



# TROY TOWN NEWS

Volume 30 Issue 9

tntroytown@gmail.com

October 2022

## **SELECTMAN'S CORNER**

By Dick Thackston, Chairman Troy Board of Selectman

### **Voting & You:**

We have an election coming up. The New Hampshire State General Election is on November 8th. Voting is at the Samuel E. Paul Community Center on South Street. Voting begins at 8:00AM and ends at 7:00PM.

If you are not registered to vote, have never registered to vote, or are afraid to register to vote and now would like to register to vote, please know that it's never too late. The Selectman's Office does not play a direct role, but we understand its importance in maintaining a functional democratic society.

**If you need a ride to voting,** or other help in participating in the process, please feel free to contact the Selectmen's Office for help at (603) 242-7722.

If you have questions about voting or need help registering the Town Clerk's Office is the place to begin, our Town Clerk is committed to helping people register and vote. The best way to contact the Town Clerk's Office is by phone and that number is (603) 242-3845.

### **Candidate's Forum:**

The Select Board has scheduled our candidate's forum at the Samuel E. Paul Rec Center on October 27th. The Forum starts at 7:00PM and will be live streamed on Facebook. The Troy Candidates Forum has proven successful in engaging candidates interested in representing Troy in any office with each other and voters for several years now. All are welcome and we are friendly to all. History has shown that the more engaged we are as citizens the more responsive government – big and small – is to our needs.

### **Budget Process in Full Swing:**

If you're wondering about how the town spends money or how certain amounts are determined, ("...who thought that was a good idea?.."), you may want to follow the budget process. In Troy's system of budgeting there are at least three open sessions on each part of our budget. Literally every dime. Departments prepare budgets and meet with the Select Board for review and approval. Once the Select Board has voted to approve a department budget, it moves to the Budget Committee which then compares the proposed with prior years and attempts to reconcile increases and decreases. Once both the Select Board and Budget Committee have fully reviewed there is a joint hearing about a month before Town Meeting where a final budget is proposed by both the Budget Committee and Select Board where the two sides are reconciled, or not, and the final work is forwarded to the voters at Town Meeting.

### **Selectman's Office Updates:**

**We encourage you to visit the Town of Troy website, <https://www.troy-nh.us/>, we have found that the majority of calls are about Forms and other information that is readily available on our website.**

(We do understand that the internet isn't for everyone and are happy to provide one on one service as well, but if you need forms or info quick you might want to give the website a try.)

The Selectmen's office will be open Monday through Thursday 8:30AM to 5:00PM. The office will not be open to the public between the hours of 11:00AM and 3:00PM to allow staff time to complete tasks uninterrupted, place outgoing calls, coordinate lunches and generally get stuff done. If you call or email the Selectman's office during those hours, they will respond to you as quickly as possible after 3:00PM. Please make sure and leave your name and number. The phone number for the Selectman's office is (603) 242-7722.



## FITZWILLIAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

### YOUTH SOCCER:

We have nearly 100 kids aged PreK thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade playing soccer this season! The program runs through October 15<sup>th</sup> and we'd like to send a huge thank you to our Team Sponsors: **Monadnock Firearms, PLP Composites, Park Construction, Savings Bank of Walpole, Surell and Kadlik Woodcraft!**

### YOGA with Michelle Davis:

Wednesdays through Oct. 19th: 10AM or 6:30PM.



Fitzwilliam Town Hall (upstairs). This yoga class is designed to meet you where you are "at" on the mat. Michelle will emphasize the importance of linking movement with breath, awareness of sensation and alignment within each posture to help you deepen your practice. Be prepared to challenge your strength and flexibility as you move mindfully in and out of posture sequences in this fun and upbeat yoga class. Brief moments of rest will be inserted between sequencing to allow for posture integration and balance of energy.

**\$12/person/class. Online, Pre-Registration is required.**

Register today: [www.fitzrec.eventbrite.com](http://www.fitzrec.eventbrite.com)

**QUESTIONS?** Email: [FitzRec@Fitzwilliam-NH.gov](mailto:FitzRec@Fitzwilliam-NH.gov) OR Call: 603-585-7270

## TROY RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

**The Community Breakfast** is back! \$9.00 per adult and \$6.00 per child under 10 years old Sat October 1st at the Community Center 7AM to 10AM.

