



*A Newsletter for the Month of*  
**NOVEMBER 2021**

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

# THE BELL TREE

AN MCCC PUBLICATION

## **The Bell Tree** By Angela Paschall

What is a Bell Tree? Is it a tree that grows in the Amazon? Is it a type of tropical drink? Is it the latest self-driving car? Is it the new name of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church newsletter? Yes!

But do you know why this name was chosen?

As parishioners at Mount Carmel, we know many of things about our church home. We know we have a very long worship history dating back to Olde England; we know we have a desirable Hamden location which we have occupied for generations; and, we know we have a beautifully designed and preserved parish that is recognized in the National Registry of Historic Places.

But did you know that once upon a time, there stood a mighty tree on our property, a Sycamore, but not just any Sycamore. This one played a significant role in church history. It stood, just in front of and to the south of, the Greek Revival portico.

Historical records show that construction on our current church building was completed in 1840. Records also show that the bespoke church bell, ordered to take its place in the bell tower, arrived while the bell tower was yet unfinished.

According to \*Mrs. Rachael Hartley, church historian 1964, she wrote, "The bell was delivered before the steeple was finished; a church service was scheduled so Leverett and Philos Dickerman hoisted the bell into the tree and saw that it rung from its temporary and precarious position."

Resourceful, don't you think?

Thus, the historic tree was dubbed The Bell Tree in recognition of providing a temporary home to the bell that still rings for Mount Carmel Congregational today.



If The Bell Tree could talk, it would tell tales of seeing parishioners arrive by horse and wagon. It would remember the excitement of the founding of the country and the debut of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. It would share the sadness of so many young people going off to so many wars--The Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, the Civil War, The Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq--some never to return. It would remember when Hamden became a town, no longer just an area called The Blue Hills, a suburb of New Haven. And it could recall the celebrations of the church's 100th, 200th and 250th anniversaries!

In the fullness of time, a decision was made about The Bell Tree. It had to come down. It was damaged during a storm and--in order to protect the very building that it once served--the tree that predated the building, the town, the country had to come down.

The Bell Tree served the parish in many ways. It provided shade on a sunny day. It was a gathering spot. It put spectacular fiery foliage show as leaves turned colors every fall. And now it serves as an appropriate name---with a nod to the Dickerman brothers---for our newsletter.

The remnant of The Bell Tree stump is still visible--a wide and circular specimen of nature with its many, many rings--depicting the number of years it stood and served.

“We are, perhaps, blessed that this base was left behind as a reminder of the roots (literally) of Mount Carmel Congregational Church” says Interim Reverend Olivia Robinson. “We need to place a commemorative plaque here so that parishioners at the 300th anniversary and beyond can know The Bell Tree history. “



\*From the 200th Anniversary of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church Program, Friday, May 15, 1964



### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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# A Message From Our Pastor

Dear Friends and Members,

As we move into November, you will notice that there is a lot less light outside. Even with setting our clocks back an hour, it will still be getting dark earlier and earlier. This situation reminded me of a poem by Stuart Kestenbaum. I would like to share it with you now.

## **Holding the Light**

by Stuart Kestenbaum

*Gather up whatever is glittering in the gutter,  
Whatever has tumbled in the waves or fallen  
In flames out of the sky,*

*For it's not only our hearts that are broken,  
But the heart of the world as well.  
Stitch it back together.*

*Make a place where the day speaks to the night  
And the earth speaks to the sky.  
Whether we created God  
Or God created us*

*It all comes down to this:*

*In our imperfect world*

*We are meant to repair*

*And stitch together what beauty there is, stitch it*

*With compassion and wire.*

*See how everything we have made gathers the light*

*Inside itself and overflows? A blessing.*

I encourage you all to hold the light. In this season of giving and gratitude we will also begin the first Sunday of Advent on November 28<sup>th</sup>, where we will spend a whole season gathering up the light in preparation for a new Birth.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,  
Rev. Olivia Robinson

## **Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:**

Joe DeAngelo

November 18<sup>th</sup>

Karl Olson

November 25<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to add your name to our birthday list, you can contact our office administrator Aren by phone or by the Church email. As always, we will celebrate October birthdays on the last Sunday of the month, November 28<sup>th</sup>, at coffee hour. Feel free to stop by and celebrate with us! **\*Note: To clarify, cake will be donated by volunteer staff each month. Cake/cupcakes may be store-bought or baked, whichever is more convenient for volunteers.**

## **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.

## **Our November Worship**

For the month of November, we will continue worship in the Sanctuary. Please join us at 10 am for service!

