

THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
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In this Issue:

- Council Updates
- Hearing Loop Info
- On-line Directory
- Prayer List

Calendar

Knitting, Tuesdays at 10:00AM
 ROMEOS, Fridays, 12:00PM
 JULIETs, Last Friday of the month 12:00PM

- Council Meeting, June 24, 3:00PM
- Book Group June 17, 7:30PM Zoom
- Spiritual Growth Group I, June 24, 7:15PM
- Spiritual Growth Group II, June 11, 7:15PM
- Spiritual Growth Group III, June 5, 2:00 PM

First Monday Dining & Discussion will have its Annual Steak Roast on **June 3 at 6:00 PM**. We'll gather at 5:00 PM for some social time and have dinner a bit later. It will be at Sue and John Amrine's, 136 Crescent Road in Fairport. Please sign-up on the bulletin board to indicate you are coming and the dinner item you wish to bring. Questions? Rod Walters 315-986-3087.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on **Sunday, June 2, 2024**. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and will also be available for participation via Zoom starting at 11:30 am.

Please review documents regarding what will be discussed and voted upon:

- Annual Meeting Agenda
- Annual Financial Meeting Minutes 2024
- 2024 Annual Report including Slate of candidates (page 12) from the Nominating Committee for 2024/2025 positions

These documents are available in the church lobby or online.

"Welcoming all to be a community for good in God's world"

Outdoor worship begins June 30, 10:00am



Service and Advocacy For Justice and Peace



Open & Affirming

Open & Affirming Group presents: **How to be an Ally**



Did you know that the word "homosexual" first appeared in an English version of the Bible in 1946? It was the Revised Standard Version (RSV). "Homosexual" was a mistranslation of two Greek words. Unfortunately, the RSV was used as the basis for several Bibles published afterwards. Thus to this day, the

presence of this mistranslation can be found worldwide and the effects on the LGBTQ+ community have been enormous.

Source: "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture," the film. <https://www.1946themovie.com/>

**Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
has been an ONA since 1996!**

The Mountain Rise Open & Affirming Group recommends

Free presentation with Jeannie Gainsburg
Sustainable LGBTQ+allyship at
Pittsford Community Library
Monday, June 3, 6:30-7:30 pm

**Open & Affirming
Group Meeting
Tuesday, June 25
7pm @ Mountain Rise
You are Welcome!**



**Rochester Pride Parade
SAVE-THE-DATE!!
Saturday, July 20th**

(Image "Designed by Freepik" www.freepik.com)

Perinton Food Shelf Needs

An Emergency Food Relief Organization

Needed: bottled juice, frosting, cake mixes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, baked beans (not pork and beans), granola bars, cookies, canned corned beef, beef stew, peas, pears and carrots.

Thank you so much for your support.

A reminder, bigger isn't always better. We pre-pack boxes and have to take care that they are not too heavy to lift. If you are unsure of what size, please go to our website www.perintonfoodshelf.org and click on most needed items and we do list some sizes there.

Service and Advocacy Meeting Scheduled

Next meeting is June 12, 2:30pm.



LIDERA and MOUNTAIN RISE

LIDERA is a newly-recognized nonprofit organization in Flor del Campo, Honduras. Evelyn Cantor, the director, has had this dream of opening a Grow and Learn Center. This center would be what we call a nursery school, similar to the Perinton Nursery School at Mountain Rise.

Evelyn Cantor is a member of *Viviendo en Amor y Fe* Church. After approximately three years developing a model and working with the Honduran government, Asociacion LIDERA has finally been recognized as a nonprofit organization.

Our sister church, *Viviendo en Amor y Fe*, as part of their mission to their community has offered the lower level class rooms and office space for LIDERA'S use.

Thanks to a grant from the Mountain Rise Endowment Fund this dream is to become a reality. The grant for \$20,390.00 will be used to renovate the facility, purchase equipment and hire staff for the first year's operation.



