

THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
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- Council Updates
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Calendar

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

- Game Night, resumes in September
- Men's Group, resumes in October
- Stephen Ministry Group II, July 11 & 25 and August 8 & 22, 7:00PM
- Council Meeting, July 10, 7:00PM
- Stephen Ministry Group I, July 6 & 20 and August 3 & 17, 4:00PM
- Service & Advocacy Meeting, July 9, 11:30AM
- Book Group Annual Meeting, July 31, 6:30PM
- Spiritual Growth Group I, July 24 & August 28, 7:15PM
- Spiritual Growth Group II, July 17, 7:15PM
- Spiritual Growth Group III, July 25, 7:15PM

Outdoor worship begins July 2, 10:00am



With summer comes Red Wings Baseball. If you would like to see a game, a group is being formed for one of the following dates. Please select all the dates you are available. We'll plan to attend the one with the most selections.

- July 6
- July 18 (half price tickets)
- Aug 8 (half price tickets)
- Aug 10



All games start at 6:45 PM. We'll meet at the Church at 5:45 PM and car pool from there.

I'll get the tickets and you can reimburse me at the Church.

For reservations and questions, contact Rod Walters at 315-986-3087 or rw1392@gmail.com.



Heidi and Tim Tyler

Tim worked in Human Resource Management at Xerox, retiring after 30 years. He then worked part-time in real estate.

Heidi is a retired Registered Nurse, retired Science and Health teacher and an “active” retired U.C.C. minister. She served as pastor of Immanuel U.C.C. in Ontario, N.Y.

She and Tim have three children and eight grandchildren.

Bob Lynn

Grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Raised as Presbyterian, went to Episcopal prep school, graduated from U.N.C. at Chapel Hill where my horizons were stretched to see the world in a new and more accepting light. After divorce, I moved to Hartford where I joined AA. That changed everything in my life in a better way. The reason I'm still here at 85 is because I quit drinking. I now feel I'm home with a group of God's children who get it. It's all about love and acceptance. I've been praying for the courage to change me. I've found the group that will help me. I'm so grateful. Thank you.

Property Committee at Work!

- Made final arrangements for a property survey and observed the initial work.
- Discussed drainage project with town authorities.
- Arranged for replacement of outside water tap.
- Purchased new vacuum cleaner and provided instructions to James.
- Removed tree that fell and cut off unsightly branches of another tree that was down.
- Purchased several 5-gallon containers of floor polish for the annual stripping and re-waxing of all tiled floors.
- Cleared weeds in lower wooded area to improve visibility of the building from Rt. 31.



NEEDED: empty paper towel and toilet paper cardboard rolls for an activity planned for August. Please leave them in the labeled basket just outside the office.

The Communications Committee has designed a new MRUCC tee shirt to be worn in the upcoming Pride Parade, for any church-related activities and anytime we are out and about. The shirts will arrive by July 10. Orders for short and long sleeved adult shirts (sizes small to 3X) \$20 and small, medium and large youth sizes \$15 are being taken by Nicky McClain (nickymcclain@gmail.com) and Kathy Nixon (knixon326@gmail.com). Color: Columbia Blue.





At Mountain Rise UCC we have a great variety of groups, teams, committees, and activities which provide opportunities for our members and friends to share their interests, time, caring and expertise

with others, and to experience the joy of deepening relationships with other participants or helping others.

While some of our groups and committees are well known to most Mountain Risers, there are many others about which less is known, such as their purpose, how one becomes a member, what talents are utilized, how often they meet, etc.

So in this and future newsletters we will be placing in the spotlight various groups and activities that bring life, joy and creativity to Mountain Rise. In our newsletter this month we are spotlighting spiritual growth groups.

Spiritual Growth Groups

Spiritual Growth groups started about seven years ago, using the idea of covenant groups brought by Bill Holliday from his winter church in Florida. The current facilitators of the groups are Jack Heister and Rick Watkins. There are currently three groups, but we look forward to more groups forming.

The Spiritual Growth groups provide participants with a warm and safe place to share life experiences and talk about the most important aspects in the living of life. Each group decides how they will conduct their group. Typically, a group:

1. Numbers about 8-10 (not too large)
2. Meets monthly
3. Meets for about two hours (important to keep time frame)
4. Maintains ground rules of confidentiality, not interrupting, and taking turns
5. Has an agenda
 - a. All share experiences and concerns from the past month (~30 min)
 - b. Discuss a program topic (~1 hr)
 - c. Begin and/or end the meeting with a ritual, a prayer or a thought

Where and when a group meets, whether they have refreshments, and topics for discussion are decided by each group.

