

# NEWSLETTER

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

Rev. Kathleen Gorman-  
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Do justice, love kindness, walk  
humbly with God.

**SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT'S  
INSIDE**

**PAGE 2**

-A message from Pastor Tim

**PAGE 3**

-Youth

**PAGE 4**

- Information from the Pastors

**PAGE 5**

- Mission Committee Notes

**PAGE 6**

- Minute for SiCm

**PAGE 7**

- For Your Information

**PAGE 8**

- Assistance Please

**PAGE 9**

-Upcoming Events and Plans

**PAGE 10**

- News from Haiti Mission School

**PAGE 11**

-Communication Team News

**PAGE 12**

- Calendar of Events

**SUNDAY  
10:00 AM**

*Sunday School and  
nursery available  
during worship. We  
are an accessible  
Church.*



*February*

## A message from Pastor Tim.

Friends,

Thank God. The President and the Congress have agreed to re-open the government for at least three weeks. No matter what you think about the value or need for a wall on the US/Mexican border, the functioning of the government ought not be held hostage to a policy issue. In any case, the 800,000 government workers will soon receive their back pay and return to work.

Another thing we learned from this shutdown was not only was it bad for all the government workers and contractors, but it soon had a ripple effect on the rest of the country, particularly the poor. Welfare checks and food stamps were to be curtailed. Government agencies like WIC and SNAP would not function. If the shutdown continued into February our own regional food bank would find itself in short supply, which impacts the SICM Food Pantry, school breakfasts and lunches, and our own back pack program. All of this would lead to more crime, more anger, more sense of powerlessness.

The recent agreement opens the government for three weeks. My hope is that the powers that be have learned that doing so is neither a practical or effective strategy. We have been made aware, however, of just how precarious funding for the poor can be. Here are some ways we can sure up these agencies.

- 1.) Donate non-perishable food to our shopping cart the first Sunday of February and money to the collection box. Yes, money goes farther, but food supply is always welcome.
- 2.) Support the youth's Souperbowl collection with similar donations. They will be ready with soup pots and donation cans after the service.
- 3.) Help stock on back pack closets with non-perishable healthy snacks. Mariellen Boomhower can advise what we need, but granola bars, soup, cereal, and fruit are safe choices.

Meanwhile, let us pray that the powers in Washington more productive ways to debate policy. People are hurting in our country and the number will only increase if our government considers egos more important than those in need. I wish we had the means to "do justice" by them all, but for the time being we can offer "loving kindness" through our gifts of food stuffs. Meanwhile, may we all pray that everyone realize our need "to walk humbly before God."

Tim

## Youth



### YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, February 3 is practically a national holiday – Superbowl Sunday. At Trinity, it is known more as being Souperbowl Sunday. Once again members of the Trinity’s youth group will be collecting for the Schenectady County Ministry’s Food Pantry after worship. Please, bring either nonperishable food or money to place in our soup pots or collection cans after the service.

Also, congratulations to Keller Wegter-McNelly who is participating with other youth from the Schenectady Clergy Against Hate (SCAH) faith communities in the Children at the Well story learning program. Children at the Well is a Lilly funded program. This is from their website: “Through the art of storytelling, Children at the Well enables young people to strengthen their empathy and find their voice so they can take their place as artistic, inclusive and effective leaders in this globally interdependent world.” The program runs from January through March on Sunday afternoons. Blessings, Keller!

### CAMPERSHIPS

Albany Presbytery will once again be handing out “camperships” to children of members who seek to go to Camp Fowler, the Presbyterian Center in Holmes, or Skye Farm. The camperships are for \$225 or most of the remaining cost once your registration deposit is paid. To apply, go to [albanypresbytery.org>menu>resources>grants&loans>camperships](http://albanypresbytery.org>menu>resources>grants&loans>camperships). <https://albanypresbytery.org/application-for-campership/> Fill out the form. Applications will conclude by the end of February and camperships will be awarded first come, first served. Also, go to your choice of camp and register your child for camp pronto! As a member of the Board of Trustees for Camp Fowler I can attest that weeks are filling up fast, **so don’t delay**.

