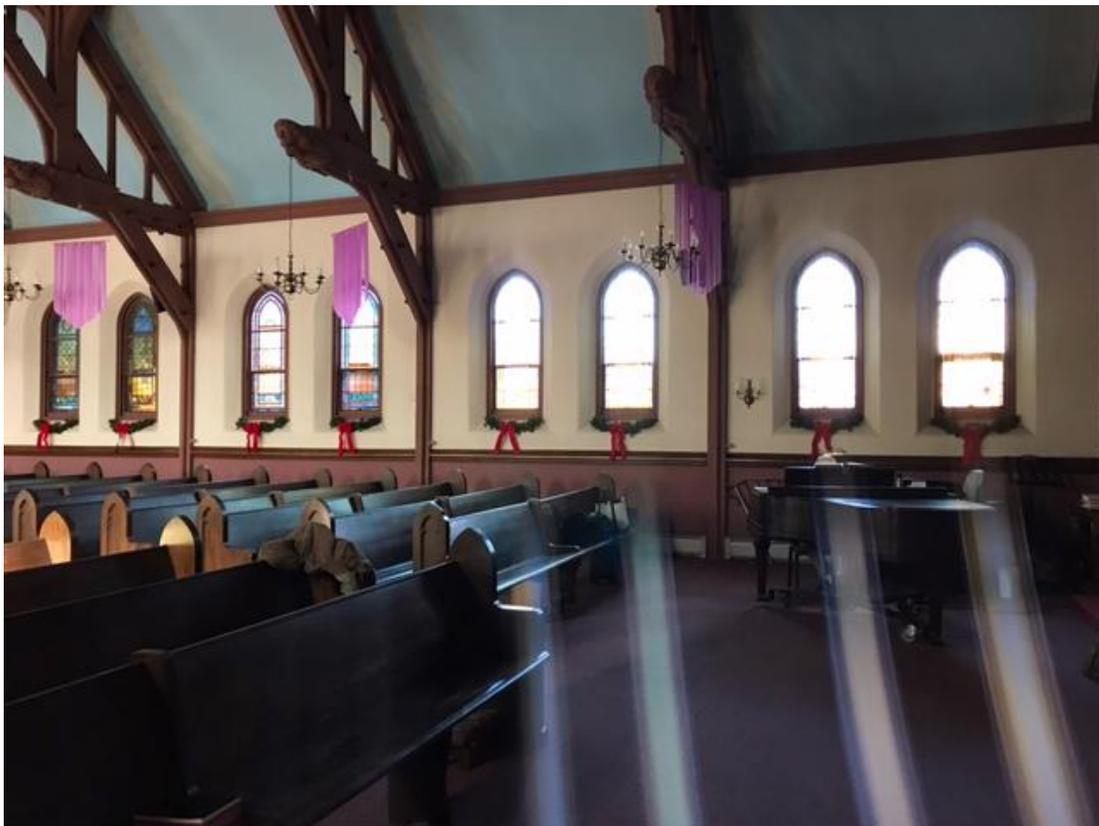
The season of Epiphany goes on for many weeks. Thank goodness, as we certainly need all the "aha!" that we can get in our world.

