

# THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ  
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- Council Updates
- Hearing Loop Info
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## Calendar

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

- Men's Group, November 6, 6:00PM
- Game Night, November 11, 6:30-8:30PM
- Council Meeting, November 13, 4:00PM
- Service & Advocacy Meeting, November 8, 3:00PM
- Book Group October 16, 7:30PM
- Spiritual Growth Group I, November 27, 7:15PM
- Spiritual Growth Group II, November 14, 7:15PM



The Rev. Dr. Kelly Sprinkle will be away November 3-7. Please call the office if pastoral care is needed.

Barbara Jackson will be away November 2-7.



Men's Group meets on Monday, November 6. Gathering is at 6:00 PM, dinner at 6:30 and the program is at 7:15. The speaker is a retired Naval Intelligence Officer with 27 years of service. His topic is North Korea.

Everyone is invited to the dinner and program. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Church office.



The Mountain Rise **Apple Pie Workshop** is back! Mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 5th, 11:30-2:00 pm**, for an all-ages make-your-own apple pie workshop in the lower fellowship hall. Ingredients and utensils will be provided, though everyone is encouraged to bring your own pie tins, rolling pins or apple corers. Sign-ups will be on the bulletin board, or you can contact Steve Grace directly ([sgrace@dgrace.com](mailto:sgrace@dgrace.com), 585-200-9545).

## SATURDAY FUN NIGHT!

*Regardless of age, come join us for...*

## GAME NIGHT

Saturday, **November 11**

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](mailto:robertstevens11@gmail.com)





In this and future newsletters we will be placing in the spotlight various groups and activities that bring fellowship, joy and creativity to Mountain

Rise. If you would like your group or committee to be highlighted in the Spotlight, please contact Rick Watkins.

### **The Property Committee**

*Walt Hazelton, Property Chair*

*Rod Walters, Cochair*

The Property Committee is responsible for maintaining the building, grounds, and equipment owned by the church.

Walt Hazelton, the current chair, keeps very busy with a variety of essential tasks. He supervises our custodian and the various teams that do some of the work of the committee. He negotiates and signs contracts with outside businesses that provide lawn mowing, snow removal, equipment maintenance, painting, insurance, etc. He works with the Council to arrange for the use of our building by outside groups. He arranges for required inspections of our elevator, the boiler, fire extinguishers, and the building. He prepares an annual budget for property expenses and provides research and expertise for proposed capital projects.

There are several teams that help to do the work of the Property Committee. The *Ground Maintenance* Team does cleanup, tree removal and pruning, and special plantings of shrubs. The *Gardening* Team plants and cares for flowers and small shrubs. The *Repair* Team does minor equipment repair, and maintains our building in a variety of ways (painting, plumbing, light bulb replacement, etc. The *Technology* Team purchases, programs and maintains our computers, TVs, projectors, and microphones. The *Security* Team monitors our doors and our security system.

Maintaining the integrity and beauty of our church property requires the help of many hands! If you have an interest or a special talent in any of the areas described above, talk with Walt or Rod about how you can help to maintain our church property. You will find it a rewarding experience.

**The handbell choir** is reconvening for the fall, with rehearsals starting after church on October 29 for a December 17 service appearance. This is an ideal time for new ringers to join. If you are interested, please contact Janice Hanson at [jkhanon616@gmail.com](mailto:jkhanon616@gmail.com) for further information. Prior handbell experience is not necessary.

**Fall CLEAN-UP** at Mountain Rise. It's time to get ready for winter. On **November 4, 9:00 AM** bring your rakes, tarps and leaf blowers. Many hands make light work and saves Mountain Rise money. There may need to be another day scheduled for the late droppings, stay tuned.

Coffee, juice and donuts will be available in the kitchen.

A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board.

### **Property Committee at Work!**

The following are a few more of the projects and tasks managed by the Property Committee during the past few months with assistance from volunteers. Other tasks were identified in last month's Newsletter.

- Replaced pilot light on stove
- Resealed and re-stripped upper parking area
- Re-stripped speed bumps
- Arranged for replacing large front window
- Reviewed storage concerns with Nursery personnel
- Replaced emergency key for upper bathroom
- Stained exterior siding near main entrance
- Arranged for replacing emergency door closure
- Repaired refrigerator door
- Removed grease from upper level pavers

Another spiritual growth group is forming are you interested? It will be led by Jenny and Len Leger. Typically 8-10 people meet one eve/mo rotating in participants' homes from 7-9 PM. A topic will be selected for each meeting such as 'gratitude' or 'forgiveness' or 'change', etc. No theological expertise required. Just reflecting on your own experiences with regard to the topic. Much fun laughter and warmth. Sign-up sheet will be posted. If interested talk to the Leger's, Rick Watkins, or Jack Heister.

