

THE NEW BRANCH



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Mountain Rise Church community: **Alive and Active!**



In this Issue:

- Note from the Pastor
- Calendar Events either in-person, virtual or suspended for now
- Council Updates

Calendar

- Knitting, Tuesdays at 10 AM
- ROMEOS, Fridays, 11:30 AM at Shooters
- Birthday Celebration, third Sunday of the month
- Sundae Sunday, last Sunday of the month
- Bibles & Books, November 9 & 23, 10AM .
- Council meeting, November 9, 7PM.
- Stephen Ministry Group I, November 9 & 23, 4PM
- Stephen Ministry Group II, November 4 & 18, 7PM
- Service & Advocacy meeting, November 10, 3PM.
- Book Group, November 16, 7:30PM virtual meeting; contact Rick Watkins for Zoom link.
- Spiritual Growth Group I, November 22, 7:15PM
- Newsletter Info needed, week of November 22
- Spiritual Life & Worship, November 17, 4PM



November 7, 2021



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 Justus 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.

If you would like a printed copy, please request from Barbara Jackson.

From Our Pastor

"Thanks - Giving"

"If the only prayer you ever pray is, "Thank you,"
that would be enough.

— Meister Eckhart, (Protestant mystic, 13th C.)

As part of my Sunday message a few weeks ago people in the sanctuary wrote on note cards some things they are "good at," then "afraid of," and lastly, "thankful for." We could read only a few during worship, so I promised to share them in print. Well, here are the many things for which people wrote they are thankful:

- friends (21)
- children (10)
- grandchildren (2)
- family (33)
- spouse (11)
- church (3)
- faith (2)
- health (4)
- home (3)
- education (2)
- Earth's wonders (4)
- time
- security (2)
- Jesus
- love
- helping others (2)
- kindness of strangers
- community (2)
- joy (2)
- health care
- laughing (2)
- pet (3)
- purpose (2)



During November, will you join me in a new habit? Let's try to notice the good in our lives, and even "on the fly" whisper a prayer of "Thank you!" You may even want to jot down blessings, maybe at the start or end of the day. Or, use the "Notes" app on your phone to keep a list.

Some studies say it takes 21 days to form a new habit, others say 66 days or longer until a habit becomes automatic. If we start now, by Thanksgiving or Christmas we should be well on our way as habitual thanks-givers! I bet we will find our hearts and minds changed for the better. We may even feel less worry about having "enough," and more free to share our abundance.

Blessings and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Greg Osterberg, Senior Minister



Scripture Readings

November 7

Communion Sunday

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 14

House Band Sunday

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14

Mark 13:1-8

November 21

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm 132:1-12, 13-18

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November 28

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-25

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36



All are respectfully required to wear a mask while in the church building, regardless of vaccination status.

CDC Recommendation



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.

Church Council

During my professional work life as a librarian, I served two institutions in Rochester that were involved in major transitions. I was working at the George Eastman House in the 1980's on a NEH grant at the time that Kodak pulled its \$1M annual donation, costing 13 jobs and much change in the aftermath. At the end of 2003, after working 17 years at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, I was one of the last librarians to leave when the entire library collection was transferred to the University of Rochester. I had worked through that transition with nine fellow staff members for over a year before leaving.

So, I'm not saying I'm an expert at transitions or that they turn out badly, but I know what they feel like and I'm no longer afraid of them. I know they require patience, perseverance and hope. I have also watched both of those Rochester institutions reimagine their missions in the community and make very meaningful changes in order to thrive.

At Mountain Rise we are entering a time of transition. Council met with the Rev. Ryan Henderson at our October meeting and learned about the two processes we will be following as we prepare to hire an Intentional Interim Pastor and to launch a Search & Call process in 2022 for our next pastor. Council members are also beginning to reach out to committee chairs to open lines of communication. And we are drafting an amendment process for the bylaws should one be needed. Faye Eaton has graciously agreed to take on the revision of the Mountain Rise Policies & Procedures Manual, formerly known as The Trustees Manual. Council is well aware that it will be important for us to "get our house in order" before we seek new pastoral leadership. So, anything we can do now will make a difference as we move through our transition.

