

THE NEW BRANCH



Rev. Dr. Greg Osterberg, Senior Minister
2 Mountain Rise
Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: (585) 223-2433
Website: mtriseucc.org
email office@mtriseucc.org

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 at Shooter's
- Birthday Celebration, third Sunday of the month
- Sundae Sunday, last Sunday of the month
- Bibles & Books, September 14 & 28, 10AM .
- Council meeting, September 14, 7PM.
- Stephen Ministry Group I, September 14 & 28, 4PM
- Stephen Ministry Group II, September 2 & 16, 7PM
- Service & Advocacy meeting, September 8, 3:00PM.
- Book Group, September 30, 7:30PM virtual meeting; contact Rick Watkins for Zoom link.
- Spiritual Growth Group I, September 27, 7:15PM
- Newsletter Info needed, week of September 27.
- Spiritual Life & Worship, September, TBA 4:00PM



PLEASE, due to the highly contagious Delta Variant of COVID-19

we now ask those meeting indoors at Mountain Rise to please wear a mask.

[CDC Recommendation](#)

Mountain Rise United Church of Christ Picnic

2 Mountain Rise, Fairport

Sunday, September 12 (rain date Sept 19)

Upper parking lot immediately following the service



All food will be served cafeteria style, with gloved and masked volunteers grilling and serving your food. The MRUCC Hospitality Committee will provide:

- beef burgers & veggie burgers
- hots
- 'regular' and gluten-free rolls
- Potato salad

Sign ups needed:

- setting up
- directing parking
- grilling
- serving food
- bringing store-bought food & outdoor games
- Breaking down / clean up



Use your phone to RSVP & sign up to help/bring food.

1. Open your camera app.
2. Zoom in on QR code.
3. Complete [SignUpGenius](#) form.



From Our Senior Minister

Enduring It All

*“It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
endures all things. Love never ends.”*

- I Corinthians 13:7,8

“Are we there yet? How much longer!?” Whether you were the parent driving the summer trip or the kid in back seat, you’ve heard those words. Sometimes a hopeful reply was, “Just a little longer...”

We never imagined last summer that now near the end of this summer the global pandemic would still be a daily reality in our own community. We already beat that, didn’t we? We are past all that, aren’t we? Unfortunately, no.

The spread of the even more contagious COVID Delta variant is undoing much of the containment work that we all tried to help along. Monroe County is rated “High Community Transmission” now by the U.S. Center for Disease Control. That is discouraging, to say the least. “Are we there yet? How much longer!?”

It doesn’t seem fair... We did our part. We took lots of precautions, did our best to protect not just ourselves but others too. We should be past this: but we are not. Not yet. We will have to endure.

Thankfully, we are blessed with an inexhaustible renewable resource rooted in who we are as people of faith: Love. Love in practice is acting for the well-being of others, even at cost to one’s self. We get vaccinated. We wear masks. We follow medical science. And yes, we modify our life as a church, yet again, because we are committed to love one another.

As a church we look for opportunities to model the love we believe was expressed in the life of Christ. Pandemic precautions give us a chance to show love that, “endures all things.” Just a little longer...

Blessings, peace, health, and justice –



The Rev. Dr. Greg Osterberg, Senior Minister

Scripture Readings

September 5

Communion Sunday

Proverbs 22:1-2-, 8-9, 22–23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 12

House Band Sunday & Church Picnic

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 19

Proverbs 31-10-31

Psalm 1

James 3:13 - 4:3,7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 26

Neighbors in Need Sunday

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20–22

Psalm 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50



Spiritual Growth Group I, which meets the fourth Monday of each month, has openings for two people beginning in September. If you are interested in joining our group or would like more information about our group, please contact Rick Watkins (rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com).

Sunday morning Bible study:

The Sunday morning Bible Study group that meets at 8:30 AM on Sunday morning prior to morning worship will resume Sunday, September 12.

John Zabel

Birthday Celebrations: Beginning in September, the third Sunday of each month we will be celebrating birthdays with cake. Please email us at office@mtriseucc.org when your birthday is (NO YEAR needed) so we can add your name to the celebration cake.

