

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ
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May 2011

From our Pastor...

Dear Friends,

What are your dreams for this church? I dream of a beautiful, refinished basement where our children and youth can have Sunday School and youth group meetings; where yoga and exercise teachers can rent lovely space for classes, cool in summer, warm in winter. I dream of an art studio for adults and children to express their God-given talents and that we can enrich worship with those visual arts. I dream of safe places, fresh and clean throughout our building. Space where the community can come and find solace, excitement, and refreshment.

I dream of youth mission trips funded so more kids can go, and enough money in the program budget so no one has to dig in their pocket to pay for supplies. I dream of a van to pick up folks who can't drive anymore and bring them to church.

Maybe we could fund a youth minister, an apprentice organist, or mentor a student minister. Maybe we could repave our driveway and repaint the lines that point out "one way" and replant some flowers or shrubs. Maybe we could finish the repairs, bring in dynamic speakers and teachers, buy new tables for the Sunday School. What do you think?

Whenever we dream of the good we might do, God's energy is flowing. We are called to dream big. And a group of us has started to do just that. And they have cooked up a big idea: The Dream Fund.

Based on what you imagine we can do and be, based on your gifts and giving, based on the deepest of intentions of heart and mind, the Dream Fund will be our future promise: it will determine the church we will be in years to come – it will enable us to do the work of ministry generations from now.

Endowing our future is the same as insuring our future. It pulls our attention away from the day to day – into the dreams of tomorrow.

Dreaming is God's work. Funding those dreams is our work. We invite you to a special meeting of the congregation on May 22nd between the two worship services. Learn about The Dream Fund and how it can shape our future.

Each week we promise welcome: for everyone, no matter who they are or where they are. Let's keep our promises and make our dreams come true.

In Christ, *Rev. Diane*

From our records...**Baptism**

April 10th- Bradley Matthew Donnelly was baptized into the church, his mother is Amanda Donnelly.

Funeral

April 23rd there was a funeral service for Lee Lutz in our sanctuary.

April 27th there was a funeral service held for Mary Baade a beloved member of our congregation. Over the years Mary was active in our Chancel Choir and several boards. There will be a memorial service in the church within the next month.

New Members

April 21st during our Maundy Thursday service we received Elaine & Tom Foley, Jutta Paparelli, Ellen Rackow and Michele & Jennifer Margiotta-Watz in membership.

Worship With us!

9:00 am Church Service and Sunday School

Children stay in church through the children's sermon.

11:00am Traditional Worship Service

On the last Sunday of the month we have "Welcome Sunday," a spirited service for people of all different abilities. Friends from local group homes join us for a multi-media and accessible worship experience. Join us for a less "traditional" Sunday morning!

5:00pm Serenity Services

Held on the last Sunday of every month, this is a reflective service for people in 12-step recovery programs, friends and family.

9:00am and 11:00am Communion Services

Held on the first Sunday of every month. Sensitive to people with food allergies, we offer gluten free wafers in addition to bread. Out of respect for those who cannot drink alcohol, we use grape juice for the blessed cup of Communion. Everyone is welcome to the communion table.

FROM YOUR BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH...



Greetings from the Board of Christian Outreach! (BOCO) Thank you so much for your generous response to our appeal for Church World Service Hygiene Kits. Your continuing support of this program is very important and helps to ensure Kits are available for immediate response after a disaster in another part of the world or here in the U.S. We assembled 130 kits this year.

Thank you to all who gave from the heart to fill Easter Baskets for Brighter Tomorrows, a domestic abuse shelter here in Brookhaven Township. We sent 22 baskets, and 2 extra baskets of toys! We were also able to give baskets to our neighbors at Seabury barn, and send candy and toys for distribution at the Island Heart Food Pantry.

Off the Training Wheels, Rolling Along!