## November Guest Preachers

The guest preachers for November are not strangers to Mountain Rise United Church of Christ.



On **Sunday, November 5**, the Rev. Sam Kinsman will be our guest preacher and communion celebrant. Sam is the Chaplain and Director of the University of Rochester's Protestant Chapel Community and the Chaplain for RIT's Progressive Chapel Community.

The Rev. Judith Medeiros will preach on **Sunday, November 26**. Judith, a very recently retired United Church of Christ minister, began attending Mountain Rise this past summer after moving to Fairport to be closer to family.



## Book Group

The Mountain Rise Book Group will meet on Zoom at 7:30 November 20 to discuss **Demon Copperhead: A Novel** by Barbara Kingsolver. In this story a boy born to a teenaged single mother, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, uses his caustic wit and fierce talent for survival to brave the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. In his own voice, Demon grapples with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities. Kingsolver, inspired by Charles Dickens' **David Copperfield**, revisits the impacts of institutional poverty and its damage to children which continue to challenge our society today.

To discuss the story and the issues so capably described by Kingsolver, RSVP to Rick Watkins at [rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com) or call him at (585)203-1629. We look forward to having you join us.

## Children & Youth

The season of Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and we have so much to be thankful for...

Each Sunday when I gather with the children and my co-teachers, I am thankful for the time we spend together. We learn from each other, often share ideas, and together, we make the day's lesson a gift in so many ways. I am also thankful that Mountain Rise can provide a safe, comfortable and welcoming place for its younger members.

Safety Sunday, October 29th will provide us the opportunity to do just that...a chance to empower our children and youth to speak up if they feel unsafe, and to learn some basic rules for personal safety. Something in this day and age, which is so very important.

November will be a time we explore ways to give to those who are less fortunate, to create ways to express a sense of thanks to family, friends and others in our lives, and to create/write a "Prayer of Thanks" that we can share with the wider church community.

Gratitude, Graciousness, and Gratefulness....a trio for the season.

May you each find a place and time for each one in your little corner of the world.

With a Grateful Heart,

Elisabeth 🍁

Child and Youth Ministry Coordinator  
[ehammer@mtriseucc.org](mailto:ehammer@mtriseucc.org)  
 585-244-9690 (cell)



Photos from October 22 Sunday School lesson. How we are shaped, molded, carved by God and other people in our life.

Volunteer needed to clean Mountain Rise votive candle holders. Contact the [office@mtriseucc.org](mailto:office@mtriseucc.org) if you are able to complete this task. Thank you for your consideration!

# Church Council

I'm a calendar girl. With all due respect to Neil Sedaka, I am a calendar girl because I am never too far away from mine. Before the end of each year, I happily make a trip to Staples to pick out just the right calendar for the next year...one with a month-at-a-time view, one that must have tabs for each month, the month must have day boxes with lines inside and it must have margin space for my notes. The month view is the most important feature so that I can look over the past, present and future months as whole entities. By each November, I have purchased my new year calendar and start preparing it for a running start in January. You should know that Mountain Rise has strengthened my relationship with my calendar and can fill up yours, if interested!

As I look back on my 2023 calendar, my months are full with Mountain Rise activities and gatherings. Of course there have been the typical meetings that a Council Chair needs to participate in, but those are not the only entries in my calendar. Mountain Rise has been bursting with activity this year! With the arrival of Pastor Kelly we have welcomed many guests into our church for worship including the Revs. Marsha Williams, Judith Medeiros, Sam Kinsman and John Dorhauer. Our Ministry Committees has brought us Alzheimer's Association speakers, guests from Witness Palestine and Haiti's H.O.P.E. Hospital. New teams have formed: the ad Hoc Safety and Security Team and the Technology Team. An Open and Affirming group meets to discuss our relationships with our LGBTQ+ loved ones and friends as a faith community. Spiritual Growth groups continue to meet and there is talk of new ones forming. The Rochester Habitat for Humanity, Rochester Climate March and the Rochester Gay Pride Parade has Mountain Risers moving for justice. Our knitters have been meeting regularly as have our gamers at monthly game nights. The Book Group discusses a book a month and this year has so many exciting selections. This is a small selection of the activities at Mountain Rise!