Bridge group is on hiatus till a coordinator is identified. If you or you know of someone interested, please contact Nancy Stark (585)944-0565 or prestonstark1@gmail.com

Book Group

On Juneteenth

by Annette Gordon-Reed September Book Group Choice

Why should Juneteenth be a national holiday in the United States? After reading this wonderful look at American history through the lens of Texas history you will understand why the day that Texas slaves learned that they were free is so important in the history of our country. In this physically small book, Pulitzer Prize winner Harvard historian Annette Gordon-Reed combines Texas history, and her family story as a black native Texan descended from slaves. She loves the state which is her home but also looks with open eyes at its shortcomings, some of which reflect ways all of the United States falls short as we continue the struggle toward "liberty and justice" for all.

The book group will meet for discussion at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, September 21, in the church library. Please wear a mask whether or not you have been vaccinated. We welcome new members. RSVP to Rick Watkins at rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com or call him at 585-203-1629. This book provides marvelous opportunities for a great discussion.



**Have a book, trade a book.
Like a book, take a book.**

Thanks to your generous support, Mountain Rise now has a Tiny Free Library located at the driveway entrance. This was part of my Girl Scout Silver Award Project to support community literacy and also included an activity for youth to highlight the importance of reading.

During these challenging times, reading has lifted my spirits and I wanted to find a way to help do the same for others. For many of Mountain Rise's neighbors, I hope this provides a way to connect to one another and to encourage people to shut down electronics to read to one another and by themselves for enjoyment



and to learn. Improving literacy helps improve the quality of life for everyone. Our Tiny Free Library holds a wide variety of literature to appeal to everyone - including pre-readers, early readers, teens, adult non-fiction & fiction readers. The donated books I collected during the book drive will gradually be added to the library as books are taken out.



The library graphics of a rainbow and doves remind us of God's love for us when Noah's ark landed. Let's show our love for our neighbors by sharing our books. As you can see from the statement above, you don't need to trade a book to get one from our Tiny

Free Library because this is a resource for everyone, no matter if they have a book to share.

Veronica Tavolette

Church Council

“O sing to the Lord a new song....” Psalm 98

On August 1st our Mountain Rise congregation made a bold decision to set a new course for our faith community based on new bylaws. We voted to sing a new song; to change! This was no small feat but it is really only the beginning of the next phase of this journey we call Mountain Rise United Church of Christ.

We do not know yet what is ahead on our journey together. But the Psalmist is encouraging us to not only perceive the need for change, for a new song, but to also be brave despite any discomfort and sing a new song....to God, for Mountain Rise.

As individuals, as a new Council, we at Mountain Rise UCC are being invited to sing a new song because we're never too old, or too set in our ways to grow in the face of new music, new ideas, or new experiences. So I hope you will join in this new singing!

You are welcome to attend Council meetings. At present they are scheduled to be held on the second Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm, starting September 14th.

Gail McClain, Council Chair – with thanks to Rev. Gary Ferner and his May 2021 UCCNY My Thoughts column

Council Members:

Faye Eaton, Vice Chair

Carol James, Council Secretary

Gary Schaefer, At-Large

Linda Boesl, At-Large

Rob Stevens, At-Large

Kathy Nixon, Communication Committee Chair

Sherry Shaffer has assumed the responsibilities of the Financial Secretary effective July 19. Please direct any inquiries regarding pledges, contributions and statements to Sherry at financialsec@mtriseucc.org.

John Zabel is in the process of assuming the responsibilities of Treasurer effective September 1. Inquiries regarding invoices, disbursements and reimbursements after September 1 should be directed to John at treasurer@mtriseucc.org.

Dave Losee is retiring as Treasurer effective August 31 after six years of dedicated service. Many thanks to Dave for his many, many hours of effective financial management and devotion to complete and accurate financial reporting.

Rod Walters
Financial Coordinator

Service & Advocacy Leadership Change

Nick McClain has graciously agreed to be the chairperson of Service & Advocacy this next year while Gail steps into the Council chair role. The committee supports this change and will continue its work on issues of justice and peace. Please feel free to attend Service & Advocacy monthly meetings at 3:00 pm on second Wednesday. You are also welcome to contact Nick at nickymclain@gmail.com with your comments or suggestions for the committee.



Service and Advocacy

For Justice and Peace



In July the Mountain Rise Council approved an Endowment Grant request from Service and Advocacy for \$16,000.00. This money allowed us to restore Mountain Rise's level of giving to the community to previous year levels. To the Mountain Rise Council, the Endowment Committee, and the Mountain Rise Congregation, we thank you.

