

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ
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From the Minister...

This week I got a "violation" notice in the mail for not paying a toll. I don't have EZ pass so I always go through cash lines. Now you know me. Am I going to speed past a toll taker and dodge the fare? No, I am not. I distinctly remember rummaging desperately through my bag for the third quarter I needed and ultimately having to break a \$20 in order to pay the \$1.75 toll. Now I get to pay a \$25.00 penalty to the Thruway Authority. And there is no recourse for non EZ pass holders. I guess the moral of the story is always ask for a receipt. Or sign up for EZ pass. Or stay home.

In the 39th chapter of the book of Genesis, Potiphar's wife takes a liking to the handsome Joseph, a Hebrew, who works in the house of Potiphar, an officer of the Egyptian king. Joseph, aware of the tenuousness of his position sees the danger in her interest in him. He carefully keeps his distance while flattering her and handling this delicate situation masterfully. However, one day Potiphar's wife, irate that she has been scorned, tries one more time to seduce him. Joseph tears himself away, leaving his garment in her hand! Potiphar's wife cries out as though she has been attacked and accuses Joseph of forcing himself upon her – an accusation with terrible consequences for Joseph. He is thrown in prison. But the jailer comes to like Joseph and puts him in charge of all the other prisoners and of all the workings of the jail. Over time, Joseph will make himself invaluable to the king himself and the rest is history. Joseph becomes one of the "founding fathers" of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

This Old Testament story reminds us that even the unfair and untrue things that happen to us can have a part in God's story for our lives. Joseph is not undone by Potiphar's wife and her false accusation! In fact, on Joseph rests the salvation of the Hebrews— an entire people – with whom we share a history.

This story also reminds us that God is in the lives of all people: those rightly and falsely accused; people who are powerful and those who are not; those of us struggling under the weight of great difficulty and those who live lives of apparent ease and plenty. God is working in all of it, making of the messy pieces something of value.

Can you see your right-now situation as a part of God's story for your life? Can you imagine a large quilt of which your present struggle is but a square? Can you take a God's eye view of today and trust that God is working God's purposes out in your life even when you are unfairly "charged"?

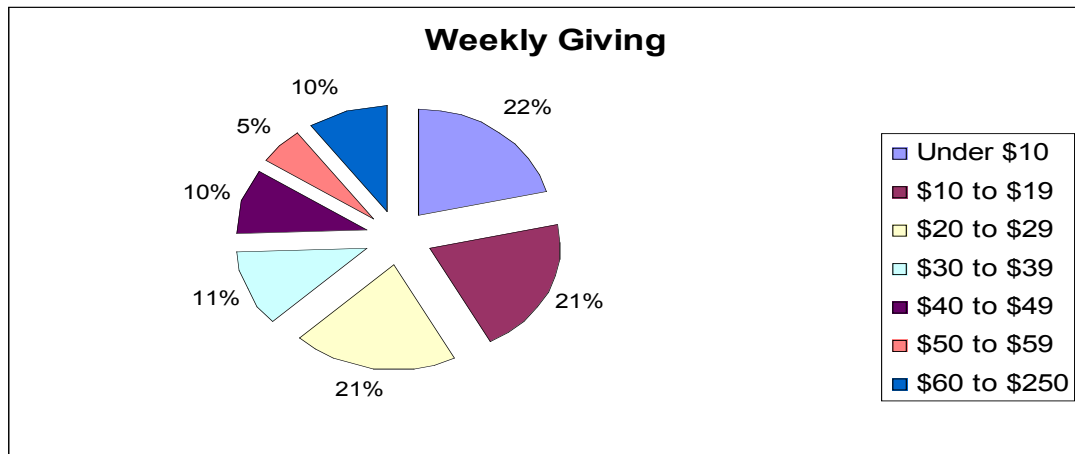
In this upcoming season of Lent, as we contemplate the power of prayer, take the time to pray for those who are caught up in the unfairness of their situation – pray that they might surrender their story into the hands of the Author of all life.

