



The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC - May2025

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

"Before the parade passes by..."

...We hope you'll join us for our
30TH BIRTHDAY AS AN
OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
at the Huntington Pride Parade, June 8th



Participants from Mt. Sinai Church at the
2024 Pride Parade.

We are celebrating a special milestone at Mt. Sinai Church. It has been **30 years** since we voted to become and 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 in our march 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 for more information)

QUILTS (TO ADMIRE!) QUILTS! (TO WIN) QUILTS (TO PURCHASE!)

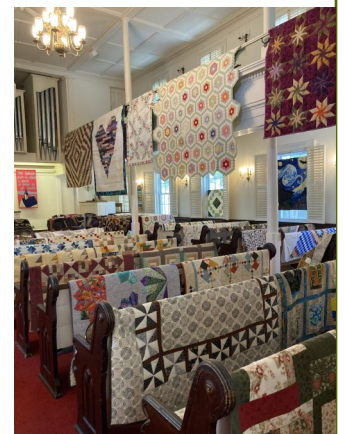
Mt. Sinai Congregational Church will be holding its **3rd Annual Quilt Show** on May 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Handmade quilts will be on display in the sanctuary for admiring and inspiring! There will be quilts offered as raffle items in Voorhees Hall. Down

at the Red Barn, there will be raffles and handmade quilted items for sale.

If you would like to display your quilts at the show, please contact Patrice Perreca at: [patri-
cevp@gmail.com](mailto:patricevp@gmail.com), 631-807-0662 (cell) or 631-744-7077 (home phone).



Pastoral Ponderings for May

This is the season of rebirth and growth. As I watch the leaves bud on the trees, I think of how many times in holy scripture God says: “Look! I’m doing a new thing!” This is the time of year when we have physical proof that God is at work in the world, and that the new thing God proposes is indeed coming to pass.

And just as growth is the hallmark of the season throughout the whole world, so, too, it’s the keynote for our church. We have a **New Members Orientation** coming up after service on **Sunday May 4th**. If a family is going to thrive, it needs to see one generation come up after the next, and that’s exactly the way it happens for our church family.

During the last few months, we’ve been seeing some new faces in the sanctuary on Sundays; these new friends are people whose hearts are yearning for a place where they can worship the God of mercy and truth. They are finding us, and we want to give them the warmest welcome possible. And there’s room for more! If you have a relationship of trust with someone you think could benefit from the kind of love we share at Mt. Sinai, invite them to worship with us.

Perhaps, like the author of Psalm 122, they will find themselves saying: “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” For us, spring is a time for new ideas as well as new people. How can we move MSCC forward into God’s future? How can we find new ways to bring God’s love into our lives, our church, our community, and our world? If you

have a notion about how we can extend the love we offer to others, let us know – tell me, tell the Board Leads, or put a note in our new suggestion box.

I pray that we all look for new paths to walk with our Savior. Doing the work of God is what keeps us alive and vital, even in a world

that seems divided and full of conflict. Let us free our imagination, and together we can shine the light of God’s creative energy so that everyone can see that MSCC is more than just an historical icon: it’s a place where the future is being born.

Peace & Blessings to you all!

Pastor Bill

New Member
Orientation on
May 4th

*“I was glad when
they said unto me,
let us go into the
house of the Lord.”
Psalm 122*

Music

The choir’s final Sunday of the “season” will be June 8th, which is Pentecost. If you’d like to sing with us that Sunday, let any choir member know, and we’ll get you the music ahead of time!

On another musical note, the final chords of the **postlude** that Linda plays so beautifully mark the actual conclusion of the worship service. We ask that you use her offering of music as a time for reflection on the service, a final prayer, or just a quiet few moments before heading off to the activities of your day. Thank you.

Worship & Sacraments

This month, as a change of pace, we present a Worship Match-up puzzle activity. There are eleven elements to each service. We have given you eleven Bible verses that each correspond to a specific part of the service. Match the element to the Bible verse. Some are easy but others are tricky. Have fun!

The Elements:

1- Worship	2- Children’s Message	3- Confession Prayer	4- Give Thanks
5- Baptism	6- Read Scripture/Hear the Word	7- Communion	8- Prayer
9- Music	10- Invitation to Generosity	11- Opportunities to Serve	

<p>A. “...the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 1 Corinthians 11:23-25</p>	
<p>B. “O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!” Psalm 95:6</p>	
<p>C. “Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” James 5:16</p>	
<p>D. “So with yourselves: since you are striving after spiritual gifts, seek to excel in them for building up the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:12</p>	
<p>E. “Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching.” 2 Timothy 4:2</p>	
<p>F. “O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!” Psalm 95:1</p>	
<p>G. “Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?” Isaiah 58:7</p>	
<p>H. Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” Matthew 19:14</p>	
<p>I. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Matthew 3:11</p>	
<p>J. “I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.” Psalm 116:1</p>	
<p>K. “Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6</p>	

Answer key on page 9 or look for the key on the Worship bulletin board in Voorhees Hall.

Greetings from Sunday School



We hope you all enjoyed your *Easter* and, as you can see, the children did too, with 17 students attending!

Our morning started with our annual Easter Egg hunt in our classroom with an extra prize for whoever found the golden eggs (only 2) and could tell us why they were empty! Congratulations to Cadem and Aria for sharing the good news that Jesus Is Risen! We then headed into the

"big room" for our candle-lit walk around the Easter Story starting with Holy Week.

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.

Things you need to know about our **Fire Safety Plan** for Sunday School. In February of this year we walked the children around the inside of our Church pointing out our Fire Exits. Stopping at each EXIT



sign we proceeded outside, sharing where they are in proximity to where their family members are in the Sanctuary.