How does your calendar look for the next few months? November has just begun and your calendar can include the Saturday, 11/4 Game Night, the 11/5 Apple Pie Making event and our guest speaker Jeanne Gainsburg, author of *The Savvy Ally* on 11/12. It is also not too late to sign up for a dinner group or a book group discussion.

For a host of other Mountain Rise activities, check out the "In the Spotlight" feature of each church newsletter for descriptions of various groups. The Service and Advocacy mission fair posters are still available for viewing various justice partnerships Mountain Risers have committed to. Not sure what you might want to join or where you might fit in?? Let's do a tea (or coffee) date to discuss...I will put you on my calendar!

Blessings and Peace,

Faye Eaton  
Council Chair

## Update from the Transition Team

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on John Dorhauer's talks and his book [Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World](#). Now that your comments have been compiled and sorted, we are ready for the next steps. Are you ready?

We'd like to meet with each group for up to an hour to ask our four questions. Transition team members will pair up into twos to facilitate these gatherings. Don't worry if you are not in a group! Everyone's voice is important to us, so we will be reaching out to you. Your voice matters and this information will help direct the Search Committee in creating the Church Profile.

Thank you for your patience with this process and thank you for such thoughtful comments thus far.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk with any of the Transition Team members: Matt Deknatel, Roger James, Ted Nixon, Kathy Simpson, Liz Web.

### 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

### 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 **4:00 pm** at church; next scheduled meeting is **November 13**.



Along with the changing leaves and the brisk weather comes the time for us to consider our 2024 contributions for the many ministries of the Mountain

Rise Church including the work of the Ministry and Governance Committees, Council, and our Intentional Interim Pastor.

This year Stewardship Sunday is November 12th. At this time a Preliminary Budget will be presented, and pledge packages made available. On subsequent Sundays we will have brief presentations on the proposed initiatives of the Caring Connections Committee, the Service & Advocacy Committee, and the Communications Committee.

We look forward to seeing you on the 12<sup>th</sup>, [Jerry Kersting](#) Finance Committee

**From the MRUCC Ad Hoc Safety and Security Team:**

- If you are here for worship on Sunday or a meeting or project during the week, please make sure that the last one out of the building locks both the upper and lower entrance doors. This is easily done by taking the Allen wrench (little L-shaped piece of metal) from the hook above the doors, inserting it in the hole of the crash bars, and turning. The bars will pop OUT and the door will be locked. Check the door just to be sure it is latched as you leave. Thank you!
- The Safety and Security Team is looking for volunteers to lock up the church after Sunday worship services. There is a sign-up sheet on the clipboard outside of the church office for individual Sundays. On your chosen Sunday, a Safety and Security Team member will assist you in the lock-up protocol. Any questions? See Rod Walters, Doug Bloom, Averil Riley, or Faye Eaton.

**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

Mountain Rise New Branch

Ann Stevens has arranged to have pecans available this year at MRUCC. You may order bags of pecans by emailing or calling either Barbara in the church office or Ann at 334-6619, ahstevens222@gmail.com.



Orders will be arriving soon.

The pecans are \$13.00 per 16oz bag halves or pieces, \$11.00 per 12 oz bag of milk chocolate covered. Proceeds benefit various organizations that work with people who are blind and visually impaired.

Christmas decorating, Saturday, **December 2.**

Un-decorating **December 31.**



**Christmas Poinsettias**

All who are interested in contributing donations to the Christmas Poinsettia Fund, please complete 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)

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Please circle one: in **memory** of/ in **honor** of/ in **celebration** of/ or **other**: (Please Print Clearly)

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Amount of Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: Sunday, December 17**

*A list of dedications will be available Christmas Eve. Flowers may be taken home after Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols.*

# Service and Advocacy



## For Justice and Peace



**Please join us November 12<sup>th</sup> for a presentation by the amazing Jeannie Gainsberg, author of the book The Savvy Ally.**

This presentation will be after church, starting at 11:30. A light lunch will be available in the back of the sanctuary, so get your coffee and scoot on back into the sanctuary to hear Jeannie. She is an outstanding presenter! Please be sure to sign up so we can plan for food.

