

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings!

Almost every time I get a prompt from Aren that it is time for another newsletter I find myself thinking, "Again? Where does the time go?"

It's August already?

Summer has gone flying by and a lot has gone on around here. We have regular Jazzercise classes in the Fellowship Hall, along with our other ongoing activities. Aren continues to do a great job attracting those who rent our facilities for a number of reasons. The most noticeable change has been the front steps of the sanctuary, which were in need of repair. The Trustees have planned well for this and it has been amazing to watch.



As we might expect from a building that has been around as long as ours, the builders found a few surprises when they pulled off the old wood. Even though we thought things were okay, we learned they needed more support to keep going.

Our stairs offer us a parable worth remembering. Even when we think we are okay, we all need more support. It is a sign of strength to ask for help. It is a sign of compassion to notice a need without waiting to be asked. May we both support and accept help from one another as we face the days ahead.

Peace,
Milton

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Please join every Sunday at 9am 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>August 4th, 2024: Holy Communion</u> <i>Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51: 1-12 Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35</p>	<p><u>August 11th, 2024</u> <i>Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 2 Samuel 18: 5-9 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51</p>
<p><u>August 18th, 2024</u> <i>Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58</p>	<p><u>August 25th, 2024</u> <i>Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69</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.

Summer Service Times

Our 9:00am summer service time will continue through August, ending on Sunday, September 1st. Our regularly scheduled 10:00am service time will resume on Sunday, September 8th.

-Office Staff

Office Technology Updates

Over the past two summer months, we have implemented several technological upgrades in the office aimed at significantly enhancing our efficiency in meeting the needs of this congregation. First, on behalf of the office staff, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Tom Venio for his generous gift of a new printer to our office! This Konica Minolta Bizhub C368, which replaces our old model, has already improved productivity within the office, especially in terms of publications such as the Sunday bulletin and this monthly Bell Tree newsletter.

Second, with the help of Ben and Greg from Transform Technology Services, we have acquired a new Yealink phone system, which has replaced our outdated, broken Panasonic phone system. This new cloud-based system will allow us to keep tabs on our voicemails even when away from the office, as well as add functionality that we did not have with our previous models, such as a phone tree, Caller ID, and remote accessibility.

Third, we have recently made the switch from Comcast Xfinity to Frontier Fiber, which has drastically increased our internet speed and will allow for more stability in both streaming and in internet usage within the parish house. We are working on acquiring a Wi-Fi extender for the parish house in order to provide this strong, stable connection to the entire building.

-Aren Alberico

Faith Formation

ARK Banks. We will continue to collect money for the Pastor's Discretionary fund. Please bring in your filled ark, place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the office. Empty banks are available in the narthex or at the parish hall entry. Thank you.

-Debbie Wooley

Stewardship

As of July 31st, pledges to date are \$87,426 with 43 individual pledge units. If you have any additional questions regarding stewardship and pledging, please contact me by email at ce@mccucc.com.

“Giving is more than a responsibility-it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience-it is evidence of our faith.” – William Arthur Ward

-Debbie Wooley

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 at jhwooley@snet.net if you have any questions.

-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

FINANCIAL REPORT: MAY 2024

Following is the financial report for May 2024. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,668.00
	Other Income:	\$2,081.00
	Total Income:	\$7,749.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$17,396.00
Net Income (Loss):		\$9,647.00

FINANCIAL REPORT: JUNE 2024

Following is the financial report for June 2024. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$16,862.00
	Other Income:	\$2,331.00
	Total Income:	\$19,193.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$10,489.00
Net Income (Gain):		\$8,704.00

GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

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.

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.

2024 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.

