



**THE BELL TREE**  
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

*A Newsletter for the Month of*  
**MARCH 2022**

*The Mount Carmel Congregational Church*  
*(A United Church of Christ)*  
*3285 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518*

## **From the Pastor's Desk...**

Dear Members and Friends,

In this time of Lent, I would like to share with all of you an excerpt from *Kneeling in Jerusalem* by Ann Weems that I believe expresses the meaning of this season.

*Lent is a time to take time to let the power  
of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up  
and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,*

*a time to place our feet in the streets of  
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and  
listen to his Word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....*

This month, we will be holding a wonderful ecumenical gathering to celebrate Ash Wednesday at Christ the Good Shepherd Church on Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. The service, which will feature our very own Bell Choir, will be livestreamed on Christ the Good Shepherd's Facebook, which you can find by visiting here: <https://mccucc.tiny.us/ashwednesday>. There will also be drive-through ashes at Christ the Good Shepherd between 7:30am to 9:00am and 11:30am to 12:30pm respectively.

In the words of Joan Chittister, O.S.B., "The purpose of Lent is to confront us with ourselves in a way that's conscious and purposeful, that enables us to deal with the rest of life well. It is not a penitential season. It is a growing season...it is a series of questions that, year after year, is designed to measure our progress on the way to the fullness of life." Keeping with this theme of reflection, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our Wednesday Evening Taizé services, which will be held on every Wednesday during the Lenten season at 7pm in the Church. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,  
Rev. Olivia Robinson

## MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Please join every Sunday at 10am for service, and dress warmly! We will also be holding Taizé services every Wednesday evening at 7pm starting on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.*

<p><b>March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>  <b>Holy Communion</b>  <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>  <b>Scriptures:</b> Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16                  Luke 4: 1-13  <b>Sermon:</b> “Temptations in the Wilderness”</p>	<p><b>March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>  <b>Daylight Savings Begins (Spring Ahead)</b>  <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>  <b>Scriptures:</b> Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18                  Psalm 27                  Luke 13: 31-35  <b>Sermon:</b> “Look for the Lenten Rose”</p>						
<p><b>March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>  <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>  <b>Scriptures:</b> Isaiah 55: 1-9                  Psalm 63: 1-8                  Luke 13: 1-9  <b>Sermon:</b> “Straighten Up”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please join us after service for a “Second Hour” presentation hosted by Tom Duffy. A Teaser for this presentation can be found on Page 6!</i></p>	<p><b>March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>  <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Joshua 5: 9-12                  2 Corinthians 5: 16-21                  Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32  <b>Sermon:</b> “Greening, Greening with Life”</p>						
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</u></b>  <i>Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:</i></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Amos Hewitt</td> <td>March 3<sup>rd</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lynda Pedersen</td> <td>March 31<sup>st</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Robinson</td> <td>March 31<sup>st</sup></td> </tr> </table> <p>If you would like to add your name to our birthday list, please contact our office.</p>	Amos Hewitt	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lynda Pedersen	March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Robinson	March 31 <sup>st</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Protocols for In-Person Worship</u></b></p> <p>You can find our updated protocols on in-person worship by visiting our website at <a href="https://mccucc.tiny.us/covid">https://mccucc.tiny.us/covid</a>. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.</p>
Amos Hewitt	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>						
Lynda Pedersen	March 31 <sup>st</sup>						
Peter Robinson	March 31 <sup>st</sup>						

### A Special Thank You from Lynda

Dear Mt. Carmel Friends,

Thank you so much for your cards and well wishes while I was recovering from my knee surgery. A big thank you goes to Leon for stepping in and playing the service each week. Also, to Tom for streaming the services so Leon could play. I have one more knee to go this spring. Hopefully by summer I will be able to walk without pain!

Thank you,  
- Lynda

## FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY 2022

Following is the financial report for January 2022. **REMINDER: Do not file your taxes until after you have received a notice that your donation has been processed.** If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com).

