



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
NOVEMBER 2023

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings!

Here's my question: how is it November already?

We have an exciting month ahead, but first I want to take a minute to reflect on the wonderful All Saints Service we had on Sunday. Thanks to Lynda and the choir (we had a choir!), and to Val Duffy for both the music and the story of her flute.

This Sunday, Lauren Maxwell, a Yale Divinity School student, will be preaching while I am in Houston making cookies for St. Luke's United Methodist Church and their All Saints celebration. Lauren is the founder of the Yale Chaplaincy Circle and is a teaching assistant at the Yale Center for Public Theology and Public Policy. It will be a good service.

I will be back in the pulpit on November 12 for our Stewardship Sunday, which I am also looking forward to. As we contemplate how we will express our devotion to God and to one another through our financial offerings, we also have opportunities to provide food for families who would not otherwise be able to have Thanksgiving Dinner. I hope we can fill lots of stomachs with our donations.

Though Advent doesn't begin in November this year, we will spend a good bit of time this month getting ready for it. Besides, if time keeps moving as quickly as it has, it will be December before we know it. We had a wonderful planning meeting last week with the staff and I am looking forward to a meaningful season with you—and then it will be 2024! (But we'll talk about that later.)

Some of you asked for the recipe for the Amazing Delights (the cookies I brought Sunday); it is in this newsletter.

Peace,
Milton

NOVEMBER 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>November 5th, 2023 <i>Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Joshua 3: 7-17 Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13 Matthew 23: 1-12 Sermon: Lauren Maxwell</p>	<p>November 12th, 2023 Stewardship Sunday <i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78: 1-7 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13</p>
<p>November 19th, 2023: Thanksgiving Sunday <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Judges 4: 1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30</p>	<p>November 26th, 2023: Reign of Christ <i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Ezekiel 34: 11-16 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46</p>



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Caleb Kroon
 Joe DeAngelo

November 14th
 November 18th

Karl Olson

November 25th

If you would like to add your name to our birthday list, please contact our office.

Faith Formation

Church School. We are off to a good start this year. We have been able to meet twice each month and hope to continue doing that.

-Debbie Wooley

Outreach

Thanksgiving Bags. We are collecting food for the Keefe Center and VNA as we have done in the past. The food list is included in this newsletter and the Sunday bulletin. If you would like to take one of the shopping bags with you to the store, see Debbie after church on Sunday. Please drop them off on Sunday, November 12th if possible. Helpers will be needed to carry the bags from the nursery to the stage on Sunday, November 19th after church. They will be stored in the nursery due to a hall rental the night before. We will also need volunteers to collect all the fruits and vegetables from the altar to bring to the parish hall. Lastly, if you can help deliver the food bags and turkeys on Monday, November 20th, let me know. Monetary donations are always welcome to cover the costs of the turkeys, or food, if you would rather that we do the shopping. Thank you.

VNA Senior Gift Run. We will be collecting toiletries and other items again for the annual 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, November 26th. Thank you.

Christmas Giving Tree. The list for the Giving Tree will be included in the next newsletter. There will be a signup sheet posted and you will take the matching tag off the tree for the item. More details are to follow.

-Debbie Wooley

Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday is November 12th. Please bring in your pledge card to put into the offering plate. You may also drop it off or mail it into the office. Thank you to those of you who have already mailed in your pledge commitment.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

-Debbie Wooley

Tag Sale

Our Annual Fall Tag Sale, held on Saturday, October 21st, has netted \$1312 so far. This money goes directly to the church treasury. We thank everyone who participated in any way.

-Sally Jaynes

FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2023

Following is the financial report for September 2023. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$25,375.00
	Other Income:	\$2,268.00
	Total Income:	\$27,643.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$10,430.00
Net Income:		\$17,213.00

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bell Tree Submissions. 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 by the second to last Tuesday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication.

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, feel free to contact our minister, Reverend Milton, by email at Pastor@mccucc.com, or by calling our office.

Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour volunteers are needed. 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. 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.

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.

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.

Amazing Delights



(My mother-in-law Rachel named these cookies after she tasted them.)

3 sticks of butter, room temperature (1 ½ cups)	½ teaspoon salt
1 cup brown sugar (8.5 oz)	1 teaspoon turmeric
2 eggs, room temperature	1 cup fresh sage, chopped
2 oz. lemon extract	8 oz. crystallized ginger, chopped
2 cups flour (11 oz.)	8 oz. pecans, chopped
1 cup corn meal (4 oz.)	1 cup sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder	1 tablespoon cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 375°.

Cream the butter and brown sugar together in a stand mixer. I let the mixer run for 8-10 minutes to really emulsify the two ingredients. Then add the eggs and lemon extract and mix until well combined.

In a separate bowl, mix the flour, cornmeal, baking powder, salt, and turmeric. Take about a cup of that dry mix and put it in the bowl of a food processor along with the sage. Process until sage is almost unnoticeable. Then add the crystallized ginger and the pecans and pulse until they are very small pieces. Add the contents to the remainder of the dry ingredients and mix them well. Then add the dry mix to the bowl of the stand mixer and mix until that, too, is combined well.

