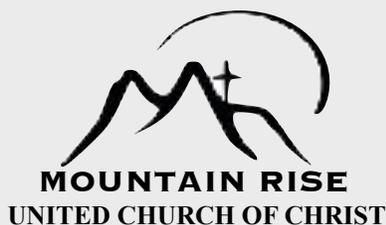


THE NEW BRANCH



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, 12:00 at Chili's

- Bibles & Books, July 6 & 20, 10AM .
- Council meeting, July 6, 7PM.
- Service & Advocacy Retreat, July 14, 3-7PM.
- Book Group, July 20, 7:30PM virtual meeting; contact Rick Watkins for Zoom link.
- Newsletter Info needed, week of August 23.
- Spiritual Life & Worship, July 28, 4:00PM



Worship with us

Sundays, 10:00am

in-person in the outdoor sanctuary

or live stream

facebook.com/pg/MtnRiseUCC/videos/



Barbara Jackson will be on vacation July 6-19.



The Rev. Dr. Greg Osterberg will be on vacation July 12-26. If you are in need of pastoral care during July 12-18 please call The Rev. Greg Rupright at (585)966-9416 July 19-26 please call The Rev. Martha Stone at (585) 490-7909.

From Our Senior Minister

UN-Pack for Summer Camp

“Let my mind find its joy in the present moment, the only place where You dwell.” - Edward Hays, Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim

If you went to summer camp as a kid, you may have at least helped pack your bags to go. Probably there was a provided checklist. Then, there were things you wished you could bring... but couldn't. Plus, those things you threw in there after parents checked. (I need my peanut M&Ms – what if we get stranded? – I can live for days on these!) Extra flashlight batteries? Check. Good luck charm? Check. Then, there were things that would have made camp feel more like home, except that's precisely what camp is not... home. Parents made us UN-pack those.

One of the hidden values of going to camp, besides giving your mom and dad a break, was to be somewhere completely different – and really be there. No TV. No usual habits. Just be there. Sometimes it takes being away somewhere to fully be where we are. But, it doesn't have to.

Most religions have at least some element of mindful practice. We humans are wired to need full attentiveness to the moment, the place, the activity in which we are intentionally engaged. To be mind-full is to keep our mind full of the present moment. You could be concentrating on an object, on reciting a reading, or on playing your cello. When the mind is occupied fully with the present, our spirit-self is better able to connect with the Presence.

So, develop a habit of UN-packing and laying aside, if only for awhile, those things which distract you from being fully where you are. Eventually, you may be surprised at becoming more fully who you are.

Blessings, peace, health, and justice –



The Rev. Dr. Greg Osterberg, Senior Minister



Scripture Readings

July 4

Communion Sunday

2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 11

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 18

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

June 6:1-21

August 1

Communion Sunday

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalm 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

August 8

2 Samuel

Psalm 130

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

August 15

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

August 22

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

August 29

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sunday morning Bible study:

The Sunday morning Bible Study group that typically meets at 8:30 AM on Sunday morning prior to morning worship will be on hiatus until Sunday, September 12. We have been meeting by Zoom since March of 2020 until May when we went back to in person sessions at the Church. As the Sunday services will be outdoors and live this summer, we decided to take a break until September.

John Zabel

Men's Group: Annual Steak Roast July 12, 4:00 PM at John and Sue Amrine's house. Reservation required by notifying Rod Walters (315-986-3087).

Fellowship: The Fair Trade coffee table will continue to be stocked during the summer months. If you don't see what you want, contact Dave Ackroyd.

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

Dinner Groups: Susan Amrine will no longer be coordinating Dinner Groups. Sue has coordinated for 8 years, however the time has come to pass the torch. She will be happy to turn over all the information to anyone interested in continuing to make these dinner groups continue. Please contact Sue, (585) 203-2133 or jamrine@rochester.rr.com

Book Group July Selection Takes Readers Around the World

Want to travel? Please join the book group on Zoom on July 20 at 7:30pm when we will discuss *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyam. This novel describes the adventures of George Washington (Wash) Black, a field slave on a sugar plantation in Barbados who becomes the manservant of his master's abolitionist brother. They develop a friendship that is violently interrupted when Wash is accused of murder and they both flee together. Eventually Wash and his master separate as social forces tear them apart and Wash journeys on in search of his true self.

