



**THE BELL TREE**  
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

*A Newsletter for the Month of*  
**MAY 2023**

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

---

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

Dear Church Family,

If the newsletter is a day or two late this month, it's my fault. I was in the hospital having emergency gallbladder surgery and didn't finish my homework. Aren was patient and got this thing out as soon as I finished typing. What a great first week as settled pastor!

I am thrilled and honored to be a part of Mount Carmel Congregational Church. Thank you for your trust and encouragement. We are a good fit, and these are going to be good days. I am grateful to Keith Amato and the Search Committee for their diligence and tenacity. I could fill up the page with gratitude for the way everyone has welcomed me, helped me learn how things go, and have given me room to find my way as well.

Through the spring and summer one of my biggest aims is to get to know you. I am working on making visits to those who cannot get to church for whatever reason. I am happy to meet for coffee or lunch or a walk around the block, if that is something you would like. Please email ([pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:pastor@mccucc.com)) or call the office and we can set something up.

Thank you again for opening your hearts to me.

Peace,  
Milton

## MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Please join every Sunday at 10am in the Church for service! Note: These are lectionary passages for your own devotional purposes. Weekly scripture readings are subject to change.*

<p><b><u>May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023</u></b>  <b>Holy Communion</b>  <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 7: 55-60                            Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16                            1 Peter 2: 2-10                            John 14: 1-14</p>	<p><b><u>May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Mother's Day</u></b>  <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 17: 22-31                            Psalm 66: 8-10                            1 Peter 3: 13-22                            John 14: 15-21  <b>Sermon:</b> Aren Alberico</p>
<p><b><u>May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023</u></b>  <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 1: 6-14                            Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35                            1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11                            John 17: 1-11</p>	<p><b><u>May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023</u></b>  <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 2: 1-21                            Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b                            1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13                            John 20: 19-23</p>

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:*

Aren Alberico	May 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Greta Edelman	May 4 <sup>th</sup>
Wilis Copeland	May 6 <sup>th</sup>
Ellen Amato	May 11 <sup>th</sup>
Heidi Grantz	May 11 <sup>th</sup>
Anna Anderson	May 19 <sup>th</sup>
Owen Grantz	May 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Richard Jaynes	May 27 <sup>th</sup>
Sandee Martin	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
Chris Duffy	May 31 <sup>st</sup>

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

---

### **Bell Tree Submissions**

Do you have an event to announce? A story to share? We would love to hear it! Send us an email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) by the second to last Sunday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication.

---

## Outreach

*Special Mission Offering.* Our next special offering will be “Strengthen the Church”. Pentecost Sunday (May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023) is the suggested date to collect the offering. “Strengthen the Church” funds efforts to reimagine and build the future of the UCC, largely supporting youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. For more information, please consider visiting (<https://www.ucc.org/stc>). Thank you.

*One Great Hour of Sharing.* Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$165 for OGHS!

-Debbie Wooley

---

## Faith Formation

*Ark Banks.* Please keep dropping off your ark banks. We have already collected \$176.00 this year for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. You may pick up an ark in the narthex or entranceway to the parish hall. When it is full, you may leave it in the offering plate on Sunday or drop off in the office during the week.

-Debbie Wooley

---

## Needed: Coffee Hour Volunteers!

Are you thinking you’d like to help out with coffee hour but are not sure what to do? Would you rather not make the coffee or have to get there early to set up? Well, there is something you can do! You can always drop off a coffee cake or some other treat, homemade or store bought, it doesn’t matter. There are a few of us, Bev, Debbie, Sandee, & Anna, who are usually around to do the setting up. They would really appreciate it if others would bring in food so they don’t have to do everything all the time. Please let someone know you’d like to do that. You can bring something in on Sunday or come by and put it in the freezer to be used when needed. If you would like to learn how to set up coffee hour, please see one of us and we will assist you. Thank you.

---

## Prayer Shawls

As a reminder, Prayer Shawls are always available to those who need them. If you or anyone you know are in need of one, please contact Aren in the office and he will arrange a shawl for you.

Sincerely,  
Vera DeAngelo

---

## Bell Tree Submissions

Do you have an event to announce? A story to share? We would love to hear it! Send us an email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) by the second to last Sunday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication.

-Aren Alberico

## FINANCIAL REPORT: MARCH 2023

Following is the financial report for March 2023. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com).

<b>Income:</b>	Pledges and Offerings:	\$7,048.00
	Other Income:	\$1,777.76
	Total Income:	\$8,825.76
<b>Expenses:</b>	Total Expenses:	\$11,272.72
<b>Net Income (Loss):</b>		- \$2,444.96

---

## GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

**Ushers.** We are always looking for more 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](mailto:office@mccucc.com) or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

**Pastoral Support.** If you require pastoral support or guidance, please contact the office and our office administrator will put you in contact with someone who can help.

**Committee Openings.** Looking to get involved? There are several Committee Openings for Deacons (1 opening), Faith Formation (3 openings), and Music (3 openings)! If you would like to try out a committee (attend a meeting with no obligations), please contact the office and Aren will put you in touch with the committee chair!

