

# The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC - June 2025

## Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

### Third Annual Quilt Show a Hit!

The Quilt Show was a wonderful event this year! People from around the local community stopped in to enjoy the beautiful quilts and buy raffles to win some specially made for the show.

The handmade quilts on display in the sanctuary were discussed in detail by the many quilters who



came by and were admired by all. And the Red Barn? It did a brisk business all day.

Thank you to everyone who brought in quilts and worked to make this annual event a success for our church. A total of \$1625 was raised between the Red Barn sales and quilt show raffles!



Beautiful and clever quilts of all kinds were on display.



Three lucky people won these beautiful quilts made by church members. Quilt raffles are always a big part of our shows.

Older quilts were on sale at the Red Barn



## JOIN US IN SHOWING OUR PRIDE!

### MT. SINAI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



OPEN  
AND  
AFFIRMING  
Since 1995  
UNITED  
CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

- Buy a T-shirt—bright green— with the above ONA design and wear it to church on June 8th.
- Pre-sale for shirts @ \$20 has begun! See Barbara Lyon to order yours.
- We still have hats @ half price, \$10
- Come to the parade; walk or ride with us; join in the fun at the festival
- Advocate for the LGBTQ+ community; its members are being threatened with invisibility.

### Long Island Pride Parade June 8th

We are celebrating a special milestone at Mt. Sinai Church. It has been **30 years** since we voted to become an Open and Affirming congregation! Let's celebrate as we start off a year of celebrations by attending the LI Pride Parade.

We welcome all to join us at the LI Pride Parade as we represent our beloved Mt. Sinai Church, giving thanks to God for our church family.



The mile long parade culminates at Heckscher Park in Huntington, where music, food, vendors, and freebies await us. We have a vehicle that can accommodate approximately 8-10 people who would need to ride rather than walk with us.

(Go to [LIPride.org](http://LIPride.org) for more information)



## ***Pastoral Ponderings for June***

As I write this, MSCC has experienced two profound losses within the past few weeks. First, Greg Humphreys, husband of our beloved Sunday School teacher Stacey Humphreys, passed away. Then another serious loss – the death of Florie Randall, a member of our congregation for over seventy-five years.

The memorials for both were packed with those who wanted to pay their respects to the dead and support their loved ones in such a difficult time. Greg was a volunteer fireman for many years, and his fellow firefighters showed up in force. Florie's large family, and her many friends from the community and from our congregation, packed our sanctuary for her funeral service.

The death of a loved one can be a time when our faith is tested. We know that the person who has passed is with God, and that is certainly a source of celebration. At the same time, the knowledge that God's salvation will be with those who have gone on to the next life in no way alleviates the pain we feel when we have to go on living without their cherished company.

Where we can take some solace is that God knows our pain, and God feels it with us. God, having given God's own Son over to death, knows what it is to lose a loved one. Our faith doesn't guarantee that we won't suffer, but it does give us the assurance that we will never be alone as we go through the agony of loss.

Most of us have experienced the death of a loved one, and we know that grief is a strange phenomenon. There's no way to predict how long it will go on, or when it will strike. It can be triggered by the smallest thing – or by nothing at all. Never let anyone tell you how to grieve, or for how long. This is one of the most personal things we face in our life, and we have to go through it in our own way.

That being said, death is a time when our church family means even more than it does at other points in our lives. There is a huge reservoir of love in this congregation – and when you are missing someone who has gone to be with God, that's a great time to take advantage of the love we have for one another at MSCC.

Let other people in, if you possibly can. Sharing may not make grief go away, but it does help to get through it. And please, please remember that I'm always here for you, whether I'm in Mt. Sinai or by phone when I'm in Connecticut. It's both my calling and an honor to be with you during the tough moments.

Peace & Blessings –  
Pastor Bill

## ***NY Conference UCC Annual Meeting***

Interested in finding out more about the UCC New York Conference? Join others attending the annual meeting at the Crowne Plaza Albany - The Desmond Hotel, the weekend of June 5 --7. Email the office for more information.

