

The Trinitarian Times

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC
72 Elm St. North Andover, MA
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Lent 2021

Dear Church,

*"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name."
1 Jn 2:12*

In the first letter of John, the writer makes the argument that we are forgiven simply because we are followers of Christ and because of *that*, we should repent our sins and turn from evil. This is an interesting concept, that is, that the knowledge of our forgiveness should open us up to repent our sins. This viewpoint is found elsewhere in the Bible, however the more prevalent idea and the one we are mostly familiar with is that if we repent and ask for forgiveness first, it will be granted because we asked. John is more or less saying, "By golly, you are a Christian, a follower of Christ, forgiven and loved, now go out and act like it!"

That is an interesting objective to take with us on our journey through Lent this year. What if we begin each day with an acknowledgement of the fact that we are forgiven and have *that* prompt us to act like forgiven Christians? After all, when someone gives you a gift, are you not prompted by gratitude rather than compulsion to offer thanksgiving?

Lent is a time of turning back toward God. Let's travel with Jesus knowing in advance that we are forgiven and have our words and deeds respond to that knowledge in ways that transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

In faith,

Pastor Debra



Lent and Easter

Wednesdays through Lent: On-line Communities Together Noontime
Lenten Services

Palm Sunday, March 28: Virtual Service (posted on YouTube) plus
Drive Through Palm Distribution and Blessing (Driveway of the church
11 to 11:30)

Maundy Thursday, April 1st: Virtual Service of Tenebrae (posted on
YouTube)

Easter Sunday, April 4th: Virtual Service (posted on YouTube)

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

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



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Watch our YouTube services anytime!

Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams

Moderator, Sarah Dunlap

Administrative Assistant, Dorothy Taylor

Handbell Choir Director, Bev Valle

Sexton, Doug Beach

A Successful 2021 Annual Meeting

TCC's first-ever virtual Annual Meeting is in the books! Thirty-five members of the church gathered on Zoom on Sunday, January 31, to review the church's 2020 Annual Report and vote on our 2021 budget and leadership slate. Once a quorum was established, and tech support Chris Lathrop explained how the meeting would work, Moderator Sarah Dunlap called the proceedings to order and offered a devotional from Psalm 121. Pastor Debra welcomed everyone, and led us in a meditation which included a passage from Jeremiah, Chapter 11.

Sarah next presented a proposed revision of the church by-laws, which would provide for an exception to Robert's Rules allowing meetings to be held via electronic software. A motion was made to change the by-law, and it was passed unanimously, allowing our Zoom meeting to proceed and all decisions and votes to be official.

The minutes of last year's meeting were accepted, and Dorothy Taylor provided the latest statistical report, including our current member count (155). Each board and committee chair then offered a brief overview of her or his annual report.

Collector Betsy Manteiga reported that the Stewardship Committee had already received 34 pledges for 2021, totaling \$61,000, but that it's not too late to pledge. Treasurer George Carifio first walked us through the 2020 balance sheet and income statement. He noted that 2020 was one of the best years financially in TCC history, despite the pandemic. Following

a few questions, George reviewed the 2021 budget. He indicated that if we spend everything budgeted, we'll have a \$52,500 deficit. But George believes we'll be able to make good decisions and come close to breaking even this year. There was a motion to accept the 2021 budget as presented, and it was approved unanimously.

Regarding the Leadership Slate, Sarah noted that Mark Reid is joining the Diaconate and David Deems the Music Committee. She urged other members to become involved in the church by serving on boards and committees. A motion was made to accept the Leadership Slate as presented, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor Debra offered a closing prayer, and following a motion and unanimous vote, Sarah adjourned the meeting.

Many thanks to Sarah and Dorothy for the time they devoted to preparing and mailing the Annual Report to all members prior to the meeting, as well as to Chris for helping us participate via Zoom. Hopefully, this will be not only our first remote Annual Meeting, but also our last!



Test Your Trivia Knowledge with Team TCC

Did you know you can play trivia on Zoom? Several of our deacons have played regularly during the pandemic, so we thought it would be a fun fellowship event to put together a TCC team. Mark your calendars for Stump Trivia Night on **Sunday, March 21 at 7:00 pm**. You don't need to have the Zoom app; just click on the link that will be emailed to you an hour before the game. Plan to log in a few minutes early, so you can meet the trivia host and see members of our team and other teams. The game usually last just over an hour. If you want to know more about Stump Trivia and other virtual games in advance, visit www.sporcle.com. **Please call or text Pam Foote at 978-837-8182, or email pfoote@comcast.net, to RSVP.** We need to confirm the number of devices on our team by **Saturday, March 20**. Remember, you can have multiple people using one device...so whether you're a household of one or many, we hope you can join in. You'll be surprised at how much you – and your team members – know!

