



The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC - January 2026

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Congregational Meeting on January 4th

There will be a Special Meeting of the congregation immediately after our church service on Sunday, January 4, 2026. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider and vote upon a nomination for Missions Board lead. Amanda Gordon, chair of the Nominating Committee Standing Action Team, will chair this Special Meeting. A quorum of members will be required to conduct this meeting.



Image by [Qimono](#)
from [Pixabay](#)

January Coffee Hour to Celebrate the Red Barn Team Postponed

The special coffee hour in honor of the hard working Red Barn Team, which was scheduled for January 4th, has been postponed due to illness. We will let you know via email blast when it has been rescheduled.

In other Hospitality Team news:



January 11th Luncheon - Patrice Perreca has invited the congregation to join her at a luncheon celebrating her 75th birthday right after the worship service.

January 25 Coffee Hour - Following a change made by the Hospitality team, the regular coffee hour will take place on the last Sunday of the month.

Clothing Drive on April 12th

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 January 11th and 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.

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

The Caribbean Cruise is Coming

The countdown has started for the Caribbean Cruise in February. A boat-load of people have signed up for the cruise from February 3rd to 14th!

The trip will go to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Tortola, St. Martin and St. Thomas! Transportation from the church to the dock and back all set, so everything is smooth sailing.

The trip is a fundraiser for the church, and so much fun for those who go.

Keep and Eye on Lent and Easter

The most holy time of year is coming up! It may be early, but keep these dates in mind:

Ash Wednesday	February 18
Lent	February 18 to April 2
Palm Sunday	March 29
Easter	April 5



Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Organ Recital Returns to Mt. Sinai Church

A wonderful organ recital was held at Mt. Sinai Church on December 27. Dr. Michael R. Kearney, talented organist, returned to present "Strength for the Journey" featuring selections for Advent, Christmas and New Year by Bach, Buxtehude, Elgar, Mulder, Vierne and more.

Kearney's playing was expressive and powerful. His wife, Rachel, helped out by changing the many stops that produce different sounds during each piece.



A collection was taken for the restoration and maintenance of our Zimmer organ which was installed in 1987.



Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Missions Toy Drive

Many thanks for your generous toy and gift card donations to the Missions toy drive this year. With the added toys from HotWorx Studio in Miller Place, we were able to provide the “elves” from Family Service League (FSL) of Riverhead with wonderful toys and presents for many youngsters.



Thank you to Barbara and Connie

Barbara DeTurk and Connie Simas were celebrated at the December Council meeting as they stepped down from



their years of service to their boards, Congregational Nurture and Missions, respectively. We cannot thank them enough for all they have given to Mt. Sinai Church. Happy retirement, Barb and Connie!

Sunday School News

We ended 2025 with a Children’s Message called Joy to the World sharing the story of Jesus’s birth through the eyes of the animals that played a part in the Nativity. All the children of our Church participated as their character was announced by Ms. Stacey (along with a fun question to see if the congregation could guess the animal). Confused? Maybe the attached photos will help.



This was a great ending to our “animals of the Bible” theme which we started in September and took on a life of its own with our involvement with Heifer International. Huge shout out to Crew Members Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Stacey without whom none of this would be possible.

Looking forward to 2026! Love Ms. Caroline

Pastoral Ponderings – January 2026

During Advent, as we led up to Christmas, and now that we are approaching the new year, I've been thinking a great deal about how God chooses to relate to human beings. There is no law saying that God needs to care about us; God could have made everything and then simply disregarded what had been made. That's not, however, the way things turned out.

How blessed we are to be the children of our God, who is always making things new – including and especially the ways in which God seeks us out! How blessed we are to have Jesus, who has come to offer salvation, both in this world and in the next. And how blessed we are to have our God, who, in the person of Jesus, understands the challenges we face and the weaknesses we all share. It is because God came to us in the flesh that we can be assured that God knows what It's like to be human.

God knows that we will make mistakes. God knows that we will need to learn many lessons as we try to move toward righteousness. Some of those lessons will need to be repeated many times before we finally catch on, and some of us will be quite stubborn about rejecting what we're supposed to learn – and yet God sticks with us.

When we make New Year's resolutions, it's one way for us to say: I'm going to start anew; I'm going to make a fresh attempt to be a better person. As Christians, we should understand that fresh starts aren't just confined to the time when we mark the earth making another journey around the sun. God has given us Jesus, and through the Christ, we can make every day a new opportunity to figure out what we should do and how we should be.

All of this reinforces something we say at the end of every Sunday worship service: that God is good, all the time. Let us praise God and choose to make each day a gift – a precious opportunity to start again, and to learn more than we knew yesterday.

