

# THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ  
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## In this Issue:

- Council Updates
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## Calendar

Knitting, Tuesdays at 10 AM  
ROMEOS, Fridays, 12:00 PM

- Next Men’s Group February 6, 6:00PM
- Council Meeting, February 13, 7PM
- Stephen Ministry Group I, February 14 & 28, 4PM
- Stephen Ministry Group II, February 2 & 16, 7PM
- Service & Advocacy Meeting, February 12, 11:30AM
- Book Group, February 21, 7:30PM; for Zoom link contact Rick Watkins
- Spiritual Growth Group I, February 27, 7:15PM



Ash Wednesday  
February 22

Mountain Rise New Branch



Welcome to The Rev. Dr. Kelly Sprinkle, (he, him, his) Intentional Interim Pastor at Mountain Rise UCC. Pastor Sprinkle can be reached for non-urgent matters at [iipastorsprinkle@mtriseucc.org](mailto:iipastorsprinkle@mtriseucc.org) or call 585-223-2433. For urgent matters call or text (315) 413-1670.

## SATURDAY FUN NIGHT!

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



## GAME NIGHT

Saturday, **February 4**

First 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)

**The Annual Congregational Finance Meeting**  
will be on Sunday, February 5 after worship.

Printed documents are available in the welcome area.

## Property Update

All the exterior Doors are scheduled to be re-keyed on **February 23** which means the existing keys will no longer work after that date. Individuals who frequently need to get into the building can get a new key from Barbara once the re-keying is completed.

The **Men's Group** meeting on **February 6** is open to all for dinner and for the program. Social gathering is at 6:00 PM, dinner is at 6:30 PM, with the speaker beginning approximately at 7:30 PM. The Chief from the Perinton Ambulance Service is the speaker.

If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the Church office. It's important in planning for dinner for all. A good will offering will be accepted to cover the cost of the dinner and beverages.

**Juliete's** will be meeting on Friday, **February 24** at 11:45 at TBA. Please contact Jane Stock if you plan to attend. Email is: [hjs@frontiernet.net](mailto:hjs@frontiernet.net). # is 425-7293.

### Book Group to Discuss Mystery Novel

The Mountain Rise Book Group will meet on ZOOM on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30 to discuss **Black Cake: A Novel** by Charmaine Wilkerson. When their mother dies, Byron and Benny Bennett inherit both a recipe for a black cake based on a recipe with roots dated in family history and a taped recording of their mother's voice with stories about themselves and their family history that makes them question who they are and what their inheritance truly is.

Please join us on ZOOM for what promises to be a lively discussion. RSVP to Rick Watkins at (585) 203-1629 or [rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com). He will send you a link the day before the meeting.

### Grant Requests Invited to Distribute Income from Mountain Rise Endowment Fund

The MRUCC Council has been notified by the Endowment Committee that there are funds available to be utilized in 2023-24 by church individuals and committees to meet current needs and to extend the mission of our church. Applications for these funds must go through an appropriate committee and be submitted to Council by March 1, 2023.

Please direct questions to Rob Stevens ([robertstevens11@gmail.com](mailto:robertstevens11@gmail.com)) or Kathy Nixon ([knixon326@gmail.com](mailto:knixon326@gmail.com)).



The doll event of the year is here! Come show off your favorite doll (or teddy bear) and enjoy delectable treats, assorted teas, coffee, hot chocolate and milk. Doll lovers of all ages are welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Proceeds benefit Angels of Mercy. Seating is limited so order your tickets here today.



