

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



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## **Annual Meeting:**

***The Annual Celebration of our Ministry here at TCC***

**Sunday, January 26th**

**Revisions to the Bylaws are on the agenda**

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**Scout Troop 87 Bottle Drive, January 4th**

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**Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams**

**Music Director, Christopher Wood**

**Administrative Secretary, Dorothy Taylor**

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**Moderator, Sarah Dunlap**

**Handbell Choir Director, Bev Valle**

**Sexton, Doug Beach**

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# The Trinitarian Times

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC  
72 Elm St. North Andover, MA  
978-686-4445  
www.natrinitarian.org  
offices@natrinitarian.org



January 2020

Dear Church,

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

## A Little Birdie Told Me

A popular toy at my house is a simple plastic shoebox full of expandable tubes. My grandchildren pull them open and connect them together to make long hoses that reach to the far corners of my house. They often hide behind my furniture on opposite ends of the living room or in different rooms and play in whispers for awhile. Every time they do this, it brings to mind making tin can telephones when I was a kid. It might have been a crude information system, but it worked!

One of the ways we are a community is by looking out for one another. There are some folks who will easily ask prayers for those they love, but not so readily for themselves. Often, I intuit some of the needs simply because I miss seeing them. I begin to ask around, email or call. But if that person's attendance at worship or meetings is typically sporadic, I rely on their group of friends to let me know if there is something amiss. Winter is a good time to keep up with and look out for one another. Call or email your friends and let them know you are thinking about them. If you know they have concerns, suggest they come see me. That's what community is all about!

I hope you all have a happy and healthy New Year!

In Faith,

*Pastor Debra*

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH FOLLOWING 10 AM WORSHIP**

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

**Annual Meeting: The Annual Celebration of our Ministry here at TCC** will be held on **January 26<sup>th</sup>** immediately after the service. We will be meeting downstairs in Carvell Hall. There will be a blow out coffee hour that will be available during the meeting. Items on the agenda include voting on the completed revised bylaws, an introduction and discussion of Who is My Neighbor and a vote on the leadership slate.

If you are interested in serving on a committee or Board it is never too late to volunteer. The committees and boards are always looking for people to serve. Just check out your area of interest.

## **Can and Bottle drive!**

Scout Troop 87 will have a bottle drive at the North Andover Middle School **January 4<sup>th</sup>** from 9 am to 12 noon. All deposit bottles and cans will be accepted! Just drive up and the Scouts will do the work. All funds raised are for troop activities like camp outs and Jamborees.

On **January 5<sup>th</sup>** IMMEDIATELY after the service we will be taking down the Christmas decorations for another year. Please grab a cup of coffee and a sweet and return to the sanctuary to help. Many hands make light work.

## **TCC Book Club**

Next **TCC book group** meeting will be **Fri, Jan 17**, at Lorene Beach's home. The book will be "Educated" by Tara Westover. Contact the office for Lorene's contact information.

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 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](mailto:pfoote@comcast.net)) and Betsy Hopkins ([betsyhopkins@earthlink.net](mailto: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.



Who Is My Neighbor?

Scholarship applications are now being accepted

## **Trinitarian Church Scholarship**

The scholarship is open to graduating high school students who are confirmed and have participated in the life/activities of the church. The amount of the scholarship varies from year to year. Apply on the church website <http://natrinitarian.org/about-us/trinitarian-church-scholarship/> or pick up a copy in the office.

Return completed applications to the  
Trinitarian Congregational Church Office  
**Applications are due by March 31st**

# *Hands and Feet of Christ: Message from Missions*

The food pantry donation request for January is peanut butter and jelly, but any kind of non-perishable food would be great. Food pantries see a serious decline in donations just after the holidays, but winter is the hardest time of year for those struggling to keep the heat on as well as keep food on the table. Anything you can leave in our donation boxes in the Narthex or near the Cross Street door would be gratefully accepted.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, Missions was able to deliver 12 full to the top boxes of food to the North Andover Youth Center for delivery to families here in North Andover needing help at Thanksgiving. Your gifts helped our neighbors celebrate the holiday the way we would all like to do, with turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, gravy and deserts.

We received so many thoughtful donations for the Shoebox Ministry, thank you! There were 21 children at Hancock Courts who had a jollier Christmas thanks to you, our wonderful congregation.

The Warmth Tree is hung with a variety of hats, gloves, socks and more. A big thanks to the North Andover Social Club, a new group meeting in the church, who made scarves during their recent event just to donate to the tree! We'll make a delivery in December, but we'll still be collecting into January. Help your neighbors keep warm this winter.

Missions is heading into the New Year with a slightly different name; we'll be the Missions and Outreach *Committee*, instead of Board, going forward.

In the coming year, we'd like to have more visits from some of the on-the-ground organizations who coordinate distribution of our gifts to those who need them. Knowing who and why we give is just as important as knowing what to give.

Looking back at the last year we are all amazed and grateful to you, our congregation, for stepping up each time you are asked to help your neighbor. May we continue to spread God's love by our giving and our acts in the coming year.

*Your Missions Board*



Please return your Stewardship Pledge cards as soon as possible so we can confirm our budget for 2020. Thank you for your attention to this request.

*The Stewardship Committee*

**THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A  
GREATER NEED FOR LOVE**

Treat your neighbor with  
dignity and respect.



## *Stewardship Nugget*

No act of kindness no matter  
how small is ever wasted.

-Aesop (c.620-564 BC),

Greek storyteller





**Message from the Moderator:** On October 8th I had a repair of my rotator cuff in my right shoulder. I was unable to drive for eight weeks but still had appointments and places to be. My church family stepped up to the plate and hit a homerun! I received rides from many people to and from church during the week and on Sundays. People from the church also took me to appointments which resulted in very pleasant rides. Thanks to Pam Foote for helping to coordinate all those rides. People also sent cards and brought me meals and my favorite... large ice teas!!! I had very pleasant visits with many of you at my home. I am currently in the middle of 4 months of physical therapy and yes, I am driving!!!! I never realized how much being able to drive combats feelings isolation and affords one their freedom. All of you have been a blessing to me. Thank you.

- Sarah



**Weekly Yoga continues! There's a new instructor in town!** This is a no-commitment yoga session, where you will stretch and bend and relax. Bring a mat, it's only \$10 when you drop by. **Fridays, 5:30 pm.**

**Our building is busy: please make sure you schedule all events with the office.** There is a copy of the calendar posted outside the office, be sure to check and make sure there is no one scheduled in a room you want to use and that you know if someone is waiting to use the room after you. Thank you for your consideration.



**The Banner Fund**

Banners in the worship space create visual appeal for those who learn from their surroundings. We had new banners for Advent and Christmas! 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."

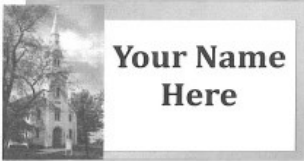
**Prayer requests:** You can call or email the office any time with prayer requests to be listed in the bulletin. Praying for our friends and neighbors, family and acquaintances is important spiritual exercise.



Coffee Hour

Won't you please sign up to be the host of our Sunday after worship coffee hour? The coffee is made for you, but you should bring a sweet (a box of cookies is fine) and a smile. You also need to stay and clean up, sorry. There are sign up sheets in the Davis Room.

**Please wear your nametags.** If you prefer, you can have yours on a string rather than a clip on. Let the office know if you need a string or if you need a new nametag. It's a small request, but it is something we can all do to make visitors feel more welcome.



**Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy**

Winter is here, 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.