

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ
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October 2011

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Harvest! It's a time of coming home, reaping what has been planted; warm and hearty foods. It's about taking stock for the winter and taking a rest from the labors of the field – for the farmers anyway. For you it's a time to gear back up for school or work or soccer; a time of apple crisps and pumpkin ice cream. Harvest time also reminds us of the plenty some enjoy and of the needs of others.

Our Harvest time here at Mt Sinai is about how we give thanks for and share what we have. So for the second year in a row we designate October as Hunger Awareness month and join the United Church of Christ's Hunger campaign which is called Mission I.

I am hyper-aware of how much the church calls upon you to do. I sometimes hear that people have left the church because they didn't know how to handle or respond to all the appeals for money. I am always sorry when I hear that because there are many ways to give and they don't have to cost a cent. If you can pray for those in need, you have made an offering. If you are struggling too much to offer anything, let us pray for and help you.

God calls us to share of our time and talent and treasure. **Here are your opportunities** during Hunger Awareness Month, some of them requiring no more than your signature on a letter. Thanks in advance for all you do!

The annual United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need Appeal: collected every fall here is a very traditional way to donate money to our denominations work among the needy. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins.

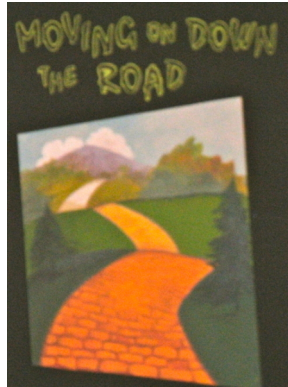
Supermarket Food Drives Are you willing to sit outside of the supermarket in your town to ask shoppers for food donations? This is your Saturday: October 15th! Bring your youth group, scout troop, Mahjong club!

Bread for the World Letter Writing Campaign As Board of Christian Outreach does every year we invite you to write letters to our elected officials about our concern for the hungry. Letters, templates, addresses are all provided during coffee hour on October 16th. We'll even pay the postage!

CROP Walk Walk to raise awareness about our hungry neighbors. Ask your family, co-workers and friends to sponsor you to raise money for local food pantries. October 23rd in Port Jefferson Village.

Thanksgiving Dinner Food Drive Help provide a Thanksgiving meal for a family in need. You may bring in a single can of corn or an entire dinner – as you are able. Collection concludes November 13th and reminder magnets for your fridge will be available.

As a final note I wish to thank the food pantry volunteers at Island Heart and at the MSCC's emergency pantry, who serve week in and week out to bring food to the hungry. Thank you to the Board of Christian Outreach in their dedication to justice and peace. Thank you to all of you who make an offering of your time, talent or treasure in the name of Christ, Jesus. – Peace, Rev. Diane



Move On Down the Road

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at *Move On Down the Road*, our October 1 evening of music, fun and refreshments. It is our first fundraiser for our newly expanded Music Ministry for Children and Youth (MMCY).

You'll have a chance to see and hear seasoned performers Emma Apse and Brittney Puglissi, who are staffing this ministry. Eddie Melendez & Friends, the Chancel Choir, soloists and some of our youth are part of the entertainment, too. We will invite you to sing along on some old favorites and enjoy food and fellowship in Voorhees Hall.

There are four baskets of fun for which you can purchase raffle tickets. Winners for those and the fifty-fifty raffle will be announced at the end of the evening. Please come and bring your friends and family and support this ministry. Your lives will be enriched by supporting this opportunity for the youth and children of our church and community.

WHEN?	7:00 pm, Saturday, October 1, 2011
DONATION?	Adults - \$10.00 donation Children under 12 - \$5.00 Families of 3 or more - \$25.00

Harbor Bells

Some of you have expressed interest in ringing with Harbor Bells. Some of you have not said a word but I bet you have wondered what it would be like to try. Do we have an opportunity for you!

Harbor Bells are ringing in worship on **Sunday, October 23. After both services** we invite you to come up to the bell tables where we will give you a quick lesson on how to hold and ring the bells properly, how to recognize notes and symbols in the music and then actually ring a simple piece together. Anyone, regardless of your level of skill and musicianship, is invited to take advantage of this opportunity. You have nothing to lose and our current ringers can vouch for the fun you will have.

