

The Quest

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

September 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 - Ben 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 Ben Durfee

Dear Trinity,

I'd like to start by offering my deepest gratitude to you for welcoming me to minister with you here in Shelburne Falls. I thoroughly enjoyed my time preaching and worshiping with you back in July and now with the summer quickly coming to a close, I am looking forward to officially joining you for my first Sunday on September 8th!

Over the past week, my partner Tyler and I have been making trips back and forth to the parsonage as we move ourselves and our two cats, Whitty and Suzie, to our new home. As I was sitting in the parsonage living room, taking a break from carrying boxes and moving furniture, I looked out the open windows at the leaves liltng in the gentle breeze and felt peace. Peace, gratitude, and excitement. Ever since I was a kid, the crispness of the late summer air, back then a signifier of the start of school, has filled me with excitement. How wonderful that this year the crisp air is heralding the beginning of my new journey with you! And how wonderful that our journey begins during one of my favorite times, the Season of Creation!

During the month of September, leading up to the Blessing of the Animals on October 6th, I invite you to lean into the Season of Creation with me. You will see creation themes in our worship services and I'd also like to invite you to participate in a 4-part online

series called "Creation Care | Creation Justice: Building Elemental Change in a Rapidly Changing Time." This series is being hosted by NEAC's Creation Care Circle, for which I serve as the representative for Western MA. During the second session, "Creating Community," on September 11th, I'll be presenting about my experience creating the "Growing God's Love Vegetable Garden" at my previous church in Westfield to grow fresh produce for our local food pantry. More information about the sessions and how to register can be found later in this issue of The Quest.

That's just a sneak peek at our first few weeks together, but I know that God has so much in store for us. In the meantime, I most look forward to getting to know each of you over the weeks and months ahead. Please feel free to reach out to me by email at pastordurfee@gmail.com or by text/phone at 508-542-7303. And let us be in prayer for one another and our new ministry together.

With hope,

Pastor Ben

MEMORIAL GARDEN



A HUGE thank you to all who are helping in the garden. It has been an interesting summer for our garden team. Some have been ill and some injured, which limited the number of people available to work in the garden. Wonderful experiences have occurred in spite of this. Lois' friend, Janice Fleuriel, not a church member and does not attend Trinity, at the moment at least, has volunteered to help Lois every Tuesday morning. This is a blessing for us all. Sherry Clark joins us now and then.

Others are available on an as needed basis. So, while our regular people may not be available as in the past, we have help!

Lisa Mroezeck, our former custodian and last summer's garden tender, was visiting in the area and helped Lois dig out an area to make room in the main beds for some of the oriental lilies. Wayne Perrea helped to move peonies from the shaded end of the building forward into the sun. This happened the week of August 19. Eileen and granddaughters continue to keep the bird bath filled. Pat Valeski, our custodian, helped move bags of mini marble stone to the front of the church sign.

We welcome anyone who is interested in working in the garden. Feel free to contact Lois at 625-2970. You do not have to work alone, nor do you need to know much about gardening. If you love the garden and want to help out, you are welcome.

Lois Bascom for the team

CREATION CARE WEBINAR



The New England Conference Creation Care Circle presents a four-part webinar series for the 2024 Season of Creation titled: **Creation Care | Creation Justice: Building Elemental Change in a Rapidly Changing Time**. The series will focus on a new topic every Wednesday in September. All sessions begin at 7pm EDT on ZOOM. Find more information and register here:

<https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/18539303>

September 4: Creation Care Confidence

How to prevent frustration, burnout, and despair by capturing the resilience-building momentum of everything we do.

September 11: Creation Care | Creating Community

How to help pollinators and people by developing sustainable permaculture and community gardens to ensure food security.

September 18: Creation Care | Cascading Crises

How to become aware of watershed activity and coastal erosion as we prepare for disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

September 25: Creation Care | Climate Action

How to advocate for healthy climate policy by joining with groups at the local, state, national, and international levels.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Wow! Where did this summertime month of August go? Trinity Church folks certainly have a lot to be grateful for and once again sing praises to our God and our Savior Jesus!

Lois Bascom led us with a very special garden service under the tent on August 4th. Those present experienced a unique time of close sharing from the beginning, with a meditative walk through the garden, a Thich Nhat Hahn reflection, and a beautiful duet sung by Dusti Dufresne and Karyn Dufresne. Thank you!

Wes Rice gave us a wonderful sermon about the history of our Beloved Trinity Church on August 11th. For we do not make hard distinctions (denominational), we are Trinity Church. We, along with St. Joseph's across the river, are here and we are anchoring our community. We shared many of our past and current ongoing ministries/missions and suggested we be inspired to continue our present important missions as well as be inspired as disciples and apostles to consider possible new ones. We welcome all ideas!

Tom Williams delivered another amazing sermon for us on August 18th. In his conclusion he challenged us to really listen to the spoken words during our church services as well to words spoken during our daily lives and to follow through with meaningful actions, to live the life God intended us to live and move forward.

