

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

May 2024

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:
Monday - Wednesday - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thursday - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(413) 625-2341

Pastor - Rev. Kate Stevens
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

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.

Contents

From Trinity Women	2
From the Leadership Team	3
Earth Day and Kate's Birthday!	5
Healthy Eating Program	6
Calendar for May 2024	7
Lectionary for Sundays in May	7

From the Pastor

Dear friends,

This Sunday, April 28, is the last Sunday of my "bridge" ministry with you. I wanted to express my gratitude for all the support you have given me, and all the lessons you have taught me.

Church is very different than it was when many of us grew up. It is no longer assumed that families will be going to church nor that their children will either. If we think we are going to re-create what we had those long years ago, we will be disappointed. So, unless we think the population is going to change, then perhaps it is us - the 21st Century churches - that need to change. And we all know that change is difficult - so drive with care and watch out for potholes. Oh, and fasten your seatbelts.

I have been listening to your leadership team for the last 6 months and I have been impressed with their forward thinking and their willingness to create change. If young families are not attending Sunday services, then perhaps we need to offer other classes or activities for families and children. The two playgroups at the church, especially the Friday group, are very popular. Perhaps we should host more times for children. The Friday community meal is a great way to draw in other people; perhaps we all need to come for supper more often and invite our friends and family. We host AA; perhaps there is a need for more anonymous programs. We have invited the Senior Center to hold groups or classes at the church when they have need for more space. A friend of that is the closest place to find such a class!!

I encourage you all to talk to the leadership team and each other about what programs you would like to see here at the church. How can we accommodate more people in the community. How do we want to advertise ourselves? Can we be a Sunday church community and a community center? Could you imagine a spiritual life center, where there are yoga classes, meditation classes, spiritual counseling, martial arts? It's all possible. We have a large space just calling out for more.

One of the strongest feelings I leave here with is what tremendous potential the Trinity church has in this community. You are friendly and open to others. That is the first step. I look forward to seeing your growth and creativity.

I will not be seeing you on a regular basis, particularly on Sundays, but I look forward to seeing you "round town."

Blessings and gratitude, *Kate*

FROM TRINITY WOMEN



Several intrepid bakers brought goodies to our Easter bake sale table on Bridge Street on March 30 and we sold out by 11 a.m. Perfection!

Thank you, one and all — bakers, buyers, and sellers, plus Al, who not only baked his great doughnuts, but also schlepped the table for us.

We brought in \$294.59 (the odd number because one sweet fellow donated \$1.59 in pennies) with very few bakers' offerings.

It would be great if we could meet on Sunday, May 12 after the 10 a.m. service for a very short meeting to discuss if and when we'd like to host another tag sale.

As you may recall, we were rained out of the sale planned to be held in the parking lot last fall, and we hope we can make it an outdoor sale this year, whether in summer or early fall. We still had fun and didn't do badly, but we lost a few sellers who felt the rain would be a deterrent.

If you can't make it and have an opinion on a tag sale, please email ginnypray@gmail.com with your thoughts.

Hoping all are enjoying the many blessings of spring,

Ginny and Sarah

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

Happy Spring, everyone! We can be hopeful that the crazy snowstorm in April was indeed the last! Easter services were spectacular! Many of our members and the greater community participated in the Easter sunrise service at **Apex Orchards** as well as the breakfast the **Shelburne Congregational Church and Conway UCC** hosted afterwards. Our 10 am Easter service was very special! The choir filled the sanctuary with beautiful voices! Thank you Kate for your moving sermon and to Ginny Ray for organizing the abundant flower memorials and tributes that decorated the church so colorfully! **Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

Moving forward now into May with sunshine, warm showers, beautiful flowers and trees blooming! *Our six months with **Reverend Kate Stevens** has drawn to a close. Kate has been a truly amazing* addition to our beloved Trinity Church and will be greatly missed for sure! We were happy to have a potluck to celebrate her time with us on April 21st. We pray for smooth sailing for Kate and John— with everything, including their farming season, and encourage them to join us in the pews and at events any time. With love, blessings and gratitude. **Thank you, Kate!**

Thank you to Lois Bascom for a table set up for Earth Day with informational materials sent to us by One Home, One Future, of which we are members. (see the banner on the porch of the Parsonage.) The theme this year from One Home, One Future is plastics: the damage they have done, legislation to curb their use, and ideas for us to restrict their use. Lois' table even included an interactive globe from her home!