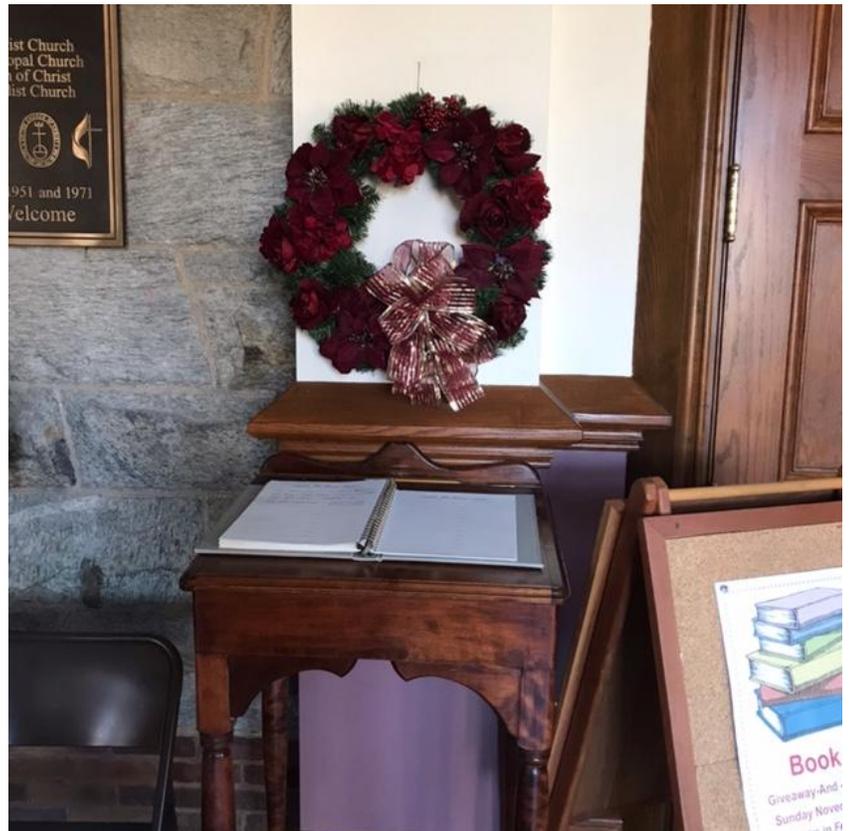
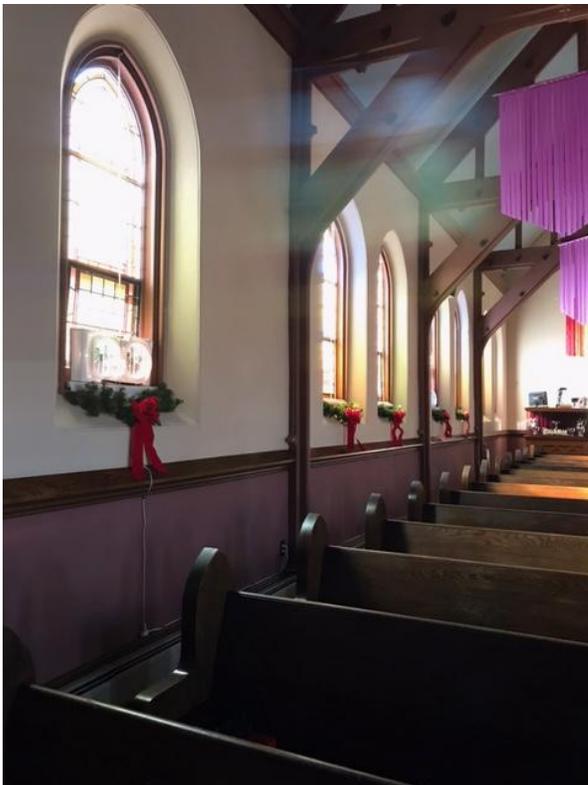
Join us to bring the Wise Ones out to the crèche. Thank you to Sandy for the photograph.

LECTIONARY IN JANUARY	
January 2	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14
January 9	Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; Psalm 29
January 16	Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10
January 23	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21; Psalm 19
January 30	Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30; Psalm 71:1-6