Peace & Blessings –
Pastor Bill



Worship & Sacraments

Oh, feed me this day, Holy Spirit, with
the fragrance of the fields and the
freshness of the oceans which you have
made, and help me to hear and to hold
in all dearness those exacting and wonderful
words of our Lord Christ Jesus, saying:
Follow me.

From “Six Recognitions of the Lord,” by Mary Oliver

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

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Like scripture, poetry encourages us to be aware. Both can drive us deep into relationship with the Divine *within* and God's good creation *without*, which includes us. In our **alternative worship service** on January 25th at 5:00 p.m., we'll let Scripture and the poetry of Mary Oliver enlighten our spirits, even as the tilting earth begins imperceptivity to brighten our days.



We'll spend some time in conversation as well as silence. We'll listen to some poems and readings from Scripture. We'll have some music and practice paying deep attention to all that surrounds our bodies and spirits.

We will pray.

And we'll leave with a short list of practices that can deepen and enrich our lives as we wait for the season to change again.

Please join us in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. on January 4th.

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The logo for Mt. Sinai Church is located in the top left corner. It features a stylized rainbow arch composed of small, colorful squares in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. Below the arch, the words "WORSHIP TOGETHER" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.



 **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.

Mission Work

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.

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, 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!



Image by [Alicja](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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's Message

My Moderator's report this month shares highlights of the Church Council meeting held on December 16, 2025.

Pastor Bill led the Council in an opening prayer.

Janice Flaiz, Director of the Island Heart Food Pantry (IHFP), met with the Council via Zoom. She briefed the Council on recent developments at IHFP. It was agreed that we need to find out more about the original lease agreement IHFP had with Habitat for Humanity. Several Council members agreed to contact members of the congregation who might be knowledgeable.

Our church Treasurer Rita LaRosa announced the good news that there will be no cost increase in the church's insurance policy next year, a reversal from recent years. This eliminates a previously anticipated 14% increase in the 2026 budget. Rita and Jim Cibulka have been negotiating with another broker to secure the best possible, most affordable policy. These negotiations continue.

Michele Cipriano shared a change in the drop-off date for clothing donations. The new date will be in an email blast.

Pastor Bill shared that there has been positive feedback on the Sunday evening alternative church services conducted in collaboration with the Worship and Sacraments Board. He also updated Council on the format of the Christmas Eve services.

Lynn Burke discussed a recent conversation that she, Pastor Bill, and Jim Cibulka had with Kristen J. Nyitray, the director of Stony Brook University Special Collections and University Archives. Recently we have received requests to access our historical records. We sought her advice on proper maintenance of our church's historical

records and appropriate policies and procedures for offering access to these records. The possibility of digitizing the records was discussed. Lynn also reported that she reached out to church members whose ancestors were involved in the church. All agreed that sharing this local history would be of value. Hopefully, a church volunteer can coordinate this effort.

Amanda Gordon briefed the Council on the unfilled vacancy for a new lead of the Missions Board. (Note: After the meeting, a volunteer stepped forward. There will be a special Meeting of the congregation on January 4, 2026 to consider this nomination.)

The Council approved Connie Simas' recommendation that our church make an annual contribution to the UCC's Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition to support commemoration of World AIDS Day.

Carol Wiebelt provided an update to the Council on technology issues. This includes raising our visibility in Google or Bing searches, as well as modifications to our website adding specific language that will help us be "seen" by search engines. In the new year Carol will work with our technology consultant, Auggie Diaz, to reformat the Old Man News to align with the above. Improvements to the livestreaming of Sunday worship services were discussed.

The Council reviewed the tentative church calendar for January 2026.

The Council recognized Barbara DeTurk and Connie Simas for their outstanding service as outgoing board leads. Cake and refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Cibulka, Moderator



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...



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.

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 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

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

Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

January through April 2026

(See individual articles for more information)

January

- 1/4 Special Congregational Meeting right after the service
Alternative Worship Service, 5 p.m.
- 1/11 Luncheon to celebrate Patrice Perreca's 75th birthday
Drop off Clothing Drive donations to be stored in the garage
- 1/25 Regular Coffee Hour after service

February

- 2/3-14 Caribbean Cruise
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday
- 2/18-4/2 Lent

March

- 3/8 Drop off Clothing Drive donations to be stored in the garage
- 3/29 Palm Sunday

April

- 4/5 Easter

Buildings and Grounds

Into the New Year
We walk.
Keeping us safe,
Maintaining and
Beautifying our
Beloved Church.
Some upkeep,
Some replacements,
Some new things...
Looking forward~

Have ideas? Place them in the Suggestion Box.

Want to be a part of it? See Michele C.



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	1047
Children	625
60+	57
Families	337