## Worship & Sacraments

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:2-4

I was speaking with a friend the other day, and we agreed: Pentecost was our favorite day in the liturgical calendar. Certainly not those long “waiting times” of Advent and Lent. Not Christmas. Not even Easter. But PENTECOST! No need for solemn preparation. No tree lights and gifts. No bunnies and eggs. Just the rushing sound of a violent wind, and tongues of flames igniting our brains, and the Holy Spirit inspiring our speech to be heard and understood--and better yet--to listen and understand. The Holy Spirit! That essence within each of us that holds God’s message and nudges us, urges us to do God’s will. As they say in Brooklyn, “That’s what I’m *talkin’* bout!”

This year, Pentecost falls on June 8th, and what a great day that will be! We’ll celebrate the baptism of our ASL interpreter Maggie Passamonte’s baby girl; we’ll bid the choir a needed summer vacation; we’ll rejoice in honoring our 30th year as an Open and Affirming congregation; and we’ll send off those who will march or ride in this year’s Pride parade in Huntington. Certainly, the Holy Spirit delights in our work on behalf of God’s extravagant welcome!

So, on June 8th, if you bought a T-shirt, wear it! If the Spirit moves you, and you have something red, orange, or yellow in your closet, wear it! Let’s praise God that we have been given a Wise Counselor to guide us always, especially when we wander, on the path before us to fulfill the Creator’s vision for creation.

Sue Hoff, Worship and Sacraments Lead



## Music News

The choir will be enjoying a well-earned summer vacation following worship on June 8th. We’ve had a great year! We welcome Liz Twiss to our treble voices, along with Mary Johns, when she is on the Island, and we’ve been blessed with visitors, Linda Goodman and Danielle Lyon. Of course, we continue to encourage anyone who would like to join us. Ability to read music is not a prerequisite, by the way, only the ability to match a pitch is needed. Watch for news in late summer and give us a try in September.

In the absence of the choir, if you play an instrument or sing in a small group or would like to play or sing a solo, please let Sue know. You can call the church office or email Sue directly, [mshoff23@gmail.com](mailto:mshoff23@gmail.com). Sharing your musical talents is a wonderful way to praise God!

In the meantime, if you come to worship, sing the hymns! If you’d prefer not to, read the lyrics of the hymns; they’re often inspiring and meaningful.

See you in church!

Sue

## Greetings from Sunday School

# Vacation Bible Camp

Mark your calendars: Our annual **Vacation Bible Camp** will start the last week in June and run for 6 weeks culminating with our Show & Share Service designed with children in mind. More news to come.



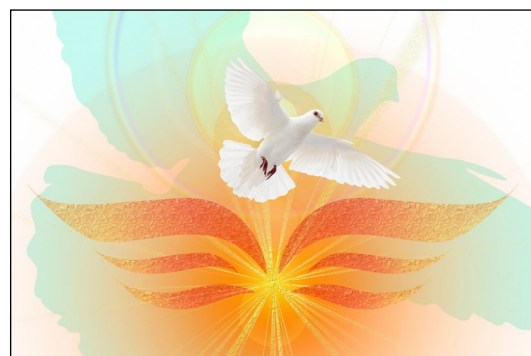
## SALT Project "Summer Days"

"At its best, summer is a season of rest and joy – tapping into the ancient, sacred practice of sabbath restoration.

Mary Oliver can help us reconnect with this dimension of summertime, savoring what she calls its 'luminous sprawl of gifts.'



"This devotional is designed to be flexible: use it as an individual practice of companionship with Oliver's Devotions. Spread it out over four weeks, four days, or a holiday weekend." (<https://www.saltproject.org>)



altgc1909@t-online.de, geralt / Pixabay (Image #7168181)



## Sunday Worship At Mt. Sinai Church

**In-Person Worship** - Join us at our 10 a.m. service in the sanctuary. Communion, as always, takes place on the first Sunday of the month.

**Digital Worship** - Digital worship is available as a live stream. at 10 a.m. on the LIVE tab of our YouTube channel: [Mt. Sinai Congregational Church, UCC - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt...). After that time you can find the service in the regular recordings section.

