

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

SEPTEMBER
2023

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 - Re. Dr. Donna Schaper
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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Pastor's Perch

Some of you know that the former Bangor Theological Seminary hosted a grant competition for small churches in Northern New England. Trinity was one of five churches selected to participate.

One of the great things that happens is we learn about what is going on with five other congregations, all similar to ours. We are small in a large way, populist in a people centered way, have special talents like our gorgeous singing and music and our elder as a blended denominational congregation.

The project is nicknamed REFUGIA, which is a great word for what we do. We think and learn together about refuge and the calm of safe spaces.

You have read enough about what ON BEING Host Krista Tippetts thinks about being in a Kairos moment as a species. (Her Critical Yeast was one of our assignments in the Refugia program. You might want to listen to it.) [Here is a link to it.](#)

A friend and teacher to On Being, John Paul Lederach, gives us an image we can all use, whether at Trinity or not. It is "critical yeast." He points out that when we think about how change happens in this society — and this is natural — we tell the story of those moments when critical mass arises: bodies on the street. But wherever John Paul has been, in these many places that have moved through many different kinds of conflict, preceding and leading — over years and decades and perhaps even longer — to the critical mass, there is what he calls critical yeast. This is, as he defines it, "small groups of people in unlikely combinations, in a new quality of relationship." Importantly, he also says that it's this critical yeast, it's these yeasty individuals who are there in the society after the upheaval of the critical mass, who also turn what has been upended into long-term transformation.

Tippett gives us a second image from John Paul that is perhaps a way to begin to take this into your body, to feel it and not just believe it. A teacher of his named Elise Boulding, also a great sociologist, spoke about what she called the “200-year present” that in fact each of us inhabits.

Your 200-year present, if you’d like to do this thought experiment, begins with the year of the birth of the oldest person you knew when you were a child. For me, that would have been my great-grandmother, Susanna Lower, who was in her 90s in the 1960s. And then the other boundary of that 200-year present would be the hundredth birthday of the youngest person you have held in your arms. For most of us, that’s going to be about a 200-year present that touches our lives directly and that we directly touch.

Trinity church lives in a 200-year present with most of your neighbors, perhaps with yourself. It’s time to get yeasty. We so hope you will think of joining or rejoining Trinity on October 15th, when we receive new members. Call me if you are interested - (413) 687-1937. We also hope you will want to be a part of a small group of people who are an unlikely combination. We hope you will want to be a part of the past, the present and the future of this beloved community we inhabit together.

Come to church on September 24 if you want to hear your peers tell me more about this important project. 10 a.m. No dress code. Bring yourself. That’s what we need.

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper

CROP WALK IS BACK!

Our Beloved Trinity Church will once again be joining forces to fight World Hunger by participating in this year's Franklin County Hunger Walk. Trinity Church has been an active member in this amazing event for decades as well as hosting the event many times. Not only do the funds raised benefit the hungry around the world, 25% of the proceeds are returned to aid Franklin County food assistance programs. This year’s 5K walk will be hosted by the Orange United Methodist Church on October 1, 2023, at 2 p.m. with registration beginning at 1 p.m. We are searching for people who are interested in walking in this event as well as people interested in donating to someone who is walking in the event. Those who wish to walk can collect your donation envelopes from us at any time. Further announcements/reminders will follow at the Sunday services. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration in donating in any way you may to this worthy event.

Blessings,

Beth Martin, Lois Bascom and Clare Chapman



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Your team is very busy and so happy to share with you the fact that Kate Stevens will be our Bridge pastor, following Donna Schaper, who is our current Bridge pastor, to begin October 15th, 2023. More information about this is forthcoming.

We are also delighted to share with you the fact that our Trinity Church Profile is currently being circulated among possible ministerial candidates for a Designated Pastor position at Trinity Church. This is a process and we are happily on the way to realizing our new pastor.

Trinity Church was chosen, among all the churches in New England, to be one of five churches participating in something called the Refugia Project, at Bangor, Maine Theological Seminary. Our team currently consists of Eileen McCusker Rauch, Barbara Beal, Clare Chapman and Donna Schaper. This team meets in person, at times, and by Zoom most of the time. They are envisioning the look and shape of the church of the present and the future. We look forward to reports, soon.

August 4th saw us making and serving a cook out style Community Meal. We all enjoyed this and plan to serve another meal in February. (See the photos below.)

There is currently a lock box installed by the front door of the building. This box contains keys to be used by police and fire for emergencies. Keys to the front door, back door and office door are located here. People offering occasional classes, etc. may borrow a key from the office, as we have been doing.

