



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for the Month of
AUGUST 2022

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

My Church, My Faith, And Covid

A Reflection by Greta Edelman

I grew up in the Mount Carmel Congregational Church. I started going when I was 2 years old. The whole family went every Sunday. The family included my Grandparents, Mother, Father, older brother and eventually my younger brother. It is my understanding that my grandfather helped build the parish house so the kids would have a place to have a Sunday School. His hearing was going and having over 50 kids in the church was too noisy. I was baptized and confirmed and in between we went to church every Sunday. We would go to church even if we were away on vacation because we received a pin and then bars each year of perfect attendance. Church has always been an integral part of my life.

I don't remember Rev. Peters very well because I was so young. But I grew up with Rev. Jordon. I went to confirmation classes and we had a youth group that he ran. I was also married by Rev. Jordon as one of his last acts before retiring and Rev. House entering the family. Yes, I say family because I consider the church and its congregation as my family. It has been the only true constant in my life. My church family has carried me through the passing of many family members as well as several medical scares. One being my husband's aortic dissection. For several weeks we didn't know if he would survive. The church and my church family have been my rock throughout my life. It was always the place I would go to when times were tough.

Then Covid hit!! At first, I felt very disconnected. I was a deacon at the time and we were facing a double whammy, Rev. House was retiring and my precious church was closing down due to covid. I felt so lost, my job was getting more and more stressful and for the first time in my life I felt alone. (I do the reporting for the Virology Lab at Yale and we run most of the covid tests for this end of the state.) I used to stop at the church on my way home and either sit on the front steps or just put my hand on the church trying to make a connection. I prayed a lot but it felt like the

connection was lost. Eventually I stepped back from being a deacon. I was too stressed to be any help to my precious church. Then a glimmer of hope. We were able to have the services on line.

My husband is healthy but has a lot of underlying conditions. I have to be very careful and it has been very isolating for both of us. I still go to work but avoid gatherings. I haven't physically been to church in a long time but with the on-line services my connection has returned. I still stop and sit or touch my precious church but I feel almost whole. I hope someday to be together in person with my church family. I just want to thank all of you for being there for me and to let you know that you are all in my prayers.

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join every Sunday at 10am in the Church for service! Note: Weekly scripture readings are subject to change.

<p>August 7th, 2022 <i>Ninth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scriptures: Isaiah 1:1. 10-20 Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 Sermon: Rick Terry</p>	<p>August 14th, 2022 Holy Communion <i>Tenth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56 Sermon: "Making Sense of It All" Reverend John Van Epps</p>																
<p>August 21st, 2022 <i>Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scriptures: TBA Sermon: Sara Kroon</p>	<p>August 28th, 2022 <i>Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scriptures: TBA Sermon: Sara Kroon</p>																
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST BIRTHDAYS</u> <i>Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:</i></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>Rowen O'Neil</td><td>August 3rd</td></tr> <tr><td>Keith Amato</td><td>August 4th</td></tr> <tr><td>Mary Conklin</td><td>August 4th</td></tr> <tr><td>Luke Grantz</td><td>August 4th</td></tr> <tr><td>Victor Hallberg</td><td>August 16th</td></tr> <tr><td>Eric Grantz</td><td>August 19th</td></tr> <tr><td>Russell Olson</td><td>August 19th</td></tr> <tr><td>Rick Terry</td><td>August 25th</td></tr> </table> <p>If you would like to add your name to our birthday list, please contact our office.</p>	Rowen O'Neil	August 3 rd	Keith Amato	August 4 th	Mary Conklin	August 4 th	Luke Grantz	August 4 th	Victor Hallberg	August 16 th	Eric Grantz	August 19 th	Russell Olson	August 19 th	Rick Terry	August 25 th	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Protocols for In-Person Worship</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Masks have been made optional for the month of August. You can find our updated protocols on in-person worship by visiting our website at https://mccucc.tiny.us/covid. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.</p>
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A Special Thank You to Reverend Olivia Robinson

From the bottom of our hearts, we here at Mount Carmel Congregational Church would like to thank Reverend Olivia Robinson for the past two years she has spent with us as Interim Minister. Though her time with us was short, it was full of exciting moments, happy memories, and meaningful reflection. We appreciate and thank her for all the work she has done with and for our congregation, and we wish her the best of luck in wherever life leads her.

Sincerely,
MCC Staff

To God be the Glory: A Special Thank You from Reverend Olivia

Dear members and friends, I was overwhelmed by the very generous gift you gave to me on my last Sunday: the flowers, the decorations, the luncheon (thank you to all who attended!), the necklace, the gift of money, and a plate with the church on it. It all made me feel very special. However, I must give glory to God for allowing me to be a channel for his Grace and love. Thank you for everything and May God continue to bless you all!!

Yours in Christ
Reverend Olivia Robinson

FINANCIAL REPORT: JUNE 2022

Following is the financial report for June 2022. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,380.00
	Other Income:	\$1,715.00
	Total Income:	\$7,095.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$11,477.00
Net Loss:		- \$4,382.00

Fall 2022 Digital Directory

As Reverend Olivia's time with us draws to a close, I believe now is as good a time as any to update our directory in order to prepare a reliable contact list for the Church membership, not only for a more accurate database of member information but also for any incoming clergy that may join us down the road. I would appreciate if all Church members and friends would review their entry in the 2022 directory for any errors, discrepancies, or changes that you would like to make, and submit them to the office by Wednesday, August 31st. You may submit these changes by email at office@mccucc.com or by phone at (203) 248-7408.

-Aren Alberico

Hope Rides With Us: The 2022 Closer to Free Ride

On September 10, 2022, the Closer to Free Ride returns in full force. Five scenic, professionally-supported routes. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers taking care of every detail. A poignant Opening Ceremony and an exhilarating Finish Line Festival at the Yale Bowl. And the opportunity to ride remotely wherever you may be. As always 100% of the dollars raised by Riders and Volunteers go to research and care at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. This is bigger than one person on one bicycle. Because so much is riding with us.

Courage Rides With Us. Determination Rides With Us. People We've Lost Ride With Us. People Undergoing Treatment Ride With Us. The Next Generation Rides With Us.

And above all... **HOPE RIDES WITH US.**

For more information or to register, visit our website at www.rideclosertofree.org. We are in need of volunteers on ride day at both the Yale Bowl and out the route. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Kristen Alves at kristen.alves@ynhh.org.

GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

Ushers. We need your help! We are currently looking for 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.

Committee Openings. Looking to get involved? There are several Committee Openings for Deacons (2 openings), 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 for the months of August and September. 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 for the months of August and September. 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.

Parish Hall 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.



Mount Carmel Congregational Church
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518
Church Website: www.mccucc.com
203-248-7408

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
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Officers:

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