



*Mt. Carmel Congregational Church, 3285 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518*

**The Mt. Carmel Congregational Church  
(A United Church of Christ)  
Newsletter for April, 2021**

Dear Members and Friends,

Easter is more than a day or a season: It is a way of life.

The name Easter was borrowed from the pre-Christian Goddess Eastre - the Goddess of Spring and Fertility.

For Christians we might also call it Resurrection Sunday. For the Christian it is the most important holiday we celebrate. It is a witness that we believe in new life, life after death, second chances, forgiveness and surprises! It is a chance to assure one another that there is always hope, there is meaning in suffering, and love is stronger than hate. Our world needs this message more than ever. Easter began in darkness and defeat. We sometimes taste this same sense of defeat and despair. But the stone was rolled away. Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed! As we enjoy the warmer weather and welcome Spring, let us also remember all the new life around us.

Our church is going through a resurrection process of its own. We may be in the cocoon stage as we prepare ourselves for new life and a new minister. The Search Committee is hard at work. The Trustees are preparing the buildings and we are all praying for a new beginning for Mt. Carmel Congregational Church.

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Call or email me if you need a visit. I am fully vaccinated!

Yours in Christ,

Peace, Rev. Olivia Robinson

## Our April Worship

**April 1, 2021**      Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae Service  
On Zoom at 7:00 p.m.  
MCCC website: <http://yale.zoom.us/j/98812089938>  
Or by Phone: 203-432-9666  
Meeting ID: 988 1209 9938

---

**April 4, 2021**      Easter Celebration!  
A pre-recorded service on the MCCC Website  
10:00 a.m. Outdoors in the Grove (Masks, chairs and social distancing)

**Sermon:**            *Easter is a Way of Life*  
**Scriptures**        Acts 10:34-43  
                          Isiah 25:6-9  
                          John 20:1-18

---

**April 11, 2021**    Second Sunday of Easter  
**Scriptures:**        John 20:19-31  
**Sermon:**            Keith Amato will be preaching  
                          Rev. Robinson will be away April 11, 2021—April 17, 2021

---

**April 18, 2021**    Third Sunday of Easter  
**Scriptures:**        Psalm 4  
                          Luke 24:36-48  
**Sermon:**            Christ Among Us

---

**April 25, 2021**    Fourth Sunday of Easter  
**Scriptures:**        1 John 3:16-24  
                          John: 11-18  
**Sermon:**            The Good Shepherd

---

## **PASTORAL VISITS**

If you are planning on having a procedure done at one of the local hospitals, please let Reverend Olivia know so that she can plan a pastoral visit - (203) 248-7408. Hospitals no longer call local churches with information about their patients. The church depends on others letting us know, and we thank you in advance for your assistance.

**From the Treasurer:** If you have any questions I can be reached at [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com). Ellen

### MARCH, 2021

Income: Pledges and Offerings:	\$4,844.00
Other Income:	\$1,300.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> PPP Loan/Grant:	\$7,347.00
Total Income:	\$13,541.00
Expenses: Total Expenses:	<u>\$7,133.00</u>
Net Income (Loss):	\$6,408.00

\*Note Sale of Parsonage net proceeds of \$263,307.66 are not included in income. Proceeds were deposited into the church investment account (Benjamin Edwards)

---

## BOARD OF DEACONS

The Deacons will zoom meet on Thursday, April 8, 2021, 8:00 pm.

---

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joys and Concerns.** If you wish to have a joy or concern announced during worship, please email Rick Terry ([rterry981@gmail.com](mailto:rterry981@gmail.com)), Rev. Olivia at [Hayes641@comcast.net](mailto:Hayes641@comcast.net) or call the church office (203) 248-7408.

**Bible Study Group.** Leon Fiftal and Diane Scott along with Rev. Olivia host zoom bible study meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. The zoom link is on the church website: <http://mccucc.weebly.com/> Click the Bible Studies button on the front page to access the zoom link.

## From the Outreach Committee

The One Great Hour of Sharing Mission project brought in \$320.00 in donations to date thus far. This is more than we've ever collected in the past. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Debbie Wooley



## **We The People**

*Historic accountings of the families of our church members*

A Family of Service to Nation

Nancy Poland

Like so many people, both sides of my family are made up of immigrants. My mother's maternal grandparents sailed from the west coast of Ireland in the late 1890s. My mother's paternal side are New Englanders "forever." My father's family is of New York heritage. His mother's family migrated from Holland in the 1700s and Jacob VanDeWater settled near Buffalo in western New York. Family members stayed in that area for years, but others moved to Machias, a small town southeast of Buffalo.

