

Trinity News

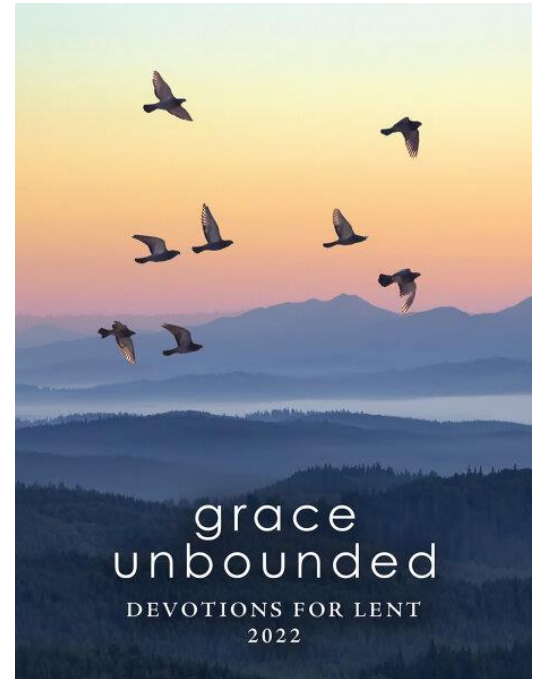
Volume MMXX11 No. 3 ✦ MARCH 2022

Grace Unbounded

Cantor Mark Mummert

*Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by sin and death surrounded,
with grace unbounded.* [Ronald A. Klug, ELW Hymn 665]

Christ comes to us with grace unbounded. That is, Jesus gives us unearned forgiveness, without limits. This is the gospel truth we celebrate each Lent. Through Christ's death and resurrection, and by our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, we receive the forgiving life and love of God, when we deserve death and shame.



We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with a sign of our human frailty and sinfulness. We are dust, and to dust we shall return. With the sign of ash on our foreheads, we go into Lent counting on God's unbounded grace to sustain us on our life's journey. Services on Ash Wednesday are offered at Trinity at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. New this year is a 15-minute service especially for families with young children at 3:45 p.m. which will include a bible story, prayer, and imposition of ashes.

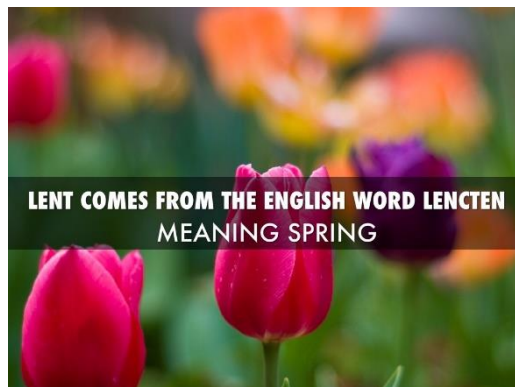
Throughout Lent, we will keep daily devotions together through the booklet, *Grace Unbounded*. Each day begins with scripture, something to ponder, and a prayer. The booklet is supplemented in our congregation by a video blog on our website featuring our ministry staff and congregants in short video reflections on the day's devotion. Watch daily beginning March 2 at www.trinityworc.org.

Throughout Lent at Trinity this year we will keep our eyes open for grace unbounded. We will resume communing with wine at all of our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. You may wish to bring your own cup to commune. Doing so will enable you to control the cleaning and handling of the cup, but also cut down on the work at church for those who clean our communion glassware. But don't worry: if you don't bring a cup, we will have one for you.

Lent originated as a time when those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter were taught the faith of the church. Each year, Lent offers us all again a time to learn or relearn the faith. At Trinity this year, we are preparing to welcome new members to the congregation on the Day of Pentecost, June 5. These new disciples are being invited to four sessions on the essentials of Christian faith with a Lutheran lens. All are welcome to accompany these new friends, and learn again the faith we confess.

Our Lenten journey culminates each year is the observance of the Great Three Days, beginning on Maundy Thursday (April 14). From Thursday we move through Good Friday (April 15), Holy Saturday with the Vigil of Easter (April 16), and Easter Day (April 17). Plan now to make these days a priority in our life, so that together we may celebrate the salvation of the world.

