

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

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Address Service Requested

*Please see our survey inside in regard
to reopening our
Sanctuary for worship*

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



August 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***

It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the year. I wonder what you’ve been up to. Have you taught yourself new skills, cleaned out and downsized, explored new hobbies, spent more time talking to family, worked on your genealogy? What have you been up to? Is there anything you’ve learned about yourself during this time? Have you made changes because of the pandemic that you plan to keep when it’s over? Have you realized how little you really need when you weren’t able to go into stores or have you found yourself itching to get shopping?

I’ve still been working full time so I didn’t have quite the amount of free time to tackle anything big, but I have spent some of my free time reading and camping. I’ve golfed more this year and been able to pack up most of my house. Pre-Covid I had been trying to practice a zero waste lifestyle and found that to be helpful during this time. I’ve spent a LOT more time on the telephone than I usually do and even more time on Zoom. I’ve discovered that I can do my work more efficiently from home which has allowed me to make many more pastoral phone calls (which I’ve come to love so much.) I’ve missed regular visits with my friends and family and ballroom dancing.

If there is one thing we can take away from all of this it is perspective. In what ways has your perspective changed during this time? You have time to think about it as I’m going away on vacation at the beginning of the month. If you want to chat, call or email me mid-August! Connecting with you is one of my favorite parts of ministry.

Pastor Debra

There will be an ESPECIALLY important Church Council meeting on August 23, 2020. All officers of the church please mark your calendars.....Thank You

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

Statement/Survey for TCC Congregation, August 2020

Dear TCC Members and Friends,

At its May 31 meeting, the Church Council voted unanimously to target September for the possible reopening of the Trinitarian Congregational Church sanctuary for worship. Since then, the Trustees and the Diaconate have been developing reopening plans for the building and for safe worship practices.

For the maximum safety of our congregation, and to comply with the guidelines of the Commonwealth and SNEUCC, this is what reopening our church would look like:

Requirements for In-Person Worship

- Any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 must be cleared by a doctor before attending an in-person service.
- Anyone currently feeling ill with any of the following symptoms, or having had any of the following symptoms within the past 14 days, should not come into the church: fever of 100 degrees or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose, congestion, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Anyone who has had close contact within the past 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 also should not attend in-person services.
- Any attendee who tests positive for COVID-19 after attending an in-person service is required to report it to the church. The church must notify the North Andover Board of Health and assist the BOH in identifying likely contacts. If we learn that someone who entered the building has tested positive for COVID-19, the affected areas in the building will undergo a deep cleaning and disinfecting per CDC guidelines.
- The six deacons who have agreed to return to in-person worship and the moderator will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing safe behaviors by the congregation. Attendees failing to comply with our guidelines will be asked to leave the building.
- All attendees will be required to wear masks covering their noses and mouths while inside the building. Children between ages two and five will wear masks at the discretion of their parents. Children under the age of two are not required to wear masks.
- All attendees will be required to practice a minimum social distance of six feet from one another. Members of the same immediate family or household will be allowed to sit together.
- There will be signs at the front entrance to the church outlining these policies.
- Prior to our first in-person worship service, everyone on our mailing list will receive a copy of a safe worship checklist to reference before attending.

Entry/Exit/Access Procedures

- Three deacons will be available to assist attendees at each service: one at the front door, one at the top of the staircases outside the sanctuary, and one at the front of the sanctuary.
- The front door on Elm St. will be used for all entry and exit; the Cross St. door will remain locked.

