

# THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ  
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## November / December 2022

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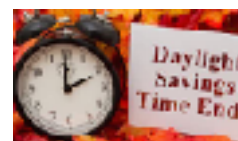
### Calendar

- Knitting, Tuesdays at 10 AM  
 ROMEOS, Fridays, 11:30 AM at Underpass Bar & Grill
- Next Men's Group November 1 & December 5, 6:00PM
  - Council Meeting, November 14 & December 12, 7PM
  - Stephen Ministry Group I, November 8 & 22, December 13 & 27 4PM
  - Stephen Ministry Group II, November 3 & 17, December 1 & 15, 7PM
  - Service & Advocacy Meeting, November 13 & December TBA, 11:30AM
  - Book Group, November 15, 7PM; contact Rick Watkins
  - Spiritual Growth Group I, November 28 & December 26, 7:15PM

Men's Group meets on **Monday, November 7** at 6:00 PM. Program is Dr. Powell, a retired political science professor who will share her thoughts and insight on our political system and elections. Dinner is at 6:30 PM and program at 7:15 PM

Chefs for the Night are Jim Mietz and Jack Heister.

November 6, 2022



Mountain Rise member Pastor Martha Stone will officially be installed by the GVA on **November 13th** at 2pm in the Henrietta UCC sanctuary with a reception to follow.

### SATURDAY FUN NIGHT!

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

### GAME NIGHT



Saturday, **November 12**  
 6:30-8:30 pm  
 Lower Fellowship Hall

Snacks & beverages provided (Free will offering). Please bring a snack or side to share as well as games to play.

Questions? Contact Rob Stevens at 314-1938 or [robertstevens11@gmail.com](mailto:robertstevens11@gmail.com)



Apple Pie Workshop! Mark your calendar for Sunday, **November 20**, 12:00-2:00 pm, for an all-ages make-your-own apple pie workshop in the Mountain Rise kitchen. Ingredients and utensils will be provided, though everyone is encouraged to bring your own 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).

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 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.

### Book Group Discusses Challenges of Talking to Strangers

The Mountain Rise Book Group will meet on ZOOM on Tuesday, **November 18** at 7:30 to discuss *Talking to Strangers: What We should Know about the People We Don't Know* by Malcolm Gladwell. The book is a guide to looking at complex situations: a black woman's encounter with a white police officer during a traffic stop, our realization that someone we have just met is deeply troubled psychologically, the discovery that someone widely well-known and respected has been abusing minors.

How do people deal with these things and why do they often make them worse because they don't feel they have the skills to deal with the complexity of the situations they present? Filled with stories, the book offers a wealth of topics to discuss. Please join us. RSVP to Rick Watkins at rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com or call him at 585-203-1629 to receive a ZOOM link to the meeting.

The book group will not meet in December. On **January 21** we will meet on ZOOM to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Ask Santa to put this book under the tree for you and then join us for a great January discussion.



*Barbara Jackson will be away:  
Saturday, November 19-December 4.*

**Juliette's** will be meeting on Friday, **December 2** at 11:45 at Bocaccinis. Please contact Jane Stock if you plan to attend. Email is: [hjs@frontiernet.net](mailto:hjs@frontiernet.net). # is 425-7293.

Christmas Tree decorating,  
Saturday, **December 3**, 1 PM.



Men's Group meets on **Monday, December 5** at 6:00 PM. Dinner is at 6:30 and program at 7:15. Program is the Fairport historian, Bill Poray. He'll share historical facts about Fairport and the Erie Canal. Women are invited to the program.

Chef for the Night is TBD.



Worship each Sunday 10am to light the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love & Light and on Christmas Eve at 5pm for lessons and carols.

Reverse Advent Calendar will be available soon to share with family and friends during this Advent season.

Join Mountain Rise families for our Christmas Adventure. We'll meet at Powers Farm Market at **6:30pm on Sunday, December 18**. More details to come. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Lis Hammer (elisabeth156@yahoo.com)

Save the Date! The New Horizons Jazz Ensemble, directed by Don Sherman, will play a free concert at Mountain Rise at 3 p.m. on Saturday, **January 28**.