The essence of each group is in the sharing of each person's life experiences and faith on a given topic for the evening. Each individual in a group shares what they are comfortable sharing with the group. Greater understanding, closer relationships, and joy arise from the listening and sharing.

If you would like to learn more about spiritual growth groups or are interested in forming or joining a spiritual growth group, contact Jack Heister (jsheister@gmail.com 585-732-3393) or Rick Watkins (rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com 585-203-1629). They can provide you with more information and refer you to others who can share their experiences participating in a group.

NEW ART DISPLAY in September 2023

The Art Committee of Mountain Rise invites members of Mountain Rise to submit art to be considered for display in the library room gallery in September. If you have an original work of art which you would like to display, please contact Jack Heister (624-7635, jsheister@gmail.com), Rick Watkins (203-1629, rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com), Lynn Hazelton (586-3195, lhazelton@frontiernet.net), or Linda Marzano (766-8584, lindart2943@gmail.com). Guidelines for submitting your art can be obtained from the art committee members or from Barbara in the church office. Art being submitted for the September display will be accepted in the church office the last week of August.



Planning a meeting/event? Please contact Barbara in the Mountain Rise office to schedule your meeting/event and avoid calendar conflicts!

Church Council

Happy Summer, Mountain Rise Family!

With the summer comes the end of the church's governance year. Now of course I realize that I have signed up (and YOU have accepted me) for another church governance year as your Council Chair. Before that second year begins, I owe a bucketload of thanks to many people:

- At Mountain Rise we have many committees and teams led by talented and passionate people. I am grateful to all of you for those talents and the energy you and your numerous members bring to strengthen this church community.
- In January we were blessed to welcome Pastor Kelly into our church's transition time. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him and look forward to another year of his guidance, wisdom, and encouragement.
- Gail McClain, Council Past Chair, and Barbara Jackson, Administrative Assistant...not only did they "train" me for the job of Council Chair, I might have to clone them to help train me for my personal life too. Thank you, Gail and Barbara, for keeping everything from falling apart- especially my nerves.
- Council members: Linda Boesl, Kathy Nixon, Carol James, Rob Stevens, and Gary Schaefer, I am so grateful to have worked with you this year as the team we call Council. It was your humor, your grace and your support that made all the difference to me this year. I would work with this group of people on any project in a heartbeat.
- Lastly, the entire Mountain Rise family...THANK YOU for your faith in me as a church leader. I truly appreciated your patience as I learned the job and didn't always get everything correct in the moment. Your kind emails and in-person comments were always an encouraging boost for me just when I needed them.

September will bring a new Council and a new governance year. Mountain Risers, our church is moving forward with energy, commitment, and joy with confidence that God has great plans for us and our community locally, and beyond. It is my hope (and plan 😊) that we all continue to foster the joy, and may others see the joy and say, "this is the place where I belong".

Best wishes for a wonderful summer,
Faye Eaton
Council Chair



Your Council Members:

Faye Eaton, Chair
 Position Vacant, Vice-Chair
 Carol James, Council Secretary
 Gary Schaefer, At-Large
 Linda Boesl, At-Large
 Rob Stevens, At-Large
 Kathy Nixon, Communications Committee Chair

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

Council Monthly Meetings

You are welcome to attend Council meetings. At present they are scheduled to be held on the second **Monday** of each month at 7:00 pm at church; next scheduled meeting is **September 11**.

Mark Your Calendars Now. The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, the ninth General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will be at Mountain Rise United Church of Christ for **Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27.** When the Transition Team invited John to join us, he



immediately said, "Yes" He will be making a presentation on Saturday, August 26 and everyone is encouraged to attend. He will also be preaching during worship on Sunday, August 27.

John insists that the Holy Spirit envisions a future in which the United Church of Christ matters. He calls on congregations to rethink and to consider new ways of being church in light of institutional religion's changing landscape, emerging shifts in the generational populations, and life after COVID. John's book *Beyond Resistance: the Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World* is a call to the body of Christ to accept what the Spirit of the Risen Christ is doing to birth something new, vital, and relevant — all towards nurturing the Beloved Community.

