

The Old Man's News

A Newsletter of Mt. Sinai Congregational Church, UCC - April 2021



Message from the Minister

Dear members and friends,

When the first disciples encountered Jesus after the resurrection, they did not recognize him. And then he spoke to them, he called them by name, he said, "Do not be afraid." And they knew who it was in their midst.

You and I live in a difficult time. So, maybe we can go easy on ourselves if we, too, do not recognize the resurrection in our midst. Maybe we are too used to the status quo, or too tired of COVID19, or life makes too many demands already. Asking even more energy for being spiritually awake can seem like too big an ask.

Part of the miracle of Easter is that Jesus showed up where people were. Whether they were locked away in the room, or on the road to head back home, or back to their boats and nets, Jesus showed up where they needed him to be.

And his words were, "Do not be afraid."

Good words for our day as well. For God is faithful. And Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.

Grace and Peace,
Phil



Contact Us

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Please visit our website if you would like to be added to our email list.

Procession of Palms & Blessing

On this past Sunday, many people participated in the drive-thru Palm Sunday procession at the church. After receiving palms we drove around the church to receive a blessing from Reverend Phil Hobson.



Lent and Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday – April 1st

We will gather via YouTube at **7 p.m.** The service will focus on Jesus washing the Disciples' feet and the first Holy Communion. We will also be remembering our Baptism and encourage you to have a way to pour water from one small vessel to another as part of the reenactment.

Good Friday - April 2nd

A video devotional will start at **Noon** via YouTube.

Easter Sunday Services - April 4th

6:30 a.m. - **Easter Sunrise Service** at Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai, weather permitting. Masks and distancing are required for this in person service.

10:00 a.m. - **Service of Resurrection** via YouTube.

Please keep an eye out for more information on these events.

Worship in the Time of COVID-19

Worship continues to be 100% on-line. The worship service streams from the church at 10 am on Sunday mornings on YouTube and later on the church's Facebook page. Rev. Phil will send a weekly email with the links. Whether via Facebook or YouTube, you will be able to watch and participate in the service. **And stay around for the Zoom coffee hour!!**

- * We will continue with "Communion Where You Are", so if you want to have some bread and drink available, you can join in.
- * Prayer Requests - Please send all prayer requests to Reverend Phil at revphilmsucc@gmail.com. He will put them together in an email that will be sent out before each service.
- * There will be an offering time. While we won't be passing the plates, we will be reminding people that there are ways to donate via the church website <https://www.msucc.org/giving/>, by mailing in a check, or by setting up bill pay through your bank.



Moderator's Message

***“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”***

Isaiah 43:18-19

With each Spring I can't help but look forward to the days when temperatures are more agreeable, when flowers begin to sprout through what a short time ago was frozen ground, and trees begin to give off a green tinge with the promise of new foliage. Even the scent of the air is somehow different; it speaks of new life that is about to take place.

Metaphorically speaking, we have been in the dark days of Winter for quite some time when considering the challenges we have faced as a church, a community, a nation and as individuals. The global pandemic has taken away many of the freedoms we never even thought about, or perhaps just took for granted; to gather, to hug, to provide a consoling hand to someone in need. The administration and increased supply and availability of vaccines has certainly provided a sense of hope that there is a light that can be seen in the days ahead and that like Spring, new life may actually spring forth.

At the March 25th Council meeting a significant and lengthy discussion took place regarding our church community regathering for Sunday worship. We committed to using available scientific data to provide a “safer” gathering space and will continue to monitor the available information as

we move forward. The council agreed that indoor worship could not take place at this time as a higher level of risk continues to exist for the transference and contraction of the COVID-19 virus.

*The Council did agree, however, that outdoor gatherings help ensure a safer worship space that may provide some level of confidence for those who might consider participation. **With that in mind, our first outdoor Sunday worship will take place on May 16th.*** There are many logistics that need to be worked out between now and then. For those who elect not to participate in the out-

door service, rest assured that the weekly worship-hour link will still be available. Reverend Phil will be outlining more of the details, so be on the lookout for that information in the near future.



In the meantime, and as the prophet Isaiah indicated, the Lord is beginning to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Let us all rejoice in the Lord's goodness, the promise of Spring with new life, and the gift of once again being together praising our Lord for all He has and continues to do in our lives.

Dennis Laderwager, Moderator
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JOIN US AS WE PASS THE PEACE OF KINDNESS AND FRIENDSHIP...

Invitation to A Spiritual Friendship

You are being invited to reach out the “Hand of Fellowship” and have a church friend on your faith journey during this time.

