

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(United Church of Christ)
72 Elm Street
North Andover, Massachusetts 01845



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Address Service Requested

- * Daylight Savings Time Ends November 3rd
- * Stewardship Kick-Off Brunch November 3rd
- * Thanksgiving Baskets!
- * Advent is coming: Joy to the World!

Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams
Music Director, Christopher Wood
Administrative Secretary, Dorothy Taylor

Moderator, Sarah Dunlap
Handbell Choir Director, Bev Valle
Sexton, Doug Beach

The Trinitarian Times

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC

72 Elm St. North Andover, MA

978-686-4445

www.natrinitarian.org

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November 2019

Dear Church,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:7b)

Often when I'm working around the house or driving in my car, I keep all dials turned to "off." Silence provides me with an opportunity to talk to myself and God without distracting chatter. How does silence affect you? I know there are some who find it intolerable. These are sometimes the ones who fill empty spaces of conversation with more conversation. Sometimes they won't even stop unless you begin to talk over them!! My mother was like that. Perhaps that's why I find silence so precious. There are others who say they need more silence in their lives remembering that God declared, "Be still and know that I am God."

Recently the deacons and I have been discussing the fact that in one hour of worship, there is very little silence for us to be still and quiet. We would like to make silence more intentional in worship because it is part of the Christian way of life. We will begin each Sunday with a short silence before the Introit so that we can welcome the Spirit into our midst. The silence during our pastoral prayer will lengthen in the weeks ahead giving you time not only to pray for your friends and family, but more importantly it will be a time to pray to God for forgiveness and guidance for yourself.

Open your heart and mind to the nudgings of God that comes in the silence and be prepared to be blessed.

Blessings on your spiritual journey,

Pastor Debra

Important dates coming up:

November 3rd: Stewardship Kick Off, Looking Back: Memory. Brunch after worship.

November 10th: Stewardship, Looking Within: Reflection. Bingo!

November 11th: Veterans Day

November 17th: Stewardship, Looking Outward: Mission

November 24th: Stewardship, Looking Up: Gratitude, bring in your Thanksgiving Box donations

November 28th: Thanksgiving Day

December 1st : Advent Begins.

Church Office hours : Monday through Wednesday, 9 to 12:30, Thursday 12:30-4, Friday 9-12:30

Stewardship 2019

"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment...Be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up the treasure of a good foundation for the future....take hold of the life that really is life." 1Tim 6:17b-19 (abridged)

Our Stewardship series this year will focus on letting God do God's thing to bring us into the future. The series title, *Let Go, Let God: Preparing for the Journey* was inspired by the wonderful sermon Crystal Reid delivered in September. We realize that we must prepare for the journey we will embark upon in the coming years. We will do this by remembering the past, reflecting on where we are now, discerning where we might what to go in the future, and recognizing that all good things come from our loving and generous God. We are about to embark so we have to plan for the journey. One of those items on the to-do list will be a budget and that is where faithful discipleship will be called upon.

During the month of November, you will be asked to Let Go and Let God guide your life. We are offered daily opportunities for giving both of ourselves and our treasures. Christians recognize that the gifts we have come from God and so giving a portion of those gifts for the work of the church is a faithful expression of our love for God. Jesus is a perfect example of stewardship. He gave everything, even his life, to serve God. If we are to be followers of Christ, it requires commitment to put God before all else and to recommit your life to Christ every day. What is a faithful expression of your commitment to Christ in the year ahead?



“Who is My Neighbor” Project Continues



Who Is My Neighbor?

The Diaconate is undertaking a “Who is My Neighbor” project, based on workshops at last spring's and this fall's UCC Super Saturday. The idea is to learn more about ourselves, the people with whom we engage, and those we'd like to engage. This process of information gathering should help us determine TCC's true mission. Members of the Diaconate will be meeting with TCC boards, committees and other groups, such as the choirs and Bible Study group, to ask

three important questions:

- What do you personally need, or wish was available in our community?
- What does our community as a whole need?
- What are the strengths and gifts that you/TCC bring – or could bring – to our community?