The Transition Team recently read John's book, and now invites you to discover John's honest and hopeful outlook for the church.

The Rev. Cameron Trimble, the founder and CEO of Convergence (The Center for Progressive Renewal) has said, "John Dorhauer shows us a way forward to a new and hopeful future. Our best days in the Church are ahead and John—through his vision expressed in this book—is leading the way."

John's book, *Beyond Resistance: the Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*, is available in the church office.

Please join us in welcoming John Dorhauer to Mountain Rise on **Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27.**

Children & Youth

What a wonderful Church School season it has been! It was a pleasure for me to see each of you each Sunday!

The garden is flourishing, and the classroom has been put to rest until September.

Watch for a special date in August to come and have fun...

We will be spending the afternoon..A DAY OF KINDNESS AND CARING... creating useful items that are helpful for us, and the planet too...treating ourselves to pizza after all our hard work.

Children, youth, families, everyone is welcome to participate!

Enjoy your summertime travels, activities and free time. Remember to find a bit of joy and bliss each day!!!

See you in worship now and then!

N'Joy,

Elisabeth Hammer

Child and Youth Ministry Coordinator

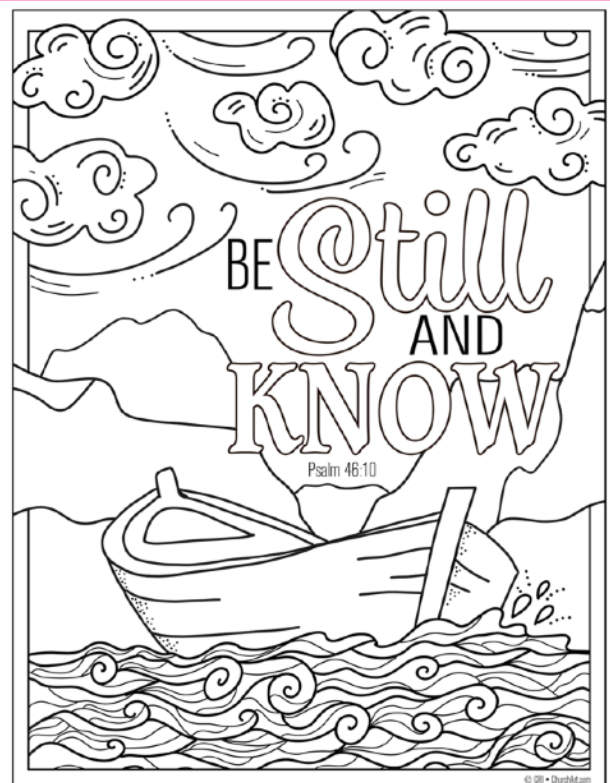
PS Look for...

Teacher/helper Orientation - early September

Sunday School open house for everyone - Mid September

Welcome Back Breakfast(children, parents, teachers) - Mid September

Safety Sunday - October



Mountain Rise's High School Grad



Douglas Tavolette

What is your earliest memory of school? My earliest memory in school was the first day of Kindergarten where everyone rode the bus with their parents to school for a day. All I remember from that day is sitting next to my mom on the bus, looking at the school building.

Is there a teacher/s (or class) who has had a great impact on you? What makes that teacher (or class) stand out in your memory? My Computer Science classes with Mr. Wuest were by far my favorite classes. Before every test, we would play Computer Science Jeopardy, with the prize being bonus points. Mr. Wuest was also amazing at helping other students and I understand challenging topics, and he is a large part of why I have decided to major in Software Engineering.

Are you involved in any extracurricular activities? I participated in Boy Scouts and Marching Band throughout High School, and I joined my school's Robotics Team my Junior year.

Do you have a special memory/ies of your time at MRUCC? Whenever I think of MRUCC, I think about what an accepting community we are, and how everyone has always been there for me whenever I needed something. As for specific memories, I don't have any, but instead I have a warm feeling of gratitude.

Is there advice you would like to give younger teens and preteens? Talk to the adults of the congregation, they are amazing people and have many stories to share, whether they have a life lesson, or just a funny memory. Another thing to keep in mind is that everyone here is rooting for you and that you should never feel like you have to hide who you really are.

What are your plans for the future? I will be attending RIT for Software Engineering. Since I was accepted into their accelerated combined master's/bachelor's degree program, I will likely be graduating with both in just 4 years of school and a year of co-op.

