

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC - May 2026

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch



THE RED BARN VINTAGE THRIFT SHOP

***** SPRING OPENING – MAY 2, 2026 *****

SATURDAY from 10 AM to 2:30 PM

Open every Saturday from 10 AM to 2:30 PM through November

We have spent the winter collecting fantastic items so come and shop with us! From home decor, books, seasonal items and kitchenware, there's always something for everyone at The Red Barn. The Barn is located next door to the **Mount Sinai Congregational Church** at



**233 North Country Road
Mount Sinai, NY 11766**

**For further information call
631.473.1582**

*Every purchase allows Mt. Sinai Congregational Church
to make a positive impact in the community.*

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Sunset Fellowship!

“Have you ever seen anything in your life more wonderful than the way the sun, every evening, relaxed and easy, floats toward the horizon and into the clouds or the hills, or the rumpled sea and is gone...” -Mary Oliver

During May and June, Congregational Nurture will be hosting *Thursday Evenings at Cedar Beach* for fellowship and peacefully watching the sunset. 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. Anyone is 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. Note: parking meters open May 8.

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

Please join us any Thursday in May and June that you might be available.

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.



Pride Parade in June

The Missions Ministry board will be sponsoring a float in the 36th Annual Long Island Parade March on June 14 in Huntington 12-5pm. The event features a parade in Huntington Village, a concert, and vendors with a theme of **Unstoppable Pride**. Why not join the Missions team to celebrate this event! Contact Barbara DeTurk for further information.

Piano and Violin Concert

Mark your calendar for a special concert to be held at Mt. Sinai Church on June 27th at 4 p.m. More details to follow.

Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Ladies' Spring Tea

The Spring Tea was enjoyed by over 30 women of the church and their friends and family. The Tea team did a wonderful job and it was a great time to catch up with friends or spend time getting to know someone new. (Editor's note: We apologize if we did not get a you in the pictures. We were enjoying ourselves so much that we got distracted!)



The Clothing Drive

Thank you to everyone who brought used clothing and other items to our clothing drive pick-up on April 14th. We made over \$300 which goes towards support of the church.

~ Donna McInerney and the Strategic Planning Action Team



An Original Play: 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. Auditions will be in our sanctuary on May 16th and May 23rd, from noon until 5:00 p.m. on both days. 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.

“Auditions are open to anyone, especially young people.”

If you know of anyone who might be interested in trying out for the show, they can scan the QR codes below. They will be taken to SignUp Genius. Once there they can choose a date/time. Auditions are open to anyone, especially young people. If you have any questions, you can contact me via e-mail at pastorbill1956@gmail.com.

Remember: there's no business like show business!
Peace & Blessings –
Pastor Bill



Do you like to garden?

Margaret and Peter Larom, our neighbors next door, have offered their garden to the church for a volunteer team to grow vegetables and flowers for our food pantries. A team coordinator has come forward, so now all we need are volunteers to plant and tend crops. Won't you consider this rewarding way to practice serving the Lord with gladness? Please let Janice Flaiz know!

Worship & Sacraments

Sue Hoff's Thoughts on Pentecost

*You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;
From the bondage of sorrow, the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions, your people arise"*

James K. Manley, from the hymn "Spirit of Gentleness, #286 New Century Hymnal

In July of 1984 I attended a national convention of UCC women in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. What a thrilling time: Many hundreds of women from every state, including Alaska and Hawaii, gathering to hold worship services, workshops, and conversations about being Christian women in the United Church of Christ. It was at the closing worship service of this convention, after Sweet Honey in the Rock moved us with their forceful a cappella singing, and after the inspired preaching of so many female UCC ministers, that I first heard the hymn the last verse of which is cited above. I was much younger then and could sing the words and music through the tears they inspired. When we sing it now on Pentecost, I have to choke back my voice when we get to that last verse.



Read it again, please, and imagine. Imagine the Spirit calling from the future to break the "ancient schemes" we still keep to in the present, those that hold us back from creating God's Holy future. Imagine the dreams of captives, the visions of women. Imagine the men, especially those who, with no other justification, hold power because they are men; imagine them clearing their eyes to see that future. Imagine the bold decisions we would make—all humanity seeing clearly together—that would inspire God's people to rise up and establish God's realm of love on Earth!

This year May 24th marks Pentecost considered the "birth of the Christian church," when the Holy Spirit descends to humanity. Like a dove with a fiery torch in its beak, it alights and ignites, burning away the divisions of language, ethos, race, and gender, breaking "ancient schemes" and calling us to dream dreams and see visions of a world where all would decide to rise to the Spirit's call for love and peace and justice. Just imagine that!

