



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

September 2021

WELCOME BACK FROM SUMMER

As we begin a new school year, there are many new beginnings as well as postponed or cancelled events. Please take note of the diocesan options available to us.

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 - Discernment community application deadline September 10th
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Holy Days in September

- 15th Pentecost (Sep 5) Labor Sunday Solemn Service (Rite I)
- 16th Pentecost (Sep 12) Blessing of the Backpacks Youth Service (Rite II)
- *Feast Day (Sep 15)* *Holy Cross Day (Feast of Our Lord)*
- 17th Pentecost (Sep 19) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- *Feast Day (Sep 21)* *Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Major Feast)*
- 18th Pentecost (Sep 26) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- *Feast Day (Sep 29)* *Saint Michael and All Angels (Major Feast)*

Weekly Schedule

- Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am in-person and on Zoom
- Monday-Thursday Office open 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Thursday Community Meal Program: 1 pm volunteering, 4 pm serving

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR PRIEST

Dear Parish Family,

I am delighted to be here in Milford as your new rector. Thank you for welcoming our whole family so warmly. We're still unpacking boxes but are feeling at home.

Fall is a time of new beginnings for many of us. Children are starting up the education routine, adults shifting away from vacation rhythms, and a new season approaches.

While the first official day of fall is still a few weeks off, a new season begins in the Church: *The Season of Creation*. In 2021, we will enter a time of celebration as well as of grief, repentance, and action. The four bishops in Massachusetts issued a clarion call recently on the subject of our global *Climate Emergency*. Droughts, floods, storms, fires, extreme heat and cold, and more are rapidly growing evidence of what we're facing as a species and a planet. These next 34 days we will gather as a people of the Creator to walk through liturgy toward what must become a new way of being in the world. We invite your prayers and your participation as we journey together, drawing on our community's shared wisdom.

Another new beginning will be in our music ministry now that our beloved Randy Bloom has stepped down from his years of faithful service effective August 8th. Our volunteers have risen up to fill this interim time with familiar hymns and voices as we seek to keep as much continuity as possible. The organ playing will continue some weeks with fill-in support from the community while other Sundays will feature different instruments, and a few will be scheduled as spoken Rite I services. As we move into the fall, we will work together as an entire parish community to discern our way forward, with input sought from all. Our goal is to keep the best of our beloved and vital tradition while also considering expansions of our repertoire toward "making necessary changes to attract families and children" as requested in the surveys last summer.

One new beginning that we had all wished for is sadly postponed for now. As the pandemic spreads again, the vestry has decided to keep our current service schedule through September. Our programs for children and youth are planning toward October. We will continue to keep a cautious eye on the community meals and all activity involving church space. Masks will continue to be required while inside the building until further notice, regardless of vaccination status.

Despite all this heavy and necessary talk, my goals in the first 6 months of ministry with you remain the same: to meet and get to know you all, to listen and learn from your hearts, and to begin working toward new offerings of spiritual renewal and transformation in the parish. I have faith that there is much joy in love that awaits us this fall and into the future. I look forward to experiencing the fullness of life in community with you.

Blessings,

Father John



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing of the Backpacks, and Commissioning of Teachers (September 12)

Our annual celebration and blessing of those in educational settings has been moved to the Sunday following Labor Day. Please join us for a youth-centered service.

Postponements and Cancellations This Fall

Due to the continuing dangers and uncertainties of the pandemic, the following apply:

- The annual *Welcome Back Barbecue* is cancelled; we hope to resume in 2022.
- We will continue the 9:00 am Sunday worship schedule for September; the Wednesday service and all others will remain on hold.
- Programs for children and youth will remain on hold for September. We will be sending out a survey to parents and kids as we plan what our year will look like.
- The choir program will be on hold until further notice.

Music at Trinity

With the resignation of our Music Minister, we will be enjoying the playing of various community organists, pianists, and others during the fall. The entire parish will be invited into conversation about our next steps in coming months.

Eyeglass Recycling



Trinity's participation in the Milford Lions Club eyeglass recycling program has resumed! The total number of glasses collected by Trinity parishioners for people in need is 485. Anyone with eyeglasses, glasses cases, or gently used sunglasses that they no longer need can put them in the collection box by the piano in

the parish hall. Thanks to all who have contributed so far!

Luncheon Groups

The ROMEOs will meet for lunch at 12:30 pm on Friday, September 10, at Jr's Diner, 296 Main Street, Milford. If you would like to attend, please contact Dave Clinkman at clinkman@comcast.net or 508-634-8996 by Wednesday, September 8, so we can arrange seating for everyone. Romeo's is a social group for retired men and other men who wish to join us during their lunch hour.



The next JULIETS Luncheon is planned for September 15, at the Red Heat Tavern in Milford (in the front of the Stop and Shop/TJ Maxx plaza). All women of the parish are welcome to attend. If you would like to join the fun, please contact Pat Keppler at

pat_keppler@yahoo.com, at 508 966-0003 (home) or at 508 246-9703. We plan to eat outside again. Hope to see you there!

News for October

The deadline for submissions for the October edition of The Trinitarian is September 15th. Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter but can be included in the weekly email.



During the past month, I lost my sweet cat Niko. It is one more reminder of how brief our time with one another is. We all move forward eventually, but at times like these, it is helpful to reflect on what really matters in life. Blessings to all in this autumn season.