**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**All Saints Sunday**

Holy Communion

*(Remembering all those who have passed away this year.)*

**Scriptures:**

1 Kings 17:1, 8-16

Mark 12:38-44

**Sermon:**

“The Widow’s Mite”

- Rev. Olivia Robinson

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**November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

**Stewardship Sunday**

**Scriptures:**

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hebrews 10:11-14

**Sermon:**

“Witness to Generosity”

- Rev. Olivia Robinson

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**November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**Thanksgiving Sunday (Reign of Christ)**

**Scriptures:**

Joel 2:21-27

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Matthew 6:25-33

**Sermon:**

“Attitude of Gratitude”

- Rev. Olivia Robinson

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November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 33:14-16  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

**Sermon:** “Hope is a Thing With Feathers”  
- Rev. Olivia Robinson

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**From the Treasurer:** The October financial report will be in the bulletin for November 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com) – Ellen

### September 2021

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$11,032.00
	Other Income:	\$1,806.00
	Total Income:	\$12,838.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$11,428.00
Net Income:	Gain	\$1,410.00

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### **Annual Budget Meeting**

The annual budget meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> following the regular church service.

-Beverly Jurkiewicz  
Church Clerk

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### **Volunteers Needed – Snow Clearing**

Winter weather will be here before you know it and we need to gather together a snow-clearing crew. Anyone who feels able and willing to help clear snow around the church property as needed, please call or email Diane Scott at (203) 248-3998 or at [dianescott@iname.com](mailto:dianescott@iname.com). Thank you for your support. We can do it if we are a team!

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### **Volunteers Needed – Church and Hall Cleaning**

We are looking for more volunteers to help with cleaning the church and parish hall. No experience necessary. Please contact Noelle Ioime for more information or if you or any one you know is interested in helping.

Cell: (203) 605-7171

Email: [noelle\\_i@hotmail.com](mailto:noelle_i@hotmail.com)

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## **Tag Sale (Thank You!)**

Thanks to all who participated in our Tag/Craft Sale on October 16<sup>th</sup>. We had a nice crowd on a nice day, and all had a good time. The 40 pounds of Cabot Cheese was sold out, netting \$316.25. The total netted for the Church treasury was over \$1,500.00, with money still coming in. We particularly want to thank the Boy Scouts who cooked hamburgers and hot dogs. Then they helped the vendors carry items to their cars and helped to take down tables and generally clean up!

Crafts and Christmas items are set up in the parlor to be sold until December.

-The Craft Committee

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## **Search Committee - Update**

We are pleased to announce that we have completed the first half of the process. The Local Church Profile and Employment Opportunity have been reviewed by Reverend Michael Ciba and he found it "compelling". We are now ready to start receiving and interviewing potential candidates. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Search Committee.

Thank You,  
-Eric Grantz

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## **Outreach**

### *Neighbors In Need*

This year we collected \$215.00 for Neighbors in Need. Thank you for your generosity.

### *Thanksgiving Baskets*

We will be collecting food and monetary donations during the month of November. We hope to fill 30 bags with all the "fixings" and a turkey breast for a complete Thanksgiving Dinner to support families in our community.

A list of food items needed is included in this newsletter and copies will be included in the Sunday worship bulletin. Please place your food items on the table on the stage. If you would like to give a monetary donation towards the purchase of turkeys, please make your check out to the church marked "Thanksgiving Baskets". Checks may be given to Debbie Wooley, put in the offertory plate or the office mailbox.

The last day for contributions is Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Bags will be distributed to the Keefe Center and VNA on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you can help with delivery, please contact Debbie, 203-248-3047.

Next month we will collect toys for the Keefe Holiday Toy Drive, toiletry items for the VNA "Hamden Senior Gift Run," as well as our wrapped gifts for the VNA. More information to follow in the December Bell Tree.

-Debbie Wooley



## **CE/Faith Formation News - Kids**

I will be using the title “Faith Formation - Kids” going forward instead of CE. The reason for this is several years ago, Christian Education as we know it, was evolving into Faith Formation, especially in the UCC. They feel this is what Christian life is all about, things we do in our everyday lives and how we are nurtured. We worship, do mission projects, help in the community, educate and teach our children about giving and sharing. So, Faith Formation is a more all-encompassing title.