## Property Committee at Work!

- Attended inspection of fire extinguishers
- Attended inspection of stove fire suppression system
- Tested all emergency lights and replaced batteries in two
- Replaced unusual bulbs in very high ceiling light fixture
- Signed contract for rekeying all external doors ( to be done on February 23)
- Checked on why internet failed during two services (probably need to replace the GFI socket)
- Helped get two Christmas trees
- Shoveled snow on upper entrance
- Contacted snow plow company for an extra plowing
- Had some patches done on roof
- Picked up supply of light bulbs

## Photography Display

Mountain Risers who participated in the theme: "Color" are:

- Bill Gornall "Tree of Life, Disney"
- Bev Logan "Hanging On"
- Jeanne Grace "Sunset Sodus Bay"
- Jeanne Grace "Daylily"
- Joan Weetman "Radiant Soccer Field"
- Joan Weetman "Sunflower Field"
- Ron Weetman "Waterfall, Iceland"
- Ron Weetman, "Highland Park Lilacs"
- Wally Hazelton , "Tahiti"
- Wally Hazelton, "Crosby Lake, Ontario, Canada"

We thank the previous participants and ask them to pick up their photos in the office:

- Bill Gornall "Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone Park"
- Bill Gornall "Balanced Rock, Arches Park"
- Bev Logan " Stoney Brook"
- Jeanne Grace "Moraine Lake, Banff"
- Jeanne Grace "Sunset at Poipu Beach, Kauai, Hi"
- Joan Weetman "Sunrise at Buckland Park, Brighton"
- Joan Weetman "Inspiration Point, Letchworth Park"
- Piece Webb "Eastern Sierras, SE of Yosemite"
- Ron Weetman "Black Sand Beach, Iceland"
- Wally Hazelton "Arches Park"

We encourage others to participate in the next photo opportunity! Questions? Please contact Ron Weetman.

## Save the Date:

Mountain Rise has partnered with the Alzheimer's Association Rochester and Finger Lakes Chapter to provide free education programs for Mountain Rise and our community. The first of the series will be three consecutive Thursday evenings, April 13, 20, and 27.



More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and over 11 million provide their unpaid care. These are your family, friends and neighbors.

Help members of your community by volunteering with the Alzheimer's Association®. Whether you're an individual with a passion for the cause, or an organization driven to join the fight, the Association offers a variety of volunteer roles that fit all interests, skills and experience levels.

### Opportunities to volunteer include:

<p><b>Sharing your personal story</b> as an advocate.</p>	<p><b>Leading</b> a support group.</p>	<p><b>Providing information</b> to community members.</p>
<p><b>Participating</b> in a clinical trial or research study.</p>	<p><b>Raising funds and awareness</b> for "Walk to End Alzheimer's", "The Longest Day"® or "Ride to End ALZ"®.</p>	<p><b>Host</b> an education program or a community listening program.</p>

Visit [alz.org/volunteer](http://alz.org/volunteer) to get started.

### Care and Support When You Need It

If you or someone you know is facing Alzheimer's or another dementia, the Association offers free resources, including:

- » Our 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900).
- » Information on [alz.org](http://alz.org).
- » The Alzheimer's Association & AARP Community Resource Finder at [communityresourcefinder.org](http://communityresourcefinder.org).

## Caring Connections (Caring Ministry)

Flowers donated for Sunday worship have recently been delivered to Mountain Rise members and friends who are homebound. The response has been very positive with folks enjoying both the beauty of the flowers and the thoughtful note that accompanies them. Let's keep this ministry going. Please sign up at the kiosk to donate flowers. If you have a special person you would like to see receive the flowers after worship, please see Sherry. Thank you for supporting Caring Connections in our efforts to reach out to more people and share God's love.

Caring Connections Committee  
Sherry Shaffer and Cheryl Pipkin, co-leaders

# Church Council

Mountain Rise Friends,

It is that time again to affirm the promise of support we gave when we joined this congregation. Our "little church on the hill" is filled with vibrant life. There is a shared sense of community and a deep commitment to good works. Our congregation thrives because we bring back to God both our time and material goods. A sense of joy and energy spreads as people young and old discover or re-discover this truth: A generous spirit truly is a blessing that confounds the lies of scarcity. The more we give, it seems, the more we have to give.

Not all our offerings are brought to the place we worship. Other of God's missions call out—children to guide, hungry people to feed, homeless, aching folks who need comfort and healing, environmental threats to the human and non-human parts of creation. Some of our tribute to God makes it way "home" through these alternate routes. But we also need the roots we have here on this little hill in Perinton, and for that we need financial support gladly given and carefully spent.

