

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

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Rev. Kathleen Gorman-Coombs

Rev. Dr. Timothy Coombs

185 Swaggertown Road
Scotia, NY 12302

DO JUSTICE



LOVE KINDNESS



**WALK HUMBLY
WITH GOD**

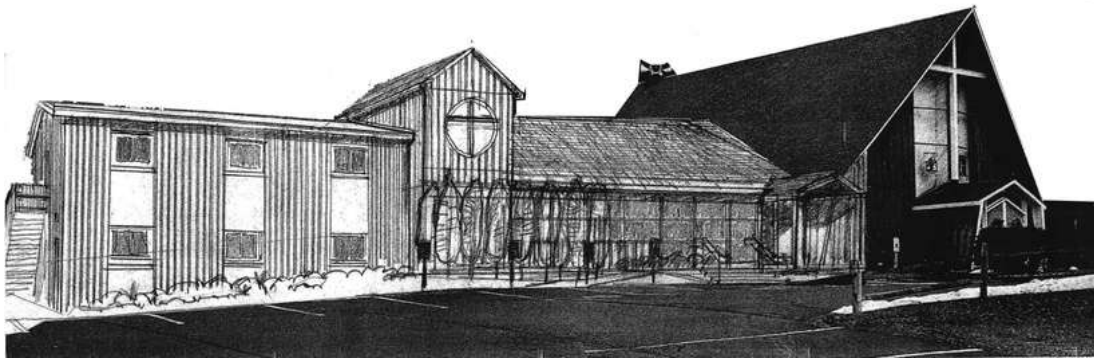


Friends,

On Sunday, April 28, Trinity will embark on the most ambitious project since the old Jay Street congregation had the wild idea of building a new building on the corner of Swaggertown and Baldwin Roads! Our planned, and some suggest, overdo building renovation will begin its financial campaign. The campaign will kick off with a Q&A session after Worship on April 28.

We are seeking to do the following:

- Put a new peaked roof over the Annex section of the building & expand the Annex to nearly double its size.
- Add a new patio off the Annex with double doors to open up the space.
- Expand and renovate the kitchen, & update the bathrooms into single non-gender use rooms
- Cover the 60 year old tile floors in the Sanctuary & downstairs with new luxury vinyl tile.
- Repair and waterproof the basement wall.
- Add stair-lifts to make our building more accessible.
- Add a new dormer and room above the Annex.
- Add a landing and door at the top of the upstairs for heat efficiency.
- Add more closet and storage space.
- Environmentally friendly garden spaces, & add two outside lights on the parking lot area.
- Better organize the tech equipment in the Sanctuary.
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The price tag for all of this is around \$420,000, which considering the list above, is pretty reasonable. The good news is that we will not have to pay for the whole bill out of pocket. Many pieces of our funding have been in the works since the turn of the year. We have applied for two grants from Albany Presbytery totaling \$40,000, with the possibility of a follow up grant next year at \$15,000. We are awaiting the final approval on the cell tower, which will bring in a minimum of \$15,000 for each of the next ten years. Several fundraising efforts are planned that will conservatively generate about \$10,000 by the end of the year, and similar efforts planned for the future.

Of course, this still leaves us a financial challenge. On April 28, Session will embark on a three-year pledge campaign to raise our share of the funding. We will be seeking assurance of about \$70,000 per year over the course of the campaign. In the meantime, the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program will provide us with a bridge loan so that we can pay our contractors and architect.

The renovation will begin with Phase 1, repairing and waterproofing of the basement wall and new flooring in the Sanctuary and basement. These renovations will be covered by funds already in hand, and the grants from Albany Presbytery.

Ambitious? Yes. Doable? Certainly. Remember, we are the Little Church that can and has done in the past!" Be sure to be in Worship on Sunday, April 28, both to get your questions answered and to learn more about this project.

Mission Committee Updates

Schenectady Community Ministries (now the Sycamore Collaborative)

We are inviting folks to purchase items that are necessities, but are often not covered by Food Stamps or SNAP benefits. For the months of **April**, we invite you to donate personal care items. Please place them in the wooden bin by the bathrooms marked "Food Pantry Donations".

Patty's Place is in need of feminine products, particularly mini-pads/liners. Please place them in the bin by the bathrooms. Q-tips, deodorant, and travel toiletry items are still welcome as well! Thank you to those who donate!

A large number of Trinity folks were able to **join our refugee family for a potluck** on Sunday, February 25. After a delicious meal, including some halal dishes, the children enjoyed a craft project with Adrienne Hall and Linda Rockinger. The adults had a chance to view the dad's videos he created and produced in Afghanistan. It was both a fun and educational afternoon for everyone!

Each year the Mission Committee receives generous **financial support** to contribute to organizations in need of help both in our area, in the nation, and around the world.