Have you received special awards or honors during your high school years? I graduated with *magna cum laude*, as an AP Scholar, part of the National Honor Society, and as an Eagle Scout.

What is your dream? My dream is to help make the world a better place by working for environmentally-minded companies to help push our society towards using more sustainable energy sources and by improving cybersecurity for any relevant online sites.

What do you see yourself doing ten years from now? I see myself working for a tech company somewhere in the United States. I don't have my heart set on any one company or location, but I want to be somewhere that actively makes positive changes in the world.



Book Group

The Mountain Rise Book Group will be meeting at church on Monday, July 31st, at 6:30 pm for their annual meeting to compile recommendations for books to read in the coming year. We will enjoy appetizers, desserts and socializing before sharing our book recommendations. If you are interested in participating in book group, this would be a great time to meet people, learn about book group and the books we will be reading this year.

There is one important change in book group for the coming year. We will be meeting on the third Monday of each month instead of the third Tuesday. So our September meeting will be held on Sept. 18th at 7:30 pm. Join us! Contact Rick Watkins (rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com) to be added to our email list.



Service and Advocacy

For Justice and Peace



Saturday, July 15
Rochester Pride Parade

We welcome you to

WALK or WATCH

Parade starts at 1:00pm

Be part of God's Wonderland

We Welcome

ALL COLORS,
ALL GENDERS,
ALL STATUSES,
ALL NATIONALITIES,
ALL ORIENTATIONS,
ALL RELIGIONS,
ALL CULTURES,
ALL ABILITIES,
ALL AGES,
ALL SIZES,
ALL PEOPLE.



Sign up for Walking or Watching
on the Kiosk at church

Perinton Food Shelf Needs

An Emergency Food Relief Organization

Needed: Coffee, cake mix, brownie mix, frosting, tomato sauce around 15 oz.(NOT spaghetti sauce), paper towels, facial tissues, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, cooking oil, salad dressing, canned peaches, and canned beef stew.

Thank you so much for your support. You can always check the web site to find the current Food Shelf needs. It is www.perintonfoodshelf.org.

New plan for Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity (GRHFH)

Our Perinton Coalition faith community has been active for over 20 years, funding and building in the Rochester area. We have provided newly-constructed homes for qualified home owners every three years and are looking to continue our involvement.

Other churches have not been that fortunate.

Several churches have had money but few workers. Others had plenty of workers and but lacked the financial piece.

We have now joined with six other faith-based groups to fund and build a home every year.

- Name: Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders

- We will fund and build a home every year.

-Mountain Rise will continue its yearly financial support.

-Mountain Rise will recruit workers every 3 years starting next year (2024).

-There will be opportunities for working on this year's build at 108 Ackerman St. in the Beechwood area in the fall.

See Bill Holliday or Nick McClain for more information.

Service and Advocacy Meeting Scheduled

Next meeting is July 9, 11:30am after worship.

Staying Connected With Honduras



Photo from Asociacion LIDERA website

David Gradiz, who visited Mountain Rise UCC in 2017 has been a very important connection helping us stay in touch with *Viviendo en Amor y Fe*. His being bilingual certainly helps.

Last year during a few email exchanges at Christmas time, I learned a little bit about his wife's work to start a non-profit organization called Asociacion LIDERA. David's wife, Evelyn Cantor, has been working for three years to start a school for young children. Recently Evelyn and I have exchanged a few emails. With the help of Google Translate I was excited to learn about the new organization.

Evelyn wrote " I want to share with you about Asociacion LIDERA. For 3 years I have been interested in starting a school for children in our community. I want to help children with education to boost early stimulation, early development of reading and writing, and improvement of mathematical reasoning skills. I want to create a space to introduce them to art, leadership, English, and entrepreneurship from the early childhood stages."

The following link is to the Asociacion Lidera website: <https://alidera.org/>

Asociacion LIDERA will use space at *Viviendo en Amor y Fe* and pay rent to the church.

Evelyn continued saying "We need to generate income in order to fund this nonprofit. That is why we are putting together an online English academy for children and adults who want to learn English in Honduras; the profits from this initiative will be used to fund the operations of Asociacion LIDERA. This academy will recruit American volunteers who want to collaborate and be part of this project."