Blessings, Rev. Diane

Generosity Update

To keep on track with our pledges (or unpledged intentions), early feedback is important. The cold hard facts are these: without the cushion of a cash reserve (which evaporated over the past few years of deficit budgets), the supporters of Mt Sinai UCC are not meeting the monthly income needs at this point. Treasurer Charlaine reports that we need an additional \$900 per week, which translates to 45 households giving \$20 more per week than they currently do. Now, before you react with shock or panic, reflect that a standard bell-curve would reveal one-third of these 45 generous households increasing by less than that, and one-third by more. If your blessings permit additional generosity (consider this prayerfully), please do your part with grace. It is wrong to hold back and leave the load for others to carry alone. And remember the words of Jesus: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Kathy Robinson, Generosity Chair



Social Justice Taskforce News...

Thank you to everyone who attended our first SJTF event. It was standing room only to listen to Liz Gannon Graydon of What Better Looks Like. Watch the bulletin, website and facebook for more upcoming news and events.

Submitted by Social Justice Taskforce

From the Dream Fund...

The Dream Fund, it is a long-term project, which is seeking to raise funds through planned giving. The Dream Fund will help us build a legacy for our very special church.

If you are considering a "Planned Gift" to our church, please contact a member of our Dream Fund Committee to discuss.
submitted by: Rich Winkler, Lynn Jordan, Dennis Murphy and Bruce Texeira

Here's what's happening in Sunday School during the month of March...



Communion
Bingo

March 4th we celebrate communion along with a little "Communion Bingo" game for the K-3rd graders. On the 11th our theme will be "Remembering God's Presence" – also on this day our confirmands will experience a Catholic service at St. Louis De Montfort in Sound Beach. Our fourth Sunday in Lent brings us to a program called "Concentrating our Energy". March 25th we are all invited to stay in service as the 5th & up youth group presents some short plays that are sure to delight and inspire us as we head into Palm Sunday.

A note about our Music Ministry for youth group grades 5th & up – Rev. Elaine will be holding rehearsals in between services on March 4th & 18th. Be sure to check the bulletin boards for additional dates and more information.

Blessings, Caroline LaVopa



The 5th and 6th graders are sharing their talents during the March 25th 9am and our 11am Welcome Service.

The Bagel Bash was a great success and the youth and leaders are thankful for all the support from our congregation.

Our next fundraiser is the annual Pancake Breakfast. There are two seating times, 8:00am and 10am. More details to follow we will begin to sell tickets soon.

Confirmation Class- March Schedule

March 2nd 7:15pm Service at Temple Beth Emeth Meet us there by 7:00pm – 52 Mt Sinai Ave, Mt Sinai. Parents are invited to stay for the service.

March 11th Attend Roman Catholic Mass - 9:00am at St. Louis De Montfort Please meet in the parking lot in time for the 9:00am mass

March 25th Regular Meeting – 6:00pm



Exploring Bible Times

We are visiting the exhibit in Discovery Times Square of the Dead Sea Scrolls- Life and Faith in Biblical Times March 3rd. We are leaving from the Port Jefferson Train Station at 7:08am and arrive in the city at 9:09am. We will then be visiting the exhibit. After the exhibit everyone is free for the rest of the day. If you are interested in joining the Adult Fellowship for lunch, please contact the office right away. If you have any questions, contact Mary Larson (631-473-1582).

Board of Christian Outreach – BOCO

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. Gal. 6:9
Thank you, and thank you, and thank you to all who plan, organize, give, deliver and care.

We had a very successful coat drive in January and we sent over 100 coats to Long Island Council of Churches. Thank you to those who sorted and delivered.

We raised over \$1300.00 for the Island Heart Food Pantry through our Snowflake Dinner/Dance. The food pantry collects and distributes food to our neighbors in need. We are currently in need of toiletries and paper items for our food pantry families.