To date the following funds have been disbursed:

SiCM General Fund: \$600

SiCM Food Room: \$1,000

CEDEPCA Guatemala Trip Scholarships: \$1,700

More giving is planned through the rest of 2024.

Here's what we're looking forward to in the near future:

Trinity's Craft Fair: April 27, from 10 AM-3 PM. Wendi Brandow is seeking vendors. See page 8 for more info about this.

We're also looking forward to hearing **details of the Albany Presbytery trip to Guatemala. trip to Guatemala.** Kathy, Tim, Darren Gundrum, and Linda Rockinger will have amazing stories to share, no doubt!

The Annual **CROP Walk** is on Sunday, May 5, at 1 PM at the Rotterdam Community Center. Check with Steve Parsons or Liz Dobson-Davis for details on this Annual Trinity tradition. You can sign up to be a walker, or donate money to this terrific cause. It's always a wonderful day for a group walk and to assist with local and national hunger issues.

Woodberry Crossing 2024

Saturday, August 3 through Wednesday, August 7

All ages are welcome for this always meaningful, fulfilling, community building and faith forming experience. Be watching for more information!

Here are some excerpts from last year's journal, to give you a feel for this:

Thursday, August 3, 2023

A typically special Woodberry day to begin this year's trip! After Louise started us off with a spiritual pause centered around the parable of the mustard seed, we all set off to find jobs for us to do. At the same time, we contemplate how we watch out and care for each other throughout the day and always.

We set out to fix the shelter Trinity built in 2011. As usual, muck it out!!! Beth Hayes supervised Clara, who wrangled and otherwise occupied Emma ALL DAY—what a wonderful thing to do for us parents to have a rest day from that job :). In the morning, we started by all mucking out the shelter. After awhile Becky and Austin (Woodberry family) worked to stabilize one shelter wall while I did the other. Kathy and Louise painted many replacement wall panels to get them ready to be hung on the structure. In the afternoon, the painting and stabilization continued while Megan and Kathy moved so much muck!! Beth, Clara, and Emma came by to help Louise with the painting and had a blast. All day we looked out for each other when the donkeys and goats would sneak up behind someone – apparently you have to watch out for some of them! I am notoriously bad at estimating how long something will take and today was no exception. I was given a 3:30 deadline and we finished around 3:45—not bad! A quick dip in the pool followed by a lasagna dinner hit the spot. I felt cared for by Clara when she looked after Emma so I could finish my book before dinner. Can't wait to get started on the work again tomorrow.

Alex James

P.S. Clara is now a pro at making Fried Eggs!!

Thursday, August 3, 2023

The campers arrived at 10, and they met in the pavilion. The younger kids swam in the morning and the older kids creek-walked, and they switched after lunch. There was also a bees nest in the field. In the afternoon, Louise, Emma, and I painted a board on the shed, and Megan and Kathy leveled a stall. In the evening, Megan, Alex, Beth B., Beth H., and I played Taboo. Carmen, Camden, and Edie (Woodberry family) joined us.

Clara Hayes

Building Information Forum & Q & A

Sunday, April 28, After Worship

Plans are moving ahead and coming together for our (hopeful) building renovation, and we figure folks have questions. So--on Sunday, April 28, after Worship, we will present where the plans are currently--a timeline as best as we can estimate, and what is planned for fundraising and supporting this project. If you already know some questions you have--please submit them to Alex James ahead of time if possible: alexcjames@gmail.com. And, see Tim's opening letter for more info. all around.

Sycamore Collaborative's 2024-2028 Plan

It is with much gratitude and hope for this new moment in our interfaith collaborative that I share with you the full strategic plan for your perusal. The Sycamore Collaborative (previously Schenectady Community Ministries) – a new iteration of our identity and institutional history – will be an opportunity to:

- 1) Strengthen and deepen our operational and financial capacity in support of our food access work (food pantry initiatives, urban farms, summer meals, and community hub).
- 2) Articulate and deploy the possibilities of fellowship, shared learning, and community engagement of our interfaith collaborative.
- 3) Seize the opportunities to tell the stories of our organization – the why of what we do and who we are!

Some of our next steps:

The Board of Directors, and its executive committee, will gather in April to suggest changes to the organization's constitution. These changes will seek to:

- 1) Update the Constitution to support the new administrative and governance challenges of our organization.
- 2) Ensure a meaningful way for member faith communities to be connected to work of the Board of Directors.
- 3) Focus the gathering of the member faith communities to support the fellowship, shared learning, and community engagement that continues to distinguish the Sycamore Collaborative as a faith, ethics, justice, and love-driven organization.

In the meantime:

The 2024 Interfaith Earth Day Mitzvah (joining the Nemeton of the Mother Grove), will take place on Sunday, April 21, at 1 PM, at Vale Farm (Vale Cemetery, off the Brandywine entrance).