**Roller Skating** at the Troy Elementary School is October 7th, 6:30PM to 9:00PM. Come on down and skate to the tunes of DJ Ray Ray. Admission is \$5.00 which includes skate rental. You must use our skates, no Roller Blades.



### The October Fest is

**October 08, 2022**, starting at 9:00AM lasting to about 3:00PM, Build a Scarecrow for a \$5.00 donation. We will provide the hay and the face but please bring your own clothes as we will have a limited amount of clothes if you forget. There will be craft vendors galore! If they all show up, this will be the best craft fair that we have ever had (we are pushing about 25 or more vendors so far)!!! We also have the **bounce house** again this year. Concessions will be available for purchase from the Troy Recreation Dept: fried dough, hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries, onion rings, breakfast sandwiches, soda etc. Music will be provided by the band Still Kick'n.

Our next **\$5.00 takeout dinner** is **October 22nd** 4PM to 6PM. Food is to be determined yet.

We are hosting the annual **Finnish Tori Market Place** at the Troy School again this year this will be on October 29, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

**It's Halloween Time again.** The Rec Department is once again gearing up for another successful **Haunted House** at the Town Hall. Come on down and have your wits scared out of you if you dare! Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 5 to 8 PM and October 31<sup>st</sup> (Halloween) 5 PM to 8 PM.

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# GAY-KIMBALL LIBRARY

Where Awesome Happens  
By Jennifer Momaney

Autumn is here, the leaves are changing, the air is turning crisp... and the days are getting shorter. What do you do with your long nights? Play board games? Read magazines? Watch your favorite shows? Read a book?! Did you know you can borrow ALL of those things from the Library?

Come check out what you can check out from the library!

### Join us for the Fun!

**Storytime:** Every Wednesday at 3:30pm story and craft for children 4+

**Book Club:** Tuesday Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm This month we are discussing Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia



**Book Sale:** Saturday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am-2pm

**Pre-Book Sale, Book Sale:** Friday Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm-8pm  
\$3.00 per person

### Remember we have FREE e-books & audio books

**AND MAGAZINES!** from our NH Downloadable Collection (in co-operation with the State Library & other NH Libraries). Will work with your Kindle, iPad, iPhone, etc. Find the link on our website.

Contact the library for more information, or just to chat:  
**(603) 242-7743**



### Library Hours:

Tuesday – 10:00am - 7pm  
Wednesday & Thursday - 2pm - 7pm  
Saturday - 10am - 2pm

Do those hours not work for you? You can make use of our **24/7 Library Lockers!**

The **Library Board of Trustees** will meet **Thursday Oct 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm** to discuss library business.



# GAP MOUNTAIN LIONS

## – WE SERVE

By Nancy Nye

October has arrived with cooler weather and brisk winds. If you have been stalling getting your eye exam or that hearing test done, now is the time to get yourself ready for the holidays. Call us.



We are gearing up for the annual Eye Screening at the Troy and Fitzwilliam schools and Little Learners Day Care. COVID slowed us down, but we are back. Time again to check our children to see if there have been any changes since their last screening and get all our new kids started on the right track. These screenings are so important and can catch problems that may have gone undetected. Watch for information coming home from the schools in October for screening in November.

Note of interest: 16 TONS of Christmas lights were saved from landfills and recycled by Lions in Hanover, Minnesota

### **Check us out on Facebook. Gap Mountain Lions**

Call Nancy @ 242-6293 or Marion @ 585-9465 if interested in joining the world's largest service organization or if an application for our help is needed.



# SNOW PLOWING

Call Ron Cormier  
Telephone # 603-903-2645  
Troy, Fitzwilliam  
Richmond



# JACK GETTENS, CANDIDATE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

I have been a Troy resident for 36 years and I am a candidate for State Representative, District 12, Fitzwilliam and Troy. In recent years our nation's politics have become very divisive and partisan. This isn't good for democracy and many people are concerned that our democracy may be in jeopardy. I think the solution is cooperation rather than confrontation. If I am elected, I will be committed to working cooperatively, finding common ground, and passing bipartisan legislation.

I started my campaign by introducing myself to people in Fitzwilliam and Troy and hearing their concerns. By mid-September, I had knocked on over 400 doors and I plan to double that number by November 8th! Thanks everyone for talking and I look forward to meeting more of you. I find that many of you agree that our politics are too divisive and that you welcome cooperation across party lines.