I'm happy to report that the TBT (temporary Biblical tithe of 10%) that I began this month is living up to all promises. I feel so joyous about having to chosen to do this, I plan to continue. I think it relates to that "Economy of Trust" we have been exploring this Lenten season. (Where did that interesting phrase originate, anyway?) A few years ago, my pledge was based on a number I "pulled out of a hat" as something that seemed reasonable. It was quite a bit less than I currently give, and what interests me now is that there were months when I resented writing that check—usually when I'd forgotten to do it and available funds were decreasing. I now believe it was also because I subconsciously felt guilty for not feeling that I could give more. My priorities have changed since then, painlessly and mysteriously, I am pleased to say. Jesus taught that simply doing the right thing can foster internal change when he said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The point of that remark is that when you put your assets in the right place, soon your Inner Being (your heart, your soul) will be in the right place too.

That is "HUGE," as they say. And of course, your "assets" involve not just money but time and skills. Money, however, is rather easy, it turns out—even, some experts maintain, if your money is in tight supply. The personal financial guru Suzy Orman advises (I heard this second-hand) that the first check you write each month should be to your church or temple, the second should be to your emergency fund, and then you should tackle the expenses of living. She says the confidence and sense of power you gain from addressing those two responsibilities serve you well in dealing with having less money than you feel you need, and soon you may find either that you don't need as much as you thought, or you will have created/discovered new sources of income.

Another benefit of becoming a full tither (as if feeling joyous weren't enough!) is that you won't feel embarrassed about choosing NOT to give to every request that comes your way. Though if you want to, you may choose to give above and beyond the 10%, and if you find yourself feeling guilty you definitely should—as was the case with the troubled young rich man whom Jesus advised to give away ALL that he owned.

Are you up to date with your pledge? It's never too late, but the longer you wait the harder it is to catch up. Recall that offering envelopes are not necessary if you write a check or request your bank to send monthly checks from your account to the church. All you (or the bank) need is the church address:
Mt. Sinai Congregational, 233 N. Country Road, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766
Kathy Robinson, Chair – Generosity Team

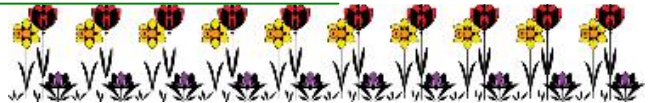
Dream Fund Information....

A special meeting of the membership is planned for Sunday, June 19th at 10:00am in the Sanctuary to vote upon a resolution to create an endowment for our Church.

This endowment, which we will call the *Dream Fund*, is a long-term project, which will seek to raise funds through planned giving. The purpose of the Dream Fund will be to enhance the work of the Mount Sinai Congregational Church beyond the annual operating budget. Generally, Planned Giving involves gifts of assets, including bequests in wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, assignments of life insurance and transfers of other property, like cash, stocks, bonds and real estate.

The Dream Fund will help us build a legacy for our very special church. Please come to the meeting.

The Planned Giving Ministry: Rich Winkler, Chair, Lynn Jordan, Dennis Murphy, Kathy Robinson and Donna Rodman.



Friendly Circle Request - If you have jelly/canning jars and quilting fabrics that you are willing to donate to the church, please drop off and leave in the conference room. Also, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of soft textured yarn and needles.

Gardening - As you plan your spring and summer garden, plant a row for the poor that can be donated to the Island Heart Food Pantry.

Graduation Information Requested- It has been the custom for the church to honor our graduates each June. If you have a graduate in your family would you kindly send information to the church office: Name, school, plans, and contact information (phone or e-mail).

Parish Resource Center- Rocky Point- Dancing Under the Stars still has tickets available for the May14th events. For more details and to purchase tickets, call their office at 631-821-2255

From our Sunday School Coordinator- Ms. Caroline LaVopa...

The children in our Sunday School learn many things throughout the year including; Bible stories, the meaning of communion and how to make a difference in others lives.

