

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



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- Lisa Mroczek

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 friends,

I know most of you from spending time with you when I filled in for Marguerite during her sabbatical and then helping you with pulpit supply over the last 5 years. I look forward to serving as your bridge minister for up to 6 months. I will do my best to care for you and the church. BUT you have a leadership team that has been caring for you for years. They are strong, inspired, energetic and eager to hear from you with ideas and for you to join their ranks. AND you have been taking very good care of each other. This is the gift of church and you are doing a fine job of carrying out that role.

This is a difficult time in the world and in our country and on this planet. We have two active wars going on, chaos and deep conflict within our own country and a planet in a dire emergency fighting for it's own life.

And we are responsible. We, humans, we are responsible for making peace not war, beauty not destruction, life not death, compassion and reconciliation not conflict and prejudice. Our job, I think, is to do all we can to work together for the building up of the kingdom of God. Our job is to see the suffering, respond in all the ways we are able and also to stand in awe of the grandeur of the Creation. That is, we are called to hold sorrow and joy, tears and laughter, pain and beauty in our hearts all at the same time. What a task! But we are not alone and we are beloved children of God, so we can do it.

I admire this congregation for its spirit of service and its spirit of fun.

I look forward to our time together.

Blessings, Kate Stevens

P.S. A big part of my job as your bridge minister is pastoral care. If you need an ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on, (or someone to tell jokes to) please let me know.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

This has been another busy and fruitful month for Trinity Church and the L Team. The Following are a few highlights.

We were thrilled to receive information about our first designated pastoral candidate. The first interview was completed via Zoom with Eileen McCusker Rauch, Clare Chapman and Beth Martin. The plan is to review 3 of their sermons and then if agreed upon schedule a visit to Trinity Church followed by a 2nd interview. This is following UCC protocol. More information will be forthcoming as things are unveiled.

The Leadership Team continued to meet monthly with Coach Judith of Together We Thrive during which the main topic was stewardship. Please look for more upcoming information about Trinity Church's Journey into Stewardship.

Trinity Church participated in a wonderful event: the Community Resources Fair held at Mohawk on October 25th. Thank you to Lois Bascom for organizing brochures and goodies and to Nancy Parland for suggesting we participate and getting us registered! Also, thank you to Julie Bailey, Sherry Clark, Sue Mead, and Ginny Ray who sat at our table. They spoke with people who stopped by our table loaded with Community Closet fliers, Community Meal fliers and our Church's brochures and bookmarks.



Sooner than we can imagine it will be Advent! We have unearthed many wreath-shaped styrofoam bases, candle holders, and the purple and pink candles that go along with them. We are hoping that some people in the congregation may have access to a source of greenery, laurel or evergreen, to utilize in this fun make-your-own event to be scheduled for a coffee hour in November.

Finally, Trinity Church celebrated our amazing time with the Reverend Dr. Donna Schaper and a welcoming to our next bridge pastor, Reverend Kate Stevens. Donna led us for a final moving sermon that day, baptizing five people, inviting all to renew their baptism, and welcoming three new members. Then our party began with a potluck in Fellowship Hall. Great food and delicious cakes were devoured with reminiscing and then dancing to the music of Dusti and Karyn Dufresne and a few songs together with Julie Bailey and Nancy Parland. We wish Donna all the best in her next adventures and look forward to our time to be shared now with Kate.

With Blessings from your Leadership Team,

Beth Martin, Eileen McCusker Rauch, Clare Chapman, Lois Bascom, Nancy Parland, Karyn Dufresne

CROP WALK SUCCESS

The Franklin County Crop Hunger Walk took place in Orange Massachusetts on October 1st with the United Methodist Church hosting this years event. Churches from all over Franklin County take part in this very important fund raiser which raises money to help families worldwide who struggle daily with hunger, Gratefully, 25% of money raised stays with our local agencies to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them.

Trinity Church has been an active participant in this amazing event for 30+ years! On October 1st 11 lovely folks, some youngsters and some a little older, traveled to Orange on a Beautiful fall day to complete the walk. We had our Beloved red Trinity jackets in hand ready to display however the weather was far too warm to wear them. We were pleased to join so many local church families that day and were certainly spoiled by the Orange United Methodist Churches Hospitality that included and overflowing table of delicious goodies!

Our Trinity Church Tally is complete and we have raised a grand total of \$2,380. We are sending out a Tremendous Thank You to all the walkers and all those steadfast people who donated to this years event! God Bless you ALL!

Faithfully, *Beth, Lois and Clare*



2023 CROP Walkers

ONE HOME ONE FUTURE**National Launch 10-4-23**

I attended this by zoom. This campaign is multi-faith and it is intended to strengthen vitality and relevance in our church and geographical communities across generations. This includes building what is called a right relationship with our indigenous kin, acknowledging land taken from them.

This zoom program was led by a large team of people who put this campaign together. There were a lot of speeches and I feel that this is very important to Trinity and our greater community. A photo of Trinity people holding the banner for this campaign was part of the program. How proud are we!! This banner now hangs on the porch of the parsonage.

This is envisioned to be a seven year journey of reconciling with various peoples of non-anglo-saxon origin, and care for the earth. This movement is building and growing.

I see us participating in one way, by looking for ways to further green out building. One way is to use paper mini cups for communion instead of the plastic, which is non biodegradable. What other ways can we switch to biodegradable items in our building and homes? How can we each and all reduce the use of plastic? What about cleaning products? Let's all read the labels of what we use and investigate less toxic ways to keep our buildings and grounds toxic free. What kind of bulbs do we have in our lights? Are they energy efficient? Our Memorial Garden is part of the National Wildlife Federation's organic gardening commitment. We have a sign in our garden to that effect and a certificate is framed and sits on a shelf in the Conference room.

Lois Bascom



NEW ENGLAND NETWORK FOR JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE LETTER

Hello Trinity friends,

A small group called Kairos/Franklin County Justice for Palestine has been meeting monthly at the church for several years.

We are very grateful for this “home” that is kind of geographically in the middle of where we come from: Greenfield, Gill and Charlemont.

We want to introduce ourselves to you and invite your questions as to our purpose.

We aim to keep the people of Palestine in public awareness while we lobby for a change in U.S. policy towards Israel and Palestine. We try to clarify the issues which are often misrepresented in the mainstream media. We work for justice and peace for all the peoples of the region - Israeli Jews and Arab Palestinians, both Muslim and Christian. We oppose U.S. funding of Israel’s occupation and oppression of Palestine.

If you want to learn more, please email: sherrill.hogen@gmail.com

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---------------|
| | | | ¹ 9:30 Playgroup | ² | ³ 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal. | ⁴ |
| ⁵ 10 am Service | 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. | ¹³ | ¹⁴ | ¹⁵ 9:30 Playgroup | ¹⁶ 6 pm LT meeting. 7 pm AA | ¹⁷ 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal. | ¹⁸ |
| ¹⁹ 10 am Service. | ²⁰ 5 pm Justice for Palestine | 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 | | |

THANK YOU DONNA, WELCOME KATE-A PHOTO STORY



Thank you Donna



New Members



Baptized



Time for All Ages



Uncovering the Copper Baptistry



Gathering



Singing & Dancing



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Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

| | |
|-------------|---|
| November 5 | Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12 |
| November 12 | Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13 |
| November 19 | Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30 |
| November 26 | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46 |