**Offering** - There are many ways to donate to the church: via check or cash (offering plate, drop-off or mail), electronic payment via the church website <https://www.msucc.org>, by setting up bill pay through your bank or roll-over from a 401(k)/403(b). We appreciate your support.

## Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

### Steeple Showcase 2025

Join us on Saturday, July 26th from 3 to 6 p.m. for the first Steeple Showcase of 2025!

- Blue Grass Buddies
- Eddie & Bob performing originals and covers
- Raffles, Food Trucks & More

Return for our second Steeple Showcase on August 23rd, from 3 to 6 p.m.

- Featuring a solo performance by Hunter Caiazzo of his original songs & popular covers
- McNulty's ice cream cart will be back too!

### Caribbean Cruising February 2026

Want to escape the winter blues? Come cruising with friends from Mt. Sinai Church and the community to the sunny Caribbean from February 3rd to 14th.

The Norwegian Cruise Line trip will take us to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Tortola, St. Martin and St. Thomas! Transportation to the dock and back is being arranged so everything is smooth sailing.

The trip is a fundraiser for the church (thank you Eddie and Carol Melendez) and so much more for those who go.

For further information call or text Kathy Morace at 631-796-6856.

### Food Pantry Day

Our Island Heart Food Pantry staff is hosting a **Food Pantry Day** on Sunday, June 1st to honor the hardworking volunteers who keep it running week in and week out! All pantry volunteers have been invited to attend our service as well as the Coffee Hour after. Please stop in and meet them.

We ask that everyone bring in a non-perishable food item (canned good, pasta or cereal) to help stock our pantry.



### Join us at our Jam-packed Coffee Hour on June 1st

Welcome,  
New Members

In addition to honoring the Food Pantry volunteers at our coffee hour on June 1st, we will also officially welcome the new members of our congregation: Alana and Lisa Devivo with their son, Caiden, and Mary Johns, wife of Pastor Bill. (Please see the article about the new members meeting on page 10.)

## B&G Church Clean-up Day a Success!

Thank you everyone who came to the May 17th *Clean up the Church Day* held by the Buildings & Grounds Board. With a lot of hard work, the sanctuary, kitchen and choir room/office got a real make over. And as always happens, treasures were uncovered. Sue Hoff found a pulpit Bible from the mid 1800s which she has put in the display case in Voorhees Hall.

“The attic is next!” says Michele Cipriano, B&G Lead. The attic contains many items that need to be sorted, organized and, in many cases, disposed of by shredding or being carting away. A day in September or October will be set aside for this work. Please speak with Michele if you would like to volunteer to help.

## Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

### Wear Orange Weekend

The Everytown for Gun Safety organization has designated the first weekend in June as **Wear Orange Weekend**, when we remember the victims of gun violence and continue the efforts for gun violence prevention. Their mission is to promote background checks and put limits on assault weapons. Wear Orange Weekend this year is June 6, 7 and 8.

Missions would like you to have an orange ribbon to wear that weekend. Please pick yours up on June 1st during Coffee Hour. Show your friends and neighbors that you support legislation for gun violence prevention.



### Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC

We are a congregation committed to justice. All are welcome into our full life and ministry regardless of age, race, abilities, economic or marital status, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identification. We are a church that is open and affirming of all people, as we are each made in the image of God.

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***

### Old Man's News

Published by the Mt. Sinai Congregational United Church of Christ, (MSUCC) formerly known as The Congregational Church in the Community of Old Man's, Miller's Place & Rocky Point, established 1789.

If you would like something in the church's monthly newsletter, the deadline to let the editor know is the **20th of every month**. Please, keep in mind that your submission may be edited for content and for space. Email the OMN Editor at [cdwiebel@gmail.com](mailto:cdwiebel@gmail.com) with all submissions and questions.

## Moderator Jim Cibulka's Conversation with Carol Wiebelt

Recently I discussed with Carol Wiebelt her role as the Finance Board Lead. This series highlights the work of our boards and their leads.

**Jim:** How did you become involved at MSCC?

**Carol:** After the birth of our second child we were looking for a church. Through a family member we became aware of MSCC. We felt it was the right place for us and the children's program was wonderful. Over the years, MSCC became a huge extended family for Bill and myself. In the past 35 years I taught Sunday school, served on the boards for Christian Education, Missions and Finance, as well as Game Changers, and the Minister Search Committee. I have also edited the Old Man News for the last 6 years.



