

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

January
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- 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 Pastor

Hi friends,

I'm in Naples, Italy with my twin goddaughters and their parents. We've had just one full day but here are a few things that I've learned:

Italy, of course, is a Catholic country - 80% of population we were told - but in the largest of all their churches, (over 450 in Naples) in the middle of the historical center of the city and in the center of the altar, is featured a very large relief sculpture of the assumption of Mary, (the elevation of Mary's body to heavenly glory) . Perhaps you remember my saying that Mary was worshipped in the Catholic Church and largely ignored in the Protestant church? That's what I have been seeing.

Also nativity scenes are everywhere here. Some of them are of the birth scene, often in a partially torn down temple signifying the beginning of the end of the Roman Empire. But many of them are nativity scenes of a restaurant or a family. People bring them home as works of art, which they are. All the figures are hand made and they are beautiful.

I shall be back the 8th of January after a few more days here and then about a week in Rome. I wish you all and the world a healthy and peaceful new year.

Blessings, *Kate*



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Season's Greetings from the Leadership Team. We hope your Christmas was a Joyous one. The month of December was a very busy one for our church; the Animals, Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds made their way out to the Creche with the help from some of our youth and some of our older congregational members on Dec. 3d. During each Sunday of Advent the services included the lighting of the Advent Candles on the Advent wreath. The candles were lit each week by members of the congregation as follows: Sue Mead and Wes Rice, the Hope candle; Sandy Gaffey and Nicole Porter, the Peace Candle; Janice Hansen and Kyle Porter, the Joy Candle and Jesse Cole-Glod, Rob Johnson, Robin Shapiro and children Darby and Grayson, the Love candle. As the candles were lit each week they read a specific piece from Kate and then they each added a few words about what the symbols meant to them personally. Thanks to all of you! The last Sunday of Advent fell on Christmas Eve this year. Added to the beauty of our greens were lovely white and red poinsettias purchased by family members in honor or memory of loved ones. Thank you Ginny Ray for organizing this special blessing. We were also blessed with marvelous music at both the Christmas eve morning and Christmas Eve candlelight services by our own Trinity Church Choir, led by Keith Rollinson, as well as breathtaking solos by Nancy Parland. Thank you to all of them as well as further thanks to Nancy for organizing the Christmas Caroling event held on Dec. 23d at the Baptist lot. This was certainly a joyous event. All who attended were warmed by the singing as well as by a fire pit that Steve Howland kept filled with logs. Special thanks goes out to Tom Miner of the Foxtown Dinner, for donating the delicious Hot Chocolate. Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

Another Christmas Blessing for our church happened the weekend of Christmas. The Haffner family; Grant, Cassandra and their children Griffin and Phoenix, who lost their home and all of their possessions in a fire earlier in the month; gratefully accepted our offer of moving into the parsonage until they can find a forever home. They happily moved in last weekend, with generous donations from many in our community, especially the BSE community, where the children attend school. They are settling in comfortably. Someone even donated a Christmas tree and all the trimmings. Gayle Davison and others have also been dropping by with food donations. The family is extremely grateful and will look forward to meeting our church family to be sure.

We are very glad to report that Trinity's Stewardship figures have already surpassed last year's numbers. The final amount will be included in the Annual Report handed out at this year's annual meeting scheduled for March 10, 2024.

This month, the director of the Senior Center, Julie Moreno, toured our church as well as the parsonage. She Loved our spaces and hopes to start by planning a few small ongoing events here. She will report back to us after attending the Senior Center Board meeting.

Many of you may have noticed the new Beautiful banner that is hanging in the hallway above the stairway to Fellowship Hall. This Give Peace a Chance banner was lovingly made and

donated to us by Gayle Davidson and her dear friend the late Faith Kindness. Sadly, Faith passed away last month and a beautiful service and reception was held for her at Trinity.

You can all look forward to receiving a new and updated Church Directory in 2024. Many thanks to Robin Shapiro for working on this project. The new directory will include names, addresses, e-mails as well as birthdays and anniversaries.

Our church service for Dec 31st will be lead by Lois Bascom and Dr. Barbara Beal. They plan to include a *Burning Bowl/Letting Go* ceremony in place of a sermon. Thank you both.

The Leadership team continues to participate in once a month zoom *Together We Thrive* sessions with the Rev. Judith Cooke. This month we had wonderful discussions with a focus on how we as a church can move forward.

Finally, this month we were sad to receive resignations from our team members Lois Bascom and Karyn Dufresne. We are extremely grateful to both of you for your deep devotion to Trinity church and this team.

With Prayers for a New Year filled with Joy and New Beginnings for our beloved Trinity Church!

Clare Chapman, Eileen McCusker Rauch, Nancy Parland and Beth Martin
(Trinity Church Leadership Team)

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 January 11.

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

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

We were able to provide gifts and food cards to two Franklin County families in need this Christmas. Two single moms and 7 children were the recipients of our generosity and love.

Thank you for your support for this community outreach program. *Sue Mead*

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 9:30 Playgroup	4 7 pm AA	5 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	6
7 10 am Service	8	9	10 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	11 10 am Being and Believing. 7 pm AA	12 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	13
14 10 am Service.	15	16	17 9:30 Playgroup	18 7 pm AA	19 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	20
21 10 am Service.	22	23	24 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet.	25 10 am Being and Believing. 7 pm AA	26 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	27
28 10 am Service..	29	30	31 9:30 Playgroup			

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

January 7	Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11; Psalm 29
January 14	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20); 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 ; John 1:43-51; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17
January 21	Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20; Psalm 62:6-14
January 28	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 111