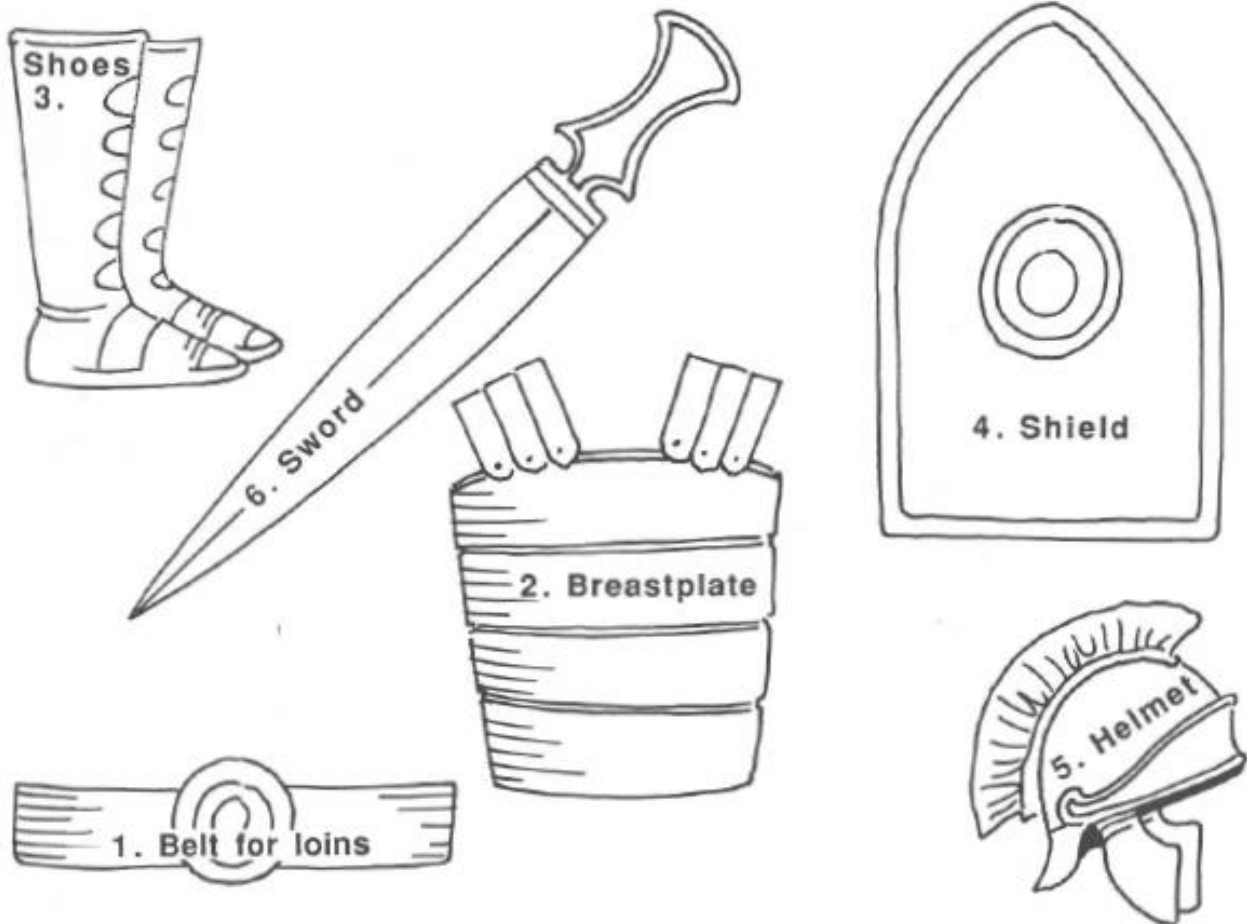
The Armour of God

Ephesians 6:13-17

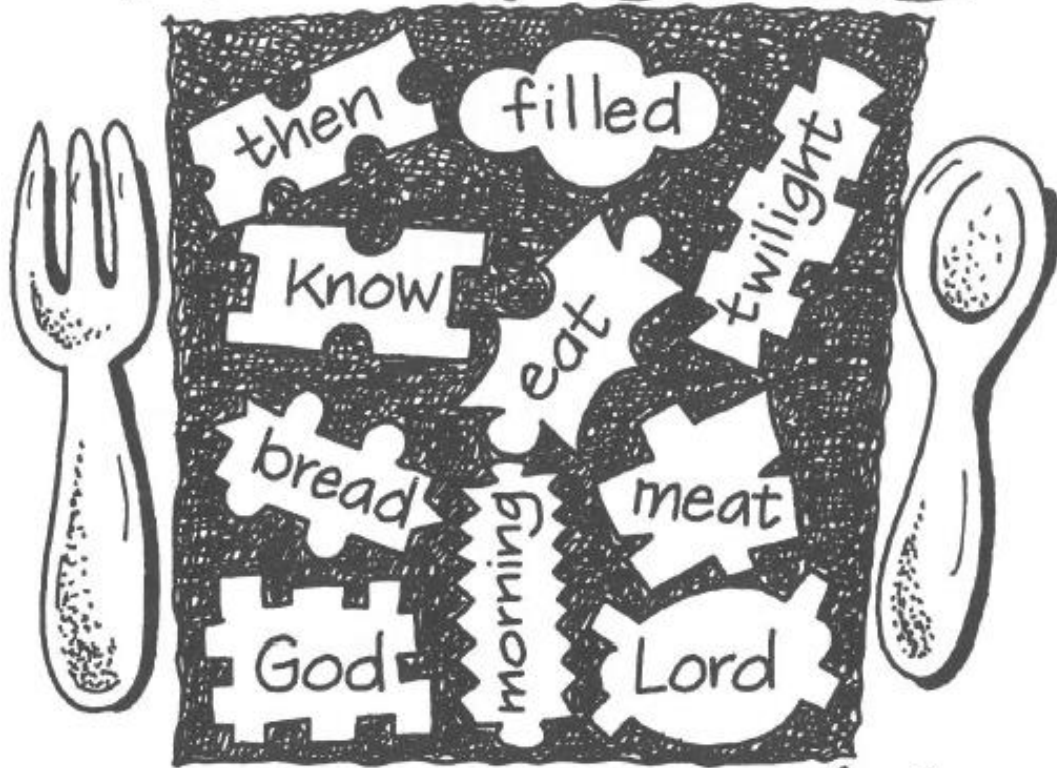
At the time of Paul, Ephesus was famous for the Temple of Diana, a goddess the people worshipped. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul told them about Jesus and reminded them how important it is to know and worship Jesus. Then Paul told the Christians how to live good lives which are pleasing to Jesus. Paul said we should put on the "armour of God" so we will be able to do what is right.

Paul compared each piece of armour a Roman soldier would wear to things Christians should have in their lives. Unscramble the mixed-up words that tell things Christians should have in their lives and write the correct words on the lines. Then write the number of the piece of armour on the line in front of the thing to which Paul compared it. The first one is done for you.

- 4 AFIHT **FAITH** _____ RTUTH _____
____ LOGPE FO ECEAP _____ SSSHTGIRUOEEN _____
____ PSRIIT WHCIH SI _____ VLASANOIT _____
HET DROW FO DOG _____



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



At _____ you will _____
_____ and in the _____ you will
be _____ with _____
you will _____ that I am the
_____ your _____ Exodus 16:12



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Mount Carmel Congregational Church

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