



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for the Month of
MAY 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,

Come celebrate Eastertide with us at Mount Carmel! Most of you are familiar with Advent and Lent, but perhaps not as familiar with Eastertide. Eastertide is the **fifty days** from Easter to Pentecost. It is a time to let the joyous news of Easter **wash over you**. It is a season to **cultivate** joy in your life! A time to celebrate rolled-away stones, death-defeating love, and as much gratitude as possible!

About 25 of us enjoyed a potluck lunch after the Palm Sunday service and realized just how long we have been separated from each other due to the pandemic. We are seeking to find some more ways to come together this month! There will be an Ecumenical Peace Service on May 15th at 7pm with a reception and an **All-Church Hike** up Sleeping Giant to the tower **after Church** on **May 22nd**! We may plan another outdoor service as well.

Let us know how we can help you celebrate Eastertide together! May is a busy time for celebrating: tag sales, Memorial Day, annual meetings, concerts, mothers, and graduations but also the new life God offers us all in the Resurrection of our Lord! I ask all of you to pray for our search committee as profiles have been slow in coming. Please call if you would like a visit or phone call from me. Have a Blessed Eastertide!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Olivia Robinson

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Aren Alberico	May 3 rd
Greta Edelman	May 4 th
Ellen Amato	May 11 th
Heidi Grantz	May 11 th
Anna Anderson	May 19 th

Owen Grantz	May 22 nd
Richard Jaynes	May 27 th
Sandee Martin	May 28 th
Chris Duffy	May 31 st

If you would like to add your name to our birthday list, please contact our office.

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join every Sunday at 10am in the Church for service!

<p>May 1st, 2022 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Holy Communion 257th Annual Meeting following Service Scriptures: Acts 9: 1-6 John 21: 1-19 Sermon: “Faith-Inferiority Complex” Rev. Olivia Robinson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please come to our Annual Meeting following our normal Service; we need a quorum!</i></p>	<p>May 8th, 2022 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Mother’s Day / Good Shephard Sunday Scriptures: Psalm 23 John 10: 11-18 Sermon: “The Good Shephard” Guest Preacher Marilyn Hendrix <i>Social Justice Preaching Ministry</i> <i>United Church of Christ</i></p>
<p>May 15th, 2022 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> Scriptures: Psalm 148 Revelations 21: 1-6 John 13: 31-35 Sermon: “Mental Health Sunday” Rev. Olivia Robinson</p>	<p>May 15th, 2022 <i>Interfaith Peace Service, 7pm</i> Hamden Plains Methodist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please join our Hamden Clergy Band for a special service of song and prayer for World Peace!</p>
<p>May 22nd, 2022 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> Scriptures: Acts 16: 9-15 Psalm 67 John 14: 23-29 Sermon: “Lydia the Weaver” Rev. Olivia Robinson</p> <p>Note: There will be an All-Church Hike at Sleeping Giant following service this week. For more information, contact Rev. Olivia!</p>	<p>May 29th, 2022 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> Scriptures: Acts 16: 16-34 Psalm 97 John 17: 20-26 Sermon: Guest Preacher Sara Kroon</p>

Protocols for In-Person Worship

Masks have been made optional for the month of May. You can find our updated protocols on in-person worship by visiting our website at <https://mccucc.tiny.us/covid>. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

-Church Staff

FINANCIAL REPORT: MARCH 2022

Following is the financial report for March 2022. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$4,462.00
	Other Income:	\$2,514.00
	Total Income:	\$6,976.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$8,314.00
Net Loss:		- \$1,338.00

Annual Meeting

The 257th Annual Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, May 1st, following our regularly scheduled worship service.

Sincerely,
Beverly Jurkiewicz
Church Clerk

Annual Report

If you would like a digital copy of the Annual Report for 2021, please use the following link: <https://mccucc.tiny.us/Report2021>. Physical copies will be available in the Narthex on May 1st.

-Aren Alberico

CE/Faith Formation News - Kids

Church school will end in June on Pentecost Sunday, which is June 5th. There is talk of a picnic, but details haven't been finalized yet. Stay tuned! It may be held later in the month.

-Debbie Wooley

Outreach

One Great Hour of Sharing: We collected \$224.00 for the OGHS special mission offering. Thanks to all who donated.

ARK Banks: To date we have collected over \$260.00 which will go into the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those as the need arises. This is an ongoing project so keep filling your arks! Going forward, you may place them in the offering plate on Sunday, then pick up a new one on your way out. Thank you!

-Debbie Wooley

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ushers. We need your help! We are currently looking for Ushers – no experience necessary! Please see Dave or Bev Jurkiewicz, or Debbie Wooley, for more information!

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 or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

Book Study. Starting on May 18th, Reverend Olivia Robinson will be hosting a weekly study on the book *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* by author John O'Donohue. The book can be found on Amazon by following this link: (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/bookstudy>). We hope to see you there!

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.

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 always 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.

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

Altar Flowers. Altar flowers are needed for the months of May and June. 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.



