

THE QUEST

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

March 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

Dear Trinity,

As I'm writing this, I'm excited to know that close to a dozen people have already signed up to participate in our small group book study this Lent. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time! One group will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 1-2:30pm and the other group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm. Both groups will be reading and discussing Kathy Escobar's book, *Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power*. If you'd like to sign up, the link can be found later in the newsletter or you can email me. A Zoom option is available for those who need to join remotely and we can cover the cost of your book!

I hope that as many of you as possible will take part in this small group series. There is something really special about being able to journey together during a season of the church. It helps us to build relationships with each other, to grow spiritually, and to better understand who we are as a church. To help us all stay connected, I will also be preaching a sermon series based on the themes of the book. Each week will be connected to scripture and the themes we are reading about: Reveal, Lament, Repent, Disrupt, Cultivate, and Embody. To that end, if you can't join one of the groups, but would still use the book as a daily devotional, please let me know and I will order the book for you!

The season of Lent can often get a bad rap; some see it as a morose time in the church year that's overly concerned with sin and penance. And while taking time to

acknowledge our sin is certainly an important part of this season, I don't think it needs to be seen in such a gloomy light. To me, the season of Lent is an invitation to the transformative power and love of Christ. It's an opportunity for us to reconnect with each other and with God and let go of all those things we've been clinging to in harmful ways. While at times it can feel uncomfortable and challenging, this season can lead us on a path to liberate ourselves and others in a way that make Easter become more than just a day, but a way of life. I pray that this season will be filled with many blessings for you as we journey together toward Easter.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Ben*

MARCH COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET DATES



Saturdays, March 8 and 22 (10:00-12:00)
Wednesdays, March 12 and 26 (11:00-3:30)

MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM



Membership in a church is a very personal decision and is meaningful to different people in different ways. Respecting this diversity, Trinity Church encourages membership but does not require it for participating in the life of the church. All church ministries, events, and our communion table remain open to everyone. **If you would like to become a member of this church**, either by profession of faith or by transferring from another

church or denomination, please reach out to Pastor Ben at pastordurfee@gmail.com. A new member orientation class will be offered for those exploring membership.

Are you interested in being baptized or having your child baptized? Please reach out to Pastor Ben for more information! If you've been baptized in another Christian denomination, it is not necessary for you to be baptized again. We accept and believe in one baptism by water and the Spirit.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

First and foremost we would like to extend our gratitude to all who played a part in orchestrating our Annual Meeting. The meeting was a huge success! Thanks to Pastor Ben and Ellen McCusker Rauch for compiling the Budget, Co-Moderators Nancy Parland and Ginny Ray for leading the meeting, and to all those who completed Annual reports and or participated in the meeting with discussions and voting. We thank our secretary, Brook Batteau for creating the Annual Report Booklet from the various materials and reports. The "Souper Sunday" Potluck was also a great addition to the event. Thanks to all for the delicious food and companionship. We were happy to have Rev. Megan Stowe the United Methodist District Superintendent participate in our meeting as well, and of course to our Pastor Ben for all his faithful input. Finally we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Sherry Clark for her many years of dedicated service as Trinity Church's Clerk. Your contributions throughout all the years have been immeasurable and your work will be missed for sure.

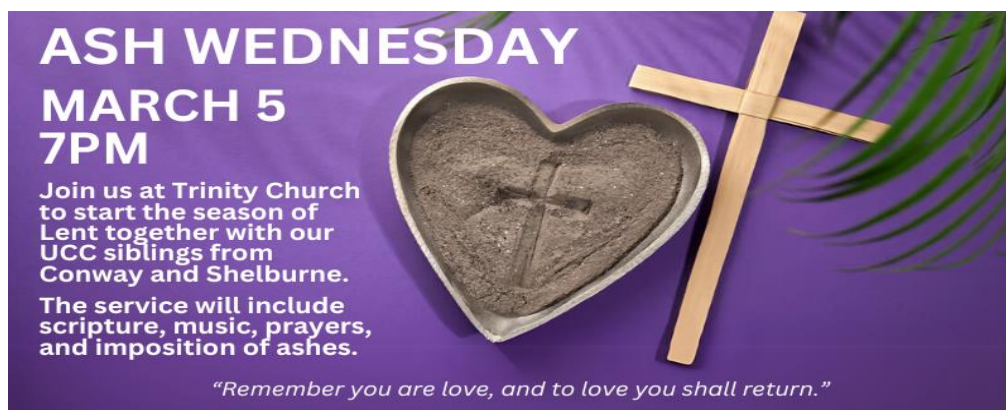
We are all anxiously awaiting the coming season of Lent and Easter. Trinity Church, The First Congregational Church of Shelburne and The United Congregational Church of Conway plan to join together for the Ash Wednesday service and the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service. Pastor Ben will give the Sermon here at Trinity for an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm and Rev. Marianne MacCullagh of the First Congregational Church of Conway will give the sermon at the Easter Sunrise service at Apex Orchards in Shelburne.

