



The Quest

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE FALLS

September 2026

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,

I'm writing to you in mid-August as I prepare to head off for two weeks of vacation. It hardly seems possible that summer is already coming to a close—time truly flies when you're having fun!

It's been a full and fruitful season, starting with the launch of our Building Joy Capital Campaign. In just a few short months, we've already raised \$230,000 toward our \$250,000 goal—we are so close! This summer also gave me valuable time to reflect more deeply and learn about Trinity Church through my field education course and the wonderful interviews I had with many of you.

Looking ahead, I am so excited for what the fall will bring:

- **Season of Creation (Sept. 6 – Oct. 4):** Culminating with the Blessing of the Animals during worship on Oct. 4.
- **CROP Hunger Walk (Oct. 4):** See full article for details and plan to join us!
- **West County Resource Fair (Sept. 17, 3:00–6:00 PM at Mohawk):** We're looking for volunteers to help us table and share the joy and resources available at Trinity!

Outdoor Service & Picnic (Sept. 20): Join us for a special service under the tent, followed by our Fall Community Potluck Picnic

On a personal note, I'm thrilled to return to the EcoPreacher program this year as a kinship circle facilitator. I learned so much as a participant last year, and I can't wait to dive deeper into EcoPreaching while fostering relationships. My fall classes begin September 8, and I'm especially looking forward to

Theology, Race, and Culture, taught by the same professor who led the transformational course I took last January.

There is so much in store for this coming program year, with plenty more details sprinkled throughout this newsletter. For now, it is time for me to rest and renew—a gentle reminder of the gift and importance of Sabbath rest for all of us.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Another month has flown by with our schedules full of summertime fun. Some folks from Trinity enjoyed a wonderful summer event at the Buckland Recreation area on August 16th. The Franklin Association of the Southern New England Conference, UCC, held a potluck picnic there that day. Many individuals from local churches joined together for delicious food, lively conversations and a great time reconnecting with some neighboring church friends.

Trinity Church is planning to squeeze one more summer event in before fall officially begins. We will have another Trinity/Community Potluck on September 20th following our Sunday service which is being held outside on that day. Our first potluck was truly amazing and this one will certainly follow suit.

The gardens around Trinity Church are flourishing! These beautiful spaces bring so much joy to everyone who passes by them! We are extremely grateful for our faithful and very hard-working gardening folks and all they do every week to lovingly take care of each and every flower and plant.

One of Trinity Church's many faithful missions, the Franklin County Crop Hunger Walk, is on the horizon. This year the First Congregational Church of Whately is hosting on October 4th. The theme for this important event is *Chicken, Beans and Big Dreams*. "This is a movement that is greater than 50 years strong and made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the US. The steps we take and the funds we raise together will provide lifesaving support including emergency food and resources, along with seeds, tools and programs that help families feed themselves in the future."

75% goes to international hunger and disaster relief.
25% stays local in Franklin County supporting organizations like:

Food Bank of Western Mass.
Franklin County Survival Center
West County Meals
Hill Town Food Pantry
Greenfield Community Meals

There are many ways to participate in this important event including: being a walker with a donation envelope and or setting up your own donation site online, donating to a walker, or making a donation to Trinity's online site. More announcements will happen at church!

Please connect with Beth Martin at 413-772-9937 or email her at ebbwb@yahoo.com for more information. Thank you in advance for your faithful consideration!

Finally, great news from the Building Joy Capital Campaign: The new total is now just over \$230,500 with the quest for further pledges ongoing. The Building Committee is hard at work on each of the three projects. More news on these will follow as things progress. We remain grateful to all of you faithful Trinity folks, to our wonderful community and for the Grace of God!

With many Blessings,

Sarah Neelon, Clare Chapman, Wayne Perrea and Beth Martin

CLOTHES CLOSET DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesdays, 9th and 23rd, 11:00-3:30
Saturdays, 12th and 26th, 10:00-12:00

INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF FRANKLIN COUNTY



On June 24 I had the honor and good fortune of attending the Interfaith Council of Franklin County's annual meeting at St. James and Andrew Episcopal Church in Greenfield MA. The theme was Opening Hearts and Inviting Light, Evolving Our Common Good in Divisive Times. The ICFC was first formed in 2000. I was at that meeting. One of its greatest missions has been, from the beginning, to serve as a lifeline to people who need housing assistance.

Special guests included GurujiMa of Village of Light Ashram, Leverett and Sr. Claire Carter of New England Peace Pagoda, Leverett. They spoke about their experiences and engaging what Mahatma Ghandi called *Satyagraha: the spiritual force of sacred principles* such as truth, wisdom, peace, community and union that can overcome untruth in a divided and dispirited world. It was an inspiring gathering with us coming together through faith, food, and fellowship with the common goal of how best we can serve our Franklin County community.

On July 24, 2026 from 10 am to 3 pm I participated in the Interfaith Council of Franklin County's summer retreat: Building Community Awakening Love and Justice held at the New England Peace Pagoda. This was another amazing circle of individuals outdoors among the trees deciding on a theme for future programs. There was a great deal of dialoging and attentive listening, hearing what each person contributed as we enjoyed a potluck together. It was an inspiring gathering held at one of my favorite places-the New England Peace Pagoda. The Peace Pagoda's annual Public Anniversary gathering will be held in early October. All are invited.

Gayle Davidson

CROP WALK 2026



The 34th Annual Franklin County CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 4 at the First Congregational Church of Whately, 177 Chestnut Plain Road, Whately, MA [Google Maps](#).



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.

Anyone can join this Fun event! There are two walking distances to choose from a 1 mile or a 5k. We will have our red Trinity Jackets available and of course a group photo will happen!

Registration begins at 1pm and the walk will start at 2pm.

To donate you may offer cash or a check made out to CWS/Crop at the event or to any walker or you may drop off the donation at the Trinity Church office. You may also donate online following this link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/trinity-church-shelburne-falls-2>

Please call Beth Martin at 413 772 9937 for any assistance or for more questions! Thank you in advance for your participation in any way that you can!

WHAT GIFTS HAS GOD PLACED IN YOU?

We're inviting everyone who considers Trinity Church their church home—members, friends, and newcomers alike—to complete a brief Gifts Survey. This isn't a volunteer sign-up sheet or a way of assigning more jobs. Instead, it's an opportunity to help us discover the abundance of gifts, skills, experiences, and passions that God has already placed within our congregation.

As Trinity grows, we want to become a church that begins with what God has already given us, rather than with what we think we're missing. The survey takes just a few minutes to complete. Please follow the link to read more about why we're doing this and to fill out the survey: <https://forms.gle/AZwXfMX9XwQZwEFJ7>

Paper copies of the survey are also available in the office.

BIKE RACK AT TRINITY!



CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	3	7 pm AA
Friday	4	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2:00 pm Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	10 am service
Monday	7	9:30 Playgroup; 5:30 Hilltown Resilience Network
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	9:30 Playgroup; 10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Thursday	10	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	11	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2:00 pm Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	12	10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	13	10 am service; 1:00 pm Franklin Association Picnic
Monday	14	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	17	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	18	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2:00 pm Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	19	
Sunday	20	10 am service; After service, Trinity/Community Potluck
Monday	21	9:30 Playgroup; 5:30 Shelburne Selectboard Simulcast
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	9:30 Playgroup; 10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Thursday	24	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	25	10:30 am Kids Movement; 2:00 pm Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	26	10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	27	10 am service
Monday	28	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	9:30 Playgroup

Note: Pastor Ben is on vacation though September 8

September 2026



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TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE FALLS

LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

September 6	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
September 13	Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
September 20	Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
September 27	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32