

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



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LAWRENCE, Ma

- . Rolling Rally on September 13th!**
- . Prayer Shawl Blessing September 15th**
- . In-Person Worship September 27th**  
*Registration required!*

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**Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams**

**Music Director, Christopher Wood**

**Administrative Assistant, 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](http://www.natrinitarian.org)  
[offices@natrinitarian.org](mailto:offices@natrinitarian.org)



September 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***

Matthew’s gospel highlights God’s presence with us. The first chapter installs Jesus here on earth with an angel connecting his birth with that which was foretold by a prophet, saying “and they shall name him Emmanuel which means ‘God with us.’” Jesus’ last words in chapter twenty-eight are “remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Indeed this very message is sprinkled throughout Matthew’s gospel.

When things are not going well, we should dwell on the promise that God is with us. At a time of pandemic, violence in the streets, and the polarization that comes during an election cycle now is a good time to remember this. Throughout time, God has been with us as God is with us now. It can be comforting to look back over the span of your life and recall events that seemed as if things couldn’t be worse....wars, the threat of nuclear warfare, 9/11, and so on. But in the midst of all that, God does not abandon God’s people. So as Christians, we rely on God being with us in the fear and uncertainty. We can be comforted knowing that God will sustain us as always. Be not afraid, God is with us.

If you would like to have a conversation about how God is with you during this time, please feel free to get in touch by phone or email.

In faith,

*Pastor Debra*

## **Rolling Rally September 13th beginning at 11 a.m.**

Drive by the church and say hello to Pastor Debra! More details on the next page. Come and social distance together in your cars.

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

## Mark Your Calendar: TCC Rolling Rally on September 13

Last year, the Sunday after Labor Day weekend saw us reunite in worship, then rally together at a delicious cook-out and surprise Pastor Debra with a cake marking her one-year anniversary at TCC. Since we can't have that same kind of celebration this year, we're offering you a chance to see Pastor Debra – and fellow TCCers – from your car as part of a Rolling Rally.

On Sunday September 13, starting at 11:00 am, Pastor Debra will stand on the top step outside the church. Members of the TCC family are invited to drive through the circle in front of the church, for a brief greeting and blessing from Pastor Debra. **Please do NOT exit your vehicle at any time.**

Enter the circle from Elm Street, on the side closest to Cross Street, so your driver's side window will be facing Pastor Debra. Moderator Sarah Dunlap will be directing traffic to help everyone participate safely. Honk your horns, wave to your friends, and celebrate the joy of our church family and Pastor Debra's second anniversary as our minister!

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## The New “Normal”

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20*

On Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Church Council met to discuss and vote on when to reopen the sanctuary for in-person worship. The Diaconate presented the results of the survey that was in the August newsletter. The results of the survey were as follows:

17 regular attendees said YES that they would return to in person worship

17 regular attendees said NO that they were not ready to return to in-person worship.

The Diaconate recommended that we open for 1 Sunday in September and if the service goes smoothly and the public health statistics support it, we will continue to meet one Sunday per month.

After a thoughtful discussion with everybody weighing in the Church Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation made by the Diaconate.

The reasons for opening only 1 Sunday in September include finalizing what needs to be done prior to opening to keep within the guidelines set forth by the state and the recommendations of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. The Deacons will be working on signage, marking the pews in a safe socially distant manner, preparing the sanctuary for a service of worship an example being removing all of the hymnals and pew bibles and allowing the deacons who have agreed to attend to become familiar with the guidelines to insure a smooth and seamless service. The Trustees need to develop an effective plan to clean and sanitize the sanctuary, narthex, and the upstairs bathroom.

**The only areas that will be open to parishioners will be the sanctuary, the narthex, and the upstairs restroom. The only entrance to the church will be through the front doors on Elm street. The Cross street entrance will be locked. Masks are required that cover both the nose and mouth.**

### **PRIOR REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

Watch for further information on how to pre register

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.

Please feel free to contact Sarah Dunlap with any questions. [Sedunlap50@gmail.com](mailto:Sedunlap50@gmail.com); 978-886-2191

- Sarah Dunlap, Moderator

*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” -1 John 4:7*

# ***PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 2020, 1 to 2:30 pm***

## **This is a reminder!!!**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September TCC will be hosting a “Drive Thru” Prayer Shawl event. This event is sponsored by Communities Together.

