



**THE BELL TREE**  
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

*A Newsletter for*  
**APRIL 2024**

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

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## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

Greetings!

One of the books I am reading is *The Book of Delights* by poet Ross Gay. The small volume grew out of his daily practice of looking for something to delight in during the course of his day and then writing a short essay about it. He did it for a year, and then realized it could be a book.

Besides the fact that is full of good things, I have been challenged by his practice of looking for delights, looking for reasons to be joyful. Too often, we have our eyes and minds trained to look for what is wrong or what has fallen short. From that view, life quickly becomes joyless. As we practice resurrection, may we be people who foster joy and search for delight.

One of the delights April holds is our annual meeting. This year it is Sunday, April 28, after worship. It is a delight because it is a chance for us to take notice of the ways we have cared for each other and dream about what lies ahead. I hope you will plan to be there.

I want to say thank you to Lynda and all those who are a part of our music ministry for the wonderful music during Lent and Holy Week. It added a great deal to our worship. Thanks also to the deacons, to those who read on Palm Sunday, to Deb and those who helped set up and refigure both the sanctuary and the parish hall for various events, to Leon and Tom for streaming the services, and to Aren for keeping up with all the details.

We are a church full of delights.

Peace,  
Milton

# APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

<p><b><u>April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Holy Communion</u></b>  <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 4: 32-35          Psalm 133          1 John 1: 19-31          John 20: 19-31</p>	<p><b><u>April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024</u></b>  <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 3: 12-19          Psalm 4          1 John 3: 1-7          Luke 24: 36b-48</p>
<p><b><u>April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024</u></b>  <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 4: 5-12          Psalm 23          1 John 3: 16-24          John 10: 11-18</p>	<p><b><u>April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Annual Meeting</u></b>  <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 8: 26-40          Psalm 22: 25-31          1 John 4: 7-21          John 15: 1-8</p>



## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:*

Nancy Poland    April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Rhonda Pruzinsky    April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Bill Buller    April 26<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to add your name to our birthday list, please contact our office.

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## 2024 Annual Meeting

The 259<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, following our regularly scheduled worship service. Copies of the Annual Report will be made available on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Jurkiewicz  
Church Clerk

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## Faith Formation

Church School. The children made a couple of Easter treats for a recent coffee hour which everyone enjoyed. We will have classes when we can during April, May & June to finish out the school year.

ARK Banks. We collected an additional \$140.89 for our Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please keep your arks floating. Drop your full one off at the office or place it into the offering plate on Sunday. Be sure to take another empty bank from the narthex or parish hall entrance. Thank you.

-Debbie Wooley

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## Outreach

Strengthen the Church. The next special offering will be Strengthen the Church. Many of these funds will be used to support youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches around the country. We will collect the offering on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please note "Strengthen the Church" in the memo line on your check and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

-Debbie Wooley

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## Trustee Renovations

If you have attended Coffee Hour in recent weeks, you will have likely noticed the new windows and shades in our newly painted Parlor. This is the result of the Board of Trustees and their continuous efforts to renovate and maintain our Church. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Anderson!

-Board of Trustees

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## Stewardship

There were no additional pledges to report. If you have any additional questions regarding stewardship and pledging, please contact me by email at [ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com).

"God's work done in God's way will never lack for funds. Generosity is contagious. God never promised to meet our budget, only our needs." J. Hudson Taylor

-Debbie Wooley

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## Spring Tag and Craft Sale

Our next tag/craft sale is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm. Refreshments will be available to purchase. There will be a variety of craft items, tag sale treasures, some furniture, and a baked goods table. Table spaces are \$20 each. Please call Vera DeAngelo at (203) 239-7135 to make a reservation, or for further information. We hope to see you there!

-Church Staff

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## Tai Chi

If you are looking for a low impact exercise class, then tai chi may be for you. No equipment is required and it is done standing up. Tai chi is very good for balance, can lower blood pressure, and relieve stress, among other things. Stop by the parish hall Tuesdays, 9:30 am to play tai chi with me. Cost is \$10 per person each session. Contact Debbie Wooley by email ([jhwooley@snet.net](mailto:jhwooley@snet.net)) if you have any questions.

