



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
APRIL 2025

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



From the Pastor's Desk...



Greetings!

As April begins, Lent begins its turn towards Easter. This month is full of theological significance, as we prepare to journey through Holy Week together. I like it when Easter falls later on the calendar because it feels more in sync with the natural world around us. Things are greening and blooming, coming back to life just as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Our world is packed full of parables.

On two Wednesdays, April 2nd and 9th, we will have short Taizé worship services at 7:00 pm. These are services of silence and music, intended to give us a chance to focus and listen in ways daily life does not always afford.

Sunday, April 13th, is our Palm and Passion observance, where we move from Jesus' entry into the city through the events of the week that led to his execution. On Thursday, April 17th, we will have our Maundy Thursday service, also at 7:00 pm, that will include Communion and a Tenebrae observance.

Sunday, April 20th, is our Easter celebration. Please remember that this is a Sunday when we will not have Coffee Hour because everyone has places they need to be for lunch.

Speaking of lunch, we will eat together on Sunday, April 26th, for our annual meeting. I love that it falls on the heels of the Resurrection. We will be electing officers and discussing our bylaws, among other things. Part of our focus will also be to talk about ways in which each of us can be a tangible part of the week-to-week life of the congregation. Please plan to be there.

We are telling a great story together.

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><u>April 6th, 2025: Communion</u> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Scripture: Isaiah 43: 16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8</p>	<p><u>Lenten Taizé Worship</u> <i>Wednesdays April 2nd and April 9th</i> Services Start at 7:00pm <i>Please join us for a special service of song and silence by candlelight. Services are typically 30 minutes in length.</i></p>
<p><u>April 13th, 2025: Palm/Passion Sunday</u> <i>Sixth Sunday of Lent</i> Scripture: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Luke 19: 28-40 Philippians 2: 5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56</p>	<p><u>April 17th, 2025: Maundy Thursday</u> Service Starts at 7:00pm* Scripture: A Service of Tenebrae <i>*Details to follow, stay tuned to email for updates</i></p>
<p><u>April 20th, 2025</u> Easter Sunday Scripture: Acts 10: 34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 John 20: 1-18</p>	<p><u>April 27th, 2025</u> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> Scripture: Acts 5: 27-32 Psalm 118: 14-29 Revelations 1: 4-8 John 20: 19-31</p>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Nancy Poland	April 2 nd	Rhonda Pruzinsky	April 2 nd
	Bill Buller	April 26 th	

2025 Annual Meeting – April 27th, 2025

The 260th Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, April 27th, 2025, following our regularly scheduled worship service. We will also be voting to approve the revisions to the Bylaws. Copies of the Annual Report and revised Bylaws will be made available by Sunday, April 20th. Your attendance at this meeting is very important because we need a quorum in order to approve both the Annual Report as well as the Bylaw revisions.

Sincerely,
Church Committee

Annual Meeting: Committee Reports – Due April 6th, 2025

The 260th Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, April 27th, 2024, following our regularly scheduled worship service. If you are the head of a committee, we ask that you send a typed copy of your report to Aren, preferably by email, by Tuesday, April 6th in order for it to be included in the Annual Report for 2024. Please also include a list of your current members and officers for record-keeping purposes, as well as a list of any positions that need to be filled so that we can include them in the nominations for the year.

Sincerely,
Church Committee

Church Luncheon – April 27th, 2025

Our next churchwide luncheon will be held Sunday, April 27th following our church service. We will be holding our Annual Meeting that day also. Sandwiches from Whitney Donut will be provided. If you can make a dessert, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Church Leadership

Stewardship

We have not received any new pledges. If you have not made your pledge commitment yet, please do so as this helps with the church expenses. Our Vanco system makes it very easy for you to contribute directly from your bank account. Thank you to those who have pledged or who contribute to the offering on Sunday. Every amount helps, no matter how big or small.

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” – Amy Wilson Carmichael, American Missionary

-Debbie Wooley

Faith Formation

Easter Education. Our children will continue to meet as their schedules allow. They will be learning and telling the Easter story how as Christians, our faith is centered on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The lessons include short skits, puzzles and something new, Resurrection Eggs. Each egg is a different color and contains a small item representing a part of the Easter story. There is a Bible verse with each and a topic to discuss.

