

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

October 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 – 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

Recorded Sunday services are available on our website, Facebook, YouTube and Falls Cable channel 9.

Website: <https://trinityshelburnefalls.org>

Facebook: [facebook.com/trinityshelburnefalls](https://www.facebook.com/trinityshelburnefalls)

YouTube: [youtube.com/@trinitychurch7057](https://www.youtube.com/@trinitychurch7057)

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From Pastor Benjiman Durfee

During *Time for All Ages* in church, we've been learning John Wesley's "Three Simple Rules." First, **Do No Harm**. Second, **Do Good**. And Finally, **Stay In Love With God**. When John Wesley originally coined the three rules, the third rule was stated this way: Attend Upon the Ordinances of God.

Examples of ordinances are Baptism and Communion, but depending on the church, it can be extended to include many things. They are rituals or practices that we do that bring us closer to God.

For me, keeping a Sabbath day in my week is one of my most fulfilling practices that keeps me in love with God.

Several years ago, I read a quote that reframed the Sabbath for me in such a wonderful way. It said

something like: "The Sabbath is an opportunity for us to stop creating so that we can appreciate all the ways God is continuing to create around us." This past Monday, as I was observing my Sabbath, I went for a walk around town. I started here in the memorial garden where I lingered for quite some time taking in all the end-of-summer beauty. Even in late September there is so much interest in the garden. There was a



grasshopper, several bees, and flowers blooming in every color. From the autumn crocuses to the lingering day lilies, to the newly planted mums that are starting to bloom by the front doors, it is amazing to see the variety that God has gifted us in creation.

Once I was satisfied that I'd gazed upon every inch of the garden, I continued on downtown. Without haste, I turned down streets I hadn't yet traveled, and my heart was gladdened by the bright yellows of sunflowers and the presence of cats happily roaming freely around town. Finally, I found a spot on a bench by the Salmon Falls. The air was cool enough to wear a sweatshirt, but the sun was warm enough to comfort me. With the sound of the falls in the background, I closed my eyes and entered into a time of Centering Prayer. As thoughts came to my mind, usually related to something on my to-do list, I repeated my sacred word, *love*, reminding me to be present with God. I continued this for a good while before opening my eyes again. The lighting was different, the colors on the trees seemed more vibrant, and at least for a moment, I felt completely at peace in God's loving embrace.

I wonder what practices bring you closer to God? I wonder how you witness God creating in the world around you? Over the next few months there will be many opportunities to volunteer and serve, to come together to sing and worship, and many events to attend and enjoy. There's much to *do*, and so as we approach this busy season, I encourage you to find time to simply *be*. Remember that you are loved not because of what you *do*, but for *who* you are and *whose* you are.

God's peace and love, *Pastor Ben*

COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET HAS NEW HOURS!

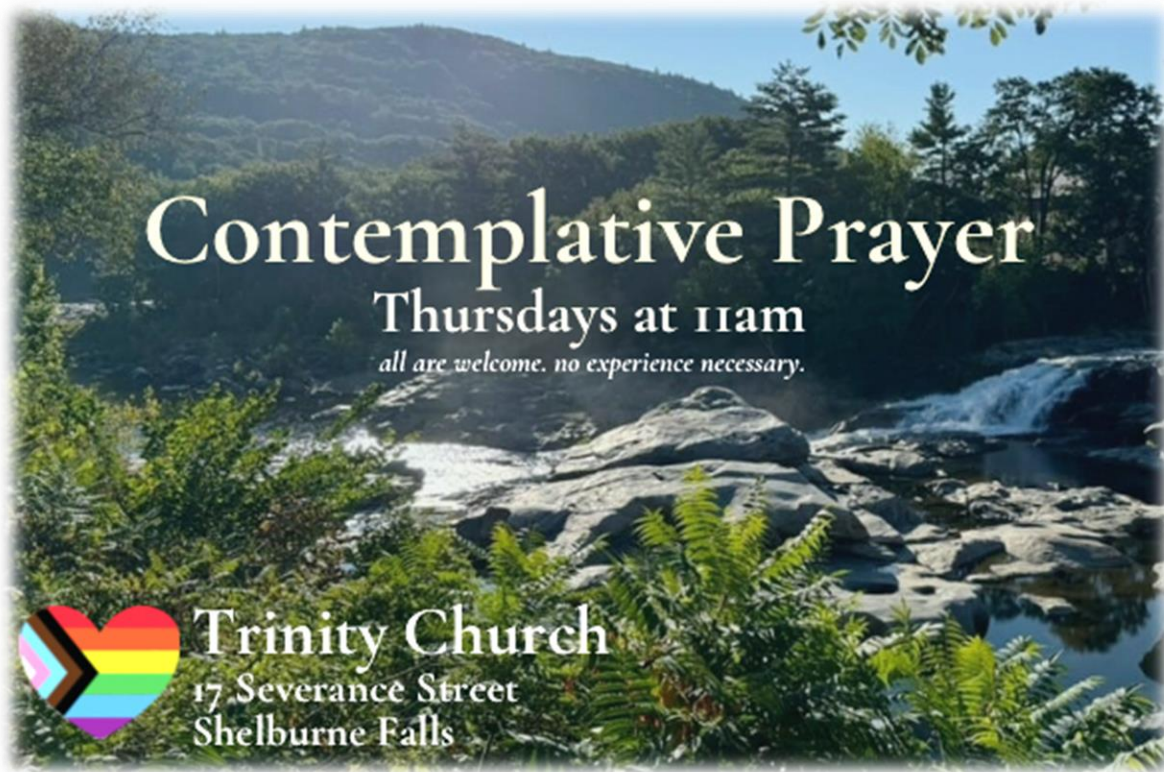
The Community Clothes Closet at the Cowel Gym has new hours that include two Saturdays per month!

