



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for the Month of
NOVEMBER 2022

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

“The Gift of November”

A Reflection by Reverend Susan Owen

November might be viewed as one of country singer Jason Aldean’s “Fly over States,” stuck as it is between the colorful glory of October and the festive Advent of December. But this full liturgical year we understand why God made this season. November 6th is All Saints’ Day, November 20th is Thanksgiving Sunday, and November 27th is the First Sunday of Advent.

This month we honor those loved ones we have lost, celebrate God’s gift of forgiveness, and begin to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

The Gospel of Luke devotes significant time to finding what is lost: the lost son, the lost sheep, the lost coin, etc. I’ve had a lost week. I had much to do, and my dog Louise ran away and refused to go to doggie day care because I fixed the car, so she has to sit in the back seat rather than the front. I was vaguely irritated with her all week and frightened that she might get hit when she ran away. At the end of the week, it occurred to me how nice it had been to have her home. It is an unexpected pleasure, for me at least, to rediscover a lost gift, however ordinary.

The gift of forgiveness that Luke describes in his Gospel is not ordinary or small. It is huge, perhaps one if not the greatest gift God gives us.

In the three Sundays running up to the First Sunday of Advent, we will devote some time to what Luke and also Isaiah have to say about divine forgiveness. We will begin on All Saints’ Day, by reflecting on what Jesus might mean when he says that the dead are “alive to God” (Luke 20: 38). We will conclude on Thanksgiving Sunday, astounded by the words of the crucified Jesus to one of the criminals who has been crucified with him: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23: 43).

We hope you will be able to join us.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join every Sunday at 10am in the Church for service! Note: Weekly scripture readings are subject to change.

<p><u>November 6th, 2022</u> Holy Communion All Saints Sunday Scripture: Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18 Ephesians 1: 11-23 Luke 6: 20-31 Sermon: “For to God all are alive” (Luke 20: 38) Reverend Susan Owen</p>	<p><u>November 13th, 2022</u> <i>Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Isaiah 65: 17-25 Isaiah 12 Luke 21: 5-19 Sermon: “A Communal Prayer and Moral Injury” Reverend Susan Owen</p>
<p><u>November 20th, 2022</u> Thanksgiving Sunday (Reign of Christ) <i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Psalm 46 Colossians 1: 11-20 Luke 23: 33-43 Sermon: “Paradise and Divine Forgiveness” Reverend Susan Owen</p>	<p><u>November 27th, 2022</u> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Scripture: Isaiah 2: 1-5 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44 Sermon: “The Judgments and Promises of God” Reverend Susan Owen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS</u> <i>Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:</i> Caleb Kroon November 14th Joe DeAngelo November 18th Karl Olson November 25th</p> <p>If you would like to add your name to our birthday list, please contact our office.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Protocols for In-Person Worship</u></p> <p>Masks are optional for Church Worship. You can find our updated protocols on in-person worship by visiting our website at https://mccucc.tiny.us/protocols. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.</p>

A Note from Susan Owen

Interested members of the church will be working with me over the next few months to explore ways we might partner with local part-time congregations in the areas of outreach and worship. We welcome your thoughts and participation! Thank you. *You can contact Revered Susan Own by email at: susanowen7@aol.com.*

OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY

The office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day. If you happen to have any important questions or concerns, you may contact Aren at home directly by email at mountcarmelchurch1@gmail.com. The Office will reopen on Tuesday.

Tag Sale

Many thanks to all who participated in our Tag Sale. Our net figure was \$1,118.05, all of which goes to the church treasury. The Cabot cheese was delicious and sold all in the first week. The kitchen and clean-up crews deserve an extra big “thanks” for their hard work. Our knit goods and Christmas items will remain for sale in the parlor.

-The Tag Sale Committee

Outreach

Thanksgiving Baskets. We will be collecting food for the Thanksgiving Baskets during the month of November. The baskets will go to the VNA and Keefe Center. The list of food needed is included in the newsletter and will be in the weekly Sunday bulletin as well. You may also make monetary donations to help pay for the turkeys. Checks can be put in the offering, mailed to the office, given to Debbie, or dropped off with Aren. Please mark your check “Thanksgiving Baskets/Turkeys”. Cash donations can be given to Debbie or dropped off at the office as well. Donations must be received by Sunday, November 20th. The children will help fill the bags with the fruit and vegetables from the altar after church Sunday. You may leave your bags of food on the stage in the parish hall. Drop off times are Sunday, or Tues-Thurs during office hours. Volunteers are needed to help deliver the baskets on Monday, November 21st. Please call Debbie if you can help, 203-248-3047. We will meet at the church at 8:30 am. Let’s fill 30 bags again! Thank you!

Outreach VNA Senior Gift Run. We have been asked to participate again in the Hamden Senior Gift Run for their Christmas luncheon in early December. Some of the items needed are new and unwrapped socks, toiletries, hats & gloves. The complete list is included in this newsletter and will be in the Sunday bulletin. You may drop off your items in the box provided on the stage on Sunday or during church office hours. All gifts are needed by Sunday, Nov 27th. Thank you!