You do not have to commit to anything else to try out your ringing skills, but if you want to learn more you may also choose to attend three weeks of basic bell ringing practice on **November 3, 10 & 17 from 5:30-7:00**. We hope some of you will be brave enough to take a crack at this unique art.

Chancel Choir

The kick-off rehearsal for seasonal singers will be held on **Sunday afternoon, Nov 6, 2011, from 12:45-3:45 pm**. We hope that those of you who cannot commit to every week will augment our choir for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Contact Rev. Elaine or talk to choir members if you have questions.

From our Records...**Weddings**

Danny Jusza and Craig Gould were married on August 27th .

Baptism

Melora May Johnson was baptized on September 25th during our 9am service.

Our Generosity Corner- October News...**New, from the Generosity Team**

You've heard the expression "a new wrinkle," no doubt. Well, the Generosity Team has a new "twinkle" to report—which is something positive and shiny. We are excited to bring to the congregation a personal self-assessment worksheet that helps you "translate" the hours you spend volunteering with charitable organizations (including Mt. Sinai UCC and many other groups), into "virtual" dollars and cents.* Then, when you work on your pledging goals for next year, you'll be invited to share as much of that information as you wish, to help round out the picture of the congregation's giving percentages. As with traditional pledges of money, information about individuals will be confidential and shared only as it helps form the overall patterns of giving and growth.

As far as we know, this is the first year that volunteer hours will be reflected in Mt Sinai's recorded giving charts. It's bound to be pretty inspiring—by including donated time in the pledge snapshot for the first time, we will see sizable jumps in some households' giving levels. And if we as a congregation keep pressing forward to stretch ourselves in "bringing back to God" a greater portion of our *actual* dollars and cents as well, we can only be further empowered for the good works we are undertaking in Jesus' name.

The worksheet, entitled "Open Your Eyes as Well as Your Hearts," will be part of the pledging packet and is now getting a trial run from the Boards of the church. If you want to be one of the early birds, contact the church office for a copy to be sent to you or emailed. (The emailed worksheet requires printing on legal-size paper. It isn't yet available as an online form, partly because it requires some simple calculations on scratch paper. And if that sounds intimidating, don't worry. Just remember who the ultimate loving Teacher is!)

*The IRS does not recognize the monetary value of "time" gifts for tax credit purposes, but there are plenty of good reasons for us to take note and celebrate them, as very tangible signs of

From the Dream Fund...

On October 19th at 7pm we will be holding an estate planning meeting at the church. Janet L. O'Hanlon Esquire will be speaking. All are invited to attend, please call the office if you are considering attending so we can have an idea on how many to plan for.

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

**Thank you...**

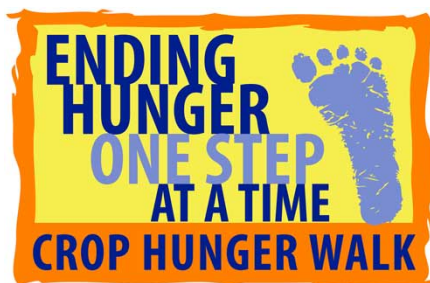
Thank you to the members of the Board of Caring Ministry and all those that volunteered to provide meals for families in need. We have prepared over 50 meals since June and we hope to continue to do so. I appreciate your time, willingness and support. The families have expressed deep gratitude for your generosity and delicious meals. It is wonderful to be part of such a caring church community.

Ruth Sellers- Food Coordinator for Caring Ministry

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 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



Join BOCO in a Walk to Help End Hunger

The Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) will be hosting the annual Brookhaven CROP walk on Sunday, October 23rd. Several other area churches will be joining us for this year's walk through Port Jefferson. Registration for the walk will begin at 1:00 p.m at Memorial Park, across from the Port Jefferson Village Hall. The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m. We hope that many of you will be able to walk with us or support us in this effort. 25% of the proceeds will benefit the Island Heart Food Pantry. To sign up or offer support, please register at <http://tiny.cc/5utih> or see Randi Leonard or Kathy Lahey.



Ripple of Hope Update...

This is a summary of one of the things that was accomplished through our relationship with The Maya Foundation.