Upcoming Events

Come join us Saturday, May 28th- 2pm-4pm, for the FOO (Friends of Oliver) Fun Dance. The admission to the dance will be \$5. There will also be door prizes, raffles, popcorn and soft drinks. Contact me after services or email me at clavopa@optonline.net. Information on VBC will be available during this event.

Vacation Bible Camp will be the week of July 11th through July 15th, from 9am-11am. There will be a showcase of what the children learned on Sunday July 17th at 10am. The registration fee is \$40 per child. The theme is, *Shake it Up Café*- Where Kids Carry out God's Recipe. You can find the registration form on our Sunday School page, we will also have it posted on our website, where you can download and send in.

Keep in touch by visiting our Sunday School page on our website.

Mission Trip 2011

Check out our bulletin board in Voorhees Hall to learn more about our mission trip to the inner city of Philadelphia. We will be staying at Old First Reformed Church, UCC and take part in their Urban Work camps. We are leaving Monday July 25th and returning July 31st. In order to help fund the trip we are holding several fund raisers. Our goal is to raise \$3000.

Fundraisers

Car Wash- Saturday, May 14th – 10am- 2pm

Bagel Bash- Sunday, May 22nd – We will be serving bagels with egg and cheese after the 9am service. The cost is \$4 each. You can take it to go, or sit and eat in Voorhees Hall.

Bake Sale- Saturday, June 4th, Market Day

Bake Sale- July 10th after 10am service

Comedy Club- Date to be announced

Recycling Fundraiser- Do you have cans and bottles you keep meaning to redeem (the ones you receive .05 for)? Donate your recyclable cans and bottles to contribute to our Mission Trip. You can drop off your redeemable cans and bottles at the side entrance (by kitchen) or if needed arrange a pick up by contacting Mary Larson at the office.

If you are a teen currently in the 7th-12th grade, you are welcome to join us for this trip. Contact your Youth Leaders or the office at 631-473-1582 as soon as possible as space is limited.

Youth Group Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Our Pancake Breakfast was a huge success due to the hard work of our Youth Group and the generosity of our congregation. Thank you to everyone who helped and to everyone who attended the Breakfast. We raised over \$500, which will go to our Youth Projects and upcoming youth mission trip.

Youth Group activities...

5th and 6th graders have just started a project making prayer "pockets" which we will be donating to local groups. Ms. Dal Kittredge who is leading our Prayer Shawl Ministry visited and starting teaching our group how to knit the prayer "pockets" which are smaller versions of the shawls she has been making.

Our older groups have been busy working on many different projects; our mission trip, speakers and discussions ranging from; bullying to "What would you do?" Asking what would you as a teen do in a difficult situation. One youth put it as, "I would like to think I would do the right thing but I can see that it would be hard." We have also been having fun while learning more about the bible and more...

News From Half the Sky Book Group...

The **Half the Sky** book study group met several times in February and May. Over twenty-five people attended two or more of the sessions. The stark reality of violence and oppression against women in the developing world (and elsewhere) made this a difficult reading assignment for most of us. But there was also much cause for hopefulness based upon wonderful examples of women overcoming incredible hardships with even the smallest of support from others.

Our "book study" has ended. But it has been replaced with a resolve to continue a **commitment to action** for Global Justice. The group will continue to meet (at least monthly between services) and formulate plans for individual, group, and congregational actions to end violence and oppression. Some of the actions and ideas being explored include:

- ❖ A summer worship service led by members of the group
- ❖ Study and action regarding socially responsible investing, particularly with groups who support poor women
- ❖ A special program regarding Human trafficking in today's world.
- ❖ Supporting Heifer International's WILD women gender equity programs (Women in Lovestock Development)
- ❖ Investigating the process for Mt. Sinai UCC becoming a "Just Peace Church" through the UCC

We will be reporting to the congregation regularly and welcome any and all to join us on this continuing "journey towards justice."

From Island Heart Food Pantry...

