

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



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**Look
Inside**



**Message from Church Council
about in-person worship**

**Lots of pictures, jokes,
puzzles and information**

Have a safe summer!

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
offices@natrinitarian.org



June/July 2020






Dear Church,

“And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’” Isaiah 30:21

When we read about healing miracles in the gospel stories, we often focus on the particular circumstances or infirmity of the one Jesus healed. What we often forget is that Jesus was first and foremost moved to action because he had compassion and empathy for those who suffered. This is not unlike the compassion and empathy Jesus has for us when we suffer. As Christ’s followers, we are taught to respond to a situation based on our empathy for the suffering. For some it will be intervention, still others will speak out, or vote, or send money. When we are uncertain how to respond to a particular issue, we can look to Jesus as our model and begin with empathy for those who are suffering. Who is suffering around you and what is it about their suffering that will move you to Christlike action? My friends, often we feel helpless to respond to need, I know the feeling all too well myself. It is likely that we feel scared and helpless because to be a Christian is risky and courageous work. I leave you with this thought- because Jesus urges us to have compassion for those who suffer, anything we do, however big or small, is *always* a step in the right direction.

May the light of Christ be your guide,

Pastor Debra

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|--|--|--|---|--|
|  |  <p>You know my comings and my goings, right, Jesus?</p> <p>You know everything about me, isn't that right?</p> |  <p>Before a word is on your tongue, I know it completely, Ann. That's absolutely true.</p> <p>What's your point?</p> |  <p>That feels so <i>intrusive</i>!</p> <p>It's like, I have <i>no free will</i>!</p> <p>You know <i>before</i> I decide!</p> |  <p>Just because I know what you're going to decide, Ann, doesn't mean I <i>make</i> you decide it.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|--|

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

Statement to the Congregation

Dear TCC Members and Friends,

As promised in our statement to the congregation on May 19, your church leadership has carefully reviewed the reopening requirements for houses of worship outlined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as the recommendations of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC for its member churches.

Following that review, and a discussion during the Church Council meeting on May 31, **the leadership voted unanimously to target September for the possible reopening of the Trinitarian Congregational Church sanctuary for worship.** This will allow both the Trustees and the Diaconate sufficient time to develop comprehensive reopening plans for the building and for safe worship practices. The Church Council also agreed to revisit this decision in August, to assess the state of our plans as well as the public health situation at that time.

The health and safety of all our staff, members, friends and visitors remain the number one priority of your church leadership. Therefore, we will continue to offer virtual worship via YouTube, which you can access in an email sent out at approximately 9:30 am every Sunday morning. At the end of that email, you'll find a Zoom link to our virtual coffee hour beginning at 10:30 am.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support of Trinitarian Congregational Church. We pray that you find comfort, strength, peace and hope from our virtual services no matter where you are this summer, until we're able to meet again in person. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact Moderator Sarah Dunlap at sedunlap50@gmail.com.

With blessings to you, your families and friends,
The Trinitarian Congregational Church Council
Sarah Dunlap, Moderator
Pastor Debra A. Adams

Thursday Morning Bible Study on Zoom!

Our online Bible Study happens every Thursday from 10-11am on Zoom. More information and the Zoom link will go out to participants in an email on Wednesdays.

For this simple study, we will always read the following Sunday's lectionary text and discuss it together. I will provide some background commentary and if you have a study Bible, you may also want to offer what you've found from that. We will have a conversation about what we imagine the author wants to tell us, what we believe God means for us to learn, and how the scripture text relates to our own lives and to our society or people in general. No matter how little or how much Bible knowledge you have, all are welcome. This is an inclusive discussion of all levels and understandings.

If you haven't already, you may sign up with Pastor Debra email: pastor@natrinitarian.org or phone: 781-962-9436. She is also available to teach you about using Zoom if you haven't already been introduced to this useful social tool.

If you need assistance:

Project Bread: Any Massachusetts family or household who needs access to food can call their toll-free hunger helpline: 1-800-645-8333.

The **City of Haverhill** has a number of food pantries and meals, call (978) 228-5322 or visit their website.

The **Town of North Andover** has meal pick ups three days a week. Call 978-208-6070 to order.