Ronald Klug's hymn *Rise, Shine, You People* says it plainly: "He comes to us, by sin and death surrounded, with grace unbounded." At first glance, it may look as if all we see around us are sin and death. God's word, which comes to us in the scriptures proclaimed and the sacraments shared, gives us eyes of faith to see unbounded grace. Lent is our annual vision test, updating our prescription, enabling us to see. We attend this annual vision test together, not individually, but in the community of the church, that together we might hold each other up, keep each other accountable, and walk together through this weary world. I invite you to a holy Lent, with grace unbounded.



COUNCIL UPDATE – PRESIDENT KAREN COUTURIER

The newly elected 2022 Congregational Council met Saturday February 12 for a full day of planning for the upcoming year. We began our morning of team building through sharing our values, hopes and dreams for the Trinity Congregation in the coming year. Values such as kindness, trust, listening, openness, respect and faithfulness were some of the shared qualities we want to bring forth in our work together.

We studied our Constitution, Church Council Covenant and roles and expectations of Council members to better understand the framework for our work together. We looked at the committees and ministry teams as they relate to the many facets of congregational life. There is a Council member paired with each of the committee or ministry teams.

The CAT planning team shared an overview of the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) and its purpose in developing long range goals for Trinity. Council will meet with Pr. Sara Anderson, Associate to the Bishop on March 15, 2022 for interpretation of the results. Afternoon business meeting focused on Council reports and minutes of January Council Meeting and Annual Meeting. Nancy Fontneau provided a very helpful tutorial on reading the financial reports.

Council Elected its Officers at the Saturday, February 12 retreat:



Karen Couturier
President



Beth Getman
Vice President



Kate Gregoire
Secretary



Nancy Fontneau
Treasurer

Council Members: Nathan Cummings, Jim Drackley, Bryan Gregoire, Roz Horn, Dale Mattice, Nick Salerno, Maureen Stake, Mary Tarquinio, Judy Willoughby and staff Jena Hill, Mark Mummert and Pastor Nathan Piphon.

Many thanks to Dave Horn President 2021 (Happy Birthday too) for leading many of the day's activities and discussions, providing a solid foundation and direction for a smooth transition into the new year.

We have a faithful, dedicated team of Council members excited to work together as we look ahead at long-range plans for our life together at Trinity.

FAREWELL THANK YOU FROM DAVE HORN / I will repeat my thanks to all members of the Council, the Trinity staff and the many volunteers who have worked hard and made unusual sacrifices during these challenging times. It has been a pleasure to work together to advance Trinity's mission. The 2021 Council took their call seriously, and to serve as Council president has been an honor and a privilege. Thank you for your prayers and support.

I am very encouraged that the congregation approved the budget proposed by Council and the Finance Committee at our congregational meeting February 6th. The approved budget has a significant deficit which is not how we want to proceed moving beyond this year but it will allow us to explore options in staffing and programming. Critical to this effort is an honest assessment of who we are and where we would like to head, and this process has begun with the Congregational Assessment Tool (C.A.T.). I hope that by the time you read this you will have responded to the C.A.T. survey. By mid-March we will be working with the New England Synod to evaluate the C.A.T. results and looking at ministry, mission, funding and stewardship as we move forward together.

Again, thank you for your support in my time as your Congregational President.

NEWS & UPDATES

NEW MEMBER CLASSES / If you are interested in joining Trinity Church, please speak with Pastor Nathan, Cantor Mark, or Youth/Family/Outreach Minister Jena Hill. Prospective members, as well as any interested existing members, are invited to attend any of the following sessions hosted by the Ministry Staff in the Trinity Library.

The Congregation: Orientation to Trinity and Tour of the Building

Sunday, March 13

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

**The Basics: Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper,
and Luther's Small Catechism**

Tuesday, March 22

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Scriptures: How Lutherans Read the Bible

Saturday, April 2

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

**The Church: Beliefs, Practices, and Organization of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Saturday, May 14

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

Sessions will be offered in-person and on Zoom. Recordings of each session will be available to those not able to attend in-person. For more information, or to RSVP, please speak with Pastor Nathan, Cantor Mark, or Jena Hill. New members will be received by Affirmation of Baptism on Pentecost Sunday, June 5.



TRINITY BOOK CLUB / All meetings will be held in the Library at 1:30 p.m. and/or via Zoom. If there is a time change for any of the dates, we will be sure to publish in the bulletin.

