

# MAY 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**



Dear Friends,

Two years ago we were making final preparations for our Sabbatical. As always seems to be the case with such things - to me it seems like yesterday. And yet, a lot has happened in those two years!

Nearly a year ago, we began our “Good Neighbor Team” relationship with a refugee family from Afghanistan, a Mom and Dad and five children, who members of the GNT have come to love and enjoy time with - and others from the congregation have enjoyed time with them as well. It’s amazing how many of the things we take for granted (the way school and health care systems work, where and how we acquire food, even transportation) are puzzling if one is from a different culture. Several members of the team (mainly Mariellen Boomhower, Jeannette Storch, Rina Bell, and Liz Dobson-Davis) have spent countless hours accompanying, explaining, advocating, investigating, and assisting our friends with these various systems. As is often said - God always calls together just the right group of people for the task at hand – and that is certainly true in this case. Meanwhile, as is also often the case – we feel we’ve gained as much as we’ve given in interacting with this lovely, gracious, hardworking family, who have been through so much more than we can imagine - being with them gives us hope.

Also over these two years, the vision for fixing and improving our building has evolved into a plan. Now, we are ready to begin serious work on that plan. On Sunday, April 28, the Building Committee will host a “forum” right after Worship, where you can ask any questions you have about the plans, and we will also launch the campaign through which we hope to fund that which we cannot cover with grants and capital funds already on hand. The amount we’ll be seeking in pledges from the congregation and friends is \$200,000. Daunting - but we believe it is possible for “the little church that can.” This committee, made up of Alex James (Property Chair), Rina Bell, Mariellen Boomhower, Rick Longhurst, Nancy Taylor, and Tim and Kathy, is yet another example of God calling together the right group for the task. We’ve talked, strategized, and visioned, sought quotes and input, and come to consensus on a plan that we truly believe will help us to continue to live our mission of “Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, and Walking Humbly” for many years into the future. Come to that meeting, read the plans, and please, prayerfully consider a gift.

But first, come to the Craft Fair on Saturday, April 27! Wendi and Olivia Brandow, and others, have once again worked hard to put together a day of fun and crafts, with all proceeds going, as always, to Trinity’s Mission work. Join us, do a little shopping, volunteer if you can! And enjoy some fellowship with others.

Blessings on this lovely Spring Day,

*Kathy*

# 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 **May**, 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!

## Woodberry Crossing 2024

### Informational Meeting: May 19, after Worship

Want to learn more about this year's Woodberry Crossing trip? Join Kathy (and other past attendees) in the Pryde Room on Sunday, May 19 after Worship, to learn more about it, including costs involved and general ideas of what to expect.

**The dates this year are August 3-7.**

### Another journal entry to give you an idea of what it's like!

**(From: Louise Gundrum)**

**August 5, 2023:** Our last full day at Woodberry Crossing!....I have wanted to be here for twenty years, and it did not disappoint! It is a magical place where everyone works and plays together for a common goal - to serve humanity while serving God. One couldn't ask for a more rewarding four days. Today, we finished everything we started, except the painting, and we did some more last minute projects.

I am grateful for the experience....Beth Bryant and her family--what a gift from God! Beth's vision for helping children is none that I have ever seen. Her dedication and spirit are unparalleled. Her family's support and love is so incredible--I am in awe of everyone.



