

# Trinity Presbyterian Church



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS

185 Swaggertown Road  
Scotia, NY 12302  
(518) 399-8782

Co-Pastors  
*Rev. Kathy Gorman-Coombs &  
Rev. Dr. Tim Coombs*

Trinity Presbyterian Church is committed to openness and inclusivity at all levels. Please see our full statement of racial equality at [www.scotiatrinity.org](http://www.scotiatrinity.org)

## WORSHIP

### Sunday Service

An interactive service, to which all members of the community are welcome, is held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. Communion is included on the first Sunday of the month. Equipment for the deaf/hard of hearing is available. Children are dismissed after a “message to the children” to Sunday school (September – June) and return to the sanctuary on Communion Sundays to partake with their families. Note: During Covid-19 Pandemic, services are available on YouTube.



### Special Services

Special services are held during holidays and other times of the year to meet identified needs or in light of unusual circumstances. One example is Blue Christmas, a meditative service acknowledging the sadness that can sometimes accompany the holiday season.

## MUSIC

### Choir

Trinity’s choir and music, in general, has been a very important and meaningful part of our services. In addition to Sunday, occasional concerts have been held at which additional singers and musicians have joined the usual members.

### Selah

A rock style band that performs contemporary music in worship on a monthly basis and in other community venues.

## EDUCATION

### Sunday School

Traditional Sunday School classes, activities and special events for school age children of Trinity and the wider community. Instruction and learning align with the teachings of the Sunday service, from which children are excused three Sundays per month. During Advent, time is allotted for creating and practicing the Christmas Pageant to be presented at the Advent Dinner (please see below).



### Book Groups

Both the Women’s Spirituality and Men’s Group hold regular book studies, and we also occasionally have groups that are for everyone, especially when there is a particular theme we are exploring as a congregation.

### Youth Group

Teen meetings/activities that form friendships, talk and support each other. A pastor and volunteer members coordinate and facilitate bi-monthly meetings, trips and other outings.

### Vacation Bible School

An interactive Bible themed camp for ages 5-12 held in conjunction with Scotia Reformed Church.

### Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for rising HS freshmen or age 15 students from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years. The theme for the 2019 event was “Here’s My Heart.” The goal is to engage youth (6000+ teens) to renew themselves through dynamic worship, recreation, small groups and workshops.

We encourage at least one teen from Trinity to attend.



# MISSION

“Mission” describes the many activities of the church to address some of the community needs we have identified. Our mission work is one of the most important aspects of Trinity’s identity and in recent years has grown in terms of enthusiasm, volunteers and financial support.

## Jail Ministry

Support of those incarcerated at the Schenectady County Jail, through visits, book distribution in the library, and providing needed items.

## Weekend Backpack

This program, in conjunction with First Reformed Church of Scotia, the Schenectady County Concerned for the Hungry and the Regional Food Bank, provides backpacks filled with food for identified students in the Scotia-Glenville Schools. Our volunteers pick up food at the Bank and deliver it to the church each week that school is in session. “Packers” fill bags, usually on Wednesday or Thursday evenings and deliver it to the schools. In addition, Stewart’s milk cards, and gift cards for eggs are included.

## High School Pantry

A site was established at Scotia Glenville HS to meet the identified needs of HS age students. The pantry is stocked with food and personal care items.

## School Supplies

School supply donations are collected for Schenectady School students at the beginning of the school year and throughout as needed. Members/friends take advantage of August school supply sales to donate basic items such as crayons, pencils, notebooks.

## Schenectady Community Ministries Summer Lunch

Provides free breakfast and lunch at various sites in Schenectady County, such as parks, as well as 2 mobile units during the summer and school vacations.

## Woodberry Crossing

Located in Parkton, MD, Woodberry Crossing gives urban children, youth and families the opportunity to broaden their vision and understanding of life thorough meeting and interacting with a variety of people, animals and the natural world. Urban children often have few places to run and play. The camp at Woodberry Crossing offers an environment that provides campers a chance to imagine “outside the neighborhood.” Every summer, a dozen or more Trinity members/friends volunteer to help with a project and to enjoy the surroundings and each other during a 3-day work camp.

## Crop Walk

Each Spring, Trinity members/friends join thousands around the country in a walk to raise money to fight hunger locally and around the world. Each walker is backed by a sponsor who contributes to the cause.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Advent Dinner

An informal potluck dinner at Trinity to celebrate the Advent season that features the revealing of Advent Angels and an Advent Pageant (please see below) by the children.

