

THE QUEST

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

June 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 & Wayne Perrea

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,

A couple of weeks ago, I attended the Cultivating Resilience meeting led by Tricia Yacavone-Biagi here at Trinity Church. At this meeting, we watched a video and discussed the Japanese concept of *ibasho*. Our discussion resonated deeply with me, and I believe that this concept holds a powerful lesson for our life together as a church and as members of our wider community. *Ibasho* loosely translates to “a place where one feels at home,” or better yet, “a place where one feels they truly belong.”

In Japanese culture, *ibasho* refers not just to a physical location, but to a space—often emotional or spiritual—where you can simply be yourself, without fear, without pretense, without performance. It’s the kind of place where you’re not only accepted, but beloved. Doesn’t that sound like what church is meant to be?

One of the things that really struck me in the video was how these communities are intergenerational. In our western culture, age is often dismissed. But the church is unique in that we are knit together into the body of Christ across generations. Our elders are living testimonies of God’s love, while our younger generations bring their questions, energy, and longing. It made me wonder: how could we become even more intentional about honoring our elders, not just with words, but with time and attention? And how can we create more spaces where generations can learn from each other – not just through programs, but through relationships?

It brought my mind to our Friday night meal on the 16th. Beth's grandchildren were there to help, along with a few of us middle-somethings, and a few seniors: it was truly intergenerational! It was beautiful to see us all work together and build relationships along the way. It was adorable to see the young ones be so eager to help, and I'm sure they looked up to their grandmother and the other elders present as they guided them through the preparation and serving.

I think that Jesus modeled this beautifully. He honored the wisdom of tradition while making space for people of all ages to find their place in God's story. He didn't just teach along the way; he created Ibasho wherever he went. And so can we.

With hope,

Pastor Ben

JUNE COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET DATES



Wednesdays, the 11th and 25th from 11:00-3:30.

Saturdays, the 14th and 28th from 10:00-12:00.

OFFICE CLOSED FIRST WEEK IN JUNE

The office will be closed for vacation the first week in June

SPRING SING JUNE 26 @ 7



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

May has certainly moved forward at a much quieter pace than April's exciting Lenten Journey, Holy Week and Easter Celebrations. We remain very grateful for all of our worship and fellowship times together as a faithful congregation with Pastor Ben. Speaking to one unexpected moment of excitement this month however, the issue of the accidental "burning of the altar" has been rectified. The Candelabra's will now be placed forward in the center sides of the High Altar. You may have also noticed that the beautiful second altar table has been moved to the back of the church for better visualization of the High Altar and now for a wonderful space to display programs and other items of interest. Thanks to Wes Rice for suggesting this change.

Thanks to our custodian Pat Valeski for staining the remaining pews in the sanctuary. They look great. At the May 25 service the pews were not yet dry, so congregants used the first six dry pews. Check out the video of the service to see us all joyfully together.

Wayne Perrea and Pastor Ben met with Shelburne Falls Fire Chief Herb Guyette for a church walk through in order to find out necessary changes needed to allow us to remain open safely 24/7 once again. More information on this endeavor will follow.

We look forward to finding the best possible ways to allow Trinity Church members to donate electronically if they may choose this option. Members are researching these options as well as possible ways to inform the congregation about Legacy Giving.

Trinity sponsored another Friday night Community Meal on May 16th. We decided to break away from the pork meal cooked for the last several meals and instead opted for batches of "forgotten chicken and rice" and Sarah Neelon's Tempeh cabbage and rice. These appeared to be well received by the crowd that joined to eat and commune together! Our next meal to host will be July 18th.

Pastor Ben is planning to have a new members service on July 8th, Pentocost Sunday. We are very excited to welcome several new members to our Beloved Trinity Family!

With Many Blessing from The Leadership Team.

Nancy Parland, Wayne Perrea, Beth Martin and Sarah Neelon.

TRINITY CREATION CARE CIRCLE

Jumping for joy, it's June! We are more able to be outside!