Troy and Fitzwilliam residents shared their concerns about education funding, housing, school vouchers, energy, reproductive rights, climate, gun rights, the economy,

health care, long-term care, downshifting state costs to towns, and school safety. These are all important. I will work for fair taxes and fair education funding that does not pit town against town, a strong economy and low unemployment, access to affordable health care, and available home and community-based care for seniors. More information about my positions can be found on [facebook.com/gettensforrep](https://facebook.com/gettensforrep).

Having worked for over 25 years in the administration and evaluation of health and human services programs, including a position as Director of the NH Division of Family Assistance, I understand health and human services issues.

My long-term partner, Kate Clarke, and I love the Monadnock region. We enjoy spending time with family and friends, gardening, skating on Perkins pond, and walking, running and biking on the many trails and class VI roads around our towns.

I look forward to future conversations with you and, hopefully, representing you in Concord. I can be contacted at 603-242-3271. Thank you and please vote on November 8th!

**Jack Gettens**  
For State Representative

*"I will stand up for the issues important to Fitzwilliam and Troy. Today's politics are too divisive and we can find common ground."*

Please vote on November 8th

[gettensforep@gmail.com](mailto:gettensforep@gmail.com) [facebook.com/gettensforrep](https://facebook.com/gettensforrep)  
[Twitter.com/jackgettens](https://twitter.com/jackgettens)

Paid for by Jack Gettens, PO Box 338, Troy, NH





# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY 20TH ANNUAL HAIR BALL

Monadnock Humane Society will be hosting the 20th Annual Hair Ball Gala Fundraiser.



Everyone is invited to a memorable evening of food, cocktails, and entertainment under the stars at the historic Whitcomb Hall in Swanzey, New Hampshire. We'll enjoy Aerial Acrobatics with Nimble Arts, farm to table catering by **Machina Kitchen & ArtBar**, musical entertainment by the George Robinson Trio and Violinist Faith Miller, and delicious desserts by **Saxy Chef LLC**. You'll also have multiple opportunities to bid on many exciting, one-of-a-kind items and experiences in our silent and live auctions.

Join us in-person on Thursday, September 22 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for a night to remember OR join us virtually from the comfort of your home. All virtual tickets include a link to stream the LIVE portion of our event starting at 7:30 PM and a voucher to pick up a box of delectable goodies from Machina Arts Cafe between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM on September 22.

**WHY:** Our biggest fundraiser of the year helps us raise over \$120,000 that directly supports our mission to care for the homeless animals in our community, and provide services to families and owned pets, such as our pet food pantry and affordable veterinary services.

**WHO:** Tickets are now open to everyone, although limited in-person tickets are still available, so secure yours today. Tickets can't be purchased today at [www.mhshairball.com](http://www.mhshairball.com)

**WHEN:** The 20th Annual Hair Ball Gala will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2022 between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM.

**WHERE:** Historic Whitcomb Hall, 17-23 Main Street, Swanzey, NH 03446 Thank you for your consideration.


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**(603) 242-6007**  
[www.keepemhealthy.com](http://www.keepemhealthy.com)


KEH009\_1018

# DO YOU HAVE BREAKFAST, LUNCH OR DINNER PLANS? TRY THESE EATERIES!

Join us October 2 for our  
**Oktoberfest Dinner**  
Reservations required! BYOB



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1-800-242-6495



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Tues, Wed, 11 AM—8 PM Thurs, Fri 11 AM—9 PM  
Saturday 11 AM—9:00 PM Closed Monday  
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## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TROY

October...the month of colored leaves which are pretty while on the trees but not so pretty when we must rake them up, Columbus Day, Halloween, and preparation for winter! It pays to be **ready** as the seasons change!

This reminds us of being **ready** in another, much more important way. While the Apostle Paul awaited execution in a Roman jail he wrote a second letter to his spiritual son, Timothy. In 2 Timothy 4:2 it gives advice to Timothy which is also appropriate for us today: ***Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound preaching but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.***

We need to be **ready** for more than just temporal things. Digging into the Truth of the Scriptures helps us to be **ready** for eternity!

