

# The Quest

## Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

January 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*

It was so wonderful to see so many of you at our Christmas Eve Service this past week. And it is always remarkable to me to see how many people it takes to make a service like this happens: from the Trinity Women who greened the church so beautifully, to the Trinity men who built the Creche, to the readers, choir members, videographers, and ushers. To the unseen tasks of ordering poinsettias and buying advent candles, hanging the banners and altar clothes, and printing the bulletins, to finding a new baby Jesus doll, swaddling him, and filling the creche with hay. It takes a whole lot of people to be the Church and I think sometimes we take for granted all the gifts we share, seen and unseen. But Christmas Eve was a spectacular reminder of this, and it truly wouldn't be the same with any one piece missing, so thank you for sharing your gifts.

As we enter this new year and as we may think about our New Year's Resolutions, I wonder how we might renew our offerings in service to our common mission as the Church. Sometimes that means taking on new roles and expanding what we're doing. Sometimes that means letting go of roles we've held for a long time or mentoring newer folks as they begin to find their place. There are many ways to serve at Trinity, but the goal is to find ways to contribute that feel uniquely matched to your gifts; ways to connect that help you to grow and to come alive. As Howard Thurman wrote, "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." May this year be a

year where this church comes alive, renewed by the light which came into the world at Christmas, and sent out to share God's love.

Happy New Year!

*Pastor Ben*

### ONE HOME ONE FUTURE

#### YOU ARE INVITED

Under the umbrella of the **One Home One Future** movement, we have reduced the use of plastic in our coffee hour. There are other avenues of using safe environmental practices for Trinity to be explored.

A team is forming and currently consists of Lois Bascom, Eileen Rauch, Beth Martin and Pastor Ben. Will you join us in this adventure? We will meet in January, at a time and day convenient to us, to create a name for this team. The idea of using environmentally safe cleaning products is an issue we can explore, among others.

For the team,  
Lois Bascom

### COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET

January Community Clothes Closet dates:  
Wednesdays, the 8th and 22nd (11:00-3:30)  
Saturdays, the 11th and 25th (10:00-12:00)

### STEWARDSHIP NOTICE

2024 stewardship giving statements  
will be mailed at the end of January.

If you need that information before then,  
contact Julie Bailey or Sue Mead.

## FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joy to The World! We hope all of your Christmas Celebrations have been Blessed and filled with many special memories! We at Trinity Church certainly had a wonderful Month. Thanks to Nancy Parland for leading a Carol Sing on the Baptist lot on December 14th. The music was amazing and all were kept warm with the fire pit manned by Steve. On December 21st Ben lead a very moving Blue Christmas service for those who carry pain or loss during this season of Celebration. Parishioners who wished were able to light candles to recognize a loss or a burden. On Christmas Eve 80 plus people enjoyed a Beautiful Candlelight service with lessons and carols and the Bringing out the Christ Child to the Creche. Thank you to Keith Rollinson and The Trinity Choir for their amazing music that night and during the Sunday services. We are especially grateful to Pastor Ben for making our Sunday services and these special services leading up to Christmas and now Epiphany truly reminiscent!

The Leadership team has been working on developing a fragrance-free policy along with Pastor Ben. We have placed this new policy in our Sunday Bulletin for a few Sundays and plan to have the policy listed on the Trinity Website, in The Quest and in The Two Town News. Thanks to Lois Bascom who is helping with the formation of a new creation care team that will focus on making Trinity more environmentally friendly, starting with our cleaning products. The Leadership team has agreed to Pastor Ben's suggestion to now use Gluten free bread for our Communion Services, as well his idea to switch out our guest book to one that includes e-mails and phone numbers for better follow-up. Gratefully he will also be designing new pew cards as we do not have any more of our old ones.

Tom Williams joined as a guest for our last meeting. Tom is a member of Trinity and is the Emergency Management Director for Shelburne. Ben spoke about getting a request from The Mary Lyon Foundation as well as the Opioid Task force asking whether Trinity Church might consider joining Arms Library and The Senior Center in becoming a Warming Center. Tom reported that there have been discussions regarding the possibility of using Cowell Gym, who have already been working on structural changes, as a Warming and Cooling Shelter with Trinity providing meals. A generator would need to be purchased at each site. Tom stated he has had a lot of training in these areas and can answer further questions and help us to move this idea forward. More information on this will follow as progress transpires.

Thanks goes out to Pat Valeski for replacing our shades as well as to him and Brook for helping to fix the heat in the Narthex and the outside sidewalk. Trinity Church has opened its doors to a new group. Recover Project is now using our space on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. We are also happy to report that Lifepath's Health Eating/Cooking class will be returning to our kitchen sometime soon. We have also purchased a new smart TV system to help these event managers and others with presentations. Trinity will be hosting The Community Meal on January 17th. Please feel free to contact any member of the team if you would like to assist on this fun night.

With Blessings from The Leadership Team,

Nancy Parland, Sarah Neelon, Beth Martin and Eileen McCusker Rauch.

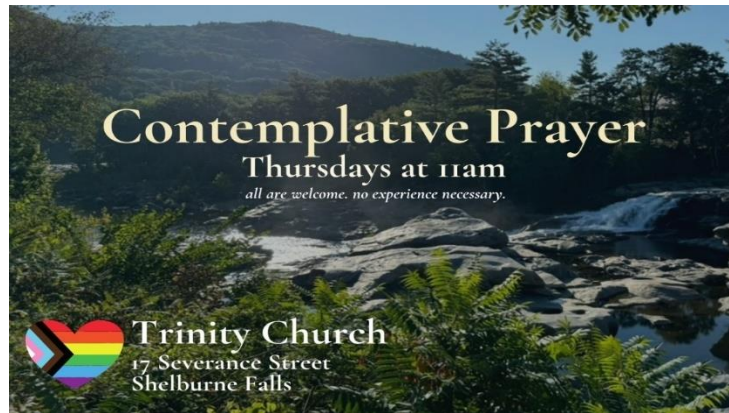
## CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2025

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

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Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls MA

January 2025



| LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY 2025 |   |
|--|---|
| January 5                              | Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a; Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 or Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 84 or 84:1-8 |
| January 12                             | Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; Psalm 29  |
| January 19                             | Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10  |
| January 26                             | Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21; Psalm 19  |