Some of us have been using centering prayer, meditation, yoga, poetry, or other readings, and devotions such as the Season for Nonviolence (see below) as a practice through Lent; all good individual practices. However, as we talked with one another during our Lenten journey, a number of us realized that sharing our thoughts, our ways for coping, and our prayers with others was both comforting and inspiring. These casual “spiritual friendships” enriched our journey. As

Lent comes to a close, we realize that others may like to have similar friendships too as we continue through the year. So, we extend an invitation to all to join a **Spiritual Friendship**.

If you want to be part of this Spiritual Friendship, please reach out to Nancy West, Congregational Nurture Team, (westnan@optonline.net) or Patrice Perreca, Worship & Sacraments Team, (patricep@gmail.com) with your contact information. You will be paired up with a partner and your contact information will be shared so you can get in touch with each other.

Season of Nonviolence Spiritual Practice Continued

This winter several members of our congregation chose to join a spiritual practice called Season for Nonviolence, based on ideas related to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King. For 64 days, from January 30th to April 4th, we did a daily prayer and meditation based upon "positive" words and concepts, and had a bi-weekly group discussion.

Everyone agreed that it was a worthwhile and spiritually enriching experience and recommended doing more similar activities in the future.

For more information, you can contact Barbara and Tom Lyon at brlsap@optonline.net.

Towards the end the 64 days, several folks reflected positively on the experience.

During this period when I felt so rudderless, no routine, not remembering what day it was, this reading gave me a direction to enrich my life as well as others around me. It was very meaningful to read it day after day.”

“It allowed me to get into a sort of bubble that allowed me to de-stress. I am grateful I had this for the past few weeks.”

One person put the daily word on a chalkboard, another made a "prayer card, sort of a pictorial rosary" so they were reminded through the day.

“It’s been an emotional time in our lives and we needed downtime. This program offered us time for reflection and a sense of peace.”

“It set me on a different path and opened my heart and mind.”



Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry continues to stay in **Contact** with members of our church community that are less able to get out and about. Our card ministry is very active sending get well cards, birthday wishes and sympathy cards.

Are Prayers Needed?



The Caring Ministry supports a closed prayer circle in which prayers are offered when requested by members of our church community. The prayer circle is updated weekly and sent out to members of the group via email. If you would like to request a prayer or join the prayer group, please email the church office at mssc1@optonline.net.

The **Grief Support** group now has additional resources for those dealing with deaths related to COVID-19. Contact Diane Corson at 631-903-1660, if you have a need for these resources. Please see accompanying article about upcoming meetings.

Grief Support Group to Meet Again

The Grief Support Group under the MSUCC Caring Ministry is starting up again! We will meet on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. beginning May 1 and going through June 8. The group will meet outside near the Memorial Garden, wear masks, bring our own chairs and sit in a circle at the appropriate social distance. We will use booklets as a guide for discussion entitled "Journeying Through Grief" by Kenneth Haug.



Anyone interested in participating in all or some of the sessions please register in advance by email

to Diane Corson at dianescorson@aol.com who is facilitating the group. There is no cost, but it is important to know the number to expect. Please indicate your name and give preferred contact information (email or phone). In the case of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, Diane will need a way to contact you. Please register by APRIL 24 or contact Diane with any questions you may have.

The Grief Support Group is open to church members *and* members of the community. It has been a very difficult year for us all and particularly for those who have experienced loss or losses. The group provides a safe and caring place to help process our journey through grief.



Mission Ministry



Need help getting a Covid-19 vaccine? Give us a Call!

Dear MSCC family,

We would like everyone to be able to get their COVID vaccinations as soon as they are eligible. It can be difficult for some people to use the on-line system to make appointments or to get to the vaccination site.

The Missions Ministry Action Team would like to help in [scheduling an appointment](#) for the vaccination, if needed. We would also like to offer [transportation](#) to the vaccination site if someone is unable to get there on their own.

If you need assistance with making an appointment and/or getting to the vaccination site, please call the church office at [631-473-1582](tel:631-473-1582). We will have one of our volunteers reach out to you.



Volunteers Are Needed: We are asking for volunteers to help with these tasks. To sign up as a volunteer, please contact the church office at [631-473-1582](tel:631-473-1582).

Join the Mission Ministry Action Team!!

Mt. Sinai Church has long been known for its strong mission focus. Civil rights, community outreach, the food pantry, holiday giving and social action are among the activities coordinated through the Mission Ministry Action Team.

If the idea of doing this kind of work inspires you, as it does us, we invite you to join the Mission Ministry Action Team as a Board Member! All Members decide how mission funds will be distributed to neighbors in need both locally and globally, and what kind of activities will be carried out by the Team throughout the year. Members also decide which special drives (Christmas Mitten Tree, Thanksgiving Dinner Bags for food pantry clients, etc.) and other activities (including new ones) that they would like to work on.