We invite those who do not already have a “home church” to visit First Baptist Church of Troy. We are on Route 12 north of the common so look for our white columns and brick building with two white doors decorated with sunflower wreaths! Our Sunday morning service is at 10:30AM. During that time, we focus on four things: singing hymns and songs in praise to the Lord, praying for one another, the teaching of God’s Word, and fellowship with one another, all of which encourage us to have a closer relationship with the Lord and live for Him.

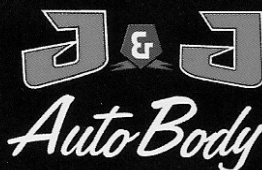
**The Sunday morning messages are available to everyone.** The messages are on Pastor Donn’s ministry website [www.biblelabs.com](http://www.biblelabs.com). From the homepage, click on the link titled “Bible Book Commentary” under the heading “Audio Message Library” and that will take you to the message series. The current message is uploaded usually before 10:30AM every Sunday.

**If you have a prayer request**, or want to be added to the list of those who receive the link to the messages via text or email you are encouraged to email Pastor Donn at [pastor@troybaptist.com](mailto:pastor@troybaptist.com) or Sue at [suewill@me.com](mailto:suewill@me.com). The podcasts are also linked from the homepage at <http://www.biblelabs.com>. **We would love to hear from you.**

There is always a warm and friendly welcome at First Baptist Church of Troy where we believe that

**Jesus Still Saves.**

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Emerson PTCO Presents

# Trunk or Treat

October 28th 6:30-8pm



**Music - Costume Dance - Trunk or Treating**

Emerson School Back Parking Lot

This is not a school sponsored event



## MRSD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATIONS

In March of 2021 the district voted for the School Board to develop architectural plans and quotes to renovate and consolidate all of our elementary schools. In the proposed plan we will renovate Troy School, Emerson School, and the Gilsum STEAM Academy. Mt. Caesar school will be expanded with new classrooms and a new multipurpose room. Cutler school will be closed and all Pre-K to 6th Grade students from Swanzey, Richmond, and Roxbury will attend Mt. Caesar.

A year has passed and we have accomplished a great deal! The architectural design for each school is complete, and we have filed our application to the State of New Hampshire's building aid program. If approved, the State could fund up to 50% of the project.

Each of our schools is in sore need of updates. In the past 10 years the district has voted to renovate most of Mt. Caesar, but the other schools have not been updated in as many as 80 years. Like owning an old car, if you keep putting off the repair projects, then the work is more expensive when you finally decide to do it. Currently our schools have over 100 unique projects and it would take almost 20 years to complete all of the work. Each project that gets delayed gets more expensive because of inflation. Rather than continuing that trend of renovating one school at a time (and leaving the others to wait another 5-15 years), the district's plan is to complete the entire backlog all at once.

Some of the key updates to our schools will include:

- Updated heating and cooling systems, new air quality filters, updated windows and doors
- Modern restrooms, ramps, entrances, and elevators that are handicap (ADA) compliant
- Updated secure entrances and visitor areas to honor Homeland Security codes
- Updated fire doors, fire escapes, and alarm systems to honor life safety codes

Sounds expensive, doesn't it? Actually, the District has collected solid evidence that this plan will SAVE the taxpayers money in the long haul. Consider this: if you have to choose between fixing the brakes or replacing the tires on your car, the project you decide to hold off on will cost more next year. For our schools, the alternative to our current method of approving a single project each year (and suffering inflation on all the other projects) is to finance all of the work at once with a bond (like a mortgage). This will create a more predictable tax rate for the life of the loan. The key difference between a bond



and a mortgage is that you pay the same amount each month with a mortgage, but with a bond you pay less each year. This project is also expected to save money in our everyday expenses: For example, the cost to heat and cool renovated buildings will be lower than it is today.

Our next steps are to secure detailed quotes and a GMP (guaranteed maximum price) from the construction firm, and wait to hear how much the state will award for funding. Both are expected in December/January. These figures will determine the specific cost of the project and what will be on this year's school district warrant.

We will continue to submit newsletters and Facebook posts to keep everyone informed of our progress. Until next time, check out the project website! [www.mrsdproject.com](http://www.mrsdproject.com)

## TROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wow! It's October already, where did the summer go?

The members of the historical society have been busy preparing for Train Day on Saturday, October 15th, from 10am to 2pm at the Depot. Come share your stories about the trains coming and going through Troy. There will be many railroad enthusiasts there. We hope to eventually have a Boston and Maine railroad car spending its final days at the Troy Depot.

