

THE QUEST

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



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

Contents

Community Clothes Closet	2
Spring Sing!	2
From the Leadership Team	3
Trinity Creation Care Circle	4
Recovery Resources	4
Our Connections	5
Contemplative Prayer	6
Calendar for May 2025	7
Lectionary for May 2025	8

From Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Dear Trinity,

How special it was to celebrate our first Holy Week and Easter Sunday together! Every year we celebrate Easter, and yet every year something different resonates with me. This year, prompted by our Lenten book study, the idea of the Church embodying the risen Christ has really taken hold of me. On Easter Sunday, I preached about how on Maundy Thursday, we didn't just receive the body of Christ, but in that act, just as with the first disciples, Christ invites us to embody him and become his living presence in this world. That's a powerful image! And it reminds me that Easter is not just a one-and-done day each year, but it's a reminder that every day we are called to embody Christ in the world.

I again felt that resurrection spirit as we set out on our Earth Day Walk around Shelburne Falls the following Sunday. It was a beautiful opportunity to allow the Earth to speak to us with its timeless beauty and signs of Spring, but it was also an opportunity for us to practice being an Easter people as we picked up trash around town.

As we were walking, the most pervasive litter we found were cigarette butts. Alison Cornish was walking next to me as we bent down to pick some up and she asked if I knew that cigarette butts were nonbiodegradable. She explained that, even though we think they're made from natural paper and cotton, they're actually made from plastic cellulose acetate fiber that can take 10 years to decompose! I was intrigued (horrified?) and researched more when I got home and learned that cigarette butts

are the most littered item on Earth, with roughly 4.5 *trillion* being tossed each year. That means that by the time one cigarette butt decomposes, another 45 trillion are littered in its place. (Case in point, right after I got back from the walk, I witnessed someone throw their cigarette butt out their car window!) Not only is this unsightly, but they make their way into our waterways, harming animals that mistake them for food, and leaching their chemicals into the environment.

My point is that, while we didn't collect a mountain of trash on our walk, we probably collected dozens of cigarette butts, which mitigated even the slightest fraction of the harm that they do to the Earth and her creatures. By caring for creation, we are practicing resurrection, and we are bringing healing to our world. As we continue in this Easter season, I invite you to wonder about where you are *witnessing* resurrection around you and where you are *practicing* resurrection. It might just surprise you how alive Christ truly is.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ben

MAY COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET DATES



Saturdays May 10th and 24th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (noon).
Wednesdays May 14th and 28th from 11:00 am - 3:30 pm.

SPRING SING!



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

April was a very special month for our Trinity Church family as we continued our Lenten journey together. We are very grateful to the faithful garden team for completing the Spring clean up allowing all to enjoy the evolving beauty within. Thanks goes out to Wayne Perrea as well for his hard work taking down of the Creche bringing the garden into full view.

Fast forward to a very busy Holy Week. Our Palm Sunday service began with members of the congregation walking down the center aisle with their palms, reenacting the parade with Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. After the service we joined for a Delicious Palm Sunday Brunch that ended with a Happy Birthday song and cake for Pastor Ben. This year Maundy Thursday was celebrated with a Maundy Thursday Dinner in the church. The meal was wonderful and the service was very meaningful and included the passing of the communion bread and cup from person to person. Our Church remained open for all to enter for prayers on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Once again, The First Congregational Church of Shelburne, The United Congregational Church of Conway and we here at Trinity Church joined in a glorious Easter Sunrise Service at Apex Orchards followed by a delicious breakfast hosted by The First Congregational Church of Shelburne. Trinity Church then hosted the Easter Sunday 10am Service. We are extremely thankful for the many wonderful messages throughout the season from Pastor Ben as well as for the beautiful music we enjoyed from Keith and our Trinity Church Choir.

We were fortunate enough to have the Reverend Steven Wilco, The Canon to The Ordinary for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Mass, lead the Sermon for our Earth Day Service on April 27th. He and his daughter then joined us for a Creation Walk to further celebrate Earth Day. The walk was hosted by the Trinity Church Creation Care Circle Team who provided bags and gloves for trash pick up along the way. Many folks participated in the walk which began at Trinity and made stops for reflective prayer by Pastor Ben at The Deerfield River, Salmon Falls, The Bridge Of Flowers, The Baptist Lot and ended at Trinity Church honoring Massaemett Mountain. Trinity Church will be the hosts for the Community Meal on May 16th. Please look for the sign up sheet in the back of the church for ways in which you may assist.

