

**The Mt. Carmel Cong. Church
(A United Church of Christ)
December, 2020**

Dear Members and Friends,

As I am writing this Christmas Greeting to you I think of all the Christmas letters I have received over the years with people telling me how great their year was and all the trips they took and the fun adventures they enjoyed. Perhaps this year many Christmas letters will be much different!

I know the very first Christmas was not that great. Mary, being nine months pregnant, had to travel on a donkey. There was no room in the inn - their first child was born in a dirty stable with strangers showing up to bother them. There were threats of death by Herod on all baby boys - in order to live they had to escape to the strange land of Egypt.

God has made our homelessness His home. God comes to us in the darkest of times. His light is shining upon us. As we light the Advent Wreath each Sunday we come closer and closer to the Light. Closer to a safer time as a vaccine for Covid 19 becomes available and distributed. Closer to a spiritual renewal, a new clarity of just what it means to be a Christian.

I hope that we can all find ways to celebrate the birth of our Savior in deep and meaningful ways. God will make a way.

A Blessed Advent, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ,

**Revered Olivia Robinson
and
Peter Robinson (husband)**

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH **DECEMBER, 2020**

From the Treasurer:

- Thanks to everyone for mailing in
- Your 2020 Pledges during Covid-19
- If you have any questions I can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com
Ellen Amato, Treasurer

NOVEMBER, 2020

Income:

Pledges and Offerings:	\$ 8645.00
Other Income:	\$ 1,300.00
Investment Draw:	\$ 0

Total Income: \$ 9,945.00

Total Expenses: \$ 16,944.00

Net Income <Loss> <\$ 6,999.00>

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The office hours during Covid-19
Are Tues. through Thursday, 9-1pm
If you wish to drop off or pick something up, please call the office or ring the bell outside of the Parish Hall.
Office: 203-248-7408
E:Mail mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com
- If you wish to have a joy or concern announced during worship please email Rick Terry at rterry981@gmail.com or Olivia at Hayes641@comcast.net or call the **church office (Cheryl)**
- Leon Fital and Diane Scott along with Rev. Olivia are hosting a ZOOM BIBLE STUDY on Tuesday evenings At 7:00pm. Click on Zoom Bible Study to join in on any Tuesday.
- Ron Vanacore, church member, is in Hamden Health Care. To send a note his address is:
Ron Vanacore
Hamden Health Care
1270 Sherman Lane
Hamden, CT 06514

- Eleanor Farrell, church member, is in Masonic Care, Wallingford. To send a note her address is:
Eleanor Farrell
Masonic Care, Ramage 5, Rm 522
Wallingford, Ct 06492
- Bev Dean, church member, is in Whitney Rehab Center. To send a note her address is:
Beverly Dean
Whitney Rehabilitation Care Center
2798 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING **DECEMBER 13, 2020**

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Mt. Carmel Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, **December 13th at 11:15am,** following the regular church service. This will be a virtual mtg. We need a quorum of 25 members. Your participation is important.
Bev Jurkiewicz, Clerk

Christmas Pageant 2020

Katie O'Neil and Sara Kroon are busy putting together a virtual Christmas Pageant for our Worship Service on December 29th. Caleb Kroon is doing the filming for his Confirmation project. Sara is being assisted by friends from Dunbar UCC.
Be sure to stay tuned for details!

OUTREACH

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks to everyone for your generous donations. As we all know, it was a little different this year due to Covid 19 restrictions. With monetary and food donations we were able to donate 31 bags of food to the Keefe Center. We were unable to deliver to the VNA as their offices have been closed due to Covid.

Special thanks to Leon, Tom, Val and Linda for delivering the food. Thanks also to the Altar Guild for the fresh fruit and sweet potatoes.

Christmas "Giving"

We have an opportunity this year to help the Keefe Center with their "Toy Drive." We have donated a large box of toiletries to the VNA. Unfortunately, due to Covid we will not be able to help Smilow this year.

Any toys for children any age are acceptable and toys do not need to be wrapped.

Toys must be dropped off at the church during office hours by Thursday, Dec. 10th.

As always, monetary donations are welcome and can be mailed or dropped off at the church. My elves and I can do the shopping for you if you are not able to!

If you prefer, gifts can also be dropped off at the Keefe center. (See flyer in newsletter for dates and times). If you have any questions, call Debbie Wooley.

203-248-3047.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE RE-DEDICATION

The Christmas Tree that was planted in the front of our Church many years ago by Rhonda Pruzinsky in memory of her mother who passed away from Alzheimers will be re-dedicated this year to Rhonda Pruzinsky who is now also fighting this difficult disease. The virtual dedication will take place on December 2, 2020.

We ask that you pray for Rhonda and her family as she battles this debilitating disease. During the tree lighting ceremony we will be looking to the heavens, "The Darker the Sky, the Brighter the Stars." Let us light up the night with the brightness in our hearts as we recall and visualize those that are no longer among us but still live on in our memories. Rhonda will have the honor of lighting up the night with over 1,000 tiny bright lights. We want Rhonda and her husband Tom to know we are all supporting her as her church family in her time of need.

The re-dedication ceremony will be available for virtual viewing in an upcoming worship service.

"Trees Give Peace to the Souls of Man"

PARISH HALL RENTAL

Contact the Church Office
(Cheryl)
for information and
availability on renting the
church hall
203-248-7408

mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com

**DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS
COVID-19
HEALTH PANDEMIC ALL
CHURCH ACTIVITIES
AND HALL RENTALS ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE!**

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP IS BEING
HELD EVERY SUNDAY MORNING
AT 10:00AM
GO TO THE CHURCH WEBPAGE
www.mccucc.weebly.com**

**THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF
THE MT. CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13TH AT 11:15AM,
FOLLOWING THE REGULAR VIRTUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE.
WE NEED A QUORUM OF 25
MEMBERS, SO YOUR
PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT IN
ORDER TO VOTE.**

**AGENDA:
THE 2021 BUDGET**

JUST THE FACTS

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

The Rev. Olivia Robinson, Pastor
Mrs. Lynda Pedersen, Organist, Choir Dir.
Mrs. Cheryl Mangiulli, Office Secretary
Mrs. Ellen Amato, Church Treasurer
amatoea@aol.com
treasurer@mccucc.com

Church Email:
mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com
Church Website:
www.mccucc.weebly.com
Facebook:
Mt. Carmel Congregational Church

Church Office:
Cheryl is in the office:
Tues-Thurs. 9:00am-1:00pm
203-248-7408

Officers:
President: Tom Duffy
Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz
Board of Deacons: Rick Terry, Chair
rterry981@gmail.com
Board of Trustees: Val Duffy, Co-Chair
Valerieduffy1234@gmail.com
Diane Scott, Co-Chair
[Diane Scott @iname.com](mailto:DianeScott@iname.com)

Worship Service: Sunday 10:00am
Communion the first Sunday of the month

*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.*