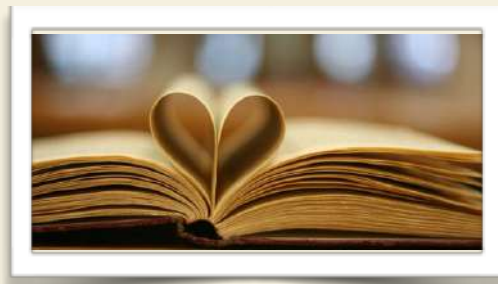
If you have two children who want to attend camp, then the second will receive \$200. Last year, the fund ran out so the presbytery’s trustees are trying to serve as many families as they can.

## INFORMATION FROM THE PASTORS:

### Lenten Adult Book Study: Boundaries

The Boundaries study takes participants on a unique journey – of spiritual growth, challenge to change, problem solving, recovery, and hope. It offers practical encouragement, insight, and wisdom to all who struggle with their inability to say “no,” as well as anyone who seeks to live a healthy and balanced life. The study is based on the book by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend “Boundaries: When to Say ‘Yes,’ How to say ‘No,’ to Take Control of Your Life.” Books can be purchased on Amazon or your favorite book seller.

The course will be taught by Lisa Etkin, who has been worshipping at Trinity since the summer. Lisa has led this study at First Reformed Church in Schenectady. She is also a counselor and trainer with the Stephen’s Ministry. Sign up in the Annex.



### Thank You...

- Polly Benjamin for writing and directing the Sunday School Christmas pageant;
- Nicky Boehm and the Deacons for coordinating the Christmas dinner;
- Adrienne Hall for creating the scroll for our Advent worship;
- Melissa Peterson (and Terry) for coordinating the poinsettias;
- Louise Gundrum for baking our Epiphany cake;
- Karen Eglintine for serving her three year term on the Session, who co-chair with Liz Dobson-Davis the Finance and Administration committees.
- Liz Dobson-Davis and Phil Garvey for their hard work on our budget.
- Wayne Virkler, who has completed 2 3-year terms on Deacons, serving as treasurer and card-sender for most of that time.
- Those who did the character readings at the 9 PM Christmas Eve services: Rhett Parsons, Blaine Parsons, Jeannette Storch, Sharon Kenyon, Abby Foster, & Alex James (with his assistant, Emma!).
- Anyone who has shoveled snow, sprinkled (or purchased!) ice melt, assisted others in the icy trek across the parking lot, parked cars so folks didn't have to walk across the parking lot . . . just generally taking care of each other in this season!

## MISSION COMMITTEE NOTES

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Thank you to all who generously donated their leftover, new Christmas cards. We'll be using them for a card distribution at the Schenectady County Jail next December. We'll be collecting them through the year as well. Your donation may be left in the Jail Ministry box in the Annex.

The Weekend Backpack Program will be packing on Wednesdays at 6:30 in the downstairs classroom. If you are a regular volunteer, we thank you for your dedication and good spirit. If you're interested in learning how it's done or would like to volunteer please sign up on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. You're always welcome to join us.

Speaking of the Backpack Program, much appreciation goes to our dedicated drivers who pick up the week's food in Latham each Wednesday morning and bring it to Trinity. Our drivers are Walt Hayes, Brian Breslin, Rick Longhurst, Bill Palmer, Wayne Virkler, and Mariellen Boomhower.



## A Minute for SiCm



This past spring SiCM, now called Schenectady Community Ministries, celebrated 50 years serving the community. For most of those years Trinity has been a member and partner in the over 50 congregation consortium. Providing funds, food, and volunteers who help the organization as it has tried to meet the needs of our neighbors in the inner city of Schenectady has been an important mission for our church.

As SiCM looks ahead to the next fifty years, the mission has been expanding beyond the inner city and into the entire county of Schenectady. Though the organization will meet specific needs as they arise, the focus will continue to be on the food pantry, and the summer lunch program.

Trinity has always been very generous in it's support. Mission funds are designated to SiCM every year and it is one of the major organizations to which we give. You have always been generous in your donations of items as well, and individual gifts of money that go directly to buy food. There are five Trinity members who work weekly at the pantry and many more of you have been Summer Lunch volunteers.

Currently, the food pantry is a victim of it's own success. One of the major grants that funds the pantry has encouraged SiCm to increase the number of meals given each month to the guests who come, and to also increase the number of guests served. While both things have been accomplished, the grant does not meet the cost of serving more meals to more people.

So the pantry is trying to think of ways to cut back on what guests are given without lessening the nutritional quality or the variety of things offered. Ways to generate more income or to collect more donations of items from the community are being considered to help make up for the shortfall.

