

# Gathering Time comes to new gathering place

## Folk-rock trio to perform Saturday at Trinity Place in downtown Geneva

By **ANDREW ZELLERS**

azellers@fittimes.com

A folk-rock trio from Long Island is playing in Geneva for the first time ever this weekend.

Gathering Time is being hosted by Trinity Church in their new Trinity Place space at 78 Castle St., site of the former Wicked Water. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

A preview outing at Monaco's Coffee, 115 Washington St., is slated for noon Saturday.

Twelve-year-old Gathering Time's roots date to when Stuart Markus ran into his friend and a former member of the band, Glen Roethel, at a solo outdoor concert. Roethel invited Markus to stop by a weekly gig he had at an outdoor antique car rally. When Markus arrived, he heard Roethel harmonizing with Hillary Foxsong. Markus asked if he could join her on a song by the Eagles — and they realized that they had a great sound.

They came up with the name Gathering Time a year and a half later.

Since then, only one change has been made: in late 2012, Roethel decided he could no longer stay in the band. Several people recommended Gerry McKeveny, a musician whom Markus knew, though not well, through local songwriter circles. He called McKeveny and asked him to sit in with himself and Foxsong.

Both agreed McKeveny was a perfect fit — and they have enjoyed impressive success.

Their latest album, "Keepsake," took the No. 1 song, No. 1 album and No. 1 artist honors on the folk radio chart in March 2016. Six songs cracked the top 25.

Gathering Time has released four albums thus far, with McKeveny a part of the two most recent. An album of 1960s folk-rock covers is in the works.

With their years of experience, the band is usually able to get their parts down during recording in just a few takes, and the musicians have grown to take on more complex music and topics in their songwriting.

Gathering Time began touring on the regional folk circuit in 2008. The band has appeared in Rochester, Corning and the Catskills.

Their trip to Geneva came about when Markus wanted to get another gig to pair with one in Syracuse, making for a good weekend, he thought. However, he hit a wall at every turn before turning to Facebook. That's where an old friend from his College Literary Society saw the post and directed him to Trinity.

"We haven't had an official opening (at Trinity Place) yet, but after hearing Gathering Time, we couldn't let the opportunity pass," the Rev. Cameron Miller of Trinity Church said. "The vocal harmonies and acoustic nature of the music are perfect for a smaller venue."

Miller believes the venue ties in well with the roots of the folk-rock traditions of the 1960s. Music then was influenced by the events of the time, such as the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the civil rights struggle and the changing role of women. People saw their own concerns reflected in the lyrics, which focused on the stories and welfare of ordinary people.

Like the greats of the era, Gathering Time writes thoughtful songs on all sorts of topics, including those that protest injustice.

"Going back a century and a half, folk music has been concerned with the plight of ordinary people, from railroad labor and coal mining songs to the civil rights and antiwar songs of the 1960s," said Markus in a press release. "And while it never disappeared, it's come back to the forefront with the renewed emboldenment of white nationalist and nativist groups, and attempts to disenfranchise large segments of society we've been seeing of late."

Being a co-ed folk-harmony trio, Markus said the group often is compared to Peter, Paul, & Mary, but they draw inspiration from several folk-rock groups, such as the Byrds; Simon & Garfunkel; Crosby, Stills & Nash; and Joni Mitchell.

Gathering Time will perform moti-



**Gathering Time — (from left) Hillary Foxsong, Stuart Markus and Gerry McKeveny — bring their folk-rock vibe to Trinity Place in Geneva Saturday night.**

national songs, songs of protest and, as Markus said, "familiar songs that people will find themselves dusting off and singing along on, and hopefully they'll leave singing too, and thinking about how important a part of life music can be."

While Trinity Place's primary function will be as a house of worship, Miller said the new site is intended to host all sorts of events, as well as act as a headquarters.

"Our new logo says that we are 'Trinity Place, An Open Space for Growth, Wellness, Healing, and the Arts,' and we mean it," Miller said. "Our aim is to be a gathering space for the Geneva community, a venue for classes, meetings, recovery and programs that are consistent with our general mission to care for and nurture spiritual and human growth."

There will be seating at Saturday's concert, although Miller said there is potential for a dance floor if the right event comes along. There could be dancing Saturday, Miller added, depending on the crowd.

Admission to Saturday's show is

### If you go ...

**What:** Gathering Time in concert

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17

**Where:** Trinity Place, 78 Castle St., Geneva

**Tickets:** \$10; reservations recommended — call (315) 325-4216 or email atrinityepiscop@rochester.rr.com. Only cash will be accepted at the door.

\$10. Tickets are limited, and reservations are recommended. Coffee and desserts will be offered.

Contact Trinity at (315) 325-4216 or atrinityepiscop@rochester.rr.com to make reservations. Only cash will be accepted at the door.