We will continue from now throughout the summer to take a few minutes to do this "fire drill". We will let parents, grandparents, whom ever picks up your child/ren after service, know where to meet us outside. Dates for these "drills" will be announced in the weekly bulletin.



With love and thanks,
Ms. Caroline, Ms. Stacey, Ms. Cheryl aka THE CREW

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](#). 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

FOOD DRIVE AT LIDL, SELDEN

Please consider joining Pantry and Missions staff for our food drive at Lidl at 211 Middle Country Road in Selden on Saturday, **May 3rd from 10 am to 1 pm.**

We will be outside the store asking shoppers to donate items from a list we will provide for the benefit of our Island Heart Food Pantry. Local food drives such as this significantly increase our pantry inventory and our ability to service the food insecure. We greatly appreciate any amount of time you are able to give to this event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Sunday **May 4th**, the Rocky Point Rotary is having a food drive for the benefit of our Island Heart Food Pantry. They anticipate bringing their collected items to our church at **2:15 pm** on that day.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to unload, sort and re-box the items. We'll meet in the Voorhees kitchen and work there. All volunteers welcome and appreciated!

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 with all submissions and questions.

Moderator Jim Cibulka's Conversation with Barbara DeTurk

Recently I sat down with Barbara DeTurk to discuss her leadership of the Board of Congregational Nurture. This series highlights the work of our boards and leads.

Jim: How did you become involved at MSCC?

Barbara: I grew up in Miller Place and for awhile attended Sunday School here. After living and working in the city for fifteen years, my husband and I returned to the area. I was drawn to this church because of its commitment to reaching out to the community. We also knew Jane Carter's family, and she taught our son in kindergarten. The families in this church "grew up" together.

Jim: Can you describe your board's responsibilities and its relationship to MSCC's mission?

Barbara: We support the mission of the church to love one another in the conviction that we are children of a living God. Congregational Nurture (CN) strives to create a warm, welcoming environment for members of the congregation and the surrounding community.

Our teams include:

- * Caring Ministry: They reach out to ill members, including those unable to attend church. They stay in touch with cards, calls, and visits.
- * Membership: They welcome new people, seek new members, and monitor the accuracy of our church rolls.
- * Hospitality: This crew sponsors the monthly coffee hour and special events. A dedicated cadre of 10 people also contributes food.
- * Fellowship: There are Men's and Women's Breakfasts, the Women's Lunch Group, and the Craft Circle. In these settings people get to know one another and learn about church activities such as the Council's work.
- * Red Barn: It began after Covid and has become one of MSCC's major community outreach activities. It is also a major fundraiser. If feasible, it would be wonderful to open it year-round.
- * Game Changers: After the pandemic we were not sure the church would survive. Some Council members attended a course; how could we bring people back and raise revenue. Initially there were 15 activities, e.g., Bible Study, the Quilt Show, Antique Fair, Holiday Bazaar, and many more. It has been a forum to work together and is so successful that now we are moderating the number of activities.
- * Education: This focus of CN includes Bible Study, Senior Safety, and the Food as Medicine series.



Continued on the next page

Interview with Barb DeTurk, Continued from the previous page.

Jim: Were there other important activities this last year?

Barbara: I have touched on quite a few. In addition, a few other examples were the Steeple Showcase, the Holiday Bazaar Cookie Exchange, and the Bermuda cruise.

Jim: How have you approached your leadership role on Congregational Nurture (CN)?

Barbara: I'm like a cruise director who helps plan activities to engage the congregation with their participation.

Jim: What support does CN need from the congregation?

Barbara: We need people to volunteer and participate. And they do! Of course, we always need more volunteers.

Jim: Thank you, Barbara, for all that you do as the lead on this important board. Also, thanks to the many volunteers on Congregational Nurture making these accomplishments possible.



The Red Barn

The Red Barn coordinators are always looking for volunteers to help set up in the morning, clean up at the end of the day and in between too! Contact the office and leave a message for Patrice Perreca or Barbara DeBree if you are able to lend a hand.

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 April 6th.

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.

Suffolk Association Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Suffolk Association of the NY Conference, UCC, will take place at the Middle Island Congregational Church on Saturday, **May 3**. Registration and a light breakfast will take place at 8:30 a.m. The meeting itself will begin at 9:00 a.m., with worship, a business meeting, and a program featuring guest speaker Juana Cortes de Torre Esq., the Director of Immigrant Legal rights Project of the Rural and Immigrant Ministry of New York. Juana is an attorney and an advocate for the Latino community. She has been a public, radio, and television speaker on issues of housing, immigration, and workers' rights. The church is located at 271 Middle Country Road, Middle Island, NY. (North side of the road)

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.

Answer Key to the
Worship Match-up Game

A-7, B-1, C-3, D-10, E-6, F-9
G-11, H-2, I-5, J-8, K-4

**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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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)

May

- 5/3 Help put away the groceries! Church at 2:15 pm
- 5/4 New Member orientation after worship
Lidl Food Drive, Middle Co. Rd, Selden,
10 am to 1 pm
- 5/11 Mother's Day
- 5/17 Church clean-up
- 5/24 3rd Annual Quilt Show

June

- 6/8 Pride Parade - lipride.org
- 6/22 RaiseRight Gift Card informational meeting,
after worship.
- 6/29 Vacation Bible Camp starts, 6 weeks of fun!

Join the May 17th Church Clean-up!

Volunteers are needed to help with all cleaning tasks at the church. Please call the office for more information on this event.

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

	April
Adults	1556
Children	840
60+	95
Families	548
New clients	25