Elizabeth Klisiewicz, Editor
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Meditation: God Languishes With Us

A headline from last spring teased, “There’s a Name for the Blah You’re Feeling.” The writer decided what he and others felt as the pandemic wore on wasn’t burnout or depression but languishing — decreasing vitality; feeling dispirited. People of ancient times experienced this too: “The land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine” (Genesis 47:13). “The wine dries up, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh” (Isaiah 24:7). But there’s more.

If you used to be “merry-hearted” but now sigh a lot, hear this: “The heavens languish together with the earth” (Isaiah 24:4). Isaiah uses “the heavens” to refer to God, who languishes with us. Like an empathizing friend, God sits with us in our struggle. Sure, we pray for rescue now: “I am languishing; O Lord, heal me” (Psalm 6:2). But when our timing isn’t God’s, we trust his promise of restoration: “[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes ... mourning and crying and pain will be no more” (Revelation 21:4).

With the psalmist we hold two truths at once: “My soul languishes for your salvation; I hope in your word” (119:81).

— Heidi Hyland Mann

THE SEASON OF CREATION

Colleagues and friends of the earth,

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, the Diocese of Western Massachusetts will unite with Christians around the world in celebrating a special season of prayer and action to protect God's creation.

Season of Creation begins on September 1, a date chosen in 1989 by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church—and now embraced by the wider ecumenical family—as the *World Day of Prayer for Creation*. Creation Season ends on October 4 with the *Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi*, the man who is often called the patron saint of ecology.

We observe this special season in the hope that caring for Creation will increasingly be woven into every aspect of congregational life. Through preaching and prayer, and in sacrificial acts of generosity and bold public witness, we hope to strengthen our Christian response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

— *The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas (Diocesan Missioner for Creation Care)*



CREATION SEASON EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Sing for the Planet: The Climate Emergency means we need to make our voices heard. We've marched, we've voted, we've petitioned, and now we are going to sing, and sing in one large choir, the #HouseOnFireChoir with A Passion for the Planet: Join us in singing for the UN Climate Summit. You will be part of the finale of the COP26 on-line performance of Geoffrey Hudson's [A Passion for the Planet](#).



Record yourself, your friends, your family or your choir, send in your performance, and we'll (literally) bring your voices to Glasgow, Scotland this November! Deadline for sending in your performance is October 11th.

Take the CCJN Survey: The *Creation Care Justice Network* of the Diocese of Massachusetts has crafted a short survey for congregations in both Episcopal Dioceses. Multiple responses from one congregation are encouraged—they will give us a rounder, fuller picture of the congregation.



Diocesan Resources on Our Climate Emergency: Our two Massachusetts dioceses have joined together to assemble a variety of resources on education and action on the websites at www.diomass.org/creation-care and www.diocesewma.org/mission_ministry/creation-care/.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Loving The Questions: Discerning Calling

God has planted within each of our hearts a way of being and seeing the world that only we can bring. When we offer the fullness of who we are, we give this world an irreplaceable and priceless gift: our very selves. *How do I offer the fullness of who I am? How do I live my best life? What form does this take?* Loving the Questions is an offering from the Episcopal dioceses in Massachusetts. It is a community of discernment that honors the Spirit's call to those considering both lay and ordained ministry. Our hope for you is that you may:

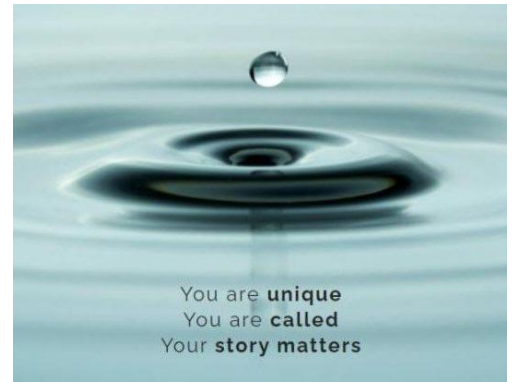
- Grow into a deeper understanding of your unique calling, or vocation
- Gain greater clarity around your unique gifting
- Identify supports in terms of people and tools necessary for your calling
- Develop a plan of formation for your calling

Loving the Questions will be held online via Zoom on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:00 pm beginning September 18, 2021. We will hold a Midway Retreat on Saturday January 9th and a Closing Retreat March 4-5, with a Final Session with the Bishop on March 9th. If you have questions, please contact: The Rev. Jennifer Gregg at revjgregg@gmail.com or Craig Hammond at seedee8ch@gmail.com. **Applications are due no later than September 10, 2021.** The Program Fee is \$250. Parish scholarships are available—please talk to Father John.

Young Adult Ministry Network Retreat

Our diocese is excited to welcome young adults (18-40) to the Barbara C. Harris Camp in Greenfield, NH for our Young Adult Ministry Network in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts retreat. All costs are covered, including meals, overnight stay, and housing. The date and time of the retreat is from Friday, September 10 at 4 p.m. through noon on Sunday, September 12.

Please register as soon as possible so we can be aware of any additional space needs and so that we may share accommodation requests with Barbara C. Harris camp in a timely fashion.



"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

**Young Adult Ministry Network
Fall Retreat**
Barbara C. Harris Camp, Greenfield, NH

September 10-12

For young adults 18-40.
No cost to attend (including food and lodging), travel assistance available.
To register, please visit tinyurl.com/YAMN-Retreat/
Email Will at william.harron@gmail.com with any questions.

A ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts