



The Quest

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE FALLS

August 2026

About Trinity Church

Trinity Church is an ecumenical Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. We are affiliated with the American Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.

Sunday service hours:
10 a.m. (Nursery care is available.)

Office hours:
Monday - Wednesday - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thursday - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(413) 625-2341

Pastor - Benjiman Durfee
Leadership Team Co-chairs:
Beth Martin & Wayne Perrea
Music Director - Keith Rollinson
Church Secretary - Brook Batteau
Nursery Attendant - Lisa Porter
Facilities Staff- Pat Valeski

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From Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Dear Trinity,

TRINITY
CHURCH
SHELBURNE FALLS



Over the past several weeks, you may have noticed something new appearing around Trinity Church: a new logo.

At first glance, that may seem like a small thing. After all, a logo is just a picture. But for the Church, symbols

have always mattered. From Noah's rainbow to the cross of Christ, Christians have long used visual symbols to express truths that words alone cannot capture. A symbol can tell a story, remind us who we are, and point us toward the God we serve. Our new logo is intended to do exactly that.

Rather than simply creating a modern graphic, we wanted a symbol that reflects both who Trinity Church has always been and who God is calling us to become.

The design draws inspiration from the beautiful architecture of our historic church building while also expressing our faith in the Holy Trinity. Its fourfold form represents the four Christian traditions that came together to form Trinity Church, reminding us that our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. At its center is the shape of a heart—a reflection of the love of God that stands at the center of everything we do. The circles speaks of unity and belonging, the cross reminds us of our faith, and the outward movement suggests a church sent into the world to serve. In today's world, a logo is often someone's very first encounter with a church. Before they step through our doors, hear the organ, or meet a

member of the congregation, they may first see our website, a social media post, a newsletter, or a sign along the street. We want that first impression to communicate warmth, beauty, faith, and welcome.

Over the coming months, you'll begin seeing the new logo on our bulletin, newsletter, website, letterhead, signs, and social media. While our appearance is changing, our mission remains the same: to gather as God's people, to grow in faith, love and service, and to go into the world as disciples.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

July has come and gone in a blink of an eye! We hope everyone's enjoying their summer! Trinity was happy to be able host a band on our lawn during The Shelburne Falls Porch Fest on July 12th. The Spiral Head's, a great local rock band, played under our tent to a good sized crowd that Sunday afternoon. One of the band member's, a graduate of the Charlemont Academy, was grateful for his time assisting with our Friday Night Community Meals program a number of years ago.

The following Sunday, July 19th, was our Annual Trinity Church and Community Potluck. The weather was perfect with a breeze to ease the heat and ruffle the table cloths enough to require some hymnals to keep them from blowing away. This year we were fortunate to have an even larger crowd than last year's successful event. The food was delicious and the conversations were lively. Everyone had a great time together. Thank you all for your wonderful food offerings! Special thanks to our chefs Julie Bailey and Wayne Perrea for the expertly cooked hamburgs and hot dogs. Thanks to Wayne for managing the tent, Pat for getting the tables and chairs out and to everyone else who joined in for the clean up. We hope to plan another Potluck before the snow flies.

Trinity is continuing to host the 3rd Friday each month for our Friday Night Community Meal program. This last month we "branched out" and made Shepard's Pie. We experienced a few harrowing assembly moments however the completed pies were gratefully well received. New suggestions about recipes that will feed a crowd will be welcomed as well as anyone who wishes to join in on the fun.

We have some exciting news for our children. We are introducing a new Children's Bulletin from Illustrated Ministries that provides coloring and other activities for kids that coordinate with the Sunday readings. We are working with Lisa Porter to update our Safe Sanctuaries policy and provide more resources for our Children's ministry in the fall.

With blessings—*Clare Chapman, Sarah Neelon, Wayne Perrea and Beth Martin*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Trinity Church's Building Joy Capital Campaign continues to flourish. Calls and visits for donations are still ongoing with a new total of around \$229,000 thus far. Amazing! The contract from the organ company L. Gnodde LLC, who will be completing the restoration, is signed and plans are set for the process to begin in October. The Capital Campaign Building Committee remains hard at work finalizing the plans for the Emergency Generator and Video Tech Corner pieces of the campaign. We remain grateful to everyone for your faithful support!



With Joyful Blessings – *Clare Chapman, Beth Martin
and the Capital Campaign Committee*

CLOTHES CLOSET AUGUST DATES

Saturdays, 8th and 22nd, 10:00-12:00
Wednesdays, 12th and 26th, 11:00-3:30

PHOTOS NEEDED



I'm wanting to update many of the photos on the website and need photos you may have taken at events or in church.

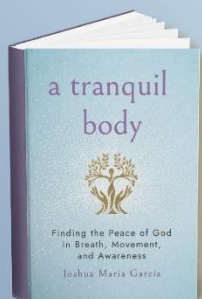
Please send your high-resolution photos to nancyland@mac.com

(My photo included from Trinity garden butterfly bush to catch your attention!)

Thank you! *Nancy Parland*

BOOK RELEASE

Official Book Release with Joshua Maria Garcia



Join us for a brief reading, guided meditation, and light refreshments.



Tuesday, August 4 - 7:00 PM
First Churches
129 Main Street Northampton, MA 01060

First Churches of Northampton invites all members of the community to an exciting book release event on Tuesday, August 4th at 7pm in our Sanctuary. There will be light refreshments available in Lyman Hall, and copies of *A Tranquil Body* available for purchase through our partners at Book Moon Books in Easthampton!