### Christmas Angel Gifts for Children

Mountain Rise will continue providing Christmas gifts in 2022 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.

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.

Names of children will be available after worship services in mid-to late November and gifts need to be returned to the church no later than the morning of December 11th for an all-church wrapping party directly after the worship service. Food and drinks will be provided.

For more information, please contact Kathy Nixon in person, at knixon326@gmail.com or 585. 586.7742. Delivery of gifts to Habitat will take place during the week of December 11th.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



**December 11** all-church wrapping party directly after worship. Food and drinks will be provided.



November 11

### 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 18**

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

### 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.

- Obtained quote for enhanced lighting on Rt 31 signs
- Vacuum cleaner repaired.
- Exhaust fan over the kitchen stove being repaired
- Prepared a financial budget for 2023
- Waiting for date to fix an area on the roof
- Replacing siding where woodpeckers caused much damage
- Scheduled elevator repair
- Made first pass on clearing leaves from the parking areas
- Arranged for microphones to be available to groups using the sanctuary

Greetings Mountain Rise family,

It has been my honor to be your pastor for nearly two months and will be for two and a half more. I was not looking for a call when I was asked if I was interested in being your bridge pastor. It is interesting how God puts things in front of us and leads us, if we keep our eyes and ears open. I have a call at Kirkhaven and even though I know that my time is coming to a close there, I was not looking for a new call at that time.

We keep hearing that God is our Shepherd and leads us to green pastures, but do we know our Shepherd's voice? The problem is that God talks to us through others, so we need to always listen. Listening is more important than talking (this coming from a preacher!). I do not always listen as I should, but this time I did. However, I did not go blindly into being your bridge pastor. I talked to my wife, other pastors, others that I trust, and did some research on Mountain Rise. Through this I found that doing both calls could work.

During my time with you, I have felt that I have grown as a pastor and will continue to grow. I have gotten to know many of you and you me; because of this I have changed some approaches to how I do things so as to be the pastor you need, for I serve you and not the other way. I have not been a solo pastor in the past in a congregational setting or senior pastor. This I have found to be a wonderful growing experience for me. I have found that the people of Mountain Rise are very knowledgeable, which keeps me on my toes and I pray that I keep growing until my last breath. This for me is living as Christ wants me to. We all are a village, everyone and everything that I/we have contact with is what makes us who I/we are. I am so fortunate to have all of you incorporated into who I am.

Advent is almost upon us, the season during which we prepare for Christ's birth and Christmas. Please read the weekly updates that keep us informed of church needs and programs so that we can plan to be together as a family, preparing and celebrating the birth of our Lord during this busy holiday season.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl

Dear Mountain Rise Friends,

Do you have a passion for people?  
Do you have a passion for learning?  
Do you have a passion for teaching others?  
Do you have a passion for working on a team?  
Do you have a passion for sharing the love of Christ?



If yes, you are a perfect candidate to become a Stephen Leader.

Training is provided to you free through an already Council-approved grant.

Training is provided as an online course taken in the comfort of your own home.

Training begins in January with seven different schedule options.

Training occurs either once a week or twice a week depending on the option you choose.

Training sessions are two and a half hours in length with occasional pauses for breaks.

Training is interesting, inspiring, eye-opening, encouraging, and interactive with other trainees from across the country.

How will you benefit from becoming a Mountain Rise Stephen Leader?

You will become part of an important ministry at Mountain Rise called Caring Connections.

You will train those qualified to become Stephen Ministers with the skills needed to provide loving support and care to folks going through life challenges.

You will learn for yourself how to provide support and know what to say to those needing a trustworthy, faith-full, and skilled person to understand and empathize with them.

You will work alongside a highly-trained Stephen Leader with fifteen years of experience, six at Mountain Rise.

You will be richly rewarded with the experience of working with and supporting Stephen Ministers at Mountain Rise and in the wider community.