**Jim:** What is the role of the Finance Board?

**Carol:** Put simply, our role is to support the work of the Treasurer. Rita LaRosa's responsibilities are very broad, and our work informs her in carrying out her role. We help with decisions around development and approval of the budget, the giving campaign, planning for the church's financial future, etc. We have a wonderful group of board members: Debby Michienzi, Vicki Francis, and Dennis Murphy.

**Jim:** What are some important activities of the board and decisions that it has had to make recently?

**Carol:** We updated the budget process to make it more transparent to the congregation. Also, given budget realities, we have had to make sure MSCC will have the financial security to continue carrying out our mission. With that came the decision to recruit a half-time minister. It was a hard process at times, but I believe we are well positioned now. We were lucky to get Pastor Bill. We are now working on policies that clarify use of funds.

**Jim:** How long have you been the Board Lead and how have you approached your role?

**Carol:** I am in my second year as Lead. I love to collaborate with others. Rita and I talk and then we present ideas to get input from the others. Hearing different perspectives helps us make sound decisions. I am a bit of a spreadsheet geek, so I am learning not to inundate others with data!

**Jim:** How can the congregation help your board?

**Carol:** The congregation does a great job keeping current on their pledges, which is wonderful! I'd like to encourage people to keep thinking about new ways to support our wonderful community. In addition, our board is always looking for new members. No accounting degree is necessary. If you have a good handle on your family's finances, you can be a finance board member!

**Jim:** Is there anything else you'd like to add?

**Carol:** I'd like us to get the church's finances in a good place for the next 20+ years. It sounds like a long time, but it really isn't.

Thanks Carol, for all you do for our church community.

## **Connie Simas: Woman of Distinction**

Our Missions Board Lead, Connie Simas, received an award as a Woman of Distinction for 2025 from Jodi Giglio, NY State Assemblywoman District 2. An awards ceremony was held on May 17th at the Birchwood Restaurant in Riverhead.

Connie, recognized for her extensive volunteer work and dedication to community service on behalf of our church, was nominated by Stacey Humphreys. A total of 30 women were recognized for their outstanding efforts across all fields including business, medicine, education, volunteerism and humanitarianism. Congratulations, Connie!



## **The Red Barn**

The Red Barn is a popular thrifting spot and draws people from all over. The amazing team that keeps it all going is made up of many people who do a variety of jobs, and they would love to have your help. If you are interested in joining the team contact the office and leave a message for Patrice Perreca or Barbara DeBree.

## **Minister/Parish Team Message**

September will mark Pastor Bill's first year with us and it will be time for his annual review. The Minister/Parish Standing Action Team (MPSAT) will be meeting this summer for a formal evaluation, but as you are part of the process, we will be seeking your input soon.

The four duties from our Letter of Call which we seek feedback for are as follows:

1. Preparation and leadership of Sunday worship.
2. Support and grow our Sunday school and youth groups including an annual program focused on confirmation candidates (none at this time).
3. Provide pastoral care in a timely manner in collaboration with lay people, give guidance and ensure that the sick, in hospital or hospice and homebound are cared for.
4. Strategic planning and engagement with the congregation and community for current and new directions in ministry, including expanding membership.

The members of the MPSAT are Sue Allocco, Terry Burke, Jim Cibulka, Diane Corson, Jamie Dunlop, Amanda Gordon, Pat Hewlett, Donna McInerney, and Leesie Schultz. Please feel free to provide feedback to anyone on the committee by June.

## The Social Life at Mt. Sinai Church

### Women's Breakfast Group & Lunch Bunch

Interested in spending time with other women of the church? Like to eat? We have just what you need!



The Women's Breakfast Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, and/or...

If breakfast time is not your thing, you can check out the monthly Lunch Bunch gathering held at different restaurants in the area. The Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m.



Please call the office for locations if you are interested in attending. All meals are self-pay.

### Men's Breakfast Group

“What’s said at the Men’s Breakfast, stays at the Men’s Breakfast...”

