

The Trinitarian Times

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC

72 Elm St. North Andover, MA

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Autumn 2021

Dear Church,

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

Sitting down to write an article for the newsletter on a wet, dreary day after another humid heat wave, I find myself thinking about how the weather and all that comes with it has affected my sense of well-being. It feels like I've been battling the heat, the rain, the mosquitos that come with so much rain, the extraordinary number of huge and strange-looking mushrooms in our yard (not to mention the numerous rabbits who have eaten at least 7 of our hostas down to nubbins) and I'm feeling drained by it all. The global health crisis, storms and terrorist takeovers don't help my sense of well-being either!

When I talk with folks, I find that I'm not alone in all this. The hope we may have mustered in early spring has faded for many over the summer.

Yet when I think of the hope that was born to us 2000 years ago, when I think of the struggles that child endured as an adult (for you and for me), I remember that even when we can't seem to find God in the moment, God is still there. When I remember that, I think of God propping me up so I don't fall, helping me to find the good in others, helping me to realize that appreciation is oftentimes born out of struggle.

I realize that we are in no better a position than we were last fall to determine when things will get back to 'normal.' Maybe God doesn't want us to get back to normal. Maybe we were stuck in 'normal' like some comfortable couch potato too content or too lazy to get up and do what really needs to be done. What routines or norms have been shattered in your personal life? And do you want them back or have you happily replaced them with something new? It feels as though we are at a crossroads. When we stand there making our decision about the direction we will go in, will we reminisce about what is behind us or look with hope toward a future we cannot yet know, a future built with and for our God? I encourage you to think about what you've given up, what you've discovered about yourself, and what you now hope for. And when we are ready to resume some new normal, won't you share your insights with us so that together we can move into the church's new normal. May the God of hope strengthen you for the journey ahead.

In faith,

Pastor Debra

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



Blessing of the Animals September 12

Bring your furry, feathered or scaled friends to the service on September 12 and have them blessed by Pastor Debra. This year, since we still have so many participating at home, we'll invite people to send pictures of their present or past pets for a memorial during the on-line service. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the Scout Cabin.

TCC Book Club via Zoom

The next meeting of the book club will be **Friday, Sept. 17** at 7:30 PM. We are reading "Run" by Anne Patchett. Caroline will send out the zoom link. If you aren't on the email list, contact the office and we'll forward your information.

Friendship Sunday

**"A Sweet Friendship Refreshes the Soul" - Proverbs 27:9 –
Join Us for Friendship Sunday on September 19**

Whether you've been worshipping in the sanctuary all summer, or enjoying weekend getaways, we hope you'll catch up with your TCC friends on Sunday, September 19. Worship will be at the usual time – 10 am – and we ask that you wear a mask inside the building. Weather permitting, we'll have an outdoor coffee hour in the side yard after the service. As always, the worship service will be available on YouTube; watch for the link in your Sunday morning email. We look forward to seeing you on the 19th – and we encourage you to invite a friend along, too!

TCC Summer Concert Series

The TCC Summer Concert Series wraps up on **September 19th at 4 pm** with Ricco Barr and their gritty, groovy music. Bring a chair and enjoy!

Prayer Shawl Drive-Up Blessing

Sept. 21, 1– 3 pm. We invite you to use the circular driveway in the front of the church to drive through and drop off your prayer shawls. A minister will greet you at your car, accept your shawls and offer a blessing for both you and the shawl.



Bottle and Can Drive

Scout Troop 87 will be collecting deposit bottles and cans at the North Andover Middle School on **Saturday, September 25th from 9 to 12 noon**. This has become a big fundraiser for them, so bring your bottles and cans by, pop your trunk and support the Scouts!

Stewardship Nugget

"It is a powerful practice to be generous when you are the one feeling in need."

- Allan Lokos

*Founder of the Community Meditation Centre, NYC,
and author*

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

Turn out lights you aren't using.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



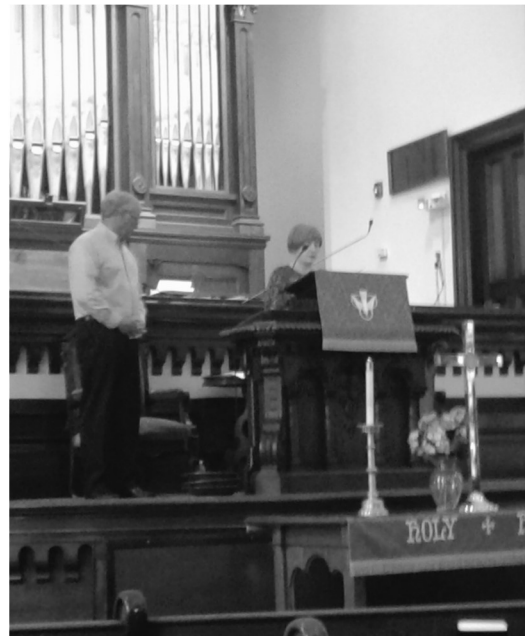


Fire Lt. Gartside and his crew came and did a fire inspection. They were impressed with our building and with our maintenance.

We had some maintenance done on our chair lift and now it's a lot more fun to ride!



If you take a picture at an event, forward the file to the office and we'll use it in the newsletter!



John Larkin and Glen Ayer filled in for Pastor Debra while she was on vacation. Pictured above is Glen and Pam Foote during the July 25th service.



TCC Summer Concert Series Presents

Paul Prue
Delta blues music



July 11, 4 pm
FREE concert on the grounds at **72 Elm Street, North Andover**
Bring your chairs

Some images from the first two Summer Concert Series. Don't forget to come by and enjoy Rico Barr on September 19th at 4 pm!

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



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*We are meeting in person, but you can still
watch our YouTube services anytime!*



Blessing of the Animals September 12
Friendship Sunday September 19
Summer Concert Series September 19
Prayer Shawl Drive-Through September 21
Scout Bottle and Can Drive September 25

Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams

Moderator, Sarah Dunlap

Administrative Assistant, Dorothy Taylor

Handbell Choir Director, Bev Valle

Sexton, Doug Beach