You will be a member of a world-wide Stephen Ministries organization that provides a wealth of support, materials, and information about caring for others.

You will be supporting your pastor at Mountain Rise by extending compassion beyond the pastoral care provided during a crisis.

Please contact me and join me as a Mountain Rise Stephen Leader.

Sherry Shaffer, Stephen Leader

sherks@rochester.rr.com

(585) 314-2284



# Church Council

Have you heard? Mountain Rise will be welcoming an Intentional Interim Minister in less than 3 months! Council is so appreciative of the diligent and faithful work of the Intentional Interim Minister Ad Hoc Search Committee and want to thank the members of this committee: Gail McClain, Linda Boesl, and Roger James. Their love and commitment to Mountain Rise spoke loudly when they presented their candidate Rev. Dr. Kelly Sprinkle at the October Council meeting.

Just prior to receiving word that the Search committee had settled on a candidate, I had finally found a little time to carefully read through the NYUCC emails I had in my inbox since preparing to become Council Chair. I share with you one selection that is especially meaningful at this time from the NYUCC Happenings September Newsletter; it is Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call Rev. Gary Ferner's message:

"A congregation in transition is a lot like a garden at the end of the growing season. The produce has been harvested, and our attention turns to the next growing season (next pastorate).

Gardeners (parishioners) will want to consider what worked well over the last season, and what did not. Was there enough water, and enough nutrients for the garden to produce? What barriers prevented a robust harvest? Weeds? Inattention? Lack of resources? Were the plants in the garden the right ones for the location of the garden? Did we have all the tools necessary to care for the garden?

Sometimes choosing a different variety of a popular garden plant can make all the difference.

What does the garden (congregation) need in order to overwinter (transition)? Tilling (interim work) is always a plus, along with composting (feeding).

And most gardeners look forward to planning for the next growing season. Gardeners that do not look at past growing seasons and the details around the care and feeding of the garden as they relate to the harvest risk having difficult growing seasons in the future, so planning what to plant, how to approach the long growing season, and having the proper resources to meet the challenges ahead will go a long way to ensuring a good harvest.

Sometimes a tried and true gardening technique stops working. Having an open mind to trying other gardening techniques can lead to an even greater harvest.

If you're a gardener (parishioner) at the end of the growing season (in pastoral transition), I hope and pray that this time of reflection and planning leads to a verdant and extravagant garden with an abundant harvest!"

Gail, Linda and Roger, through their steadfast work, have selected an excellent leader to assist Mountain Rise with the interim time that exists after a long-tenured pastor leaves. It is now our turn to put in the hard work needed...and there is much work to be done. Guided by God and the Mountain Rise energy and spirit, we will create our "extravagant garden".

Blessings and Peace,  
Faye Eaton  
Council Chair

Exciting News!  
Mountain Rise Church Council is pleased and excited to announce that the Rev. Dr. Kelly Sprinkle will be our Intentional Interim Pastor beginning January 17, 2023 for a period of 18-24 months.



## 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 meetings are November 14 and December 12.

## 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

## GVA Fall Assembly update

Mike Tiss and Fran Stiles served as Mountain Rise delegates to the Genesee Valley Association of the United Church of Christ's fall meeting on Sunday, October 30th, held at the Spencerport UCC. A feature of this fall's meeting was the opportunity to meet leaders of programs supported by our membership dues in GVA, one of which is Salem Nutrition Center. Mission grants account for almost half of the Association budget.

Members of the Spencerport Church shared their experience in revitalizing their congregation with the help of a UCC consultant. Co-moderators led the business meeting of financial and program reports and provided an opportunity for questions and comments from all participants. The Rev. Marcia Williams, our Interim Conference Minister, shared news of happenings and plans for some changes at the Conference level.

Associations are the basic units in which United Church of Christ congregations have membership and are the body responsible for the licensing and ordination of ministers. Mountain Rise is a member of the Genesee Valley Association. Pastors and lay delegates are voting members, but all interested lay people are welcome to attend.