- *Monday, February 28 ... The Gown* by Jennifer Robson
- *Monday, March 14 ... The Last Week* by Marcus Borg (Chapters 1-4)
- *Monday, March 28 ... The Last Week* by Marcus Borg (Chapters 5-8)
- *Monday, April 25 ... The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- *Monday, May 23 ... Under the Whispering Door* by T.J. Klune
- *June, June 27... These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett

TRINITY NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT TEAM NEWS



The Shams family continues to acclimate to life in America. We have tended to some medical needs with the help of MassHealth, learned how to work with swiping a SNAP card (formerly known as food stamps) and begun the lengthy process of discerning the route to permanent residency in our country. The biggest smiles from the family come when they can show how they are learning English.

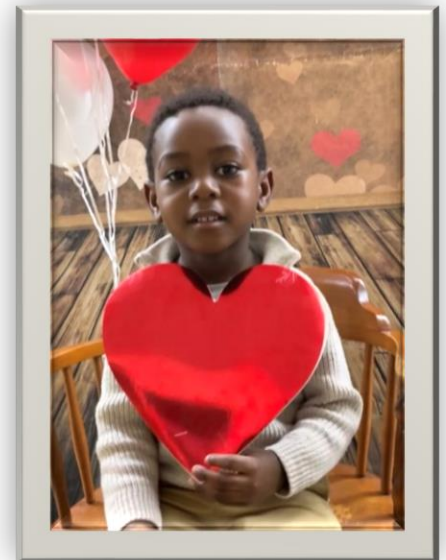
NECESSITIES FOR NEIGHBORS



So far, we've delivered cookies several times to the two WPI Fraternity houses (70 boys) on Wachusett St. behind the church. We'll be delivering baked goods to them through the end of their college year to show that we care and support them in their grieving of the seven (7) students from the WPI community who have died in recent months. Thank you to those who have baked cookies.

TLC PRESCHOOL

Our preschool teachers and children enjoy getting outdoors as much as possible. The fresh air and sunshine are especially important during the long winter months. Unfortunately, when the temperatures are in the single digits and the wind chill kicks in, staying outside for any length of time is prohibitive. Here is a peek into some *inside activities* from recent days!



✦ CELEBRATIONS ✦

BIRTHDAYS

We recognize the birthdays of our members age 75 and older

Kenneth Henrikson – March 6

Lynette Szerlag – March 10

Elaine Mann – March 13

Beverly Hobbs – March 15

Ruth Carlson – March 23

Joyce Forsman – March 24

Sally Freeburn – March 25

Susan Golebiowski – March 26

Karen McKenzie – March 26

Phyllis Gunnarson – March 29

+ DEATHS +

Gail Craig – February 1

Janet Ferraro – February 6

CHURCH MOUSE

The Personnel Committee has enlisted the help of the Church Mouse to communicate with the congregation the work the staff puts in during the weeks, and behind the scenes, to keep the ministry moving forward in mission. The monthly Church Mouse Report will focus on different staff members each month. Stay tuned!

Hello Congregants! Here's some of what has been happening this past month!

Despite TLC having to go virtual again for a time, Pastor Nathan has been busy, as usual : sermons, staff meetings, Bible studies, articles (for Trinity News and The Worcester Telegram) and a filmed "This Sunday," Worship Intros with Paul Foster on Social Media and the Web. He penned a detailed Annual Report for last Sunday's Annual Meeting - good reading! Take a look if you haven't already. He has continued community outreach, connecting in sympathy to WPI after the losses they have suffered, attending a MLK Community breakfast (online), presiding over an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Blessed Sacrament, and a Worcester Interfaith Farewell Celebration for their Executive Director. He even found time to attend the TLC Book Club meeting where they discussed "What is the Bible" by Rob Bell.

Cantor Mark has taken on the challenge of reworking his plan for music to accommodate going remote in January; organizing/rehearsing small groups from the choir to provide choral music for the Vimeo services we all depend on when we can't attend church in person, overseeing the rearrangement of choir robes in the newly constructed closets behind the organ gallery. (Thanks to Frank/the custodial staff for that!). Mark continues his active support of the community beyond TLC. He continues to inspire us with his writing in the Annual Report where he reminds us of our blessings at TLC, most notably our fantastic TV ministry, our dedicated choir, our beautiful Nave with its "delicious acoustic," and most importantly, that "we have not been left alone. God is with us!"