On Saturday, October 8th, there will be a Memorial for Bob Hall at 1pm at the Trinitarian Congregational Church. Bob was very active on many town committees, especially the Troy Historical Society. He built many items for use in the museum so his spirit will always be there.

Our summer hours end with this month. The Historical and Depot museums will be open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1pm to 3pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10am to 12pm of October. We would like to thank the volunteers who covered the summer hours. We could not have had both museums open without our volunteers.

We have changed our monthly meeting back to the third Thursday of each month from March to November. So, our October meeting is Thursday, October 19th at 4:30pm. Please come to a meeting to see what it's all about, become a member, and help us in Preserving the Past for Tomorrow.

Your Ad Here  
(Just email:  
[tntroytown@gmail.com](mailto:tntroytown@gmail.com))



**Why is Thackston the right choice?** He's committed to our two towns. He's lived in the District for over thirty years. As a Selectman and School Board Member he understands the challenge faced by every small-town official, taxpayer, school administrator, parent & teacher in funding day to day operations without soul crushing real estate taxes. In Concord he will work balance the tax burden within the state.

### **The Right Choice for Troy. The Right Choice for Fitzwilliam.**

**What makes Thackston different? He's "Quietly Conservative" which means:**

- No broad-based Income Tax.
- No broad-based Sales Tax.
- Runaway County Tax increases must stop.
- Crushing imbalance of School Taxes within the State must be fixed.
- Individuals have primary responsibility for themselves and their families.
- Parents and families are primarily responsible for raising & educating children.
- Maintaining the rule of law and due process are critical to our country.
- Defending the right of everyone to be heard and treated with respect.
- The less Government in people's lives the better.

**Who should vote for Thackston on November 8th?** Republicans, Independents & Democrats who want our towns effectively represented by a true small-town advocate in Concord - one you can call on the phone or talk to on the street.

**Vote for Thackston in the November 8th Election!**

*Dick Thackston*

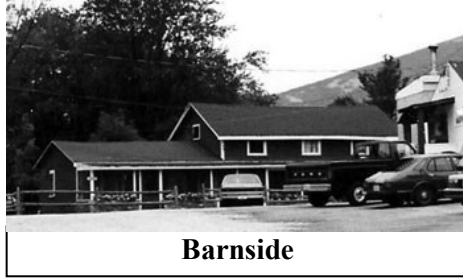
State Representative for Cheshire District 12

Paid for by Dick Thackston

# HISTORY OF EAST HILL FARM: 1990s

The 1990s was another decade of building expansion at the Inn.

In 1993, the staff dorm, and 5 single guest rooms, "The Twenties" was torn down. This multi-purpose building was located behind the kitchen and was known as



**Barnside**

Barnside. Construction soon began on the Sugar House. The Sugar House has five bedrooms, each with their own private bathroom, and one living room with a fireplace.



**Newly completed Sugar House**

Screened in porches on both sides of the building allow for views of the farm animals. This unit accommodates at least 2 families, sometimes more. In 1995, land was cleared near the start of the trail leading to the pond to begin building

the English Cottage. The English Cottage was a completely new guest accommodation, not replacing any existing building. The English Cottage was also able to house an additional 2 families or more. There are two separate units, each has two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a living room with a fireplace.



**Construction of The English Cottage**

Each unit has a wraparound screened in porch affording breathtaking views of Mt. Monadnock and Perkins Pond. In the summer months, you can even spot a pig or two in the pasture

near English Cottage.

In 1997, original Cottages 3, 4, 5, and 6 were torn down and the Village Bunkhouse was constructed. The original cottages were two-bedroom units with a single bathroom and small sitting room in each cottage. The Village Bunkhouse units were built with a similar setup in mind with a few added perks. The two downstairs units each have two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a living room with a fireplace. The two upstairs units have two bedrooms and one bathroom. There is a shared deck which faces the main lawn. In the basement of The Village Bunkhouse there is a

guest laundry and two massage rooms.

In 1997, the barnyard saw the addition of the sheep shed which was necessary as the herd was growing. The chicken coop got an expansion as more chickens were needed to meet the demand for eggs.



