



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for the Month of
APRIL 2023

The Mount Carmel Congregational Church
(A United Church of Christ)
3285 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Church Family,

As I type, I am struggling to fathom that one third of 2023 has already happened. We are on the cusp of Spring, of Eastertide, and of another month will fly by. May we all find the grace and patience to rest and enjoy our time together.

This year, Holy Week occupies the first week of April. This Sunday we call Palm Sunday, but we will have more happening in the service than that. We will gather in the courtyard and process in with our palms as we imagine Jesus entering Jerusalem for the last time. Then we will share Communion, which is our monthly ritual, but this time it also marks Jesus sharing the supper with his loved ones. Since we are following the timeline of events in Jesus' life, Communion will come in the middle of the service and then we will move to a reading of Jesus' trial and crucifixion.

On Maundy Thursday, we will gather for a Tenebrae service, which is another tradition handed down across centuries, as we commemorate Jesus' last night on earth. This is one of my favorite services of the year. So that those we are not comfortable driving after dark can attend, we will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday promises some wonderful music for our Bell Choir and a chance to celebrate the Resurrection together. These are the stories at the heart of our faith. I hope you will plan to be here so we can tell them to each other once again.

On April 23rd we will have our annual meeting. This year, we will do it over lunch in the Fellowship Hall. We are really good at eating and talking together, so it seemed like a natural thing to do.

By that time, I will be writing to tell you that April has flown by, which it will. The great theologian Ferris Bueller said, "Life moves pretty fast; if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." May we take time—no, make time for one another, to look around and notice the gift of our congregation, and to continue to create a place of belonging here at Mount Carmel.

Peace,
Milton

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join every Sunday at 10am in the Church for service! Note: These are lectionary passages for your own devotional purposes. Weekly scripture readings are subject to change.

<p><u>April 2nd, 2023</u> Palm/Passion Sunday <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i> Scripture: The Passion According to Matthew Matthew 26:1 – 27:66</p> <p><i>Our Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service will begin in the courtyard (located between the Church and the Parish House) with the Blessing and Procession of the Palms. Please make sure to pick up a copy of the Passion on your way into the Church!</i></p>	<p><u>April 6th, 2023</u> Maundy Thursday Service Starts at 6:30pm Scripture: A Service of Tenebrae Matthew 26: 20-35 Matthew 26: 36-46 Matthew 26: 47-58 Matthew 26: 59-74 Matthew 27:1-10 Matthew 27: 11-26 Matthew 27: 27-37 Matthew 27: 38-54 Matthew 28: 55-65</p>
<p><u>April 9th, 2023</u> Easter Sunday Scripture: Acts 10: 34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-18</p>	<p><u>April 16th, 2023</u> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> Scripture: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 1-18</p>
<p><u>April 23rd, 2023</u> 2023 Annual Meeting After Worship <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Scripture: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1: 17-23 Luke 24: 13-35</p>	<p><u>April 30th, 2023</u> <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Scripture: Acts 2: 42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2: 19-25 John 10: 1-10</p>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Nancy Poland	April 2 nd
Rhonda Pruzinsky	April 2 nd
Carmen McKee	April 21 st
Bill Buller	April 26 th
Peter Copeland	April 29 th

258th Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church

The 258th Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, April 23rd, following our regularly scheduled worship service. The meeting will be held in the Parish Hall with a breakfast brunch to follow.

Sincerely,
Beverly Jurkiewicz
Church Clerk

Brunch

Our next luncheon will be a brunch. It will be Sunday, April 23rd following the worship service and after our Annual Meeting. If you would like to help provide some food, please let us know. Think quiches, sweet breads, fruit, that sort of thing. Of course, cookies and brownies are always good too! Everyone is welcome to come. See Bev, Debbie, or Aren to sign up. That helps us plan seating and the amount of food we will need. Thank you.

Faith Formation

Ark Banks. Please keep dropping off your ark banks. We have already collected \$176.00 this year for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. You may pick up an ark in the narthex or entranceway to the parish hall. When it is full, you may leave it in the offering plate on Sunday or drop off in the office during the week.

-Debbie Wooley

Needed: Coffee Hour Volunteers!

Are you thinking you'd like to help out with coffee hour but are not sure what to do? Would you rather not make the coffee or have to get there early to set up? Well, there is something you can do! You can always drop off a coffee cake or some other treat, homemade or store bought, it doesn't matter. There are a few of us, Bev, Debbie, Sandee, & Anna, who are usually around to do the setting up. They would really appreciate it if others would bring in food so they don't have to do everything all the time. Please let someone know you'd like to do that. You can bring something in on Sunday or come by and put it in the freezer to be used when needed. If you would like to learn how to set up coffee hour, please see one of us and we will assist you. Thank you.

Prayer Shawls

As a reminder, Prayer Shawls are always available to those who need them. If you or anyone you know are in need of one, please contact Aren in the office and he will arrange a shawl for you.

Sincerely,
Vera DeAngelo

FINANCIAL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2023

Following is the financial report for February 2023. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,358.84
	Other Income:	\$3,630.70
	Total Income:	\$8,989.54
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$11,180.67
Net Income (Loss):		- \$2,191.13

GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

Ushers. We are always looking for more Ushers – no experience necessary! Please see Dave or Bev Jurkiewicz, or Debbie Wooley, for more information!

