

# The Quest

## Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

October 2025

### 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,

It has been a real joy to journey through the Season of Creation with you this month! Our outdoor worship service was a great success and I heard from many of you



that you enjoyed the creative music (thank you, Keith and Nancy!), sitting in a circle, and being outside on such a beautiful day. We all were able to feel a bit more connected to each other, I think; and that was the whole point. We can never have too many reminders of our interconnectedness with each other, God, and all of creation and we'll need to continue to rely on those connections as we seek renewal for our Earth and our communities.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming three new members into Trinity Church on September 21st! We are grateful to officially welcome David Freitas, Mark Naccarato, and Jackie Walsh into our community. If you've been thinking about becoming a member of Trinity Church, please reach out: there's no right or wrong time to start the conversation!

I'm grateful to the United Methodist Foundation of New England, which has invited me to a Leadership Retreat in

New Hampshire October 3-5. I'll be joining with other Licensed Local Pastors from around the conference for a time of rest and renewal and the foundation is even generously providing funds for me to take the Sunday off from Trinity! You'll be glad to hear that Rev. Mick Comstock will be back to preach on October 5th. In consultation with Rev. Mick, I have decided to move communion this month to October 12th.

Before I leave for my retreat, I'd like you invite you and any friends with pets to join me at the Farmer's Market from 2-3pm on October 3rd for the Blessing of the Animals. I'm grateful to the Farmer's Market for allowing me to offer this special annual tradition to the whole community this year! All pets are welcome!

With cozy autumn blessings,  
Pastor Ben



**Three new members!**

### **JULY COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET DATES**



**Wednesday, the 8th and 22nd, 11:00-3:30**

**Saturday, the 11th and 25th, 10:00-12:00**

### **CROP HUNGER WALK**

This Year's Franklin County Crop Hunger Walk is being held at the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Northfield MA on October 5. Registration is at 1 pm, walk is at 2 pm. Walking distances are optional, from 1 k to 5 k.

This Fundraiser has been an event close to our Trinity Church Family for Decades! Folks can either get envelopes to walk and raise money for the event or donate to someone who is walking in the event or donate to the Trinitarian Church's online site,

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/northfield-trinitarian-congregational-church-2>. Please consider joining in any way that you can! For more information please call the church Beth Martin at (413) 772-9937.



## A THANK YOU NOTE

*From Ashley Walker*



Dear Starkey Scholarship Committee + Trinity Church Congregation,

Thank you so very much for awarding me with the Starkey Scholarship, and Continuous support throughout my educational journey. I am excited to say, I have completed my Bachelor of Science in Nursing! Your generous financial assistance helped lighten the burden significantly, which allowed me to focus on my studies and the goal of helping others. I am eager to work hard on my next goal, becoming a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.

With much gratitude,  
Ashley Walker

## FREE CANNA LILLIES

There are two Canna Lillies in the garden on the lawn side. One has been blooming bright orange flowers for months, now. The other is small and no blooms but beautifully striped leaves. They need to be dug out once the frost has hit and I am not saving these over the winter. You are invited to dig any out that you want. Beware of the irrigation hose!!! It is easy to cut through it, so brush away mulch where you dig, to see that hose.

Each clump will have a multitude of bulbs that can be shared or a person can have them all, depending on the numbers of people wanting these. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please sign up if you want any, to help with equal distribution of these. Thank you, *Lois Bascom*



## FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

September is the month we say goodbye to summer and welcome beautiful Autumn with open arms. This month Trinity began it's celebration of the annual world-wide ecumenical Season of Creation September 7th-October 5th. The initial outdoor celebration scheduled for September 7th was delayed until September 14th due to the always unpredictable Mother Nature. Sunday September 14th proved to be a lovely day and we experienced a wonderful outdoor service and coffee hour under the Trinity tent. Many thanks to Pastor Ben for leading this very moving service and to our amazing musicians Keith Rollinson and Nancy Parland for their beautiful musical interludes. The coffee hour was titled The Z coffee hour thanks to the many delicious zucchini baked goods fresh from Lois Bascom's kitchen. Thanks also goes out to all the folks who helped take down the tent following the service. On Sunday September 21st we welcomed three new members! Pastor Ben also paid tribute to our Beloved Audrey Clark with his amazing singing of the song "How can I keep from Singing" The congregation was moved to tears.

During this month's Leadership Team meeting we had discussions about the need for an alternative method of communication for prayer needs when the option of an e mail blast is not available. We discussed the possibility of returning to some sort of prayer chain with phone calls. We also spoke about the need to improve our communication with the community beginning possibly with articles in the Two Town News. Please let us know if any of you might feel this is your calling, to help with Trinity's communication systems.