Newsletters of our Association and Conference are available by sending an email to [gvaucg@gmail.com](mailto:gvaucg@gmail.com) or [communications@uccny.com](mailto:communications@uccny.com). The annual meeting of the Conference will take place at Niagara Falls in June. Delegates will be selected by our Council and visitors are welcome. Please contact Council Chair Faye Eaton if you would like to attend the meeting as a delegate or visitor.

## Caring Connections (Caring Ministry)

As co-coordinators of "Caring Connections" Sherry Shaffer and Cheryl Pipkin pray each day for the people listed on the prayer list. If you, or you know someone who should be included, please call or email the church office or directly contact Cheryl at [cpipkin@twc.com](mailto:cpipkin@twc.com) or Sherry at [sherks@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sherks@rochester.rr.com).



Along with the changing leaves and the brisk weather comes the time for us to consider our 2023 contributions for the many ministries of the Mountain Rise Church including the work of the Ministry and Governance Committees, Council, and our new Intentional Interim Pastor.

This year Stewardship Sunday is November 13th. 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 Service and Advocacy Committee, the Spiritual Life & Worship Committee, and the Property Management Committee.

We look forward to seeing you on the 13<sup>th</sup>,

*Jerry Kersting*

Finance Committee

### 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

November 6, 2022



# Service and Advocacy



## For Justice and Peace

Collecting Men's Socks - Service and Advocacy provide guests at Salem Nutrition Center gift bags for Christmas. There is a basket near the welcome table for crew, tube or boot socks (PLEASE no low-cut socks). We will be collecting the socks until Thanksgiving to give Salem UCC time to assemble the gift bags.

### Update from Peace in the Holy Land Team

The Peace in the Holy Land Team (part of the Mountain Rise Service and Advocacy Committee) will be branching out into additional areas of need in our troubled world. The team will continue its efforts on behalf of the Palestinians.

The immediate focus will be on immigration concerns in the US and elsewhere. A connection has been created with a UCC parish in Phoenix, Arizona with the hope of assisting their congregation's work helping migrants coming into the area in significant numbers. Our support can involve financial help and potential personal participation. Team member Linda Boesl (and possibly Jack Heister) will be in Phoenix this winter and will make a personal connection.

To this end we will be exploring a new name for our team suitable to our added initiatives. Our team has a lot of talent and energy and we welcome anyone who would like

### Next Service and Advocacy Meeting

Next meeting is November 13, 11:30am after worship



### Perinton Food Shelf Needs

#### An Emergency Food Relief Organization

Many of our food shelves are empty or very low in stock. Needed: cookies, coffee, jello, pudding mixes, juice, canned peaches, dried mashed potatoes, canned beef stew, canned chicken, large soup (approx. 16-18 oz) canned chili, shampoo and toothbrushes..

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).

**PUZZLE**

### Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.  
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.

rocted built thankfulness strengthened  
continues faith overflowing Lord received

So then, just as you \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ to live your lives in him, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ up in him, \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ as you  
\_\_\_\_\_ were taught, and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continues, rocted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing



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.

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

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

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Richard Nettle           | Conor             |
| Allison Riley            | Ted               |
| Family of Jean Golden    | Michelle          |
| Marisa Roach & baby Remi | Kelly             |
| Family of Jim Lahman     | Jessica           |
| Julie Francis            | Kay Uthman        |
| Family of Esther Hammer  | Dorie Starks      |
| John Meyer               |                   |
| Ruth Tavolette, Donna,   | <b>Challenges</b> |
| Laura & Nancy            | Jackie Barker     |
| Pam Miller               | Rick & Julie Peet |
| Bob Stock                | Erik              |
| Gary Bresnahan           | Jonathan True     |
| Wilan Uthman             | Matt O.           |
| Hilary T.                |                   |
| Peggy                    |                   |
| Courtney & Joe Germain   |                   |
| Sue                      |                   |
| Tim Tyler                |                   |
| Tristan                  |                   |



## 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?*