

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational Church, UCC - November 2023



The Holiday Clock is tick, tick, ticking...

Join us on November 11th
for

Mt. Sinai Church's

Holiday Bazaar

Vendors

Hand-made Craft and Holiday Item
Boutique

Snowflake Auction with Themed
Raffle Baskets

Refreshments for Sale

Fun with Friends

Saturday, November 11, 2023

9 am - 3 pm

The Red Barn, adjacent to the Church, will also be open with some great bargains and holiday items.



Mt. Sinai Congregational Church UCC
233 N. Country Road
Mt. Sinai, NY
631-473-1582

Help us make the
Holiday Bazaar
a hit!

This is a great opportunity to get a jump on your holiday shopping and spend time with friends.

Please come, invite friends and family, spread the word about the **Holiday Bazaar** through your social media contacts, at your places of work or play!

You, your family and friends and the community will be warmly welcomed, and your support is also greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Jayne in the office at 631-473-1582.

Happy Holiday Shopping,
The MSUCC Holiday Bazaar
Committee



Events @ Mt.SinaiChurch

Christmas Card Ministry

A small but determined group enjoyed assembling six beautiful Christmas cards with Karen from the PRC (Practical Resources for Churches). Thank you Patrice Perreca for organizing the fun event.



Narcan Training

On September 28th, the Suffolk County Police Department came to our church to give a training in the use of Narcan in an emergency overdose situation. Officer Sergio of the COPE unit of the 6th precinct and Officer Jason of the training branch of the Academy gave an incredibly informative lecture on this subject. The lecture included recognizing the signs and symptoms of an overdose, overdose prevention strategies, how to administer Narcan, as well as support information and resources. Sample Narcan kits were given to all who attended.



More Events @Mt.SinaiChurch

Mt. Sinai Missions Joins Faith and Blue

The 6th Precinct of the Suffolk County Police Department held their annual **Faith and Blue** event on Monday October 9th at Starbucks in Selden. Members of the Mt. Sinai Church Missions Team attended along with others from surrounding faith communities. The intention of the event was to build relationships and communication with the police department and with each other.



Mt. Sinai Church Attends Sunshine Fall Festival



Mt. Sinai Congregational Church staffed a table at the Sunshine Fall Festival on October 14, 2023 in Port Jeff Station. We provided information to the community about our church and the various activities that are up-and-coming this fall. Unfortunately, rainy weather affected attendance, but we were able to talk to the vendors at this event, and a number of them have agreed to participate in our holiday bazaar.

Important Church Announcements



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on November 5th right after the service. At this very important meeting we will vote on the 2024 budget and discuss other matters.

Daylight Savings Time ends early Sunday Morning. Set your clocks!!

November Coffee Hour Change

The coffee hour, which is usually on the first Sunday of the month, will be changed for November to the second Sunday, due to the Annual Congregational Meeting. The new Coffee Hour date is November 12th. Please join us for food and friendship.



Worship and Sacraments Ministry Board

My dear friends, we always have good reason to thank God for you, because your faith in God and your love for each other keep growing all the time. (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

November is an exciting month for your Worship Board! Take a look at what we're planning:

November 5th Rev. Candace Whitman will be with us to celebrate Holy Communion. But, wait! There's more! She'll also perform the sacrament of Baptism for a baby born in June of this year to Elyssa and Jonathan Cooke. And, because November 5th is All Saints Day, we'll honor those members and friends who have passed away in the year since last November by reading their names. We hope you will join us in the sanctuary on the 5th!

November 12th Church member, Debbie Quigley will return to our pulpit. We all remember what a delight her message was on Mother's Day this past May!

November 19th Thanksgiving Sunday--Diana Aiello will offer the message, and we remember the joy of hearing her speak earlier this year. The choir is preparing a lovely anthem by the English composer, John Rutter.

Also on the 19th, we will celebrate an interfaith Thanksgiving service with Temple Beth Emeth and the Turkish Cultural Center. That service will be at the Temple on Mt. Sinai Avenue, Mt. Sinai

at 5:00 p.m. Our own moderator, Dennis Ladewager, will deliver the message. Food and fellowship follows the service. We hope many of you will join as members of our three Abrahamic faiths give thanks to God for all good gifts.

