

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC - June 2026

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

"Unstoppable Pride" Parade - June 14th

The Missions Ministry board is sponsoring a float in the 36th Annual Long Island Pride Parade March on June 14 in Huntington Village starting at noon. The party continues after the parade with a concert and vendors showcasing the theme of **Unstoppable Pride**.



Some of the 2025 Pride Parade participants

We invite all our Church Family to join us. Ride in the truck or walk the route. Please see our flyer on the Missions Board. Sign up sheets will be there also! Speak with Michele Cipriano for details.



Wear Orange Weekend - June 5 through 7, 2026

The first weekend of June marks the annual **Wear Orange Weekend**, promoting gun violence awareness and prevention. This year's event takes place June 5th through June 7th.

2026 is the 12th anniversary of this movement. Its purpose is to honor survivors of gun violence, as well as to remember those who have been lost. We join together to raise awareness of this nationwide crisis, and to build a future free from gun violence. Show your support by wearing something orange during this weekend.

For those interested, The **Moms Demand Action** group will host their annual Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge on Sunday, June 7th at 1:00 p.m. For more information click the link [Wear Orange Weekend - Attend | Everytown for Gun Safety](#)



Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Women's Bible Study "... putting faces on the unnamed"

When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women. - Acts 1:13-14 (NRSV)

The above Bible quote is from the May 16, 2026 post by Jennifer Ruth Lynn Garrison in the UCC's *Daily Devotional*. She calls out for us to recognize and wonder about those "certain women" gathered with the named men and so often left out of stories. Who are they? What were they like? What were their motivations?

The upcoming Women's Bible Study and Pot Luck Luncheon in the Garden, led by Patrice Perreca, will look at the named women of the Bible and those who went unnamed. Please join us on Friday, June 26th at noon at Patrice's house, 49 Brookhaven Drive, Sound Beach. Give Patrice a call to let her know that you plan to attend and discuss what you will bring to share.



Want to know more about the Daily Devotional? Click on the logo to go to the main page. Here is a link to the piece by Jennifer Ruth Lynn Garrison mentioned in this article: [Certain Women - United Church of Christ Certain Women](#)

Summer Concert!

On **June 27 at 4:00 p.m.** we will welcome pianist/composer J. K. Hodge in concert with his friend, violinist Rachael Hall. Weather permitting, the event will be held outdoors, so please bring a chair.

Mr. Hodge began developing his talent and skill as a young performer at the age of seven. Turning to the art of composition, Mr. Hodge's Chopin-inspired contemporary classical works have earned him acclaim as a New York-based concert pianist.

Mr. Hodge has composed over thirty songs and

released five new solo piano singles in 2025. His pieces have been performed by local orchestras and featured in high school concerts. As Mr. Hodge continues to develop as a composer, his dream is to hear his music in a major motion picture sound track one day.

The event will feature jazz, rock, and classical music: Something for everybody!



The varied program for the event will feature jazz, rock, and classical music: Something for everybody! There is no admission fee; however, a free will offering will be requested. We hope to see you there!

Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Bowling for Fun!

A small but mighty group met at Port Jeff Bowl for a fun afternoon of bowling. The star of the day was Karen Esposito, who obviously spends a lot of time perfecting her game.

Thank you Vicki Francis for organizing this event.

Photo– Back row from left to right: Doris Esposito, Maureen O’Sullivan, Vicki Francis, Donna McInerney and Tom Lyon. Front row from left to right: Karen Esposito and Michele Cipriano.



Pastor Bill’s Pre-ordination Review Goes Well

You may not know it but, Pastor Bill Kovacsik has been going to school. Having originally served a Methodist congregation in Connecticut, Pastor Bill has been going through a rigorous program to become ordained in the United Church of Christ.

Having finished his studies, he had to appear in front of an Ecclesiastical Council of the Suffolk Association of the United Church of Christ for a pre-ordination review. There he was questioned by both ordained and lay people in front of an audience including about 20 people from Mt Sinai Church. And folks, he nailed it! Now comes the fun part.

The official Ordination ceremony will take place at Mount Sinai Congregational Church on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. The service will be followed by a reception in his honor. All are invited to attend.



Pastor Bill being congratulated by his proud sister, Susan.