The first installment of the grant has been delivered. A little over \$6,000.00 will be used to start the renovation, purchase furniture and equipment, purchase early stimulation and library materials, and develop a preschool playground area.

LIDERA will be able to offer a safe early education program for 15 children and offer support for their families. It will also give income to the five people hired as staff.



Edificio de Iglesia Cristiana Viviendo en Amor y Fe, Colonia Flor del Campo zona 2. Dos cuerdas al costado Oeste de Escuela Estado de Israel. Comayagüela M.D.C., Departamento de Francisco Morazán, Honduras C.A. Whatsapp:+504.9480-3584. e-mail: aliderahn@gmail.com www.alidera.org

4/24/2024

Dear Mountain Rise UCC Council,

On behalf of ASOCIACION LIDERA, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous grant of US\$20,390 from the MRUCC Endowment Fund. We are thrilled to be among the recipients of this year's funding and are eager to put these resources to good use.

We recognize the challenge the Council faced in making funding decisions given the record number of proposals submitted. It is an honor to know that our project was selected because of its potential to make a significant impact on the children of Flor del Campo.

We are committed to ensuring that the ASOCIACION LIDERA project not only meets but exceeds the expectations set forth. We will diligently document the project's progress and its impacts, and we look forward to sharing these findings with the Mountain Rise congregation. We believe that through shared learning experiences, we can further the reach and positive effects of the project.

Rest assured, the funds received in partial disbursements will be employed precisely as planned, prior to the cut-off date of May 1, 2025. Recognizing the critical nature of responsible management and accountability, we will adhere to established protocols to either seek an extension or reimburse any residual funds back to the Endowment Fund.

Once again, thank you for your support and trust in our endeavor. We are excited to embark on this journey and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Warm regards,



Evelyn Cantor
Board Chair



June 16

Children's Ministry

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these".

Matthew 6:28-33

Lilies and flowers of all sorts are bursting forth around us. Seedlings are planted and gardens are soon to follow. Summer is around the corner.

As I reflect on this past year's weekly gathering with the children, I remember such a sense of community, commitment and joy. Community, meaning there is a sense of coming together, that sometimes starts in the worship service, but then carries into the classroom experience.

Commitment, meaning there are teachers and children who join together each week in a shared activity. Stories are told, activities created and all who attend leave with a sense of being involved in a short but special, sometimes even "blessed" time together. You know, the unexpected happenings that hold a gift of sorts.

Joy as we learn and grow together in our spiritual exploration, there is a lot of laughter. Belly laughs, chuckles, and giggles happen all the time and it can be contagious with the whole group being one big ball of joy!

The classroom will be quiet in the next few months so families and children can enjoy the change in the service location (outside) and the Sunday school coming to a close until September. The fish will still be fed, the plants still watered but the classroom will be quiet, missing the friendly, eager faces which come each week. It will be ready and waiting to greet you again in September.

May each of you, children, families and congregation members and friends remember all that was shared and carry it into your own life this summer and beyond.

Remember the little boy who found a friend, and also found himself,

Remember the Kindness Bags created to care for someone in need,

Remember the sunflower seeds planted, ready to be planted outdoors for creatures to enjoy,

Remember the games played and the teamwork, which made it even more fun,

Remember your own gifts shared freely to make someone else's day a bit brighter.

Lilies come back and with rest and water they can look forward to blooming again and again and again.

May this summer create some "blooming" experiences for each of you wherever you are, whatever you do, wherever you go, alone or with friends and family.

Plant your own garden, tend it, love it and you may discover some unexpected gifts.

N'Joy & Grace

Elisabeth Hammer

Her/she/hers

Children's Ministry Coordinator

ehammer@mtriseucc.org



Book Group

Book Group Welcomes New Members for June Discussion

The Mountain Rise Book Group will meet on Zoom at 7:30 pm on Monday, June 17 to discuss *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Kreuger. The New York Times called the book "a brilliant new novel about a young man, a small town, and murder in the summer of 1961."

