

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ
233 North Country Road, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766, Office- 631-473-1582,
Fax- 631-474-0556, Website: www.mtsinaichurchli.org, email: msccl1@optonline.net

November . . .

seasons turning, wood burning
sweaters cozy, fires toasty

trees releasing, leaves rejoicing
people raking, old bones aching

families gathering, turkey baking
aromas wafting, gravy making
the satisfied, salivating . . .

Thanksgiving Day.

thanks GIVING day . . .

What am I to **give** away?

A bag of potatoes and pumpkin pies?
Fuel and coffee, coats and ties?

Yes, yes! that is generous and right.

Yet something continues to inhibit my sight,
Blinds me to the feast God spreads before me.

It is the fear of scarcity that limits my trust:
If I give what I have, will I *still* have enough?

Yes, yes! God's promise resounds.

I will lead you through your wilderness,
When you're lost, you'll be found.
When you're hungry, you'll be fed
But keep only your share,

There will *always* be enough to go around.

How might we honor each **giving thanks** day?

Trusting God's abundance; pausing to pray;
Living gratefully for the gifts entrusted to our care;
Enjoying what we *need*, giving the rest away.

Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Rev. Elaine

With love and blessings,

From our October Records...**Baptisms**

On October 9th we celebrated the The Sacrament of Baptism for Gabriel Michael Stuto. Gabriel's loving parents are Renee & Michael Stuto.

On October 16th we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for Bradley William Carlo. Bradley's loving parents are Desiree and Keith Carlo.

On October 23rd we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for Jagger Dalton Godek. Jagger's loving parents are Deana & John Godek.

On October 23rd we dedicated Aidan Charles Hudek. Aiden's loving parents are Danielle & Ben Hudek.

Funerals/Memorial Services

On October 7th we held a funeral for Bob Williams, a sharing from the Trustees, "The Trustees are saddened by the recent passing of fellow board member and colleague Bob Williams. In his first year as Trustee he reviewed our insurance policies and successfully recouped some of the churches expenses in repairing storm damage at Seabury Barn. We will miss his energy, his enthusiasm and his challenging questions. May he be at peace in God."

On October 29th we held a memorial service for Gregory Gerstman, son of Edith Gerstman, an active member of our Caring Ministry.

Our Generosity Corner**If All the Pledges were Above Average...**

Here it is, November, the month we as a faith community celebrate God's generosity in our lives by pledging our financial support for the coming year of ministry—ministry to each other and to the world. Last year the Generosity Team (formerly known as the Board of Stewardship) led the leadership of the church into pledging even before the start of the campaign, to show by example that it's exciting, even if scary, to step forward into more proportional giving. And the congregation responded! At the end of the campaign, 121 of the 156 "pledging units" (households) had increased their pledges, some quite substantially. This is good for our spiritual health. God wants us to share the resources we oversee in our time on this earth. The Generosity Team urges everyone to keep up the good growth—keep moving forward into God's vision for you. If you think you cannot manage to bring back to God a full tithe (10% of income), please make a minimum goal of *at least* 2%, which is the average given by U.S. members of mainline protestant denominations. If you have ever listened to Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* on the radio, you know he writes about a small town where "all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children...are above average." I don't know about you, but I wouldn't feel good belonging to a church where "all the giving...is below average." Fortunately, that is no longer the case for us. Please search your heart and bring back to God as generously as you can. The generosity campaign "ends" Sunday, November 20, but it is never too late to pledge, or increase your pledge. Keep on growing!
Kathy Robinson, Generosity Chair

From the Dream Fund...

The Dream Fund is a long-term project, which is seeking 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. The Dream Fund will help us build a legacy for our very special church.

The Dream Fund is also concerned with the education for our congregation; we had our first educational meeting on estate planning October 19th, over 15 people attended. Watch this space for additional events.

submitted by: Rich Winkler, Chair, Lynn Jordan, Dennis Murphy, Kathy Robinson and Donna Rodman

**Caring Ministry**

If you or a family member are: homebound, in the hospital or struggling with the pressures of the world, call on the Caring Ministry to help and they are available to visit. Contact Mary Larson or speak to one of the caring ministers (they wear red and white name badges). We are here for you. Submitted by Mary Larson



Thank you for supporting our C.R.O.P. Walk in October. We had 90 walkers and over \$ 6,900.00 was raised to help fight hunger in our community and the world. In our continuing effort to fight hunger in our community, our Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) will be collecting food to help our neighbors in this season of Thanksgiving. Last year, we collected enough for over 170 families. This year the need is even greater, and we have a goal of 200 bags. Please help in any way you can. We will be providing "shopping lists" for those who would like to contribute entire meals, and there will be a bulleting board in Voorhees.