Sandy Gaffey gave her "Power of Prayer" message for our August 24th service. She spoke about a dream of hers in 2009 which had a very special meaning once she analyzed the fragments with an inspirational book and prayed about them. The dream was followed by some wonderful experiences that year thus the power of prayers answered! She shared the cards on which we wrote about our favorite places to pray/meditate then challenged us to use "the power of prayer" this coming week for the parishioner's "prayer for themselves" cards we had randomly been given.

Tremendous gratitude goes to these laity as well as to all the others who so graciously filled in the many remaining pieces of those services! Special thanks to Brook Batteau for helping all of us plan these liturgies and for always putting together the bulletins!

Trinity's Leadership Team hosted the Friday night Community Meal on August 23d. The meal was enjoyed by all those present in the fellowship hall and the many others who received takeout meals! Special thanks to Sherry Clark for bringing her delicious home baked cookies and staying to help us out for the rest of the night! The Community Meal has been serving between 40 and 60 meals per week. Trinity Church continues to be extremely grateful for the steady Friday night team who keep this important mission moving forward!

Father and son team Andrew and Kyle Porter completed a very special project to benefit our Trinity Church Community. They located and fixed another wheelchair to replace our old broken one! Thanks very much faithful ones!

Finally, thanks to Pat Valeski for his last of many projects in preparation for Pastor Ben's arrival, steam cleaning the rugs in the parsonage. The parsonage looks amazing Pat!

Pastor Ben has begun to bring boxes from his office and to hang curtains. This is really happening! We are so blessed and grateful!

On the Trinity Calendar:

September 1st: Worship service, Give Peace a Chance, will be lead by Gayle Davidson.

September 8th: Welcoming our new minister, Pastor Ben to our beloved Trinity Church! A Welcome Celebration hour to follow hosted by Lois Bascom, Wayne Perrea and Al Shippee!

Sunday, October 6th: Franklin County Crop Walk. Please call Beth Martin 413 772 9937 for information in regards to being a walker, to collect donations, or how to donate to this very important Trinity Mission.

With Blessings and Love from your 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.

Barrett Martin donated his time and materials in providing motion detector lighting for safe access.



From The Greenfield Recorder

by Madison Schofield

After a couple of years of closures and relocation, the Shelburne Falls Community Fridge has a new home next to Buckland Town Hall and will be loaded with food on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

The motto is "take what you need, leave what you can," according to volunteer Gayle Davidson, with the goal being to provide 24/7 food access for those in need.

Shelburne Falls previously had a community refrigerator outside Keystone Market in 2021, but it was closed due to multiple challenges, including weather, electricity, the COVID-19 pandemic and an unfortunate run-in with a snow plow.

Davidson said that during the 10 months the fridge was open, it proved to be incredibly popular, with food flying off the shelves and community members rushing to donate just as quickly. She and other residents knew they had to get another fridge up and running, and at long last, they have been able to get a new fridge set up. The concept has been expanded to include a freezer and pantry, too.

“We really have a food-insecure community,” Davidson said.

An April impact report from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts noted that 9% of Franklin County residents struggle with food insecurity. Davidson added there is a limited number of food pantries to support this population, hence the construction of a new community fridge and pantry.

The new fridge was made possible through the volunteer work of dozens of community partners, including businesses, restaurants and grocery stores, the town of Buckland and nonprofit Common Good, which has been funding community fridges since it opened its first one in Greenfield in 2013. The organization has gone on to fund dozens of fridges around the county, including the new Shelburne Falls Community Fridge, located between Buckland Town Hall and Buckland Pizza in the town’s new picnic alley.

Davidson said the picnic alley was built roughly the same time as the pantry and fridge cubby, and was made possible through a partnership with the town.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 10 am Service w. Gayle Davidson | 2 | 3 | 4 9:30 Playgroup. | 5 7 pm AA. | 6 10:30 Kids Movement. 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal. | 7 |
| 8 10 am Service w. Pastor Ben! | 9 | 10 | 11 9:30 Playgroup. 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet. | 12 7 pm AA. | 13 10:30 Kids Movement. 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal. | 14 10-12 Clothes Closet |
| 15 10 am Service | 16 5 pm LT Meeting. | 17 | 18 9:30 Playgroup. | 19 7 pm AA. | 20 10:30 Kids Movement. 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal. | 21 |
| 22 10 am Service | 23 | 24 | 25 9:30 Playgroup. 11 – 3:30 Clothes Closet. | 26 7 pm AA | 27 10:30 Kids Movement. 2 pm Farmers Market. 5:30 pm Community Meal. | 28 |
| 29 10 am Service | 30 | | | | | |

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--------------|---|
| September 1 | Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |
| September 8 | Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17; Mark 7:24-37 |
| September 15 | Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19 or Wisdom 7:26–8:1; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38 |
| September 22 | Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37 |
| September 29 | Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50 |