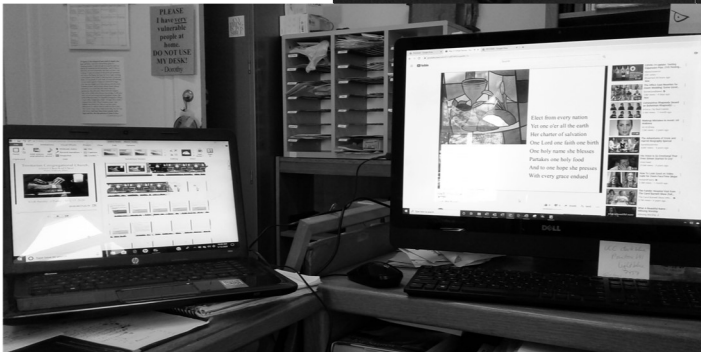
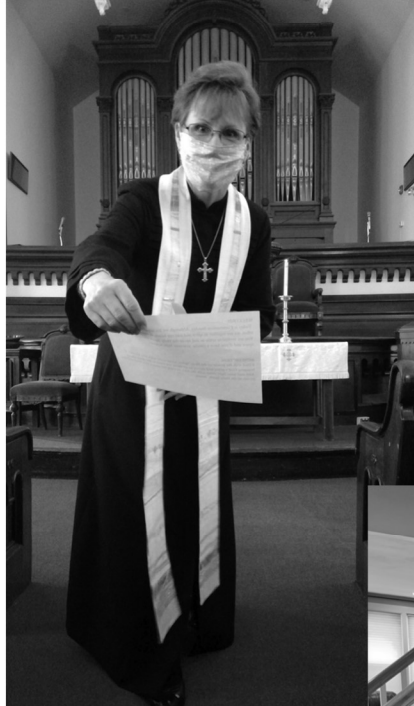
North Andover is also offering other food assistance. If you need help with food items, please contact the COVID Line 978-208-6070.

Call the office if you are in need. We can help you navigate through the stormy waters.

Virtual Services: Behind the Scenes



We're pretty sure this isn't what we thought we'd be doing, but here we are recording on-line services and working from home as much as possible. Here are a few behind-the-scenes photos showing you what goes into making virtual worship happen.



"All shall be well, all shall be well, in all manner of things all shall be well ... for there is a Force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go."

Those words were written by St. Julian of Norwich, who lived in the late 1300's (Julian died in 1416)..She wrote the earliest surviving book written in English by a woman. If we find her hard to be isolated in these days consider her life. Julian was an anchoress which came from the word "to withdraw or retire." She lived her life in seclusion in a small room or cell called an anchorhold, which would be attached to a church. In Julian's case, it was attached to church of St. Julian in Norwich, England. When one became an anchoress (or, in the case of a man, an anchorite) the bishop performed a ritual which included the sacrament for the dying. The cell was bricked up and had only three windows: one (sometimes called "a squint") looked into the church, toward the altar; a second was used to receive her meals and through which any other necessities (like chamber pots) could be passed; and a smaller window allowed the anchoress to speak to visitors.

Julian chose this life. She devoted herself to prayer and was a spiritual counselor for those who came to see her. It was not an easy time, many suffered from plague and poverty. She heard many stories of pain. And yet, her writings are filled with encouragement of God's love and hope and trust in God's goodness. How did she come to this place of peace and love? It was May 8, 1373. Julian was 30 she thought she was lying on her deathbed when she saw a series of visions of Christ before her in his suffering. In those visions she saw the depth of not just Christ's suffering, but Christ's love.

Some of her other quotes are: "For we are so preciousely loved by God that we cannot even comprehend it. No created being can ever know how much and how sweetly and tenderly God loves them."

"When we, by the working of mercy and grace, be made meek and mild, we are fully safe; suddenly is the soul oned to God when it is truly peaced in itself: for in Him is found no wrath."

"He that made all things for love, by the same love keepeth them, and shall keep them without end."

"Pray, even if you feel nothing, see nothing. For when you are dry, empty, sick or weak, at such a time is your prayer most pleasing to God, even though you may find little joy in it. This is true of all believing prayer."