For many Christians, the body has long been viewed as a source of temptation or weakness. *A Tranquil Body* reframes this understanding and reveals our physical embodiment as a meaningful pathway to spiritual growth. Grounding readers in the mystery of the Incarnation—God becoming flesh—this guide offers practices that help draw readers closer to God by becoming more fully present in their own bodies. The devotional is well-suited for anxious readers, providing tools to ground the nervous

system, regulate breathing, and awaken the senses to the nearness of God. From walking in nature and kneeling in prayer to simply breathing with intention, Garcia encourages readers to experience the body as a bridge to the divine.

Joshua Maria Garcia is a notable presence on TikTok (@joshuamariagarcia), a spiritual counselor, and a seminarian in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana. They live in south central Tennessee.

HELP US DISCOVER THE GIFTS AMONG US

In the coming weeks, we're inviting everyone who considers Trinity Church their church home—members, friends, and newcomers alike—to complete a brief Gifts Survey. This isn't a volunteer sign-up sheet or a way of assigning more jobs. Instead, it's an opportunity to help us discover the abundance of gifts, skills, experiences, and passions that God has already placed within our congregation. As Trinity grows, we want to become a church that begins with what God has already given us, rather than with what we think we're missing.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete. Please follow the link to read more about why we're doing this and to fill out the survey:

<https://forms.gle/AZwXfMX9XwQZwEFJ7>

Paper copies of the survey are also available in the office.

PORCHFEST AT TRINITY!

The band Spiralhead performing at Trinity for the Shelburne Falls Porchfest



FRANKLIN ASSOCIATION CHURCH PICNIC

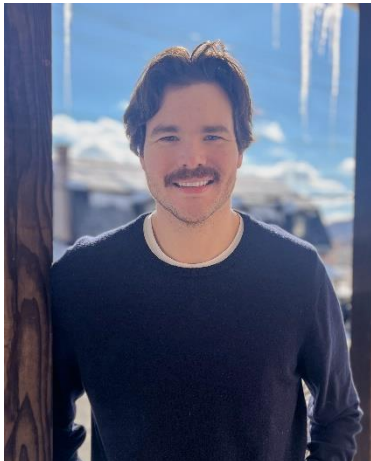
The Franklin Association of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ, invites you to an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun!

**Sunday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m.
The Picnic Grounds in Buckland**

This is simply a time to gather and enjoy one another's company—**there will be no meeting and no Association business conducted.** Everyone from our congregations is encouraged to attend, not only clergy and delegates. Church members, families, friends, neighbors, and newcomers are all welcome as we celebrate God's community together.

Please bring a dish to share and something to sit on. There will be lawn games, places to hike, and plenty of opportunities to relax, reconnect, and meet friends from across the Franklin Association. Come for the picnic. Stay for the fellowship. Everyone is invited!

THE REV. DAVID JONES



Welcome Rev. David Jones as Our New UCC Area Conference Minister

A new Area Conference Minister for the Northwest Region, the Rev. David Jones, began his ministry with the Southern New England Conference on July 1. Under his leadership in Ashfield, the First Congregational Church strengthened collaboration with neighboring churches and the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry, increased annual pledging, improved staff compensation and begun a visioning process. Jones also served on the Franklin Association Committee on Ministry, including as chair for three years.

"I feel at my best wading into deep conversation with church leaders and clergy, especially in the midst of transitions, to dream about the future and to focus on what we truly want to achieve," Jones said. "I am eager to partner with the Associations of this region to deepen our shared identity, and to help organize our churches so that we trust and really feel we are fighting for justice together."

Although born and raised in eastern Ontario, Canada, and having gone through the ordination process in Florida, western Massachusetts has become home for Jones and his family. He and his wife have two young children. He enjoys playing tennis, sharing music, going to the movies, and cheering on his favorite hockey team, the Montreal Canadiens.

THE REV. CANON HEATHER BLAIS



*The Episcopal Diocese of
Western Massachusetts*

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Canon Heather begins serving as our Canon to the Ordinary on August 1. She can be reached at hblais@diocesewma.org.

Please keep her in your prayers as she begins this new ministry.



The Rev. Canon Heather Blais

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2026

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	10 am service
Monday	3	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	4	7 pm Book Release at First Church, Noho
Wednesday	5	9:30 Playgroup; 11 am - 3:30 pm Clothes Closet
Thursday	6	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	7	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	8	10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	9	10 am service
Monday	10	9:30 Playgroup; 5:30 Shelburne Selectboard Simulcast 5:30 Hilltown Resilience Network
Tuesday	11	
Wednesday	12	9:30 Playgroup; 10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Thursday	13	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	14	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	10 am service; 1:00 pm Franklin Association Picnic
Monday	17	9:30 Playgroup
Tuesday	18	
Wednesday	19	9:30 Playgroup
Thursday	20	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	21	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	22	10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Sunday	23	10 am service
Monday	24	9:30 Playgroup; 5:30 Shelburne Selectboard Simulcast
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	9:30 Playgroup; 10 am - 12 pm Clothes Closet
Thursday	27	11 am Contemplative Prayer Group; 7 pm AA
Friday	28	10:30 am Kids Movement; Farmers Market; 5:30 pm Community Meal
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	10 am service
Monday	31	9:30 Playgroup

Note: Pastor Ben will be on vacation August 24 through September 8

August 2026



The Quest

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE FALLS

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST 2026

August 2	Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,16; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
August 9	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
August 16	Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
August 23	Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
August 30	Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28