April has been very busy! ... We have been providing food for 75+ families each week, and the numbers are growing. Fortunately we have received many donations of food and money this month.

I would like to recognize the Longwood Jr. High, Paul Goldstein, Gina Leone, Manette Derosa, Doris Iversen, Barbara Kjarbye, Louise Timms, the M.I. Rotary, Bagels 101, Phil and Cliff, for bringing us bagels every Wednesday, Bob Maso for making the trips bi-weekly to LI Cares, Kaufolds of Ridge for donating the shed, and ALL the Volunteers who go to Trader Joes each week, pick up the Island Harvest donations each Tuesday and who help each week at the pantry.

On May 7th, weather permitting, we will be fixing the shed for use and will need many helping hands to accomplish this. We need experienced carpenters as well as "helpers". We will be doing this from 9:00am- approximately noon.

Anyone interested in helping please contact me at margaretmaso@hotmail.com. We cannot fix the shed without several Volunteers. If you are out shopping and feel generous, we can always use Juice, Sauce, Jelly and Toiletries. Thank you Everyone for Helping the Fight Against Hunger!!!! Margaret Maso

Dear Friends,

Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation that I have towards my Mt. Sinai congregation family and friends who have stood by me and supported me on so many levels in my pursuit of achieving and realizing my purpose in life as I continue to attend school and live in here in America.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one who made my benefit dinner-the Spring Soiree at the Miller Beach surf club-a success. I wish you a wonderful spring and may God bless you without measure, as you have been a blessing to me.
Oliver Mashaka

Thursday, June 2- A unique opportunity to be with a member of the Peace Corps.

Russ and Harriet Tobin's granddaughter, Loki Tobin, is now in the Peace Corps in the country of Azerbaijan, working with young people there. Many of us remember Loki and her sister, Liana, as little girls when they lived with Russ and Harriet in Mount Sinai for about a year. It will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to meet a Peace Corps Volunteer, to learn about the Peace Corps, and about Azerbaijan (slides and video too), and to ask her questions about her life. If you are interested in learning more about look, check out her blog, www.farfromnome.blogspot.com.



Mark your calendar, folks because **Market Day** at Mt. Sinai Church is around the corner! On **June 4** we will be holding the sixth annual barn sale. So as you are doing your spring-cleaning, put aside those gently used household items, dishware, lamps, books, small pieces of furniture etc.....and we will gladly collect them for our sale.

Please: **no** baby items, toys, stuffed animals and exercise equipment!

We will be collecting your "trash & treasure" in between services beginning in April. Please DO NOT leave any items unattended! In the event of rain or bad weather, we have had to throw things away in the past. We also ask that you only donate items that are sellable. For the past few years, we have lost several hundred dollars in profit to pay for extra dumpsters.

If you are interested in helping out at Market Day (we need people to set up, sell and clean up) please contact Patrice Perreca, you can leave a message at the church office. We look forward to another successful fundraiser for Mt. Sinai Congregational Church!



Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$40 per child

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Grade Completed _____

Age _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone number _____

Special Needs/Allergies _____

Is there a special friend your child would like to be with _____

Class/Crew assignment (assigned by Church) _____

There is a waiver form which will also need to be filled out, it can be found on the website or picked up from Ms. Caroline after Sunday School.

How Individuals Can Use the PRC

The Parish Resource Center is a great place for church leaders to find help with their ministries, but we also have many books and DVDs to help individuals grow and learn. Our Personal Spirituality section includes classics such as Brother Lawrence's *The Practice of the Presence of God* as well as works by contemporary authors such as Kathleen Norris and Donald Miller. We have seasonal daily devotionals and the 40 Day Journey series which focuses on the writings of Joan Chittister, Madeline L'Engle, Deitrich Bonhoeffer, and others.