"See that I am God. See that I am in everything. See that I do everything. See that I have never stopped ordering my works, nor ever shall, eternally. See that I lead everything on to the conclusion I ordained for it before time began, by the same power, wisdom and love with which I made it. How can anything be amiss?"

"God is nearer to us than our own spirit"

Ahhh ... imagine yourself sitting beside her cell and may her peace and faith wash over you.

This Devotion was written by the Reverend Jill Dunlap. She is the Pastor of The Trinity Congregational Church in Baltimore, Ohio. She is the sister-in-law of Sarah Dunlap.



Sarah Dunlap has been busy behind the scenes as well! She has been writing and sending out cards to the congregation to help stay in touch.

If you are in need of anything, call the church office at 978-686-4445. Dorothy, Sarah, and Pastor Debra will be happy to find a way to either help directly or put you in touch with someone who is able to assist. We are here for you even though the building is closed!

While Dorothy plans to be out of the office June 26 to July 6, Sarah will be picking up messages and holding down the fort for the week.

We send out the next newsletter in August.



The three scholarships TCC gives out to deserving North Andover High School Graduates, which are usually presented each year at the Awards Banquet, were mailed this year. Here's hoping next year's banquet will happen.

Recipients of the scholarships this year are:

The Barbara Mason Muchowski Award for Chemistry - Caitlin Panos

The Olive M. Moody Award for Nursing - Sara Mellody

The Alice L. & Florence L. Mason Award for Foreign Language - Joseph Shneyderman

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!



Graduate Car Parade

We honored the Class of 2020 in North Andover with a custom banner, and even got a shout out from one of the grads who was a former Century Preschool student! We didn't have any seniors in the congregation this year, and didn't give out a TCC scholarship. If you have a senior in the Class of 2021, be sure to watch for the application and have them get involved in TCC activities to be eligible. Congratulations to this year's senior class!

Nursing Home Ministry Flowers

The Diaconate arranged to have flowers and a special prayer delivered to Prescott House and the Sutton Hill Center because we have not been able to do in-person worship services with Communion as we usually do. The flowers and prayer were directed to the activities directors whom the Nursing Home Ministry works with when coordinating the visits.

Building Maintenance

While the building has been closed, we have had some "home improvements" done; the bulkhead has been replaced and the carpets downstairs have been shampooed. The Trustees are working on getting some other projects done while we are staying in "social distance mode." Stay tuned for more!



Stewardship Nugget

“Generosity could be as contagious as the zombie plague as long as enough people were willing to be carriers.”

Jonathan Maberry

(1958-)

*Author, editor, playwright,
writing teacher*

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

SMILE



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Hands and Feet of Christ: Message from Missions

How does a small congregation help wipe out \$238,000 in medical debt? Well, your contributions, of \$890.00, plus the \$300.00 match from Missions were sent to the SNEUCC. The Northeast Association doubled our gifts for a grand total of \$2,380.00. Because medical debt is purchased for pennies on the dollar, when you move the decimal point over you get the total \$238,000. When generous hearts work together, they can move mountains!

Our contribution to the Communities Together Diaper Drive was picked up and we contributed 1,535 diapers, as well as wipes, pullups and underwear. The babies of the Greater Lawrence area thank you!

We have been making our regular contributions to Communities Together and will continue to aid them as they navigate this difficult time. Their efforts to help underserved children in the Hancock and Stadium Courts in Lawrence are a mission we strongly support; the staff has been Zooming with the kids, keeping in touch and helping with homework as usual. While Vacation Bible School may not happen, they are having a summer enrichment program outside, under tents for their Manos Felices students.

We are looking in North Andover for other ways to help our community, as the Council On Aging is looking for help addressing food scarcity and the youth center is still considering having programs and will need contributions for scholarships like we did last year.

Your Missions Committee



Black Lives Matter Peaceful Vigil

Several Trinitarians attended the event at the Youth Center/Drummond Field on Monday, June 8th.



Ways to Help

Have you been looking for ways to help?
We've assembled a list to make it easy for
you:

Greater Boston Food Bank Website:

<https://www.gbfb.org/>

To send a check: The Greater Boston Food
Bank, Attn: Accounting, 70 South Bay Ave-
nue, Boston, MA 02118

Neighbors In Need Website: needfood.org.