The online English Academy is <https://alidera.org/interactive-language-academy>

And the exciting part is we can help. We can volunteer. Mountain Rise people can be volunteers helping Hondurans learn English. You do not need to speak Spanish. This helps Asociacion LIDERA, the children and *Viviendo en Amor y Fe*. If interested in learning more about Lidera or even being an online volunteer please contact Nicky McClain at nickymcclain@gmail.com or ask me about it when you see me.

The Fatherhood Connection

You may be wondering why an outdated advertisement for a Men's Parenting & Personal Development program is appearing in the Mountain Rise Monthly Newsletter.



Well, Reginald and Renee Cox are Mountain Rise neighbors and run a non-profit organization called Fatherhood Connections. They work with fathers, helping them to be better parents and develop a better relationship with their children.

They offer 6 - 13 week programs in Rochester and surrounding counties. Service and Advocacy hopes to learn more about the program and how we may partner with them. Questions? Please speak with Kathy Nixon, Nicky McClain or watch for more information to come.

Immigration

Most American citizens are the progeny of immigrants, so immigration has long been part of our country's history and ongoing conversation. In the past few years, there has been a dramatic surge in the numbers of people trying to cross at our southern border, and this reality has resulted in diverse suggestions and solutions for addressing the problem.

Title 42, which was implemented in March of 2020 by the Trump administration, was actually from a law that dated back to 1944. According to Deepa Shivaram of NPR, this public health order was implemented in order to counter the spread of communicable diseases. With the spread of Covid-19, the 78-year-old law was reapplied to our most recent health threat. According to Shivaram, however, it was never "imagined to operate as central to the debate over immigration and asylum law" (3).

As of 11:59 PM, May 11, 2023, Title 42 is no longer the law. Title 8 is now the controlling mechanism to process and remove migrants who do not meet the criteria for crossing legally. "On April 27, 2023 the US Department of State (State) and US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced sweeping new measures to further reduce unlawful migration across the Western Hemisphere, significantly expand pathways for protection, and facilitate the safe, orderly and human processing of migrants" (Fact Sheet: State and DHS, 1). This initiative attempts to manage the flow of migrants by requiring the migrants to use legal avenues if they wish to enter the US. If they don't abide by these new terms, they will be flown back to their country of origin and denied reentry for at least five years.

The government fact sheet to which I'm referring actually organizes its discussion of measures to be used into three categories: Imposing Stiffer Consequences for Failing to Use Lawful Pathways, Humanely Managing Migration Flows with Regional Partners, and Facilitating Safe, Orderly, and Humane Processing of Migrants. It is from the second of these that I am elaborating on in the following paragraph. These are merely highlights; please consult the short article in its entirety by following the link at the end of this article.

Several countries are working together to set up regional processing centers (RPCs) where migrants can legally sign up for asylum by phone (2). In addition, an aggressive campaign targeting criminal networks was implemented on April 20, 2023 by Panama, Columbia, (in South America) and the US. The campaign is focused on "disrupting criminal networks that encourage the illegal movement of people. Smugglers use disinformation to profit off vulnerable migrants. To combat this tactic, the three countries cited above are collaborating to broadcast accurate information (Ibid). Thirdly, the program increases the number of flights for people who need to be returned to their home base because they did not meet the terms for migrating. Finally, Title 8 intends to combat the misinformation of smugglers and to encourage all government officials not to contribute to misinformation tactics (Ibid). Migrants are encouraged to use one or several of the eleven pathways to migration as described in this document.

The challenges to providing humane, compassionate treatment are real. The question for us remains: How can we help?

Jim Mietz and the Team for Universal Justice

Shuvaram, Deepa. What to Know about Title 42, the Trump-era Policy Now Central to the Border Debate. Online posting. 24 April, 2022. NPR Hourly News Live Playlist. www.npr.org/2022/04/24/1094070784/title-42-polict-meaning.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Fact Sheet: U.S. Government Announces Sweeping New Actions to Manage Regional Migration. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/04/27/fact-sheet-us-government-announces-sweeping-new-actions-manage-regional-migration>.


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.

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.

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.

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

Please advise the church office of any changes.

- Family & Friends of Marilyn Williams on her passing
- Aamir & Family on the passing of their Aunt Pam Miller, health concerns
- Dorie Starks, health concerns
- Barbara Ackroyd, health concerns
- Lisa Lydum, health concerns
- Phoebe Coats, health concerns
- Kersting's daughter, health concerns
- Matt O.
- John Meyer
- Gary Bresnahan
- Wilan Uthman
- 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.

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?