This year's Annual Congregational Finance Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th after worship. At this meeting our congregation will be voting on the proposed 2023 budget approved by Council. There are documents to review attached to this February New Branch (hard copies are available in the church hallway). This meeting will also allow for discussion of any questions you may have about the proposed budget.

Council is most appreciative to the Finance Committee led by Jerry Kersting for the successful Stewardship Campaign and the careful preparation of the annual budget. Heartfelt thanks-to all of the Mountain Risers who pledged with such generosity as to make our proposed budget possible. All of our ministries would not be possible without your continuing support through your service and your gifts. Thank you!

Blessings and Peace,

Faye Eaton  
Council Chairperson

## 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 **February 13**.



**Perinton Pastoral Association**  
**honors Black History Month**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Tiffany Porter**

**speaking on**  
**Being Black in the Burbs**

**First Congregational UCC**  
 26 E. Church Street  
 Fairport

**Wednesday, February 15th**

**@ 6:30 PM**

Tiffany founded Being Black in the Burbs to share tenant resources and provide toiletries and food in accessible locations. Tiffany, mother of three sons in our Fairport schools, advocates for local, state and nationwide efforts to stop racism. Please come show community support for a hard working neighbor who serves community needs with heartfelt generosity.



Thanks from the staff!

Dear Mountain Rise Family,  
 Thank you so very much for the kind and very generous Christmas Purse gift! The love, care and kindness is truly amazing!

So grateful to all of you! Wishing you all a blessed New Year!

Love & hugs,  
 Barbara & family



To Mountain Rise Congregation,

Thank you so much for your generous offering. It will help me to pay off some debts that I have. Bless you in Jesus' name,  
 James McDonald



**Black History Month**



# Service and Advocacy

## For Justice and Peace

### The Green Climate Action Team Agenda For 2023

We will continue to promote our Green 15 List, in our denomination, our community, our state and nation. Our list is featured on the RAICA website but that is just a start. Here is the link to our [Green 15 List](#).

#### We will continue to be active members of:

Color Fairport Green, RAICA (Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action), the Genesee - Finger Lakes Climate Solutions Accelerator and the UCC Environmental Justice Committee.

We will maintain Mountain Rise's composting facility. Click here for more [info on composting](#).

We will begin the process of becoming an Interfaith Power and Light Certified Cool Congregation. To achieve this goal, we will have to complete five steps:

First, we have to form a green team, **completed**.

Second, we have to decide on what goals to pursue.

Third, we have to write a mission statement.

Fourth, get an energy audit, begin making improvements and list improvements already made.

Step five is applying for the certification

Your Green CATs will continue to be an example to the UCC, our community and the region of a church that is grateful for God's creation and determined to heal it and create a just and sustainable future where all life can flourish.

Thank you for your support and for joining us in this critical work.

The Green Climate Action Team: Bill Bross, Pam Cooper-Vince, Shirley DeMartinis, Elizabeth Hammer, Jack Heister, Jim Mietz, Scott Schaefer and Sue Pixley

### Peace in the Holy Land Team

Next meeting is February 3, 9:30 AM at Jack Heister's home.

This is a New York Times article by Jewish columnist Tom Friedman about Israeli government. [Can Joe Biden Save Israel?](#)



### Perinton Food Shelf Needs

#### An Emergency Food Relief Organization

Many of our food shelves are empty or very low in stock. Needed: cereal, juice boxes, orange/apple juice (48 oz), canned beef stew, hash, sloppy joes, jelly-strawberry and grape, cooking oil, mayo, ketchup, pancake mix, pancake syrup, paper towels, and Kleenex.

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](http://www.perintonfoodshelf.org).

### Service and Advocacy Meeting Scheduled

Next meeting is February 12, 11:30am after worship.



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).