The book's complexity promises to lead to a fascinating discussion. Please contact Rick Watkins for a Zoom link at rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com or at 585-203-1629 if you would like to attend.

On August 17 the group will meet for its annual picnic to select books. If you have a book you would like to recommend and/or would be interested in joining book group next year, please let Rick know and he will mail out details of the August event later this summer.

Animal Care Donations Needed

Do you have towels you no longer need or that are gently used? Would you like to purchase an inexpensive towel or set to donate?

Due to Covid, donations could not be considered for a period of time—hence some supplies were depleted for many animal rescues and shelters.

Any size (no wash cloths-too small)-are fine. Beach towels are great - they can be used multiple ways.

I will pick up if need be, but donated items can be left at the church too in the Welcome Area.

Thank you so very much!!!!

Questions-call or email me, Elisabeth Hammer 585-244-9690, Elisabeth156@yahoo.com



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

SLOW THE GROWTH OF MOUNT TRASHMORE AND THE WARMING OF OUR EARTH

How can we as individuals and as a community do this?
One way is by composting vegetable scraps.

We are all probably aware that as a society we have problems finding suitable places to locate the increasing amounts of garbage we produce. Mount Trashmore was the not-so-affectionate name given to a "landfill" located adjacent to Eastchester Bay in a pretty area of the North Bronx (Yes, there are pretty areas in the Bronx.) It was operated by NYC Dept. of Sanitation between 1963 and 1978 for household waste. The 95 acre site grew to be approximately 130 feet tall. Aside from the aesthetic degradation of the area, because of illegal dumping of sludge and toxic chemicals, the "landfill" became toxic enough to be named as a Superfund Site in 1990. Happily, remediation was done and as of October 2109 there were plans to eventually allow use through the NYC Parks and Recreation Dept.

Closer to here, the High Acres Landfill operated by Waste Management is a much larger site. It is located on approximately 1000 acres. As of January 2020, 72 acres had been used, capped and closed and 123 acres were constructed and open for use. As a response to odors emanating from the landfill in 2017 and 2018, NYS DEC issued a Notification of Violation in February 2018 and required Waste Management to take various steps to alleviate the odor problems. At the time, there were also complaints about noise from rail traffic bringing in waste from NYC. In 2019 and 2020, 1/3 of the waste which had been brought to High Acres by rail from NYC was sent to out-of-state locations, which was a plus for Perinton and Macedon, but probably not for the locations to which it was sent.



Aside from the problems of toxic chemical contamination and foul odors, landfills produce large amounts of methane which increase global warming. According to the U.S. EPA, the decomposition of organic material in landfills produces Landfill Gas, which is primarily 50% methane and 50% carbon dioxide. Again, according to the EPA, in 2019, municipal landfills produced 15.1 % of the human-related methane, the third highest percentage. While we have heard for years about the ability of CO2 to trap heat in the atmosphere, according to the EPA, methane is 28-32 % more effective than CO2 at trapping heat over 100 years.

The question I had, and the question you may have, is does composting produce methane? The answer is it doesn't. When we compost, our scraps are decomposed with the help of oxygen, and that process does not produce methane. That is actually the case the first year our garbage is in a landfill. However, after it has been buried for a year, the bacteria work without oxygen and that anaerobic process produces methane. You may also ask if we can avoid adding more garbage to our landfills and methane to our atmosphere by simply using garbage disposals. That is not a good solution because by using garbage disposals we use more water and electricity and add a greater load to our sewer systems.

IN SUM, IF WE COMPOST OUR VEGETABLE SCRAPS WE REDUCE THE VOLUME OF GARBAGE GOING TO A LANDFILL, WE PREVENT THE DECOMPOSITION OF THOSE SCRAPS FROM PRODUCING METHANE AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE WARMING OF THE ATMOSPHERE, AND AS AN EXTRA BONUS WE PRODUCE FREE FERTILIZER FOR OUR GARDENS.

The Green Climate Action Team, a group of people working actively to help protect, sustain and enhance the natural world, remind you to "Check us out!"