WHERE:

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
3284 WHITNEY AVENUE, HAMDEN CT 06518

WHEN:

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH
9AM-2PM

WHAT:

TAG/CRAFT TABLES!
SNACK BAR!
NO BAKE (MONETARY DONATIONS ONLY) BAKE SALE!
& MORE!

BOOK NOW:

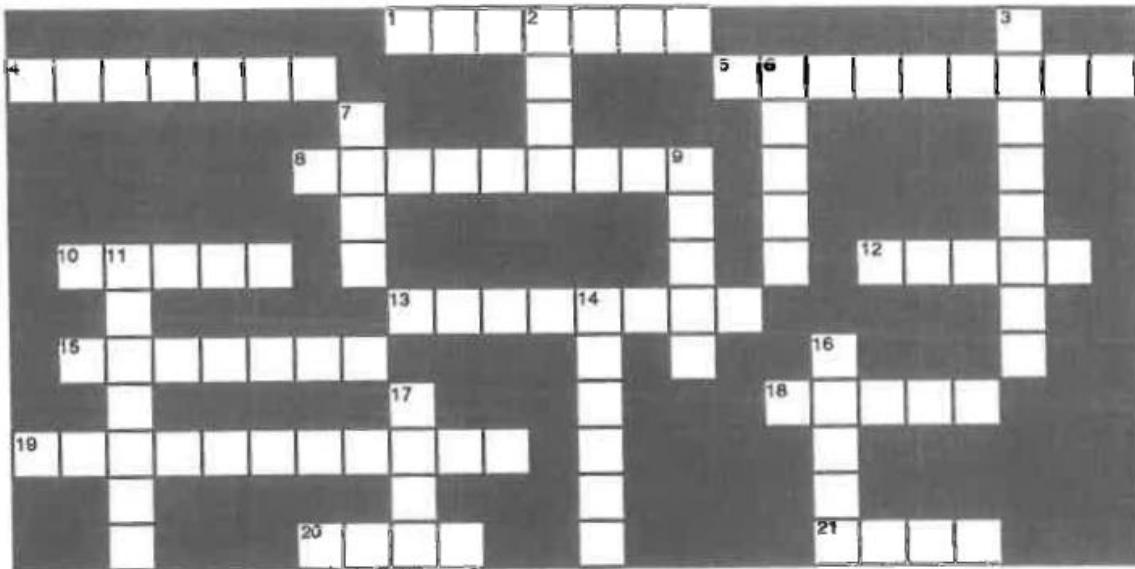
TABLES ARE \$20 EACH AND CAN BE BOOKED NOW BY CALLING
(203) 239-7135

MASKS FOR THE EVENT ARE OPTIONAL AT THIS TIME.

Acts of the Apostles

In the Bible, the book of Acts tells how the church began and how the Good News of Jesus was carried to the world by the apostles. Peter led Jesus' followers in Israel, while Paul became a missionary who traveled all over the Roman Empire to tell people about Jesus. The book of Acts tells of many exciting adventures.

These clues and Bible verses will help you write the correct words in the puzzle.



ACROSS

1. He was stoned to death. (*Acts 7:59*)
4. Paul called him "my own son in the faith." (*I Timothy 1:2*)
5. In this letter to one of the young churches, Paul wrote about the "armour of God." (*Ephesians 6:11-18*)
8. He was the first Gentile to become a Christian and receive the Holy Ghost. (*Acts 10*)
10. Paul baptized this man in Corinth and also stayed at his house. (*I Corinthians 1:14; Romans 16:23*)
12. This godly woman sold purple cloth. She asked Paul and his companions to stay at her home. (*Acts 16:14-15*)
13. He was Saul's companion and helper. (*Acts 13:2-3*)
15. This woman was raised from the dead by Peter. Her other name is Dorcas. (*Acts 9:36-41*)
18. Paul was not hurt by a poisonous _____ which hung on his hand. (*Acts 28:3-6*)
19. In this letter, Paul tells the young church to "rejoice in the Lord." (*Philippians 4:4*)
20. This man was a doctor who traveled with Paul. He also wrote the third book in the New Testament. (*II Timothy 4:11*)
21. This man held the clothes for the men during the execution of Stephen. (*Acts 7:58-59*)

DOWN

2. He and Silas sang songs in jail although they had been beaten and their feet were in the stocks. (*Acts 16:19-25*)
3. He replaced Judas Iscariot as the twelfth apostle. (*Acts 1:26*)
6. An angel led him out of prison before Herod could kill him. (*Acts 12:1-11*)
7. *Acts 27:1 — 28:16* tells of Paul's trip to the city of _____.
9. He traveled with Paul on his second missionary trip. (*Acts 15:40*)
11. When he laid his hands on Saul, something like scales fell off Saul's eyes. (*Acts 9:17-18*)
14. Paul stayed with this man and his wife; they were tent makers like Paul. (*Acts 18:2-3*)
16. In the letter Paul wrote him, Paul called him "mine own son after the common faith." (*Titus 1:4*)
17. Barnabas and Paul disagreed over whether to take this man, whose first name was John, with them on the second missionary trip. (*Acts 15:37-41*)

Mount Carmel Congregational Church
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