Island Heart Food Pantry...

As the colder weather approaches we are seeing an increase in number of clients coming to us, as well as new families. We are averaging seventy-five families every week; the donations you all have been making have been a big help.



Thank you to the Board of Christian Outreach in coordinating the Thanksgiving Food Drive and for everyone in the congregation for their contributions. We are well on the way of our goal of 200 bags.



The Red Barn Sale continues to raise money which goes to the church's general fund. The sale is held every Saturday from 9am – 2pm. The barn sale will be open during our November 19 Holiday Bazaar.



Women's Fellowship Fall Meeting date is Saturday, November 12. All women (members or not, age 15 to 115) are invited to this potluck brunch, held from 10:30 until about 12:30. At our spring meeting we decided to freshen up the kitchen by bringing new potholders, hand towels, and kitchen utensils from the dollar store. Please call the church office if you will need child-care or a ride to and from the event.

From our Sunday School Coordinator

October is a time for "tasting" with many outdoor events it's hard not to sample some mulled cider to take the chill out of the cool breeze! Well, get ready to bundle up and venture over to church on Sundays as we prepare for our annual Children's Holiday Service, rehearsals start in November! And, with the New Year approaching we are preparing classes for the children using a curriculum from Progressive Christianity, specifically Year 1 – A Joyful Path – yes, we had a "taste" of it and loved the simplicity of the program and message from folklore stories to more traditional calendar events.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Trick and Treating for UNICEF, we raised \$263.09.

Please continue to check on this site as we update frequently. In the meantime, if you'd like more information please contact Caroline LaVopa, Christian Education Coordinator 631-473-1582 – we look forward to seeing you!



The Youth group meets on Thursdays from September through May from 6:30-8:00pm. The groups are broken down by age. This time helps to form the foundation for continued fellowship and growth within the Church and community.

We have an exciting year planned, check out our Youth Page on our website and if you are in the 5th through 12th grade come down and give us a try.

Ongoing Recycling Fundraiser

Do you have clean cans and bottles you keep meaning to redeem (the ones you receive .05 for)? You can drop off your redeemable cans and bottles at the side entrance (by kitchen but away from other recyclables) the money raised helps to defray expenses for the Youth Group.



Holiday Bazaar

Join us Saturday, November 19th from 9am to 3pm for our annual bazaar.

There will be something for everyone including:

- ❖ Vendors
- ❖ Crafts
- ❖ Harvest
- ❖ Bread from Little Portion Friary
- ❖ Bake Sale
- ❖ Book Sale
- ❖ Barn Sale
- ❖ Snowflake Auction
- ❖ Crafts
- ❖ Raffles and much more!

If you'd like to bake or volunteer, please check the Holiday Bazaar Bulletin Board in Voorhees Hall.

Taking Care of Body, Soul and Spirit at Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ

Bible Studies and Small Groups

Faith Building small group: Healing. This group includes: Bible study, prayer and sharing. We will be meeting every other Wednesday through December (see dates below) at 7:30pm at the church. Dates: Nov. 9th and Dec. 7th. We will be using INSights publication "Healing", which is available through Rev. Diane.

Bible Study- Join Rev. Diane in the conference room after the 9am Sunday service to discuss topics raised from the sermon and deepen your faith. No RSVP needed!

After the first of the year we will be starting another small group Faith Building Class on Crisis. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more information.

Get Moving...

Yoga in The Studio at Mt. Sinai Church

Kripalu Yoga- Wednesday's in the Studio at 10am and Friday's at 7pm. They will be approx. 1 hour and 15 minutes each. Sign up for 1 class per week for 5 weeks for \$50 or sign up for 2 classes per week for 5 weeks at \$100. Drop-ins are welcome at \$12 per class. Led by certified Kripalu instructor Janet Metcalf.