Joys and Concerns. If you wish to have a joy or concern announced during worship, please forward to them to Aren at office@mccucc.com or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

Pastoral Support. If you require pastoral support or guidance, please contact the office and our office administrator will put you in contact with someone who can help.

Committee Openings. Looking to get involved? There are several Committee Openings for Deacons (1 opening), Faith Formation (3 openings), and Music (3 openings)! If you would like to try out a committee (attend a meeting with no obligations), please contact the office and Aren will put you in touch with the committee chair!

Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour volunteers are needed. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact the office directly or use the signup sheet now located at the entrance of the Parish House.

Altar Flowers. Altar flowers are needed. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact the office directly or use the signup sheet now located at the entrance of the Parish House.

Rentals. If you or anyone you know would be interested in renting out our parish hall to host a meeting, service, or a small private event, please feel free to visit our website for scheduling, rates, and conditions.

Food Bank. Donations for the Food Bank are always needed if you are able to contribute. Non-perishable items such as canned beef stew, hearty soups, canned fish, peanut butter, mac and cheese packages, and oatmeal would be greatly appreciated.

The Lord's Supper

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, 31, 32. Solve the math problems in each box. Circle the words in the box if the math solution is 15. Write those words in order at the bottom of the page to learn why Jesus asked us to observe the Lord's Supper.

$8+4+4=$	$4+3+8=$	$10-4+2=$	$15-1+2=$
JESUS	DO	BREAD	BODY
$10-2+7=$	$1+10+3=$	$14-5+4=$	$5+5+5=$
THIS	DRINK	NIGHT	IN
$6+10-1=$	$6+8+2=$	$4+3+7=$	$9-2+6=$
REMEMBRANCE	PROCLAIM	EAT	BLOOD
$15-5+5=$	$16-2+3=$	$2+3+4=$	$9+9-3=$
OF	CUP	THANKS	ME



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Jesus' Sad Walk to a Garden

After Jesus celebrated the Passover with His apostles, He shared the Last Supper with them. Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. It was a sad walk for Jesus. He is God, and He knew what would happen in the garden that night. To learn more about this story, write the missing letter from each set of letters on the line.

- QRTUVWX _____
EFGHJKL _____
LMOPQRS _____
PQRTUVW _____
- XYZACDE _____
BCDFGHI _____
QRSUVWX _____
NOPQRSTU _____
XYZBCDE _____
TUVWXZA _____

- ABDEFGH _____
WXYZBCD _____
LMNOQRS _____
PQRSUVW _____
STVWXYZ _____
NOPQRSTU _____
BCDFGHI _____

- ABCEFGH _____
YZABCDF _____
PQRTUVW _____
ABCDFGH _____
NOPQRSTU _____
SUVWXYZ _____

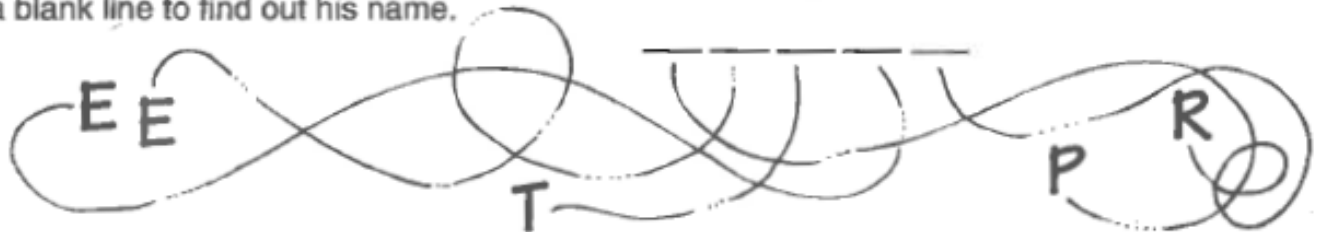


Use the words you wrote above in the sentences below.

Jesus was sad because He knew that . . .

1. He would soon *bear* our _____ in His *body* on the *cross*.
2. One of His *apostles*, *Judas*, would _____ Him to His *enemies*.
3. These *enemies* would come and _____ Him.
4. All of His other *apostles* would _____ Him.

Later that night, another apostle denied three times that he knew Jesus. Trace each letter to a blank line to find out his name.



Are you ashamed to tell your schoolmates and friends about Jesus? Isn't that the same as denying Him? Speak up for Jesus! Share His love!



Mount Carmel Congregational Church

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Church Website: www.mccucc.com

203-248-7408

Bridge Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham
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Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen
lyndapedersen@att.net

Faith Formation: Mrs. Debbie Wooley
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Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato
treasurer@mccucc.com

Facebook: [@mountcarmelcongregationalchurch](https://www.facebook.com/mountcarmelcongregationalchurch)

Instagram: [mountcarmelchurch1](https://www.instagram.com/mountcarmelchurch1)

Officers:

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thomasduffy67@gmail.com

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bevjjur@comcast.net

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aanderson545@gmail.com