



**THE BELL TREE**  
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

*A Newsletter for*  
**MAY 2025**

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



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



Greetings, my church family,

I drove home from our annual meeting and church luncheon last Sunday full of gratitude. I am grateful for all of us who take leadership roles to shepherd the rest of us to better take care of one another. This year, in particular, I am grateful for Bev and Tom and the leadership they have provided over many years.

I am also grateful for those on committees or teams or whatever we want to call the various people and groups that make sure the sanctuary is ready for worship, host coffee hour, knit prayer shawls, collect for the food bank, organize the Tag Sale, showed up for yard cleanup, ushered; the list goes on and on. In the process of revising our by-laws, one of the things we learned, or perhaps remembered, is we don't need an official committee for things to get done. If you see a need, or if you have an idea, gather those who can help and do it.

In the discussion around the bylaw revision, one of the things I heard was a concern about how we keep up with those whom we don't see all the time. Perhaps concern is too strong a word. An interest? Whatever we want to call it, it's a focus worth pursuing, both for official groups like the Deacons and also more informally.

It's not so much about whether or not they have been in church. The point is to take care of each other. To stay connected. To make sure we all know we are loved and that we belong here. Whether or not they make it to worship will take care of itself. What we have to practice is the art of remembering each other. When someone crosses your mind, take a moment to give them a call or drop them a card. When you see something that reminds you of someone else, don't let the moment pass. Take time to remember them, whether that means doing something right then or making plans for later.

We are all busy, yes, but we also all have more time than we think, particularly for small and important gestures of solidarity and compassion.

Peace,  
Milton

# MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

<p><b><u>May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025: Communion</u></b>  <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20)                  Psalm 30                  Revelations 5: 11-14                  John 21: 1-19</p>	<p><b><u>May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025</u></b>  <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 9: 36-43                  Psalm 23                  Revelations 7: 9-17                  John 10: 22-30</p>
<p><b><u>May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025</u></b>  <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 11: 1-18                  Psalm 148                  Revelations 21: 1-6                  John 13: 31-35</p>	<p><b><u>May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025</u></b>  <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Acts 16: 9-15                  Psalm 67                  Revelations 21:10, 22:1-22:5                  John 14: 2-29</p>

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:*

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

### **Pentecost Sunday**

We are pleased to announce that on Pentecost Sunday (June 8<sup>th</sup>), one confirmand will affirm her faith and officially become a member of our church. She will be joined by another individual who is also entering into membership. If you are interested in joining the church, please contact Reverend Milton at [pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:pastor@mccucc.com) to be added to the list.

-Church Staff

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## Annual Reports, Bylaw Revisions, and Directory

Physical copies of the 2024 Annual Report, the 2025 Revised Bylaws, and the 2025 MCCC Family and Friends Directory are available for pickup in the Office. If you would like a digital copy of any of these documents, please fill out this Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/docrequest>) and we will send you a copy as soon as possible.

-Aren Alberico

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## Stewardship

We have not received any new pledges. If you have not made your pledge commitment yet, please do so as this helps with the church expenses. Our Vanco system makes it very easy for you to contribute directly from your bank account. Thank you to those who have pledged or who contribute to the offering on Sunday. Every amount helps, no matter how big or small.

“The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.”—J. L. Kraft, Head of Kraft Cheese Corporation

-Debbie Wooley

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## Faith Formation

ARK Banks. Keep your Ark Banks floating! Please don't forget to keep bringing in your ark banks. The monies collected go into a discretionary fund which can be used to help people in need. We have already used this account on several occasions to help people in need. If you have not picked up a bank yet, they can be found in the narthex or in the entrance to the parish hall.

-Debbie Wooley

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## **FINANCIAL REPORT: MARCH 2025**

Following is the financial report for March 2025. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com).

<b>Income:</b>	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,538.00
	Other Income:	\$4,971.00
	Total Income:	\$10,509.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	Total Expenses:	\$11,031.00
<b>Net Income (LOSS):</b>		-\$522.00

## **GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS**

**Ushers.** We are always looking for more Ushers – no experience necessary! If you would like to sign up to Usher on a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. If you have any questions, please contact Dave or Bev Jurkiewicz for more information.

**Bell Tree.** 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 Tuesday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication!

**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, feel free to contact our minister, Reverend Milton, by email at [Pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:Pastor@mccucc.com), or by contacting the Office by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) or phone at (203) 248-7408.

**Coffee Hour.** Coffee Hour volunteers are always needed. If you would like to volunteer to run Coffee Hour for a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. If you have any questions, please contact the Office by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) or phone at (203) 248-7408.

**Altar Flowers.** If you would like to sign up to provide Altar Flowers for a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. Note that you must purchase or provide flowers; flowers are not provided by the Church. If you have any questions or wish to add a specific message for the bulletin, please contact the Office by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) or phone at (203) 248-7408.

**Rentals.** If you or anyone you know would be interested in renting out our parish hall to host a small private event, please feel free to visit our website for scheduling, rates, and conditions. Our Hall Rental schedule is filling up, so contact the office to book your event today!

**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.

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

**2025 Directory.** If you would like a digital copy of our Directory, please fill out the following Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/directory>) and we will send you a copy as soon as possible. If you would like a physical copy, please contact the office and we will set a copy aside for you.

# Christians Scatter

Put the first letter of the name of each picture below the picture. Work the map as the directions are given to you. Read Acts 11:19-30.

The Christians scattered from Jerusalem because of the stoning of



\_\_\_\_\_.

(Put Jerusalem on the map at point 1.)



\_\_\_\_\_.

went to Tarsus to look for Saul. (Put Tarsus at point 2.) Barnabas and Saul worked one year at



\_\_\_\_\_.