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- Attendees will be requested to pre-register online and check in when they arrive.
- Unregistered attendees and visitors will provide their names and contact information upon arrival.
- Masks and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be available to all attendees.
- Signage will direct all attendees up one staircase and down the other, and to the sanctuary doors to use for entry and exit.
- To maintain six feet of separation from one another, bulletins will be placed on designated available seats. Please place the bulletin in the recycle bin on your way out, or take it home if you prefer. Please do not leave it in the pew.
- To keep attendees from walking past each other, individuals will enter the sanctuary and be seated beginning in the front, and moving towards the back. Once seated, they must remain seated until the end of worship except in case of emergency. Attendees will exit the sanctuary in reverse order, starting with those in the back, row by row.
- To promote the safety and welfare of our staff and attendees, the following rooms and areas will be closed before, during and after worship: church office, kitchenette, Davis Room, balcony, and the entire lower floor. Only Pastor Debra will be allowed in her office.
- The only open areas will be the Narthex, sanctuary main floor, and the restroom on the sanctuary level.

Services

- All weekly services will remain available online via YouTube, followed by coffee hour on Zoom. There will be no virtual coffee hour on holiday weekends.
- Initially, there also will be two in-person services per month in the sanctuary.
- To reduce the aerosols and movement in the room, the following parts of the service will be eliminated until further notice: the processional, singing hymns, bell ringing, responsive readings, unison prayers, Holy Communion, passing the peace, and in-person coffee hour.
- Due to these limitations, services will be shorter.
- The following high-touch items will be removed from the pews until further notice: Holy Bibles, hymnals, paper and pencils.
- Pastor Debra will lead the service from the pulpit. She will remain on that level for the duration of the service.
- Chris Wood will be the only person permitted in the choir loft and music office. He will remain in the choir loft for the duration of the service.
- The only persons allowed in the balcony will be someone designated to turn the sound system on and off, and someone to ring the steeple bell. Both will be required to wear masks.
- There will be a lector, at a single microphone on a stand, on the floor towards the left front corner of the sanctuary (as you face the Communion Table). That person also will light the candles.
- There will be a single basket by the front door for monetary collections, to be monitored by a deacon.

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Continued...

- The front door of the church and the windows in the sanctuary will remain open throughout all services.
- All sections of the church used during each service will be professionally cleaned before the next service takes place.

Congregation Survey

The Church Council agreed to revisit its reopening decision in August, to assess the state of our plans as well as the current public health situation.

So, here we are in August, and it's time to hear from you, the members of our congregation. Your feedback will help guide us in our ultimate reopening decision. Please email your responses to the following questions **by Wednesday, August 12** to Pam Foote at pfoote@comcast.net, or call her at 978-837-8182:

1. Have you been participating in virtual worship?
Yes No
2. If so, will you continue to do so for as long as it is offered?
Yes No
3. If TCC resumes indoor services **according to the policies and procedures outlined above** in September, will you return to worship in our sanctuary in September?
Yes No
4. If NO, please indicate when you will be comfortable returning to worship:
 - a. Christmas
 - b. 2021
 - c. Other – please specify
5. If you will not be rejoining in-person worship, do you have ideas other than virtual worship that would help you stay connected to the church?

The health and safety of all our staff, members, friends and visitors remain the top priorities of your church leadership. Thank you for your ongoing “attendance” at our virtual services and coffee hours!

Blessings,

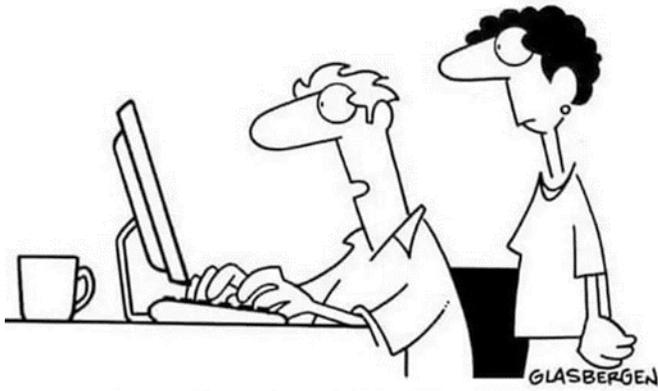
The Board of Deacons

The Board of Trustees

Sarah Dunlap, Moderator

Pastor Debra A. Adams





"I'm writing about all the things I ought to do before I die. It's my oughtobiography."

