

The Trinitarian Times

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC
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October 2019

Dear Church,

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

Is it just me or does everything seem to be moving in fast forward? The energy and excitement that comes with fall activities can move us into a cyclone of activity that leaves little room for contemplation. Although deep down we know we need to find balance, we also know that pressing needs can easily shove carefully carved downtime to the bottom of the list.

When I get caught in the storm, I remember that Jesus slept through the noise of the wind and the waves while the disciples panicked. Was he sleeping because he was exhausted, because he knew that his body needed rest in order to do what he needed to do, or maybe it was because he was a very sound sleeper? Whatever it was, he managed to awake with a calmness that contradicted the fierceness of the raging storm. Perhaps it is the much needed rest that gave him the calm while the worried disciples were going on little sleep (which most of us know can make us a little cranky).

The storms of juggling schedules, needing to be in several places at the same time, and growing to-do lists can send us into exhaustion. Take a break. Jesus was a wonderful teacher but more than that, he modeled what he taught. Peace, be still. Go for a walk, play a board game with the family, read a great novel, take a nap, or whatever it is that gives you peace. Where do you find peace in the storm? In the days ahead, tap into that source because there is work to be done and our bodies need renewal.

In faith,

Pastor Debra

Who We Were, Who We Are, and Where Are We Going

In order to determine a vision of the future we must determine who we are now. Our next step is keeping church officers and committees busy this fall. They are revising the church bylaws to reflect the way our church is currently operating. Everything is being scrutinized, from updating the statement of faith to match the current United Church of Christ wording, reflecting changes in names of our affiliates, and scrutinizing the boards and committees to see if we can more accurately define how they do the important work of the church. It is a large but exciting project and everyone should see the results in time to review the changes before voting at the Annual Meeting.

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

Super Saturday, October 5th We'll have four representatives at Super Saturday on October 5th, attending a variety of workshops on diverse topics such as Dismantling Homophobic Interpretations of the Bible, Meeting My Neighbor, and Tell Your Story: Marketing Ideas. On **October 20th**, there'll be a short presentation relating some things the attendees learned.

Sunday, October 6th is World Communion Sunday. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations.



We will have two baptisms on **Sunday, October 13th**. Amelia and Michael, children of Seth and Brittney Parker, will be accepted into the care of Christ's church.

We will have a guest preacher on **Sunday, October 20th**. Pastor Debra will be here, but we will have a visitor preaching the sermon.



TCC is having it's 11th Flea Market on Saturday October 26th from 8-1:30 PM

This year we will have more dealers so more "treasures" to

buy. For this year we have something new; we will be raffling off \$100 worth of scratch tickets as our only raffle item. I have done many fundraisers elsewhere and this is a very popular item.

I need donations of scratch tickets. ANY amount is welcome.

You can purchase 1 \$20 or 1 \$10 or 5 \$1's Whatever amount you would like to purchase and donate will be gratefully accepted. Please donate them to me by the week of the 20th.

We will also be having a bake table. I am once again asking all the bakers to turn on their ovens and **BAKE!!!!**

Please speak with Sarah. Phone # 978-886-2191.

Daylight Savings Time ENDS November 3rd!



Coming in November— Our Stewardship Drive begins! The kick-off will be **November 3rd** and a brunch will follow worship. See next month's newsletter for more information.

Deacons Kick Off "Who is My Neighbor" Project

The Diaconate is undertaking a "Who is My Neighbor" project, based on a workshop at last spring's UCC Super Saturday. If you were in church on April 28, you heard about this in Pam Foote's message. The idea is to learn more about ourselves, the people with whom we engage, and those we'd like to engage. By finding out what we and they believe our community needs, and what skills or talents we and they have to meet those needs, we can determine the niche that is best for us to adopt. Beginning this month, members of the Diaconate will meet with TCC boards, committees and other groups, such as the choirs and Bible Study group, to ask three questions:

- What do you personally need, or wish was available?
- What does our community 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 who would be interested in answering these questions. You can even send us an email with your answers to these questions. Our goal is to complete our internal interviews, as well as interviews with the next "circle," those who use our facilities (Scouts, yoga, Camera Club, Came to Believe, etc.) prior to the annual meeting in January. Pam Foote (pfoote@comcast.net) and Betsy Hopkins (betsyhopkins@earthlink.net) are heading up this market research project for the Diaconate – please contact one of them if you have any questions or are interested in participating.

Message from Missions

Last month we sent donations to Lazarus House and Common Cathedral, two great organizations we have supported for a long time. Both do so much for their communities—Lazarus House in Lawrence, and Common Cathedral in Greater Boston. Did you know Lazarus House has a cleaning company you can hire that helps give people real-world work experience to get them into the workforce? Check their website for some of their other fantastic programs, Lazarushouse.org.