We will be collecting items in March to provide Easter Baskets to the children at Brighter Tomorrows, our local domestic violence shelter, and other local groups that provide services to children in crisis. We will need baskets, grass, candy and small toys. Please look for the collection box in Voorhees Hall starting March 18th

We will be collecting in March/April for Church World Service (CWS) School Kits. CWS has very specific requirements for the items that they can accept for this effort. Please watch the bulletin board in Voorhees Hall for details if you want to help.

Food Pantry News- Island Heart Food Pantry

We recently attended an orientation class at Long Island Cares offered to new directors of food pantries in the area. It was quite informative on many levels, including stressing the issue of civil rights and how important it is to treat every client with dignity and respect. In addition, we attended a food safety class along with Diane Murphy, which got into the specifics of expiration dates, how to determine which foods are truly spoiled, temperature controls of the fridge and freezer and proper handling of all food.

A meeting of the Middle Island Rotary Club was held a few weeks ago. Their invitation provided us with the opportunity to meet several members. In addition, we were assured of their continued support of our mission.

The Heart of Long Island Chorus, Sweet Adeline's International, offered a benefit concert to Island Heart Food Pantry. The performance will be held on Sunday March 4th, at 4PM in our church Sanctuary.

The need is great. IHFP fed close to 1,000 people again this month. As always, thanks to all the volunteers, donations and support of our mission.

**Continuing our journey to eradicate hunger,
Carol & Eddie Melendez**

Spring Soiree

Save the date for the 3rd annual Spring Soiree which is sponsored by the Friends of Oliver. The Soiree will be held April 28th from 6pm-10pm at the Miller Beach Surf Club. There will be dining, dancing, open bar and great fun to benefit the educational fund of Oliver Mashaka.

Potluck Dinner- March 11th

Join Tom and Barbara Lyon for a interactive evening starting with a potluck dinner at 5:15 and will be sharing about their Heifer International sponsored trip to Armenia will start at 6pm.

Come and bring a dish to share and hear about the work Heifer is doing in Armenia.

*No Matter Who You Are Or Where You Are On Life's
Journey You are welcome Here
Join us for Lent*

Worship With Us!

Sunday Mornings- Join us Sundays in Lent for our 9am and 11am services.

Maundy Thursday- April 5th

Soup Supper 6:15pm, service 7:00pm

Good Friday - April 6th

Join us noon-3pm

Saturday Vigil- April 7th

More details to follow...

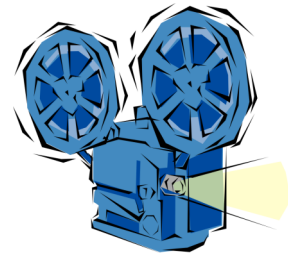


Sacred Chaos [Lenten Book Study](#)

Wednesday Nights at 7pm

March 7, 14, 21 and 28

Does life sometimes seem to spin out of control? Join us for an interactive book study. To register for the class contact the office at 631-473-1582.



Saturday Night at the Movies

During Lent we will be hosting a series of movies with discussions to follow. All movies will be shown at 7:00pm.

March 10- [I AM](#)

"This documentary explores how one man Tom Shadyac went on a journey to discover how as individuals and as a race we can improve how we live."

adapted from I AM website

March 24-

[Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead](#)

This film follows Joe Cross on his personal mission to regain his health. With doctors and conventional medicines unable to help long-term, Joe turns to the only option left, the body's ability to heal itself.

March 31st- [Women, War & Peace](#)

"*Women, War & Peace* is a bold new PBS mini-series challenging the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain." Join us to watch an episode and join in the discussion afterward. More details on which episode we will be watching to come...

*No Matter Who You Are Or Where You Are On Life's
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You're invited to join the Mt Sinai Congregational Prayer Chain

Prayer could, and should, be a part of our daily routine just like eating, drinking and sleeping. Yet many of us experience frustration knowing that our prayer life could be much more than it is. Some of us don't think we can have a prayer life. Just as with physical exercise, starting a regular routine can be difficult.