Each month the pantry will announce one food item and one personal item as donations for the month. During the month those things will be collected in the SiCm shopping cart in the annex, and delivered to the pantry. They will be publicized in advance. It is hoped you will add them to your shopping list.

Of course, you can still donate money if you wish, remembering that food can be bought from The Regional Food Bank for 16 cents a pound. Whichever way you choose will help SiCm to continue to meet the food needs of the area in the way they've been accustomed. The guests and everyone at SiCM are so very grateful for your continuing support. Pat Wheeler is Trinity's delegate to the SiCm Assembly. Any questions can be directed to her, Don ( who heads the pantry Food Task Force) or Kathy.

## For Your Information...



### 2019 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who pledged for 2019, your generosity is greatly appreciated, and having the pledge amounts helps Session plan our budget for the coming year. If you haven't pledged yet, but are planning to, please submit your pledge amount as soon as possible. This can be done by putting your pledge envelope in the Sunday offering plate, or mailing your pledge in to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 185 Swagertown Rd., Scotia, NY 12302.

*Thank you!*

### Birthdays

- Feb. 3      Gina Longhurst
- Feb. 6      Kris Casey
- Feb. 12     Wendy Sanders,  
              Nicki Boehm
- Feb. 14     Robert Ekblaw,  
              Maxwell Palmer Pruett,  
              Victoria Savoie
- Feb. 18     Ann Murray
- Feb. 20     John Korkosz
- Feb. 23     Madeline Pruett
- Feb. 24     Cindy Hartman
- Feb. 26     Walt Hayes
- Feb. 27     Skyler Jessup

### Announcers

- Feb. 3      Mariellen Boomhower
- Feb. 10     Don Wheeler
- Feb. 17     Steve Parsons
- Feb. 24     Megan Beauchamp

### Counters

- Feb. 3      Rick & Laraine Longhurst
- Feb. 10     Jim & Wendi Brandow
- Feb. 17     Megan Beauchamp & Karen Englintine
- Feb. 24     Rick & Laraine Longhurst

### Ushers

- Feb. 3      Tom & Vicky Eddy Helenek
- Feb. 10     The Breslin Family
- Feb. 17     Cara Molyneaux & Mariellen Boomhower
- Feb. 24     Cliff & Adrienne Hall

### Clickers

- Feb. 3      Vicky Helenek
- Feb. 10     Wendi Brandow
- Feb. 17     TBA
- Feb. 24     Kernan Davis



# Assistance, please!



Assistance is needed on behalf of the Mission. Paige School (as well as others) would really appreciate donations of hats and mittens/gloves. We will be collecting through the end of February. Any questions, please see Linda Rockinger. Thank you for all you do, Trinity Folk!



Reminder: Please let us know if there is any change in your directory information- phone numbers, address, email address, etc. Please send to our church secretary at [scotiatrinity@aol.com](mailto:scotiatrinity@aol.com). Thank you!



## Upcoming Events and Plans “in the works” (from Kathy)

### **Ash Wednesday Service:**

**Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 PM**

This service is our traditional beginning to Lent; it is quiet, meditative, a time to begin the Lenten journey of self-examination and reflection. The imposition of ashes is available as an option during the service, but not a “requirement.” The early time is so that folks can stop by on your way home from work, and also so as to be finished before backpack packing begins at 6:30. See Kathy for further info!

### **March 3 & 4: Visit to Presbytery by recent Mission Co-Workers Sandi & Brian Thompson-Royer.**

Sandi and Brian just completed 4 years as Mission Co-Workers have visited with us before, when they were about half way through their time of service in Guatemala. While they were in Guatemala, they worked a great deal with the Mam Presbytery with whom Albany has a partnership, and assisted our presbytery’s work a great deal. Kathy stayed at their home in Antigua several times, and assisted Sandi with a training event for women leaders about Domestic Violence, back in August of 2017. The exact schedule for their visit is still to be established, but keep it in mind as the date gets closer; they have marvelous stories to share and are very faithful witnesses to what God is doing in Guatemala. See Kathy for further info!



### **Women’s Spirituality “Field Trip”:**

**Seneca Falls**

I have wanted for years to organize a “field trip” to Seneca Falls for the Women’s Spirituality group, and March (Women’s History month) seems like a good time to go. I am still working on a date—probably later in the month, and on a weekend—and hopefully an overnight, perhaps with some retreat like qualities—so, women, be watching for further info on this!