Continuing Activities @Mt.SinaiChurch

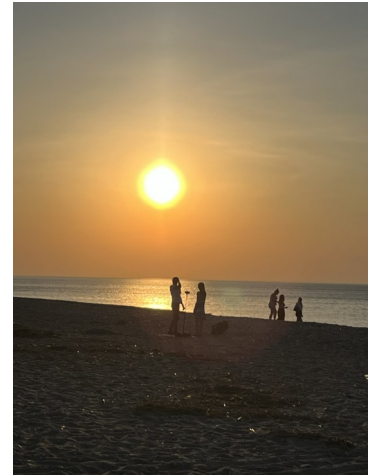
Sunset Fellowship!

The evenings have been so peaceful, and the sky and sunsets are all so different. It is a grounding experience that calms me. -Debbie Quigley

Debbie is not wrong. Watching a sunset at the beach may just be one of the best ways to end a day. Join with friends during May and June, as Congregational Nurture hosts *Thursday Evenings at Cedar Beach*. Please arrive around 7 p.m. Bring a chair and a beverage and look for our group midway between Tiki Joe's and the basketball court. All are welcome!

Residents can buy a Town of Brookhaven parking permit for the season at <https://www.brookhavenny.gov/223/Parking-information> or you can pay with a credit card at a parking pay station in the parking lot. Also, feel free to arrange to meet in the church parking lot to share a ride with a friend who has a parking permit.

If you would like to be notified in case of a weather cancellation, kindly email Debbie Quigley at doright1996@aol.com.



Credit: Debbie Quigley

Red Barn Opens with a Bang

The Red Barn thrift store opened for the season on May 2nd. Since then the volunteers have reconnected with the thrifting community in a big way. Sales have been phenomenal and the community feeling is strong. Come visit!



The organizers can always use help with set up and especially closing tasks each Saturday. Please contact Barbara DeBree or Patrice Perreca if you can help out.

The hard-working Red Barn team consists of (left to right) Sandra Russo, Eileen O'Connell, Carol Melendez, Pat Hewlett, Patrice Perreca, Barbara DeBree, Betty Fanning, Nancy West and Leesie Schultz.

STAY
connected
THIS SUMMER

Continuing Activities @Mt.SinaiChurch

Calling All Gardeners

The first produce has been harvested at the Pantry Garden! Radishes and chives went to the Island Heart Pantry on May 27th and radishes were offered to the food cupboard on Tuesday as well. Many seeds have been planted in the garden so far -- carrots, peas, lettuce, Swiss chard, beans, cucumbers, beets, dill and arugula. On Tuesday afternoon, volunteers planted peppers, kale, and native pollinator plants, and tomatoes will go in soon. What is needed now are weeders and tenders.



Someone will be at the garden on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Please let Janice Flaiz know if you can help out or just drop by during those hours.

Auditions for “When God Looks You in the Eye”

There is a film about the life, ministry and sacrifice of Jesus that was made in the 1960's entitled *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. As Biblical epics go, it's a pretty good film, and the title reminds us that at the heart of our faith is a story, a story that we came to know, either as children or as adults. It's a story that has touched the lives of more people than any other tale in human history.

The story belongs to Jesus – but a good part of its impact comes from seeing how the people he meets are changed by their encounters with him. With this in mind, I've been working with two excellent musicians – Bob Sinclair and Harry Spero – to create a new stage musical entitled **When God Looks You in the Eye**.

The play deals with several of the people who came face-to-face with our Lord and shows how all of them reacted just a little bit differently. The show will mix songs and monologues, some of which you may recognize from those times when I have preached sermons in the form of monologues from characters in the New Testament.

We'll be performing the play in late summer of this year, but first we'll be having auditions to choose performers whom we feel can bring it to life. Those who are interested in auditioning should prepare a brief song that shows off their voice to its best advantage. Auditioners may also prepare a dramatic monologue of two minutes or less.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in trying out for the show, have them contact me via e-mail at pastorbill1956@gmail.com.

Peace & Blessings – Pastor Bill

Caps, Gowns, & Birthday Cake

It turns out that Carol Wiebelt, our beloved editor of The Old Man's News, has a favorite church holiday. Carol loves Pentecost – and she's right to hold this particular part of the Christian calendar in such high esteem. It's one of the most important events in the history of our faith, and it deserves more attention than it gets.

Many theologians think of Pentecost as being the birthday of the church, and they have a good argument. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is marked by the sound of rushing wind and the appearance of tongues of flame, and the commotion causes a crowd to gather in Jerusalem. Prior to this moment, Christianity had been confined to a relative handful of people. Now, however, a throng comes together, composed of Jews from all over the known world. The Spirit has given the disciples the power to speak in languages that they do not know, and the crowd is amazed. The visitors to Jerusalem can tell that the disciples are not educated men, and they ask themselves: How can this be?