**Coffee Hour.** Coffee Hour volunteers are needed. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact the office directly or use the signup sheet now located at the entrance of the Parish House.

**Altar Flowers.** Altar flowers are needed. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact the office directly or use the signup sheet now located at the entrance of the Parish House.

**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.

**Food Bank.** 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.

(Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:6-11)

# Jesus Floats Through the Air



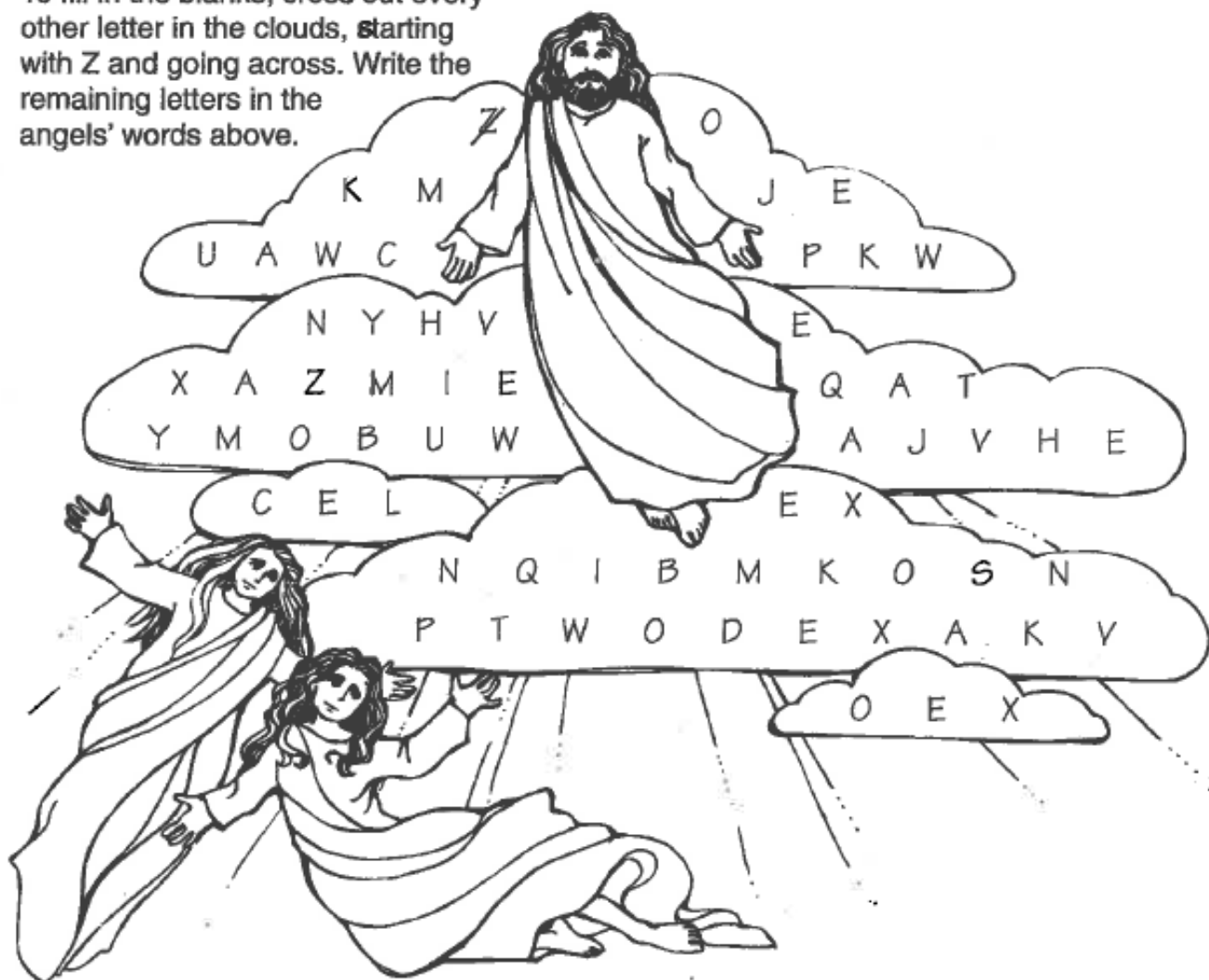
For forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, many people saw Him. On the fortieth day, as He stood with His apostles, Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed them. Then He was lifted up before their eyes, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. As they kept on gazing up, two angels stood beside them. *“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will*

c\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ y\_\_\_\_\_

h\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ g\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ n.”

