

**The Mt. Carmel Cong. Church
(A United Church of Christ)
December, 2020**

Dear Members and Friends,

As I am writing this Christmas Greeting to you I think of all the Christmas letters I have received over the years with people telling me how great their year was and all the trips they took and the fun adventures they enjoyed. Perhaps this year many Christmas letters will be much different!

I know the very first Christmas was not that great. Mary, being nine months pregnant, had to travel on a donkey. There was no room in the inn - their first child was born in a dirty stable with strangers showing up to bother them. There were threats of death by Herod on all baby boys - in order to live they had to escape to the strange land of Egypt.

God has made our homelessness His home. God comes to us in the darkest of times. His light is shining upon us. As we light the Advent Wreath each Sunday we come closer and closer to the Light. Closer to a safer time as a vaccine for Covid 19 becomes available and distributed. Closer to a spiritual renewal, a new clarity of just what it means to be a Christian.

I hope that we can all find ways to celebrate the birth of our Savior in deep and meaningful ways. God will make a way.

A Blessed Advent, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ,

**Revered Olivia Robinson
and
Peter Robinson (husband)**

CRAFT SALE - NO BAKE SALE CHEESE SALE

The Ladies Craft Group held a small, but very successful outdoor fair on October 17th. The church treasury netted \$774.00.

Due to the Covid 19 health pandemic there was no advertising, no outside vendors and very few non-church visitors. The sale was mostly attended by church members.

Our Cabot Cheese netted \$221.00.

The 40lbs of cheese was gone by Sunday, October 18th!

Hopefully we will be able to have our next tag sale/craft sale open to the general public.

Thanks to all who contributed. A special thanks to those who donated to the No Bake Sale. We didn't bake, but we sure missed those wonderful home-made goodies!

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THANKSGIVING BASKETS

We will be collecting food and cash donations for **Thanksgiving Baskets** during November. The baskets will be given to the VNA and the Keefe Center to support families in need. A list of food items needed is included at the end of this Newsletter. Please follow the directions for donations and food drop-off.

1. Mail checks to the church or bring to the church office. Please mark your check "Thanksgiving Basket/Turkey.
2. Cash and /or food items can be dropped off at the church office Tues-Thurs. 9-1pm. Ring the outside bell located on the church hall door.

3. All donations must be received by Thursday, Nov. 19th 1pm.
4. Volunteers are needed to help deliver the baskets on Monday, Nov. 23rd. Please call Debbie if you can help. 203-248-3047.

OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who donated toiletries. The box is almost full! You can still drop off toiletry items during church office hours. Please ring the outside bell.

BE THANKFUL!

* It's easy to be thankful for the good things ... yet, a life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are thankful for the setbacks.

* Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive ... find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.

* Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've given your all.

* Be thankful for your mistakes ... they will teach you valuable lessons.

* Be thankful for each new challenge ... which will build your strength and character.

* Be thankful for difficult times ... during those times you grow.

* Be thankful when you don't know something ... for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

From the Treasurer:

- Thanks to everyone for mailing in
- Your 2020 Pledges during Covid-19
- If you have any questions I can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com
Ellen Amato, Treasurer

OCTOBER, 2020

Income:

Pledges and Offerings: \$ 9,938.00
 Other Income: \$ 2,479.00
 Investment Draw: \$ 0

Total Income: \$ 12,417.00

Total Expenses: \$ 15,610.00
Net Income <Loss> <\$ 6.0.00>

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The office hours during Covid-19 Are Tues. through Thursday, 9-1pm
If you wish to drop off or pick something up, please call the office or ring the bell outside of the Parish Hall.
Office: 203-248-7408
E:Mail mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com
- If you wish to have a joy or concern announced during worship please email Rick Terry at rterry981@gmail.com or Olivia at Hayes641@comcast.net or call the church office (Cheryl)
- Leon Fiftal and Diane Scott along with Rev. Olivia are hosting a ZOOM BIBLE STUDY on Tuesday evenings At 7:00pm. Click on Zoom Bible Study to join in on any Tuesday.
- Ron Vanacore, church member, is in Hamden Health Care. To send a note his address is:

Ron Vanacore
 Hamden Health Care
 1270 Sherman Lane
 Hamden, CT 06514

- Eleanor Farrell, church member, is in Masonic Care, Wallingford. To send a note her address is:
 Eleanor Farrell
 Masonic Care, Ramage 5, Rm
 522 Wallingford, Ct 06492

TRUSTEES

The Trustees would like to thank everyone for keeping their pledges current. Though we are unable to use our buildings for gatherings right now, we still have maintenance expenses. We have been busy restoring the parsonage for resale. The proceeds will be used to replenish our depleted endowment. Expenses for the project have been kept as low as possible as all the labor is being done by volunteers. Bill Copeland, who is a licensed contractor, is ably supervising the work and he and Anna Anderson are there almost every day. The work is still ongoing and volunteers are always needed and much appreciated.

A number of trees which were dangerously rotted were cut down behind the parking lot and as everyone knows our beloved Sycamore "bell tree" had to go too.

We are beginning to prepare the budget for 2021. The austerity measures are still in place by necessity. We hope that will change at some point in the future.

Diane Scott
 Co-Chair Trustees

PARISH HALL RENTAL

Contact the Church Office
(Cheryl)

for information and
availability on renting the
church hall
203-248-7408

mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com

**DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS
COVID-19
HEALTH PANDEMIC ALL
CHURCH ACTIVITIES
AND HALL RENTALS ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE!**

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP IS BEING
HELD EVERY SUNDAY MORNING
AT 10:00AM
GO TO THE CHURCH WEBPAGE
www.mccucc.weebly.com**

Pastoral Visits

If you are planning on having a procedure done at one of the local hospitals, please inform the church office in order for a pastoral visit to be made. No longer do hospitals call local churches to pass on information about their patients. The church depends on others letting us know, and we thank you in advance for your assistance.

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JUST THE FACTS

Mount Carmel Congregational Church
3284 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
203-248-7408

The Rev. Olivia Robinson, Pastor
The Rev. Susan Owen, Ass't Pastor
Mrs. Lynda Pedersen, Organist, Choir Dir.
Mrs. Cheryl Mangiulli, Office Secretary
Mrs. Ellen Amato, Church Treasurer
amatoea@aol.com
treasurer@mccucc.com

Church Email:
mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com

Church Website:
www.mccucc.weebly.com

Facebook:
Mt. Carmel Congregational Church

Church Office:
Cheryl is in the office:
Tues-Thurs. 9:00am-1:00pm
203-248-7408

Officers:
President: Tom Duffy
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](mailto:DianeScott@iname.com)

Worship Service: Sunday 10:00am
Communion the first Sunday of the month

*As a community of faith, gathered
in Christ's love, we strive to
support one another in hearing the
Word, living the Word, and
sharing the Word.*