See Debbie Wooley if you have questions about either of these events.

-Debbie Wooley

FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2022

Following is the financial report for September 2022. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$3,455.00
	Other Income:	\$1,450.00
	Total Income:	\$4,905.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$3,760.00
Net Income:		\$1,145.00

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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 (2 openings), 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 for the months of August and September. 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 for the months of August and September. 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.

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 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.

Hand Sanitizer. At the beginning of the Covid pandemic, we were given several boxes of small bottles of hand sanitizer. We have not used that many and would like others to take them. There is a box in the narthex, next to the free candles. Please help yourself.



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 20th!**

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



HAMDEN SENIOR GIFT RUN

The following items are needed for the VNA
by Sunday, November 27th, and may be placed
in the box provided on the stage.

New & Unwrapped

Gloves, Hats, & Scarves

Tissue Packs

Lap Blankets

Hand Sanitizer

Lotion, Combs, & Brushes

Socks (w/ non-sliding grips)

Reusable Grocery Tote/Bag

Small Flashlights

Instant Soup / Cocoa

Large print puzzle books

\$5-\$10 gift cards

(Walgreens/CVS/Walmart/McDonalds, etc)

The Mount Carmel Congregational Church
A United Church of Christ
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06518
Established 1757



Stewardship Committee
Phone: +1 (203) 248-7408
Email: office@mccucc.com

Dear Members and Friends of the Mt. Carmel Congregational Church,

“Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God. – 1 Peter 4:10 As believers, we are called to wisely share our time, talent, and treasures for the benefit of others. Your financial pledge ensures that we are able to pay for our buildings, grow our programs, faithfully support our staff, and nurture the support we provide to those in need.

For all the hardship the pandemic brought, it also put a spotlight on acts of caring and love within our community and the world. At the same time, your continued support of our community of faith became a sign to ourselves, each other, and to God that we can withstand any challenge because God is with us. Last year’s austerity budget was \$96,000, and 40 individuals and households made pledges totaling \$72,384. That left a negative balance of \$23,616, however as of Sept. 30, 2022 approximately \$22,838 in additional non-pledge gifts had been received. A heartfelt thank you to all those who pledged; all those who did not pledge but gave weekly, monthly and whenever possible. Maintaining a balanced budget requires the continued efforts of volunteers who give of their time and talents.

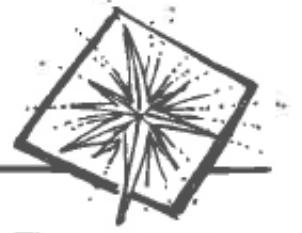
The Search Committee has been working faithfully in search of a settled part-time minister to walk with us into the future. A high participation rate for the pledge campaign is one factor that can help us stand out with potential candidates. The Stewardship Committee is therefore asking EVERYONE to help us demonstrate our commitment to the continued success of the Mt. Carmel Congregational Church by pledging this year in ANY amount.

Stewardship Sunday is November 13, 2022. The Stewardship Committee again asks you to please prayerfully consider a financial contribution in ANY amount so that our church can continue to do what love requires of us.

Enclosed is a pledge card for 2023. Please submit your pledge by Stewardship Sunday (11-13-22). It can also be mailed to the church office or dropped off Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between the hours of 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m. Also enclosed you will find an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form, which is an easy and free way to schedule payments (a new one is needed each year).

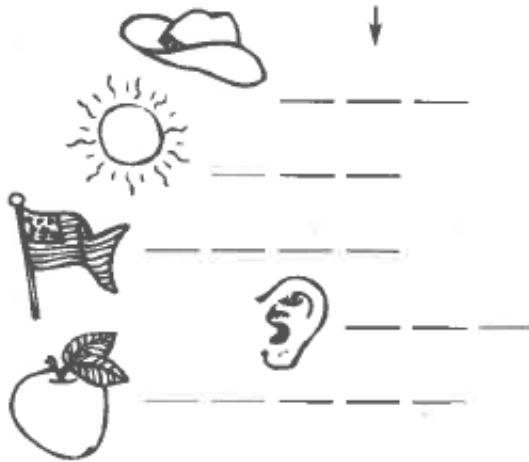
God bless you, stay safe and well,
The Stewardship Committee
Sara Kroon
Sandee Martin
Carmen McKee

A Trip to See a Baby

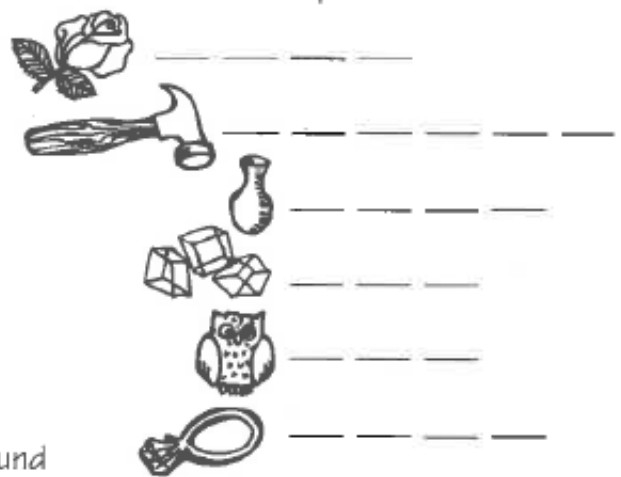


On the hills near Bethlehem, some shepherds watched over their sheep. Then an angel traveled to see them to tell them about the birth of our Savior. They hurried to Bethlehem to see the baby king. Print the name of each picture in the blanks. Then read down at the arrows, and write these words in the blanks to complete the statements.