### **“Pronouns: How to Share, Use, Gather, and Mess Them Up”**

What’s the best way to ask people for their pronouns without making it awkward? Should I share my pronouns if they’re obvious? What do I do when I see two pronouns, like *she/they*? Should I use *they* for everyone whose pronouns I don't know? What should I do when I accidentally mess up someone’s pronouns? This workshop answers these questions and much more. Participants will leave this workshop with a strong understanding of why sharing their pronouns is a great ally action, improved odds of correctly addressing people, and more confidence in their ability to respectfully gather pronouns from others.

**Jeannie Gainsburg** is an award-winning educational trainer and consultant in the field of LGBTQ+ inclusion and effective allyship. Formerly the Education Director at the Out Alliance of Rochester, N.Y., she is the founder of Savvy Ally Action and author of the book, *The Savvy Ally: A Guide for Becoming a Skilled LGBTQ+ Advocate*. Jeannie has a BA in psychology from Brown University and an MA in social work and social research from Bryn Mawr College. She was under the impression that a citation was the result of driving too fast until January of 2019, when she received one from the New York State Assembly for Distinguished Educational & Human Rights Services for her work in promoting LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion. Her encouraging, passionate, and warm-hearted approach will jumpstart even the most tentative ally. Visit her website and download free ally goodies at: [www.savvyallyaction.com](http://www.savvyallyaction.com).

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS AT SALEM NUTRITION CENTER:**

We are collecting lip balm (such as Chapstick) to go in the gift bags given to guests at Salem Nutrition Center at Christmas. Please put them in the small basket in the lobby. We need to have them by Nov. 26 so that Salem UCC has time to assemble the bags. The guests love their gift bags; for many, their only Christmas gifts.

### **Perinton Food Shelf Needs**

#### **An Emergency Food Relief Organization**

Needed: tea, bottled juice, juice boxes, oatmeal, frosting, baking mixes (not cake or brownies), stuffing, gravy, pasta sides, spaghetti sauce, mustard, dried potatoes, canned beef stew, chili, hash and sloppy joes, tomato soup, large soups.

Thank you so much for your support. You can always check the website to find the current Food Shelf needs. It is [www.perintonfoodshelf.org](http://www.perintonfoodshelf.org).

### **Service and Advocacy Meeting Scheduled**

Next meeting is November 8, 3:00pm.

Twenty-seven Christian churches and agencies forwarded this letter to members of Congress:

<https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Ceasefire-loPT-Christian-Faith-Letter.pdf>



**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.

The following speech was given by Juliet and Dorothy during the September 15 Climate Change March in downtown Rochester. Juliet and Dorothy are members of Rochester Youth Climate Leaders (RYCL). RYCL is an inter-school youth movement voicing concern for the climate and advocating for a sustainable future.

Every day that we stand by and let the fossil fuel industry continue to infiltrate politics, destroy indigenous lands, hold countless people in poverty, pollute our atmosphere, disrupt our oceans, will prevent us from having a livable future. Every day that our leaders and elected officials allow them to continue, it becomes harder to stop them.

People in positions of power have continuously turned a blind eye to the destruction caused by the fossil fuel industry for money and a few more votes.

If we continue on this path, as the youth of today, all we can see is a world where

- we stand engulfed in the smoke of our burning world
- our feet are wet because of the rising oceans
- our lungs are choking on poisoned air
- our homes are flooded by hurricanes and ravaged by tornadoes.

When that times comes, we'll stand there and wish we were standing here now to choose a future.

A future where...

- pollinator gardens replace lawns
- healthy forest ecosystems line the highways
- charging stations replace gas stations
- electric cars, bikes, and public transportation fill the streets
- natural forests, lakes, and oceans are protected
- the air is clean, the water clear, and people live in harmony
- corporations and governments are held accountable for their actions , no matter how big or rich they are.

We see this future, and we know it's possible, but we keep getting told that it's simply too hard, too complicated, and too expensive. Nevertheless, we are unstoppable and another world is possible.

Juliet and Dorothy's speech was edited for clarity and brevity.

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



**Church office closed November 22-24**

**Please advise the church office of any changes.**

- Joe Lebda and family, on the passing of Nancy Lebda
- Barb Ackroyd, health concerns
- Rob Eaton and family, health concerns
- HOPE and people of Borgne, Haiti
- Cal Dickerson, on the passing of his sister Carol Willer
- Bill Shaffer, health concerns & Sherry as caregiver
- Deb Sponable, health concerns
- Pam Miller, health concerns
- Dorie Starks, 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

**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 **Mount 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.




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](mailto:sherks@rochester.rr.com).

**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](http://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?*