The Foundation has agreed to support us for another year with \$3000.00 This money goes directly towards education for the village.

There were 13 participants from El Matasano traveling to the highlands of Guatemala, starting in Chimaltenango, then Totonicapan and ending in Quiche. These participants were picked up by CIEDEG's staff in Chiquimula and the age level varied among teen and elder participants (men and women).

The goal was to give participants the opportunity to learn and share more about food security, sustainable agriculture, environmental sanitation, human rights and gender equity; which they would not normally get in their area.

During the trip they all learned about water usage, environment, types or organic fertilizer by using local resources (including the Bucash type). They also learned how to prepare two different kinds of compost, plant nutrition, natural insecticides (for pest control), vermiculture or how to raise earthworms to improve their crops. These topics were learned from formally educated staff in those 3 Guatemalan states visited, but also learned a lot from the farmers themselves who shared their experiences and "recipes", answered to their questions and encourage them to continue with the work they already started in Matasano.

El Matasano representatives are most thankful for your contribution, and hope to continue with this relationship; which is already allowing them to learn through "farmer to farmer" experiences to improve their community's conditions.

Submitted by: Regina Hopkins



From our Sunday School Coordinator

Welcome back to Sunday School- Rally Day got off to a great start with our Inner Wisdom Series, along with an introduction to singing led by our musical duo Ms. Emma and Ms. Brittney.



As fall approaches we're getting ready for our annual Trick or Treat for UNICEF so start saving those much appreciated coins! Kids wear your costume! This year we're happy to announce that we will have a Halloween Party on Sunday October 30 from 3pm-4:30pm, come- join the fun as we "Do the Monster Mash." Enjoy some spooky treats, musical chairs and more.

On another note, our new wing is almost ready, as many of you know I will be getting an office which will leave the closet in the big room available for supplies needed during Sunday School and Youth Groups. It is a very exciting time for all of us as we prepare for new beginnings. Thanks and prayers for all of you for making this possible.

With Love and Thanks, Ms. Caroline



Youth Group News...

If you are between the grades of 5th-12th you are welcome to come and check out our Youth Group.

We have many exciting things coming up. They include:

Our 5th and 6th graders just started (with the help of Mr. John) our new "Greening Ministry". The youth are learning about how they can make a difference in helping make this world a better and more environmentally friendly place. As they learn and work on projects they will be sharing them by having a table during coffee hour.

Our 7th through 12th graders are making a difference by volunteering to walk in our upcoming Crop Walk and will be volunteering for local mission work. There will also be overnight retreats for the 7th-12th graders and much more..



Halloween Fun! Join us on Sunday, October 30th from 3 - 4:30pm in Voorhees Hall for some Halloween fun! Admission \$2 (or a car load of Goblins for \$5)....From "freeze dance" to "musical chairs" - wear your costume and get in on the action. Door prizes, raffles and a host of spooky delights! Tickets will go on sale this week - so save the date. Hosted by: Ms. Caroline and members of The Board of Christian Education.



Calling all Elves...

No experience needed. Just a willingness to help and a sense of humor ! Join the Elf Brigade Even if you are not a "crafter" you can still make a difference. Either call me at home, or leave a message at the church (631)473-1582.

Creatively yours, Linda Marzano

From Island Heart Food Pantry

The pantry has seen a lot of activity this month. Not only with the steady stream of clients, but with a number of volunteers busy with the renovations. Girl Scout Troop 272, from Ridge, Rick Delgiorno, Bob Maso and myself, spent an entire weekend re-painting the outside of the pantry and shed, making a new wall and installing a new exterior door. Then several people assisted the next two days in re-painting and re-stocking the pantry. Everything is clean, fresh and a bright appearance. Many thanks to all of the donors of materials: Thurber Lumber, Ben's Paints, Grays Hardware, Habitat for Humanity, Van Kamenade Paints , Home Depot , Riverhead Building Supply and Stop and Shop. There is now a nice "flow" when the clients come to shop, a place for them to sit while waiting outside and we now comply with the Fire Codes.

Donations have been very slim and we are in need of several food items. If you happen to be shopping and would like to help fill our shelves we are in need of : Peanut Butter, Jelly, Juice, Pasta, Sauce, Tuna, Chilli and Soup.