There are many opportunities to do God's Work on this Team and you get to work with fun, dedicated people. If you are interested in joining the Mission Ministry Action Team, please contact Kathy Lahey at klahey@optonline.net for more details.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP AT THE ISLAND HEART FOOD PANTRY

We are in need of volunteers to distribute food to clients on an as-needed basis. This is great volunteer opportunity for someone with a flexible schedule. Sound interesting? If so, please contact Kathy Lahey (klahey@optonline.net) for more details.

Food Pantry Visits - February/March 2021

Island Heart Pantry

- ◆ 563 / 816 Adults
- ◆ 383 / 504 Children
- ◆ 77 / 122 Seniors
- ◆ 253 / 328 Families

Church Food Closet

- ◆ 8 / 12 Adults
- ◆ 22 / 26 Children
- ◆ 8 / 6 Seniors
- ◆ 4 / 5 Families

Mission Ministry

Sunshine Center Clean-up

The Sunshine Alternative Education and Prevention Center, a mission of Mt. Sinai Church, provides programs for at-risk children, teens, and their families. We have been providing monetary and landscape clean-up support to this organization for over five years.

Over the next few months, The Sunshine Center will be needing a great deal of help to get their property ready for spring and summer programs. **And we would like to put together a team to help.**

Scheduled dates:

- * Saturday April 17th 9:00 – 12:00 (rain date: Saturday April 24)
- * Saturday, May 15th 9:00 – 12:00 (rain date: Saturday, May 22)
- * June 21st through 25th (various times)

The Sunshine Center is located on Boyle Road in Port Jefferson Station. Clean -up work will include raking, playground clean-up, gardening, flower planting, painting, light maintenance, and some indoor work. You don't need to be an experienced gardener; just a willing attitude is enough!

Please email Carol Wiebelt at cdwiebel@optonline.net, if you are available to join us on any of the main (or rain) dates.

Thank you in advance!



Women's Fellowship

RED BARN NEWS

The Barn is preparing to open (date TBA). Donations are being accepted on Saturdays from 10 - 12 a.m.

The Barn **IS** accepting clean articles of:

- Vintage items/collectibles
- Household goods, dishware
- Vases, decorative pieces
- Gardening supplies such as pots, tools
- Sports items
- Working lamps
- Sealed puzzles - never opened

The Barn **IS NOT** accepting:

- Clothing
- Bathroom items (mats, towels, accessories)
- Bed linens, comforters
- Large tables, large pieces of furniture (contact Open Door Exchange at opendoorexchange.org/ about these items.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CHURCH.

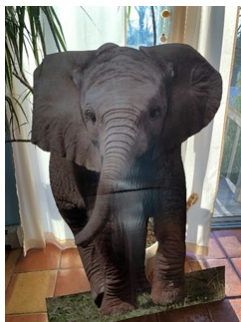


Sunday School Update!

Spring is here! June is fast approaching, and we are getting ready for our 2021 "Virtual" Vacation Bible Camp program:

A JOURNEY TO INDIA

On June 29, 30 and July 1st we will incorporate Indian traditions with some of our own Bible stories, crafts and meditation. Stay tuned for more details to come on this exciting adventure.



With love and thanks, Ms. Caroline and the Christian Education Standing Action Team.

Stewardship Message

Together we have made record donations to the Emergency Assistance Fund and the Island Heart Food Pantry; and our Missions Ministry Board has been fully funded. Thank you everyone, for your generosity!

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our General Fund, which is already at a deficit. We need your help!

- * If you haven't pledged, please consider doing so,
- * if you can increase your donation during this Lenten Season, please consider it.
- * And finally, please keep your pledge up to date.

You can pledge through our web site www.msucc.org, and contribute by mailing a check (233 North Country Road, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766) or setting up bill pay through your bank.

Gratefully yours,
The Finance Board



Old Man's News

Published by the Mt. Sinai Congregational United Church of Christ formerly known as The Congregational Church in the Community of Old Man's, Miller's Place & Rocky Point, established 1789.

If you would like something in the church's monthly newsletter, the deadline is the **15th of every month**. Please, keep in mind that your submission may be edited for content and for space. Email the OMN Editor at cdwiebel@optonline.net with all submissions and questions.



Mt. Sinai Congregational Church

We are a congregation committed to justice. All are welcome into our full life and ministry regardless of age, race, abilities, economic or marital status, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identification. We are a church that is open and affirming of all people, as we are each made in the image of God.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**