<b>Income:</b>	Pledges and Offerings:	\$7,234.00
	Other Income:	\$1,325.00
	Total Income:	\$8,559.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	Total Expenses:	\$15,063.00
<b>Net Loss:</b>		- \$6,504.00

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### **Outreach**

#### One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is our next special offering. Monies received for this offering are sent to international places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck. We will collect the offering on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. There are a few envelopes in the narthex to use. If you write a check, please note OGHS in the memo line.

Thank you,  
-Debbie Wooley

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### **CE/Faith Formation News - Kids**

We will be starting Unit 5, March 6<sup>th</sup> which will begin our journey through Lent. This unit ends April 10 which is Palm Sunday. The Lenten Season is 40 days long, not counting Sundays. It began as a time to prepare new converts for Baptism at Easter. During that time, they learned the creed and the Lord's Prayer. They also fasted. It had become a 40-day preparation period by the middle of the fourth century. Christians today still use this time for self-discipline, fasting, reflection, & re-affirmation of their baptismal vows. Purple is the color of the season until Palm Sunday which is red. Also, we stop singing "Alleluias" during this time. Included in this newsletter is a page of Lenten symbols.

#### "Ark," Acts of Random Kindness



We will continue to collect coins for the Pastor's Discretionary fund. When you bring in your filled ark bank, I will empty the coins and return the bank to you. You may also leave your bank and take another from the narthex. Everyone is invited to bring in their banks to place on the altar during the church service on Easter Sunday, April 17. Thank you.

-Debbie Wooley

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## Search Committee - Update

The Search Committee has begun to receive Ministerial Profiles - Hallelujah! To date we have received profiles from four candidates and conducted initial interviews with two of the candidates. The Committee is working to coordinate interviews with the other interested candidates. Our posting can continue to be seen here at <https://mccucc.tiny.us/pastorsearch>. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with questions.

Sincerely,  
Your Search Committee

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## Mount Carmel Congregational Church, 1936 Congregation



This photograph, kindly provided to Mount Carmel by Mr. Carlton Jones, depicts the 1936 Congregation of our church. His grandparents Clarence and Janet Shepard, pictured above, were members of our Church during this time along with their parents, Edward and Harriet (Wilcox) Yale, and Henry and Alice (Warner) Shepard. His mother, Dorothy Shepard, was born in 1921, and lived in Hamden with her sister Janetha until the mid-1970s. Janetha is also included in this picture, dressed in black and located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row near the middle, right behind the woman with the white bonnet in the front row. This rare find gives us a glimpse into the

history of our Church, and what people in this time period may have worn when they attended services. Unfortunately, the photo is not labeled so we have no way of knowing the identities of anyone else pictured. This is where you come in, Mount Carmel! If you have any information on who any of these members could be, please contact me, Aren, directly at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) or call me at (203) 248-7408 during office hours Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-12pm. I can also provide a larger file for the image upon request.

Thank you,  
Aren Alberico

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## **Annual Meeting**

The 257<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, following our regularly scheduled worship service. If you are the head of a committee, we ask that you send a typed copy of your report to Aren, preferably by email, by Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to be included in the 2021 Annual Report. Please also include a list of your current members and officers for record-keeping purposes, as well as a list of any positions that need to be filled so that we can include them in the nominations for the year.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Jurkiewicz  
Church Clerk

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## **GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS**

**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](mailto:office@mccucc.com) or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

**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. 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.

**Bible Study.** There will be no Bible Study during the Lenten Season. Instead, we will be hosting Taizé services every Wednesday night at 7pm. Please feel free to join us!

**Committee Openings.** These committees need volunteer members to meet their minimum requirements as specified by the bylaws: Deacons-3 more; Trustees-1 more; Music Committee-3 more. If you would like to try out a committee (attend a meeting with no obligations), please contact the committee chair(s): Leon Fiftal-Music; Bev Jurkiewicz-Deacons; Val Duffy and Diane Scott-Trustees.

**Church and Hall Cleaning.** We are looking for more volunteers to help with cleaning the church and parish hall. For more information, please contact Noelle Ioime by phone at (203) 605-7171 or by email at [noelle\\_i@hotmail.com](mailto:noelle_i@hotmail.com).

