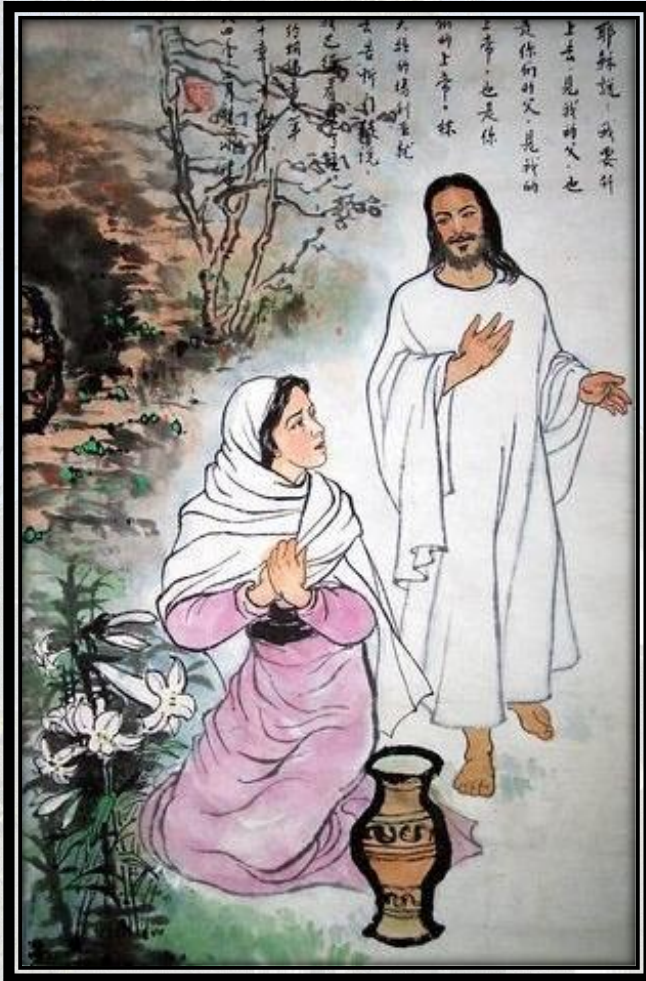


# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

*A United Church of Christ*



*Easter Morning, Reverend Doctor Huibing He (China, 1984)*

**Easter Sunday**  
**April 5, 2026**

**Prelude**

“The Strife is O'er”

Bell Choir

*Arr. Patricia Hurlbutt*

## **Greeting and Announcements**

## **Passing of the Peace of Christ**

### **Call to Worship**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Let us give thanks to our God whose unfailing love lasts forever.

**All: Let us give thanks for the Risen Christ whose love is stronger than death.**

One: We gather together in the dawn of a new day.

**All: The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty.  
Alleluia!**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **\*Hymn**

“The Strife is O'er”

NCH #242

### **Unison Prayer**

*Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.*

### **Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 28:1-10

Nancy Olson

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you.”

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell the others that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there.”

### **Prayers for Our Church and the World**

Please remember the following in your prayers: Fred Tiedemann; Rhonda Pruzinsky; Cari Jansen; Carol Fitzsimmons; Randy States; and Jean Vancamp.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

### **Call to Offering**

### **Offertory**

“The Strife is O’er”

*Arr. Daniel Burton*

### \*The Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that Love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit—One. Amen.*

### \*Prayer of Dedication

*Radiant God whose love endures forever, we gather today in the light of resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. May our giving reflect the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of life we find in you. Transform our offerings into acts of love that bring light to the world, just as Christ's light has dawned in our hearts. Amen.*

### Sermon

Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection”

NCH #245

### The Service of Communion

One: May God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us offer our God our deepest gratitude.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is right to give our thanks and praise to you, O God, for you are God of the lost and the found. Day after day we look for you, and day after day you find us. Our seeking does not go unanswered, and for that we are grateful. And yet, gracious God, our seeking does not stop. For even though we find your fingerprints are all over this world, we also see so much brokenness. On this day when we celebrate the joy and hope of Christ's resurrection, which reminds us again that love is stronger than death, we gather once again for this sacred meal

that calls us to not grow numb to the suffering of this world. We come to find the nourishment that we will allow us to be relentless in our consoling of the grieving, in our welcoming of the stranger, and in the feeding of the hungry, just as you have done for all of those who came before us in this legacy of love. We join our voices with them and with those who will follow in our affirmation of faith:

**All:**

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.**

**You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you.**

**You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.**

**You are with us now.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

## **The Sharing of the Meal**

### **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Loving God, we thank you once again for this meal, this day, this gift of resurrection. Send us out into our world to be the presence of love and hope to all who despair and fear, that all may know the joy and meaning of an abundant life with you. Alleluia. Amen.*

Hymn                                    “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”                    NCH #233

**Benediction**

Postlude                                “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”                    Bell Choir  
*Arr. Patricia Hurlbutt*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have paid for an Easter plant for this morning’s service, please feel free to take it home with you.