Watch for our Green Tips, read the articles shared monthly, and support the efforts, which make a difference, in our community and the wider world.

We can contribute.....yes, each in our own way.

Written by Pam Cooper-Vince on behalf of the Green CATs
(Climate Action Team members)

Special Green CAT events this summer!

On **Sunday July 25** there will be a Moment for Mission on Composting.



Immediately after worship there will be a demo in the church parking lot. Come and learn why composting is environmentally more helpful than a landfill or your garbage disposal for vegetables.

On a Sunday in August there will be a Moment for Mission on Electric Cars.



After worship kick the tires of an electric vehicle. Learn how affordable and how environmentally important your next electric car can be.

Watch the Weekly Updates in your Inbox for more information!

Habitat for Humanity Mission Underway

Mountain Rise is committed to helping with a “New Build” in the Josanna neighborhood, west of Rochester. We join the Perinton Coalition of churches to fund and work on this effort at 871 Smith Street.

Calendar of events:

July 13 - Digging for the foundation begins

July 17 - Volunteer work begins

September 15 - 25 - Mountain Rise work window

December - Keys will be turned over to Francesca Madera, the new owner.

Contact: Bill Holliday for more information and to help with this mission.

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

Remembering

On June 27th following Sunday worship, the Just Peace in the Holy Land Team held a brief memorial service at Mountain Rise in order to remember the most recent hostilities between Israel and Palestine during which 70 children were killed—sixty-eight Palestinian children and two Israeli children. White flags with each child’s name and age were planted on the church lawn.

When we read about such tragic events, it is so easy to gloss over them and go on with our day. When we see the names and ages of the children, it becomes much more personal. In one family seven children were killed. We need to internalize the atrocity and pray for the families.

Mountain Rise New Branch

Baraa al-Gharabli, 5	Adam al-Qawlaq, 3
Mustafa Obaid, 16	Ahmad al-Qawlaq, 15
Yazan al-Masri, 2	Amir Tanani, 6
Marwan al-Masri, 6	Ahmad Tanani, 2
Rahaf al-Masri, 10	Ismail Tanani, 7
Ibrahim al-Masri, 11	Adham Tanani, 4
Hussein Hamad, 11	Khaled Qanou, 17
Ibrahim Hassanain, 16	Ahmad al-Hawajri, 14
Muhammad Suleiman, 15	Lina Issa, 13
Mina Sharir, 2	Fawziya Abu Faris, 17
Lina Sharir, 15	Hamza Ali, 12
Nadine Awad, 16	Muhammad Abu Dayyeh, 9 months
Zaid Talbani, 4	Hoor al_Zamli, 2
Miriam Talbani, 2	Ibrahim al-Rantisis, 6 months
Hala Rifi, 13	Muhammad Zain al-Attar, 9 months
Bashar Samour, 17	Amira al-Attar, 6
Ido Avigal, 5	Islam al-Attar, 8
Hamada al-Emour, 13	Abdullah Jouda, 12
Ammar al-Emour, 10	Butheina Obaid, 6
Mahmoud Tolbeh, 12	Suheib al-Hadidi, 12
Yahaya Khalifa, 13	Yahya al-Hadidi, 10
Yamen Abu Hatab, 5	Osama al-Hadidi, 5
Mohammad Bhar, 17	Abdurrahman al-Hadidi, 7
Yara al-Qawlaq, 9	Bilal Abu Hatab, 9
Hala al-Qawlaq, 5	Zain Ishkontana, 2
Qusai al-Qawlaq, 6 months	Tawfiq Abu Elouf, 17
Yousef Abu Hatab, 10	Rafeef Abu Dayaer, 10
Hana al-Qawlaq, 14	Dima Asaliyah, 19
Zaid al-Qawlaq, 8	Dana Ishkontana, 9
Dima al-Ifranji, 15	Yahya Ishkontana, 4
Yazan al-Ifranji, 13	Tala Abu Elouf, 13
Mira al-Ifranji, 11	Yousef al-baz, 13
Amir al-Ifranji, 13	Nagham Salha, 2
Lana Ishkontana, 5	

(From the NY Times)

For more information about the ongoing struggle, click on these links:

dci-palestine.org

sabeel.org

<https://www.globalministries.org/project/water-project-of-the-dspr/>

Submitted by Jack Heister

Please do **not** drop off donations at the "IN'nOut" room on the lower level of the church. Unfortunately we have no recipients currently, and there is a backlog to be disposed of. So, until further notice, the collection area is closed. Good Will continues to accept clothing and household goods.



Summer brings sales on school supplies! Church World Service collects kits to be distributed in places of need. So, the Service and Advocacy Committee is providing cloth bags to be filled by shoppers. Families might purchase some extra items when shopping for their lists or empty nesters may reminisce about the good old days while providing for a child unknown to them. Or folks who hate shopping may provide funds for one of our super shoppers to fill a bag or two. The kits are valued at approximately \$15.

Each kit includes blunt scissors, 3 spiral notebooks, a 12" ruler, a pencil sharpener, a large eraser, 6 new pencils, and a box of 24 crayons. Two dollars per kit will allow us to cover the required shipping cost.

Bags will be available at the church in August and September and will be received through March of 2022 along with health kits.

School supplies for the children residing at the Pines of Perinton will be provided through our Easter offering. Many thanks to those who donated! Volunteers are invited to help organize and distribute backpacks of supplies in August. Contact Fran Stiles at 385-4475 if you would like to help.

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 the Annual Retreat, July 14, 3-7PM at Mountain Rise.

Bylaws Update

June 26, 2021



Dear Mountain Rise Congregation,

The Bylaws Review Committee offers the following update as we move forward into the final phase of presenting a proposed new set of bylaws to the congregation for approval.

Using congregational feedback, information provided in our church profile, and Dan Hotchkiss' presentation and his book, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, the Bylaws Review Committee began a process lasting over 2 1/2 years.

In early March of this year we began rolling out a draft of the new proposed bylaws. We first presented the draft to Council for review and met with them to hear their thoughts and suggestions. This meeting was very valuable and as a result changes were made to improve the bylaws.

This new revision was then presented to the many Mountain Rise Committees for the same purpose, to receive input and guidance. After two of these meetings the Bylaws Committee again met and made further revisions.

Over the past month we again met in two open meetings with the congregation, received email suggestions and phone calls, and again gained additional input and guidance.

We wish to thank the many people who took the time to read the new proposed bylaws. This input has helped us tremendously to improve them and hopefully give Mountain Rise a working set of bylaws that will be used to guide us as we move into the future.

On June 26, the Bylaws Review Committee met to make final changes to the proposed bylaws. This final copy of the bylaws dated June 26, 2021 will soon be distributed to the congregation.

Council has agreed to call a Special Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, August 1 after worship. The sole purpose of this meeting is the following:

1. To have an up or down vote on the new proposed bylaws.
2. If the bylaws pass there would then be a vote to have the new bylaws take effect on September 1, 2021.
3. Again, if the bylaws pass and go into effect September 1 there would then be a vote on a slate of candidates presented by Nominations to fill the new positions created by the new bylaws.

Please watch for the final draft of the new proposed bylaws. When you receive them please read them carefully and contact us if you have questions. We would be glad to answer any questions prior to the Special Congregational meeting. A time for comments and questions will also be available at the meeting before we take the up or down vote on the proposed bylaws.

Sincerely,

Rick Watkins rwatkins12@rochester.rr.com
 Nicky McClain nickymcclain@gmail.com
 Laura Ballou laurajballou@gmail.com



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

Please advise the church office of any changes.

Health

Scott O.
 Wilan Uthman
 Tristen
 Julie
 Jean
 Sue
 Tim
 Barbara Ackroyd
 Madi
 Tristen
 Don
 Jane
 Dick & Judie
 Diane
 Conor
 David
 Daniel
 Mark
 Margot & Maddie
 Lisa, Sharon & Jack
 Ted
 Michelle
 Kelly
 Jessica
 Andi, Caregivers & families
 Dwight & Deb
 Honduran Friends

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

Bereavement

Tyler Family
 Hacker Family
 Gutman Family

Challenges

Jackie Barker
 Rick & Julie Peet
 Erik
 Jonathan True

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 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?