We held a marvelous and well received Community Potluck event on Saturday, August 19, on the lawn. A wonderful time was had by all. People from the Trinity community attended along with people in the neighborhood.

Your Leadership Team

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

POTLUCK PHOTOS!

Dancers were out in force at the potluck!



BOOK STUDY**OFFERED BY LOIS BASCOM****Tuesdays 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. September 19 Through Oct. 24.**

A book, the Rock, the Road and the Rabbi by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel.

I have been reading this book and found the Bible come to life for me in a way that brings excitement. Words lost their meanings in the translation from Greek or Hebrew to English, thus changing the message of Jesus, in many instances.

In this study, we journey to the Holy Land via DVD, use a Study Guide and the book itself, the Rock, the Road and the Rabbi. This six week, one hour study will enable us to journey deeper into our faith by including information about the times, Jewish culture, and geography in which the Bible was written.

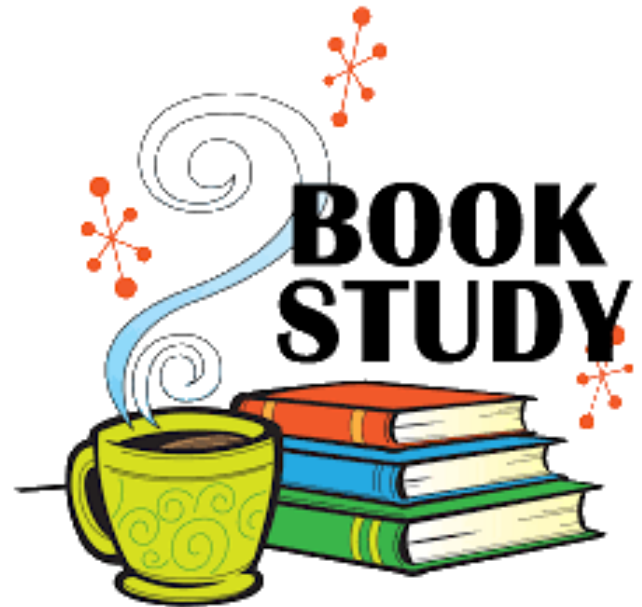
As Kathie Lee Gifford shares her story coauthor Rabbi Jason Sobel, a messianic Jewish rabbi, provides fascinating background details that make the story of the New Testament come alive. Jesus (the Rock) came into this world and walked the lands of Israel (the Road) to show us the way to God. And when we are introduced to the mysteries of God's Word (the Rabbi) and understand it in the context in which it was written, radical transformation begins to renew our hearts and minds.

The book study includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions.

It is recommended that participants purchase the Study guide and preferably the book as well. The book itself can be borrowed from a library. Give yourself plenty of time to request it, as it might be an inter library loan. Also, I can make copies of the pages we use in each session and copies of the short chapters that are recommended to read before each session, saving you money.

Please let me know of your interest so I can prepare accordingly.

Lois Bascom



BUD VASES NEEDED

We need bud vases to use for giving a rose to people who are 80 years of age or older. Also, the community Meal needs bud vases to decorate the tables for Friday night meals. If you have any to donate, please bring them to the church or call Lois Bascom for a pickup. Thank you.

**TRINITY MEMBERS SERVING COMMUNITY MEAL**

HOST A STUDENT FROM CHINA

A gentleman called looking for a Christian host family for a Chinese kid who is going to The Academy at Charlemont this year. Soon!

Please call Peter if you can help (978) 835-6653

Host
Family
Needed!

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	2 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
3 10 am Service cancelled for prudent health reasons.	4	5	6 9:30 Playgroup	7 7 p.m. AA	8 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	9 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
10 10 am Service. Donna Schaper- Pastor.	11	12	13 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet	14 7 p.m. AA	15 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	16 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
17 10 am Service. Donna Schaper- Pastor	18	19 10:30 Book Study.	20 9:30 Playgroup	21 7 p.m. AA	22 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	23 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele
24 10 am Service. Leslie Fraser -Pastor	25	26 10:30 Book Study.	27 9:30 Playgroup 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet.	28 7 p.m. AA	29 10:30 Kids Movement. 5:30 pm Community Meal.	30 9:30 Ukelele 10:30 Ukelele

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

September 4	Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
September 10	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
September 17	Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
September 24	Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Don't forget to let people know about our
Community Clothes Closet.

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month,
11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



The Quest

SEPTEMBER

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

Potluck

*Reception for
Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper*

Sunday, October 15

*At Trinity Church
17 Severance St
Shelburne Falls*

*After Sunday service.
Bring a dish to share.*

*Welcome our new bridge minister,
Rev. Kate Stevens.*