Looking Ahead to Holy Week

We hope you're watching our Sunday services on YouTube, which include a Lenten Candle Liturgy. Pastor Debra, the Music Committee and our choir members are working with Patty Clark to add special music for our Holy Week Services. On **Palm Sunday (March 28)**, plan to drive through the church's front driveway between **11:00 and 11:30 am**, where you will be able to receive a palm frond and blessing from Pastor Debra. To commemorate the Last Supper on **Maundy Thursday (April 1)**, we will have a special prerecorded service on YouTube, including readings by the moderator and deacons. We'll celebrate **Easter (April 4)** virtually this year, but we think you'll feel the profound joy of that day in our YouTube service. Watch your email throughout Lent for more details.

Shrove Tuesday Dessert Party

Speaking of fun and fellowship, our Shrove Tuesday Dessert Party on Zoom featured some sweet treats and lively conversation. Connie Bruce joined us from her new home in Plymouth, and we learned how each of us ended up in North Andover. Bev Valle was kind enough to share her yummy-looking Hot Fudge Sauce recipe with us:

6 Tablespoons butter or margarine
2 cups sifted confectioner's sugar
2/3 cup Bakers Cocoa unsweetened, powdered
1 can evaporated milk (5 ounces)
Melt butter. Add sugar, cocoa, mix well. Add milk gradually beating until smooth. Bring to boil over medium heat. Cook and stir until thick, about 5 minutes. Makes 2 cups.



Annual Celebration of our Ministry at TCC 2021

On January 31st, TCC held its Annual Business meeting via Zoom.

I would like to thank Pamela Foote for being Acting Clerk and recording the minutes. I would also like to thank Chris Lathrop for all of his technical expertise which kept the meeting sane!

I especially would like to thank Dorothy Taylor, our dynamite administrative assistant, for all of the work she did creating and distributing the Annual report from merging the files to hand delivering the reports to the Post Office for mailing. I would also like to thank her for keeping track of the statistics of TCC.

I look forward to serving you as your Moderator for another year.

Sarah Dunlap, Moderator

Interfaith Clergy Group Mini-Retreat

If anyone is interested in participating in an event to mark the one-year, Rolling Ridge is holding an ONLINE mini-retreat on Tuesday, March 16th from 11 am to 1 pm. **"Unpacking the Pandemic: Marking a Year of Unknowing"** is the first in a three part series on how we can realize the lessons of the dark night of the soul in our spiritual development.

Go to <https://www.rollingridge.org/event/unpacking-the-pandemic-15026724> to register. All are welcome!



Music Committee Search Team

The music committee is convening a search team for a new music director who can take us into the next chapter God has in store for us. You don't have to be able to produce music to enjoy music, so it would be great to have your voice on the team. If you would like to be a part of this, please get in touch with Dorothy in the office who can hook you up with Jay Dumas, the chair of the Music Committee.



Stewardship Nugget

“Whatsoever I thankfully receive, as a token of God’s love to me, I part with contentedly as a token of my love to Him.”

- Theophilus Gale (1628-1678)

English Educationalist, nonconformist and theologian of dissent

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A GREATER NEED FOR LOVE

Install water-saving showerheads and low-flow faucet aerators.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



TCC Book Club

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 25 at 7:45 PM. (We need to start at 7:45 instead of 7:30 to allow for virtual choir rehearsal). All are welcome.

The book for March is "The Girl You Left Behind" by JoJo Moyes.

Connie Bruce will be the hostess and Caroline Webber will run the zoom.

Please RSVP to Connie to receive the Zoom link. Contact the office if you need her email address.

Boy Scout Bottle and Can Drive

Troop 87 will be holding a can and bottle drive on Saturday March 27, 9 -12 at the North Andover Middle School. Support the troop! Contactless drop off, you can pop your trunk and they'll do the rest.



Lenten Diaper and Underwear Drive

During Lent, Communities Together has been collecting diapers, pull-ups and underwear for children in Lawrence since 1998. Last year, the Undies Sunday collection generated thousands of diapers and underwear and over \$2,000 in contributions.



The organization divides the annual collection between social agencies that can distribute the items to families in need. Diapers are a major expense for families, and they cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Monetary donations are welcome. Checks should be made payable to "Communities Together" (with "diaper/underwear drive" written in the memo line) and mailed to:

Communities Together, Inc.
PO Box 428
Lawrence, MA 01842



PARTNER APPRECIATION AWARD 2020

Trinitarian Congregational Church of North Andover

David Brown
DAVID BROWN
Chair, Board of Directors

Susan Sirosis
SUSAN SIROSIS
Executive Director



"The heart that gives, gathers." - Tao Te Ching

Congratulations! Your dedication to the Bread & Roses mission to extend a helping hand to those in need over the last year deserves special recognition - please accept this Community Award - our way of saying "thanks" and applauding your friendship and support.

This year has been a special challenge for us all, and for the work we set out to do. The support of our extended family has meant more than ever - and with you behind us, we're ready to fight hardship where we find it with renewed resolve in 2021.

We wish we could celebrate all we've accomplished together in 2020 - but we can still recognize and reflect on the positive impacts we've made, and continue to make, for our neighbors facing hardship.

On behalf of the entire Bread & Roses Family, thank you - and we hope to see you soon.

Susan Sirosis

Susan Sirosis
Executive Director
Bread & Roses

January 30, 2021

*Thank you for your support
of our mission. Be well,*

Sue

For your convenience: There is a for 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.