If you would like to participate in our discussion, please contact Rick Watkins at rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com or (585) 203-1629. He will send you a Zoom link the day of the meeting or the day before.

JULIET's

JULIET's will meet at the on Friday, June 28 at 12:00. Ladies who plan on coming should email me at janestock1995@gmail.com or send me a text at: 585-704-2630. Location TBA.

Dear Mountain Rise,

A little over a year ago, my newsletter submission welcomed you all to our "Interim Time"...a time for our faith community to take an intentional "time out" to seek spiritual and organizational renewal, to rediscover our identity, and to revitalize our mission in preparation for calling our settled pastor. Council then created a Transition Team with the help of the congregation. After many months of work, the Transition Team (Liz Webb, Kathy Simpson, Matt Deknatel, Roger James and Ted Nixon), with the support of Pastor Kelly, presented their key findings.

This month, there are **three** "Interim Time" opportunities for Mountain Rise in which to participate. First, on Sunday, June 16th after worship, NY UCC Conference Minister Ryan Henderson will present the UCC Welcoming Diversity Survey. This survey is a required element of the UCC Search and Call process. Rev. Henderson will present information and answer questions about the survey. Second, Council will circulate the Welcoming Diversity Survey to the congregation at the end of June; a minimum of 80% of our worshipping community are required to participate. Third, at the end of June, Council will be creating the Pastoral Search Committee after soliciting nominations from the congregation. Nominations will be collected in a similar process as the Transition Team nominations last year (see included Nomination Form).

Friends, we are not in the home stretch yet. There is much work to be done during this remaining "Interim Time" and it will take a collective effort to prepare for the search of a settled pastor with the particular gifts and skills Mountain Rise wants and needs.

I am excited to continue this journey with all of you!

Blessings and peace,
Faye Eaton
Council Chair



Pastoral Search Committee Nomination Form

Council is looking to the Congregation to suggest names of people who might best serve on a Pastoral Search Committee for Mountain Rise. The commitment of the Pastoral Search Committee, in the tradition of the United Church of Christ, is to pray and discern together with the guidance of Pastor Kelly in consideration of the best pastoral leadership for the Mountain Rise congregation. A Local Church Profile will be created through a coordinated effort of the Search Committee, church leadership, the Transition Team, and with the support of our interim minister, Pastor Kelly. The Search Committee will receive UCC Ministerial Profiles of candidates, conduct interviews, check references, meet candidates, and select a final candidate for a vote by the congregation.

Qualities of a Pastoral Search Committee member include the following:

- They have the confidence of the faith community at Mountain Rise.
- They reflect the various areas of our faith community's life and work: committees or groups, age, gender, and involvement at Mountain Rise.
- They are able to listen, consult, and discern with people; gather and analyze data; and follow through with paperwork.
- They are comfortable with the language of theology.
- They are able to maintain confidentiality.

There are two ways to make a nomination. You may complete the form below and place it in the offering basket or on Barbara's desk **OR** you can complete the electronic Google Form that is linked below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWo2gLLn8hx9GdkurOxNZjDfrJtWojjhGgxRV89DQzde6P5g/viewform?usp=pp_url

All nominations need to be submitted by Monday, June 17.

Please complete the questions below to share the name(s) of the person(s) you would like Council to consider for the Pastoral Search Committee. Please feel free to nominate yourself for committee consideration!

Your name:

Who are you nominating for the Pastoral Search Committee?

What are your reasons for nominating this person for participation on the Pastoral Search Committee?

Council Monthly Meetings

You are welcome to attend Council meetings. The next meeting is **Monday, June 24** at **3:00 pm** at church.