If you're looking to energize your prayer life, you might want to try the techniques in the books *Praying in Color*, where you draw your prayers, or *Praying with the Body*, where you bring the psalms to life through movement. The DVD *Be Still* explores contemplative prayer with interviews by highly respected authors such as Richard Foster, Max Lucado, and Beth Moore. We also have two DVDs for people with cancer, one a reflection on Psalm 23 and another on the Lord's Prayer. Many of our Bible studies can be used by individuals as well as groups.

For those with an interest in contemporary fiction, we have William Young's *The Shack* as well as *Finding God in the Shack* by Roger Olson. We have a number of videos/DVDs about C.S. Lewis as well as resources about the Narnia and Harry Potter book series. If you like to write as well as read, Anne Broyles' *Journaling* is an excellent resource on spiritual journaling and you can further explore your creative side in Karla M. Kincannon's *Creativity and Divine Surprise*.

We also have a nice selection of resources for children and families. We have Bible and seasonal storybooks, as well as storybooks with a spiritual emphasis. You're welcome to borrow any of our numerous videos/DVDs. The series we own include Nest Entertainment's *The Greatest Adventure Stories of the Bible*, *Story Keepers*, *Friends and Heroes*, *Veggie Tales* and others. We have a collection of seasonal video resources as well. If your child loves crafts, why not borrow one of our many books of Bible-based craft ideas? For tweens and teens, check out our Christian music CDs and DVDs. Our parenting resources include the *Parenting Your Teenager* DVD series as well as books to enrich your family life such as *Fantastic Family Nights*, *Family Time with God*, and *Little Visits with Jesus: Devotions for Families*.

You're welcome to borrow our resources for your personal use as long as you belong to a subscribing church. If you'd like to use the center's space for your personal reading and reflection time, we invite you to come and spend as much time as you like at the center. We're here for you if you'd like assistance in selecting resources or just want to chat.



May 1st-7th

| | | | |
|---|--------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Sunday | Worship & Communion | 9:00 & 11:00am |
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May 8th-14th

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|----|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 8 | Sunday | Worship | 9:00 & 11:00am |
| 10 | Tuesday | Board of Trustees- Conference Room | 7:00pm |
| 11 | Wednesday | Lunch Bunch- Call office for where they are meeting | 12:00pm |
| | | Caring Ministry | 7:00pm |
| 14 | Saturday | Youth Group Car Wash and Fundraiser | 10:00am-2:00pm |
| | | Women's Fellowship Brunch- Voorhees Hall | 10:30am-12:30pm |

May 15th-May 21st

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|----|---------|--|------------------|
| 15 | Sunday | Worship | 9:00am & 11:00am |
| | | Fire prevention drill during Sunday School | 9:00am |
| 16 | Monday | Board of Christian Education | 7:00pm |
| 17 | Tuesday | Deacons Meeting- Conference | 7:00pm |

May 22nd-28th

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|----|----------|--|---------------|
| 22 | Sunday | Worship | 9:00 & 11am |
| | | Youth Group Bagel Bash Fundraiser | 10:00am |
| 24 | Tuesday | Executive Council | 7:00pm |
| 28 | Saturday | Friends of Oliver Fun Dance (see page 2 for details) | 2:00pm-4:00pm |

May 29th-June 4th

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| 29 | Sunday | Worship | 9:00am |
| | | Welcome Sunday | 11:00am |
| | | Serenity Service | 5:00pm |
| 30 | Monday | Memorial Day- Offices Closed | |
| 2 | Thursday | Discussion with Loki Tobin- Peace Corps Volunteer | 7:00pm |
| 3 | Friday | United Church of Christ NY Conference in Silver Bay- Friday through Sunday | |
| 4 | Saturday | Market Day | |

Weekly events

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Friendly Circle | Mondays at 7:30pm |
| Harbor Bells | Thursdays at 5:30pm |
| Youth Group | Thursdays at 6:30pm- 8:00pm |
| Chancel Choir | Thursdays at 7:30pm |