



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

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

Dear Members and Friends,

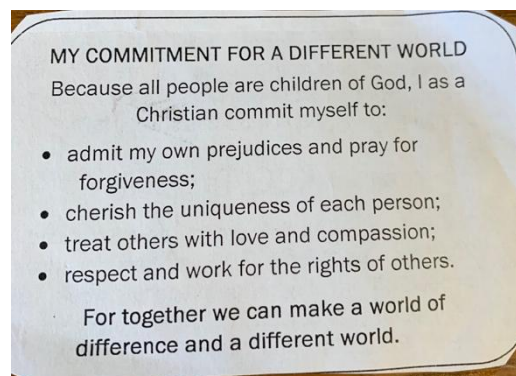
The little month of February is filled with many holidays.

First - Happy Groundhog Day (although all of 2020 has seemed liked the movie Groundhog Day! I pray for an early Spring!).

Second - Happy Valentine's Day! This saint who valued Love in its many forms is much needed today - 'Spread the Love'!

Third - Lent begins this month on Ash Wednesday. I am almost tempted to skip Lent altogether, since it seems we have been in the wilderness so long and in exile from our church. However, come out to Spring Glen Church from 12 to 1pm to pick up Ashes and at 7pm, listen to a pre/recorded Ecumenical service. I will be giving a message.

Lastly, February is Black History month. This is a card I carry in my wallet which was created with a sister church in a New Britain.



Blessings and hope to gather together by Easter !!!

Yours in Christ
Rev. Olivia Robinson

Our March Worship

March 7, 2021 **Third Sunday in Lent**
Scriptures: Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 1:13-22
Sermon: **The Anger of Jesus**

HOLY COMMUNION

March 14, 2021 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Scriptures: Numbers 21:4-9
 John 3:14-21
Sermon: **Come to the Light**

Daylight Savings Time/Spring Ahead

March 21, 2021 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 John 12:20-33
Sermon: **The Cosmic Christ**

March 28, 2021 **Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday**

**We are hoping for an outdoor
Service on this Sunday to bless the Palms and
Read the Liturgy of the Passion**

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.

From the Treasurer: Thanks to everyone for meeting your pledges for 2020. If you have any questions I can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com. Ellen

JANUARY, 2021

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$13,221.00
	Other Income:	\$1,300.00
	Total Income:	\$14,521.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	<u>\$13,018.00</u>
	Net Income (Loss):	\$ 1,503.00

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Deacons will zoom meet on Wednesday, February 03, 2021, 7:00 pm.

CHURCH COMMITTEE

Church Committee will meet on Thursday, February 4, 2021, 7:00 pm.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – It's Snowing Again!

We've had no volunteers since the first call for help! Can you consider this again? (Maybe your teenaged kids need some outside exercise!) We cleared this week's snow but could really use future help (we have a working snow plow, so it isn't all shoveling).

Volunteers!



A call to help with snow removal.

We need a group of parishioners to help out with shoveling and sanding the sidewalks

around the church and across the entire front of the church. We have snowblower too (but not for children to use) For the December

storm, we willingly accepted help from a neighbor across the street – the snow was thick and icy. Please call or email Valerie Duffy (203) 248-0626; valerieduffy1234@gmail.com to be put on the list for snow removal help. Clearing the sidewalk takes about 4 hours with one person; 3 hours with two people.



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The parsonage is under contract!

Within a week of the property going on the market, we had several offers and have accepted the best of them. We are working through the inspection processes and intend to close in March. The sign out front changed from “For Sale” to “On Deposit”!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Dear Members,

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who has made a pledge commitment during this stewardship campaign 2020-2021. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you have not yet made your pledge commitment it is our hope that you will consider doing so as soon as possible in order for the church to continue to meet our financial obligations and for the ministry and mission of our church to continue.

Currently we have received pledges totaling \$72,733 (reflecting 42 households).

Thank you again for your continued generosity in serving a God who continues to be generous to us. We also appreciate and thank everyone who continues to send in their pledges especially during these unprecedented times.

God bless you, stay safe and well.

Carmen, Sara, Rhonda and Sandee

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT - MCCC Church, Parish House and Offices are closed.

In the good old days, it was wonderful to be able to drop by the Parish House to spontaneously visit the pastor, the office, or use the auditorium or parlor. But now, COVID 19 has made everything different. The Church, the Parish House, and the church office are closed. All indoor church meetings and operations have shifted from in-person activities to mail, online, or telephone events. The doors are locked. Access to the church's facilities is by appointment-only.

Contacting the pastor or requesting access to church facilities.

If you need to meet with Reverend Robinson, or need to request access to any of the churches facilities, please call the office (203) 248-7408. Phone messages are picked up every day. You may also request access by emailing Tom Duffy at thomascduffy67@gmail.com. Reverend Robinson is also available by email at hayes641@comcast.net. For urgent matters or if you don't use email, you may call Tom Duffy at (203)988-3394.

The office is closed, business is conducted by phone and email, the paid secretary's position has been eliminated. After 15 years of service to the church, Cheryl Mangiulli's last day on the job was January 31, 2021. She has our gratitude for her service and best wishes for the future.

Joys and Concerns. If you wish to have a joy or concern announced during worship, please email Rick Terry (rterry981@gmail.com), 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.

Spiritual Snacks: THOUGHTS ON PEARL-MAKING

Pearls are produced when sand gets into and irritates an oyster. We are called to be pearl makers by making something beautiful out of the irritations that come into our lives, by making the best out of the worst!

For example, an illness or hospitalization gives us the opportunity to look inward and assess ourselves. It gives us time to reflect on our priorities. It provides the occasion to contemplate how we can improve the relationships that are important to us. It brings home the fact that we are not indispensable and helps us put our work or daily routines back into proper perspective.

Good luck in your pearl-making.

-John E. Biegert

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
Facebook: Mt. Carmel Congregational Church
Church Email: mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com

Officers:

President: Tom Duffy thomasduffy67@gmail.com
Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz
Board of Deacons: Rick Terry, Chair rterry981@gmail.com
Board of Trustees: Val Duffy, Co-Chair: Valerieduffy1234@gmail.com
Diane Scott, Co-Chair: Diane Scott @iname.com