

THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
 2 Mountain Rise
 Fairport, NY 14450
 Phone: (585) 223-2433
 Website: mtriseucc.org
 email office@mtriseucc.org



In this Issue:

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

Calendar

- Knitting, Tuesdays at 10:00AM
- ROMEOS, Fridays, 12:00PM
- First Monday Dinner & Discussion, April 7, 6:00 PM
- Game Night, April 8, 6:30-8:30PM
- Council Meeting, April 14, 3:00PM
- Open & Affirming Group, April 15, 7:00PM
- Service & Advocacy Meeting, April 13, 11:30AM
- Book Group, April 21, 7:30PM
- *****
- Spiritual Growth Group I, April 28, 7:15PM
- Spiritual Growth Group II, April 8, 7:15PM
- Spiritual Growth Group IV, April 2, 2:00 PM

The church office is staffed on Tuesdays 10:00am-3:00pm and Thursdays 12:30-3:00pm. If you need to contact staff or access to the building at an alternative time, please email or call: office@mtriseucc.org or 585-223-2433. Please don't hesitate to leave a telephone message.

First Monday meets on April 7.

Gather at 6:00, dinner at 6:30, speaker at 7:15
 Kim Fisher, Volunteer Manager
 Habitat for Humanity.



Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. Questions: Rod Walters 315-986-3087.



SATURDAY FUN NIGHT!

Regardless of age, come join us for...

GAME NIGHT



Saturday, **April 12**

Second Saturdays of the Month
 6:30-8:30 pm, Lower Fellowship Hall

Please bring a snack or drink to share as well as games to play.

No Sign-up is necessary.

Questions? Contact Rob Stevens at 314-1938 or robertstevens11@gmail.com

Etz Chaim cordially invites the Mountain Rise Community to its annual

Pesach (Passover) Seder Dinner at



Congregation Etz Chaim April 13, 6pm
If able please bring a side dish that is Passover-Kosher, (no dairy: it is a meat meal, no foods that expand in water, etc.)
RSVP by April 7 - 223-2433

everything [in] between

Our Lenten theme, "Everything In Between," encourages us to approach life's polarities with more faith, intention, and openness to transformation. During Lent, we'll try to go beyond easy answers and notice the dichotomies that define our lives. We'll imagine where God might be meeting us. This Lent, we'll discover that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6

Righteous & Mercy – A woman anoints Jesus' feet



Palm and Passion Sunday, April 13

Shouting, Remembering & Silence – Jesus enters Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 pm

Shadows & Silence – Communion & Tenebrae



Good Friday, April 18, 12 noon until 7 pm

Dead & Living – Self-Guided Worship focusing upon contemporary renditions of the Stations of the Cross by the artist Lauren Wright Pittman.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Grief & Hope – The women grieve and Peter runs to the tomb



Easter Flowers:



All who are interested in contributing donations to the Easter Flower Fund, please place this sheet and your donation (cash or checks payable to Mountain Rise) in the offering basket or mail to the church office.

Dedications may be made in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of loved ones or friends, or any dedication that you feel is appropriate.

This dedication is given by: (Please Print Clearly)

In memory of/in honor of/in celebration of/other: (circle one)

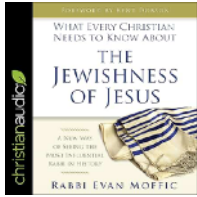
(Please Print Clearly)

Amount of Donation \$ _____

Deadline: Monday, April 14

A list of dedications will be available on Easter Sunday. Those contributing may take home a plant following the April 20, 10:00 AM Worship.





“What Every Christian Needs to Know about the Jewishness of Jesus”

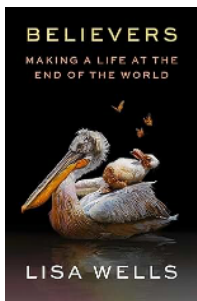
A Lenten Study Program
Mondays, through April 14, 1-3pm
 at Mountain Rise

Open to anyone wishing to study the Jewishness of Jesus.

Soulful Soup Wednesdays

The next Soulful Soup will be on Wednesday,
April 16 at 5:30pm.
 Fellowship Hall, lower level

Questions: contact Elisabeth Hammer or Dave Ackroyd.
COME WARM YOUR HEART and SOUL!