Nancy Parland has continued working with the company Vanco and Julie Bailey and Sue Mead on setting up our own QR code for online donations. They will be announcing the various options for those interested in donating in this way later this month.

Trinity will be hosting the Community Meal along with The Shelburne Falls Women's Club on Friday October 24th. This will be a busy Fun filled night for sure. We will also continue to host the meals once a month moving forward. Further announcements and information on ways to help will follow during church services.

Finally, we are anxiously awaiting this year's Annual Franklin County Crop Hunger Walk at the Trinitarian Congregational Church on Oct. 5th. Many of you are already signed up to walk and many others of you have already made donations. All are welcome to Join in either the 1 mile or 5K walks and or make your monetary donations with checks made out to CSW/Crop to give to any walker or to go online at [Crophungerwalk.org](http://Crophungerwalk.org). site and type in Trinity Church Shelburne Falls to make your donation. There will still be time to donate up to 2 weeks after the walk. Thank you in advance for helping with this very important Trinity Church Mission.

With Many Blessings From the leadership Team

*Sarah Neelon, Nancy Parland, Wayne Parrea, and Beth Martin*

## WHAT'S PASTOR BEN READING?



While I assure you, I am reading too many things at the moment, this month I'd actually like to share a video with you that I watched as part of one of my classes. It is a TED Talk given by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie called "The Danger of a Single Story." In her talk, Adichie shares personal experiences to illustrate how limited narratives about people and places can lead to misunderstanding and stereotypes and she demonstrates how single stories rob people of dignity and emphasize differences rather than similarities. Her talk calls for a more nuanced, empathetic approach to

understanding narratives, which is something that is very relevant to how we interpret the Bible. One of the things that I love about our Thursday Contemplative Prayer group is that we approach Sunday's gospel with an understanding that there is not one "right" way to interpret the text. We all share from our own contexts, and we often gain insights that we wouldn't have reached on our own. I encourage you to watch Adichie's talk and join me in considering how we can encourage diverse interpretive perspectives to inform how we approach our understanding of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian in today's world. You can watch the video on YouTube by searching the title or following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9lhs241zeg>

## EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The summer of 1962 I spent on the Cherry Creek and Standing Rock Reservations in South and North Dakota, teaching Vacation Bible School in reservation communities. I developed close relationships with many of the children and their parents that summer. The children on the Cherry Creek Reservations went to residential school during the school year and came home for the summer. The children on the Standing Rock Reservation had school buildings in their community. I had no idea what the residential school children were going through. Residential schools for Indigenous people, funded by the government, began in Canada in the 1840s. Children were forcibly removed from their homes and sent away in an effort to eradicate indigenous culture. In May of 2021, 215 bodies of children were found buried in Kamloops, British Columbia. Nine bodies of indigenous children were found in Carlisle, Pennsylvania at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, PA in the United States. In following years many more

bodies were discovered at a variety of Indian schools in both countries. The remains of these children are currently being returned to their families and communities.