Then, the crowd listens to the words of the Apostle Peter as he explains that Jesus is the Messiah promised in the Hebrew scriptures. Peter – who up to this point has been something of a stumbling, bumbling figure in the story of Jesus – is suddenly given the words that cause 3,000 people to accept Jesus as Lord. What had been a tiny fringe movement, a sub-sect of Judaism, is now becoming something that will eventually spread to every corner of the earth. That's a good day's work for any preacher!

So, by all means, let's sing Happy Birthday to the church! Nothing that we do today would have been possible if not for the wonder of the Holy Spirit coming down on that special day in Jerusalem – and staying with us to this day.

It's also appropriate to think of Pentecost as a kind of ultra-dramatic graduation ceremony for the disciples. For three years, they've studied with Jesus, watching and listening to him as he traveled and ministered to everyone he met. Now, it's time for the disciples to take up their cross and begin spreading the word of Christ's life, death and resurrection. They may not be wearing caps and gowns, but they are certainly graduating into a brand-new role as the ones who carry the message of the gospel to all people everywhere.

We have inherited the work that God gave to those early disciples. Just as God gave them special powers that would enable them to succeed, so the Almighty has given us gifts as well. The Holy Spirit dwells in us, just as it touched those who were present in Jerusalem on that magnificent day. Let us go through the world, showing kindness, doing the work of peace and justice, and carrying God's word to all.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Bill



Worship & Sacraments

Ordinary Time

Can you feel it? Summer approaches; days are long; the school year ends; the beach and pool beckon; we plan for a festive 4th, maybe a vacation, maybe a visit from family or friends. Isn't it funny, though, how in the church calendar the weeks between Pentecost and Advent are called "ordinary time?"

According to Lacy Clark Ellman at [A Sacred Journey](#), "it's in the everyday that life happens—challenges presented, lessons learned, obstacles overcome—each new occurrence taking us beyond our edges and presenting the opportunity for more growth. If Ordinary Time has an invitation, it's to stay present to these elements of daily life, engaging them with intention and looking for the Sacred hidden within. What so often seems ordinary then has the power to become extraordinary."

The Worship Board would like to offer you an opportunity for some summer reading that fulfills some of the purposes for Ordinary Time that Ms. Ellman describes above. Here's a reading plan for you called "God Is With Us in Every Season." For each



selection of verses you will find a question for reflection. There's even some space for your own questions. Use the QR code to download a copy or take one from the Worship Board bulletin board in Voorhees Hall.

Make your summer extraordinary. Pick up your Bible and don't be afraid to take it to the beach.

See you there!

Sue Hoff, Worship Board Lead



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.

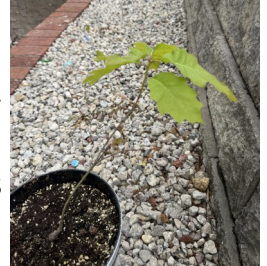
Digital Worship - Digital worship is available as a live stream. at 10 a.m. on the LIVE tab of our YouTube channel: [Mt. Sinai Congregational Church, UCC - YouTube](#). After that time you can find the service in the regular recordings section.

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. If you have any questions, please call Kevin Martin, Office Administrator.

Sunday School Happenings!

The younger group focused on a “giving back” theme in April and May in addition to supplementary lessons on “honoring mother figures for Mother’s Day” and “Memorial Day”. The older group continued with the Children’s Bible Study program.

The Sunday School participated in Suffolk County’s 250th Anniversary “Planting it Forward Program” by planting a Red Oak tree seedling provided by the county. The Sunday School will receive a Suffolk 250 Living Legacy Certificate and our registration will be permanently preserved and displayed in a ceremonial volume maintained by the Office of the Suffolk County Clerk, a lasting record of Suffolk County’s contribution to America’s 250th Anniversary. The seedling was planted on the west side of the church across from the garage.



This year’s Vacation Bible Camp theme is “You are the Church” as well as, “CH- - CH, what’s missing?...UR!”. “Campers” will be working on “running the church” from a child’s perspective. VBC will start on Sunday, June 21, 2026. Children should come straight downstairs when they arrive.