The Mountain Rise Book Group will meet via Zoom on **April 21 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *Believers: Making a Life at the End of the World* by Lisa Wells. Wells explores the responses of various groups and individuals to the reality facing us of global catastrophe due to climate change. In addressing this reality they are all trying to answer the question: How do you make a life at the end of the world? From environmentalist Christians and wildfire survivors to botanists and eccentric individuals, she explores how these trailblazers are taking actions to answer this question.

We hope you will join us for an interesting discussion. There are a few books available in the library, but copies can be purchased from Amazon. If you are unable to read the book, you are welcome to join the discussion anyway as we all are facing this question. If you plan to attend, please contact Rick Watkins (rwatkins12rochester.rr.com) to receive a link to the meeting.

JULIET's will meet Friday, **April 25 at 12:00pm**, Chakara Sushi & Bar, 7328 Pittsford Palmyra Rd, Fairport. Questions: Please contact Sue Pixley 585-425-1414 or send an email to susanbpixley@gmail.com.

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.

- Arranged for repairs to the elevator
- Purchased and installed a replacement emergency exit sign
- Completed 3-year leases for PNS and Etz Chaim
- Approved contract for lawn mowing
- Arranged for repair of sink drain
- Completed the installation of upgraded door security system



Perinton Food Shelf Needs



An Emergency Food Relief Organization

Perinton Shelf Food Needs:

Listed below is what we really need. Please remember we do not accept expired food and jumbo size isn't always the best as they won't fit into our boxes or make them too heavy.

We need: granola bars, brownie mixes, strawberry and grape jelly, diced tomatoes, bagged plain rice, dried potatoes, canned Spaghettios, Beefaroni, ravioli, beef stew, corned beef hash, baked beans, sloppy joes/Manwich, coffee, tea, 64 oz. bottled juice, deodorant, and toothbrushes.

Also needed: sturdy plastic reusable grocery bags like Wegmans, clean and in good shape, they would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Service and Advocacy For Justice and Peace



Habitat for Humanity Gala

Mountain Rise UCC and other local churches have been in partnership with Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity for many years. We have volunteered our time and talent. Here is another opportunity to help!

On **April 4, 2025** Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring a gala event, called **Framing the Future**. Last year over \$200,000 was raised and is being used to provide affordable housing for low income people in Monroe and neighboring counties.

If you would like to join others from MRUCC at this event, please contact Len Leger at 360 216-3363 or lenleger45@gmail.com for further information.

Quick Facts:

Gala Location: Arbor Midtown, 183 East Main Street, Rochester

Cost: \$250.00 per person (\$175 tax deductible)

Complimentary Valet available

Dress: Cocktail attire, open bar at 6PM; dinner at 7:15PM



What about **Church World Service (CWS)** health kits? CWS is a cooperative mission of Protestant denominations. We support two of their projects: health kits and school kits. Currently the focus is on health and menstrual kits. These supplies are collected at a center in Baltimore and shipped out from there as needed. A CWS truck will pick up Rochester area kits in May and take them to the center. All Mountain Rise members and friends are invited to provide one or more kits by picking up bags with a list of items needed. If you are unable to shop, you can donate \$15 for another person to shop for you.

Mountain Rise health and menstrual kits are requested by **April 13**, Palm Sunday. If more time is needed, May 4th is the final opportunity to be included in our 2025 collection. Thank you for thinking of folks who do not have access to these basic items. Contact Fran Stiles for more information.

[Mountain Rise New Branch](#)

Mountain Rise's support of Sobriety Sounds

Last year Sobriety Sounds received a \$4,000.00 Endowment Grant from Mountain Rise. With an additional donation from an individual, they are in the process of producing a documentary called "Insanity in America: The Pursuit of Sobriety Sounds to Address Addiction Recovery Differently" .

We are glad to give you an update of their progress and look forward to watching the finished product.

Attached to the newsletter email is a link to Sobriety Sounds update.

Justice and Peace Action Network (JPANet)

Looking for a Way to Take Positive Action?

This network is the grassroots advocacy of the United Church of Christ across the country. The JPANet both educates and engages its members in shaping public policy in keeping with God's vision of a just and loving society. Its work is grounded in General Synod resolutions, consistent with historic UCC witness, and formed by a biblical understanding of prophetic ministry.

Sign up below to join the network and receive weekly action alerts in your email about UCC justice issues.

