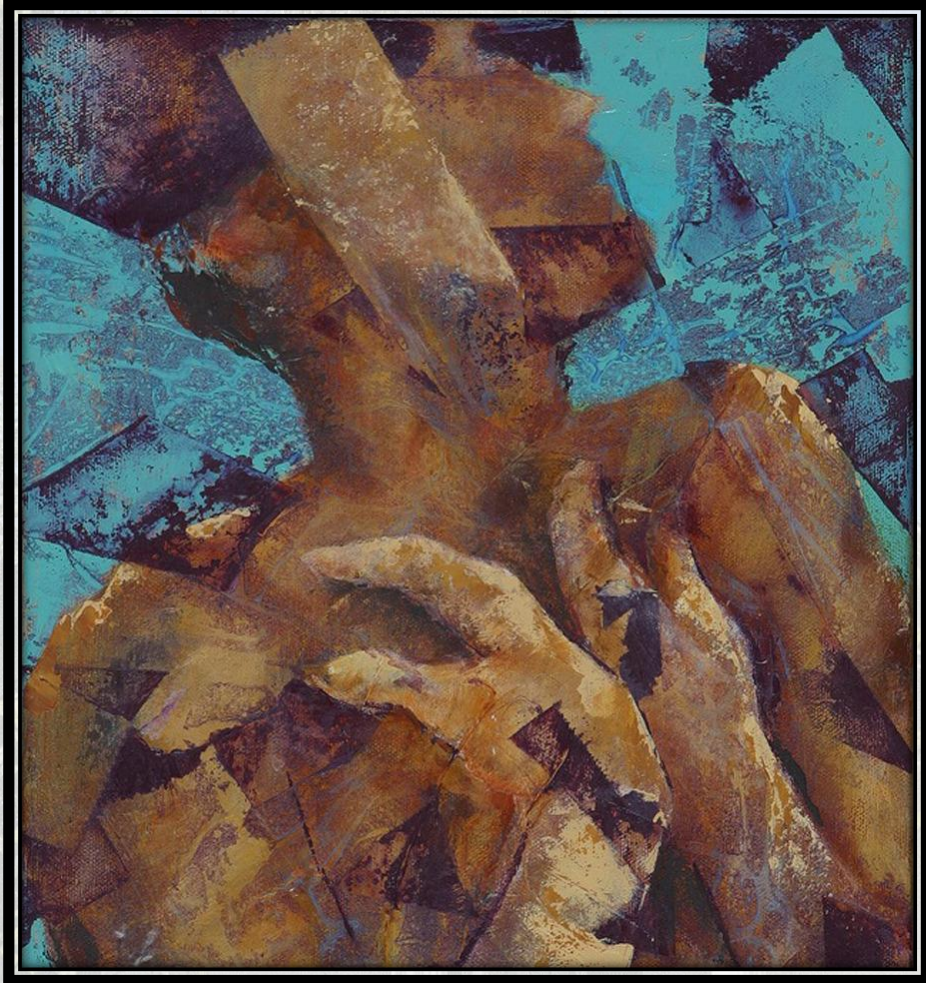


The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

A United Church of Christ



Turn the Other Cheek, Dyanne Fiorucci

22nd Sunday After Pentecost
October 20th, 2024

Prelude

“THE SERVANT SONG”

Arr. David Lasky

Greeting and Announcements

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Call to Worship

One: We gather this morning as God’s beloved;

All: However hopeful we are, however out of sorts we are,

One: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community,

All: Jesus calls us to be those who create a place of belonging.

One: We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with
God and with one another.

All: Let us worship God together.

*Hymn

“We Worship You, God”

NCH #26

Prayer of Mindfulness

(In Unison)

Loving God, everywhere we look we see the imprint of your creative love. The wondrous works of nature show your majesty. As we gather today to celebrate your love and creation, keep us mindful that we are part of that created order, meant to be stewards and not destroyers. Prepare us to work for you in ministries of peace and justice. Amen.

First Reading:

Luke 6: 27-36

Leon Fiftal

“But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don’t withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, why should you be commended?”

“Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.”

Sermon

Stephen Hegedus

Hymn

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?” NCH #539
[*Please remain seated for this hymn.*]

The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Maria Coffin; Carol Fitzsimons; Marilyn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; and Gilbert Spencer.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

(In Unison)

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

“SOLID ROCK”

Arr. Wilbur Held

***The Doxology**

(In Unison)

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**

(In Unison)

Loving God, you are the one who gives us life and love and hope.

May all that we do and say channel those gifts to those around us, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn**

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

NCH #403

Benediction

Postlude

“Prelude in D Minor”

By J.S. Bach

xx

*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.*

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

This year, Stewardship Sunday falls on November 10th; we invite you to place your pledge cards into the offering plate during worship!

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADER

Stephen Hegedus has been a member of First Congregational Church Guilford for almost 10 years with his wife Nathalie and their three boys. Last year he was a member in discernment. Stephen is presently the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In honor of All Saints Day, we will be honoring the names of the deceased during our All Saints Sunday service on Sunday, November 3rd. If you would like to submit the name of a loved one who has passed this year, please contact the office by phone or email by Tuesday, October 29th at the latest. Thank you.

We are still searching for our next Church Clerk! For more information on the role and what it entails, we encourage you to contact Tom Duffy by email at 'thomascduffy67@gmail.com'!

Keep your Ark Banks floating! Please don't forget to keep bringing in your ark banks. If you have not picked up a bank yet, they can be found in the narthex or in the entrance to the parish hall.

We are always looking for Ushering and Coffee Hour Volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Aren in the office, or use the sign-up sheet now located near the main entrance to the Parish House.

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.



Imagine Together: What Might Generosity Look Like for You?

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: "We all do theology. Theology is God-talk." A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithe in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates

an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Imagine Together

October 20th, 2024



Mount Carmel Congregational Church
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518
203-248-7408

Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham

Pastor@mccucc.com

Office Admin:

Mr. Aren Alberico

Office@mccucc.com

Music Director:

Mrs. Lynda Pedersen

lyndal.pedersen@gmail.com

Faith Formation:

Mrs. Debbie Wooley

ce@mccucc.com

Treasurer:

Mrs. Ellen Amato

treasurer@mccucc.com

Social Media:

<https://linktr.ee/mountcarmelchurch1>

Website:

<https://www.mccucc.com/>

Officers:

President:

Tom Duffy

thomasduffy67@gmail.com

Clerk:

Beverly Jurkiewicz

bevjjur@comcast.net

Board of Deacons:

Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair

Board of Trustees:

Anna Anderson, Chair

aanderson545@gmail.com