

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC - April 2026

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

It's Finally here! The Clothing Drive!!

April 12th, 11:00 p.m.

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) in kitchen-size garbage bags for our upcoming clothing drive. Bring them to the church on April 12th for loading between 11 and 12.

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.



Ladies' Spring Tea



All women and girls* are invited to a Ladies' Tea on Saturday, April 25th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Gather and enjoy each others' company while you sip tea and eat goodies prepared by

our own bakers and providers.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we may know how to much to prepare.

Contact Patrice (631-807-0662) if you are able to assist or contribute.

*No babies or toddlers, please.

Bowling on May 17th

Like to bowl? Like to watch other's bowl?
You are in for some fun!

Mt. Sinai Congregational Church has reserved time for bowling at Port Jeff Bowl on Sunday, May 17th at 12:30pm. The cost for two bowling games plus shoes is \$18 per adult and \$15 per child.



Please sign up in Voorhees Hall or call Vicki Francis at 646-522-6290 to register.



Renewing Hope in a time of Despair: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Perspectives



Members of Mt. Sinai Church joined with people of faith at the Turkish Cultural Center for an Interfaith reflection followed by an Iftar dinner ending the Ramadan fast. The following comes from materials distributed for the dinner:



“Few times in our nation’s history have been marked with as much darkness as we are experiencing– violence, hatred, inequality, abuses of power, and threats to our very democracy

Join us as representatives of the Abrahamic traditions provide inspirational talks on how hope sustains them,

followed by audience commentary and then a delicious Iftar dinner provided gratis by the Turkish Cultural Center.”

Participants were heartened to hear all of the messages of hope among such a large gathering of people. And, of course, the meal was delicious, as usual. Thank you to the Turkish Cultural Center for hosting the gathering.



Events @Mt.SinaiChurch



“Prepare Thee the way of the Lord!” Mt. Sinai Church Goes to See Godspell

Thank you Debbie Quigley, for organizing a group from our church (35 people!) to see **Godspell** at Theatre Three in Port Jefferson. The play was fun, sweet and moving, and the singers were extremely talented.



Keeping the fun going, many of us went out to an early dinner after the show at Joey Z's Restaurant. This gave us a chance to talk about our shared experience and exchange stories in a different setting.

Such a good time was had by all and we are looking forward to additional outings being planned. Thank you, organizers!

Action: No Kings Rally

On a more serious note, a group from Mt. Sinai Church joined the national “No Kings” rally at Train Car Park (aka, Resistance Corner) in Port Jefferson Station on Saturday, March 28th. They were joined by a large crowd here *and* people from all over the country who are peacefully protesting the tyranny of our current Administration and calling for change.



Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

"The Trip of a Lifetime"



Patrice with Evans who now lives in Nairobi.

If you know Patrice Perreca, you know she has a big heart. Hearing about orphans in Kenya in need of sponsors fifteen years ago, she reached out to help. She was matched with Evans and they wrote back and forth over the years. Then she started supporting sisters Lena and Precious and when another girl, Blessing, needed help, she said yes. All the while she was wondering if she would get to meet them one day.

That day came a few weeks ago when Patrice went to the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Home in Meru, Kenya with a group from the Rocky Point Rotary Club. She and the other group members got to see how the children live and

are cared for while they go to school in a local village. The children work hard and the adults do also as they are dedicated to making a good life for the children in their care.



Patrice with sisters Lena and Precious (in orange and yellow) and Blessing (in blue).

Upon her return, Patrice met with a number of us to talk about her journey and show us pictures. Her story was captivating.



Patrice adding her handprints to a wall honoring visitors.

Helping out in the kitchen. Vegetables and maize (corn) are grown in gardens tended by the adults and children.

Trip participants built a new steel-topped table for the cooks while they were there and Patrice purchased other supplies they needed.



Answering questions after her talk.

A new technology center is being built on the property to provide specialized training.



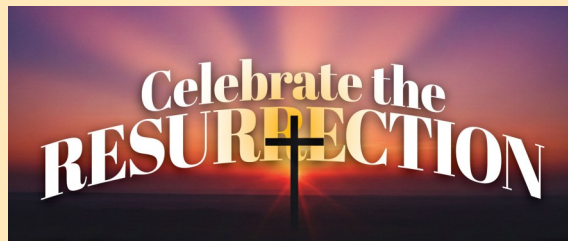
Worship & Sacraments

In his tradition-breaking poem, “The Wasteland,” T. S. Eliot famously announced that

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land...*

Yet, more often than not, April is the month in which we celebrate Easter’s resurrection joy, recognizing in the risen Christ God’s gift of grace that sets us free to love with abandon all of God’s creation - humans, animals, plants, waters, stones, and the very air we breathe. And so, in those lilacs Eliot sees rising out of winter’s “dead land,” Christians find in April God’s promise of reconciliation and new life. It is no wonder, then, that April is the month designated some 56 years ago in which to celebrate Earth Day.