Cars will drive thru the horseshoe located at the front door of the church, 72 Elm street. Prayer shawls will be handed to one of the Chaplains of Communities Together or Pastor Debra to be blessed. The handling of the shawls will be done safely. Masks and gloves will be used by both the knitters and the Ministers. Because of the pandemic there is a shortage of Prayer shawls to be given to those in need.

Thank you for your continuing support of this vital ministry

**If you would like to donate a Prayer Shawl, please contact Dorothy @ 978-686-4445**



## **What can you do to support Trinitarian Congregational Church (UCC) right now? Here are a few ideas!**

If someone is new in town, and looking for a church, where do they look? Social media! We're on Facebook (@natrinitarian) and Instagram (natrinitarian)! Be sure to like our page, write a review, or give us a recommendation — and have your kids or grands like us, too! (You can like and share our posts, as well.)

- Invite a friend to virtual worship
- Forward our emails to your friends.
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel after viewing virtual worship service

Just a few ideas so you can help get the word out about our programs. **And they don't cost a thing!**

## **Stewardship Nugget**

“The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.”

• *James L. Kraft*  
(1874-1953)

*entrepreneur, and inventor*  
(Patented processed cheese)

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.

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

Support a disaster relief effort.



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



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

*1 Corinthians 13* If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

As we are entering our sixth month of dealing with pandemic and what seems like crisis after crisis around the world and in our country, it is good to pause and reflect on why we support our church. Our Missions Committee is focused on outreach, which has been hard while social distancing, and on our traditional role of disbursing funds to various agencies that support those in need, as well as direct help in the form of Market Basket gift cards. It's an honor and a responsibility to make sure that the funds are spent well and go where they will do the most good for the most people. Thank you all for supporting the church so we can continue to love our neighbors by helping them through this most difficult of times.

We continue to pay our dues to the UCC Conference and the Northeast Association. We also purchased a pop-up canopy so Communities Together could continue their programs outside.

If you know someone who is struggling to make ends meet and could benefit from a gift card, please have them contact the office 978-686-4445. Assistance is given to all who ask, and kept in the strictest of confidentiality.

*- Your Missions Committee*

## **Please keep the following in your prayers...**

- Those who live alone and are finding it difficult to keep their spirits up as the months of isolation drag on.
- First responders all over the country who worry about their safety as they work in trying circumstances. And for their families who worry about them.
- All who are missing family at a time when traveling great distances isn't safe.
- All who struggle with mental health issues that they seek help and solace in whatever ways work best for them.
- Brooke, the daughter of Dan's friend who has begun treatment for leukemia. May the family find strength and peace during this difficult time.
- Barbara M, our dear friend as health concerns continue. May she find peace in knowing we are praying for her and those who are caring for her during this time.
- Prayers for healing for Alisha's sister Jessie who has a 6-8 week recovery period after surgery.
- Nancy and Joe request prayers for David D who has had many non-Covid related health issues since February. And for Tim T who has pain related to his cancer. May God guide both David and Tim on a path to healing and comfort.
- Covid survivors who struggle with long-term effects.
- Pam's cousin Scott M who is undergoing chemotherapy for mesothelioma in NC. We pray his treatment will be successful and that pain will subside.
- Donna A as she recovers at home from knee surgery. May she heal quickly and fully!
- Sarah's friend Marie who has recently lost her sight and will be learning to live with her blindness.

### **A Prayer**

However busy I might be,  
May there be moments  
When I am alone, to think,  
To pray, to hear your voice  
And know your presence  
within and beside me,  
through this and every day.  
Blessings

*Sarah Dunlap, Moderator*

## *A fresh coat of paint...*



The crew from John Collins Painting did a fabulous job of freshening up the Cross Street entryway, stairs, upper hall, the kitchenette and the Davis Room. Doug Beach, Pastor Debra and Jay Dumas pitched in by taking off the cabinet doors and polishing the brass fittings. Add in the new back door, and it's been quite a few hours of work that have been done to the building while entry has been restricted. The staff can't wait until you all can be here to share!