There is much work to be done, more than will be able to be accomplished in one year. But, with God's guidance and an "all hands on deck" attitude, we will move forward as Mountain Rise Church continues **"Welcoming All to be a Community for Good in God's World"**.

Peace,
Gail McClain
Council Chair



From the Nominating Committee

We need YOU! Currently Mountain Rise has two important committees without leaders: the Church and Pastor Committee and the Nominating Committee. **These chairperson positions need to be filled right away.**

There are a total of six Governance Committees at Mountain Rise that work cooperatively with each other and the Ministry Committees to fulfill the mission of the church.

The Church and Pastor Committee works to promote and maintain an effective relationship between the Pastor(s) and the congregation. (This is separate from the pastoral search process.)

The Nominating Committee works to identify and recruit volunteers to serve on various committees during the year and present a slate of candidates for elected positions before the June meeting.

The Chair of each committee works with their team to keep things moving forward, setting meetings, and following up on project status.

For a full description of the Committee responsibilities, you can consult page 9 of the Church By-Laws.

If you are interested in or have questions about the two positions available, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee - Faye Eaton, Janice Hanson, Jennie Oberholtzer - or contact the Mountain Rise church office.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE AT WORK!

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

- A. Replaced or repaired lighting materials in the Fellowship Hall, elevator, sanctuary projector and outside soffits.
- B. Repaired the stone walls in lower parking lot.
- C. Installed door stops in Social Hall and electrical room.
- D. Contracted to have building siding replaced because of woodpecker damage.
- E. Repaired woodpecker damage on the undersides of the outside cantilevers.
- F. Contracted to have major tree removal service caused by storm fallen trees.
- G. Refurbished the parking designations (striping) in upper and lower parking lots.
- H. Dug trenches for installation of power and internet service cables for outside sanctuary.
- I. Pressure washed outside sanctuary viewing ramp, benches and picnic tables.
- J. Refurbished and cleaned the outside lectern.
- K. Cleaned the flat roof and applied repair/protective roof coating.
- L. Contracted for less expensive telephone and internet service.

Check out next month's Newsletter for more Property adventures and building/grounds enhancements!



Men's Group - November 8, 6:00pm. The program speaker is Barbara Moore from Sisters of Mercy. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Chefs are Bill Gornall and Jack Heister. Contact Rod Walters for more information.

Card Ministry continues to be active. This "quiet" ministry" has sent over 150 "life event" cards since its inception two years ago. Prayers of gratitude to volunteers Sheila Limburg, Elisabeth Hammer, Rick and Estella Watkins, Liz Webb, Jennie Oberholtzer, Jeanne Grace, Lauren Rachow, Shirley Demartinis and Nick Mc Clain.

Cheryl Pipkin, coordinator



November 7, 2021

2:00 AM

Book Group

"Daughter of Moloka'i: A Novel" by Alan Brennert chosen by Book Group for November

The book group will meet on Zoom at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 16 to discuss Alan Brennert's novel telling the story of Ruth, whose mother, Rachel Kalama, confined to a leper colony on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, is forced to give Ruth up for adoption shortly after her birth. She is adopted by a Japanese couple who raise her on a strawberry and grape farm in California. At the beginning of World War II, the family is interned at Manzanar for the duration of the war.

After the war Ruth receives a letter from her mother Rachel. A past that she has never known about unfolds for her. During the 22 years that follow, a deep and loving relationship between mother and daughter grows out of this initial contact. The novel explores both the Japanese and the Hawaiian cultures and history that have shaped both of their lives.

We hope you'll join us for a good evening of discussion. RSVP to Rick Watkins at 585-203-1629 rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com and he will send you a Zoom link for the meeting.