Unit 2 of our Whole People of God curriculum continues with themes of discipleship. The biblical teachings include Ruth and Naomi, Hannah, Samuel, Job, and Jesus.

We start a new church year Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> with the first Sunday in Advent. You can check out the bulletin board later in the month, showing how the church year evolves. Help yourself to the flyer describing the different church seasons.

-Debbie Wooley

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## **Deacons**

We are still looking for 2 new deacons. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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## **Coffee Hour Servers**

If you would like to volunteer to be a Coffee Hour server, please contact the Church office.

Thanks, Housekeeping Committee

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## **WE THE PEOPLE:**

I've recently experienced getting published for the first time! Since I've moved to Wallingford I have become involved with the EDC and the Wallingford Magazine. Getting to know the townspeople has been a wonderful experience and I have made connections that I feel will be long term. I submitted a story to the Wallingford Magazine for their fall issue on a whim and they accepted it and printed it, a whole page! I think I have found my niche and this is why I am still bugging all of you to join in the fun and submit your family stories for our church archives to be recorded in print some day. I'm not giving up on you yet! I have faith you'll come through. Can you rustle up at least one page? I'll bet you can! BTW, the deadline for your story will be December 31, 2021. I will then close the book on this project.

Patiently Waiting, Bev Churchill

Please submit your stories to [bfayechurch@aol.com](mailto:bfayechurch@aol.com) or mail to  
13 Church St, Apt. 3R  
Wallingford, CT 06492

## GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

**Joys and Concerns.** If you wish to have a joy or concern announced during worship, please forward to them to Aren at [mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com) or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

**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 contact our office by phone or email for scheduling, rates, and conditions.

**Committee Openings.** These committees need volunteer members to meet their minimum requirements as specified by the bylaws: Deacons-2 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.

**Bible Study.** Bible Study will be held on Wednesdays at 7pm over Zoom. Try it out sometime! Learn, laugh, get to know some people better! We discuss the scriptures Rev. Olivia will be preaching on and sometimes it leads to discussions about many things. We also tend to end in prayer if you need some extra prayer!

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### **Mount Carmel Congregational Church**

