

THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
 2 Mountain Rise
 Fairport, NY 14450
 Phone: (585) 223-2433
 Website: mtriseucc.org
 email office@mtriseucc.org

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Calendar

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

- Next Men's Group January 9, 6:00PM
- Council Meeting, January 9, 7PM
- Stephen Ministry Group I, January 10 & 24, 4PM
- Stephen Ministry Group II, January 5 & 19, 7PM
- Service & Advocacy Meeting, January 15, 11:30AM
- Book Group, January 17, 7:30PM; for Zoom link contact Rick Watkins
- Spiritual Growth Group I, January 23, 7:15PM

Dear Mountain Rise Folks,

Saturday, December 31 marks the last day of 2022. All mail will be picked up after it is delivered that day and donations will be entered into the financial records for 2022. If you wish to have your donations recorded on the 2022 Year-End Financial Statements, please be sure to have it arrive at the church no later than noon on Saturday, December 31. Thank you.

Sherry Shaffer
 Financial Secretary
 Mountain Rise New Branch



SATURDAY FUN NIGHT!

Regardless of age, come join us for...

GAME NIGHT



Saturday, **January 7**
 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

On Sunday, **January 8th** after worship there will be an informational meeting about the church's transition into intentional interim ministry. The meeting will start at 11:15 with a 15 minute slide presentation and then time for questions. All are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Rev. Sprinkle's ministry with Mountain Rise begins on January 17th.

The **Men's Group** meeting on **January 9**, is open to all the for dinner and for the program. Social gather is at 6:00 PM, dinner is at 6:30 PM, with the program beginning approximately at 7:30 PM.

Dr. Andrew Mietz, is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at the U of R Medical Center and son of Jim and Judie Mietz. Dr. Mietz will be speaking on the mental health of our youth. He welcomes questions, however, he would like them beforehand. You may send your questions to Jim Mietz at jdmietz@gmail.com.

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.

Juliette's will be meeting on Friday, **January 27** at 11:45 at Chakara. Please contact Jane Stock if you plan to attend. Email is: hjs@frontiernet.net. # is 425-7293.

Book Group to Explore Native American Wisdom

The Mountain Rise Book Group will meet on ZOOM on Tuesday, **January 17** at 7:30 to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, professor and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

The book is a series of essays which explore how we can learn about the central importance of the Native American belief that we are custodians of the land. As custodians we need to be aware of our responsibility to live in a way that will help us sustain the health of our planet. Kimmerer introduces readers to new ways of observing the world around them and introduces them both to Native American indigenous wisdom and ways in which it relates to scientific knowledge.

We hope you can join us. For a ZOOM link Please RSVP to Rick Watkins rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com or 585-203-1629.

A Christmas Message from our sister church in Honduras, Viviendo en Amor y Fe. It was received by Nick and Gail from Arely Cantor, pastor of VAF, but is intended we believe for the entire congregation of Mountain Rise UCC.



Join the Bell Choir!

We will be resuming rehearsals for the Mountain Rise Bell Choir in January with plans to play in church in February, and we are looking for another ringer or two.

If you have been interested in trying it out, this is a good time to get involved. It helps if you can read music but it's not a requirement. You do however need to be able to count.

If you're interested, contact Janice Hanson at (585) 473-9601 or email jkhanson616@gmail.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.**

Pastor's Note

It has been my honor to serve you as your pastor for the short time that I have been here at Mountain Rise. I have to say that the congregation has been welcoming, making me feel at home. I know that you will do the same for your new pastor. It took me a few weeks to feel comfortable with the worship service, for it is different than those that I have been involved with. But eventually I learned and hopefully all felt comfortable with how I fit in with the service. I feel that I have just started learning who all of you are and now it is time for me to leave. Being your pastor has been a blessing for me.

My prayer for Mountain Rise is to continue to be a welcoming community for all. To be able to always look forward and remember the past. And most of all to know that we are all children of God and as such are all one family on this earth. We should live in God's love and show God's love to all.