From the Moderator

Yep. I saw this cartoon and thought "Yep, me too." So many things I ought to do. I start each day with a list. Some days I have crossed several things off of it; some days it seems I accomplish little. I ought to have done that; but alas, I did not. Yes, I could write an oughtobiography. You probably could too. And I could easily beat myself up over all the things I don't get done. But I don't know how helpful that would be. Instead, perhaps I need to remind myself of these things:

You can't do it all. And so, I need to choose well and choose wisely. What are those things that nurture me? Give me joy? AND, what are those things that would please God? Am I using the gift of my day in ways that say to God "thank you" for this time? Who is determining what I "ought" to do? Me? Society? Friends? Peers? God? It makes a difference. Will someone be hurt by what I don't do? Will I? How important is it? To me ... to others ... to God.

It's an interesting thing to ponder, the things I ought to do. Ask Jesus, though, and he would probably just say "love others as you love yourself." So I guess the question becomes: How ought I love myself? How ought I love others?

- Sarah Dunlap

Cross Street Door Replacement



The door on Cross Street has been replaced! The frame needed quite a bit of work before it could be hung on the new hinges, as there was a large gap and rotted wood between the door and the windows. A fresh coat of paint was applied to the surrounding woodwork and it just looks great. The staff has noticed a big difference in how the door closes!

The next project on the schedule is to paint the Davis Room, the Cross Street entrance hall, the stairway, the upstairs hall and the pantry. While it's nice to have time to get things done, the building misses the people who keep it lively. We are all praying for the time when we can meet together once more.

Can you send a card?

We recently received a note that Kenneth Carvell, son of the Rev. Carvell who was pastor at TCC for 43 years, would like to receive cards from our congregation. He is now 95, and was christened and confirmed at TCC. If you would like to reach out, here is the address:

Ken Carvell
2203 Heritage Point
Morgantown, WV 26505

If you need assistance:

Project Bread: Any Massachusetts family or household who needs access to food can call their toll-free hunger help-line: 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** is also offering other food assistance. If you need help with food items, please contact 978-208-6070.

Call the TCC office at 978-686-4445 if you are in need. We can help you navigate through the stormy waters.

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

Check in on your
neighbors regularly.



Stewardship Nugget
“A thing is bigger
for being shared.”
- Gaelic saying

Laughter is the best medicine

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

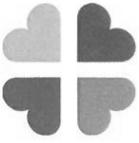
A. Joshua, son of Nun.

Puzzle!

Each year, the Israelites had three harvests.
Find and circle these foods that the people gathered.

almonds	gourds	nuts
apples	grapes	olives
barley	herbs	onions
beans	leeks	pomegranates
cucumbers	lentils	rye
figs	melons	wheat

H A C B R Y E B R V E N
G A U A S N O L E M S U
R L C R F I G S T A T T
A M U L I M B E H A N S
P O M E G R A N A T E S
E N B Y E S E L P P A K
S D E H R O N I O N S E
V S R E S G O U R D S E
T I S M E S L I T N E L
S E V I L O W H E A T H



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Framingham Office - 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702
Hartford Office - 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105

Trinitarian Congregational Church (UCC)
72 Elm Street
North Andover, Massachusetts 01845-2624

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Southern New England Conference Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your commitment to living the love and justice of Jesus! Your generosity makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those saddled by medical debt in our region.

Your support of the RIP Medical Debt appeal provides not only essential funding, but also works to model a culture of giving. Because of you, we're able to amplify impact, increase effectiveness, and - along the way - bring courage to all who want to make a positive difference in the lives of struggling individuals and for a broken world.

Thanks again for your support of the United Church of Christ, the Southern New England Conference, and RIP Medical Debt. Joining together, working together, witnessing together - in such a time as this, there's no more important work and ministry to be done. We can't do this without each other and we can't do this without you.

