Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC - *Old Man's News*

February 2026

This has been one tough winter so far. Many of us are hunkering down while others are escaping to warmer climes. This slightly shorter issue of the Old Man's News reflects this. However, you know there is always something going and plans are being made. Read on...

Important Announcement about Snow Days

If the weather is threatening and you wonder if there are any cancellations of church activities, please check your email and/or the church's Facebook page for information. Also, the office will close if schools are closed.

The Island Heart Food Pantry Needs Your Help!

Several of our regular helpers will be on the church fundraising cruise on the first two Wednesdays of February, so we're seeking substitute volunteers. Do you think you might be able to fill in for one or both of those days? If so, please let Janice Flaiz know when you'd be available. And MANY THANKS!

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Urgent needs for the church food cupboard: canned tuna and kids' cereal. Also welcome are pet food, toiletries, and paper goods. You can 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!

Donated Items Needed for Mission Trip to Kenya

Rotarians from Rocky Point and Port Jefferson will lead a group of 16 travelers (one is our own, Patrice Perreca!) on a mission trip to the ***Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Fund Home*** in Meru, Kenya from February 15 through March 2, 2026.

The group is seeking donations of girl's dresses ages 5-18 (gently used or new), toothbrushes, tooth-paste and personal-sized hygiene items. Donations are needed by February 8th at the latest.
For more information please contact Kevin Mann at kevinmannmail@gmail.com or Patrice.

Worship & Sacraments

In Matthew 4 we see Jesus In the wilderness before he begins his ministry. When tempted by the worldly powers the Evil One offers to him, Jesus speaks the truth of God:

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

And

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

And

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

Lent

Lent is the season when we remember this time in the wilderness when Jesus spoke truth to power, liberating himself to proclaim the revolutionary truth of God's redeeming love for all creation. Thus, our Lenten theme this year is "Speaking Truth to Power."

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We will offer a worship service at 7:00 p.m. with the option of receiving the imposition of ashes. This contemplative service allows us safely and freely to acknowledge our human frailty and our need for God's forgiving grace so that we, too, are liberated to speak truth in the face of worldly power: *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "*

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.

Sunday School News

The Sunday School kicked off the season of Epiphany with a showing of the movie "The Star" (2017), an animated film re-telling the Nativity story from the perspective of the animals as well as focusing on themes of faith, purpose, and unexpected heroism.

> ***"It takes Many Tails to tell the Greatest Story Ever"***
> Publicity materials from "The Star: The Story of the First Christmas"

Great News! We are bringing back the ***Children's Bible Study*** to our Sunday School Program! The 4th grade students (and older if needed) will be starting a Children's Bible Study in February 2026. The Bible Study will combine the learning of basic Bible skills as well as the teaching of Biblical values through stories and scripture in the Bible. The activities will focus on engaging, age-appropriate, and Christ-centered activities. The goal is to make the Bible come alive, promoting a lasting personal relationship with God. The program will culminate in late Spring with a ceremony where eligible students will receive their own personalized Bibles from the church.

Waldryano / Pixabay

We look forward to seeing all our children at Sunday School. Please contact the office if you would like your child to take part in the Children's Bible Study.

Buildings and Grounds

Should you know where the Suggestion Box has gone, please return it to the table in the Narthex. It went missing during the December 2025 holiday decorating season.

With Thanks,

The Building & Grounds Ministry Board

Hurricane Relief for Jamaica

Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica and surrounding islands in October, created a huge need for relief to those affected by this devastating storm.

Church friend, Opal Sewell-Brown, has asked for our help and has offered this list of various reputable relief agencies:

*Jamaican government "needs list" at https://supportjamaica.gov.jm

*Church World Service at https://cwsglobal.org/donate 3/emergency-response-fund/

*UCC Disasters Ministry at https://www.ucc.org/what-we do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/disaster/

Contact Opal at opalsewellbrown @gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Your Church Needs YOU!