The Schenectady CROP Hunger Walk (in partnership with Messiah Lutheran's Rotterdam Community Center) will take place on Sunday, May 5, registration begins at 12 PM, the opening ceremony begins at 1 PM, at the Rotterdam Community Center.

Peace to all!

Rev. Amaury Tañón-Santos

Youth Group

The Youth Group will hold an **Easter Egg Hunt** after the 10 AM Service on Easter. Like last year, children will need to find seven different colored eggs to receive an Easter basket of goodies. Members of the Youth Group will meet on Saturday, March 30 at 10 AM to prepare and hide the eggs. Youth Group **will meet next on Sunday, April 14.**

Men's Breakfast Book Group

The Men's Breakfast Book Group meets every other Friday morning, at the Glenville Queen Diner at 7:30 AM (**April 5 and 19**). We are now reading Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer Prize winning book "Gilead." See Tim Coombs or Kirk Wegter-McNelly for more information.

Fellowship

Attention all you Spring Cleaners!

We will be hosting a Penny Social Fundraiser in June (date to be announced) to support the Building Renovation Fund.

What is a Penny Social? It's kind of like a raffle. People donate new or like-new items that they no longer need, but might be wanted by others. Each item is placed on a table with a cup. You buy an envelope of tickets with a number, and as you peruse the amazing items available, you can put as many tickets into the cup as you want. More tickets = a better chance of winning. At a designated time, numbers are pulled, and if you are lucky, you get to go home with your new prized possession!

In order for this to be a success, we need some great items donated. So, over the next couple of months, as you are cleaning and organizing, please consider putting some things aside for the Penny Social. Due to space constraints at the church, we ask that you not bring them in until the end of May (dates will be announced shortly).

Questions? Please contact Nancy Taylor (NancyForsbergTaylor@gmail.com)

Two people are needed to help Bill and Lois Dodge **serve communion** to Kingsway residents at 2 PM on the fourth Sunday of each month. The next date is April 28.

Contact Bill (dodgew@mac.com) if you'd like to help.

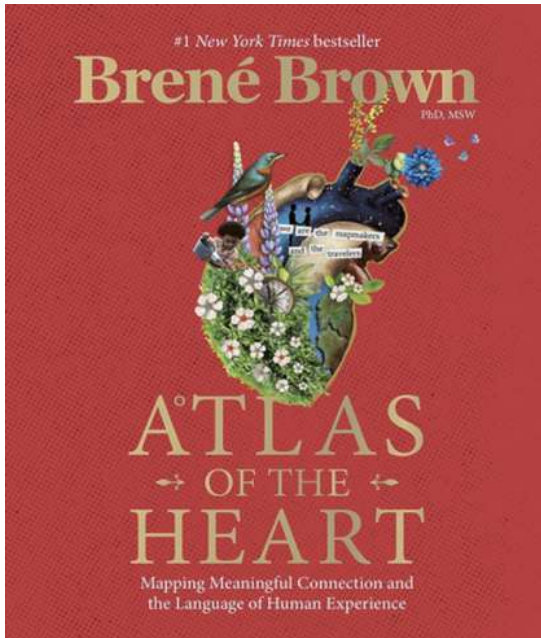
Women's Spirituality

Book Group

"Atlas of the Heart" by Brené Brown Sundays after Worship & Wednesday Evenings

It took us awhile to choose a book, but—here's what the majority preferred:

Book: "Atlas of the Heart", Brené Brown



Dates:

Wednesday, April 3, 7 PM -- Chapters 4 & 5

Sunday, April 14, After Worship -- Chapters 6 & 7

Wednesday, May 8, 7 PM- - Chapters 8 & 9

Sunday, May 19, After Worship -- Chapters 10 & 11

Wednesday, May 29, 7 PM -- Chapters 12 & 13

Two Informal Women's Gatherings

Wednesday, April 10, 8:30 AM at the Panera Bread in Glenville:

for coffee/tea and conversation. I (Kathy) will plan on staying until 10 . . . but if others want to linger longer, that's fine!

and/or

Tuesday, April 16, 7 PM until 8:30 or 9 at the Applebees in Glenville:

for wine/soda/snacks and conversation.

For Applebees, please **RSVP to pastorkathy@scotiatrinity.org**. Several people indicated interest, but I'll want to know for sure if at least one other person is coming, as I don't want to sit in Applebees and drink alone!! (Somehow drinking coffee alone in Panera doesn't carry the same connotations ; -))

Craft Fair

Trinity's Spring Craft Fair is coming up again, and we are looking for crafters, volunteers, and bakers...and as always, shoppers!

The date this year is Saturday, April 27, from 10 AM-3 PM.

