



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
AUGUST 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,

I hope the summer has gone well for you, and that you have been able to find a cool spot when you need it. August is a month of transition for most of us, in one way or another. Even if we are not teachers or have kids in school, the rhythm of life around us follows the beat of the school year. Moving into fall always feels like a fresh start.

But I don't want to rush us out of summer. I hope these last (warm) weeks offer you a chance to relax. I am grateful that we are not a high-pressure congregation. I am also grateful to all of those who continue to do the things that foster our fellowship like hosting coffee hour and keeping our buildings looking nice. A special thanks to those who lead us in worship through music in Lynda's absence. I am also thankful for the ones who keep our live stream going during worship. My 'thank you' list is incomplete, but you get my drift. We are a talented bunch, as well as smart and good-looking.

We are finishing our look at the Lord's Prayer in the next two or three weeks and then we will return to the lectionary for the fall, though I want to continue to talk about the things we repeat, whether as part of our liturgy or in observing the seasons of the church year; not to say we shouldn't do that, but to make sure we are paying attention to our words and actions, both of which matter a great deal.

Peace,
Milton

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE



For the Summer months, please join every Sunday at 9am in the Church for service!

Note: These are lectionary passages for your own devotional purposes. Weekly scripture readings are subject to change.

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|--|--|
| <p><u>August 6th, 2023</u> <i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Holy Communion Scripture: Genesis 32: 22-31 Psalm 17: 1-7 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21</p> | <p><u>August 13th, 2023</u> <i>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-18 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22 Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-33</p> |
| <p><u>August 20th, 2023</u> <i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 45: 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28</p> | <p><u>August 27th, 2023</u> <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12: 1-8 Matthew 16: 13-20</p> |



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Rowen O'Neil | August 3 rd | Victor Hallberg | August 16 th |
| Keith Amato | August 4 th | Eric Grantz | August 19 th |
| Mary Conklin | August 4 th | Russell Olson | August 19 th |
| Luke Grantz | August 4 th | Rick Terry | August 25 th |

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

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 on the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off in the office during the week.

-Debbie Wooley

Summer Coffee Hours: Made Simple!

This year, we want to make our Summer Coffee Hours simple and easy. In fact, we don't even need coffee! All we need is something sweet (cookies or pastries) and something refreshing (iced tea or lemonade). We can even show you where to find the cups and napkins! If you are interested in this easy breezy summer coffee hour, simply sign up on the board in the parish hall entryway. All drinks and treats will be served in the Parish Hall, to be enjoyed in our Parlor!

-Debbie Wooley

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

-Aren Alberico

2023 Closer to Free Ride

On Saturday, September 9th, 2023, Mount Carmel Congregational Church will offer our parking lot as a cheering location for the Closer to Free Ride, benefitting Smilow Cancer Hospital & Yale Cancer Center. For more information or to register/volunteer for the event, please see the attached flyer, or visit their website at www.rideclosertofree.org.

FINANCIAL REPORT: MAY 2023

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Income: | Pledges and Offerings: | \$5,157.00 |
| | Other Income: | \$2,935.00 |
| | Total Income: | \$8,092.00 |
| Expenses: | Total Expenses: | \$9,655.00 |
| Net Income (Loss): | | - \$1,563.00 |

FINANCIAL REPORT: JUNE 2023

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Income: | Pledges and Offerings: | \$5,587.00 |
| | Other Income: | \$2,142.00 |
| | Total Income: | \$7,729.00 |
| Expenses: | Total Expenses: | \$11,480.00 |
| Net Income (Loss): | | - \$3,751.00 |

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 or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

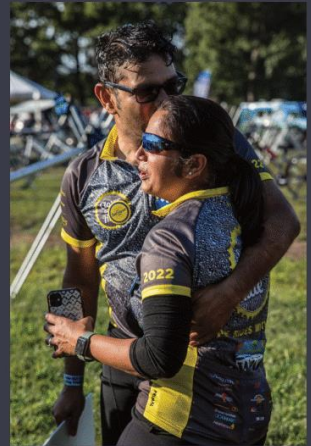
Pastoral Support. If you require pastoral support or guidance, feel free to contact our minister, Reverend Milton, by email at Pastor@mccucc.com, or by calling our office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

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!

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.

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.



13th Annual Closer to Free Ride benefitting Smilow Cancer Hospital & Yale Cancer Center

Since 2011 our riders, volunteers, sponsors and supporters have **RAISED MORE THAN \$26 MILLION FOR SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL & YALE CANCER CENTER.** 100% of the dollars raised by our participants go directly to research and patient care.

Online Rider & Volunteer registration opens March 26

ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2023, we will ride Closer to Free. And we need you with us. Now in its 13th year, riders of all levels will get the chance to experience five professionally designed and fully supported routes ranging from 10 to 100 miles. If you're not in the New Haven area, you can join our community remotely and ride your own route wherever you may be. If you're not into pedaling, join us as a volunteer and share your energy and enthusiasm with our community.

YaleNewHavenHealth
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale CANCER CENTER
A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute

TO LEARN MORE VISIT
rideclosertofree.org





Mount Carmel Congregational Church
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