Please make sure to pick up your copies of the 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Directory, which are now available in the Narthex. If you would like a PDF copy of either document, please contact the office.

The 261<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will take place immediately after the regular worship service on Sunday, April 12, 2026. Following our meeting, we will be holding a luncheon with finger sandwiches and a deli platter. Your attendance at this meeting is very important because we need a quorum in order to approve the Annual Report.

Our annual Spring Tag and Craft Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. It is the perfect place to find some ‘Tag Sale Treasures’. As always, drop-offs for items will occur on the Friday before the sale, April 17, from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

“Living Well, Dying Well” is a workshop for all ages on planning our memorial services and supporting our families. Led by Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, Lead Minister, First Congregational Church, Guilford, and Death Doula, this important workshop will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Parish House. All are welcome to attend!

# 2026 Easter Memorial Plants



*This year's beautiful Easter Memorial Plants have been given by:*

Rick Terry

In Memory of  
Dick & Rita Terry,  
Gayle Bourdeaux

Ellen Amato

In Memory of  
Loved Ones

Diane Scott  
& Leon Fiftal

In Memory of  
Loved Ones

Patricia Williams

In Memory of  
Our Parents

Linda Vanacore

In Memory of  
Ron, Mom, & Dad

Janis Hewitt

In Memory of  
Amos Hewitt, Jr.

# 2026 Easter Memorial Plants



Natalie Baronowski

In Memory of  
Thom, Carolyn, Jim

Laraine Patterson

In Memory of  
William Patterson

Nancy Poland

In Memory of Her Mother,  
Laura Baker

The Duffy Family

In Memory of  
Loved Ones

Heidi &  
Eric Grantz

In Memory of  
Our Loved Ones Lost

Mary Cofrancesco

In Memory of  
Rose & John Fraenza,  
Ann DeLucia

Charlotte Peet

In Memory of  
the McLean and Peet Families

Matt &  
Alison McCaffrey

In Memory of Our Parents and  
in Honor of Our Children and  
Grandchildren

# 2026 Easter Memorial Plants



Aren &  
Michelle Alberico

In Loving Memory of  
Betty Alberico

Sandee Martin

In Memory of  
Departed Loved Ones

Joe &  
Vera DeAngelo

In Memory of  
Their Son, John

Rick Prescott

In Memory of  
Carole Prescott

Teena Griggs

In Memory of  
Frank & Lillian Vellai,  
Connie Griggs

Wanda Dwyer

In Memory of  
Anne & Michael Perez

James Copeland

In Memory of  
Lois Giammattei,  
Kathrine & Willis Copeland

# Please join us for our Annual



## WHERE:

Mount Carmel Congregational Church  
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06518

## WHEN:

Saturday, April 18  
9:00am-2:00pm

## WHAT:

Tag Tables!  
Handmade Crafts!  
Bake Sale!  
& MORE!

## BOOK NOW:

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

# 261<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the



**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Directly Following Our 10am Service

**All members are invited as we:**

- Approve the Annual Report
- Hand out the 2026 Directory



**Sandwiches will be provided!**



**Copies of the Annual Report will be made available for pickup in the Narthex by Sunday, April 5, 2026.**

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

*Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026*



## **Mount Carmel Congregational Church**

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Website: [www.mccucc.com](http://www.mccucc.com)

Phone: (203) 248-7408

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Music Director:	Mrs. Lynda Pedersen <a href="mailto:lyndal.pedersen@gmail.com">lyndal.pedersen@gmail.com</a>
Faith Formation:	Mrs. Debbie Wooley <a href="mailto:ce@mccucc.com">ce@mccucc.com</a>
Treasurer:	Mrs. Ellen Amato <a href="mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com">treasurer@mccucc.com</a>
Church President:	Eric Grantz <a href="mailto:egrantz73@gmail.com">egrantz73@gmail.com</a>
Church Clerk:	Sandee Martin <a href="mailto:sandeemart48@gmail.com">sandeemart48@gmail.com</a>
Board of Trustees:	Anna Anderson, Chair <a href="mailto:aanderson545@gmail.com">aanderson545@gmail.com</a>
Board of Deacons:	Rick Terry, Co-Chair <a href="mailto:rterry981@outlook.com">rterry981@outlook.com</a> Nancy Olson, Co-Chair <a href="mailto:njolson56@gmail.com">njolson56@gmail.com</a>

*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,  
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,  
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