During this season of Lent we would like to offer each of you an opportunity to pray for each other and the many prayer requests received by this church. Beginning this Ash Wednesday we will offer two opportunities to join our Prayer Chain.

Join our e-mail Prayer Chain by sending an e-mail to prayer@mtsinaichurchli.org

Or on Wednesday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 am the Sanctuary will be open. You can stop in, choose a few prayer requests, and either take them with you to pray at home, or sit down and spend a small part of you day praying.

So how do we get started? We all know the exercise disclaimer: always consult a qualified etc., etc., start slow, and only do what you can. Prayer does not require a disclaimer but here some ideas for how to start. Choose a time each day for prayer; I am a tooth brushing pray-er. You could be a red light pray-er, or use the time it takes for your computer to start and go through its warm up to pray. Let some repetitive task like these be your reminder to pray. But just as with excersie start slowly and do what you can!

'Let my prayer rise before you like incense; and my hands like an evening offering.'

Psalm 141:2

March

February 26th- March 3rd

Sunday	Worship	9:00am
	Welcome Sunday	11:00am
	Serenity Sunday	5:00pm
Wednesday	Prayer Circle	7:00am
Thursday	No Youth Group- Leaders Meet	6:30pm
Friday	Confirmation Class- Temple Beth Emeth	7:00pm
Saturday	Trip to NYC- Dead Sea Scrolls- train leave Port Jefferson 7:08am	gather 6:45am

March 4th-10th

Sunday	Worship and Communion Sunday	9am and 11am
	The Heart of Long Island Chorus, Sweet Adeline's International Concert 4:00pm	
	Concert will be held at the church	
Tuesday	Board of Christian Outreach	6:30pm
Wednesday	Men's Breakfast at Rocky Point Diner	7:30am
	Caring Support Group at McDonalds in Miller Place	10:00am
	Sacred Chaos Book Study	7:00pm
Friday	Youth NY State Conference- Friday through Sunday, leaving in the morning.	
Saturday	Saturday Night at the Movies Lenten Series- "I AM"	7:00pm

March 11th-17th

Sunday	Daylight Savings Time begins remember to move your clocks forward one hour.	
	Worship	9am and 11am
	Confirmation Class meets at St. Louis DeMontfort Catholic Church for 9:00am mass, with discussion to follow.	
	Potluck Dinner and Talk by Tom and Barbara Lyon- Heifer Trip to Armenia	5:15pm
Tuesday	Board of Trustees	7:00pm
Wednesday	Lunch Bunch	12:00pm
	Caring Ministry	7:00pm
	Sacred Chaos Book Study- Conference Room	7:00pm

March 18th-24th

Sunday	Worship	9am and 11am
	Board of Christian Education	10:15am
Tuesday	Deacons	7:00pm
Wednesday	Men's Breakfast at Rocky Point Diner	7:30am
	Caring Support meet at Miller Place McDonalds	10:00am
	Sacred Chaos Book Study	7:00pm
Saturday	Saturday Night at the Movies Lenten Series- "Fat Sick and Nearly Dead"	7:00pm

March 25th-31st

Sunday	Worship- Youth Group Play	9am and 11am
	Serenity Sunday	5:00pm
	Confirmation	6:00pm
Tuesday	Executive Council	7:00pm
Wednesday	Sacred Chaos Book Study	7:00pm
Saturday	Women, War and Peace	7:00pm

Weekly Events

Mon.	Friendly Circle-	7:30pm
Thurs.	Harbor Bells	5:30pm
	Chancel Choir	7:30pm
	Youth Group-	6:30pm- See Calendar for detail

Kripalu Yoga- Friday's at 5pm. They will be approx. 1 hour and 15 minutes each. Led by certified Kripalu instructor Janet Metcalf. Call office for details.