Jena continues to be busy looking forward, exploring exciting potential for this coming year, especially in the summer, as well as participating in the wider church, working to reimagine youth ministry for the Synod. In the past month, there has been lots of interest in building relationships with our WPI neighbors, using a three-pronged approach involving Welcoming, Faith in Action, and Hospitality teams. She also provided an inspiring look back at 2021 for the Annual Report, including a personal thanks to all of congregants for being so supportive of her as a new parent.

Building manager, Frank, also presented in the Annual Report a significant list of the activities which kept him and his staff busy throughout 2021. Check it out! Lots of great details there of both visible and less obvious developments in our physical spaces, running the gamut from old leaky pipes, building inspector lists, tree limbs removal, heating system software updates, to fabulous new construction in the Organ Gallery to house the choir robes.

Music at Trinity presents

William David Cooper

St. Luke Passion

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

This 60-minute work in English for five singers and chamber ensemble includes the story of Christ's betrayal, suffering, death, and burial from the gospel of Luke, interspersed with new poems by Brian Alvarado on COVID-19 suffering.

Trinity Lutheran Church

73 Lancaster Street

Worcester, MA 01608

www.trinityworc.org/music-at-trinity

In-Person Audience in the Nave

Online Livestream Video at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Suggested donation: \$25

+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Wednesday, March 2 Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12 *The fast that God chooses*

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 *Now is the day of salvation*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *The practice of faith*

Psalmody: Psalm 51:1-17 *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 321, *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*, OLD 124TH

The beginning of Lent gives us the occasion to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin—but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace.

12:00 Noon Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Imposition of Ashes (Nave)

3:45 p.m. Family Liturgy with Bible Story and Imposition of Ashes (Nave)

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Imposition of Ashes (Nave)

Sunday, March 6 First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *Saved from Egypt*

Romans 10:8b-13 *You will be saved*

Luke 4:1-13 *The temptation of Jesus*

Psalmody: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 *God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 503, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, EIN FESTE BURG

Each year on the first Sunday in Lent we hear about Jesus being tested in the wilderness. In this way Jesus joined with us, who are also, one way or another, tested in some wilderness. We say Sundays “in” Lent, since when counting the forty days of Lent, we omit the six Sundays, because Sunday is always a celebration of Christ's resurrection. So, this Sunday we are both in Lent and beyond Lent.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Wednesday, March 9

Job 1:1-22 *Satan tempts Job*

Luke 21:34—22:6 *Satan enters Judas*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Livestreamed on www.facebook.com/tlcworcester

Sunday, March 13 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 *The covenant with Abraham*

Philippians 3:17—4:1 *Our citizenship is in heaven*

Luke 13:31-35 *A hen gathering her brood*

Psalmody: Psalm 27 *In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 791, *We Sing to You, O God*, LOVE UNKNOWN

In next Sunday's gospel reading, we are like chicks that need protection, for a fox is nearby. Come to worship, and join us in praising the God who gathers us as if under loving wings.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, March 16

2 Chronicles 20:1-22 *The king prays for Jerusalem*

Luke 13:22-31 *The narrow door*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Livestreamed on www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, March 20 Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9 *Come to the water*

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 *Israel, baptized in cloud and seas*

Luke 13:1-9 *The parable of the fig tree*

Psalmody: Psalm 63:1-8 *O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 331, *As the Deer Runs to the River*, JULION

Some Christians imagine either themselves or other people to be no more than barren trees that might as well be uprooted and discarded. Come to worship this Sunday, and hear what the gardener says about barren trees.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, March 23

Numbers 13:17-27 *The fruit of the promised land*

Luke 13:18-21 *Parables of the mustard seed, yeast*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Livestreamed on www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 *Israel eats bread and grain*

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *The mystery and ministry of reconciliation*

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *The parable of the forgiving father*

Psalmody: Psalm 32 *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD*

Hymn of the Day: Hymn 606, *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

This coming Sunday the gospel reading is the well-known story of the prodigal son. Which brother are you like? Come to worship, whichever one you are, and join in God's feast of mercy.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, March 30