## News from the Haiti Mission School

February 2019

Haiti Mission School  
 P.O. Box 445  
 Lake Luzerne, NY 12846  
[haitimissionschool@gmail.com](mailto:haitimissionschool@gmail.com)  
[www.haitimissionschool.org](http://www.haitimissionschool.org)

**Acts 9:17-18** Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

*At one time it was believed that  
 the sun, moon and stars revolved  
 around planet earth.*  
 \*\*\*\*

*Fancy if you will  
 The missionary heading to the "third world".  
 She imagines how she will help  
 The poor hungry unfortunate  
 And lift them from their poverty.  
 Perhaps if the scales fall from her eyes,  
 They will be opened to see  
 That wealth consists of more  
 than one's bankroll--  
 That Christ is alive and active  
 In other parts of the world—  
 and  
 mission work is a two-way street--a partnership.*  
*Poem by Tom Parsons\**



In this picture, JoEllen is eating *Joumou*, a special Haitian pumpkin soup, steeped in history, and made for us by our good friend Marie Claude. Over the years we have known her, Marie Claude has demonstrated in numerous ways what real faith is. Our own sense of hope and faith has grown tremendously as we have seen Haitians like Marie Claude live their faith daily. We believe this gift, given to us, is at least as valuable (if not more so) as the things we give them from our abundance. Other team members we have taken to Haiti have stated how much their own faith has grown through getting to know Haitians and experiencing how they live their faith.

### Team Heading to Haiti

Howard Nicols and JoEllen Parsons will be accompanying a team to Haiti March 15-25. (*Follow us on Facebook at JoEllen Parsons and/or Howard Nicols. Both are posted publically. It will take a couple of days to get up and running.*) The primary purposes of the trip include following up on the fall trip, visiting the school, our secondary students (always a special treat), Howard's projects and assisting Dr. Jena Curtis in her work with our young women and others.

More specifically, we will meet with both Inspector Kazy and the school committee. We are hoping to find the government is more faithfully committed to supporting the school, with completed staffing and books for both teachers and students. Everyone hopes we will be able to come together and begin the process of constructing a much needed building. We continue to remind ourselves that life (and our mission) is a process and things happen in God's time and in God's way, and that is the best time and way. (PATIENCE!)

The committee has requested that we assist them with uniforms. Students at nearly all schools in Haiti wear uniforms. Uniforms instill a sense of school pride and result in a greater sense of equality among the students. The committee has asked us to help replace ¼ of the uniforms each year (we buy the material—they make the uniforms). Material costs about \$6.00 each at current exchange rates, and at current student levels that will cost about \$250 per year. We are also continuing to provide a hot meal each school day for students, teachers and others at the school.

*Again, we thank you for your prayers and support for this mission and please remember  
 to continue to pray for Sabrina and the other Haitian Restavec children.*



\*Published in his book *The Haitian Chronicles*, available from amazon.com. All proceeds from sale of the book go to the ministry for the school.

## Communication Team News



In November, the Communication Team met with Kim Deal, Albany Presbytery's Communication specialist—specifically to talk about updating and making better use of our website, but also to generally discuss how we can improve our communication here at Trinity. One result of this meeting is a survey that will be coming out soon—it will be available online as a “Survey Monkey” and also as a paper copy. Its purpose will be to find out how Trinity folks are most comfortable receiving and sharing information, to help the team hone and refine communications, so that everyone can know what events are coming up, what kinds of activities and programs are available, who to talk to about them, and when! Be watching for this survey and for further information!

# February Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Officer Retreat
3  10am-Worship 11:30am- Mission	4	5 6 pm- Cup of our Life Group	6 6:30pm- Backpacks 7pm- Cup of our Life Group	7  7:30pm- Choir  Kathy at CEDEPCA	8  USA BOARD	9  MEETING
10 10am- Worship  Tim in	11 Guatemala	12 6 pm- Cup of our Life Group	13 6:30pm- Backpacks 7pm- Cup of Our Life Group	14 Valentines Day!  7:30pm-Choir	15	16
Kathy In Guatemala						
17 10am-Worship	18	19	20	21 7:30pm- Choir	22	23
24 10am- Worship	25	26 7pm-Deacons	27 6:30pm-Backpacks 7pm-Session	28 7:30pm- Choir		

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Trinity Presbyterian Church

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[scotiatrinity.org](http://scotiatrinity.org)  
 The Rev. Kathy Gorman-Coombs &  
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