Habitat for Humanity

Christmas Angel Gifts for Children



Mountain Rise will continue providing Christmas gifts in 2021 to the children of Habitat for Humanity homeowners. This connection with Habitat over the

past years has been especially meaningful since MRUCC supports the organization's efforts to provide housing in Rochester with both labor and grants. We are currently helping to build a home on Smith Street for a family with two children.

The Habitat Holiday gift drive is a program offered every year to all children under the age of 18 who live in a Habitat home. Not only does our sponsorship make the holidays brighter for the children, but it also lifts a tremendous weight off the homeowner parents.

We will have our annual Women's Group wrapping party for any women, men, families and kids of all ages with their parent's help wanting to participate on Sunday, December 12 after worship. Everyone MUST BE fully masked throughout the event. There will be a separate room for food and drink.

If you would like to be a Mountain Rise angel and purchase a gift (or gifts) for one or more Habitat for Humanity children, please contact Kathy Nixon in person or at knixon326@gmail.com or (585) 586.7742 by November 10. Names and child information will be provided to the church by the end of November and delivery of gifts to Habitat will take place on the week of December 13th.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



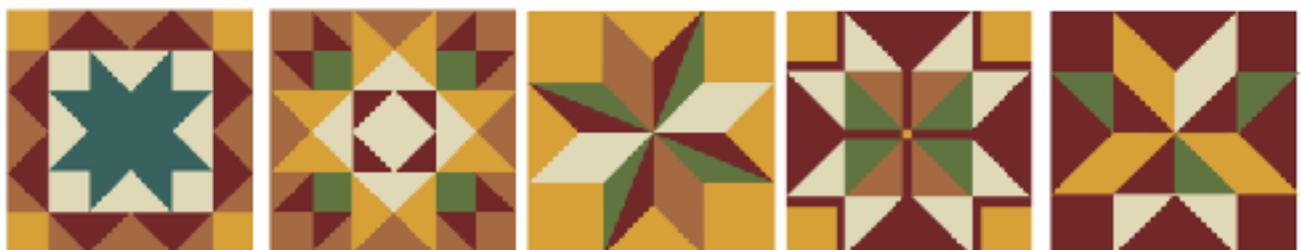
Mountain Rise is blessed with faithful people, wonderful ministries, a beautiful space and spirited leadership.

Along with the changing of the leaves and the Fall season comes the time for us to consider what our financial commitment will be to the many ministries of Mountain Rise Church. As a church we are charged with not only maintaining the integrity of our facilities, but also with providing the compensation of our clergy and staff professionals, supporting the UCC and wider church, and committing resources for community outreach and social transformation.

This year Stewardship Sunday is on November 14. A new approach will be introduced during worship on the 14th. There will be an envelope for you to take home. A new idea with a free take home item!! That plus the House Band all on the same Sunday!!

Please be intentional in attending worship on November 14 or tune into worship at facebook.com/pg/MtnRiseUCC/videos/ to hear and perhaps be inspired!

R. Rodney Walters
Financial Coordinator



Service and Advocacy

For Justice and Peace



Mountain Rise and Afghan Resettlement Team



AFGHAN TEAM AT MOUNTAIN RISE

What is The Afghan Team? It is a group of people interested in assisting in the resettlement of Afghan refugees coming into the Rochester community. Here's what's happened with the team so far.

Interested persons met on Zoom after responding to a notice from Service and Advocacy, in the Mountain Rise Weekly Update, about Afghan resettlement in Rochester. The group then attended a meeting which sponsored speakers from Catholic Family Center, Keeping Our Promise (KOP), and Saints Place. These organizations work closely together to support resettlement.

Catholic Family Center Immigration Services is an umbrella organization for all immigration services in Rochester. It coordinates all services and resettlement assistance in a wide variety of capacities.