Vinyasa Yoga- with Susan- Wednesday's- Lower Level at 7:00pm. Beginners are warmly welcomed.

Transform your Body with Max30 Class - Mondays at 8am in the Studio. Total body workout designed for those with busy schedules. Tone your body, melt away fat, and build muscles. Led by certified instructor Tony Lauto. 6 classes for \$50.00 or \$12.00 per class.

Social Justice

Social Justice Task Force - As you have probably heard, the Board of Christian Outreach has approved the formation of a "Social Justice Task Force" as a separate entity; to support and enhance the good works of BOCO. By church policy and tradition, it will be linked to BOCO, report to it, and have a BOCO representative on the task force. Call the office for more details.

Support

Bereavement Support

If you are grieving the death of a beloved partner or spouse and feel that group support would be helpful to you, please join us for a series of meetings to offer, "Help for the Holidays." We will be meeting Wednesday evenings between 7:00-8:15pm on November 2, 16, 30, December 7 and 21. Please contact the church office at 473-1582.

Caring Support Group- If you are you the primary caregiver of a family member, you will benefit from the support of a loving community. Please contact [Mary Larson](#) at the church office if you are interested in being a part of our Caring Support Group.

We will start meeting twice a month at McDonalds in Miller Place for coffee at 10am. Our first meeting will be **Thursday** November 17th and **Wednesday** November 30th. In December we will be meeting **Wednesday's** on the 14th and the 28th.

We will be starting an evening group starting in December. Call Mary Larson in the office for more details.

Caring Ministry- If you or a family member are: home-bound, in the hospital or struggling with the pressures of the world, call on the Caring Ministry to help. Contact Mary Larson in office for more information.

November 2011

November 9-12

Wednesday	Kripalua Yoga with Janet Metcalf- The Studio	10:00am
	Lunch Bunch	12:00pm
	Caring Ministry- Mary's office	7pm
	Vinyasa Yoga with Susan- The Studio	7:00pm
	Faith Group	7:30pm
Thursday	No Music Rehearsals	
	Youth Group	6:30pm
Friday	Kripaula Yoga with Janet Metcalf- The Studio	7:00pm
Saturday	Women's Fellowship Brunch	10:30am-12:30pm

November 13-19

Sunday	Worship	9:00am and 11:00am
	New Members received during the 9am Service	
Monday	Max30 with Tony Lauto	8:00am
	Friendly Circle	7:30pm
Tuesday	Deacons- Conference Room	7:00pm
Wednesday	Men's Breakfast- Rocky Point Diner	7:30am
	Kripalua Yoga with Janet Metcalf- The Studio	10:00am
	Bereavement Support Group	7:00pm
	Vinyasa Yoga with Susan- The Studio	7:00pm
Thursday	Harbor Bells	5:30pm
	Chancel Choir	7:30pm
	Youth Group	6:30pm-8:00pm
Friday	Kripalua Yoga with Janet Metcalf- The Studio	7:00pm
Saturday	Holiday Bazaar	9:00am-3:00pm

November 20-26

Sunday	Worship	9:00am & 11:00am
Monday	Max30 with Tony Lauto	8:00am
	Friendly Circle	7:30pm
	Board of Christian Education	7:00pm
Tuesday	Interfaith Service at Temple Beth Emeth	7:00pm
	9 th -12 th graders volunteer annual dinner at LICC- details to follow	
Thursday	Cedar Beach Thanksgiving Service	9:00am
	Offices Closed	
	No Youth Group	
Friday	Offices Closed	

November 27- December 3

Sunday	Worship- (First Sunday of Advent)	9:00am
	Welcome Sunday- (First Sunday of Advent)	11:00am
Monday	Max30 with Tony Lauto	8:00am
	Friendly Circle	7:30pm
Wednesday	Men's Breakfast at Rocky Point Diner	7:30am
	Healing Group	7:30pm
	Bereavement Support Group	7:00pm
Thursday	Harbor Bells	5:30pm
	Chancel Choir	7:30pm
	No Youth Group (Leaders will be meeting)	
Friday	Kripalua Yoga with Janet Metcalf- The Studio	7:00pm