This money helps many different organizations serve people in need and advocate for justice and peace.

Donating money to help people is just one part of the work of Service and Advocacy.

Service and Advocacy is an integral part of the ministry of Mountain Rise through education, service and advocating. The needs are great, and together Mountain Rise does make a difference.

Thank You,
The Service and Advocacy Committee

How can we at Mountain Rise UCC help the local effort to resettle refugees?

Rochester is one of just 25 cities authorized to resettle refugees who come to the United States through the State Department's Special Immigration Visa program, available to people who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces or embassy as translators or interpreters in Afghanistan or Iraq. The number of refugees arriving in Rochester is expected to increase significantly over the next few weeks and months.

Our Service and Advocacy team is gathering information from local agencies who are preparing for an influx of refugees from Afghan to the Rochester area. Ways in which Mountain Rise can be involved in this effort will be available in the next week or two. We expect our In-and-Out Room will be in service to accept appropriate donations, but please wait for a list of needs. We suspect warm coats and boots for adults and children will be welcome as well as bath and bed linens.

Furniture donations should be taken to Saints Place in Pittsford or Greenovation at 850 St Paul Street, Rochester (at the latter, please designate the furniture for Keeping Our Promise).

Information will be made available in the weekly updates and in print at the church.

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

Electric and hybrid car information and options

Thanks to the many of you who attended the demo of all-electric and plug-in hybrids after church on August 21st. You can now own or lease an all-electric car for about \$300/mo (with government subsidies). Electric cars needs little maintenance except for oil changes and tire rotations. If you install a 220 volt line in your garage you can charge your car overnight, giving the average electric car 275 miles on a charge in the summer and 190 in the winter.

There are also a good selection of hybrid cars (cars with both an electric and gas engine). The Toyota Prius, for instance, has been around for many years and most manufacturers have at least one electric or hybrid model. Some hybrids now have an additional battery you can charge with a 110 volt line house current. These cars go about 24 miles on all electric power before the hybrid kicks in and can also be leased for around \$300/mo. If you do not drive a lot you can average 100 miles/gallon or more with a plug in hybrid.

The variety of electric vehicles available is increasing every year. Several folks at Mt. Rise have either an electric hybrid or an all-electric car. Our future is changing and sooner or later we will all be driving one of these vehicles. The CATs hope it will be sooner. It is an important step you can take to reduce air pollution and fight climate change.

CATS Team

Habitat for Humanity Mission Underway

Mountain Rise United Church of Christ Joins Flower City Habitat Mission

Mountain Rise will join with seven other Perinton congregations to build a home at 871 Smith Street in Rochester. This will be the 100th Habitat build in the Joshana neighborhood.



Francesca Madera, a single Mom of two teens, will work with our volunteers in September/October to carry on the construction. So far twenty Mountain Rise members and friends have registered to help with this effort over ten days this fall.



Over a three-year period Mountain Rise and the other churches have contributed funds to get the construction under way. The foundation is in and the wood structure is being assembled.



For information regarding helping with this Mountain Rise and Habitat effort and to add your name to our volunteer list, contact Bill Holliday: (585) 755-2775.

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

Witness Palestine Film Festival - RW4P Film Festival 2021

This fall marks the tenth anniversary of Witness Palestine Film Festival, and we are, at last, back in person at The Jack Garner Theatre (formerly Little 5). Though we met many folks last spring via our Zoom series (even made some international friends), it just wasn't the same. Once again, we are going to show four films during the month of October, and these will be shown on Sunday the 17th at 2:30, Monday the 18th at 6:30, Sunday the 24th at 2:30, and Monday the 25th at 6:30. The all-volunteer festival planning committee is finalizing our arrangements with producers and writers this month, and I am very excited about announcing the titles of the final four.

We usually offer one film each year that provides background information to the person new to learning about the Israeli Occupation, and that will be the case again this year. We also do our best to support young artists who are deeply committed to using film as a means of bearing witness to the political reality in Israel/Palestine. I have spoken with two young women in particular who are generously sharing their many hours of work with us for a minimal charge. Some of these artists are Muslim, others Christian or Jewish. What they have in common is a passionate love of justice for some of the world's most oppressed and abused citizens, as well as a profound commitment to use art as a means of communicating this love.