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

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

203-248-7408

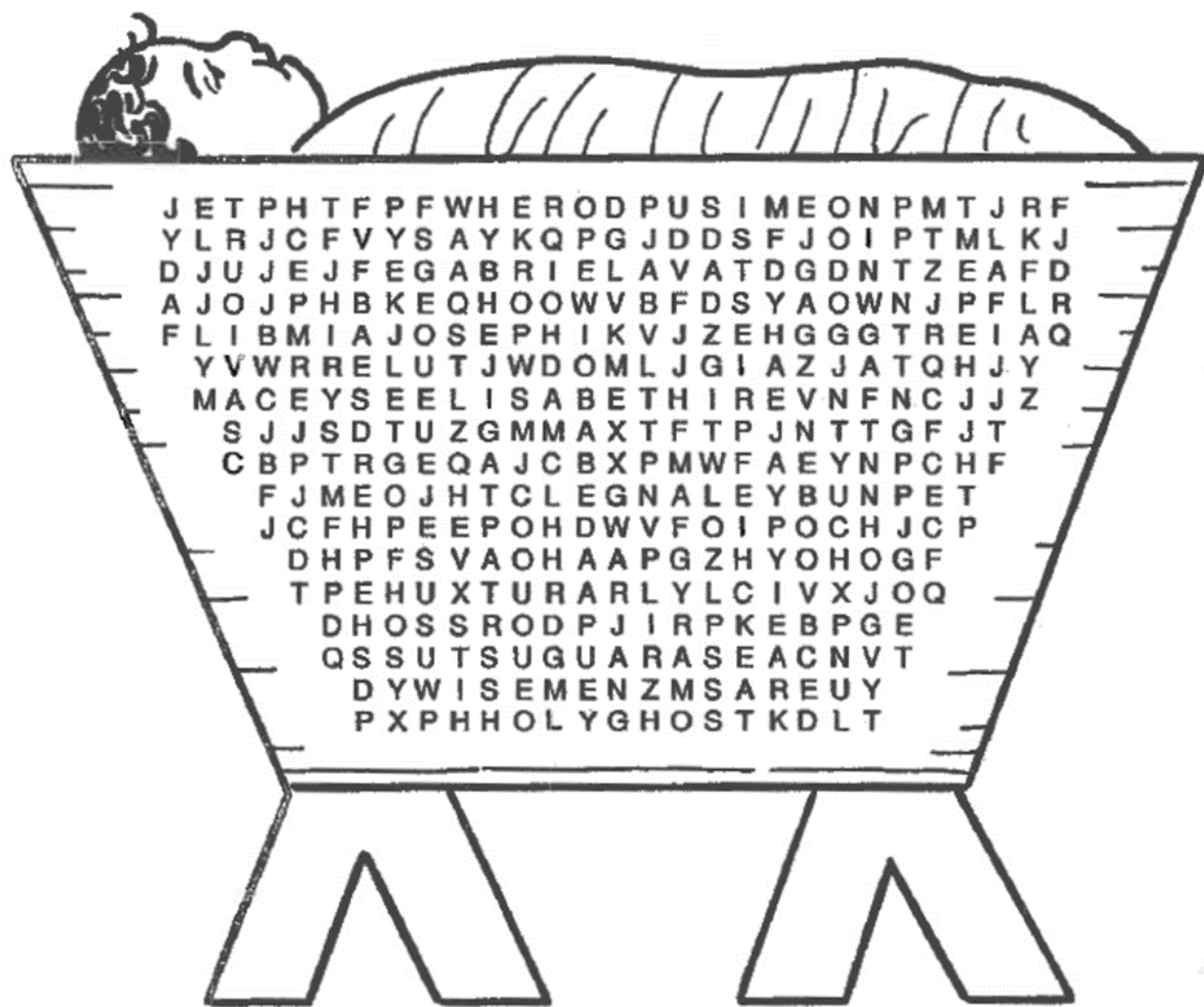
Pastor:	The Rev. Olivia Robinson
Music Director:	Mrs. Lynda Pedersen
Office Admin:	Mr. Aren Alberico
Director of CE:	Mrs. Debbie Wooley
Treasurer:	Mrs. Ellen Amato <a href="mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com">treasurer@mccucc.com</a>
Facebook:	Mt. Carmel Congregational Church
Church Email:	<a href="mailto:mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com">mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Officers:</b>	
President:	Tom Duffy <a href="mailto:thomasduffy67@gmail.com">thomasduffy67@gmail.com</a>
Clerk:	Beverly Jurkiewicz
Board of Deacons:	Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair
Board of Trustees:	Val Duffy, Co-Chair: <a href="mailto:Valerieduffy1234@gmail.com">Valerieduffy1234@gmail.com</a> Diane Scott, Co-Chair: <a href="mailto:DianeScott@iname.com">DianeScott@iname.com</a>



# Who Had a Part?

When Jesus was born as a tiny baby, many people had a part in His birth. Some announced Jesus' birth, some people worshipped Jesus, and some people took special care of Jesus. Other people did different things. Every person's part was very important in God's special plan for the birth of His Son, Jesus.

Many people are mentioned in the story of Jesus' birth in Matthew 2 and Luke 1 and 2. Several of these people are listed below. Can you find all of them hidden in the puzzle?



WISE MEN  
MARY  
ANGEL  
CHIEF PRIESTS  
ZACHARIAS  
ELISABETH

GOD  
CAESAR AUGUSTUS  
SHEPHERDS  
ANNA  
JESUS  
JOSEPH

HEROD  
PROPHET  
HOLY GHOST  
JOHN  
GABRIEL  
DAVID

SIMEON  
SCRIBES  
YOUNG CHILD  
SAVIOUR

# Samuel, A Good Ruler

I Samuel 1 — 31

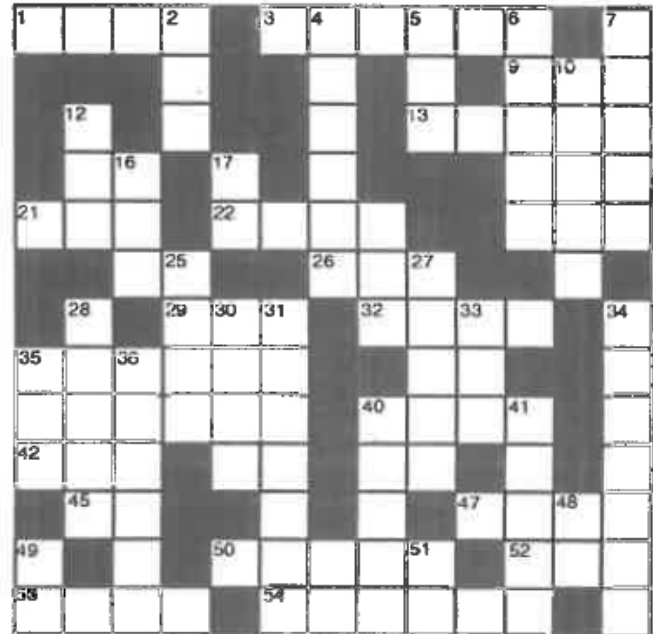
Samuel was a good leader of God's people. He helped the Israelites defeat their enemies and he judged Israel in peace. Use the clues about Samuel's life to fill in the correct words in the puzzle. If you need help, look up the Scripture verses.