Ministry Committee Chairs:

- Faith Formation - Steven Grace
- Fellowship - Dave Ackroyd
- Caring Connections - Sherry Shaffer and Cheryl Pipkin (co-chairs)
- Spiritual Life and Worship - Ted Nixon
- Service and Advocacy - Jack Heister

Your Council Members:

- Faye Eaton, Chair
- Position Vacant*, Vice-Chair
- Gail McClain, Council Secretary
- Jennifer Leger, At-Large
- Len Leger, At-Large
- Nancy Stark, At-Large
- Kathy Nixon, Communications Committee Chair

Property Committee at Work!

The following are a few more of the projects and tasks managed by the Property Committee during the past month with assistance from volunteers.

- Rented a lift to install an overhead light in sanctuary
- Had the HVAC units serviced
- Added metal stakes to clearly show our property borders
- Submitted an application to the town for approval to install a new sign on the corner of Route 31 and Mountain Rise
- Arranged for getting rid of ants in the building
- With help from several volunteers took out weeds and spread mulch around the building and trees
- Got the vacuum cleaner repaired
- Purchased supplies for James
- Obtained three quotes to install exterior lighting
- Repaired remaining potholes in driveway
- Received input from six people regarding Storage Room contents

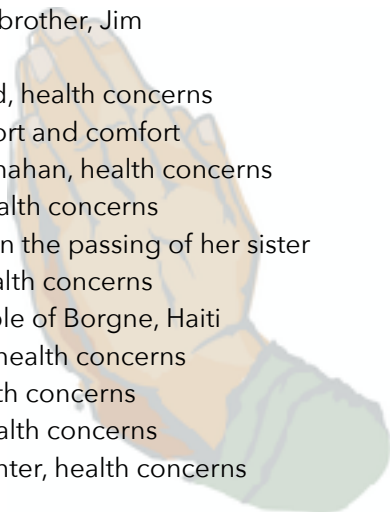
The new MRUCC signage to be installed in the next few months.



*We pray especially for these members, friends,
and loved ones of Mountain Rise:*

Please advise the church office of any changes.

- Kathy Nixon, health concerns
- Willard Family on the passing of Brad's father
- Mary Hershey's brother, Jim
- Linda Boesl
- Barbara Ackroyd, health concerns
- Jonathan, support and comfort
- Ann-Marie Bresnahan, health concerns
- Fred Thorne, health concerns
- Mary Hershey, on the passing of her sister
- John Meyer, health concerns
- HOPE and people of Borgne, Haiti
- Deb Sponable, health concerns
- Pam Miller, health concerns
- Dorie Starks, health concerns
- Kersting's daughter, health concerns
- Matt O.
- Kay Uthman



Mountain Rise has two updated assisted listening opportunities. One is a loop system to connect with individual hearing aids; the second is new headsets (located on the bench outside the sanctuary).

Anyone interested in learning how to connect hearing aids to the loop can contact Sherry Shaffer at sherks@rochester.rr.com.



Available

Pronoun stickers are available and are a great way to raise awareness about gender inclusiveness. Wear these in support of inclusivity: a simple act toward a just world.



Pastoral Care

If you feel a need for pastoral care or know of someone who does, and would like to meet with the on-call pastor, please contact the office by phone or e-mail. Respecting your need for privacy, our pastoral care team will not automatically call, or may not be aware of your need. Please let us know how we can help. Call 223-2433.

MOUNTAIN RISE

The UCC was founded in 1957 as the union of several different Christian traditions: from the beginning of our history, we were a church that affirmed the ideal that Christians did not always have to agree in order to live together in communion. The United Church of Christ is one of the most diverse Christian churches in the United States. To read stories about our history and future visit ucc.org.

- The United Church of Christ Seeks to...
- Be Inclusive, not Exclusive
 - Celebrate diverse membership & Christian belief
 - Be united and uniting, yet...
 - Affirm each congregation's autonomy
 - Be Committed to Justice & Peace

God is still speaking... life evolves. we evolve. faith must evolve...are we still listening?