I hope you will join us this season, both to view the films and to participate in conversations after the viewings that are honest and informed and absolutely necessary. Titles are forthcoming.

Peace, Linda Boesl

Race and Inequality Team



The Race and Equity Team would like to bring two interesting virtual events to your attention:

1. The Urban League of Rochester is proud to introduce its 2021 Virtual INTERRUPT RACISM Summit, on September 14-15, 2021. Many of us attended this summit in 2020 and were very impressed with the quality of speakers and forthright discussion on racism and inequality we can all work to combat.

Again this year there is an impressive slate of keynote speakers and the summit can be accessed during the two days as your interest and availability allows.
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/urban+FMfcgzGkZsvxCBhnQlnwVZmdZPQvMJvf>

2. The Center for Racial Justice and the "New & Right Spirit" antiracism program of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ is sponsoring a bi-weekly Zoom discussion of the book "Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-Created Race in the Twenty-first Century" by legal scholar and social critic Dorothy Roberts.

Roberts examines how the myth of race as a biological concept, revived by supposedly cutting-edge science, race-specific drugs, genetic testing, and DNA databases continues to undermine a just society and promote inequality in a supposedly "post-racial" era.

You are invited to join these discussions beginning on Wednesday, September 8 and concluding on November 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ei7w4ma0c6894b19&llr=dkqz6cab>



Learning Links at Pines of Perinton

Would you like to know more about this ministry?

Or possibly volunteer once a week?

"Learning Links" is a program of educational support for children from K-12 with very diverse backgrounds, most of whom reside at the Pines of Perinton. Volunteer "tutors" assist children with homework and/or skill development and provide encouragement and a listening ear. On each of three evenings a week, 10 different tutors work with 20 children within a specific age group. This fall the numbers are limited by spacing.

The weekly time commitment is 6:00 to 8:00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays **or** Thursdays - this includes clean-up of the shared space at the Pines of Perinton's community center. The training and start of the program will take place in September and continue when school is in session throughout the academic year. Masking will be required.

There is also a program for adults offering ESOL and assistance with paperwork, etc. A new service provides guidance for students going on to college from Learning Links.

Our Mountain Rise Easter offering helped to provide school supplies for 105 backpacks and two future field trips for children at the Pines. This program has no paid staff which allows all of the funds to be used directly for the kids.

To learn more about this ministry, please contact Linda Boesl, Gary Schaefer or Fran Stiles.

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 September 8.

Puzzle!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.

WORD LIST:
 up, God, his, over,
 sets, wise, name,
 power, times, kings,
 praise, wisdom,
 changes, seasons,
 deposes, knowledge,
 discerning

_____ be to the _____ of _____ for _____ and _____ ;
 _____ and _____ are _____ . He _____
 and _____ ; he _____ and _____
 them. He gives _____ to the _____ and _____ to
 the _____ . DANIEL 2:20-21

Answer: There be to the name of God for ever and ever, wisdom
 and power at his. He changes times and seasons, he sets up
 kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and
 knowledge to the discerning. Daniel 2:20-21

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

Please advise the church office of any changes.

Health

- Mary Hacker
- Scott O.
- Wilan Uthman
- Tristen
- Julie
- Jean
- Sue
- Tim

- Esther Hammer
- Bill & Betty
- Peyton
- Rene
- Kay Uthman
- Dorie Starks
- Andrew Mietz
- Matthew O.

Bereavement

- Barbara Ackroyd
- Madi
- Tristen
- Don

- Tyler Family
- Hacker Family
- Gutman Family

Challenges

- Jane
- Dick & Judie
- Diane
- Conor
- David
- Daniel
- Mark

- Jackie Barker
- Rick & Julie Peet
- Erik
- Jonathan True

- Margot & Maddie
- Lisa, Sharon & Jack
- Ted
- Michelle
- Kelly
- Jessica
- Andi, Caregivers & families
- Dwight & Deb
- Honduran Friends

Pastoral Care

If you feel a need for pastoral care or know of someone who does, and would like to meet with the pastor, please contact him directly 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 or email Pastor Greg at revgreg@mtriseucc.org.

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?