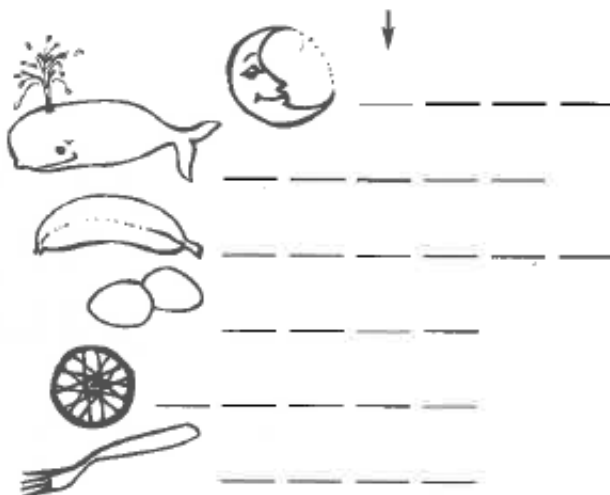
1. The _____ of the Lord
appeared to them.



2. The angel said the
_____ had been
born.



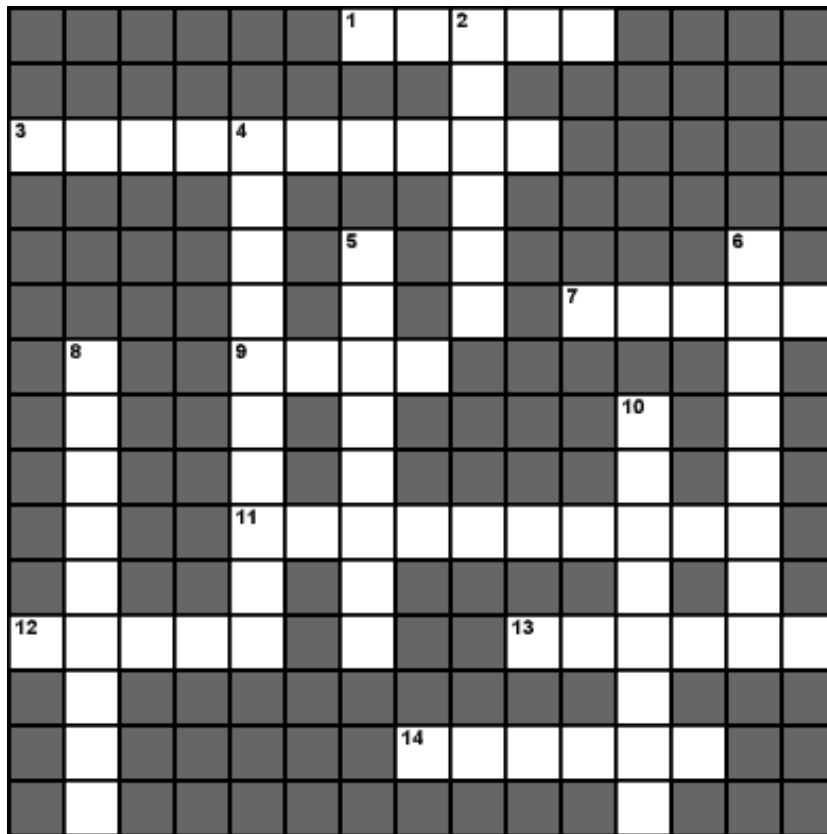
3. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found
the baby in a _____.



When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they spread the message about what they had seen and heard. You have the Bible, which is God's whole message to us. Do you believe it? Do you spread God's message whenever you can?

A Puzzle for Adults!

Based on Matthew Chapter 24



Across

- 1 People from where should be let to flee to the mountain?
- 3 What did Jesus say that nation rising against nation; famine etc. were the beginning of? (5,5)
- 7 What should those in the field not go back to get?
- 9 How will love grow with the increase in wickedness?
- 11 What did Jesus say would happen to stones of Jerusalem? (6,4)
- 12 What will fall from the sky?
- 13 Where will the Son of Man come on?
- 14 What is near when the fig-trees twigs get tender?

Down

- 2 Which prophet was the abomination that causes desolation spoken through?
- 4 With whom will the lord assign those wicked servants?
- 5 What will gather at the carcass?
- 6 What will happen to the sun after the distress?
- 8 How did the disciples come to Jesus on the Mount of Olives?
- 10 Who will be grinding with a hand mill? (3,5)



Mount Carmel Congregational Church
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Officers:

President: Tom Duffy
thomasduffy67@gmail.com

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Board of Trustees: Anna Anderson, Chair
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