ARK Banks. We are continuing to collect money for the Pastor’s Discretionary fund. Empty banks can be found in the narthex or in the entrance to the parish hall. Just pick one out, fill it up, and bring it to the Church (and don’t forget to pick out a new one)!

-Debbie Wooley

Spring 2025 Tag Sale – May 3rd, 2025

Our annual Spring Tag and Craft Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Per usual, there will be a variety of unique craft and tag tables to choose from, making our tag sale the perfect place to find some ‘Tag Sale Treasures’. There will also be delicious food to purchase via our Snack Bar, as well as some delectable treats to discover via our Church Bake Sale table. If you would like to reserve your spot for this event, table spaces are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling Vera DeAngelo at (203) 239-7135. Hurry, because spots are filling up fast!

Thank you,
The Craft Ladies

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY 2025

Following is the financial report for January 2025. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$17,557.00
	Other Income:	\$2,440.00
	Total Income:	\$19,997.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$17,734.00
Net Income:		\$2,263.00

FINANCIAL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2025

Following is the financial report for February 2025. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$6,805.00
	Other Income:	\$3,838.00
	Total Income:	\$10,643.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$11,946.00
Net Income (LOSS):		-\$1,303.00

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ushers. We are always looking for more Ushers – no experience necessary! If you would like to sign up to Usher on a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. If you have any questions, please contact Dave or Bev Jurkiewicz for more information.

Bell Tree. 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 by the second to last Tuesday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication!

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, feel free to contact our minister, Reverend Milton, by email at Pastor@mccucc.com, or by contacting the Office by email at office@mccucc.com or phone at (203) 248-7408.

Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour volunteers are always needed. If you would like to volunteer to run Coffee Hour for a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. If you have any questions, please contact the Office by email at office@mccucc.com or phone at (203) 248-7408.

Altar Flowers. If you would like to sign up to provide Altar Flowers for a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. Note that you must purchase or provide flowers; flowers are not provided by the Church. If you have any questions or wish to add a specific message for the bulletin, please contact the Office by email at office@mccucc.com or phone at (203) 248-7408.

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. Our Hall Rental schedule is filling up, so contact the office to book your event today!

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.

2025 Directory. 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.



The Altar Guild

Orders for Memorial Easter Plants, 2025

Place Orders At:

Sunday Coffee Hours, March 23rd, March 30th & April 6th.
or call Karen Amato at (203) 651-9769 by Wednesday, April 9th.

Choice of: Tulips, Daffodils, or Hyacinths Cost: \$8.00 each
Easter Lilies: Cost: \$10.00 each

Plants will be displayed on Easter Sunday and can be taken after worship Service.

Please fill out the form below and return to the office or Karen Amato.

EASTER PLANTS ORDER FORM

Ordered By _____ Phone _____

In Memory of: _____

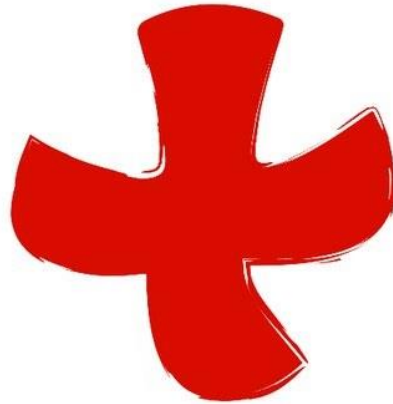
Or, (other dedication) _____

Tulips _____
Daffodils _____
Hyacinths _____
Easter Lilies _____

Flowers total cost \$ _____

Check one:
Will take after service _____
Will leave at church _____

Please join us for
Lenten Taizé



A service of
silence and song by candlelight.

Wednesday Nights at 7pm

April 2nd

&

April 9th

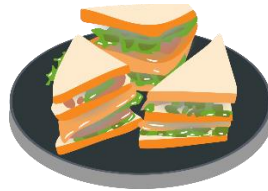
Please join us for the
260th Annual Meeting of the



Sunday, April 27th
Directly Following Our 10am Service

All members are invited as we:

- Vote on new Bylaw Revisions**
- Approve the Annual Report**
- Hand out the 2025 Directory**



Lunch from Whitney Donut will be provided!