Here are some long- and short-term opportunities for volunteers:

Church Publicist - To get the word out to the community about church services and missions activities, we need someone to serve as church publicist. While we have contacts in print and other media, we have no one to handle distribution of our information. No experience required; learning on the job is okay. The reward is new faces in the pews!

Musical Interludes - Do you play a brass or woodwind instrument? Have a drum set you like to play? Maybe you have a music student in your family (high school, preferred) or know someone who plays? Let Sue hear from you!

Choir - Finally, why don't you consider adding your voice to the choir for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services? Rehearsals are at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings. Just show up!!

Jurgen from Pixabay

Clothing Drive Dates

March 8th, last date to drop off items for storage in the garage

April 12th, the truck will be here after church

Please keep saving the following good-quality items: Clothing, Shoes, Handbags, Backpacks, Stuffed animals, Small single-item plastic toys (PLEASE NO PUZZLES, BOARD GAMES, LEGOS OR TOYS WITH PIECES) Linens, including towels, curtains and table linens (NO BLANKETS OR COMFORTERS) for our upcoming clothing drive. Put all items in kitchen-size garbage bags.

The garage will be open for anyone who would like to drop off donations for the April 12th clothing drive on March 8th between 11 and 12 after services.

If you need assistance bringing the bags to church, please send an email to dmcinerney63@gmail.com. If you need to come during the week, please email or call the church office to make arrangements.

The Social Life at Mt. Sinai Church

Women's Breakfast Group & Lunch Bunch

Interested in spending time with other women of the church? 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,

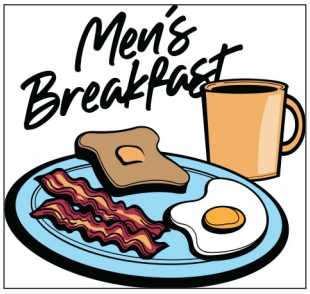
and/or...

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

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.

Please call the church office if you want a name or situation added to or removed from the prayer list. You can also use the prayer request cards in the pew racks.

Pledging is Important

We are finishing up our 2026 pledge drive and we are a bit short of our goal of $210,000. We were lucky that our insurance did not go up as planned this year (see the Moderator's article) but snow plowing has sky-rocketed! We still need the funds to get the budget closer to being balanced.

Please consider pledging if you have not done so yet. You may also consider raising the pledge you have already submitted. Every bit counts!

Pledge cards can be found in the pews and the office or you can use this QR code to go directly to the Pledge page on our website.

We thank you in advance for your support.
The Finance Ministry Board

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

Graphics used in this issue of the Old Man's News are from ChurchArtPro, unless otherwise stated.

CONTACT US

Mt. Sinai Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

233 North Country Road
Mt. Sinai, NY 11766
Phone: 631-473-1582
Fax: 631-474-0556

Pastor Bill Kovacsik
pastorbill1956@gmail.com

Sue Hoff, Worship Lead
mshoff23@gmail.com

Jim Cibulka, Moderator
james.cibulka@icloud.com

Caroline LaVopa
Christian Education Director
clavopa@optonline.net

Linda Preuss, Musician
mscc1@optonline.net

Kevin Martin,
Office Administrator
mscc1@optonline.net

Carol Wiebelt,
Old Man's News Editor
cdwiebel@gmail.com

FIND US ONLINE

Email
mscc1@optonline.net

Website
www.msucc.org

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

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

February through April 2026

(See individual articles for more information)

February

2/3-14 Caribbean Cruise
2/8 Kenya Mission Donations due
2/18 Ash Wednesday
2/18-4/2 Lent

March

3/8 Drop off Clothing Drive donations to be stored in the garage, 11 to 12 pm
3/29 Palm Sunday

April

4/5 Easter
4/12 Clothing Drive pick-up after service

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.

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.

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

December 2025	
Adults	1135
Children	716
60+	84
Families	423
New Clients	35