November 23rd Thanksgiving Day--At 9:00 a.m., we'll gather at the west end of Cedar Beach to offer thanks and praise to God with word and music. We'll share fresh grapes and gluten-free crackers in a symbolic meal of gratitude for our many blessings.

November 26th There is a possibility that Rev. Gregory Leonard, retired AME Church Chaplain at the Long Island Veterans Home will bring us the message on this last Sunday of the month. We'll keep you posted on this in each Sunday's bulletin.

Our board loves the challenge of bringing different folks to the pulpit each Sunday for you. If you think you might like to participate in this adventure, let one of the board members listed here know, and we'll get back to you!

Jamie Dunlop, Doris Esposito, Vicki Francis, Celeste Gronda, Patrice Perreca, and Sue Hoff

Calling all Singers! Join us for the Holidays!

There are so many beautiful songs to sing during Advent and Christmas! What could possibly make them even better? Why, hearing them sung by a large choir in the sanctuary! Come help us create that wonderful holiday sound.

Don't read music? That's okay, we are patient and helpful. Can't come out in the evening?

Don't worry, we rehearse at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday in the choir room (down the hall past the conference room.) Please speak with any choir member about joining in on the holiday fun.





Sunday Worship At Mt. Sinai Church

In-Person Worship - Join us at our 10 AM service in the sanctuary. Communion, as always, takes place on the first Sunday of the month.

Digital Worship - Digital worship is now available as a live stream at 10 AM on the LIVE tab of our YouTube channel: [Mt. Sinai Congregational Church, UCC - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc...). 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/giving/>, by setting up bill pay through your bank or roll-over from a 401(k)/403(b). We appreciate your support.

Greetings From Sunday School

On Sunday October 29th the Sunday school children participated in our annual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. We collected \$341.99 in coins which breaks down as follows: one dollar coin; 759 quarters; 1,217 dimes; 349 nickels and 1,209 pennies with an additional \$36 cash - THANK YOU AS ALWAYS.

Thank you,
Caroline LaVopa



Moderator's Message

On October 29th we held a budget review meeting that presented proposed budget materials for 2024 and, in a first, the next five years. The attendance was outstanding and much was reviewed and discussed.

Our church is on multiple journeys simultaneously. One journey is on a road that leads to a selection and call to a minister who we pray holds the same hopes, dreams and expectations that align with what our church is hoping when considering the future. The second road provides a challenging journey into new and unexplored territory. It centers on improved communication, engagement, and interaction with the communities we serve, and identifying strategies for improved financial stability. Both roads do in fact come together at some point. And although we may not have the foresight to know when that merge will take place, as church, we continue to move down the road in faith and with focused actions.

When considering our minister search journey, it needs to be known that the nine individuals that make up the Search Committee have been and continue to be diligent, dedicated, and willing to do what it takes to get the task accomplished. Part of their work on the Local Church Profile included preparing a proposed minister compensation package and assessing its effect on the church's overall budget before moving ahead.

After many meetings and discussions within the Search Committee and with the Finance Board, it was determined that the church's financial strength would only allow us to pursue a part-time minister at this time. This was announced at a meeting in September. Now that we are weeks into our stewardship campaign, our understand-

ing has improved regarding our resources. As you know, our finances were greatly impacted by events of the past four years and prior economic downturns. Therefore, it has been decided that it is time to restore a balance to our budget. Information regarding this will be formally presented and voted on at the Annual Meeting on November 5th.

Our parallel journey is one that requires navigating a road that has many twists, turns, successes and failures. It centers on our financial stability. This journey requires a concentrated effort to identify new and unthought of income opportunities for the church, and provide a strategy that will result in a successful implementation. Towards this end, a new action team has been formed to work on strategic planning and income generation. The Strategic Planning Action Team will report to the Finance Board whose lead will in turn bring findings and opportunities to Church Council. This is not something that has been done before. *If you would like to be a part of it, please let me know.*

As we draw closer to the end of yet another year, I can't help but be totally optimistic for the prospects of 2024 and beyond for our church community and mission. You make the difference. It is through the dedication and combination of each of our God-given gifts that gives us the assurance of a successful journey.