The disciples were first called



\_\_\_\_\_ at

Antioch. (Put Antioch at point 3.) Because of a famine the



\_\_\_\_\_ at Antioch provided help for the brothers in Judea.



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

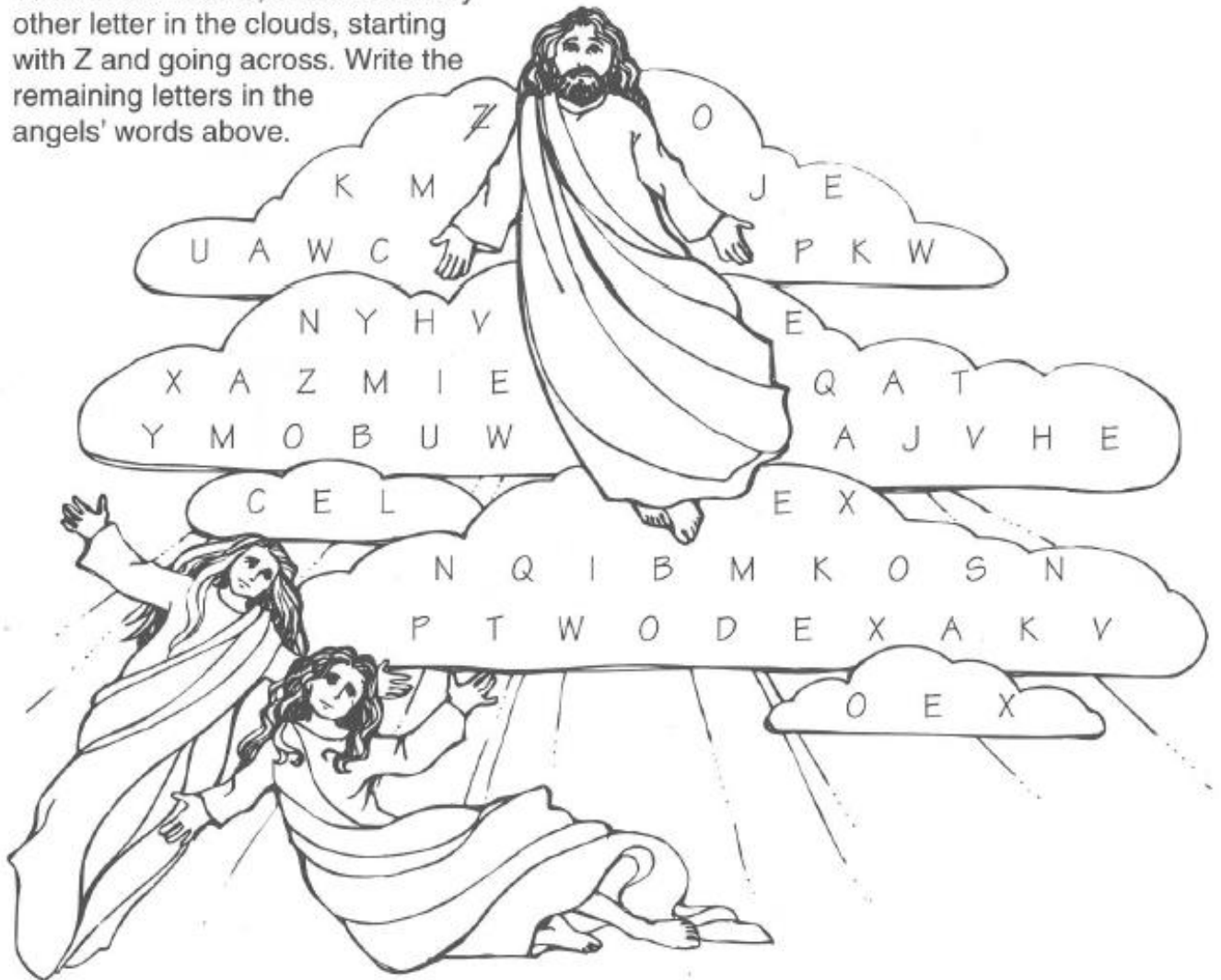
# Jesus Floats Through the Air



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 clouds' words above.



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

Please join us for our Annual



**WHERE:**

Mount Carmel Congregational Church  
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06518

**WHEN:**

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9:00am-2:00pm

**WHAT:**

Tag Tables!  
Handmade Crafts!  
Snack Bar!  
& MORE!

We hope to see you there!





## **Mount Carmel Congregational Church**

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Website: [www.mccucc.com](http://www.mccucc.com)

Phone: (203) 248-7408



### **Staff and Officers**

Minister:	Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham <a href="mailto:pastor@mccucc.com">pastor@mccucc.com</a>
Office Admin:	Mr. Aren Alberico <a href="mailto:office@mccucc.com">office@mccucc.com</a>
Music Director:	Mrs. Lynda Pedersen <a href="mailto:lyndal.pedersen@gmail.com">lyndal.pedersen@gmail.com</a>
Faith Formation:	Mrs. Debbie Wooley <a href="mailto:ce@mccucc.com">ce@mccucc.com</a>
Treasurer:	Mrs. Ellen Amato <a href="mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com">treasurer@mccucc.com</a>
Church President:	Eric Grantz <a href="mailto:egrantz73@gmail.com">egrantz73@gmail.com</a>
Church Clerk:	Sandee Martin <a href="mailto:sandeemart48@gmail.com">sandeemart48@gmail.com</a>
Board of Trustees	Anna Anderson, Chair <a href="mailto:aanderson545@gmail.com">aanderson545@gmail.com</a>