# Building Renovation Update

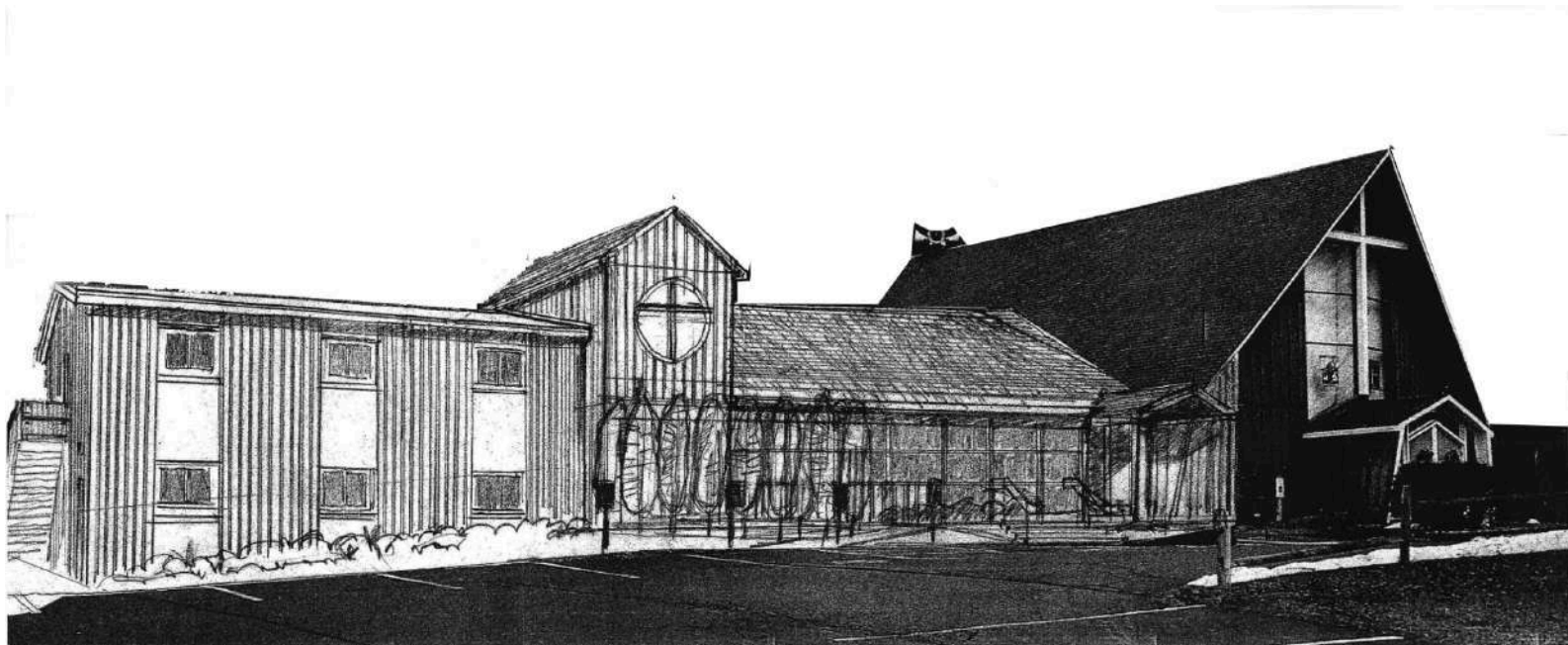
After Worship on Sunday, April 28, we will hold a Building Renovation Q & A on both our progress and the funding campaign. Building Renovation pledge packets will be handed out on April 28, and if they are not picked up, they will be mailed out. These packets will contain the relevant information thus far. If you do not receive an envelope and would like one, please contact the Church Office, and we can get one to you promptly.

We are seeking to raise \$200,000 over a three year period to pay for the congregational portion of the \$429,400 estimated cost. The rest of the costs will be covered by grants, fundraising, our own in-house funds, and income from ultimately the cell phone tower.

The first phase of the renovation, which consists of repairing the front wall of the basement, installing (and relocating) a new septic, and replacing the flooring in the Sanctuary and Basement, will take place this Summer. We already have the funds to do these projects.

Before we cover the old tile with the luxury vinyl tile flooring, we will invite everyone to sign the old floor as a way of remembering our presence here! Also, we will need many hands to help move chairs and other equipment to clear the spaces for the tile to be installed. This is one way we are keeping the cost down! Details on when this will be needed is TBA.

In the meantime, prayerfully consider making your pledge to the Renovation Project. We recognize it is a “big ask,” but one that is sorely needed. The project will not only fix what needs repairing and modernize worn facilities, but ready us to do ministry more effectively now and into the future.



# Penny Social Fundraiser

## Penny Social Fundraiser for the Building Renovation Fund Saturday, June 22

What is a Penny Social? It's a bit 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 a sheet 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 for each item, 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 a lot of great items donated!

Some ideas of items to donate: plants, picture frames, mugs, vases, board games, puzzles, small gardening supplies, coffee table books, home decor, DVDs, etc. All items should be new, or like new. Not sure if what you want to donate fits the bill? Just ask!

And if you have something larger, or non-tangible (experience-type prizes), let me know! We also plan to have a silent auction for bigger prizes.

