

April

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



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**Watch your email for Virtual Services**  
**Pastor Debra will be on Facebook live**  
**Stay safe, Stay at home**  
**The Lord is with you.**

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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

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April 2020

**We missed our special collections that were already planned.  
Please see information under Missions about the envelopes included in this mailing.**

Dear Church,

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6*

By the time this newsletter reaches you, you may be missing human contact. The church is that one place where we can rely on one another, but during this crisis there are limited ways we can carry through on that covenantal promise. So we are trying to find ways to stay connected. You will have no doubt received the one page mid-month note I sent out. If you are on Facebook, you may have seen our posts. Please engage with those posts so they find their way to your newsfeed. If you don't engage, Facebook assumes you aren't interested and will stop showing them to you. Speaking of Facebook, go to our page and leave a review! That is a great way to help the church during this time. Maybe others will be attracted to our community based on your review! More emails are going out so those who aren't on Facebook can stay connected. Apologies to those of you who use both but these are difficult times so we knew you would understand. I've made phone calls every day to check on people. If you didn't get one yet but want to chat, I'm available. Just let me know. Since we cannot worship together, we have been sending out a virtual worship on Sundays so when you read yours you can imagine your friends doing it too. Picture their faces and how happy we will be to pass the peace when it's safe (but not before!) We are trying these ideas out but if you think of something else you'd like us to try, let us know.

It's fairly obvious at the time of my writing that we will not be worshipping together for Easter but we will have a celebration service when we return.

For now, just know that I pray daily for our faith community. I pray your families are safe because your happiness is also important to me. When you worry, I worry with you. If you have prayer requests, please feel free to get them to me any time.

Keep busy with your reading, hobbies or whatever it is that makes you happy and we'll all get through this together. You may enjoy one of the virtual museum tours they are setting up for us to enjoy. Just google "virtual museum tour" and choose something that interests you.

May God bless you with good health as we wait this out together,

*Pastor Debra*

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

The **Lenten Diaper Drive** has been put on hold, but if our isolation period has been lifted then the collection will end on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th. If you would rather make a monetary donation, send a check to the church and put "Missions - Diaper Drive" in the memo line. People who have not been able to work during the health crisis will be feeling the repercussions for months, no matter what government help will be given.

Please remember our **RIP Medical Debt** initiative. People will be stressed enough over the possibility of medical care and bills in these trying times; imagine if we can help eliminate some of the medical debt hanging over their heads from before anyone heard of Covid-19. An envelope is included in the newsletter for this offering.

Thanks to those who made sandwiches for the **Habitat for Humanity** build in Andover - Janet Pickles, Sarah Dunlap, Carolyn Fallon, Donna Adam, and Connie Bruce. We had plenty of food, and the leftovers went to Daybreak Shelter.

**Sunday, March 29th** will be **One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday**. The worship may be virtual, but the needs are not. There are envelopes included in this newsletter for your donations.

**If you find that you need help**, please call or email the church office. We will be able to retrieve messages no matter what, and will do what we can to bring aid to our congregation.

Missions asks that you pray for those affected by the troubles our country and our world are passing through right now. Now more than ever we need to be the church that reaches out to help our

neighbors, that gives from our plenty, that loves unconditionally and does not judge. This is our chance to prove that the walls do not make the church.

*Your Missions Committee*

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## ***Message from the Moderator***

For all whose day starts with anxiety, worrying about the risk of infection, particularly those of us whose age or underlying health conditions classifies us as vulnerable, Loving God keep us safe. And for all of us, grant wisdom to make sensible choices, not just for us but for everyone.

*— Sarah*

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## ***A Note from Your Deacons***

Hello, TCC congregation! Even though we're not seeing you face-to-face these days, you're all still on our minds. The deacons met via a Zoom video conference with Pastor Debra and Moderator Sarah on March 15, to discuss our response to COVID-19 and how we can help keep connected to each other. We are especially eager to reach out to those of you who don't use email or aren't on Facebook. So you'll be hearing from Pastor Debra, as well as some of us, by phone, or in cards and notes. You'll also receive some communications via US mail, thanks to our hard-working Dorothy. Now that we are being asked to shelter in place for two weeks, we're not sure if mailings will still be possible. But we're here to listen, to pray with you, to answer questions if we're able, and to support each other under these unprecedented circumstances. And we remain optimistic that this pandemic will one day be gone, and we can reunite in our beautiful building. We'll be meeting online again this Sunday, March 29, so please reach out with any suggestions or needs that you'd like us to discuss. Keeping you in our prayers!

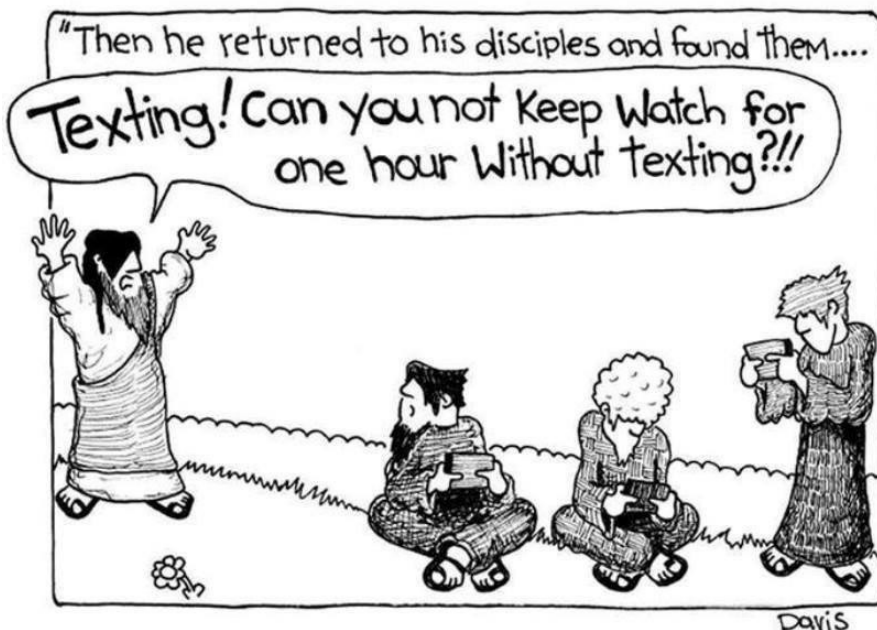
*— Pam Foote and Betsy Hopkins, Diaconate Co-Chairs*

**The church building is closed.** No one should be in the building until the Commonwealth allows non-essential businesses to re-open. Fortunately, the staff at TCC has been working toward making sure we are able to do what we can from home and will be able to access emails and phone messages. We are asking you to mail your pledges and donations. Thank you for your co-operation, and boy, do we look forward to the day when we can resume church as usual!

## Ash Wednesday



Missions brought lunch to the Habitat for Humanity build in Andover on March 7th. Thanks to those who made the sandwiches!



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## BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment.  
Care for the poor.*

**Forgive often.**

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity.*

**Love God.**

**Enjoy this life.**

*God is still speaking.*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