### Advent Pageant

A play or recital performed by the Sunday School children at Trinity about the true meaning of Christmas.

### Advent Angels

Adults serve as “angels” to an assigned child. The angel writes a short letter anonymously each Sunday of Advent. The writer chooses the topics, often times related to his/her own past Christmas experiences.

### November Vendor Fair

Fundraisers are very occasional and when absolutely necessary to help raise funds for special needs outside the regular budget. In recent years, a Vendor Fair has been held to increase funds available for Mission work. It is held annually in November and is a fun fellowship event at which crafts, and other items are available for sale.

## EVANGELISM

Evangelism describes the work to attract new and maintain current church membership. This work includes attendance at community events, maintaining varied and effective communication, and understanding the wider community and its needs. We rely on each of Trinity’s members/friends to represent the church, make others aware of our mission and “personality,” and invite participation in Sunday Service and our many other activities and events.



## SESSION

Session refers to the church’s “governing” body, made up of the chairs of Worship, Mission, Education, Finance, Administration, Property, At-Large, Clerk, and Pastors, who meet monthly to review and approve the business of the church. Members serve three-year terms and may service two terms before a break in service.

## PROPERTY



Property oversees the church building and property throughout the year and schedules Building Workdays and Gardening Workdays to ensure the ongoing repairs and maintenance of the church. The Property Chair and volunteers also propose longer term projects (such as roofing repairs) that need attention.

## DEACONS

### Prayer Chain

A group of volunteers who pray for those in need as requests come forward and are emailed or phoned to the members of the chain.



### General Caretaking

The role of the deacons is to be aware of and address the needs of Trinity members and friends in times of need. This would include visits, cards, providing meals and organizing a wider circle to help when needed. In addition, the deacons organize special events such as the Advent Dinner, annual celebrations, baptisms, anniversaries, and other congregational gatherings. The deacons are go-to members for those with a concern.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Church members/friends and others donate hand knit or crocheted lap robes and shawls to be distributed to folks in both physical and spiritual need as an offering of comfort and warmth.



## WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY



Gatherings throughout the year include, worship, study, “field trips” and attending community religious and holiday events together. An annual retreat is an opportunity for the women to relax, recharge, discuss and worship at a lake or other restful location.

## FAMILY EVENTS

In addition to children taking part with their families in many activities throughout the year, such as packing up food for the Backpack program, taking part in services, decorating cookies for fundraising at Christmas time, helping set up and clean up for special events, etc., adults and children can also participate together at Freedom Park Night, Game Nights and occasional Campouts/Picnics.



## MEN'S GROUP

In addition to the Book Group, the members also enjoy other outings and events like hikes and ropes courses, as well as breakfast at a local diner on a regular schedule. There is often a retreat in the Fall.

## MORE TO KNOW

### Wider Community Participation

#### Schenectady Community Ministries (formerly Schenectady Inner City Ministry)

An interfaith group of congregations working together to address identified needs of the community, particularly food insecurity. Volunteer opportunities include serving as an Assembly delegate, distributing food at the food room, and helping with fundraisers

#### Special Offerings

At various times through the year, and especially around holidays, Trinity participates in voluntary traditional opportunities for giving such as One Great Hour of Sharing, the Christmas Joy Offering, Peacemaking and others. These offer the chance to become part of a much larger group of churches and people who pool funds to help many individuals and groups in the U.S. and around the world.

#### Office Supply Program

Members/friends contribute used ink cartridges to be taken to Staples to get credit for office supplies and in some cases, funds for use outside Staples.

#### Summer Camp – Camp Fowler

A year-round facility in Speculator, NY, that specializes in its rich summer camp program for children including teens. It serves as a special summer event for Trinity youth.

#### Schenectady Clergy Against Hate

A coalition of clergy of all faiths uniting, facilitating and inviting everyone to affirm the sanctity that exists in all people and to denounce actions and speech rooted in hatred.

### *Trinity's Church Statement*

God calls us to love and respect all people; in them we see God's image and our own reflection.

Together we seek forgiveness as we grow in love of God and each other, a love and forgiveness made possible and freely offered by Jesus Christ.

We celebrate this love as a community through worship and music, outreach and mission, affirming and sharing the gifts and talents with which the Spirit has blessed each and every one of us.

We welcome you as we seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God together.