Do we dare to talk about Spring and warmer weather and the opening of our beautiful garden....Yes indeed. Our faithful lead gardener, Lois Bascom, has let us know that she will not be able to commit to her usual two plus hours for garden work this year. We certainly understand and are immensely grateful for all her hard work with the garden team over many years and happy that she will remain as one of the gardeners. We therefore are informing everyone that we have voted to hire someone for two hours during the gardening season to fill this void.

With Many Blessings from The Leadership Team,

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5



TRINITY CREATION CARE CIRCLE

Trinity's newly formed Creation Care Circle met for the first time on February 5th to begin working on our vision to provide a culture of accessibility to all in the church building and on the grounds and caring for every aspect of creation. At our first meeting we took an audit of our cleaning supplies at the church and decided to replace many of them with environmentally safe and fragrance-free alternatives. Some of our alternative products are:



- Simple Green Crystal for the floors
- Barkeeper's Friend Powder instead of bleach products
- Plain Mineral Oil instead of Old English for the pews and woodwork
- Maxim, an EPA approved disinfectant for washing food prep surfaces and table tops
- Fragrance-free Castile Soap to replace the hand soap in the bathrooms

We are continuing to educate ourselves on the use of chemicals in our building and safe alternatives. It has been enlightening and we invite you to explore any and all of these alternatives for your own use at home!

Our next project is to sponsor a Creation Care Walk around Shelburne Falls on April 27th after worship. Stay tuned for more details! Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 16th at 11:30am. Please consider joining us in this important work to care for each other and the earth!

RECOVERY RESOURCES AT TRINITY CHURCH

Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support

Do you have questions about Substance Use Disorder? Connect with a Recovery Coach from the Center for Human Development every Thursday at Trinity Church, from 9:30-10:30am. Our coach will be available to talk about SUD, how to access recovery support and treatment, and community resources. Any questions, please contact Autumn Mercier, North Region Recovery Coach Supervisor at 413-262-0193.

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.

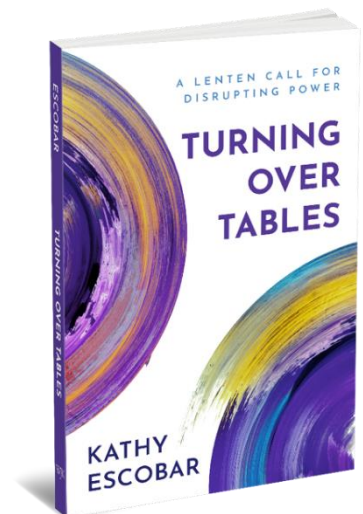
TURNING OVER TABLES LENTEN STUDY GROUP

Trinity Church invites you to join a conversation navigating how, together, we can turn the tables and build a world where justice, healing, and equity reigns supreme. With each week of Lent, readers will dig deeper into Jesus' challenge to the pervasive influence of privilege and oppression that have dominated since ancient times, guided by Kathy Escobar's book: *Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power*.

Two groups will meet for 90 minutes, once-a-week, beginning March 12th (Daily reading begins March 5th). Both groups will meet on Wednesdays; one from 1-2:30pm and the other from 6:30-8pm. A Zoom option is available to those who need it. Participation is not restricted to only Trinity Church members: All are welcome!

Please sign up using this form:

<https://forms.gle/WDrBWgv2oxjo5hi27> and Pastor Ben will be in touch. For more information, please contact Pastor Ben: pastordurfee@gmail.com



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP



CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2025

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	10 am service
Monday	3	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	4	
Wednesday	5	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet; 7 pm Ash Wednesday
Thursday	6	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	7	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal. 12:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday		10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	9	Daylight Savings Time ENDS; 10 am service
Monday	10	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	11	12:30 pm Recover Project
Wednesday	12	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet, 1 pm and 6:30 pm Lenten Study Group
Thursday	13	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	14	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal. 12:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday		
Sunday	16	10 am service; 11:30 Creation Care Circle
Monday	17	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	18	12:30 pm Recover Project
Wednesday	19	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet 1 pm and 6:30 pm Lenten Study Group
Thursday	20	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	21	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	22	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	23	10 am service; Annual Meeting (after service)
Monday	24	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	25	12:30 pm Recover Project; 7 pm Creation Café

Wednesday	26	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet 1 pm and 6:30 pm Lenten Study Group
Thursday	27	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	28	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal. 12:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	10 am. Service
Monday	31	9:30 Playgroup



Is there anything we can do?

A gathering for West County neighbors who are
concerned about the future of the country and our planet

Come and bring a friend or neighbor to learn and share about

Your own concerns

The importance of community

The value of small group organizing

Sign up for a Non-Violence/Affinity Group Training

MARCH 9th, 1-3pm

Trinity Church Social Hall

Severance Street, Shelburne Falls, MA

We look forward to seeing you!

Hosted by the West County Climate Circle

For more information, email: westcoclimatecircle@gmail.com



The Quest

March 2025

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN MARCH 2025	
March 2	Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]; Psalm 99
March 9	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
March 16	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35; Psalm 27
March 23	Exodus 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
March 30	Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 32