**Cottages 3, 4, 5 and 6**

At this time, there was also an addition to the dining room. This bump out space was used to seat the increasing number of guests at the Inn. Guests have many names for this treasured space, but we refer to it as "The small dining room". With its cozy fireplace, exposed beams and views of the barnyard, the small dining room is a favorite space for smaller group events or large family gatherings.

A new East Hill Farm tradition began in the late 1990s. When guests checked in, the kids received baskets to collect chicken eggs. (They had previously been given a cowboy hat at check in.)

When children collected eggs, they would write their names on the egg and store them on big egg flats in the guest refrigerator, which was located in the kitchen near the dish room. At breakfast time kids could retrieve their own special eggs and give them to the dining room server for the cook to prepare.

The egg collecting tradition has continued at the Farm, only now, children are given egg cartons to put their eggs in. The cooks still happily cook the eggs any way you want them so you can enjoy the freshest eggs possible. Over the years, many an egg has met their untimely demise hitting the floor or the ground before making it to the



**Newborn Adam and Misty**

kitchen. Luckily, we have lots of chickens laying eggs throughout the day. Adam, one of our beloved ponies was born on the Farm in in the mid-90s. Here is a picture of him and his mom, Misty. Over

the years, Adam has provided lessons to thousands of first time and beginner riders.

A popular, well-loved activity was making cowboy coffee and donuts with Bob and Judy (Whitcomb) Hall. There was nothing like one of Judy's freshly cooked donuts!



**Judy making donuts**

Join us next month as we venture



## TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

As the geese of Village Pond pass overhead in formation and the Troy common's trees burst into color, the transition of the seasons reflects the brevity of much of our world. Yet, as we consider the seasons of our own lives, the timelessness of our Creator comes through as a steadfast rock in which we take refuge. As the Scripture says in Hebrews 13:8, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*"

In the month of October, the Trinitarian Congregational Church will embark on a new sermon series that considers these truths through the promises of God. Through the course of these five weeks, the series will take the church through some of God's most monumental promises to His people: love, wisdom, strength, protection, and joy. So as the temperature cools and the New England snow comes upon the horizon, we can be encouraged that our Lord never changes and find comfort in all that He has promised to give to those who put their trust in Him.

Psalm 84:11, "*For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*"

\*Sunday Morning Service ~ 9:30 a.m.

\*Church Website:

[www.trinitariancongregationalchurch.org](http://www.trinitariancongregationalchurch.org)

\*Church Email: [troycongregational@gmail.com](mailto:troycongregational@gmail.com)

\*Church Phone: (603) 242-7800

\*Sunday Morning Service ~ 9:30 a.m.

\*Church Website:

[www.trinitariancongregationalchurch.org](http://www.trinitariancongregationalchurch.org)

\*Church Email: [troycongregational@gmail.com](mailto:troycongregational@gmail.com)

\*Church Phone: (603) 242-7800

A Memorial for Dave Hall will  
be at the Troy Trinitarian  
Congregation Church, October  
8th, at 1PM.

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Biblical, Confessional, and Liturgical congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod

Sunday worship at 10 :00 am

Church Office: 603-242-7283

Church Email: [office@clctroy.org](mailto:office@clctroy.org)

### Risk Assessment

I love chocolate. But there is the matter of risk—would I wrestle a grizzly bear for a candy bar? Probably not. The risks outweigh the benefits. The reality is that love always comes with risk. We could even say that it is a good way to measure love—how much would you risk for the one you love? We may not give that risk assessment much conscience time, but we all do it because the risks are real (look at it from the point of view of the chocolate).

At this point you might expect me to tell you how important it is to love, even unconditionally—maybe some other time. What I want to tell you is that Jesus did the risk assessment on the way to a cruel death on the cross. To me it seems like a hard call. I know what I am like—how often I have been selfish, how seldom I have loved anyone more than myself. I know enough about people, about us, to know what we deserve and it is not to live happily ever after. But God does not see us that way. Jesus gave His life so that you don't have to suffer the punishment you deserve, because He loves you. You are worth the risk. God has no hesitation about that. He welcomes you with open arms.

There is a love that is risk free, that is truly unconditional. It is the love God has for you. Turn to Him. Run home.

Pastor Schneeflock

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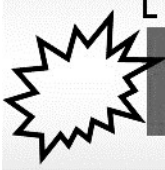
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