To send a check: Neighbors in Need, P.O.
Box 447, Lawrence, MA 01842

Lazarus House Website:

<https://lazarushouse.org>

To send a check: Lazarus House, PO Box
408, Lawrence, MA 01842-0808

Bread & Roses Website:

breadandroseslawrence.org

To send a check: Bread & Roses, 58 New-
bury Street, Lawrence, MA 01840.

Greater Lawrence Community Action

Council Website: <https://www.glcac.org>

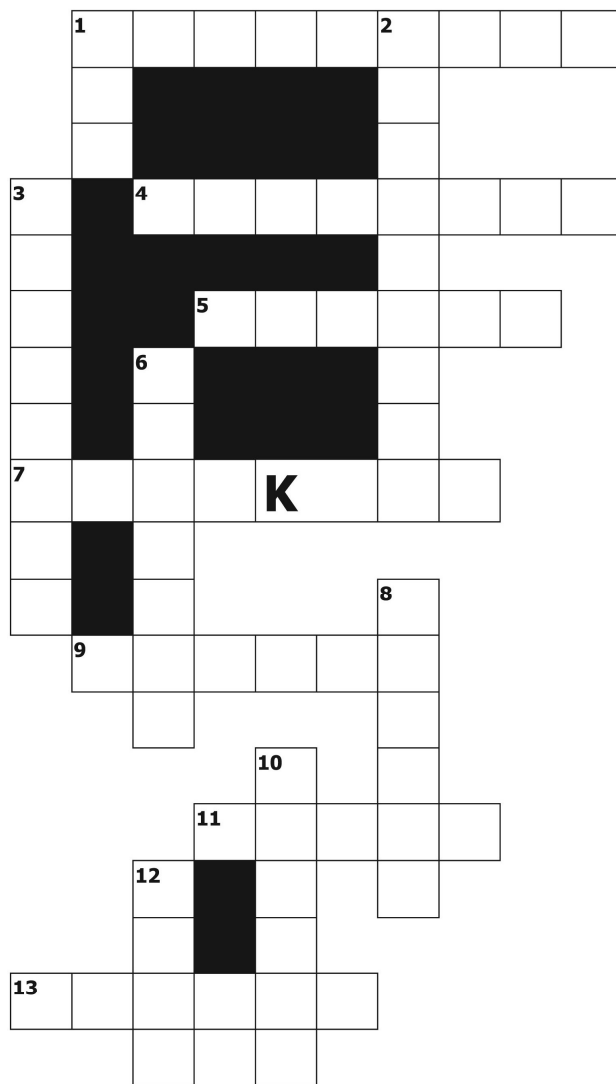
To send a check: Greater Lawrence Commu-
nity Action Council, Inc., Attn: Development
Office 301 Essex Street 4th Floor, Lawrence,
MA 01840



"THAT'S A NICE THOUGHT, SISTER IDA,
BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S BIBLICAL TO INCLUDE A
COUPON GOOD FOR \$5.00 OFF YOUR NEXT TITHE!
IN OUR NEWSLETTER"

Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete this crossword
about women in the Bible.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. (across) Cousin of Mary (Luke 1:36) | 7. Mother of Esau (Genesis 25:21, 25) |
| 1. (down) Mother of Abel (Genesis 4:1-2) | 8. The wife Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20) |
| 2. Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24) | 9. Sister of Mary (John 11:1) |
| 3. Moses' wife (Exodus 2:21) | 10. Sewed clothes (Acts 9:39) |
| 4. Lied about her giving to the church (Acts 5:1) | 11. Hosea's wife (Hosea 1:3) |
| 5. Saved her people from destruction in Persia (also a Bible book name) | 12. Sat at Jesus' feet in conversation (Luke 10:39) |
| 6. A judge in Israel (Judges 4) | 13. Sister of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20) |

Answers: 1. (across) Elizabeth, 1. (down) Eve,
2. Bathsheba, 3. Zipporah, 4. Sapphira, 5. Esther,
6. Deborah, 7. Rebekah, 8. Rachel, 9. Martha,
10. Dorcas, 11. Gomer, 12. Mary, 13. Miriam