**Coffee Hour.** Coffee Hour volunteers are needed for the months of March and April. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact the office or use the signup sheet located in the Church Hall.

**Altar Flowers.** Altar flowers are needed for the months of March and April. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact Karen Amato or use the signup sheet located in the Church Hall.

**Parish Hall Rentals.** If you or anyone you know would be interested in renting out our parish hall to host a meeting, service, or a small private event, please feel free to visit our website for scheduling, rates, and conditions.

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## Second Hour:

Please enjoy a brief preview of Tom Duffy's "Second Hour" presentation, which will follow service on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.



*Light of the World* – William Holman Hunt (1853)

In the 1850s, a group of English artists formed the short-lived Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, a group that rejected the mechanistic approach to art first adopted by the artists who succeeded Raphael and Michelangelo. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was greatly influenced by nature and its members used great detail to show the natural world using bright and sharp-focus techniques on a white canvas. In many Pre-Raphaelite paintings, one can find competing sources of light – one from nature (secular) and one from the divine (sacred). William Holman Hunt's famous *Light of the World* portrays Christ as a common miner – the two competing light sources being the miner's lantern and Christ's halo. (Many thought the Pre-Raphaelites were a blasphemous group!)

*Staffa: Fingal's Cave* – Joseph Mallard William Turner (1832)



Tom Duffy will present a short analysis of Joseph Mallard William Turner's painting *Staffa: Fingal's Cave*, with its two competing light sources. Duffy will play a recording of his composition, *Staffa: Fingal's Cave*; which is comprised of music that reflects the two competing aesthetics, and features the conductor, split down the middle, conducting a different meter in each hand! The sacred light source (the Cave) is represented by the hymn, *O Sacred Head Surrounded by Crown of Piercing Thorn*.



## What is Taizé? A Brief Overview



On Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, we at the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be holding our first Lenten Taizé service of the year. These services, based off those held at the Taizé monastery in the Burgundy region of southern France, will be conducted on Wednesday evenings leading up to Easter. Taizé services are held by candlelight and involve a mixture of song, chanted prayer, and long durations of silence. By utilizing repeated phrases from scripture as a focus for meditation, the services of Taizé provide “the freedom and space to hear God’s voice” (Youngman 5). The combination of these important factors leads to a unique worship experience far removed from the usual Sunday morning gathering.

Since 1940, the spirit of Taizé and its founder, Brother Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche, has attracted the attention of Christians from across the world to cast aside their differences and gather in worship as one united Christian Church. In Taizé worship, we are no longer Catholics, Protestants, Baptists, or Orthodox; instead, we are simply people “seeking the space—external and internal—in which to meet God” (Youngman 5).

If you would like to participate in this unique worship experience, please join in the Church at 7pm on the following days:

March 9<sup>th</sup>

March 16<sup>th</sup>

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

March 30<sup>th</sup>

April 6<sup>th</sup>

April 13<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to learn more about Taizé, we highly encourage you to pick up a copy of *Worship Feast: 20 Complete Services in the Spirit of Taizé* by Abingdon Press, or take a look at BBC’s short article on Taizé and its founder, Brother Roger, which you can find by visiting our link tree, <https://linktr.ee/mountcarmelchurch1>, and clicking on the link labeled “BBC Taizé”.

Youngman, J. (2004). Spirit of Taizé. In *Worship Feast: 20 Complete Services in the Spirit of Taizé* (pp. 5).  
Essay, Abingdon Press.

## Lenten Symbols

Symbols are an important ingredient during our Lenten preparation for Easter. They remind us of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and what happened there. Most of the Lenten symbols below are taken directly from the events of the last week of Jesus' life.

### Palms

Branches of the palm tree, regarded as sacred from early Semitic times, were waved triumphantly as Jesus entered Jerusalem.



### The Number 40

The 40 days of Lent are symbolic of Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness after his baptism and before the beginning of his ministry.

# 40

Forty is a number used repeatedly in the Bible, signifying "a period of transformation."

