

THE NEW BRANCH



Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
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 Fairport, NY 14450
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Calendar

Knitting, Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

ROMEOS, Fridays, 12:00 PM

JULIETs, Last Friday of the month 12:00PM

- Game Night, April 1, 6:30-8:30PM
- Men's Group, April 3, 6:00PM
- Council Meeting, April 10, 7:00PM
- No Stephen Ministry Group I in April
- No Stephen Ministry Group II in April
- Service & Advocacy Meeting, April 9, 11:30AM
- Worship Advisory Meeting, April 11, 4:00PM
- Spiritual Life & Worship Meeting, April 18, 4:00PM
- Book Group, April 21, 7:30PM; for Zoom link contact Rick Watkins
- Spiritual Growth Group I, April 24, 7:15PM



Palm Sunday - April 2, 10:00 AM at Mountain Rise UCC

Community Maundy Thursday - April 6, 5:00 PM
 at Perinton Presbyterian Church Followed by the opportunity to join

Community Passover Seder Dinner 6PM
 at Congregation Etz Chaim

If able please bring a side dish that is Passover-Kosher,
 (no dairy it is a meat meal, no foods that expand in water, etc.)

Ecumenical Walk of the Cross April 7, 12:00 PM
 in the Village of Fairport, beginning at

First Congregational, 26 E. Church, Fairport

"Silent Sanctuary" at Mountain Rise, 1:00-3:00PM
Easter Sunday- April 9, 10:00 AM at Mountain Rise UCC

SATURDAY FUN NIGHT!

Regardless of age, come join us for...

GAME NIGHT

Saturday, **April 1**
 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



In February 2022, Council commissioned the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator Search Committee to find a person to serve as a part-time coordinator. After many meetings and much prayerful consideration, the Search Committee presented Elisabeth Hammer as their candidate for the position at the February 2023 Council meeting.

Elisabeth was approved by Council at their March meeting and a covenant was presented to Elisabeth for consideration. Today Council is happy to announce that Elisabeth is now officially in covenant with Mountain Rise as the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator with a start date of **April 2nd**. We are blessed to have Elisabeth and her compassionate, caring and inclusive approach to working with our younger Mountain Risers. Please help Council welcome Elisabeth officially into the journey of faith formation and educational ministries for our children and youth.

Men's Group meets on Monday, **April 3**, at 6:00 PM. The speaker is Olena Prokopovych, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Nazareth College. She was born and raised in Ukraine. Her topic is "Ukraine, Russia and the West: Historical Roots of the Current Crisis".

The congregation is invited for dinner and the program. We gather at 6:00 PM, have dinner at 6:30 and the program is around 7:15.

It is important for dinner planning to put your name on the sign-up located on the bulletin board adjacent to the church office.

Juliet's will be meeting on Friday, **April 28** at 12:00PM. Please contact Sue Pixley at (585) 425-1414 or susanbpixley@gmail.com to make your reservation or with questions.

Bewilderment Book Group's April Selection

The Mountain Rise Book Group will meet on ZOOM at 7:30 on Tuesday April 18 to discuss **Bewilderment: A Novel** by Richard Powers. The book tells the story of Theo, a recently widowed astrophysicist and his nine year old son, Robin. The two forge a deeply supportive bond after the death of Robin's mother.

Robin is a deeply sensitive young man, concerned about the fate of our planet and the universe. He finds it impossible to control his emotions when his own beliefs and concerns are threatened. To stabilize his son's emotions his father enrolls him in an experimental neurofeedback study that trains Robin's thought patterns on the previously recorded patterns of his mother's brain.

As the reader follows the results and limitations of this treatment and its consequences when it is stopped, the book's title takes on a wide range of meanings. For a link to our ZOOM discussion please RSVP to Rick Watkins at rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com (585) 203-1629.

WISHING YOU
Easter Joy

Property Committee at Work!

Repair and paint wall in pastor's office
Examine outlets that don't work
Change light bulbs on altar
Update the policy on keys
Give out new keys to people who have frequent need
Assist with plans for a new sign near route 31

Church Council

Transition Team Nomination Form

Council is looking to the Congregation to suggest names of people who might best serve on a transition team for Mountain Rise. With the guidance of Pastor Kelly, the team will lead our community of faith through a process of self-study, discernment, and visioning to rekindle our call to mission.