**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

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

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

- Janice McCutchan, health concerns
- Ann Walters health concerns
- Julie Francis- health concerns
- Harold Stock's son-David, health concerns
- Kerstings' daughter, health concerns
- Courtney Germain, health concerns
- Matt O.
- Jane Stock's sister, health concerns
- Bill Stratton's father-in-law Bob, health concerns
- Hanley Family on the passing of Dan's mother Mary
- Kathy Simpson's brother-in-law Jim in hospice
- Hammer family
- Judie Mietz, health concerns
- Allison Riley, health concerns
- Pam Miller health, concerns
- Harold Stock health, concerns
- Jim Hegley, recovering
- John Meyer
- Gary Bresnahan
- Wilan Uthman
- Kay Uthman
- Dorie Starks



**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?*

## GREEN 15 LIST

Created by the Green Climate Action Team of the Mountain Rise United Church of Christ, Fairport NY

**Things you can PERSONALLY do to support the growing movement to fight Climate Change:**

**1 Electricity:** Use LED light bulbs – including Christmas lights, purchase high efficiency appliances, turn off computers, lights, TVs when not in use, hang clothes to dry when possible, wash clothes in cold water.

**2 Water:** Avoid watering lawns. Run full loads in washing machine/ dishwasher. Install low-flush toilets, take short showers, use a dishwasher.

**3 Food:** Eat less meat starting with Meatless Mondays. Buy locally grown fruit and vegetables, compost garbage, start a garden.

**4 Purchasing Habits:** Use reusable shopping bags and backpacks. Learn to share items with others. Buy clothes that are made to last and repair torn clothes, if possible, avoid synthetics. Consider repairing things that break. Buy locally as much as possible, join a Buy Nothing club. Try to buy as little plastic as possible. Use rechargeable batteries. Remember – **Small is Beautiful!**

**5 Reduce Fossil Fuel Use:** Get a home energy audit, install a programmable thermostat, winterize your home, replace your gas or oil furnace with a heat pump or install a geothermal unit. Purchase electric ranges and water heaters. Purchase a hybrid, or better yet an electric car. Reduce your air travel. If you have to fly, compensate your energy use with a donation to a group fighting climate change. Install solar panels on your roof or property or sign up for community solar in your area. Divest your investment portfolio of fossil fuel companies. Ride a bike and, when possible, use public transportation.

**Things you can do at your church:**

**6** Form a climate change action group run by members of your church, and if members of your community wish to join, consider that possibility.

**7** Get an energy audit and reduce your consumption of energy to heat, cool and light your building. Switch to renewable sources of energy.

**8** Plan to have one event, on or after worship, that focuses on the climate change issue **every three months**.

**9** If possible, plant trees on your property and/or start a vegetable garden or pollinator garden for use by your members and/or community. Do not use pesticides on your lawn or garden.

**10** Work with other places of worship in your community on climate change education and action projects. Keep track of the resources that are available from your conference and our national office. Send delegates to local, state, and national meetings.

**Things you can do in YOUR COMMUNITY:**

**11** Study and go to public lectures. The more you understand the issue of climate change, the more you can help.

**12** Join a group in your community that is working on the climate change issue. If there are no groups – start one.

**13** Join one of the many national organizations fighting climate change, such as the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, or the Environmental Defense Fund.

**14** Join with others in your community to create a climate change workshop. Bring in a guest speaker and open the event to the public.

**15** Keep track of what your elected officials are doing, or not doing, about climate change and let them know how you feel about their proposals.

Composting is Giving Back to the Earth

**Creating Opportunities **M**aking **P**rogress on **S**erving **T**ogether**

Why Compost? Every little bit matters when caring for the earth. Composting greatly reduces methane, a potent greenhouse gas which is created when your food waste winds up in your local landfill. It also provides usable soil for your garden.

What to Compost Veggie scraps, any stale old dried cereal, pasta, crackers, tea and coffee grounds.

What not to Compost Meat scraps, dairy products and pet waste

Where to compost Ideally in your own compost bin on your property, but if having a compost bin is not feasible, you can use the compost bin at the church by the shed.