At Mt. Sinai Church this year, as we hear the scripture readings that find Jesus revealing his resurrection to his disciples again and again, and Peter preaching repentance and renewal to the crowds, can we hear Jesus’s call once again to “follow me?” As Christians, we are bound by a New Covenant between God and creation, a covenant that unites us by love to care for each other and for the Earth, our home, God’s good creation. Let us give thanks and praise to God that we bear the name of the One, who continually shows us how to love with our whole hearts!



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/UCc1k1k1k1k1k1k1k1k1k1k1). 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

Lent got a jump start this year, literally! Ms. Cheryl and I helped the younger students make a hop scotch path down the corridor and into room 5 where we laid out the story of Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday using tangible props.

Next door in room 4 our Children's Bible Study group completed lesson 5 with Ms. Stacey, and will resume with lesson 6 after Spring Break then continue thru May with a review and test in June. More info to come. (Pictures on the next page.)

On Palm Sunday all children came together in room 7 to make an "egg" project that serves humans and animals alike! We also heard from guest readers Connie Simas and Diane Corson.



Easter is upon us, a time of new beginnings. This year we are replacing our egg hunt with "The Easter Story Snack Mix." Using kid friendly snack items we give key hints on parts of the Easter story:

- Pretzel sticks = the cross
- Red jelly beans = blood of Jesus
- Round Crackers = the tombstone
- White marshmallows = cleansed of wrongdoings
- Goldfish = fishers of men
- M&M's - a sweet treat

Thank you to our families for providing the snacks for our mix.

HAPPY EASTER,



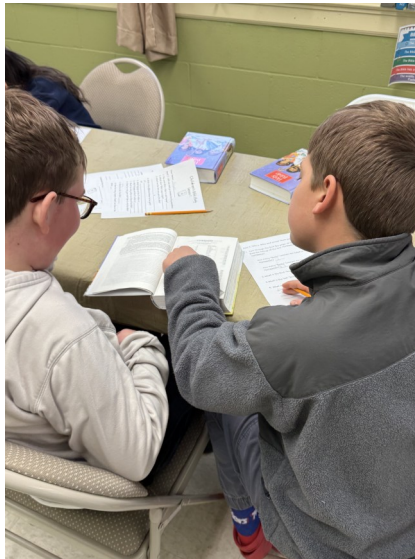
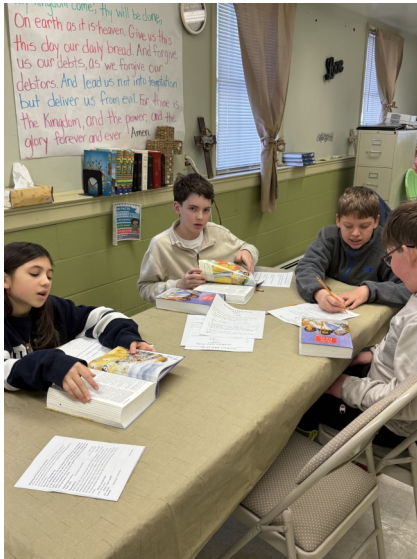
"The Crew"





Children's Bible Study

A number of our students have been learning all about the Bible, an important rite of passage for children in our church. Their program concludes in June.



Everyday Food Pantry Needs

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

Canned soups, tuna, pasta sauce, peanut butter & jelly (small jars), hot and cold cereals (no oatmeal), rice (small bags/boxes) and granola bars.

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!



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.

A SATURDAY AT THE RED BARN - July 17, 2025

This was like any Saturday at the Barn. However, I was so touched by some of the people we met that I had to put it in my journal. Now, as we are getting ready for another season, I am sharing the day's experience.

First, a young girl about 8 years old came in with her mom. The Girl was moving to a new house and getting a new room. She needed a couple of things to start to decorate her room. She bought a picture and small statue. At this time, a small yellow crocheted chair for jewelry had just come in. I offered her the chair as a gift for her new room. She paid for her items and then handed me another \$1.00 from her wallet for the little shelf item as she did very much like it. As she gave me the dollar, she said "Thank you" but she really wanted to pay for it. Then there was a "Bye" and off she went with her mom happy with her purchases.



A small boy came in. He had previously visited the Barn. He went directly to the Children's Room, pulled a dog ride-on toy out of the room and proceeded to pull the toy all the way to the cashier determined that he would bring "his" toy home. He did just that as there was no discussion with Mom. Mom paid.

A mahogany Secretary was donated to the Barn. A woman was thrilled as this piece was similar to a secretary desk her mom and Grandmom had owned. It was perfect for

the woman for her vintage home in Miller Place that she had just moved into.