-Debbie Wooley

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## Bell Tree Submissions

Do you have an event to announce? A story to share? We would love to hear it! Send us an email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) by the second to last Tuesday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication!

-Aren Alberico

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## **FINANCIAL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2024**

Following is the financial report for February 2024. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com).

<b>Income:</b>	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,415.00
	Other Income:	\$1,890.00
	Total Income:	\$7,305.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	Total Expenses:	\$10,083.00
<b>Net Income (Loss):</b>		-\$2,778.00

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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](mailto:office@mccucc.com) or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

**Pastoral Support.** If you require pastoral support or guidance, feel free to contact our minister, Reverend Milton, by email at [Pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:Pastor@mccucc.com), or by calling our office.

**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 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.

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

**Lost & Found.** As of the time of writing, we have a number of items in our Lost & Found: 1) A pair of unbranded leopard-print glasses left from the Shirts and Skirts Christmas Party; 2) A pair of Foster Grant leopard-print glasses; and 3) A straw hat. If any of these items belong to you, then please contact the Church Office at your earliest convenience.

**Directory.** Copies of the 2024 Directory are available in the Office. If you would like a digital copy of our Directory, please fill out the following Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/directory>) and we will send you a copy as soon as possible. If you would like a physical copy, please contact the office and we will set a copy aside for you.

# Love Love Love

Read Romans 12:9-19. Match the words or phrases in the flowers to the correct flower pot by drawing a stem. You will learn how God can make your life a "bed of roses."



# What's in a Name?

The clues for this puzzle come from Acts 4:32-36. Rearrange the circled letters to find what the name of Barnabas means.

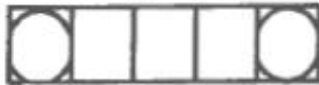
1. These were of one heart and mind (v. 32).



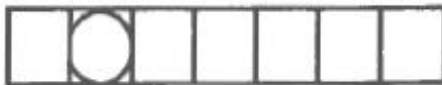
2. What they did with their things (v. 32).



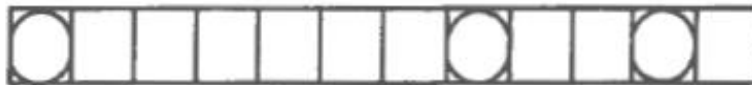
3. The kind of power they had (v. 33).



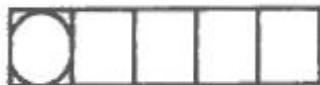
4. The apostles continued to do this (v. 33).



5. What special thing they told about Jesus (v. 33).



6. They didn't have any person like this (v. 34).



7. The two things people sold (v. 34).



8. What people brought to apostles from selling lands and houses (vv. 34, 35).



SON OF A horizontal row of ten rectangular boxes, each containing a circle, representing the letters of the name to be identified.



**WHERE:**

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
3284 WHITNEY AVENUE, HAMDEN CT 06518  
INDOOR & OUTDOOR!

**WHEN:**

SATURDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM-2PM

**WHAT:**

TAG/CRAFT TABLES!  
SNACK BAR!  
BAKE SALE!  
& MORE!





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

Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham  
[pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:pastor@mccucc.com)

Office Admin: Mr. Aren Alberico  
[office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com)

Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen  
[lyndapedersen@att.net](mailto:lyndapedersen@att.net)

Faith Formation: Mrs. Debbie Wooley  
[ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com)

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato  
[treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com)

Facebook: @mountcarmelcongregationalchurch

Instagram: mountcarmelchurch1

**Officers:**

President: Tom Duffy  
[thomasduffy67@gmail.com](mailto:thomasduffy67@gmail.com)

Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz  
[bevjjur@comcast.net](mailto:bevjjur@comcast.net)

Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair

Board of Trustees: Anna Anderson, Chair  
[aanderson545@gmail.com](mailto:aanderson545@gmail.com)