



Mt. Carmel Congregational Church, 3285 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

**The Mt. Carmel Congregational Church
(A United Church of Christ)
Newsletter for June, 2021**

Dear Members and Friends,

I am excited to be returning to in-person worship this Sunday. It has been a very long journey and lonely for many persons. Everyone will have a different comfort level about coming back together. Some will be slow in coming back and others will be jumping for joy!!! Please be respectful of everyone's needs. We will have a coffee hour Sunday for those that feel comfortable, live streaming will continue for those still at home. We are travelling on a road we've never seen before but God will guide us.

Try to come out to the Tag sale on June 12th from 9 to 2pm to say hello to one another. The office will also be opening up but right now we are in search of an office administrator. Thank you so much to Sandee Martin and Tom Duffy for filling in and to Leon Fiftal for live-streaming.

Please let me know if you would like a call or a visit. I am only 20 hours a week but always available to pray for you.

Peace and blessings to you all and a Happy Father's Day!

Yours in Christ,
Peace, Rev. Olivia Robinson

PASTORAL VISITS

If you are planning on having a procedure done at one of the local hospitals, please let Reverend Olivia know so that she can plan a pastoral visit - (203) 248-7408. Hospitals no longer call local churches with information about their patients. The church depends on others letting us know, and we thank you in advance for your assistance.

Our June Worship

June 6, 2021 Worship Services Back in our Church!
Second Sunday in Pentecost- Holy Communion

Scriptures: Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1
Sermon: “Outer and Inner Nature”

June 13, 2021 Third Sunday in Pentecost

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13
Mark 4:26-34
Sermon: Sara Kroon is Preaching

June 20, 2021 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
Mark 4:35-41
Sermon: “Peace Be Still”
Happy Father’s Day
The Choir Will Sing!

June 27, 2021 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 30
Mark 5: 21-43
Sermon: “Healing Powers”
The Choir Will Sing!

“On June 6th, we will have our first in person church service in the Church with the windows open!! I will be glad to see you in person and to meet some of you I have not met yet.” Rev. Robinson

From the Treasurer: If you have any questions, I can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com. Ellen

MAY, 2021

Income: Pledges and Offerings:	\$9,147.00
Other Income:	\$1,520.00
Total Income:	\$10,667.00
Expenses: Total Expenses:	<u>\$6,779.00</u>
Net Income (Loss):	\$3,888.00

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons announces openings for two members. If you are inclined to be of service as the church opens for in-person worship, consider joining the Deacons for a trial period.

The Deacons will zoom meet on Wednesday, June 3, 2021, 7:00 pm.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The members of the Pastor Search Committee are Ellen Amato, Keith Amato (Chair), Anna Anderson, Eric Grantz (Secretary), Sara Kroon (Vice Chair), Sandee Martin (Chaplain), Nancy Olson and Diane Scott. We have been supported by our Area Conference Minister, Michael Ciba, and our Interim Minister, Olivia Robinson. Our goal is to search for and call a Part Time Settled Pastor. We are following the suggested process outlined to us by Rev. Ciba and Robinson.

We are presently working on the following:

- A Membership Survey has been created that will allow us to determine information that will help us to better understand the desired characteristics for our next pastor. This survey will help us to learn about ourselves, our needs and desires so that we can use that information during our search process. If you haven't already completed your survey, please do so as soon as possible.
- Chris Duffy will be conducting a Zoom meeting survey of the younger members of our congregation so that they can offer their opinions about our church and what they would like to see in a new Pastor.
- A Local Church Profile is being worked on that will give a very thorough description of many aspects of our congregation. Our

profile will be given to Pastoral candidates who we are seriously considering for a Call. This profile includes the following:

- Basic information about our church including address, photographs, associations, information about our area and size of our membership.
- The Pastor's title, duration, number of hours per week (half time in our case).
- Scope of work, compensation and benefits.
- Descriptions of who God is calling us to become, congregational reflections on our strengths, visions and organization.
- Extensive Demographic information about our membership.
- Estimates about membership participation in various church activities.
- A detailed accounting of our church's finances.
- A thorough description of our church's history.
- Our outreach activities.
- Demographic data about our neighbors and the wider area.
- Multiple references.

Once the above is complete, we can list our employment vacancy and start to seek candidates for our next Pastor.

I can speak for the entire Search Committee and state that we welcome your input and appreciate your patience. We trust that God will guide us throughout this process.

Thank you, Keith Amato

GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

Joys and Concerns. If you wish to have a joy or concern announced during worship, please email Rev. Olivia at Hayes641@comcast.net or call the church office (203) 248-7408.

Bible Study Group. Leon Fiftal and Diane Scott along with Rev. Olivia host zoom bible study meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. The zoom link is on the church website: <http://mccucc.weebly.com/> Click the Bible Studies button on the front page to access the zoom link.

Committee Openings. These committees need volunteer members to meet their minimum requirements as specified by the bylaws:

Deacons – 2 more; Trustees – 1 more; Music Committee – 3 more. If you would like to try out a committee (attend a meeting), please contact the committee chair – Leon Fiftal, music; Val Duffy/Diane Scott, Trustees; Bev Jurkiewicz, Deacons.

Craft Ladies. The Craft Ladies will be holding their Spring Tag/Craft Sale on Saturday, June 12 from 9 AM to 2 PM, outdoors. (Rain Date: June 19th)

- Sandwiches/drinks will be available. Also featured - a Hand-caned Chair.
- Spaces while available at \$20 Each.
- The Tag Sale would like to borrow several canopy tents to serve as sun barriers for the tables. Please let Debbie Wooley know if you have a tent that we could borrow.

For further information or to reserve a table please call 203-239-7135

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday wishes go to the following:

Rev. Dick Diehl	June 2
Natalie Amato	June 10
Vera DeAngelo	June 5
Tom Duffy	June 17
Sally Jaynes	June 23
Val Duffy	June 27

If you would like your birthday listed please email me at hayes641@comcast.net or call the church office. When we get together again, we can have a monthly birthday cake to honor our members and friends each month.

Notes from Jason Kroon, confirmand.

Hello, my name is Caleb Kroon. For many years now I have attended church here at Mount Carmel Congregational. Throughout my time of being here, I have learned many things about God and the Bible with all of its stories. One of the most impactful themes I noticed in many of these stories was forgiveness. What amazed me about forgiveness was how God and Jesus can forgive us even though we have sinned. Jesus died on the cross FOR us, to redeem our sins. In 1 John 1 verse 9 in the New Testament, we are told *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* This verse reminds me of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. In the parable, the son asks for a portion of his father’s inheritance, and the father grants his son the request. The son goes off with the money and spends all of it without realizing. The boy's only other choice after that is to go home to his father and rather than beg for forgiveness, he begs to be a servant. The boy does not believe he should be forgiven for what he had done. Rather than making his son a servant the father instead forgives his son and throws a huge feast to celebrate that his son returned home. The brother of the prodigal son is angry that he never got a celebration as big as he did. To that the father says, *“you are ever with me, and all that I have is yours, but thy younger brother was lost and now he is found.”* This parable is not only important to me because of the message but also due to how I can relate to it. I may have once been lost but now I am found. So as I go on in life and in this church, I hope to forgive others as God has forgiven me.

Mount Carmel Congregational Church

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Church Website: www.mccucc.weebly.com

203-248-7408

Pastor: The Rev. Olivia Robinson
Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen
Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato treasurer@mccucc.com
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Church Email: mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com
Officers:
President: Tom Duffy thomasduffy67@gmail.com
Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz
Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair
Board of Trustees: Val Duffy, Co-Chair: Valerieduffy1234@gmail.com
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