Thank you, The Crew. - Miss Caroline, Miss Stacey and Miss Cheryl

A New Ramp is Installed



A shiny, new ramp was installed on the east side of the building going into the kitchen.

It’s a great way to enter the building if you are using a walker, have a delivery or just don’t want to do the stairs.



And an old tree comes down...

Margaret Larom contributed these photos of a dead tree being brought down on our property.

“I just watched the men from Streeff Tree (Sound Beach company) take down that old hollow tree next to the Barn parking lot. Nice guys, very organized and quick.” - Margaret Larom.



Moderator's Message - Jim Cibulka

I want to share some items of importance that were discussed at the Church Council's recent meeting on May 26, 2026.

After Pastor Bill led us in prayer, Jim Cibulka called the meeting to order in the church conference room. Two members were away and unable to attend. Several members joined via zoom.

Jim welcomed Sue Allacco, Chair of the Strategic Planning Action Team (SPAT!), and Donna McInerney, member of the team. Donna reviewed the history of SPAT, which has focused on creating new revenue streams for the church, given ongoing budgetary challenges. Sue proposed the placement of a black "Combo" (snack and beverage) vending machine in the alcove outside the west door of the church. It can serve church members and groups using our facility, hikers, runners, anyone who uses the hiking trail, Red Barn shoppers, and attendees of outdoor/indoor church functions. To maximize sales and protect the asset, the machine will include a cashless payment system and weatherproofing. She explained a financial partnership in which the church is guaranteed revenue and the church incurs no financial liability. The Council enthusiastically supported her proposal. It is hoped that it can be installed to begin in the summer season.

Michele Cipriano reviewed items in her monthly report on projects of the Building and Grounds Board. The need to purchase new tables for Voorhees Hall in the near future was discussed. She explained a possible approach to installing air conditioning for the sanctuary and Voorhees Hall. Sue Hoff also reviewed some items from the Worship Board monthly report.

The June and July calendars were reviewed. Various events were added, including the Pride Day parade on June 14 in Huntington, the Bible presentation on June 21 during the church service, a piano concert on June 27 at 4 pm, and other events.

Several pending items from the April meeting were reviewed. Sue has identified a respected vendor to help us analyze our sound system needs. Enhanced security issues were reviewed. Jim Cibulka and Barbara DeTurk agreed to develop a checklist for volunteers coordinating events to make sure the building is secured before departure.

The group also discussed Pastor Bill's ordination on September 13 at 3 pm. The program is being planned by Pastor Bill and the Suffolk Association. Various planning details were reviewed. This item will be placed on the August meeting agenda for follow-up.

The Council agreed on strategies for rebuilding our Emergency Fund, which has a low balance at the present time.

A proposal was distributed outlining the Sound View Garden Club's request to sell raffle tickets to raise funds for maintaining the gardens at St. Charles Hospice in Port Jefferson. Since this was determined to be a one-time request and aligned with the church's desire to support St. Charles Hospice, Council agreed to permit the sale.

Jim Cibulka, Moderator





Having some fun after a long day getting the Red Barn ready for its opening are Jim Cibulka, Glenn Tausek and Lenny Holter.



Credit: Janice Flaiz



Everyday Food Pantry Needs

Our food pantries are always “hungry.” Here is a list of the most useful items we always need:

- spaghetti sauce
- peanut butter and especially jelly
- canned chicken and tuna
- mac 'n' cheese
- kids' cold cereals
- pet foods
- toiletries and paper goods
- The Church Cupboard can also use grocery gift cards to give out to clients

Please bring your donations to church on Sundays and place them in the container under the table in the front entry. You can also drop them off at church any day during office hours. Thank you!

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.

Praise God! Praise God with singing and ringing, with voices and...chimes?

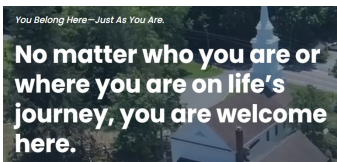
The Chancel Choir's official "season" ends on June 14th this year when we offer two of our favorite anthems, "Rain Down" and "How Can I Keep From Singing?" We hope you've enjoyed our music this year, and we thank so many of you who have offered words of encouragement and gratitude for our efforts.



And we hope you enjoyed the presentation of our nascent Chime Choir on the last Sunday of May. We'd like to continue with this group and maybe add some more "chimers." Choir chimes are often used in schools because they are easy to play and basically indestructible. Wouldn't it be great if we could start a kids' chime choir? At any rate look for us to play a couple of Sundays this summer. Finally, if you play an instrument or want

to sing a solo or in a small group, let Sue Hoff know so we can pick a Sunday for you to play or sing in worship. May you all be blessed with music in your lives!