On April 7th the Leadership Team and members of the congregation met after church with **fundraiser consultant Jennifer Williams** about the process of beginning an Organ Restoration Capital Campaign. We also discussed other possible items beyond the organ restoration i.e. a generator which would allow us to be an emergency relief location as well as a gender-neutral, fully accessible restroom on the main floor to name a few. At the conclusion of Jennifer's presentation and the question and answer session, she says she will now move forward with her feasibility study. We will anxiously await her advice for our next steps after that.

We wish to **thank Ingebor "Bing" Waldsmith** very much for her 10 years of dedicated work. We appreciated that Bing stayed on through April, a month beyond her original plan. Thank you, Bing!

We are excited to announce that we have hired accountant **Lewis Goodnow** from the firm of **George & Goodnow LLC**, newly located on the Mohawk Trail (beside the Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters.) Lewis also does the record keeping for the Shelburne Congregational Church where he is a member.

While we are giving thanks, let us also say thank you to the **Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters** for continuing to supply us with their delicious coffee for our coffee hours.

The Search and Call Team is actively pursuing top notch candidates through the UCC virtual bulletin board and interviewing of applicants. We will keep you updated as the process continues. Please continue to pray along with us for the right and perfect minister.

Can you help? The family living in our parsonage are still in the process of seeking a home to purchase within the Mohawk Regional School District, up to \$300,000 maximum to buy (or a rental property) with 4 bedrooms. They will welcome any leads! Grant's cellphone # is 631 903 3246 and email is GrantHaffner@gmail.com

We would like to give a huge shout out to our faithful **Porter family! Lisa, Andrew, Nicole, and Kyle** have given us years of unsung service in so many ways and we are extremely grateful for everything!

Totals are not completely in for the **Trinity Church Community Meals Bowl-a-thon fundraiser**, which was held on the afternoon of April 28th at the **Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley**. This was a total blast and a very successful event!

We are grateful to have pulpit supply minister's scheduled through June. We are looking forward to having Methodist **Bishop Peggy A. Johnson** preaching on **Mother's Day, May 12th!** Other guest ministers scheduled for May include **Rev. Ken Downes** on both **May 5, and May 19,** and **Mick Comstock** for **May 26.**

We pray for God to bestow Blessings on you all,

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

We would love to hear from you about your talent(s) and how you might like to share your joy with your Trinity Church community.



TRINITY CHURCH

WEEKLY

COMMUNITY MEAL

All Are Welcome
Eat In or Take Out



Friday Nights 5:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AND KATE'S BIRTHDAY!



Healthy Eating for Successful Aging

Tuesdays, June 11 – July 16, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls, MA

(In collaboration with the Shelburne Senior Center.)



For more information or to register for a workshop, call 413-773-5555 x2297 or 978-544-2259 x2297, or email awaisman@lifepathma.org.

For a complete list and more details about upcoming workshops, visit LifePathMA.org.

Healthy Eating for Successful Aging is a program for those of us who want to eat healthier and struggle with fatigue, eating alone, and other barriers. Join us to gain confidence to make simple, healthy meals to improve our nutrition and health.

- Cook/eat easy recipes together
- Apply the MyPlate dietary guidelines to our actual meals
- Practice label reading
- Study of the recommendations for each food group and tips for getting them into our diets
- Journal to discover our patterns and chart our progress



the *healthy* living
Center of Excellence

The Senior Center *Shelburne • Buckland • Shelburne*



CALENDAR FOR MAY 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:30 Playgroup	2 7 pm AA	3 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	4 Audrey's Angels Craft Fair.
5 10 am Service. Ken Downes preaching.	6	7	8 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	9 7 pm AA	10 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal	11
12 10 am Service. Mother's Day. Peggy A. Johnson preaching.	13	14	15 9:30 Playgroup	16 7 pm AA. 10 am Being and Believing.	17 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	18
19 10 am Service. Great Strides walk. Ken Downes preaching.	20	21	22 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	23 7 pm AA	24 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	25
26 10 am Service.	27	28	29 9:30 Playgroup	30 7 pm AA	31 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN MAY	
May 5	Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17; Psalm 98
May 12	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19; Psalm 1
May 19	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15; Psalm 104:25-35, 37
May 26	Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17; Psalm 29 or Canticle 13 (or Canticle 2)