Visiting my grandparents, Gardner and Florence (VanDeWater) Baker, was a rare treat. One of my earliest and lasting memories of the VanDeWater history is the story of my Great Great Uncle Jacob VanDeWater. He was born in or near Machias around 1845. The first major battle of the Civil War, the First Battle of Bull Run, (aka the First Battle of Manassus) was fought in Prince William County, Virginia, July 21, 1861. The Confederates won the battle with casualties on both sides. At about the age of 17 Jacob enlisted in the Union Army with Company D, 105<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New York Infantry. He was a banner bearer and carried the colors into the Second Battle of Bull Run (aka the Second Battle of Manassas), Prince William County, Virginia, August 29-30, 1862. Again, the South won the battle and both sides suffered heavier casualties than at the first battle. Unfortunately Jacob lost his life during this battle. Union Civil War muster records indicate that for two months he was listed as missing in action, with the second month also stating "presumed dead." A third record declared Jacob was killed in action on August 30, 1862. His mother requested his war pension within the several months that followed. After his death, his family commissioned his portrait to be painted wearing his Union uniform. This portrait hung for years in his niece Marie's home in Machias. I clearly remember seeing it as a child when visiting my Great Aunt Marie. Upon her death, it was gifted to her nephew, my father William Baker, and it hung in our home for many years over our fireplace. Eventually it was gifted to my older brother Robin Baker and is still in his possession today. My Great Great Uncle Jacob's story of bravery and service to his nation remains alive today because of this portrait.

The story of patriotism in our family was not lost with Jacob's death. Two of his great nephews enlisted in the military and fought in WWII. My dad's younger brother joined the Marines and drove amphibious tanks. Sadly, although he survived the war, my Uncle Gardner Baker, died of wounds received during the war at the age of 30 in 1954. My dad, William Addison Baker, enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1939 and was trained as an aerial photographer flying in A-20s and B-17s and became first sergeant and camera chief of the 1<sup>st</sup> Photo Mapping Squadron, seeing action in the African

Theater. He remained with this reconnaissance unit until his discharge in 1945. In 1946 he enlisted in the newly reorganized Air National Guard and joined the Connecticut ANG, 103D Fighter Group located at Bradley Field. He specialized in the supply field and became Supply Superintendent of the 103D Supply Squadron, holding that position for years, basically in charge of everything going into and leaving the air base. Dedicating his life to the military, he worked his way through the ranks to Chief Master Sergeant, becoming the second man to hold that rank in the Connecticut ANG. His service experiences greatly influenced my childhood and that of my three siblings. My older brother was born near the end of the war and we three younger siblings were all born in the several years after the war. Dad would bring home surplus equipment which we used to play with in the woods around our home. He'd also bring home an endless supply of outdated order forms with carbon paper in triplicate and we played office for hours with this supply. It's no wonder that I'm a pretty organized person. As a family we took several cross-country road trips to visit our national parks, camping all the way. Yes, Dad photographed the miles traveled and beautiful parks visited, and I still have racks of slides documenting our trips. I have the same love of travel as my parents and put it to good use teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade geography for 23 years. Aside from his organizational and photography skills, another part of my dad that has influenced my favorite household task, ironing! I love the quick reward. From the time I was allowed to wield an iron I was assigned the chore of ironing my dad's uniforms. Those were the days of 100% cotton. Sprinkle the shirts and pants to dampen them, roll them up for a bit, and then iron. I was proud to do this as I knew how important my dad's dress code was at work. He never once criticized my work and today I iron a mean shirt, no excess creases – not regulation! My dad's sense of pride in order and organization and love of country was who he was and who I am. He dedicated his career to his country, serving in two wars and numerous conflicts, was named Honor Man of the Year (1965) for the Connecticut ANG, and retired in 1980. My dad passed in 2007 and was buried with full military honors at the State Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown. The day of his funeral was quite hot and there was a delay as all of our family arrived at the cemetery. At his gravesite, the six military pall bearers stood at attention in full dress uniform for nearly half an hour. When my husband suggested to the Sergeant at Arms that they stand down until the remaining family members arrived, he firmly announced, "Sir, no sir. He is our Chief," and saluted the coffin. I was always very proud of my dad's service and very much so that day as I said goodbye to him. I'd had his name and that of his brother placed on the new WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, opened in 2004. Fortunately he was able to visit this site. His memory lives on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him and is present for the world to see.

**Mount Carmel Congregational Church**  
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518  
Church Website: [www.mccucc.weebly.com](http://www.mccucc.weebly.com)  
203-248-7408

Pastor: The Rev. Olivia Robinson  
Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen  
Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com)  
Facebook: Mt. Carmel Congregational Church  
Church Email: [mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com)  
**Officers:**  
President: Tom Duffy [thomasduffy67@gmail.com](mailto:thomasduffy67@gmail.com)  
Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz  
Board of Deacons: Rick Terry, Chair [rterry981@gmail.com](mailto:rterry981@gmail.com)  
Board of Trustees: Val Duffy, Co-Chair: [Valerieduffy1234@gmail.com](mailto:Valerieduffy1234@gmail.com)  
Diane Scott, Co-Chair: Diane Scott [@iname.com](mailto:@iname.com)