We met to expand on our church's caring for our planet and all creatures and plants.

Last year we did away with Styrofoam and paper cups and reinstituted using washable mugs for our "coffee" hours.

Also, a swapping out of cleaning products to have all "fragrance free" has been completed!

Thank you for supporting our efforts to make Trinity a fragrance-free place.

This past Sunday many congregants brought a cup of soil from our own yards to commingle as part of our worship service and remind us of our connectedness to the Earth and to each other. Other topics we discussed include these possibilities:

- Elimination of one time use plastic containers
- Scavenger hunt to get to know the congregation beyond walls
- Fall plant swap
- Universal EV (electric car) chargers
- Composting bin
- Adding a page on the church website for this circle of caring
- Etc.– do you have ideas and/or want to join us?

We have some John Denver lyrics of inspiration:

"Let the mountains talk; let the river run,

There is wisdom here, there's so much to learn,

There is much to know, much to understand."

So far we are Lois, Pastor Ben, Beth, Clare, and Eileen.

Our next meeting will be Thursday June 12 at 6:30pm in the garden, and you are invited!

RECOVERY RESOURCES AT TRINITY CHURCH

Thursday Night AA

The Shelburne Falls Big Book Study Group of AA meets every Thursday evening from 7:00-8:00pm at Trinity Church. This is an open meeting. Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

Friday All Recovery Meeting and Drop-In Recovery Coach Support

All Recovery Meetings are non-denominational and are open to all pathways to recovery. Meeting format is focused on peer support and invites participants to reflect on and share what they are doing for their recovery. Recovery Coaches offer 1:1 support to people in substance use recovery to build their recovery capital. The Drop-in Recovery Coach Support is held at Trinity Church on Friday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm followed by a hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) All Recovery Meeting at 7:30-8:30pm. All Recovery Meetings and Coaches are coordinated by The Recover Project of Greenfield.

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2025

| | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| Sunday | 1 | 10 am service |
| Monday | 2 | |
| Tuesday | 3 | |
| Wednesday | 4 | 9:30 Playgroup |
| Thursday | 5 | 9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA |
| Friday | 6 | 10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal, 6:30 pm Recover Project |
| Saturday | 7 | |
| Sunday | 8 | 10 am service – Pentecost and new member Sunday; Climate Chorus |
| Monday | 9 | |
| Tuesday | 10 | |
| Wednesday | 11 | 9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet |
| Thursday | 12 | 9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 6:30 pm Creation Care Circle Meeting (in the garden): 7 pm AA |
| Friday | 13 | 10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal. |
| Saturday | 14 | 10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet |
| Sunday | 15 | 10 am service; Fathers Day |
| Monday | 16 | |
| Tuesday | 17 | |
| Wednesday | 18 | 9:30 Playgroup |
| Thursday | 19 | 9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, Juneteenth (office Closed) 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA |
| Friday | 20 | 10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project |
| Saturday | 21 | |
| Sunday | 22 | 10 am. Service; Climate Chorus |
| Monday | 23 | |
| Tuesday | 24 | |
| Wednesday | 25 | 9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet |
| Thursday | 26 | 9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA; Rescheduled Spring Sing |
| Friday | 27 | 10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project |
| Saturday | 28 | 10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet |
| Sunday | 29 | 10 am service |
| Monday | 30 | |

Office
Closed

BLESSING OF THE SOIL



TIGHT IN THE PEWS (FROM SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025)



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

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



| LECTIONARY FOR JUNE 2025 | |
|--------------------------|---|
| June 1 | Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17:20-26; Psalm 97 |
| June 8 | Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, (25-27); Psalm 104:25-35, 37 |
| June 15 | Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15; Psalm 8 or Canticle 13 (or Canticle 2) |
| June 22 | 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a; Psalm 42 and 43' Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39 |
| June 29 | 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1,13-25; Luke 9:51-62 |

The Quest *June 2025*