2 Kings 4:1-7 *The widow saved*

Luke 9:10-17 *Jesus feeds 5000*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (*Nave Chancel*) Livestreamed on www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, April 3 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 *The Lord gives water in the wilderness*

Philippians 3:4b-14 *To know Christ and his resurrection*

John 12:1-8 *Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

Psalmody: Psalm 126 *Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy*

Hymn of the Day, Hymn 1002, *Holy Woman, Graceful Giver*, ALABASTER JAR

We are nearing the conclusion of Lent. This Sunday's gospel story is of Mary of Bethany who at the dinner table anointed Jesus' body, as if he were already dead. We gather together this Sunday, remembering the death of Christ, yet feasting on the life of his body in holy communion. Come: join Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Paul, John, and the rest of us at the feast.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Christ Chapel*)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Nave*) Livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

2022 ALTAR CANDLES, FLOWERS, TOWER LIGHTING, TRINITY NEWS, TV MINISTRY and TV EQUIPMENT

In this coming year, the Parish Office encourages donors for the Altar Candles, Flowers, Tower Lighting, Trinity News and TV Ministry to sign up early by using this form.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

- **Altar Candles:** \$20 per month to sponsor the altar candles for the month of _____ 2022. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of:
_____ by _____.

- **Altar Flowers:** As sponsor, you will order the flowers from the florist of your choice. You may have the florist pick up the floral inserts from the Parish Office if you are ordering the double bouquet for the stands or you may order an arrangement in a vase that the florist supplies. The cost is paid directly to the chosen florist and the donation is noted in the bulletin for the chosen Sunday. Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions about this process. I would like to give the flowers on Sunday, _____, 2022. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of:
_____ by _____.

- **Tower Lighting:** \$20 per half month to sponsor the Tower Lighting for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2022. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **Trinity News:** \$50 per month to sponsor *Trinity News* for the month of _____ 2022. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of:
_____ by _____.

- **TV Ministry:** \$100/month or \$50 for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2022 to sponsor live streaming of Sunday services. Dedication can be given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ *Form and check can be mailed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Office, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester MA 01609*

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2022-2023 Council Members

Karen Couturier - *President* president@trinityworc.org

Beth Getman - *Vice President*

vice-president@trinityworc.org

Kate Gregoire - *Secretary* secretary@trinityworc.org

Nancy Fontneau - *Treasurer* treasurer@trinityworc.org

Nathan Cummings

Jim Drackley

Bryan Gregoire

Jena Hill

Roz Horn

Dale Mattice

Mark Mummert

Pastor Nathan Pipho

Nick Salerno

Maureen Stake

Mary Tarquinio

Judy Willoughby

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

Parish Office: (508) 753-2989

The Rev. Nathan D. Pipho

Pastor

(617) 388-5636

npipho@trinityworc.org

Mark Mummert

Cantor

(713) 256-5980

mmummert@trinityworc.org

Patricia McAuliffe

Director

TLC Christian Preschool

pmcauliffe@trinityworc.org

Jena Hill

Youth, Families & Outreach Minister

(978) 549-9079

jhill@trinityworc.org

Chris Jackel

Office Manager

admin@trinityworc.org

Frank Ricardo

Building Manager

(781) 820-2834

building.manager@trinityworc.org

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Trinity Worship Services on TV and the Internet

Live Stream Webcasts – www.trinityworc.org or www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

TV – Worcester: Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Channel 194 (one week delay)

TV- Same Day Broadcasts: Shrewsbury – Channel 28, Sunday 8 p.m., Monday 12:30 a.m.

TV- Delayed Broadcasts: Auburn – Tuesday 11 p.m., Thursday 10 p.m., Sunday Noon & 11:30 p.m.; **Holden** – Channel 191, Sunday 8:00 a.m.; **Hudson** – Sunday 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Wednesday 3 p.m.; **Leicester** – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.; **Millbury** – Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 3 p.m. & Saturday 7:30 p.m.; **Oxford** – Sunday 1:15 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.; **Spencer** – Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m.;

Sterling/Lancaster – Monday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. **Sutton** – Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday 9 a.m.; **Uxbridge** – Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 a.m. **Westborough** Sunday at 1:30 p.m. **Briarwood** (closed circuit) – Channel 900 at 11:00 a.m. Sunday