

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



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**Zoom Annual Meeting is Coming:
Sunday, January 31st**
Watch our YouTube services anytime!

Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams
Music Director, Christopher Wood
Administrative Assistant, 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
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Winter 2020/2021

Dear Church,

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 2 Cor 5:17

What a difference a year makes. Last year on New Year’s Eve, Jay and I put on our dance shoes and danced the night away. It’s been ten long months since we’ve been able to attend a dance and there is no guessing as to when the next might be. This year, instead of donning our dance shoes, Jay and I rang in the new year like many of you - in the quiet of our own homes.

New Year’s Eve is a wonderful day for reflection. I was talking with my brother on the phone the other day about the state of affairs in the world. After a time of recalling all the hard or terrible things we’ve been through, we began to talk about what we have learned. We have learned so much about ourselves during this time- what we like, what we don’t, what we are afraid of. We have realized we need little to keep ourselves happy if our families are healthy. We proved to ourselves that we can do hard things and still laugh. We tried new hobbies and relished time we’ve spent doing absolutely nothing productive. We’ve learned that pre-pandemic, we had been going through life doing one thing after the other without pausing to fully appreciate the one life we’ve been given. And we’ve learned gratitude in a whole new way. Sure we’ve been grateful, but this is a deeper gratitude for the little things we may have been taking for granted.

If you think back to the year we’ve just been through, what have you learned about yourself and about those around you? Have there been surprises that caused you to smile and wonder? If you can imagine this coming new year unfolding before you, in what ways might your experience of this pandemic make it different than the ones you’ve left behind?

Friends, as Christ’s followers, we have been made new. Everything old has passed away. After reflecting on what was, we look forward to what will yet be. We’ve been displaced from our sanctuary so of course I’m looking forward to coming back to the place where we have prayed and worshiped together. I’m looking forward to seeing your healthy, happy selves settling into the pews and I wonder, in what ways has this experience changed us as Trinitarians that may serve us well as Jesus’ hands and feet in North Andover in the coming New Year.

In faith,

Pastor Debra

Church Office hours : Monday and Tuesday 9 to 12:30, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10:15-1:45

Deets from the Deacons

We hope everyone had a chance to participate in our beautiful Advent and Christmas Eve services on YouTube. Many thanks to Pastor Debra, Jay, Dorothy, Chris, Jenna, Bev, Sarah, the candle lighters and lectors for making a far-from-typical Christmas season feel as “normal” as possible! The special slide shows were an added treat, bringing us closer together with wonderful memories in this time of being apart.

The Deacons loved Pastor Debra’s “live” sermons so much, she’ll continue them in the New Year. So now you can see *and* hear her message as if you were sitting in the sanctuary. Remember, once the service is posted on YouTube each Sunday, you can watch it anytime...or multiple times if you wish. Feedback on the services is always appreciated; don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Debra or one of the Deacons with your comments or suggestions.

With the current surge in COVID-19 cases, the Deacons voted for our services to remain virtual for the foreseeable future. We’ll re-evaluate at our monthly meetings, and keep you posted on any changes. In the meantime, watch your email for the announcement of upcoming fellowship activities, including an online trivia night and a virtual dessert party. Stay healthy and safe, everyone!

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

Outreach is a Year-Round Mission

Thanks to all TCCers for your November food donations! The Missions and Outreach Committee prepared 12 Thanksgiving baskets...and had almost enough food for 13. With our help, the Youth Center helped 80 North Andover families this year. The church continues to provide \$50 grocery store gift cards to our grateful neighbors in need. A generous \$1,000 COVID relief donation from long-time members of our congregation is being used for the gift card fund. The congregation also donated gift cards this year instead of poinsettias for the sanctuary.

Missions sent out many checks prior to the end of the year, with Greater Lawrence Health Center and Eagle-Tribune Santa Fund just two of the recipients. As a result of the positive reception of our efforts to reduce medical debt – and the opportunity to do something not being provided by other local churches – the Committee has decided to focus its 2021 support on community health.

And did you drive by TCC before Christmas? The giant wreath on the front door, garland around the handrails, the wreath on the side door and the Merry Christmas sign were all provided by Missions. Wishing you a healthy and happy 2021!

— *Dorothy Taylor, Missions Chair*

High and Low Notes from the Music Committee

As you undoubtedly noticed, our Advent and Christmas YouTube services featured the awesome vocal and instrumental talents of Chris and Jenna Wood, as well as Bev Valle beautifully playing the bells. Music has always been an important part of our worship experience, so we’ll continue to incorporate it as much as possible into our YouTube services.

Sadly, Chris has notified us of his intent to leave his position as TCC Music Director in the New Year. Chris will remain with us until we find a replacement, which may be even more challenging in this time of doing everything virtually. The Music Committee is beginning its search this month. Please contact me if you know of any candidates we might pursue.

In the meantime, keep singing along with the hymns each week. The joy of music is contagious – and you don’t have to be a pro to catch it!

— *Jay Dumas, Music Committee Chair*

Sunday Morning Coffee Catch-Up

If you’ve never joined us for Zoom coffee hour, or haven’t been there in a while, it’s a New Year and time to check it out! On **Sundays at 10:30 am**, just click on the link you’ll find at the end of the weekly worship service email, and you’re connected live to Pastor Debra and other members of our congregation to chat. No need to download the Zoom application. You never know who’ll show up! We look forward to “seeing” you there.

Annual Meeting 2020

On January 31st 2021 we will be holding Annual Meeting via ZOOM @ 11:30 AM. The Annual Report, the 2021 Budget and Slate of Officers will be sent to you via the USPS by the 27th of January. Please submit any nominations of new officers to the Church Office by January 15th.

The link to join the meeting will be emailed to you by 8AM on the 31st. Again, the meeting will begin at 11:30 AM.

We will have a Tech person who will control muting of the attendees unless they are speaking. You will be recognized to speak by raising your hand. Votes will be done by thumbs up or thumbs down. We will be voting on a Revision to the Bylaws. The revision is regarding meetings following Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. The revision is regarding meetings following Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure to incorporate the use of technology for church meetings. Please see below.

As stated,

Article VII-Meetings

5. Parliamentary Procedure at all meetings of the Church shall be according to Robert's Rules of Order.

The Revision is:

Article VII-Meetings

5. Parliamentary Procedure at all meetings of the Church shall be according to Robert's Rules of Order with the following exceptions.

5.1 In the event of a public emergency declared by the Commonwealth that does not allow in-person meetings, all board and committee meetings and Annual Meeting may be held using electronic meeting software.

5.2 All business transacted at an electronic meeting will be considered valid.

Facts and Figures from the Financial Folks

Your financial generosity never wavered during 2020, for which we are extremely grateful! Everyone who pledged kept up with their commitments, and we ended the year in very good shape. Speaking of pledges, we thank all who returned 2021 pledges in November – and remind you that it's never too late to contact the collector if you'd still like to make one (Betsy Manteiga can be reached by email at jmanteiga@aol.com or phone at 978-681-8033).

Our church expenses remained very low throughout 2020, our investments did well, and we received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan - which was completely forgiven - to help with salaries and other covered necessities. With so much unknown as we enter 2021, we're crafting a conservative budget that will be presented to the Trustees at their meeting on January 12, to Church Council on January 14, and finally to **Annual Meeting on January 31**. We look forward to sharing our 2021 pledge outlook and proposed budget with you.

— Betsy Manteiga, Collector

— George Carifio, Treasurer

Readers Reunite

The TCC Book Group has remained active during the pandemic, meeting via Zoom to discuss one book per month. Our January selection is *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II*. Anyone is welcome to join us as we talk about what we've read...and share some time together virtually. The next Zoom meeting is **Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 pm**. Many thanks to Caroline Webber for being our "Zoom master" for the book group meetings, and to Lorene Beach for hosting the January gathering. If you'd like to be part of the conversation, email Caroline (cswebber815@gmail.com) or Lorene (beach206@verizon.net), and you'll receive the Zoom link prior to the meeting.