2nd and 4th Wednesday
11 am – 3:30 pm

2nd and 4th Saturday
10 am -12 pm (noon)



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP FORMING



Pastor Ben will be forming a new Contemplative Prayer group on Thursday, October 10th. The group will meet on Thursday mornings at 11am in the Pastor's Study. Each session will include Centering Prayer and *Lectio divina*, two practices that invite us to open ourselves to God's action and presence through silence, scripture, and reflection. If you are new to contemplative prayer, just follow the instructions as the session unfolds. You are also welcome to use the silence in any other way that is right for you. If you'd like to let Pastor Ben know that you are coming or if you have any questions about the group, please email him at pastordurfee@gmail.com or call/text 508-542-7303.

CROP WALK

The 33d Annual Franklin County Crop Hunger Walk will be held at The Shelburne Congregational church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 6th. For more information and to donate please visit this link.
[Trinity Church CROP Walk](#)

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Franklin County
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 06, 2024

SHELburnE, MASSACHUSETTS

GARDEN MUSINGS BY LOIS BASCOM

When you walk through our Memorial Garden, you are not alone. There are many life forms there, some living, breathing, all amazing and wonderful, as God made them.

Weeding in the Memorial Garden brings me such joy. I am down on eye level, with much life.

For instance, I tried to pick up a brown, dead leaf but it kept moving! It was a tiny toad. How sweet is that? Toads eat all manner of insects that bother the plants. Eat on, Little One.

A large wild rabbit watched me as I was weeding one day. It even tried to help by eating some of the creeping phlox along the garden path! I named her Phloxy. She accompanied Janice Fleuriel and I another day as we were cutting back perennials. Phloxy hopped along on the lawn as we moved along the path.

There are many birds sitting in the trees, watching any activity below. If one is quiet, they can be heard "talking" to each other and sometimes singing. There isn't a sweeter choir than that.

So come, take a walk, sit on the bench and enjoy this beautiful place that so many people have helped to create and maintain.

Lois Bascom,

For the Garden Team



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Happy fall to all you faithful and beloved Trinity Church people. The heat waves of summer seem to have subsided, and we look towards another new season with Joy, Anticipation and Gratitude – leading into our next new chapter.

Many Thanks to Gayle Davidson for leading us in the final Sunday Service on September 1st before Pastor Ben's beginning. Her service was titled "Give Peace a Chance". This very special service included many poignant memories from her life story including her tremendous efforts towards creating peace within our own local communities as well as our national and worldwide communities. She encouraged us to find our own ways to grow PEACE locally and globally as well. Gayle then hosted a lovely coffee hour following her service. Shalom!

Sunday, September 8th, marked the monumental beginning of our newest Trinity Church chapter. Pastor Ben led us in his first amazing official service as our new Trinity Church minister. There are no words to express how grateful we are to have found him to lead us forward! A welcoming celebration coffee hour followed hosted by Lois Bascom, Wayne Perrea and Al Shippee. Thank you all for creating this special time to celebrate together!

Pastor Ben has suggested that we host a table at Moonlight Magic this year. What a great idea! We are talking about having our pens and Bookmarks on display to give out to folks. Let us know if you have any other items to display as well.

Pastor Ben has offered to take on Opening and Closing of the Church and announcements each Sunday. Thank you very much! If anyone wants to join the lists for readers, ushers or videographers, please let us know. All are welcome!

We wish to thank Ginny Ray for her ongoing dedication to our altar flowers. They are a beautiful addition to our worship services.

Pastor Ben will be offering a Contemplative Prayer group on Thursdays at 11 a.m. starting in October. Look for more about this in his Quest article above.

We are looking forward to the future of our very special Friday night Community Meal program. We have decided that we could definitely be hosting more meals ourselves. Information and help requests will follow.

The 33d Annual Franklin County Crop Hunger Walk will be held at the Shelburne Congregational church on October 6th. This important event has been one of Trinity Churches missions for decades. The money raised helps fight food insecurities worldwide and 25% of the money stays right here in Franklin County. Please look for information on an E-mail Blast for ways to be a part of this important day. You may also donate online following this link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/trinity-church-shelburne-falls-ma-2>
or contact Beth Martin at (413) 772-9937

Next month's Calendar is full of exciting events. Please see the calendar below.

With Blessings and Love from the Leadership Team,

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

SHELBURNE FALLS FREE FRIDGE/PANTRY OPEN!

The Shelburne Falls Free Fridge/Pantry is now open 24/7 for **All** to "take what you need, give what you can". It is located in the Picnic Alley between Buckland Pizza and the Town Hall on State Street.



LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 6	Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
October 13	Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
October 20	Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
October 27	Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52



Calendar for October 2024

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	9:30 am Playgroup.
Thursday	3	7 pm AA
Friday	4	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	10 am service with Blessing of the Animals 2 pm CROP Walk at Shelburne First Congregational
Monday	7	
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	10	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group: 7 pm AA
Friday	11	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	12	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	13	10 am service
Monday	14	
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	9:30 Playgroup.
Thursday	17	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group: 7 pm AA
Friday	18	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	19	12 pm Bulky Waste Recycling Day
Sunday	20	10 am service
Monday	21	
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	9:30 Playgroup: 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet
Thursday	24	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group: 6 pm LT Meeting: 7 pm AA
Friday	25	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal.
Saturday	26	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	27	10 am service
Monday	28	
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	9:30 Playgroup.
Thursday	31	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group: 7 pm AA

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Nov. 3
Daylight Savings Time

Saturday, Nov. 24
Autumn Market
at BSE

Friday, Nov. 29
Moonlight Magic