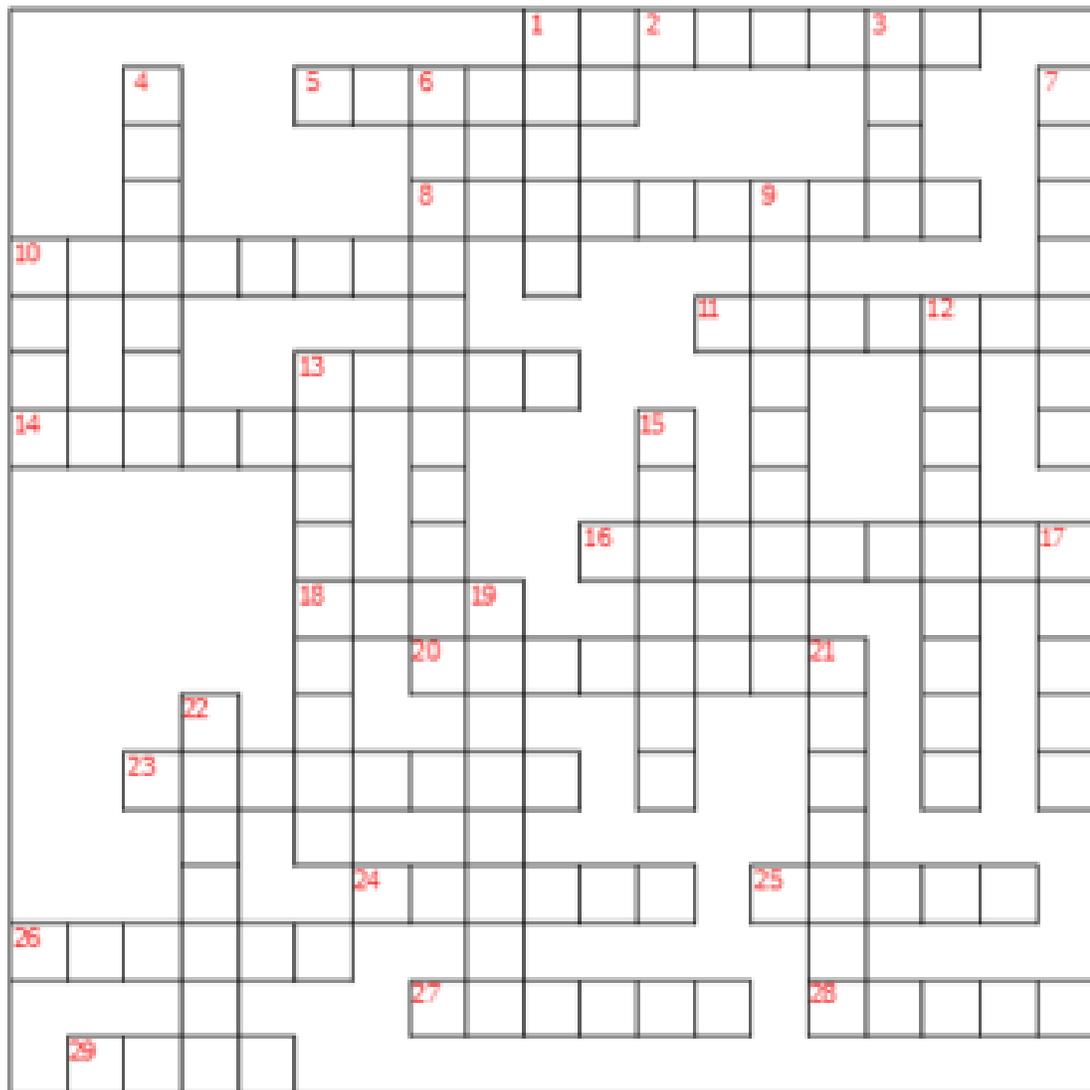
CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10 am Service	3	4 10 am Tai Chi.	5 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	6	7 5:30 pm Community Meal.	8
9 10 am Service. New member service.	10	11 10 am Tai Chi.	12 11 - 5 Clothes Closet. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	13	14 5:30 pm Community Meal.	15
16 10 am Service	17	18 10 am Tai Chi.	19 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	20	21 5:30 pm Community Meal.	22
23 10 am Service. Annual Meeting.	24	25 10 am Tai Chi.	26 11 - 5 Clothes Closet. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	27	28 5:30 pm Community Meal.	29
30 10 am Service						

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN THE SANCTUARY





CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 2 Famous snowman
- 5 Traditional dairy drink
- 8 An opener or a famous ballet
- 10 Hung over the fireplace
- 11 Carrot-nosed figure
- 13 Christmas song
- 14 Circular decoration
- 16 Dance of the _____ Fairy
- 18 Tree topper
- 20 Christmas month
- 23 Tree decoration
- 24 Santa's ride
- 25 Santa's helpers
- 26 _____ Bells
- 27 Green Christmas thief
- 28 Plant with red berries
- 29 The First Christmas. "The First _____"

Down

- 1 _____ Pole
- 3 Green Christmas decoration
- 4 Mean or miserly person
- 6 Treat used to build miniature houses
- 7 How Santa gets in
- 9 Striped sweet
- 10 Frozen rain
- 12 Christmas "kissing" plant
- 13 Gift giving holiday
- 15 Little _____ Boy
- 17 _____ Christmas; A season's greening
- 19 Rudolph and friends
- 21 Lead reindeer
- 22 Kris _____