Qualities of a transition team member include the following:

- Trustworthiness and integrity– a person who is widely trusted and respected
- Gentle truth-teller
- Able to listen and hear ALL perspectives without becoming defensive or anxious
- Prayerful and spiritually wise
- A contributor to the life of the community
- A sense of creativity and openness to change

There are two ways to make a nomination. You may complete the form below and place it in the offering basket or on Barbara’s desk. OR you can complete the electronic Google form that will be linked to Thursday’s e-minder.

All nominations need to be submitted by Monday, April 10th.

Please complete the questions below to share the name(s) of the person(s) you would like Council to consider for a transition team. Please feel free to nominate yourself for team consideration!

Your name:

Who are you nominating for the transition team?

What are your reasons for nominating this person for participation on the transition team?

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 **April 10**.

Perinton Food Shelf Needs

An Emergency Food Relief Organization

Needed: Boxed plain potatoes, bottled juice, brownie mixes, frosting, beef stew, corned beef or roast beef hash, mustard, diced tomatoes, cereal, and tomato sauce (not pasta sauce).

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.



Below is an opportunity to serve your Church: There are four important Council and Committee elected positions open starting September 1, 2023. If you are interested in being nominated for a position or have additional questions, please contact Jerry Kersting, Gail McClain, or Sally Kersting. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominations at the June 2023 Congregational meeting.

Open Position	Skills & Responsibilities	Term	Estimated Time Commitment
Council Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preside over all Council & congregational mtgs. • Member of the Finance Committee •Trustee 	2 year term, 1st year as Chair, 2nd year Past Chair	Meets monthly and as required for special needs. 10 hours per month
Council Vice-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assist the Chairperson •Learn the duties of the Chairperson •Serve on the Council. •Member of the Nominating Committee •Chair committees as needed 	3 year term, 1 year terms as Vice Chair, Chair, Past Chair	Meets monthly and as required for special needs. 10 hours per month
Council At-Large Member	Participate in fulfilling the Council responsibilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Envision & articulate the Church mission/goals. •Present annual budget to the congregation. •Approve & Authorize all fundraising 	1 year term.	Meets monthly and as required for special needs. 8 hours per month
Property At-Large	Participate in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Property Committee including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maintaining buildings, grounds & equipment •Supervise usage of property •Establish long-range plan for property 	1 year term.	Quarterly meetings. Total 8 hrs./month.

Available Now



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.

Service and Advocacy Meeting Scheduled

Next meeting is April 9, 11:30am after worship.





Service and Advocacy

For Justice and Peace

Mountain Rise Easter Offering Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response



The wreckage of a collapsed building, Diyarbakir, Turkey. (Photo: VOA courtesy of Wikimedia Commons; public domain.)

The Mountain Rise UCC Service and Advocacy Committee has agreed to be a part of this Recovery Effort by giving the **Mountain Rise Easter Offering** to the National UCC Disaster Relief for greater impact. The need is great and the need is now. Your donation will get to the people affected before Easter. Donations may be made by check to Mountain Rise, or online at mtriseucc.org. Please indicate it is for Earthquake Response / Easter Offering.

Thank you,
Mountain Rise Service and Advocacy Committee

THE ADVENT HOUSE PRESENTS

2023

DINNER DANCE AND AUCTION

*An evening to benefit compassionate
end-of-life care.*

Master of Ceremonies: Don Alhart
Auctioneer: Joe Lomonaco

April 15 | 6 PM - Midnight
Monroe Golf Club

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE VISIT
WWW.THEADVENTHOUSE.ORG OR CALL (555) 223
6112

Mountain Rise New Branch

Committee for Universal Justice

This is an on-the-ground report about our ministry to immigrants in Phoenix, based at the city's First UCC Church. This is an interesting and diverse congregation with which we worshipped on four Sundays. It is about the same size as Mountain Rise and is composed of all races, ages and sexual orientations. The church has a paid house band with a couple of soloists featuring all gospel music.

The congregation supports an immigration welcome center (International Rescue Mission). Busloads of immigrants come in every day and receive medical checkups, showers, legal help, clothing and food. First Church cares for upwards of 300 people each weekend while other entities staff the mission on weekdays. Sharon and I sorted clothing on Saturday mornings. The immigrants served at the mission all have sponsoring families somewhere in the US.