With Many Blessings from The Leadership Team,

Nancy Parland, Sarah Neelon, Beth Martin and Wayne Perrea



TRINITY CREATION CARE CIRCLE



Sunday, April 27, was a nippy, breezy day and fifteen of us walked downtown and back, starting at noon, picking up trash along the way and blessing special places in town, like the Deerfield River, the Bridge of Flowers, etc. We brought biodegradable trash bags and gloves, for this use. Some of the walkers were Trinity folk and some were town folk, and Rev. Steven Wilco, our guest preacher, and his daughter joined us.

A few people from downtown joined us on our walk back up the hill!! What a wonderful experience it was, getting to know each other, making connections. We created a Web of Caring about the earth in Shelburne Falls as our way of celebrating Earth Day. Our next meeting is Sunday, May 18 after the service. We welcome you to join us as we make plans for more earth-friendly activities.

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.

OUR CONNECTIONS

United Church of Christ



The Executive Team of the Southern New England Conference is continuing to encourage everyone to observe Lent by participate in an economic boycott of those institutions that have cancelled their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives.

[Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin speaks about the fast in this video](#) 6 Min Watch or Read

American Baptist Church

Given the current climate of uncertainty and the challenges we all face, now more than ever, we are called to stand together in faith, unity, and encouragement. As the body of Christ, we are not alone—we are strengthened by one another and by the unwavering faithfulness of our God.



We invite you to join us for our upcoming Annual Gathering (#TAG2025), themed "*The Authentic Church in Challenging Times*," inspired by the powerful words of Hebrews 10:23-25. As we gather, we will explore what it means to be an authentic church—a people of bold faith, resilient love, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel, even in the face of difficulty. **Our Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. David Fitch.** You can read more about David on our [TAG2025 website](#). Registration will be open soon.

The United Methodist Church

Following a Jan. 30, 2025, prayer service and information session on the challenges facing our immigrant neighbors, the NEAC has created a resource page for immigrants and allies. [Read more.](#)



The Episcopal Church

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

14 BOLTWOOD AVE., AMHERST, MA

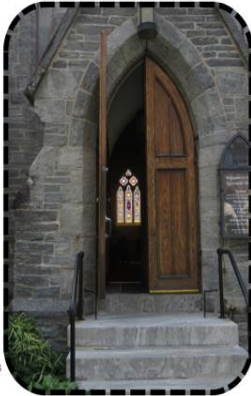
SAT. APRIL 5TH, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT LENTEN RETREAT DAY

FOR AGES 18-40

Join young adults from across the diocese in intentionally making space in the middle of Lent for quiet, prayer, creativity, and friendship. This is a free program!

Register at
<https://forms.gle/wMXypzmNjKbpC79>
or email Rev. Megan McDermott at
mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org for more
information.



**Apr 5, 10am
Amherst, MA**

"The Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN) is holding its second annual Lent retreat day on Sat. April 5th at Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst. We ask that you spread this news to any young adults you know who might be interested and eligible. Please register by Thurs. Mar 27th or as early as possible, so the retreat organizers can make plans for lunch and worship.

[Learn more and register](#)

Contemplative Prayer

Thursdays at 11am

all are welcome. no experience necessary.



Trinity Church

17 Severance Street
Shelburne Falls

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2025

Thursday	1	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	2	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal. 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	10 am service
Monday	5	
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	8	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	9	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal, 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	10	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet; Bridge of Flowers Plant Sale
Sunday	11	Mother's Day; 10 am service; Climate Chorus
Monday	12	
Tuesday	13	
Wednesday	14	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	15	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 6:30 pm Creation Care Circle Meeting (Zoom): 7 pm AA
Friday	16	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	10 am service
Monday	19	
Tuesday	20	
Wednesday	21	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	22	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA; 7 pm Spring Sing
Friday	23	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project
Saturday	24	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	25	10 am. Service; Climate Chorus
Monday	26	Memorial Day
Tuesday	27	
Wednesday	28	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	29	9:30 am Thursday Hilltown Recovery Support, 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	30	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal., 6:30 pm Recover Project

LECTIONARY FOR MAY 2025	
May 4	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19; Psalm 30
May 11	Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30; Psalm 23
May 18	Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35; Psalm 148
May 25	Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9; Psalm 67

The Quest



2025