Our men’s breakfast group welcomes all men of the church to join them each Thursday morning, 8 a.m. at Zona Out East in Rocky Point. “Don’t worry, we can always add more tables.”



### Coffee Hours!

The Hospitality Team invites you to join us for all of our coffee hours, regular or alternative! The next regular coffee hour is schedule for June 1st.

Alternative Coffee Hours - If you would like to host a coffee hour to celebrate an event, friendship, anything, use the poster on the Congregational Nurture bulletin board in Voorhees Hall to sign up with friends or family for one of the listed Sundays.

### Inquirer's Meeting Leads to New Members

Pastor Bill reports that the recent Inquirer’s Meeting... “itself was a very special time, as we shared our faith journeys - both the prospective new members and some of our current congregants. The Spirit was definitely the room! It truly was a holy time; I felt blessed and inspired by what our church can do for those who have been rejected elsewhere, in some cases by their families, and in some cases by other churches. It is a miracle that these folks remained steadfast in their faith, and sought us out. It was compelling proof that our mission as an ONA church is so crucial. We can provide a spiritual home for those who have suffered rejection and pain in other places.”

**Join us on June 1st as we welcome new members to our congregation.**

## CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE

### FRIENDLY CIRCLE!

The Friendly Circle meets on Tuesdays in the Conference Room from 2 to 4 p.m. Participants work on personal knitting, crocheting and craft projects while sharing conversation and good feelings.

If you are interested in joining the Friendly Circle, feel free to drop by on Tuesdays or give the office a call at 631-473-1582 to let us know that you are coming.

### CARING MINISTRY

Caring Ministry members call and/or visit those members of the congregation who are not able to attend regular church services. In addition, cards are sent for holidays, birthdays, and to those who are experiencing health issues.



The Caring Ministry will continue to generate the prayer list for the bulletin each week. Please send in prayer requests to Kevin or submit them through the website.



Follow the  
QR Code to  
our Website



### Office Hours

**Pastor Bill Kovacsik**  
Sunday 8 - 3  
Monday & Tuesday 9 - 5  
Wednesday 9 - 2

**Kevin Martin, Main Office**  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 - 1:30

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## CONTACT US

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Website  
[www.msucc.org](http://www.msucc.org)

Please visit our website if you would like to be added to our email list.

## Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

May - June 2025

(See individual articles for more information)

### June

- 6/1 Food Pantry Day  
New Members  
Last day to hand in RaiseRight gift card orders
- 6/5-7 NY Conference UCC Meeting
- 6/8 Pride Parade - [lipride.org](http://lipride.org)  
Pentecost Service  
Baptism
- 6/22 RaiseRight Gift Card informational meeting,  
after worship.
- 6/29 Vacation Bible Camp starts, 6 weeks of fun!

### July

- 7/26 Steeple Showcase 2025, 3 - 6 p.m.

### August

- 8/23 Steeple Showcase 2025, 3 - 6 p.m.



## RaiseRight Gift Card Informational Meeting

If you're interested in learning more about this program, there will be a meeting in the conference room after services on June 22nd.

Topics will include, but are not limited to, downloading the app, exploring their website to see all they have to offer or making your own purchases on the website. Please join us. No pressure, just information.

## Suggestions?

The Suggestion Box Is Up and Running! You can find the box on the round table just outside Voorhees Hall, along with paper on which to write your suggestion/s.

The box will be checked regularly and suggestions will be given to the appropriate board lead or staff person.

## Food Missions

### Food Pantry Hours

#### Island Heart

Wednesdays, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

#### Church Food Cupboard

Tuesdays, 9:15 to 11:45 a.m.

The Food Pantries can always use: Peanut Butter & Jelly, spaghetti sauce, cereal, tuna, canned corn and beans, mac & cheese and toilet paper.

You can drop off items at church any morning, except Saturday.

### *Island Heart Food Pantry*

#### *Numbers*

|                    | May  |
|--------------------|------|
| <b>Adults</b>      | 1255 |
| <b>Children</b>    | 608  |
| <b>60+</b>         | 65   |
| <b>Families</b>    | 448  |
| <b>New clients</b> | 25   |