Thank You to ALL who came to assist this past month with all the work. Job Well Done!!!!



Every Saturday from 9am to 2pm, we will be having a Yard Sale out of our Red Barn. All proceeds from this weekly sale will go directly to the church's general fund. Donations can be dropped off on Saturday's during the sale.

Save the date! Our Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 19th from 9am to 3pm. Stay tuned for more information.



Women's Fellowship Fall Meeting date has been moved to the second November Saturday, Nov. 12, due to a scheduling conflict with a wedding. 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.

Parish Resource Center News...

The Art Of Teaching Spiritual Practice

October 22, 2011

Hicksville United Methodist Church

Leb by Jane Vennard

Many people in congregations are looking for ways to deepen their spiritual lives. Clergy and lay leaders are looking for ways to help congregants in this quest. Author and Pastor, Jane Vennard will lead a workshop on the fundamentals of teaching spiritual practice in small groups and in the whole congregation. The workshop participants will explore a full range of spiritual practices and will find ways to make these practices come alive. Participants will be offered time during the day to practice, reflect, share and pray.

\$50 Price includes, breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. Call for group rates

***The Suffolk Association
New York Conference
United Church of Christ***

September 29, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Faith,

Please receive this missive as the **Call to the Fall, 2011 Meeting** of the Suffolk Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 5**, at the Middle Island Congregational UCC, 271 Middle Country Road, Middle Island, NY 11953.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Business Meeting
10:15 a.m.	Ecclesiastical Council
10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:00 a.m.	Worship and Installation Service
12:00 p.m.	Reception

The offering taken during the Service will be split between the MIUCC food pantry and restoration fund.

The reception will be hosted by the good people of the Middle Island Congregational UCC. There will be no cost. However, there will be an offering basket on the table, and we invite you to be generous. Please e-mail Rev. Stephen Shick at council@middleislandunitedchurchofchrist.org so our hosts will know how many people to plan for.

Only by Grace, Rev. Ann Van Cleef,
Registrar

October 2011

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.

October 2-8

Sunday	Communion Sunday	9am & 11am
Tuesday	Board of Christian Outreach- Conference Room	6:30pm
Wednesday	Men's Breakfast at Rocky Point Diner	7:30am
	Zumba- Voorhees Hall	6:00pm-7:00pm
	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	10:00am
Thursday	Harbor Bells- Voorhees Hall	5:30pm
	Youth Group- Big Room, Lower Level	6:30pm
	Chancel Choir- Meeting Room/Sanctuary	7:30pm
Friday	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	7:00pm

October 9-15

Sunday	Worship	9am & 11am
Monday	Offices Closed	
	Friendly Circle- Conference Room	7:30pm
Tuesday	Trustees- Conference Room	7pm
Wednesday	Zumba- Voorhees Hall	6:00pm-7:00pm
	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	10:00am
Thursday	Harbor Bells- Voorhees Hall	5:30pm
	Youth Group- Big Room, Lower Level	6:30pm
	Chancel Choir- Meeting Room/Sanctuary	7:30pm
Friday	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	7:00pm

October 16-22

Sunday	Worship	9:00am & 11:00am
Monday	Board of Christian Education	7:00pm
	New Members Meeting	7:00pm
	Friendly Circle- Conference Room	7:30pm
Wednesday	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	10:00am
	Dream Fund hosting- Estate Planning Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday	Harbor Bells- Voorhees Hall	5:30pm
	Youth Group- Big Room, Lower Level	6:30pm
	Chancel Choir- Meeting Room/Sanctuary	7:30pm
Friday	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	7:00pm

October 23-29

Sunday	Service	9:00am & 11:00am
	Crop Walk	1pm Registration
Wednesday	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	10:00am
Thursday	Youth Group- Big Room, Lower Level	6:30pm
	No rehearsal for Harbor Bells or Chancel Choir	
Friday	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	7:00pm

October 30- November 5

Sunday	Worship	9:00am
	Welcome Sunday	11:00am
Tuesday	Executive Council	7:00pm
Wednesday	Zubma- Voorhees Hall	6:00pm-7:00pm
	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	10:00am
Friday	Yoga- The Studio- Lower Level of the church	7:00pm