Keeping our Promise offers visa and resettlement assistance to Afghan wartime allies who helped the United States during the war in Afghanistan. It encourages in-kind donations and fundraisers, assists with Special Immigration Visas and sets up Caring Circles. Caring Circles consist of a group of about five people who support a family in multiple ways. (Anyone working with families will be required to take a one-hour case training on-line course and have a background check.)

Saint's Place provides household goods, clothing and educational assistance to those in need. Volunteers often engage in a specific task such as sorting clothing, delivering necessary items, or tutoring an adult or child.

The Team is now in the process of determining what is currently needed and what we can do to respond to those needs. The one need that has been clearly expressed is volunteer time.

If you are interested in learning more, please talk to one of the team members: John and Sue Amrine, Joanne Frolich, Sally Kersting, Nick McClain, Sue Pixley, Averil Riley, Sherry Shaffer, Nancy Stark, Fran Stiles, Mike Tiss, Liz Webb.

Catholic Family Center is always in need of:

- Job opportunities - Are you in a position to offer employment to a refugee?
- Reliable transportation - Do you have a car to donate to the program?

If you can help in either of these ways, please let a member of the team know and we will put you in touch with the right person at Catholic Family Center.

WASHCLOTHS FOR SALEM CHRISTMAS

Until November 28, we will be collecting washcloths to go in Christmas gift bags at Salem Nutrition Center. They can be placed in a labeled basket near the sign-in table.

Next Service and Advocacy Meeting

Service & Advocacy committee meetings are held on the **second** Wednesday each month at 3:00 pm.

Meetings generally run until 4:30 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend all or part of the meeting.

Our next meeting is November 10.

Habitat for Humanity Update

The home well under way.

We have gone from a hole in the ground at 871 Smith Street to a fully-framed structure as the pieces fall into place. Close to 20 Mountain Rise volunteers and friends of Mountain Rise have worked 10 days to build a shed, clear the property, finish the interior framing, install windows and doors and "Raise the Roof" with the truss work placement.



Francesca Madera and her two teens will move into this Smith Street home in March 2022. Francesca is contributing 300 hours of her own time to help build her home. It is such a gift to help her see this dream come true.

October 22 the roof is on!



Now that the roof is completed and interior secure there is still lots of work to finish the house, both interior and exterior (mainly siding & front porch). Although Mountain Rise has completed their agreed volunteer time, individuals can still sign up for workdays in the fall and winter months. Contact Bill Holliday for more information.

From the Mountain Rise Team for Just Peace in the Holy Land

Each month the Mountain Rise Peace in the Holy Land Team will be posting information for you to learn more about Israel/Palestine.

This month's article comes from Bright Stars of Bethlehem, a US non-profit organization that promotes peace and justice in Palestine through Dar al-Kalima University of Arts & Culture and its initiatives for youth, families, and older adults, as well as public advocacy for basic human rights.

U. S Representative from Minnesota Betty McCollum is a steady voice for justice in Palestine in Congress. Her action especially on behalf of Palestinian children is persistent and hopeful. Please learn more about her and from her in this interview from Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=7U4zUV9rUH8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0upFkC-n-wthh4soq4VfQm9Yp6aznGXY5_C Ez4mNmK1-infZSPKVVVzjQ

Thank You,
Jack Heister

From the Green CAT (a.k.a. Climate Action Team)

Everyone is concerned about climate change. We are often frustrated about how little we can do to make a difference. The Green CATS have a positive suggestion for something specific you can do to make a difference.

If you have an investment portfolio or retirement investments, here is a suggestion. You can work with your investment professional to make sure that you no longer invest in fossil fuels and other causes of climate change. These entities can be removed from your investments and reduce their ability to harm the environment.

On Sunday, November 14, the Green CATS are sponsoring an after church-presentation by Mike Chabalik, Sr. VP and Wealth Advisor with UBS on Environment, Societal and Governance Investing. Learn how to do socially responsible investing. This is something positive you can do right now.

Sue Pixley and Jack Heister