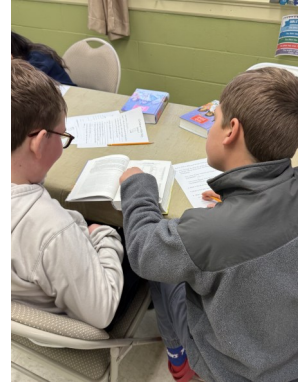
Sue



Sunday School Happenings!

Children's Bible Study Update

As a follow-up to last month's news, our Children's Bible Study students will continue with lessons through May. After a review on June 7 and test on June 14, they will receive their Bibles in a ceremony in lieu of a Children's message on June 21st.



Vacation Bible Camp

CH_ _CH - What's missing?

That same day in Sunday School we come together as a group in the big room for the start of our annual Vacation Bible Camp called, "CH - - CH - what's missing?" We will meet for 6 weeks on Sunday mornings, (children should come straight downstairs) starting on June 28th. Our final show and share message will take place on July 26. More info to come.

Thank you, 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](https://www.mtsinai.org). 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.

Message from Carol and Eddie

The summer concert series known as the Steeple Showcase has come to a close. We had a blast being part of this successful community event and fundraiser. If anyone would like to take over the planning for this event, please contact us and we'd be more than happy to share ideas. Meanwhile, there are many other opportunities to serve our church by supporting and/or volunteering at the food pantries, the Red Barn, at demonstrations and with mission projects.

Yours in faith, Carol and Eddie Melendez

Moderator's Message - Jim Cibulka

I want to share some items of importance that were discussed at the Church Council's recent meeting on April 28, 2026. After Pastor Bill led us in prayer, Jim Cibulka called the meeting to order. The group welcomed Diane Corson after her recent surgery.

Sue Hoff announced two musical events: a piano and violin concert on June 27 and a hand chime presentation at church on May 31. June 14 will be the last day for the choir this summer. This is also Pride Day, which will be attended by many members.

Carol Wiebelt discussed a financial review she did of our first quarter expenses. She cited some abnormally high expenditures for snow removal and necessary repairs and how payments were handled. She also reported that there are still funds in the account set up for technology improvements.



A number of technology topics were discussed at the meeting:

- The Council discussed challenges with the pulpit microphone. It was agreed to contact two other churches as well as trying to identify a sound expert who might advise us on a solution.
- Problems with the Optimum email system were reviewed. Carol Wiebelt informed the group that an alternative email address is available. However, migrating all current users to a new address would be labor intensive and would likely take many months of follow-up. In view of these complications, it was decided not to make a change at this time.
- Barbara DeTurk announced that she is working with Lynn Lodato on publicist tasks. Carol Wiebelt announced that Opal Sewell-Brown agreed to become co-administrator of the website, and then she updated the Council on current efforts to improve the live streaming of our church services.
- Sue Hoff and Carol Wiebelt provided a brief overview of the new church website, which has many innovations as well as a totally new look. Council members applauded them for their hard work and accomplishment. Final changes are still underway. It is hoped that it will "go live" by late May. Sue and Carol plan to do a demonstration for church members one Sunday.

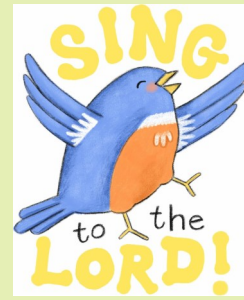
Pastor Bill raised the issue of how to maintain security in the building. The group discussed strategies for addressing this. One agreed-upon approach would be to develop a checklist for closing the building after an event. The last person leaving the building would be responsible for making sure all steps were undertaken.

The May and June calendars were reviewed. The Council was briefed on how calendar events will be posted on our website. Jim Cibulka discussed the importance of getting all events on the calendar so that the custodian is informed in advance of set-up needs. A process for informing Kevin of calendar events was discussed. The Council also reviewed the monthly meetings and decided not to meet in July and then resume the regular meeting schedule in August.

Continued on page 9

Moderator's Message, continued from page 8

The group discussed Pastor Bill's ordination on September 13 at 3 pm. Various planning details were reviewed. This item will be placed on each month's meeting agenda for follow-up as needed.



*"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV



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.

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.

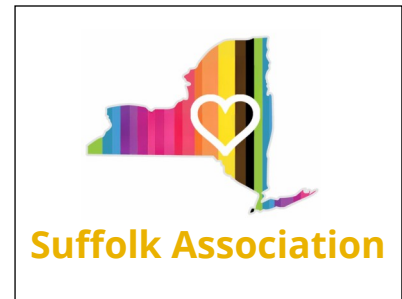
Delegate Connie Simas

Connie Simas is our delegate to the Suffolk Association of the State of NY UCC (United Church of Christ). Here she fills us in on the organization and her role in it.

