

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



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LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER



November 20th in the Sanctuary



Advent is Coming!

Pastor, Rev. Debra Adams

Moderator, David Deems

Handbell Choir Director, Bev Valle

Administrative Assistant, Dorothy Taylor

Sexton, Bill Norton

The Trinitarian Times

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC

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Advent 2022

Dear Church,

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Heb. 13:2

Not only is the world changing as it always does, but it appears to be changing faster and more dramatically all the time. In addition to other areas of our lives, most of us have noticed the change in church attendance, participation, and giving practices, but the one I've been thinking about lately is coffee hour. It appears that long gone are the days when most of the congregation rushed off to coffee hour after worship, grabbing goodies and mingling with this group or that. Coffee hour affords the opportunity to catch up or to tie up loose ends in the area of ministry to which you were engaged. It has been a great place to recruit new volunteers or to get people to sign on as sponsors to whatever charity event one was participating in. Most importantly, it was a chance to catch up with people; see how they were doing, get details on their latest overseas adventure, or express concern after hearing the prayers that morning. In addition to all this, conversations with friends and visitors prompted a fellowship among churchgoers that helped to fuel ministry. After all, when you like folks, you want to work alongside them. And you want to check in with them at church every week or so. So I wonder how it is that we welcome the newcomer if we aren't at coffee hour. How do we learn more about the struggles of those around us? How do we share ideas about how to do ministry in this challenging time?

“Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” 1 Pet 4:9-10

Here are some ways we might work together to emulate Jesus' own hospitable manner through the use of this very important part of our Sunday morning ministry.

- Invite someone around you to get refreshments after worship and stay and catch up with them.
- Invite and escort a visitor to coffee hour and stay with them so they don't feel alone. Introduce them to those standing around so you widen the circle. Don't leave them until they are engaged with someone else. It is important to note that first time visitors are often intimidated by coffee hour so don't take it personally if they refuse.
- Offer to help the coffee hour host clean up when everyone leaves.
- Best of all, sign up to host coffee hour. Coffee, cream, sugar, juice, filtered water, and cookies are always in the kitchen courtesy of your deacons (who have been trying to fill in as hosts each Sunday). That is all that is necessary, but if you wish you might want to bring cheese and crackers, fruit, muffins, donuts, or other baked goods. You can make it as simple or fancy as you'd like. It is a great way to engage with others. A sign up sheet is available.

The truth is that if there is a host, we will have coffee hour. If there is not, especially if it happens several times in a row, I fear coffee hour will go the way of some of the other programs we miss at church. So I wonder, what is the future of coffee hour? I'd love to hear your ideas.

In faith,

Pastor Debra

**Join us Sunday, November 20th, as we
celebrate Thanksgiving in the Sanctuary!**

Christmas Season Schedule

“The Fulfillment of Prophecy”

Advent 1— Hope: November 27th

Advent 2— Peace: December 4th (Communion)

Advent 3— Joy: December 11th

Advent 4— Love: December 18th

Longest Night— December 22nd *

Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols: Candlelight Service *

No Christmas Day Service

Epiphany: January 1st

** More information on Longest Night and Christmas Eve will go out
by email and will be on the website @www.natrinitarian.org*

**A shoot shall
come out from
the stump of
Jesse, and a
branch shall
grow out of
his roots.**

***Isaiah 11:1* NRSV**



Last Paper Newsletter

Due to rising costs and a declining mailing list, we have made the decision to stop printing the newsletter on paper. We'll still have all the same content coming your way, but via email. This will also ensure you get the latest updates without the lag that comes from when we create the newsletter, when we get it to the Post Office and when it gets delivered to you.

If you do not have an email address, please contact the office for other options.

Stewardship Event November 13th

Join us for a fun event after worship November 13th. We'll be playing a form of Jeopardy! with a stewardship theme, so bring your thinking caps. Test your knowledge of our building, it's operations, and other church related activities. Let's gather to laugh together! Join your hosts David Deems and Betsy Manteiga.

Thanksgiving Food Drive!

The tradition returns! Bring one item or whatever you can; the Missions Committee will box up what everyone brings and add a Market Basket gift card. The meals will be delivered to the North Andover Youth Center to be distributed to families in town who need a boost at the holiday season. Deadline to bring items in is November 20th; we'll have the items in the Sanctuary that day and Pastor Debra will bless them. **Please stick to the list below. Do not leave items in the Cross Street entry.**

5 lb. bag of potatoes

Fresh onions, canned yams

Stuffing mix and can/jar of gravy

Butternut or another type of squash; quick bread mix

Canned vegetables and can of cranberry sauce

Pie crust mix with filling or brownie mix or cake with frosting mix

Canned fruit and bottle of fruit juice



Decorating for Advent with Pizza Lunch and Santa Parade — Saturday, November 26th

This will be a glorious Advent and Christmas season as we return to our sanctuary. You can help make it beautiful by volunteering to be a part of the decorating on **November 26th at 10am**. A simple pizza lunch will be delivered around 11:30 and we hope you'll stay as we move outdoors around noon to offer hot chocolate and cookies to our neighbors waiting for the Santa Parade to go by. The day promises to be full of fellowship within and hospitality outdoors (be sure to have warm clothing). Won't you please sign up in advance with Dorothy so we know how big our decorating crew is and how much pizza to have on hand.



Notes from the Music Committee

We have been very busy since the last Newsletter was published. We wrapped up a fine outdoor Summer Concert Series with 4EverFab, a talented Beatle's Tribute Band, which drew the largest audience of the summer. Matt Arnold, our (former) Music Director, and his Big Band entertained the crowd at our neighborhood Block Party. Matt's small Blues Band was one of three other bands that performed in our Summer Concert Series. We had an average attendance of about 80 for the series and everyone who attended had a fun filled, toe tapping time. We look forward to continuing to offer this concert series to our members, our neighbors and the wider North Andover community.

Unfortunately for us, but good for him, just as we started anticipating a return to our sanctuary and breathing fresh life into our Choir, Matt was offered a position at a significantly larger church that provided his family much more in terms of financial security and additional benefits. We will miss Matt and his wonderful voice, but wish him well in his new position.

As we look forward to our move back into the sanctuary, both the Grand Piano and the beautiful Organ will undergo needed maintenance and tuning so that they'll truly be "music to our ears" during our Worship Services.

In the meantime, the Music Committee is once again conducting a search for a new music director. Our goal is to find another talented musician to lead all aspects of our music program.



Handbell Concert Nov. 6th

On Sunday afternoon, November 6, 2022, Trinitarian's Handbell Choir will be ringing two pieces jointly with South Church, Andover, and Faith Lutheran, Andover. This event will be held at South Church, Central Street, Andover. The short joint concert will start at 5:00 PM and last about 1/2 hour. Admission is free. Come support our bell choir

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever".

Psalm 107:1.



Your Invitation

Communities Together, Inc.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and Luncheon

Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

St. Michael Parish – 196 Main Street, North Andover

Expressing Thanksgiving for 75 Years of Service to the Greater Lawrence Community

Worship Leaders include Fr. Kevin Deeley, Rev. Dr. Richard Haley,
Rabbi Howard Mandell and others.

Please RSVP for the Luncheon to lee@communitiestogetherinc.org or (978) 686-4012.

Summer Concert Series

August 21st— 4EverFab



September 11— 12Barz Band