[Click here](#)



Open & Affirming Group Meeting
Tuesday, April 15
at 7:00 pm
at Mountain Rise
YOU are Welcome!

Service and Advocacy Meeting Scheduled

Next meeting is on April 13, 11:30 am

Children's Ministry

Spring has sprung! Sunlight has been shining through the windows and blue windy skies seem to beckon us to get outside, walk, sit quietly, whatever your fancy but to enjoy the beauty that is offered everyday this time of year.

April brings a sense of new life, rebirth and a reminder that we as people of faith take time to think about how we are part of that wonderful perspective, as it is for much of the world. Easter Lilies, bunnies, colored eggs, the clothed cross, a special offering, all painting a picture centered on the renewal of life and our faith.

Sunday school is looking forward to waking up the pollinator garden on the lower level and maybe planting something to add to its beauty. An Earth Day service on May 18 is something the children and the Green Team hope to work on together. Hoping to express and speak about how we honor the Earth, its bountiful beauty and grandeur, by using music, statements from the kids, and the Green Team all hoping to capture the love and care and attention we need to offer in return.

Lent is coming to a close and Easter is not far away. The children will conclude their Sunday school time this season by creating a prayer. We will be thinking and exploring how we sometimes need to be aware of people in our community and wider world who are marginalized and do not have what we may take for granted. Our next Service Project (Thank you Sheila L!), will be making colorful large flowers that will be given to church members and some community nursing care facilities. We will also explore and talk about how each of us have gifts to offer each other, to our families and to our world around us.

LOCK IN DAY service project is still in the works, date to be determined. Confirmation is still finding a friendly time and space to gather every other Sunday, most recently exploring the History of Christianity. We discovered it's a long timeline that continues to change.

The fish and plants continue to flourish and greet us each Sunday, ready to listen to our conversation, laughing, quiet moments and reflections from the last week. A special space welcoming, safe, warm and often joyful that reaches out to every corner. Wishing each of you a wonderful start to Spring, warmer weather, t-shirts worn with ease, lemonade maybe on the back porch, gardens waiting to be planted, the long-awaited projects to be started and maybe even some of the routines that couldn't happen in the cold months can now begin due to the change of seasons. Sending out gracious joy to each of you!!

Elisabeth Hammer, Her/she/hers
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Church Council

Council Monthly Meetings

You are welcome to attend Council meetings. The next meeting is **Monday, April 14, 3:00 pm.**

Your Council Members:

John Amrine, Chair
Jane Pierce, Vice-Chair
Kathy Nixon, Council Secretary
Jennifer Leger, At-Large
Nancy Stark, At-Large
Rick Watkins, At-Large
Nicky McClain, Communications Committee Chair

From the Nominating Committee:

As per the Mountain Rise UCC Bylaws (Article IX.B.2.b.), the **Nominating Committee is posting the open positions for the 2025-2026 church year** with terms beginning September 1, 2025. The committee has been working diligently to encourage congregants to serve Mountain Rise through leadership. Deadline for submission of candidate names is **May 18**. Click on the PDF to view the posting attached to the newsletter mail.

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 - Gail McClain

Pastoral Search Committee:

Matt Deknatel, chair
Kathy Simpson, vice chair
Kirsten Erman, secretary
Ted Nixon, chaplain
Linda Boesl
Faye Eaton
Gary Schaefer

The search team finished the profile and it has been submitted to the conference to post. We thank you for your patience during this process.

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

Please advise the church office of any changes.

Rabbi David Abraham, health concerns
 Speicher family, on Katie's passing
 Don Sherman, health concerns
 Jerry Kersting and family, on Sally's passing
 Marcia Mock and family, on John's passing
 Janel Egli, health concerns
 HOPE and people of Borgne, Haiti
 Dorie Starks, health concerns
 Scott Parsons, health concerns
 Jonathan, support and comfort
 Fred Thorne, health concerns
 Deb Sponable, health concerns
 Pam Miller, health concerns
 Kersting's daughter, health concerns
 Matt O.



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.

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!
 FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google play



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.

Caring for Each Other

Are you facing a health challenge or other need for a caring connection? Do you know someone else at Mountain Rise in need? Our pastoral care team (Pastor Kelly Sprinkle, Sherry Shaffer, and Cheryl Pipkin) may not be aware of the situation or that contact would be welcomed. Please let us know how we can help by calling 585-223-2433 or sending an email to office@mtriseucc.org.

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?