Are you passionate about a particular charity? Let us know about your cause. Maybe you don't feel you can commit to the Missions Board, but would like to help once in a while. We are always looking for new ideas on how we can spread the word of Christ and how we can work as His hands and feet in the world. Contact Dorothy Taylor at 978-767-6475 and ask if there is something you can do. We do need to have items delivered once a month or so, and we're hoping to participate in the North Andover Santa Parade this year. We can also let you know about volunteer opportunities such as reading to children or delivering meals.

A reminder: Missions will have a table at the **Fall Flea Market Saturday, Oct. 26th** to show those who come what we do in our town, area and around the world. Drop by and say hello. You may be surprised at what your Missions Board does besides ask for your contributions.

It's not too early to start thinking about the holidays. 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 on or before November 24th.** Bring the donations to the office, don't put them in the food pantry donation boxes.

- 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

Have a blessed month!

Your Missions Board

Stewardship Nugget

Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do.

*Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)
Lebanese-American artist, poet*

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A GREATER NEED FOR LOVE

Volunteer at a food pantry or program or serve a community meal.



"SOX" CAMPAIGN

Imagine you have to store all your clothes and belongings in a backpack carried with you all day. Maybe you've got two pairs of jeans, a couple of shirts, a couple of pairs of underwear, and some socks. And socks get dirty. They get dirty fast.

Having to live in the street is not always a choice; with housing prices continuing to increase it is becoming more and more difficult for minimum wage workers to pay their rent.

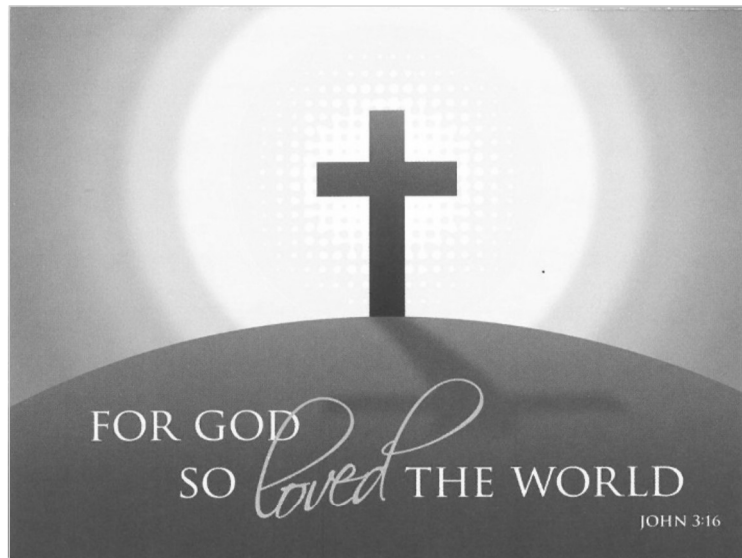
We are continuing our sock ministry to help those who need to be reminded there are people who care in the world. Won't you please donate new, white athletic socks in men's and women's sizes and be a light in someone's day.

The Banner Fund

Banners in the worship space create visual appeal for those who learn from their surroundings. The Deacons and some Parishioners have funded an initial set of banners that you may have seen during Lent & Easter. We want to expand our options for other services and perhaps some welcome banners for the narthex. If you would like to contribute and help purchase some of these banners, it would be great! This would be much like purchasing flowers, but have a longer life. You can also honor or memorialize loved ones as part of your contribution. Simply send a check for any amount to the office and write "Deacon Banner Fund" in the memo line. Please include a note saying how you would like to see your gift printed in the bulletin or newsletter i.e. "In memory of my parents by Joe Smith."

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!

Greeters



9-18-19

Dear Pastor Adams &
Refreshment C.

Just a little
"Thank You" for hosting
the Prayer Shawl Tea.

We were blessed with
a great welcome & a
beautiful setting plus
delicious goodies & tea.
It was a prayerful and
enjoyable time. Thank
You ALL so much for
your work & gracious
hospitality. I was much
appreciated. It warms the
heart & is encouraging to
hear how our pieces bring

comfort to those in
need. It was a blessed
afternoon. Thank You so
much! God Bless.

Anne Martel &
O.L.G.C.
Prayer Shawl Group

Rally Sunday, September 8th



Communities Together Prayer Shawl Tea, September 17th



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



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U.S. Postage
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- * World Communion Sunday October 6th
- * Baptism on October 13th
- * Flea Market October 26th!
- * Daylight Savings Time Ends November 3rd

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

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