Peace,
Dennis Laderwager
Moderator
Bigreader54@yahoo.com
(631) 682-9276

**Annual Congregational Meeting
November 5th,
Following the Service**



A FUTURE WITH HOPE

The Giving/ Stewardship Team would like to thank

everyone who has pledged so far this year for our 2024 budget. We have received \$178,000 in pledges as of Sunday, October 29th.

If you have not pledged yet, we ask that you consider doing so. There are 3 ways you can get it done:

1. Fill out a pledge card and bring it in with you on Sunday (or mail it in.)
2. Pledge through the Donation button on the church's website msucc.org
3. Use the QR Code found below.

All pledges are kept confidential.

Thank you for always answering and supporting our call,

The Stewardship Committee



Board Lead Needed for Missions Team

Do you like getting things done? Are you interested in helping the community? This may be the board for you!

At the end of this year, Connie Simas, Missions Board Lead will have reached the end of her two-year term. This is a dynamic board that serves the community and congregation in many ways.

The Lead works with many different people to get things done. There are regularly scheduled activities (Thanksgiving collection, toy drive, marches of various kinds) but the sky's the limit when it comes to new ideas.

Please consider becoming the Lead for this team. If you are interested, please see Connie for more information.



Happy Thanksgiving!



Old Man's News

Published by the Mt. Sinai Congregational United Church of Christ, 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@optonline.net with all submissions and questions.

Mt. Sinai Congregational Church

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.

Congregational Nurture



Calling all Knitters, Crocheters & Other Crafters

The Knitting, Crocheting & Crafting group meets on Tuesdays in the Conference Room from 2 to 4 pm. The participants are working on personal projects as well as items for the upcoming **Holiday Bazaar** to be held on November 11th. If you are interested in joining the group, feel free to drop by on Tuesdays or give Doris Esposito a call at 631-708-6786.

Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry provides many emotional support services for the church. We are active in providing meals to those who are temporarily in need of assistance. Our card ministry sends out cards (frequently made by our Sunday school children), for those who are ill, post surgery, grieving, or for birthday and holiday celebrations. And, you might see a Caring ministry member ushering at a memorial service or running a Grief Support Group.

In addition, the church's **Prayer List** is coordinated by the Caring Ministry. It is updated weekly as a way to provide prayers for members and family in need. Any church members that would like to receive the prayer list email please let Jayne Hardy know at mssc1@optonline.net.

Caring Ministry is always looking for new members. If you would like to join us, please contact Jayne Hardy at mssc1@optonline.net.



Men's Breakfast Group and Women's Breakfast and Lunch Groups

Men of the church are invited to meet each Thursday morning at 8 AM for coffee, food and conversation at Zona Out East diner in Rocky Point. Want to be reminded



via email? Please send your email address to Dennis Murphy at murphyde@optonline.net.

Please call the office if you are interested in the women's Lunch Bunch and breakfast groups.

Caring Ministry Offering

The Caring Ministry is offering a Grief and the Holidays Discussion and Support Group on Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Sinai Congregational Church, 233 North Country Rd., Mt. Sinai, NY. We will use information from various grief counseling sources to discuss and share ideas on how we can not only make it through the holidays after losing a loved one but perhaps give the holidays new meaning.

The Grief and the Holidays Discussion and Support Group is open to adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one and are looking for a safe place to process and be supported by others who have also experienced loss, in a warm and caring environment during the upcoming holiday season.

To register or if you have questions, please call the church office at 631-473-1582. There is no fee, but we need to know how many to expect and the contact information of those planning on attending so we can confirm with you.

Wishing you peace and comfort,
Diane Corson

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

Sue Hoff, Worship Lead
mshoff23@gmail.com

Dennis Laderwager, Moderator
bigreader54@yahoo.com

Caroline LaVopa,
Christian Education Director
clavopa@optonline.net

Linda Preuss, Musician
mscc1@optonline.net

Jayne Hardy
Office Administrator
mscc1@optonline.net

Carol Wiebelt,
Old Man's News Editor
cdwiebel@optonline.net

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.