In gratitude for your generosity and faithfulness,

Rev. Don Remick
Bridge Conference Minister
SNEUCC

Rev. Marilyn B. Kendrix
Bridge Conference Minister
SNEUCC

Rev. Kent J. Siladi
Bridge Conference Minister
SNEUCC

The following donation was received by the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. The contributor received no goods or services in exchange for the donation.

NAME: Trinitarian Congregational Church (UCC)

DATE: 5/21/2020

AMOUNT: \$1,190

USE: RIP Medical Debt Appeal



Thank you

Dear Pastor Debra Adams,

Thank you so much for the Barbara Mason Muchowski scholarship award for chemistry! I was very excited to receive this award.

I have always been interested in the sciences, but when I first took chemistry in high school, I fell in love with the subject and knew that I wanted to pursue it further. I plan to major in chemistry at Macalester college, and then to pursue my PhD in chemistry after that.

I am honored to be selected for this award.

Thank you very much,
Caitlin Panos

with Love

For your convenience: There is a form available that you can use to set up your pledge directly from your bank account or credit card. This is a good time to consider "hands-off" pledging.

Dear Pastor Debra Adams,

I am very honored to have received the Trinitarian Church Olive M. Moody Award for Nursing. I appreciate what this scholarship will do for me in terms of reaching my educational goals. I am currently enrolled at Boston College as a nursing major & this scholarship will assist my family and I with the financial demands of a higher education.

Thanks again,
Sara Melody



"Then he returned to his disciples and found them....

Texting! Can you not keep watch for one hour without texting??!



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PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 15th 2020

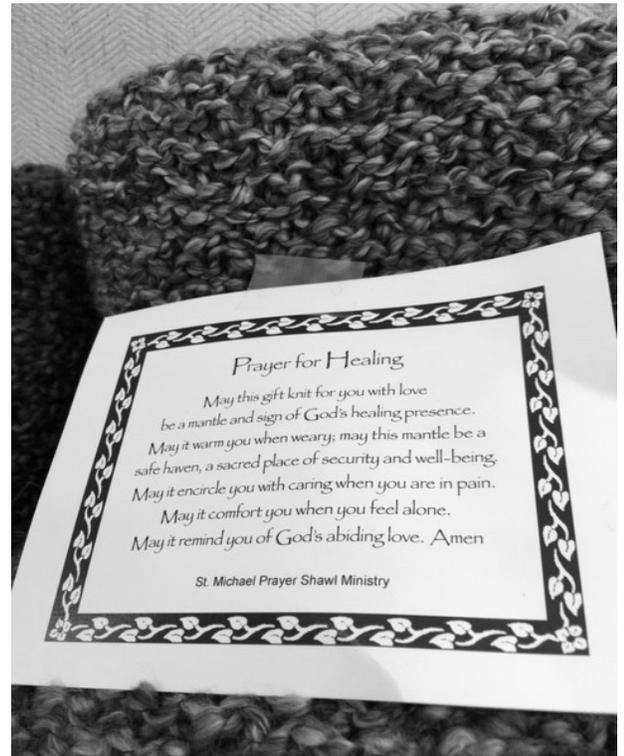
On the 15th of September TCC will be hosting a “Drive Thru” Prayer Shawl event for Communities Together.

Because of the pandemic the regular Prayer Shawl Tea has been cancelled, and as there is a shortage of prayer shawls to be given to those in need this special event is especially important.

Cars will drive thru the horseshoe located at the front door of the church. The shawls will be handed to one of the Chaplains from Communities Together or Pastor Debra to be blessed. The handling of the shawls will be done safely, with masks and gloves used by both the knitters and the ministers.

This is a call to all knitters and those who crochet to get to work!! If you would prefer to donate a Prayer shawl and not drive through for the September 15th event, please **contact Sarah at 978 886 2191 or sedunlap50@gmail.com** and she will supply you with the appropriate yarn if necessary.

Thank you for your continuing support of this vital ministry.



Here's to the joy we've experienced as a congregation. We're praying for the time we'll be able to enjoy fellowship events again.