The deacons are also happy to meet with individuals interested in answering these questions, or you can email your answers to us. We hope to complete our internal interviews, as well as interviews with those who use our facilities, prior to the annual meeting in January. Pam Foote (pfoote@comcast.net) and Betsy Hopkins (betsyhopkins@earthlink.net) are leading this market research project for the Diaconate – please contact one of them if you have any questions or are interested in participating.

Church Council Highlights

The highlights of the October 27th Church Council meeting included the passage of the Safe Church Policy, which has been worked on by Pastor Debra, Tony Agudelo, Tim Seibert, the Trustees, and the Church Council. And also, the continuing process of revising the bylaws occurred. The church bylaws were last revised in 2011, and since August, all of the church committees and boards have been working on revising their own section of the bylaws. The bylaws will be reviewed and voted on at the celebration of TCC at the Annual Meeting. Other business included a review of the financial picture for the previous quarter, a reminder that the budgets for next year need to be completed, a request that all boards and committees send in newsletter information, and a quick Flea Market report.

Introducing our two newest little Christians, Amelia and Michael baptized on October 13th.



What's so exciting about open windows that we're printing a picture? The last replacement windows have been installed!

2019 Flea Market Finale



The 2019 Flea Market is history. Weather wise, it was a perfect day. We had 16 dealers, of which the Scouts, Venture Crew and the Board of Mission and Outreach each had a table. The bake table, which came very close to selling out, was manned by Jay Dumas. A tip of the chef's hat to him. Peg Simms and Pam Foote sold coffee and donuts. Sales were brisk at the raffle table; Deb Feudo, Sue Northam and Mrs. Driscoll tore off raffle tickets as fast as people could print their names. Pastor Debra warmly greeted an estimated 475 people at the door.

You can't hold an event without publicity. A **GREAT BIG SHOUT OUT** to Pam Foote and Dorothy Taylor. Their words danced off newspaper pages and computer screens around the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. A special thanks to Mike Foote for hauling out all our signs, putting them up around town and hauling them back to TCC.

Thanks to all of you who baked and donated money or scratch tickets for the raffle table. Your kindness and generosity continue to astound me.

The set up and clean up would not have happened as smoothly as it did without the help of the Scouts, members of the Venture Crew, their parents and Doug Beach. Thank you!

In closing, I need to let all of you know that I am passing the baton. After six years of organizing flea markets, it is time for new ideas and new blood to carry the torch. The Flea Market has had its run. I have heard murmurings of people wanting to do another craft fair. Here is your chance— Go for it!

My best to you all,

Sarah

PS. Thanks, Dorothy! I could never have done it without you.

Super Saturday Wrap-Up



On Saturday, October 5th three committed parishioners and Pastor Debra ventured out to Framingham early in the morning to attend the Southern New England Conference of the UCC's Super Saturday. After a rousing opening featuring a gospel group and a keynote address by Bishop Dwayne Royster, Political Director of Faith in Action and Pastor of the Faith United Church of Christ in Washington, DC, who reminded attendees: "God has never called us to be comfortable. He called us to be holy and righteous.", attendees scattered to a variety of workshops.

The sessions Pam Foote attended were "Meeting My Neighbor," and "So You Think You Know Your Neighbor?," led by Rev. Wendy Vander Hart. Both were interactive and very informative, and will help in our "Who Is My Neighbor" project. Pam also learned about some creative ways in which churches are connecting with their local communities.

Sarah Dunlap attended sessions on "A Call to Faithful Inclusion: Dismantling Homophobic Interpretations of the Bible" and "Practicing Silence with God" and learned how important addressing social justice issues are in our current society.