The Red Barn

Come by and see the wonderful assortment of items for sale at the Red Barn Thrift Shop. Now is the perfect time to decorate your home for Autumn! And a fabulous sale is coming up soon for Christmas items. Thank you all for your support!



For more information, please contact Patrice Perreca at patricevp@gmail.com or Barbara DeBree at bberensten@aol.com.



Office Hours

Jayne Hardy 9 - Noon, M - F
Church Food Cupboard,
Tuesdays, 9:15-11:45

Mission Ministry

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Donation for patrons of the Island Heart Food Pantry is about to get underway. Thanks to an incredible food drive hosted by the Rocky Point Rotary, we have received many of the items we would normally request for our family Thanksgiving meal offering. This year, we are still in need of the following items:

\$10 supermarket gift card
Juice for a family
Mashed potatoes
Cranberry sauce
Canned Yams
Dessert Item



We are also in need of volunteers to help distribute Thanksgiving meal bags at the pantry on Monday, November 20, from 10:00 to 12:00, and/or on Tuesday, November 21, from 3:00 to 5:00. If you are able to help, please contact Jayne in the main office (631-473-1582) to sign up. Thanks to all for your continued generosity.

IH Food Pantry Numbers

	Sept	Oct
Adults	1,210	1,134
Children	591	640
60+	132	179
Families	451	416
Individuals	1,933	1,953

Church Food Cupboard

Thanks to all for the generous food donations. There is still a need for canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, canned vegetables and fruits, soups and jelly/jams. We also need personal care items like toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We are open on Tuesdays from 9:15am to 11:45 am.

June Kelly and Diane Murphy

Fall Clean-up at the Sunshine Center

Sunshine's next clean up is scheduled for **November 18th from 9:00 – 12:00.**

What a year for acorns! Work may include raking, cleaning and decorating for the holidays. Please dress appropriately for the weather! Bring food for their blessing box and/or gently used clothing (bagged up) for the clothes bin.



Please email Carol Wiebelt at cdwiebel@optonline.net if you can help Sunshine with their fall clean-up.



Upcoming Events @Mt.SinaiChurch October & November

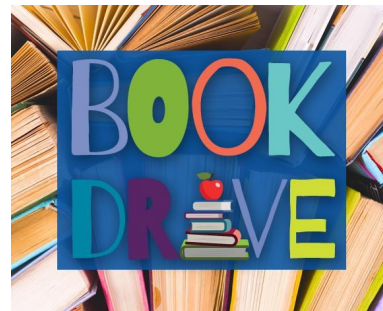
(See individual articles for more information)

November

- 11/5 Congregational Meeting following the service
- 11/10 Veteran's Day - Office Closed
- 11/11 Holiday Bazaar, 9 am to 3 pm
- 11/12 Coffee Hour following the service
- 11/19 Deadline for receipt of Thanksgiving items
Polar Plunge
- 11/23 Thanksgiving - Office Closed
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Church Service

December Preview

- 12/2 Grief and the Holidays Discussion, 10 am
- 12/3 First Sunday of Advent



Book Drive: Donate Your Books

Missions would like to invite you to participate in a book drive to benefit the children of the Unkechaug Nation in Mastic. Recent flooding in their library has left them with few books for elementary and middle school children.

We are asking for new or gently used books for grades 1 through 8, or ages 6 through 13. There will be a bin in the church lobby until November 12 for your donations. Thank you for your generosity.

GET A THRILL FROM THE CHILL and join our team **North Pole Karen!**

We will be "FREEZIN' FOR A REASON" at the
13th Annual Town of Brookhaven
Polar Plunge
Saturday, November 19, 2023
at Cedar Beach, Mount Sinai

Go to [2023 Brookhaven Polar Plunge](#) and type in
North Pole Karen to join or sponsor.

We will have a CHILI lunch at the church afterwards!
Volunteers are needed.

Janice Flaiz Team Captain
631-921-7187



Cruising to Bermuda

There is still time to secure early-bird pricing for our planned cruise to beautiful Bermuda from October 27th to November 3rd of 2024.

Please call the office by November 15th to lock in the best price.