Yours in Christ,
Karl Bawel



Thank you!

A special thank you to all the knitters for the hats and mittens that supported our Angel Tree Gift Program. Hats and mittens were also given to Saints Place at St. Louis Church in Pittsford for refugees, and the Jewish Service Center for Ukraine folks living in the Rochester area.

We thank you for the gifts of yarn donated during the year, too. If there are yarns we cannot use for our hats and mittens, it is given to Bits And Pieces in Fairport.

We invite all who knit to join us in person or to knit at your leisure. If you would like to learn to knit, please join us on Tuesday mornings in the library at church. We have simple patterns, all types of needles and yarn along with willing teachers. Time is 10 am -12 pm. Please feel free to join us anytime.

For more information, please contact Sue Amrine or Shirley DeMartinis.

Caring Connections (Caring Ministry)

An Invitation to a New Ministry Opportunity

The Caring Connections Committee is inviting you to participate in a ministry of intentional giving of fresh flowers to folks who might appreciate knowing that their church misses and cares about them. The fresh flowers that are brought to church nearly every Sunday to adorn our sanctuary during worship would be the perfect flowers for this ministry.

Jack Heister will continue in his role to encourage folks to sign up for bringing in the flowers. Cheryl Pipkin and Sherry Shaffer will be happy to arrange for delivery of those flowers each Sunday after worship. The recipients will be chosen from the prayer list and/or those suggested by the pastor.

If you, as a flower donor, wish to deliver the flowers to a recipient of your choosing, then it would be helpful for us to know who the recipient will be for our records. If you would like to be one who delivers flowers following worship, please let us know.

Let's see if we can reach out to at least fifty of our church family members and spread more of our love in 2023!

Thank you.
Cheryl and Sherry

Church Council

Happy New Year...and what a year it will be!

My dear Mountain Rise family, we are gearing up for an important journey, our journey of pastoral transition. On January 17th we will welcome our Intentional Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Kelly Sprinkle. Rev. Sprinkle has an engaging spirit along with the intellect, training and theological perspective to provide Mountain Rise with the leadership required for this journey of transition. Truth be told, Intentional Interims are difficult to find, and are in high demand, in part because of the value they bring to a congregation's transition process. Mountain Rise is so fortunate to have had a wise Intentional Interim Pastor Ad Hoc Search Committee, who, with hard work and careful discernment, brought Rev. Sprinkle to Mountain Rise.

Your Council recognizes that the pastoral transition and search process is a blend of employment work and spiritual work. The word call is used to reflect the distinct blend of the practical and the sacred. The "search and call" process is a spiritual journey that trusts God to be an active participant. As God will be an active participant in our journey, so will the people of Mountain Rise need to be. The work of this transition/search and call will be time-consuming and, at times, challenging but Council believes that our leadership transition has the potential to energize the church and bring us all together in a vision for the next chapter of our shared life in ministry.

Council also knows that the success of our next settled pastor begins now, with our prayerful preparations and with our faithful participation in a transparent, inclusive, and equitable process of discernment. So...we look forward to seeing you after worship on Sunday, January 8th at Council's informational meeting about the church's transition into Intentional Interim Ministry!

Blessings and Peace,
Faye Eaton
Council 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 7:00 pm at church; next scheduled meetings are January 9.

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

Service and Advocacy



For Justice and Peace

Peace in the Holy Land Team

Next meeting is January 6, 9:30 AM at Jack Heister's home.

Next Service and Advocacy Meeting

Next meeting is January 15, 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.



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.

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.

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hanley Family, Dan's mom in hospice | Conor |
| Richard Nettle | Ted |
| Allison Riley | Michelle |
| Family of Jean Golden | Kelly |
| Marisa Roach & baby Remi | Jessica |
| Family of Jim Lahman | Kay Uthman |
| Julie Francis | Dorie Starks |
| Family of Esther Hammer | |
| John Meyer | Challenges |
| Ruth Tavolette, Donna, 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.

- 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?