### Ashes

A symbol of our mortality and an ancient sign of sorrow and repentance for sin. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of worshipers in the sign of a cross. Traditionally these are the ashes from the burning of the previous year's Palm Sunday branches or crosses.



### Loaf and Cup

Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples during the Last Supper. (Luke 22:19-20)



### Basin and Towel

At the last supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and commanded them to love and serve one another. (John 13:5)



### Bag of Coins

Just before the last supper, Judas met with the chief priests and temple guard and agreed to betray Jesus to them for 30 pieces of silver. (Matt. 26:15)



### Lantern

On the night of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, Judas and a group of Roman soldiers and temple guards entered the garden of Gethsemane with lanterns and torches. (John 18:3)



### Rooster

Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed, Peter would deny 3 times that he knew Jesus. (Luke 22:34)



### Rope

A rope was used to bind Jesus when he was led away to the High Priest. (John 18:12)



### Pillar and Scourges

The scourges and pillar are representative of the trial and condemnation of Jesus. The type of pillar shown is traditional, as it was supposed that this was the type to which Jesus was tied when the soldiers stripped and flogged him. (John 19:1)



### Crown of Thorns

The soldiers mockingly placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)



### Robe and Dice

The soldiers gambled to see which one would have Jesus' woven seamless robe. (John 19:23-24)



### Nails

Jesus was nailed to the cross. (John 20:25)



### I.N.R.I.

These are the first letters of the Latin inscription which Pilate put on the cross of Jesus – *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* – Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. (Matt. 27:37)

# I.N.R.I.

### Eastern Cross

The upper horizontal arm represents the place of the inscription over the head of the crucified Jesus. The lower slanting arm represents his footrest.



### Passion Cross

This cross is distinguished by its pointed ends. It is also known as the cross of suffering. Symbolically it indicates Maundy Thursday or Good Friday (as contrasted to the empty plain cross – a symbol of resurrection).



### Chi Rho

These 2 joined letters represent the first 2 letters in the Greek word "Christos" or "Christ" (God's anointed one). This is what we confess in our celebration of Easter – that we believe Jesus is the Christ, God's anointed one.



# They Were There

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Many people had a part in Jesus' trial, crucifixion and resurrection. Some of them were Jesus' friends who loved Him and followed Him. Some were Jesus' enemies who were determined to kill Him.

Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of several of these people. Write them in the boxes below the scrambled letters. The clues and Bible verses will help you. Then rearrange the circled letters to find the identity of the last person.

1. U S J A D

	○			
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He betrayed Jesus. (*John 18:2-5*)

2. T R E E P

	○			
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He denied he knew Jesus. (*John 18:25-27*)

3. H A P S C I A A

○							
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He was Israel's high priest. (*John 18:24*)

4. L A T I P E

	○				
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He allowed Jesus to be crucified to please the Jews. (*Luke 23:13-26*)

5. E M O W N

	○			
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They followed Jesus as He was led away to be crucified. (*Luke 23:27*)

6. F I H E T

○				
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He was crucified beside Jesus. Jesus said he would be with Jesus in Paradise. (*Matthew 27:38; Luke 23:39-43*)

7. Y M A R

		○	
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At least three women by this name were at the cross. (*John 19:25*)

8. O H N J

			○
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He helped Peter prepare the Passover. (*Luke 22:8*)

9. G L E N A

	○			
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He announced, "He is risen!" (*Matthew 28:2-6*)

10. 

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He said, "Truly this was the Son of God." (*Matthew 27:54*)

# He Has Risen!

The spaces between words have been scrambled. Find and read the passage by circling the correct letters to make words. The first word has been circled for you. Insert capitalization and punctuation. Check your work by reading Luke 24:33-34.

the ygo tupand ret urn ed

atonce toje rus alemth ere

th ey foundth eelee vena nd

tho sew ith the mass embled

tog etherand say ingiti strue

th elor dhas rise nand

hasap pear edtosi mon.



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**Officers:**

President: Tom Duffy  
[thomasduffy67@gmail.com](mailto:thomasduffy67@gmail.com)  
Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz  
Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair  
Board of Trustees: Val Duffy, Co-Chair:  
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