I had stayed a bit later after closing. As I was leaving, a woman pulled into the parking lot. She had a spoon she believed matched a silver-plated flatware set in its original case that was displayed in the Barn. I invited her in and the spoon did in fact match the set. She explained to me that she had the set that had been her mother's and she could now use both sets during family Holiday gatherings.

The Red Barn is an interesting gathering place. Looking forward to a new season with OPENING DAY ON MAY 2, 2026.

Blessings, Barbara DeBree (and Patrice Perreca)



Moderator's Message - Jim Cibulka

I want to share some items of importance that were discussed at the Church Council's recent meeting on March 24, 2026.

A discussion was held concerning possible relocation of the **Island Heart Food Pantry** from its current location on the Habitat for Humanity property in Middle Island. This may be necessary because of Habitat's recent move. The Middle Island Food Pantry has expressed an interest in working with us. However, there is nothing imminent, so this is prospective planning. Barbara DeTurk, Janice Flaiz and Laurel Weresnick plan to meet with their leadership to explore potential collaboration.

The Council discussed a recent break-in at the **Red Barn**. Additional lighting and cameras are being considered. Michele Cipriano also reported that two boxwood shrubs in front of the church may be replaced. Also, the week of March 30 has been designated as Spring Cleanup Week at the church and parsonage.

Pastor Bill reported that a draft of the **musical play** he has been working on with Bob Sinclair and Bob's co-composer, Harry Spero, has been completed. Auditions are planned for May 16 and 23.



Diane Corson, Carol Wiebelt, and Barbara DeTurk distributed a draft of duties for a potential **church publicist**. Discussions occurred on how to best divide responsibilities for our needs in regard to publicity, streaming and website event management. The consensus was that there would be two positions: publicist and "technology management", and we would most likely need to pay for them as no one has volunteered. The three will meet again to discuss potential hours and costs. The information will be presented to the Finance Board to discuss the feasibility of paying for these services. Council will continue discussion at its April 28 meeting. Amanda Gordon volunteered to create an Instagram account linked to the church Facebook account.

Jim Cibulka reported on the progress in completing a **contract with Weight Watcher's**. He had assistance from Rich Winkler in reviewing the contract. Weight Watcher's plans to conduct five workshops weekly on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. This will afford a significant revenue stream for the church. Michele Cipriano is researching costs and logistics of necessary outlays for a handicap ramp, additional tables and chairs, and other possible costs.

Carol Wiebelt discussed evolution of how payments for **building use** have been handled historically and how these protocols have been updated. Jim Cibulka reported that new fees are under review by the Strategic Planning Action Team and will be presented to the Finance Board and Council when the recommendations are ready.

The April and May church calendars were reviewed and updated.

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,



and/or...



12:30 p.m.

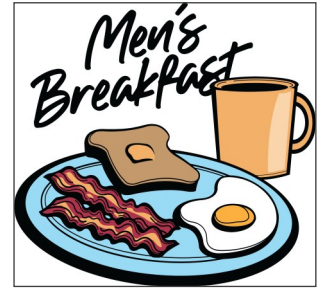
Please call the office for locations if you are interested in attending. All meals are self-pay.

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

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

A new Young Adult Group is being formed at Mt. Sinai Church. 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
8:30 - 1:30

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

CONTACT US

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United Church of Christ**



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

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

April and May, 2026

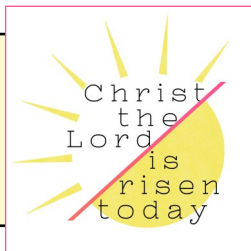
(See individual articles for more information)

April

- 4/2 Holy Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Communion and Tenebrae
- 4/3 Good Friday, Noon to 3:00 p.m., Self-guided Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary
- 4/5 Easter Sunday
 - 6:15 a.m. Service at Cedar Beach
 - 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary with Communion
- 4/12 Clothing Pick-up, 11:00 p.m. after worship
- 4/25 Ladies' Tea, Voorhees Hall, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

May

- 5/2 Red Barn Opening Day
- 5/17 Bowling, Port Jeff Bowl, 12:30 p.m.



Emergency Communication Plan

Trying to get the word out when church is canceled is difficult. We send email blasts, put it on our Facebook page and website, but still not everyone gets the message.

Council is exploring the possibility of adding **text message alerts** to our emergency communication plan. If this option is approved and you would like to receive church emergency text messages, you will need to complete a form authorizing your participation. Forms are available in the church and in the bulletin. You can drop forms off at the church or even save time and email the information to the church.

We will let you know if and when this system is put in place. In the meantime, email blasts will continue to be used for emergency communications.



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

March 2026

Families	462
Adults	1201
Children	753
60+	87
New Clients	46