The Suffolk Association of the State of NY UCC is one of nine regional associations. It encompasses UCC and Affiliate Congregations of Aquebogue, Baiting Hollow, Farmingville, Huntington, Middle Island, Mt. Sinai, Orient, Patchogue, Riverhead and Sayville. They meet twice a year, in Spring and Fall, with an additional Annual Meeting of all NY UCC members in the Spring/Summer.

I attended my first meeting of the Suffolk Association in November of 2025. I was stepping down as Missions Board Lead and wanted to get more involved in other aspects of our wider church. That first meeting was a wonderful introduction into the many facets of what makes up the Association. Delegates from the NY Regional Office gave a presentation on their various roles and gave updates on what was happening within their departments.

During the course of the meeting, an opening within the Church and Ministry Committee was announced. This committee is made up of members from each congregation and meets monthly with a NY UCC Delegate to support the ministers of each congregation, to solve problems and to correctly advise on UCC mandates. This resonated with me, and I volunteered. I appreciate this opportunity to get to know other congregational members on a more personal level and see how other churches handle occurrences within their church.



My role as a delegate of the Suffolk Association is firstly to represent our church, and secondly to bring NY UCC initiatives to our congregation of which we might not otherwise be aware. I have presented the “Love Knows No Borders” campaign which seeks to give recognition and dignity to all marginalized persons, and the “Compassion Not Cruelty” campaign which petitions our leaders to ensure laws protect all people. I am attempting to organize a local chapter of Compassion Not Cruelty with like-minded UCC participants, scheduled to meet quarterly. I have also forwarded the NY UCC Prayer Vigil for Peace and Unity program to our church, to which all UCC churches in NYS are invited to attend. To mirror this prayer event in our church, I am working with Pastor Bill to have our own monthly community Prayer Vigil for Peace and Justice. More information on that is to come.

It is my pleasure to represent our church in the Suffolk Association and on the Church and Ministry Committee. I will continue to forward information as it becomes available to me.



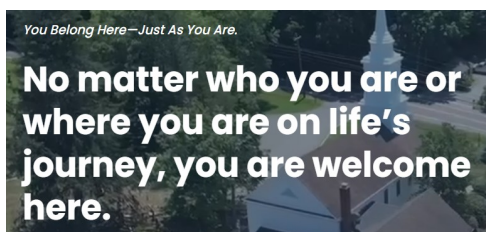
Updated Mt. Sinai Church Website being rolled out soon

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 before the end of May. Fingers crossed!



As you know, **Memorial Day** is a federal holiday set aside to mourn U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. But did you know it started as Decoration Day in 1868 to honor Union soldiers lost in the American Civil War? The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. Poppies became a symbol of this day after WW I based on images in the poem “In Flanders Fields.” ([Wikipedia](#))

In honor of this Day, this poignant poem was submitted by one of our congregants, Stephen Brady.

6 MILES WIDE

By Stephen Brady

Grasping the pendant,
A gift from his wife
A young soldier left the landing craft
Within an unholy instant
A young man was gone

A crimson tide rolled onto the beach
Many drowned where they had fallen
This one, somebody’s son
This one, somebody’s husband
This one, somebody’s brother

He noticed the pendant
The chaplain bellowed “Do not administer last rights”
“You’re not ordained, you’re not qualified”
He didn’t care
He knelt down, said a prayer
Made the sign of the cross

On the 6 mile wide stretch of Omaha Beach
He helped clear away
The 2400 who perished that day
This one, somebody’s son
This one, somebody’s husband
This one, somebody’s brother

He was my father



Memorial Day

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.

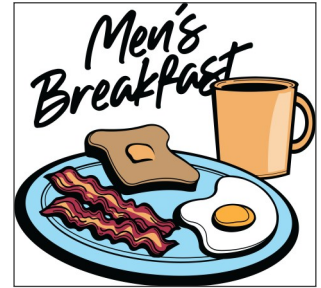
Please call the office for locations if you are interested in attending. All meals are self-pay.

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

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
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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www.msucc.org

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

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

May and June, 2026

(See individual articles for more information)

May

- 5/2 Red Barn Opening Day
- 5/7 Sunset Fellowship, Cedar Beach, 7 pm
- 5/16 Play auditions, Noon to 5:00 p.m.
- 5/17 Bowling, Port Jeff Bowl, 12:30 p.m.
- 5/23 Play auditions, Noon to 5:00 p.m.
- 5/24 Pentecost
- 5/31 Memorial Day - Hand Chimes

June

- 6/14 Pride Parade
- 6/21 New Bible Ceremony during children's message
Start of Vacation Bible Camp
- 6/27 Piano & Violin concert, 4 p.m.
- 6/28 Vacation Bible Camp starts. Children go straight downstairs. (Camp runs through July 26th.)



Baptisms



There have been a number of baptisms in the church lately. We welcome the children and their families!

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 2026

Families	560
Adults	1500
Children	859
60+	151
New Clients	19