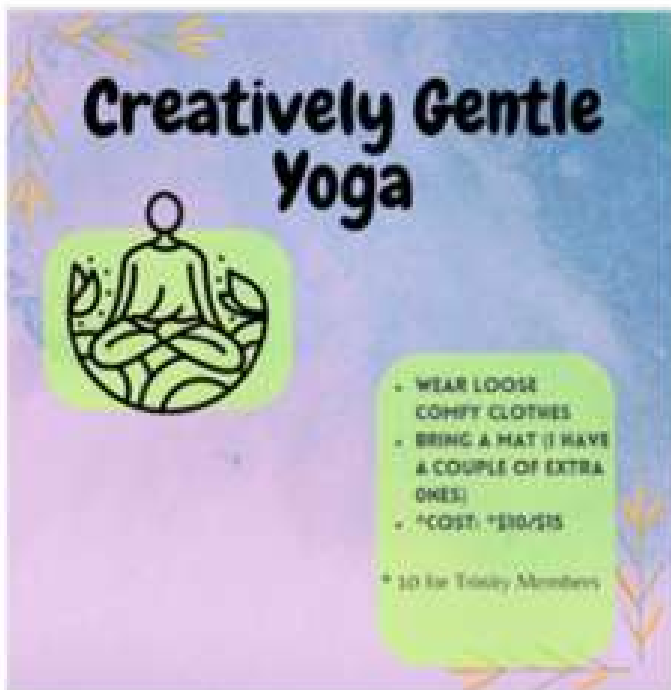
If you know anyone who might be interested in renting a space, please have them contact me at wjbwrites@gmail.com.

If you are interested and willing to volunteer on the day of and/or bake, please let me know.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and making this event a great success for Trinity! Funds raised from this event go directly towards the Mission work of the church.

- Wendi Brandow

Yoga Classes



Offered by Linda Rockinger,
Certified Yoga Instructor

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 PM in the Sanctuary

April 2 & 16 - Chair Enhanced Yoga

April 23 - Gentle Yoga

April 30 - Chair/Gentle Yoga Combo Class

NOTE: NO CLASS APRIL 9

thank
you

For your most generous support for the One Great Hour of Sharing denominational collection. Your donations will be combined with other churches' to support hunger issues, disaster relief, and programs that enable individuals to improve their lives and livelihoods.

To the Good Neighbor Team for the potluck with our Afghani family, and for generally representing Trinity in providing them with guidance and support, and to all who joined us that day.

To Megan James who led the pretzel baking on Sunday, March 10, and the Deacons for covering the cost of the ingredients.

To Rev. Katy Stenta who preached on Sunday, March 17, while Tim and Kathy were away in Guatemala.

To Nancy Taylor for the fun and creative Egg Decorating on March 24.

To Rich Taylor for leading the hike at Anchor Diamond Park on March 24.

To Melissa Peterson for overseeing/ordering the flowers for Easter Sunday, and Adrienne Hall for pickup and delivery.

To all who've been working with the kids to try to learn the dance Mary DiSanto-Rose taught them on March 3!

To the Choir, Director Tony Galloro, and pianist Megan James for singing Anthems not just on Sundays, but also on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

To the Youth Group for hosting the Easter Egg Hunt on March 31.

April

The **Youth Group** will meet on Sunday, April 14. Time: TBA.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 April Fools' Day	2 4:30 PM - Chair Yoga	3 7 PM - Women's Book Group	4 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	5 7:30 AM - Men's Breakfast Book Group	6
7 10 AM - Worship Secretary Away	8 Secretary Away	9 Secretary Away	10 8:30 AM - Women's Spirituality Gathering: Panera 7:30 PM - Deacons Secretary Away	11 4 PM - Presbytery Meeting (Zoom) 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal Secretary Away	12 Secretary Away	13 Secretary Away
14 10 AM - Worship After Worship - Women's Book Group 6:30 PM - Mission (Zoom) Secretary Away	15	16 4:30 PM - Chair Yoga 7 PM - Women's Spirituality Gathering: Applebees	17 7 PM - Session	18 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	19 7:30 AM - Men's Breakfast Book Group	20
21 10 AM - Worship 1 PM - Interfaith Earth Day Mitzvah	22	23 4:30 PM - Gentle Yoga	24 12 PM - 3 PM: Albany Presby. Women At Trinity	25 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	26	27 10 AM - 3 PM: Craft Fair
28 10 AM - Worship After Worship - Building Forum	29	30 4:30 PM - Chair/Gentle Yoga				

Happy
BIRTHDAY

April 2	Darren Gundrum
April 4	Larry Storch
April 6	Donna Schwarz
April 10	Paige Beauchamp, Abby Pietrow, Sarah Taylor
April 12	Paul Rockinger
April 18	Rachel Hayes
April 19	Jean Hayes
April 21	Beth Hayes
April 23	Christopher Taylor
April 26	Hutch Eckes, Daniel Jones
April 29	Andrew Peterson
April 30	William Clune