

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

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Lenten Underwear Drive
Who is My Neighbor Phase 2
One Great Hour of Sharing March 29
Medical Debt Payoff Initiative
Scout Flea Market April 4th
Order your Easter Flowers!

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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March 2020

Dear Church,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Romans 1:7b)

Somehow over the years, we have put more emphasis on the outward appearance of Advent than we have on the inward process of Lent. Is it no wonder? The time of preparation in Lent does not have the glitz and glamor of Advent. It is all dust, sackcloth and ashes. It is reflection, self-examination, and repentance. It is fasting, action and prayer. It is a time when God prepares us to be Easter people.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when we reflect on the forgiveness God grants to us so that we are prepared to walk with Jesus. Lent is a time when we trust that our journey will bring us closer to God and to one another. There is no steadfast rule about how to walk this journey, but following a Lenten practice is a good way to keep your attention focused on Jesus. There are a variety of engaging ways to do this, perhaps you have found one that meets your needs. If you have not, please come and speak to one of your pastors for some ideas. To get you started, our Deacons have purchased Lenten devotionals that just might be the thing you need to kickstart your practice. May your Lenten journey teach you something new and may you experience profound joy on Easter morning.

Lenten blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Debra



If you get a chance, take a look at the bulletin board outside Pastor Debra's office with pictures and mementos from her recent trip to Israel.

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

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*

Sunday, March 1st: The first Sunday of Lent. Our Lenten Underwear Drive is underway, bring in diapers, children's underwear, pull-ups or baby wipes and help us help our littlest neighbors.

Monday, March 2nd: 17th Annual Interfaith Prayer at Merrimack College, 7 pm. Litany of Thanksgiving for the Religions of the World led by the Interfaith Alliance of Merrimack College.

Tuesday, March 3rd: Massachusetts Primary, don't forget to vote

Wednesday, March 4th: Communities Together Noontime Lenten Service and Luncheon, Chapel at Holy Family Hospital, Methuen.

Saturday, March 7th: Habitat for Humanities Women Build— TCC Missions Committee providing lunch to the Andover build.

Sunday, March 8th: Second Sunday of Lent. Learn how the UCC and our conference are working to help alleviate medical debt. **Daylight Savings Time begins!**

Wednesday, March 11th: Communities Together Noontime Lenten Service and Luncheon, Rolling Ridge Retreat Conference Center, North Andover

Sunday, March 15th: Third Sunday of Lent.

Wednesday, March 18th: Communities Together Noontime Lenten Service and Luncheon, St. Teresa Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Methuen

Sunday, March 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Wednesday, March 25th: Communities Together Noontime Lenten Service and Luncheon, South Church, Andover

Saturday, March 28th: Communities Together Annual Meeting, TCC is hosting

Sunday, March 29th: Fifth Sunday of Lent. One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday.

Wednesday, April 1st: Communities Together Noontime Lenten Service and Luncheon, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Methuen

Troop 87 Flea Market April 4th!

We are excited to be helping the Scouts of Troop 87 run a Flea Market this spring. They'll have dealers, and their own tables of treasures like any other flea market. If you are interested in helping out, baked goods are welcome, please speak to Sarah at 978-886-2191.

Looking ahead...

It's time for more fun and games! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 18, 7:00 pm**, when the Diaconate will sponsor a Cards and Games night – **with dessert** – at TCC. We'll have plenty of games on hand, and you can bring your own as well. Friends and neighbors are welcome. This always seems to get the competitive juices flowing, and it's a great way to get to know your TCC family. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Davis Room next month. Hope you can join us!

Stewardship Nugget

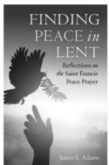
Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.

*-Augustine (354-430 AD)
Christian Theologian and Philosopher*

Stewardship note: Did you know you can sign up to have your pledge go directly from your bank account or credit card to TCC? There is a form you can fill out that authorizes a transaction each month, once, or bi-weekly, and it means you won't have to write out checks or remember to send them. It's a convenient and safe way to fulfill your pledge. Please contact the office for the form and more information.

Who is My Neighbor Update

The deacons reported on Phase One of the "Who is My Neighbor?" market research project at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to all the church groups who participated! You identified some very important personal and community needs, as well as numerous creative ways to meet them. We're now entering Phase Two of the project, with interviews of the groups who use TCC's facilities. We'll be asking questions of the leaders of Scouts, Camera Club, Came to Believe, North Andover Social Club and yoga. We'll report back with their responses before we head into Phase Three. As we work through this process to focus in on the true mission of our church, please contact Pam Foote (pfoote@comcast.net) or Betsy Hopkins (betsyhopkins75@gmail.com) if you have questions.



Devotionals for Lent: The Deacons have purchased "Finding Peace in Lent", which gives readers the opportunity to enliven their prayer life by reflecting upon and praying the St. Francis Peace Prayer. Readers will also be prepared to put their prayer into action each day of Lent, bringing themselves and others closer to the peace of Christ.


Called to Care is a ministry of fellowship where lay ministers visit those who might like some company for a chat. This is especially wonderful for those who are confined to home or don't get out often. If you know of anyone, member or friend, who might benefit from a visit, please call coordinator Glen Ayer at 978-994-0430.

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.


Monday, March 2, 2020
7-8:00pm | Cascia Hall

"Where We Dwell Together"

17TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH PRAYER





Rev. Raymond Dlugos, OSA, presiding
Prof. MT Dávila, Religious and Theological Studies, guest sermonist
and the Merrimack Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Hugh Hinton



**Your Name
Here**

**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 new nametag. It's a small request, but it is something we can all do to make visitors feel more welcome.



Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations

Hands and Feet of Christ: Message from Missions

LENT  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PRAY FAST GIVE

*We remember that God gave the world
Jesus, and Jesus gave us his life.*

ucc.org

Lent is an important time in the life of the church. We are urged to pray, fast, and give throughout the Lenten season. The Missions Committee is pleased to present opportunities for you to give in the weeks leading to Easter.

Missions is excited to invite our congregation to be a part of a greater movement. Medical debt is a heavy load for those who are struggling to make ends meet and then have a health crisis which adds to their financial burden. These are often the people who are most vulnerable; young families and the elderly who may have inadequate insurance or high co-pays. The Northeast Association, a section of the greater Southern

New England Conference of the UCC, is asking for 100% participation of their member churches in matching up to \$25,000 to be used to **purchase medical debt** in the New England area. Missions will be matching *your* gifts (up to \$300) to be sent to the Association. We will have a **Missions Moment** and special collection envelopes available **March 8th**; the collection will continue into April. How it works: the United Church of Christ has teamed up with the New York-based nonprofit, RIP Medical debt to locate, purchase (for pennies on the dollar) and abolish unpaid and unpayable medical debt. We will collect funds, match them, send them to be matched by the Association, and they will contribute the funds collected to the SNEUCC. It will be a flowing stream of loving generosity that will mark the beginning of the new conference.

We will have the annual special collection for **One Great Hour of Sharing on March 29th**. This year's theme is "Invest in Futures." For 70 years and more, the ecumenical One Great Hour has collected funds to serve the "least of these" among us by providing relief to those affected by catastrophic events, giving sustainable food resources to the hungry, and helping to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. Help this world-wide ministry continue their work!

Don't forget the **Lenten Underwear Drive!** Undies Sundays continue until Palm Sunday. Bring in diapers, pull-up pants, baby wipes and children's underwear to go to Communities Together for distribution to service agencies throughout the area.

A shout-out to Jared Hiller who helped put the Warmth Tree away for another year. Jared also helped fill Thanksgiving boxes and delivered cookies for the church Cookie Ministry. You don't have to come to meetings to be a part of the mission of the church!

Your Missions Committee

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A GREATER NEED FOR LOVE
Encourage children to change the world.



Volunteers Needed to Drive Seniors.

Can you provide two rides a month? Northern Essex Elder Transport, Inc. (NEET) is looking for volunteers to drive seniors to their medical and essential appointments.

Drivers are provided mileage reimbursement and supplemental liability insurance.

Average ride is 27 miles and takes 2 hours.

Please consider giving the "Gift of a Lift". To learn more visit, www.driveforneet.org or call 978-388-7474.

Seniors who need help with transportation should contact their local senior center.

Hello! We are looking for **young adult (18+) volunteers**, 2-4 hours per month for **The North Andover Social Club** (The Club) an organization providing social and recreational activities for young adults with disabilities, age 18-35, in the town of North Andover. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate our events such as Bingo, Karaoke, Cooking and just having FUN! The only requirement is that you like to have FUN, are respectful, and have an interest in or connection to the special needs community. We meet at the Church one day a month on Thursday or Friday, from 7-9PM. If you're interested, please contact Lisa Staff at 617-240-8180 or at NorthAndoverSocialClub@gmail.com.



*"Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!"
(Isaiah 58:1)*

As followers of Jesus, we can live out our call to care for our neighbors as ourselves by engaging in the public square through voting.

**Don't forget to vote in the Presidential Primary Tuesday, March 3rd
And the North Andover Annual Town Election on March 31, 2020**



Daylight Savings Time begins March 8th! Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour.

Weekly Yoga continues!

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.**



Scholarship applications are 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. Get an application 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



ORDER FORM FOR EASTER PLANTS



I wish to order the following plants to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning.

_____ Lilies @ \$13.00 ea = _____
 _____ Tulips @ \$11.50 ea = _____
 _____ Gift Card @ \$25.00 ea = _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

- _____ I will pick up the plant(s) at the conclusion of the service.
- _____ Plant(s) may be used for distribution for shut-ins.
- _____ I would be willing to help distribute plants to shut-ins.

Name

Phone Number

Payment should accompany the order.

Make checks payable to the **TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.**

Orders must be received by **MONDAY, MARCH 30th**

2020 Lenten Service Series

Noon service followed by light lunch.

Please join Communities Together, Inc. for a series of Wednesday Lenten Services- a time of spiritual reflection and renewal.

- March 4** **Chapel of Holy Family Hospital**
 70 East Street, Methuen
Guest Homilist: Rev. Dominic Barbieri, Chaplain at Holy Family Hospital
- March 11** **Rolling Ridge Retreat Conference Center**
 660 Great Pond Road, North Andover
Guest Homilist: Rev. Jon Paul - Free Christian Church – Andover
- March 18** **St. Teresa Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel**
 22 Plymouth Street, Methuen
Guest Homilist: Rev. Nathan Burnes—First Baptist of Methuen
- March 25** **South Church in Andover**
 41 Central Street, Andover
Guest Homilist: Pastor Kim Gold —First United Methodist Church—North Andover
- April 1** **St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 90 Broadway, Methuen**

Annual Meeting, January 26th



Scout Sunday, February 2nd



January Food Drive



Pastor Debra and Lorene Beach in Israel



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.