First Church is a wonderful, caring, and committed Christian community and is very deserving of the financial help we are providing. Our parting was emotional.

Jack Heister for Service and Advocacy Committee

NEW REQUEST FOR DONATIONS OF CLOTHING, PLUS...

A record number of guests received lunch and a choice of clothing and household items at the Salem Nutrition Center on March 27th. Therefore, donations are requested for distribution on April 24th.

Every item of men's clothing was taken! But piles of women's pants remained without a home. So, all sizes of men's clothing are needed, especially jeans, hoodies, sneakers, boots, jackets, new and used socks. Women's jeans, practical shoes and boots, socks, bras and accessories are welcome, as well as extra large and extra small sizes of practical clothing. Raincoats and waterproof jackets were requested by men and women.

Guests also need sheets, blankets, pillows, linens, and basic household items. No glass or breakable items, please.

Donations are collected in the area outside the store room opposite the elevator on the middle level of the church. Receipts are available in the office.

Large household items can be donated to Saints' Place, which supplies refugees who are resettling here.

The Caring Connections committee, along with Fellowship, Service & Advocacy, and Communications committee chairs, invite you and all interested members of Fairport and surrounding communities to attend a three-part educational series at Mountain Rise presented by the Alzheimer's Association. The three dates are April 13th, 20th, and 27th. The time is 7:00-8:00 P.M.

The series topics are: "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's," "Understanding Alzheimers and Dementia," and "Effective Communication Strategies." If enough interest is shown, other educational sessions could follow as well as a monthly support group for caregivers.

Registration for each session is required. Either call 800-272-3900 or go online to alz.org/crf
Any questions? See or call Sherry Shaffer at 585-314-2284.

News from Viviendo en Amor y Fe, our Sister Church in Honduras



Retreat / Renewal Time

Arely, pastor of Viviendo en Amor y Fe, reported that she invited church leaders and their families to spend the day in a park outside the city. One family in particular found the retreat space to be healing because their beloved sister and daughter Rosi, a gifted teacher and beloved church member, had died of cancer just a couple of weeks before. The family found much comfort in being surrounded by their church family in a beautiful park setting, saying that they experienced the "liberating light of Jesus" at the retreat. (Some of the people in the foreground of the photo, from the left, include Pastor Arely, church elder Consuela, Vertilia, and Pastor Mario. Arely and Vertilia visited MRUCC in 2017.)

Church Outside the Doors of the Church

The women of Viviendo en Amor y Fe have been meeting in the homes of neighbors to befriend and pray with them. Pastor Arely shares that many women who are experiencing loneliness and isolation in their homes have warmed to the kindness of the women and are beginning to form friendships with one another. The women recently planned a day-long retreat and thirty women, many of them with no church connection, came!



Real love sometimes looks like tutoring! This boy is the son of one of the women who has begun coming to church services through the neighborhood visits. His reading and writing are below his grade level. A woman from the church spends time with him helping him learn these basic life skills.



at Mountain Rise United Church of Christ

2 Mountain Rise, Fairport, NY 14450

10 Warning Signs

This education program will help you recognize common signs of the disease in yourself and others and next steps to take, including how to talk to your doctor.

Thursday, April 13th
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

Learn basic information on the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages, risk factors, research and FDA-approved treatments.

Thursday, April 20th
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Effective Communication Strategies

Explore ways that Alzheimer's and other dementias affect an individual's ability to communicate across different stages, and get tips to better communicate with people living with the disease.

Thursday, April 27th
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Call 1-800-272-3900
or go to alz.org/crf to register



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.

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.



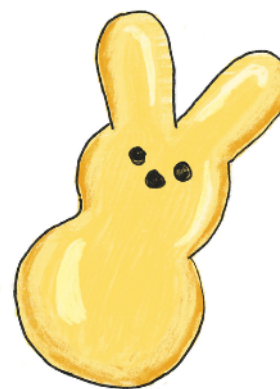

Pastoral Care

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.

- Family of Julie Francis as they grieve the passing of Julie and Andi
- Dorie Starks, health concerns
- Barbara Ackroyd, health concerns
- Beth & family, tragedy
- Lisa Lydum, health concerns
- Phoebe Coats, health concerns
- Kersting's daughter, health concerns
- Matt O.
- John Meyer
- Gary Bresnahan
- Wilan Uthman
- Kay Uthman



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?