Questions? Or interested in helping plan the event? Please contact Nancy Taylor  
(NancyForsbergTaylor@gmail.com)

# Pride Month Film Screening


**Pride Month Film Screening and Discussion: "1946"**

**Monday, June 24, 6:30 PM**

**Rotterdam Community Center Performance Hall: 705 Curry Road in Rotterdam, NY**

On Monday, June 24, the Rotterdam Community Center, in collaboration with Schenectady Clergy Against Hate, will host a public screening of the documentary film *"1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture."* The film uncovers the mistranslation that erroneously led to the word "homosexual" being included in the Bible. By the time that the error was identified, it was too late. Subsequent translations included the word in additional verses, resulting in Holy Scriptures being weaponized against the LGBTQ community. For details about the film, visit [www.1946TheMovie.com](http://www.1946TheMovie.com). The screening will be followed by a brief panel discussion, during which audience members will be invited to ask questions of area clergy members. This gathering is free to all who are interested as we celebrate Pride Month at the Rotterdam Community Center!

THE  
HUDSON-MOHAWK CHORALE  
PRESENTS

love is  
a verb 

SUSAN HERMANCE-FEDAK, DIRECTOR  
ALFRED V. FEDAK, ACCOMPANIST

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**MAY 5, 2024 | 3:00PM**

### [Donations To Trinity](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=x1a8uAgje-8dTfwGAicT4jfYGSQ2YUK1meeOWIRPxd11YzobNDOqExusiAiLTuMtz3vm94PxPVjHF8faF7KYM8F8uIP3pxz0X_W5TRg6L5JEWSQGEeTPb5k3D2giyX0YCmliphcSJ6vQ7nIXKxQ%33D)

[https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/vanco\\_ver3.vps?appver3=x1a8uAgje-8dTfwGAicT4jfYGSQ2YUK1meeOWIRPxd11YzobNDOqExusiAiLTuMtz3vm94PxPVjHF8faF7KYM8F8uIP3pxz0X\\_W5TRg6L5JEWSQGEeTPb5k3D2giyX0YCmliphcSJ6vQ7nIXKxQ%33D](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=x1a8uAgje-8dTfwGAicT4jfYGSQ2YUK1meeOWIRPxd11YzobNDOqExusiAiLTuMtz3vm94PxPVjHF8faF7KYM8F8uIP3pxz0X_W5TRg6L5JEWSQGEeTPb5k3D2giyX0YCmliphcSJ6vQ7nIXKxQ%33D)

### [Spring Clean Up Day](#)

Trinity's Spring Clean Up Day will be on Saturday, May 11, from 9 AM-12 PM. See Alex James with questions.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group will participate in the **CROP Walk on Sunday, May 5**. We will also meet in the afternoon of **Sunday, May 18**, to visit and work on the Urban Farm of the Sycamore Collaborative (SiCM).

## 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 (**May 3, 17, and 31**). We are now reading Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer Prize winning book "Gilead." See Tim Coombs or Kirk Wegter-McNelly for more information.

## Communion Assistance

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 May 26. Contact Bill ([dodgew@mac.com](mailto:dodgew@mac.com)) if you'd like to help.

# Women's Spirituality

Several of us enjoyed time together at Panera Bread (April 10) and Applebees (April 23) – so, we're going to do it again! Here are the dates:

**Friday, May 10, 8:30 AM – Panera Bread**—coffee/tea and conversation.

**Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 PM—Applebees**—beverages snacks and conversation beverages (next time we'll do a Wednesday!).

RSVP's are helpful—to Kathy (pastorkathy@scotiatrinity.org), especially for the Applebees gathering!



Applebees: April 23, 2024

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## **Atlas of the Heart—Final Discussion Wednesday, May 29, 7 PM**

Somehow this Spring didn't turn out to be a great time for a book group—so, I thought it made sense to just do a final discussion of the whole book on the date when the majority of folks (or at least of those who responded to the doodle poll) could make it! So—this is the date—it's all the way at the end of the month, so—plenty of time to read the book if you want to join us but haven't started it yet! See Kathy for more info.

