

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

MARCH
2026

About Trinity Church

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,

Since the day of my initial interview, you've been teasing me with a potential capital campaign. I've journeyed alongside the feasibility team as we've visioned and reenvisioned this project. We've had conversations with you all, sought bids on the various parts of the project, and met faithfully throughout the year as we tried to provide you with as much information and insight we could so that we'd all feel comfortable taking the right next step in our ministry together. I can't tell you how difficult it has been to try to reign myself in over the past year and a half so that my excitement about the direction we were moving would not come off as premature.

This past Sunday, at our March 1st Annual Meeting, after fruitful debate and questions, you all voted *unanimously* to move forward with our capital campaign to restore our historic organ, install an industrial generator that will allow us to serve as an emergency shelter, and to build a permanent technology booth in our sanctuary and upgrade our equipment to allow us to live-stream our services! No more reigning in the excitement. No more tiptoeing around it or guessing what comes next. God has led us to a decision, and we are moving forward together!

During our meeting, one of our church matriarchs, Lois Bascom, described for us a vision that she had while praying about this campaign. She envisioned us, as Trinity Church, standing at the edge of cliff, unsure what to do. We made the faithful decision to jump together and, instead of falling, we grew wings from our arms and began to soar. "We are hang-gliders of faith," she assured us.

Sunday's decision was partly based on strong data from our feasibility study, the recommendation from our professional consultant, Jennifer Williams, and the work of the feasibility team. But more than that, as Lois beautifully described, I believe our decision was based on faith. Faith that our love for our church and neighbors is strong enough to weather the headlines and economic uncertainty. Faith in each other that we can accomplish big things when we work together. And faith that God began this work long before we ever imagined it.

I pray that the joy we've been cultivating together this past year bursts through the launch of this campaign and reaches far into our community. And through it all, may Trinity continue to serve as a beacon of God's love and courageous hope for the world that God so loves.

Congratulations!

Pastor Ben

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you all our Trinity friends for the beautiful birthday roses you gave Walker and me for our birthday. They certainly have brightened up our days and brought warm thoughts of all. A special thank you goes to Beth Martin for making sure we were remembered and for getting these beautiful roses and for presenting them.

Sincerely, Betty and Walker Miles



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Trinity Church hosted an amazing workshop on February 22nd, Putting Your House In Order. The workshop was lead by the Rev. David Abbott, Director of Stewardship and Leadership Development for the United Methodist Foundation of New England. Our Fellowship Hall was filled to the brim with many members of Trinity as well as many community folks and was fueled by delicious soups made by Nancy Parland. Thank you very much Nancy! If you were unable to attend, but are interested in the wonderful materials presented, please contact us.

We are grateful to our team member Wayne Perrea for volunteering to complete the Serve Safe Food Program and exam. This will allow Trinity to host our monthly Community Friday Night Meal and give the regular dedicated meal team a much-needed Friday night off!

Nancy Parland brought to our attention that we should, in compliance with mandated regulations, have a window in our children's room. Brook and Pat are in the process of ordering one which Pat will install upon delivery. Thanks to all!

During our February Leadership Team meeting we voted unanimously on the Warrant for our 2026 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 1st. 2026's Warrant included all the

important/familiar Articles voted on at each of our Annual Meetings however also included an Article to proceed immediately with the proposed \$250,000 Capital Campaign. Fast forward....The Annual Meeting held on March 1st was a HUGE success! We enjoyed a delicious Pot Luck meal together followed by a wonderful meeting complete with thoughtful discussions on each article and culminating with unanimous votes on each and every article presented! Thank you to our moderators Nancy Parland and Ginny Ray and to Pastor Ben and to all of you faithful Trinity members! We are also grateful to have had Megan Stowe, United Methodist District Superintendent and our Capital Campaign Consultant Jennifer Williams assisting!

The Leadership team is extremely grateful to Nancy Parland for her years of dedicated service! We are very happy to know that she will continue to serve Trinity as the very important communications liaison with Pastor Ben! We are now welcoming Clare Chapman back to the team with wide open and loving arms!

Trinity Church is anxiously looking forward to a Blessed Holy Week events: Palm Sunday service and brunch, Maundy Thursday Dinner, Good Friday open sanctuary for prayers and Easter Sunrise and services. More information will be following in the services and bulletins.

Finally, we are forever indebted to Co- Chairs Ginny Ray and Nancy Parland, Pastor Ben and the Feasibility Team for forging the way forward to moving our Capital Campaign to fruition! Now with God's Grace and with Love and Prayers we shall move forward together to a successful Capital Campaign!

With Blessings and Love,

Sarah Neelon, Wayne Perrea, Nancy Parland, Clare Chapman and Beth Martin

CLOTHES CLOSET MARCH DATES

Wednesdays, 11th and 25th, 11:00-3:30

Saturdays, 14th and 28th, 10:00-12:00

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
Set clocks one hour ahead

CONFLUENCE: 2026 EARTH DAY RENEWAL



Confluence
2026 Earth Day Renewal

Awakening, Healing, Restoring, Collaborating
Saturday, April 18, 2026, 9:00 am

Beginning at **Brattleboro UMC**
and moving to
The Retreat Farm, Route 30, Brattleboro, Vermont

Being developed by:
New England UM Conference Creation Care
The Beloved Community: Brattleboro UMC and First Baptist Church Brattleboro
Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

Contact Grace Pugh Hubbard, Climate Care Coordinator Ghubbard@neumc.org
or Rev. Ralph Howe howerwiii@gmail.com for more information.

MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM

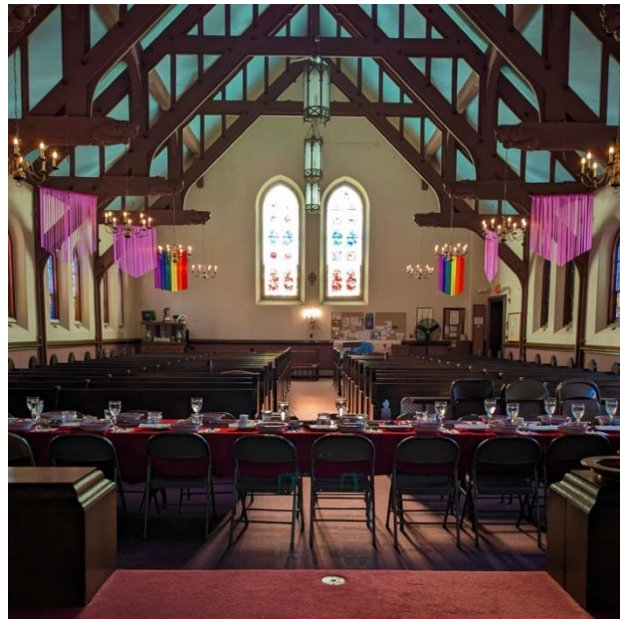


Membership in a church is a very personal decision and is meaningful to different people in different ways. Respecting this diversity, Trinity Church encourages membership but does not require it for participating in the life of the church. All church ministries, events, and our communion table remain 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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER CHURCH

April 2nd at 5:30pm



The Maundy Thursday Dinner Church is a moving, experiential worship service, lasting about an hour, where participants will commemorate the Last Supper through prayer, song, scripture, and communion, all while sharing a meal together. Dinner will include vegan lentil soup, pita and hummus. Let's create this experience together. Those who wish to help prepare the meal and set up can come at 4pm. The service begins at 5:30pm. Following the service, those who are able will clean up together in silence. Please RSVP if you plan to join us for this service so we have an estimate of how many places to set. RSVP: trinitychrch@gmail.com

EARTH DAY CREATION WALK

The Trinity Creation Care Circle invites you on a Creation Walk to Celebrate Earth Day at noon on Sunday, April 19. This 45-minute walk will begin and end at Trinity Church, 17 Severance St, and meander around Shelburne Falls, stopping along the way to offer a reflective prayer at important landmarks like the Deerfield River, Salmon Falls and the Potholes, Bridge of Flowers, and Baptist Lot. Gloves and garbage bags will be available for those who would like to help pick up trash along the way. For more information, please contact Pastor Ben at pastordurfee@gmail.com



Next Creation Care Circle Meeting: March 11th at 1pm.

All are welcome to join us to help plan our upcoming projects and continue the work on our Land Acknowledgement for Trinity Church.

HOLY WEEK AT TRINITY

Palm Sunday

at 10am on March 29

Followed by Palm Sunday Brunch

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church

at 5:30pm on April 2

(Please RSVP: trinitychrch@gmail.com)

Good Friday and Holy Saturday

The church will remain open
for self-guided prayer and reflection on April 3 & 4

Easter Sunrise Service

at 6am on April 5 at Apex Orchards

Easter Sunday Service

at 10am on April 5 at Trinity Church

HELP FOR AFRICAN SINGLE MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN

Help would be wonderful in delivering food to two African single moms and their children living in Springfield.

Jackie Walsh is starting to deliver the food each week on either Monday or Wednesday and could use the company and an occasional substitute. The food is picked up at the Easthampton Food Pantry (which has Halal meat for them) and then brought to the families. Adje is from Central African Republic and has 4 children. Aisha is from Algeria and has seven, including triplets who are 1. ***Thank you!***

For more information contact Jackie at 413 522 3094 (cell)
or shelburnejackieb@gmail.com

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2026

Sunday	1	10 am. Service
Monday	2	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	5	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	6	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	10 am service
Monday	9	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	9:30 Playgroup; 11 am - 3:30 pm Clothes Closet; Climate Chorus (7-8:30 pm)
Thursday	12	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
Monday	16	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	17	
Wednesday	18	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	19	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	20	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	10 am service; Putting Your House in Order
Monday	23	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	24	
Wednesday	25	9:30 Playgroup; 11 am - 3:30 pm Clothes Closet
Thursday	26	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	27	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	28	10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	29	10 am service; Palm Sunday Brunch
Monday	30	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	31	

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LECTIONARY FOR MARCH 2026	
March 1	Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17; Psalm 121
March 8	Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42; Psalm 95
March 15	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41; Psalm 23
March 22	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45; Psalm 130
March 29	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-7:66 or Matthew 27:11-54; Psalm 31:9-16

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