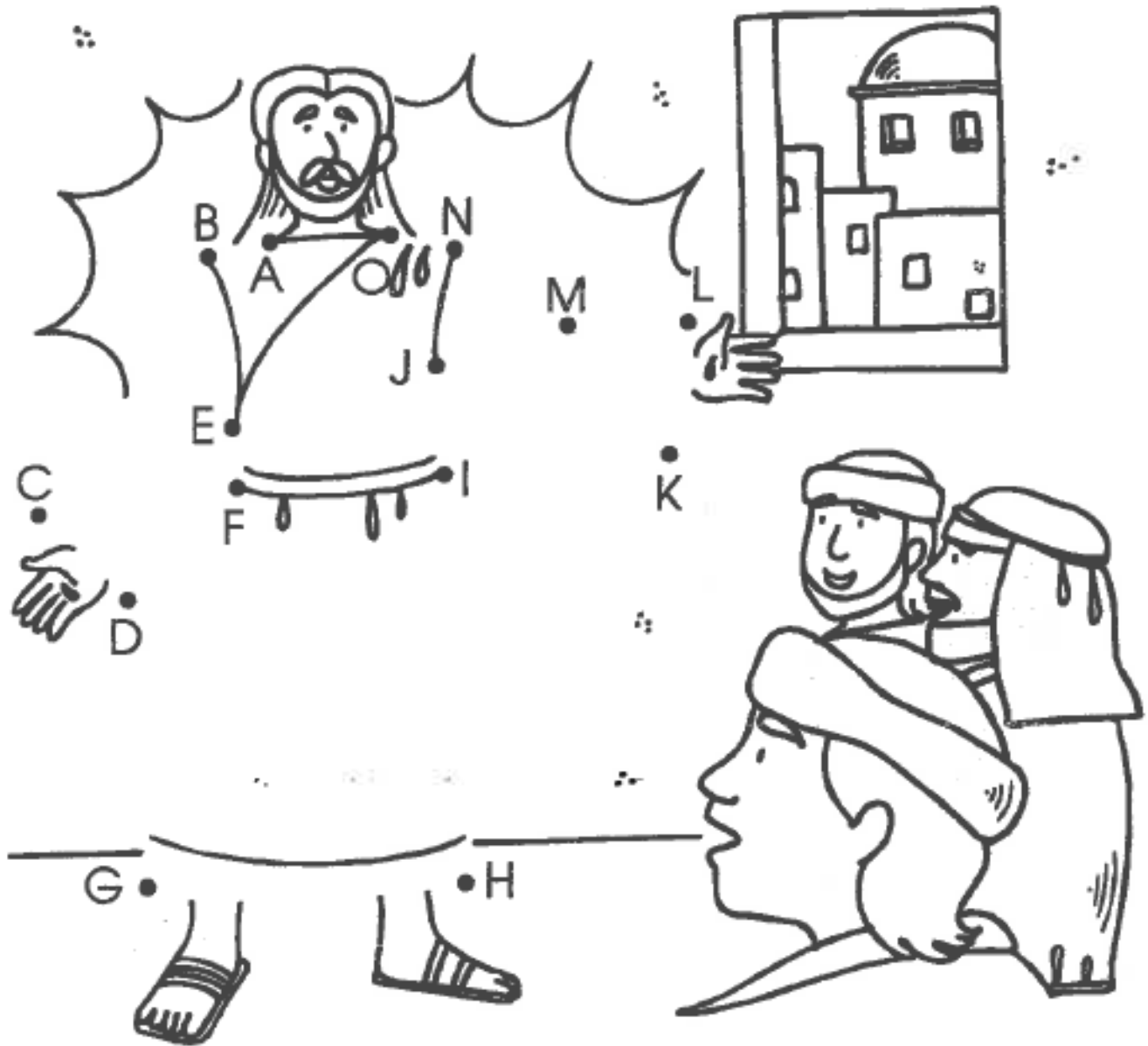
(Acts 1:11)

To fill in the blanks, cross out every other letter in the clouds, starting with Z and going across. Write the remaining letters in the angels' words above.



What great news! Jesus will come back to earth again!

# Jesus Visited His Disciples



Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!  
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 20:21



**WHERE:**

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
3284 WHITNEY AVENUE, HAMDEN CT 06518  
INDOOR & OUTDOOR!

**WHEN:**

SATURDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM-2PM

**WHAT:**

TAG/CRAFT TABLES!  
SNACK BAR!  
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.



**Mount Carmel Congregational Church**  
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518  
Church Website: [www.mccucc.com](http://www.mccucc.com)  
203-248-7408

Bridge Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham  
[pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:pastor@mccucc.com)

Office Admin: Mr. Aren Alberico  
[office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com)

Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen  
[lyndapedersen@att.net](mailto:lyndapedersen@att.net)

Faith Formation: Mrs. Debbie Wooley  
[ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com)

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato  
[treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com)

Facebook: @mountcarmelcongregationalchurch  
Instagram: mountcarmelchurch1

**Officers:**

President: Tom Duffy  
[thomasduffy67@gmail.com](mailto:thomasduffy67@gmail.com)

Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz  
[bevjjur@comcast.net](mailto:bevjjur@comcast.net)

Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair  
Board of Trustees: Anna Anderson, Chair  
[aanderson545@gmail.com](mailto:aanderson545@gmail.com)