Dorothy Taylor chose two workshops that ended up having some duplicate material, but with different applications. The morning workshop was "Tell Your Story: Marketing Ideas for Your Church" and emphasized the importance of social media in keeping the congregation in the minds and hearts of the local community. The afternoon session was "Fundraising in the Digital Age" with an emphasis on the importance of social media in fundraising, and information on how to get set up to receive digital donations.

Pastor Debra's first workshop was titled "From Membership to Discipleship" where the talk was about the difference between Membership which is more passive with lots of expectations to Discipleship which is more about giving rather than meeting one's needs. The speaker discussed ways to change the language of the church from more of a business model to a religious one i.e. not using Annual Meeting but rather calling it an Annual Celebration of Ministry. Then she attended a short lunch activity titled "Good News for Young People?" where attendees learned that youth and young adults are interested and engaged in social justice. Churches that offer that are attractive to them. Her afternoon workshop was "Change your Bylaws" and it was very informative. The presenter reminded churches that old ways will not open new doors. He stressed that bylaws are related to the "why" of each church and are to equip the saints for ministry.

Remember the last time you went someplace new and maybe felt a little confused, lost, or lonely? Let's make sure visitors to church (and regulars, too!) see a friendly face with an outstretched hand at the front door. Sign up to be a greeter on Sunday morning. There are sign-up sheets in the Davis Room, or contact Dorothy in the office (offices@natrinitarian.org or 978-686-4445) and make a commitment to be a little early one Sunday and smile!



Prayer requests: You can call or email the office any time with prayer requests to be listed in the bulletin. Praying for our friends and neighbors, family and acquaintances is important spiritual exercise.

Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy

Winter is coming and with it comes unpredictable snow fall and poor driving conditions. Sunday worship service cancellations will be announced on TV (WBZ) and (WSBK). They will no longer be announced on the radio. You can also see cancellations on CBSBoston.com.

Hands and Feet of Christ: Message from Missions

The Missions Board would like to encourage you to participate in the “Who is My Neighbor” project the Diaconate is working on. It is important to the life of the church to understand what our needs are, what the community’s needs are, and what strengths TCC can bring to bettering both our congregation and our community at large. Look for the explanation of the project elsewhere in this newsletter and get involved!



We received a big “Thank You” from Church World Service for our congregation’s contributions on Blanket Sunday. Without your extravagant generosity, we wouldn’t be able to donate to this and other ministries that help people here and around the world. Thank you all!

This year Missions would like to match last year’s goal and put together **twelve Thanksgiving meals** for local families in need. We are asking the congregation to participate! If you could bring in the food items associated with the first letter of your last name, the food boxes will

be overflowing! **Please bring the items to church before or on November 24th.**

- A-B 5 lb. bag of potatoes
- C-E Fresh onions, canned yams
- F-I Stuffing mix and can/jar of gravy
- J-N Butternut or another type of squash; quick bread mix
- O-R Canned vegetables and can of cranberry sauce
- S-T Pie crust mix with filling or brownie mix or cake with frosting mix
- U-Z Canned fruit and bottle of fruit juice



The Shoebox Ministry is here again! Bring small toys, books or items such as hair ties or fun socks for children to be distributed to the children at Manos Felices/Happy Hands in Lawrence. Items are for boys and girls, ages 5 to 14. Not sure what to get? Speak to someone on the Missions Board, or bring a small monetary donation.



We are planning to participate in the North Andover Santa Parade the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We’ll have a red car and some items to hand out — bring your Santa hat and join the fun.

The Warmth Tree will be in the Narthex over the holidays, so plan now to bring hats, mittens, boots, scarves, jackets or anything warm to decorate the tree.

Did you see us at the Flea Market? We got a table to show what we do as a church for the local and global community and to try to help Communities Together meet their fundraising goal for 2019. It was fun!

Your Missions Board

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A GREATER NEED FOR LOVE

Protect children from violence in all its forms.



Stewardship Nugget

For it is in giving that we receive.

*St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)
Italian Roman Catholic friar and preacher*