**Copies of the Annual Report will be made available
for pickup in the Narthex by Sunday, April 20th, 2025**

We need a quorum to move forward—your presence matters!

Please join us for our Annual



WHERE:

Mount Carmel Congregational Church
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06518

WHEN:

Saturday, May 3rd
9:00am-2:00pm

WHAT:

Tag Tables!
Handmade Crafts!
Snack Bar!
& MORE!

BOOK NOW:

Tables are \$20 each and can be booked now by calling
(203) 239-7135



(Matthew 26:36-56)

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.

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. QRTUVWX _____ | 3. ABDEFGH _____ | 4. ABCEFGH _____ |
| EFGHJKL _____ | WXYZBCD _____ | YZABCDF _____ |
| LMOPQRS _____ | LMNOQRS _____ | PQRTUVW _____ |
| PQRTUVW _____ | PQRSUVW _____ | ABCDFGH _____ |
| 2. XYZACDE _____ | STVWXYZ _____ | NOPQRSTU _____ |
| BCDFGHI _____ | NOPQRSTU _____ | SUVWXYZ _____ |
| QRSUVWX _____ | BCDFGHI _____ | |
| NOPQRSTU _____ | | |
| XYZBCDE _____ | | |
| TUVWXZA _____ | | |

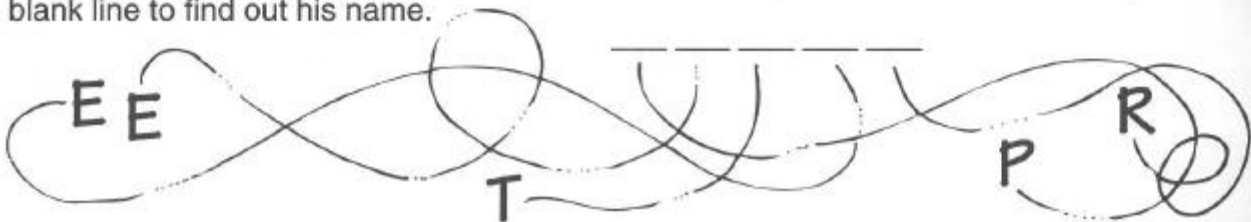


Use the words you wrote above in the sentences below.

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!

Jesus Is Risen

1



Why did the Jews say Jesus must die (John 19:4-7)?

1. He was from Nazareth.
2. He was a king.
3. He claimed to be the Son of God.

2



The numbers below stand for letters of the alphabet. Which message tells what the notice Pilate wrote about Jesus said (John 19:16-19)?

4. 10,5,19,21,19 15,6 14,1,26,1,18,5,20,8 11,9,14,7
15,6 20,8,5 18,15,13,1,14,19
5. 10,5,19,21,19 15,6 14,1,26,1,18,5,20,8 11,9,14,7
15,6 20,8,5 10,5,23,19
6. 10,5,19,21,19 15,6 7,1,12,9,12,5,5, 11,9,14,7
15,6 20,8,5 10,5,23,19

3



Which picture shows how Jesus was given a drink while He was on the cross (John 19:28-30)?

1. 
2. 
3. 



Write the answer number to puzzle

#1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

Change the numbers into these groups of letters.

1 = hewillc 3 = heisnot 5 = hereheha

2 = srisen 4 = ntothe 6 = gosewh

What did the angel say to the women at the tomb (Luke 24:1-7)?



Mount Carmel Congregational Church

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Church Website: www.mccucc.com

Phone: (203) 248-7408

Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham
pastor@mccucc.com

Office Admin: Mr. Aren Alberico
office@mccucc.com

Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen
lyndapedersen@att.net

Faith Formation: Mrs. Debbie Wooley
ce@mccucc.com

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato
treasurer@mccucc.com

Facebook: @mountcarmelcongregationalchurch

Instagram: mountcarmelchurch1

Officers:

President: Tom Duffy
thomasduffy67@gmail.com

Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz
bevjur@comcast.net

Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair

Board of Trustees: Anna Anderson, Chair
aanderson545@gmail.com