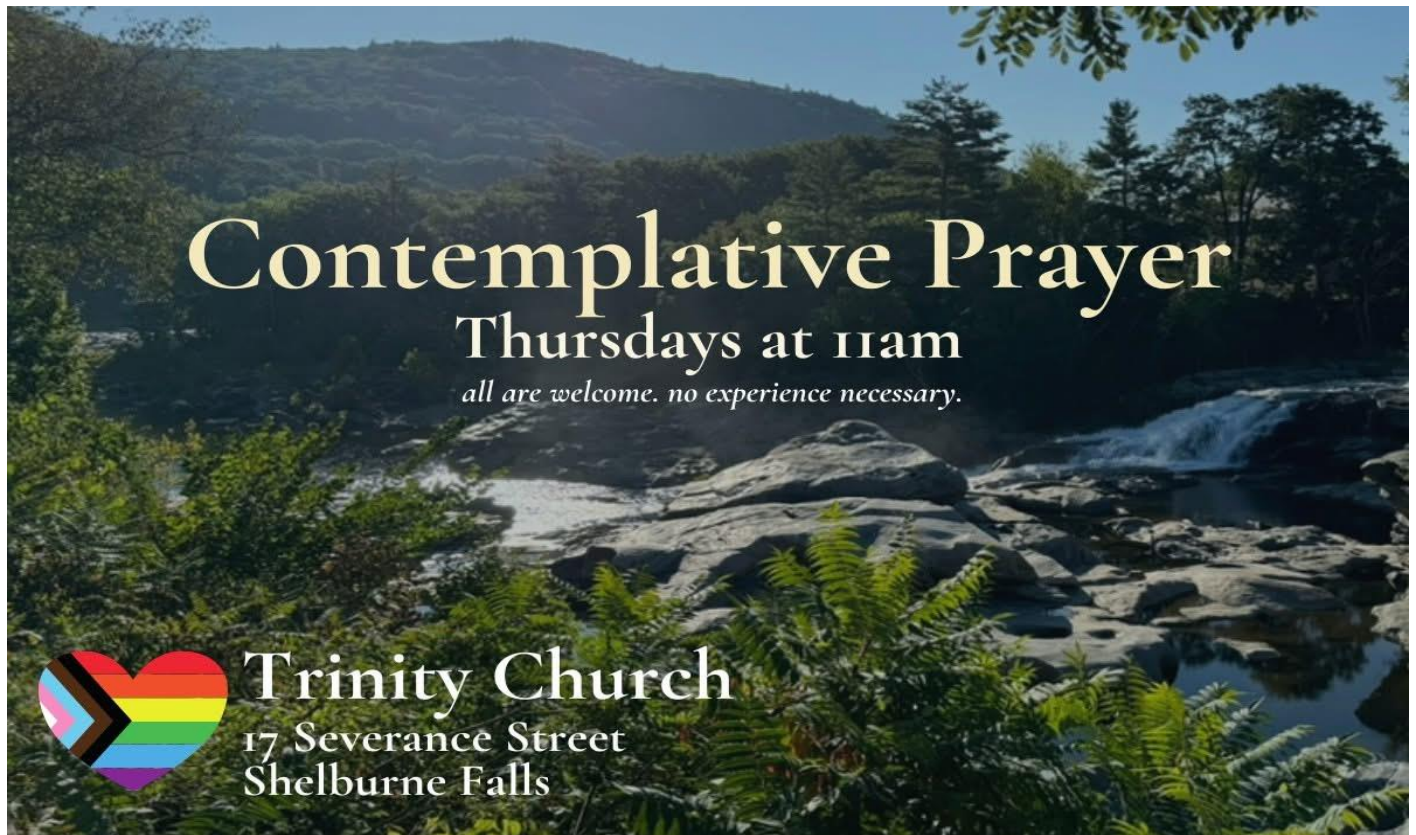
What followed since has brought forth the public's attention regarding systemic destruction of indigenous communities, cultures and peoples on the North American continent.

Recently the idea of honoring these children resulted in what is called **ORANGE SHIRT DAY**. It is celebrated in the US on September 30 and is known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The wearing of orange shirts serves to honor the children who were taken from their families and to raise awareness about the ongoing impacts of the residential school system.

The orange shirt is a reminder of justice, respect and the hope of healing. At Trinity Church, you are invited to wear one in solidarity with native communities and peoples on Sunday, October 12, Indigenous People week end. Let us resolve to co-create a world of loving acceptance of all people in an attitude of kinship. Mitakoye oyasin- for all my relations.

We are all One. *Lois*

#### CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP



<b>CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2025</b>
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Wednesday	1	9:30 Playgroup; 1 pm, <u>Book of Joy</u> ; Climate Chorus (7-8:30 pm)
Thursday	2	9:30 am Recovery Support; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	3	10:30 am Kids Movement; 5:30 pm Community Meal;
Saturday	4	
<b>Sunday</b>	5	10 am service with Mick Comstock
Monday	6	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	7	7 pm , <u>Book of Joy</u>
Wednesday	8	9:30 Playgroup; Climate Chorus (7-8:30 pm); 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet; 1 pm, <u>Book of Joy</u>
Thursday	9	9:30 am Hilltown Recovery; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	10	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	11	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
<b>Sunday</b>	12	10 am. Service; Orange Shirt Day
Monday	13	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	14	7 pm , <u>Book of Joy</u>
Wednesday	15	9:30 Playgroup; 1 pm, <u>Book of Joy</u> ;
Thursday	16	9:30 am Hilltown Recovery; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	17	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	18	
<b>Sunday</b>	19	10 am service (Sun Day Sunday)
Monday	20	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	21	7 pm , <u>Book of Joy</u>
Wednesday	22	9:30 Playgroup; 11 - 3:30 Clothes Closet; 1 pm, <u>Book of Joy</u>
Thursday	23	9:30 am Hilltown Recovery; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	24	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	25	10 am -12 pm Clothes Closet
<b>Sunday</b>	26	10 am service
Monday	27	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	28	7 pm , <u>Book of Joy</u>
Wednesday	29	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	30	9:30 am Hilltown Recovery; 11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	31	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal

# *The Quest*

## LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER 2025

October 5	Lamentations 1:1-6; Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
October 12	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
October 19	Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
October 26	Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18; Luke 18:9-14

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