Updated Mt. Sinai Church Website being rolled out soon



A website team has been working with an outside vendor to update our website. The technical reason for the update was to improve our "SEO" or search engine optimization so it is easier for people searching for a church to find us online. Critical in this age.

But, there is more to this update. We have worked to also make the site accessible and informative for people in the church in the hopes that everyone will check it regularly for information about events and as a way to know what is going on. Some highlights:

- The Events section includes the church calendar, something many organizers have been wanting. Just a glance will tell you what days are available for scheduling. Click on an activity and you will get the details.
- Under Resources you can find the YouTube streaming link as well as "nuts and bolts" church documents such as council meeting minutes, annual reports and the By-laws.
- You can still donate or pay your pledge through the Donate button.
- We are even looking into converting the Old Man's News into a Blog!

We will let you know when everything is ready, but we anticipate it will be during the first two weeks of June. Fingers crossed!

Carol Wiebelt, Website Coordinator

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!



Women's Breakfast Group

The Women's Breakfast Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Zona Out East in Rocky Point,



and/or...



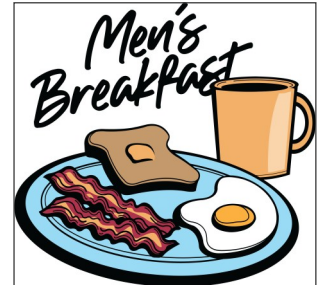
If breakfast time is not your thing, you can check out the monthly Lunch Bunch gathering held at different restaurants in the area. The Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. Please call the office

for locations if you are interested in attending.

All meals are self-pay.

Men's Breakfast Group

Our men's breakfast group welcomes all men of the church to join them each Thursday morning, 8 a.m. at various restaurants in the area. For more information, contact Kevin, our Office Administrator, or Dennis Murphy.



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 a good feeling of fellowship.

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.

More Social Life at Mt. Sinai Church

New Young Adult Group

The new Young Adult Group is going strong and has met a few times. All 20 to 30+ year olds are invited to attend to get to know each other and, in the future, talk about issues important to their age group. Jackie Longacre has agreed to organize the group.

Interested? See Jackie or contact Diane Corson, Lead of the Congregational Nurture Board.

Boards

Buildings & Grounds

Are you a Tinkerer? A Handyperson?
Are you good at finding Creative ways to solve problems?
Consider joining the Building & Grounds Missions Board.

Have an engineering background? We are seeking an in-house engineer to help with proposed renovations.

Teamwork makes dreamwork!
Prayerfully yours, Michele, Lead B&G



**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
9 - 1

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

On the last day of May, a little visitor was spotted outside the church following coffee hour. Tucked next to the building and as still as can be, it waited. Those who spotted it hoped its mother would come for it but a while later it was found in distress in the parking lot.



Margaret Larom, who lives right next to the church, was asked to check on it and she and various other people tended to the fawn and tried to figure out how to help it.

Finally, Lisa Jaeger of Jaeger's Run Animal Rescue was called. Seeing that the fawn was



dehydrated and hungry and covered with ticks, she thought it looked like it had been separated from its mother for a while. She brought it to the [Star Foundation](#) animal rescue in Middle Island, where she fed it a whole bottle of Pedialyte. The fawn was cleaned up and accepted to the rescue program to join other fawns who were found separated from their mothers in the past few days. We wish it well.

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

June 2026

(See individual articles for more information)

June

- 6/4, 11, 18 and 25 - Sunset Gatherings at Cedar Beach, 7 p.m.
- 6/7 John Casper Memorial Service, 2 p.m.
- 6/14 Music Sunday
Pride Parade, Noon in Huntington
- 6/21 New Bible Ceremony during children's Message, Start of Vacation Bible Camp
- 6/26 Women's Bible Study, Noon
- 6/27 Piano & Violin concert, 4 p.m.
- 6/28 Vacation Bible Camp continues.
Children go straight downstairs. (Camp runs through July 26th.)

Food Missions

Food Pantry Hours & Needs

Island Heart

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

Church Food Cupboard

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

Island Heart Food Pantry

Numbers - May 2026

Families	404
Adults	1108
Children	615
60+	101
New Clients	15