

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

March 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.

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From the Pastor

Dear Faithful Friends,

I am writing this letter in the last days of February. Today we have had sun and snow squalls, wind and the most beautiful rose tinted clouds at the end of the day. I am looking forward to my first taste of maple syrup and in a few weeks (hurrah!) the first day of spring. But today it feels like what it is – the last days of winter, in all its glory and tedium. We have had our share of ice for sure.

I am also looking forward to our church season of Lent. When I was a child, I gave up something I loved – often it was chocolate or Fritos! I knew Lent had to do with penitence and letting go of “stuff” so I could get closer to God. Now I think about this season of Lent (named after the Latin word for spring, or in the Greek Orthodox tradition “the season of bright sadness”) in a different way. I think of these forty days (plus the little Easters of Sundays) as a time to reflect, as our new Lenten devotional Grace Unbounded says, on the unstoppable love of God.

“No limits, no restrictions, no boundaries – not even death – can stop Christ’s love and grace for all people.”

In this time when the pandemic has isolated many of us and politics which has such potential for bringing us together instead often separates us, everything we can do to reorient ourselves from limits on love to “all loves excelling” is a worthy endeavor.

This Lent will you join me and the rest of our congregation in praying that the Spirit will empower us to love God and one another as God has loved us – with grace unbounded? Starting on Ash Wednesday on March 2 at 7 p.m. and sailing into the month of April we have an opportunity to unbind ourselves

from what is holding us back and giving ourselves over to unbounded compassion.

I hope and pray that this month we will have more opportunities to gather in fellowship after our Sunday worship. I hope and pray that even in the fickle month of March we will step out of the church without worrying about falling on ice. I hope and pray that as we light the Lenten candles each Sunday we will help bring more peace into the world.

On the first Sunday of Lent we light a whole raft of candles signifying Christ' presence in the world. Each week following that first Sunday we will light one less candle until on Palm Sunday and then into Maundy Thursday and Good Friday the light darkens in recognition Jesus' suffering and death. And then on Easter Sunday (April 17) we will light all the candles in wonder and relief that Christ is risen! In the person of Jesus, in the light of love in the world, and in our community of faith.

So here we go – into Lent and into spring and into all that awaits us. Are you ready?

In Faith and Hope, *Marguerite*

Marguerite may be reached at 413-687-1418 or 413-489-3031

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 2 @ 7 P.M.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday March 2 at 7 p.m. for a contemplative Ash Wednesday service, with music, prayers, silence, and the distribution of ashes from last year's palms. We will consider how we are creatures in a created world and have a particular joy and responsibility to care for creation as God so cares for and loves us all. You may ask for the ashes to be placed on your forehead or the back of your hand as we pray "ashes to ashes and dust to dust, we are God's beloved children in a flawed and seriously beautiful world."



DEAR CHURCH BUILDING

This month we are starting a new column in The Quest. We are calling it "Dear Church Building." If you have a wonder about some aspect of our physical building, ask Marguerite and she and anyone who wants to help will try to answer your question! Lois Bascom asked why we have an eagle on the world as part of our lectern (where we read from the Bible.) Here is what Wikipedia has to say about it!

An eagle lectern is a lectern in the shape of an eagle on whose outstretched wings the Bible rests. They are most common in Anglican (and Episcopal) churches and cathedrals. The symbolism of the eagle derived from the belief that the bird was capable of staring into the sun and that Christians similarly were able to gaze unflinchingly at the revelation of the divine word. Alternatively, the eagle was believed to be the bird that flew highest in the sky and was therefore closest to heaven and symbolized the carrying of the word of God to the four corners of the world.

The eagle is the symbol used to depict John the Apostle, whose writing is said to witness the light and divinity of Christ most clearly. In art, John, as the presumed author of the Gospel, is often depicted with an eagle, which symbolizes the height to which he rose in the first chapter of his gospel. Traditionally each of the four gospels represents a different aspect of Jesus: the Messiah, the servant, the man, and God; believed to be illustrated in Revelation 4:7. John’s gospel, as the one most occupied with Jesus’s divinity, is represented by the eagle and is as it is believed to be directly addressed to the church, has a special significance in Christian art. The eagle also came to represent the inspiration of the gospels.

Thank you Lois for your question!



CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	2 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday	3	4 5:30 pm Community Meal.	5
6 10 am Service.	7	8 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	9 11 - 5 Clothes Closet.	10	11 5:30 pm Community Meal.	12
13 10 am Service. Kate Stevens, guest preacher.	14	15 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	16	17	18 5:30 pm Community Meal.	19
20 10 am Service.	21	22 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group.	23 11 - 5 Clothes Closet.	24	25 5:30 pm Community Meal.	26
27 10 am Service.	28	29 10 am Tai Chi. 11 a.m. Listening to the Gospel Group	30	31		

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LECTIONARY IN MARCH	
March 6	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
March 13	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35; Psalm 27
March 20	Exodus 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
March 27	Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 32