## ACROSS

1. What Samuel's mother brought him each year. (2:19)
3. This nation asked Samuel to give them a king. (8:4-5)
9. Samuel said to Saul, "Thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his \_\_\_\_\_ heart." (13:14)
13. King anointed by Samuel. (16:13)
21. God said, "In that day I will perform against Eli \_\_\_\_\_ things which I have spoken." (3:12)
22. When Saul wanted David to marry Saul's daughter, David said he was \_\_\_\_\_. (18:23)
26. "The battle went sore against Saul, and the archers \_\_\_\_\_ him." (31:3)
29. Mixed feeling of reverence and fear.
32. To let fall; she \_\_\_\_\_ ped the vase.
35. He told Saul he would no longer be king. (13:13-14)
40. What Agag did because of Samuel. (15:33)
42. "All Israel from \_\_\_\_\_ even to Beer-sheba." (3:20)
45. Abbreviation for height.
47. Jonathan said his father troubled the \_\_\_\_\_. (14:29)
50. Hannah vowed that this would not touch her son's head. (1:11)
52. A tall man had six of these on each foot; singular. (// Samuel 21:20)
53. Samuel said, "To \_\_\_\_\_ is better than sacrifice." (15:22)
54. Samuel's mother. (1:20)

## DOWN

2. Number of wives Elkanah had. (1:1-2)
4. Where Samuel was taken to serve God. (1:24)
5. To help; first \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Elkanah " \_\_\_\_\_ " Hannah. (1:5)
7. Where Saul went to consult the witch. (28:7)
10. What Agag's wife became when Samuel killed Agag.
12. Liquid Samuel used to anoint David. (16:13)
16. The name of the priest Samuel served. (3:1)
17. Saul said to the witch, "Bring me \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel." (28:11)



25. Samuel anointed him the first king of Israel. (9:27; 10:1)
27. Because Eli didn't \_\_\_\_\_ his sons to do the right thing, they did wrong.
28. Where Elkanah lived. (2:11)
30. Hannah did this because she didn't have a child. (1:7)
31. Father of Samuel. (1:19-20)
33. God told Eli both his sons would die in \_\_\_\_\_ day. (2:34)
34. God used this to discomfit the Philistines after Samuel offered a sacrifice and prayed for help. (7:9-10)
35. Hannah was \_\_\_\_\_ because she didn't have a child.
36. The witch said, "An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a \_\_\_\_\_." (28:14)
40. Philistine god that fell on its face before the ark of the Lord. (5:3)
41. Happened to Eli's two sons on the same day. (4:11)
48. What Hannah said when Eli thought she was drunk. (1:15)
49. Eli: " \_\_\_\_\_ in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition." (1:17)
51. Abbreviation for registered nurse.



## *THANKSGIVING BASKETS*

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FOOD ITEMS NEEDED TO FILL A COMPLETE THANKSGIVING BASKET.

- CANNED FRUIT (2 Large Cans)
- CANNED VEGETABLES (2 Large Cans)
- STUFFING (1 Bag or Box)
- POTATOES (2 Large Cans) or RICE (1 Large Box)
- CRANBERRY SAUCE (1 Can)
- GRAVY (1 Can or Jar)
- MUFFIN or ROLL MIX (1 Box)
- SOUP (2 Large Cans)
- PASTA (1 Bag or Box)
- PASTA SAUCE (1 Large Jar or Can)
- DESSERT (Pie Crust & Filling or Brownie Mix or Cake Mix & Frosting)

Monetary Donations for turkeys may be placed in the offertory plate in a marked envelope, dropped off at the office or given to Debbie Wooley.

**ALL FOOD ITEMS OR MONETARY DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY:**  
**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>!**

**YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP FEED MANY FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY!**