# CROP Walk

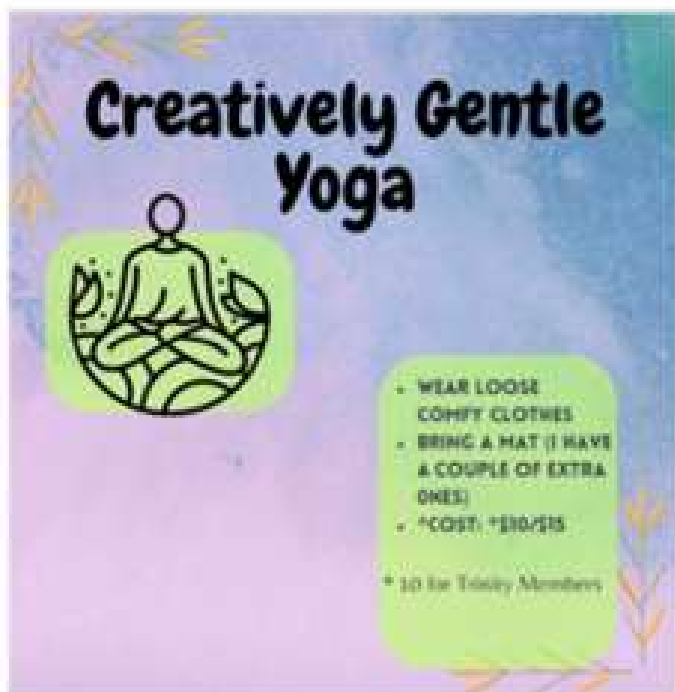
This year's Schenectady Community Ministries Phil Grigsby Memorial CROP Hunger Walk will take place on **Sunday, May 5, and will start at 1 PM at the Rotterdam Community Center**, which is located at 705 Curry Road, Rotterdam, NY 12306. If you'd like to participate either as a walker or a sponsor, there is a sign up sheet in the Annex, with more info available there. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Parsons at [zup\\_dudes@yahoo.com](mailto:zup_dudes@yahoo.com) or Liz Dobson-Davis at [lizdobsondavis@gmail.com](mailto:lizdobsondavis@gmail.com).

## Schenectady Community Ministries CROP HUNGER WALK



**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

## Yoga Classes



Offered by Linda Rockinger,  
Certified Yoga Instructor

Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 PM in the Sanctuary

May 7 - Chair Enhanced Yoga

May 14 - Gentle Yoga

May 21 - Chair/Gentle Yoga Combo Class

**\*NOTE: NEW TIME & NO CLASS ON MAY 28\***



thank  
you

To Vicky Eddy-Helenek for representing the Deacons in providing a continental breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service.

To Zinnia Benjamin, Jorja Lawton, Franklin Stenta, and Abby Taylor for their help with the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 31.

To the Choir for the beautiful and uplifting music on Easter Sunday, March 31.

To Ashlye Cheely who baked several items for the Albany Presbyterian Women's gathering that was held at Trinity on April 24.

To Rich Taylor for organizing several hikes this Winter/Spring.

To those who've provided Coffee Hour in April. The Kaczmareks, The Palmers, and Phil Garvey, who often "pinch hits" when no one is signed up.

To Wendi Brandow and all go her helpers for all go their work on the Craft Fair on Saturday, April 27.

To Alex James and Nancy Taylor for their presentation of the Building Renovation Q & A on Sunday, April 28.

# May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:30 PM - Deacons	2 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	3 7:30 AM - Men's Breakfast Book Group	4
5 10 AM - Worship 1 PM - Crop Walk 3 PM - Hudson-Mohawk Chorale Concert	6	7 3:30 PM - Chair Yoga	8	9 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	10 8:30 AM - Women's Spirituality Gathering (Panera)	11 9 AM - 12 PM: Spring Clean Up
12 <b>Mother's Day</b> 10 AM - Worship 6:30 PM - Mission (Zoom)	13	14 3:30 PM - Gentle Yoga	15 7 PM - Session	16 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	17 <b>Secretary Out Of Office</b> 7:30 AM - Men's Breakfast Book Group	18 Youth Group Meeting In The Afternoon
19 10 AM - Worship After Worship - Woodberry Crossing Q & A	20	21 3:30 PM - Chair/ Gentle Yoga 7:30 PM - Women's Spirituality Gathering (Applebees)	22	23 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 10 AM - Worship	27 <b>Memorial Day</b>	28	29 7 PM - Women's Spirituality Book Group	30 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal	31 7:30 AM - Men's Breakfast Book Group	

*Happy*  
**BIRTHDAY**

- May 2 Dan Carusone, Amy Jessup, Joshua Kenyon  
May 5 Karen Eglintine, Megan James  
May 6 Zinnia Benjamin  
May 8 Mariellen Boomhower  
May 12 Vicky Eddy-Helenek  
May 16 Bill Dodge, Glenn Pietrow  
May 17 Cheryl Brenn  
May 18 Lori Korkosz  
May 20 Thomas Boomhower  
May 24 Abby Gerbini, Alex Helenek  
May 31 Judy Gorman