Mix the sugar and cinnamon together in a separate bowl.

Scoop the cookies on to a parchment-lined baking sheet. (I use a 2 oz. scoop.) Shape them in to discs—like a little hockey puck—and dip the tops of the cookies in the cinnamon sugar and place them back on the baking sheet about three inches apart.

Bake for 13-15 minutes. I let them cool on the baking sheet on a rack. Makes about three shy of three dozen cookies.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

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

- CRANBERRY SAUCE (1 Can)
- DESSERT (Brownie/Cake Mix & Frosting)
- GRAVY (1 Can or Jar)
- MUFFIN or ROLL MIX (1 Box)
- POTATOES (1 Box Instant)
- STUFFING (1 Bag or Box)
- VEGETABLES (2 14.5oz Size Cans)
- YAMS (1 Large 40oz Can)

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 12th!

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 26th, 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

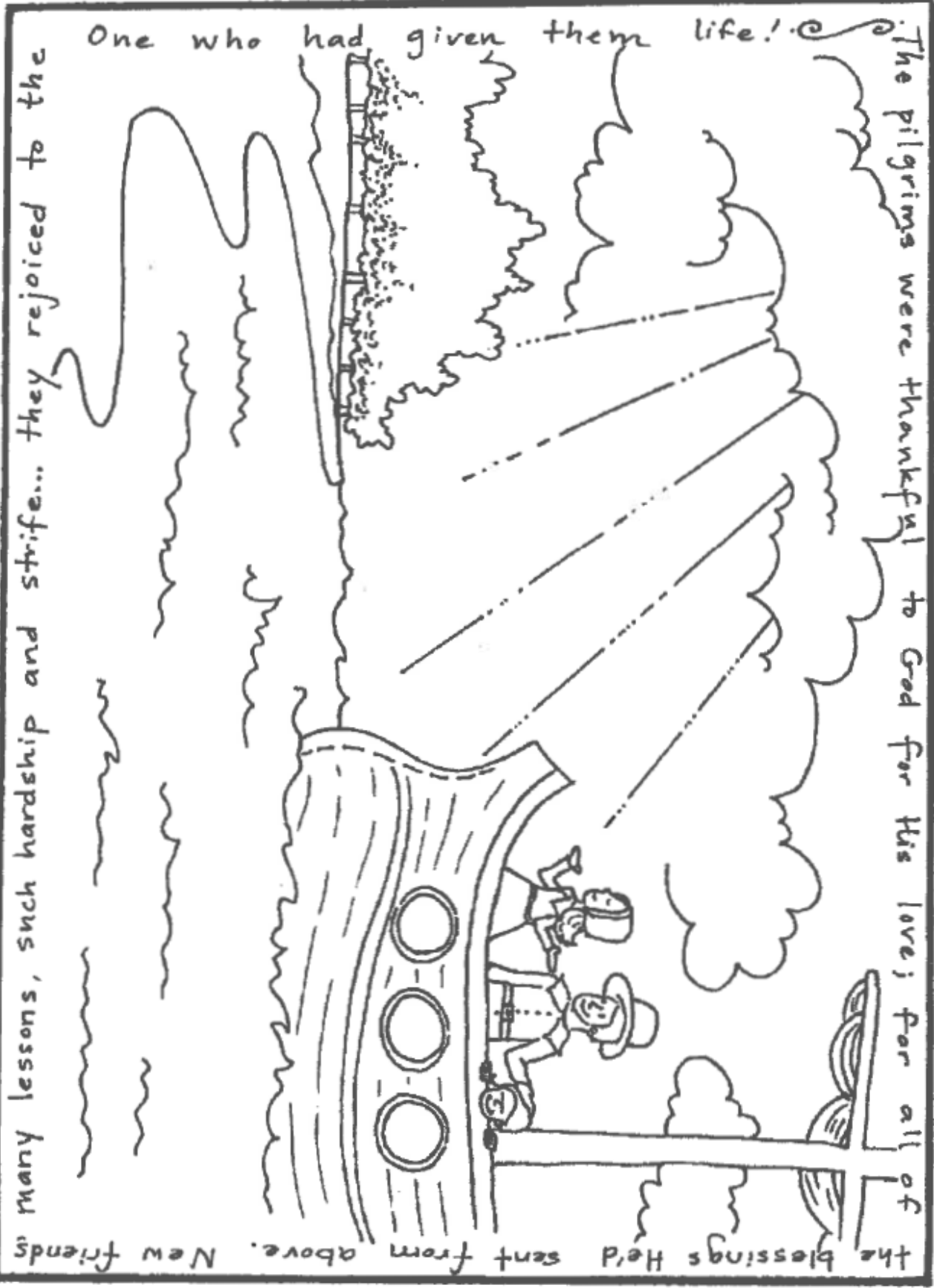
Small Flashlights

Instant Soup / Cocoa

Large print puzzle books

\$5-\$10 gift cards

(Walgreens/CVS/Walmart/McDonalds, etc)



many lessons, such hardship and strife... they rejoiced to the

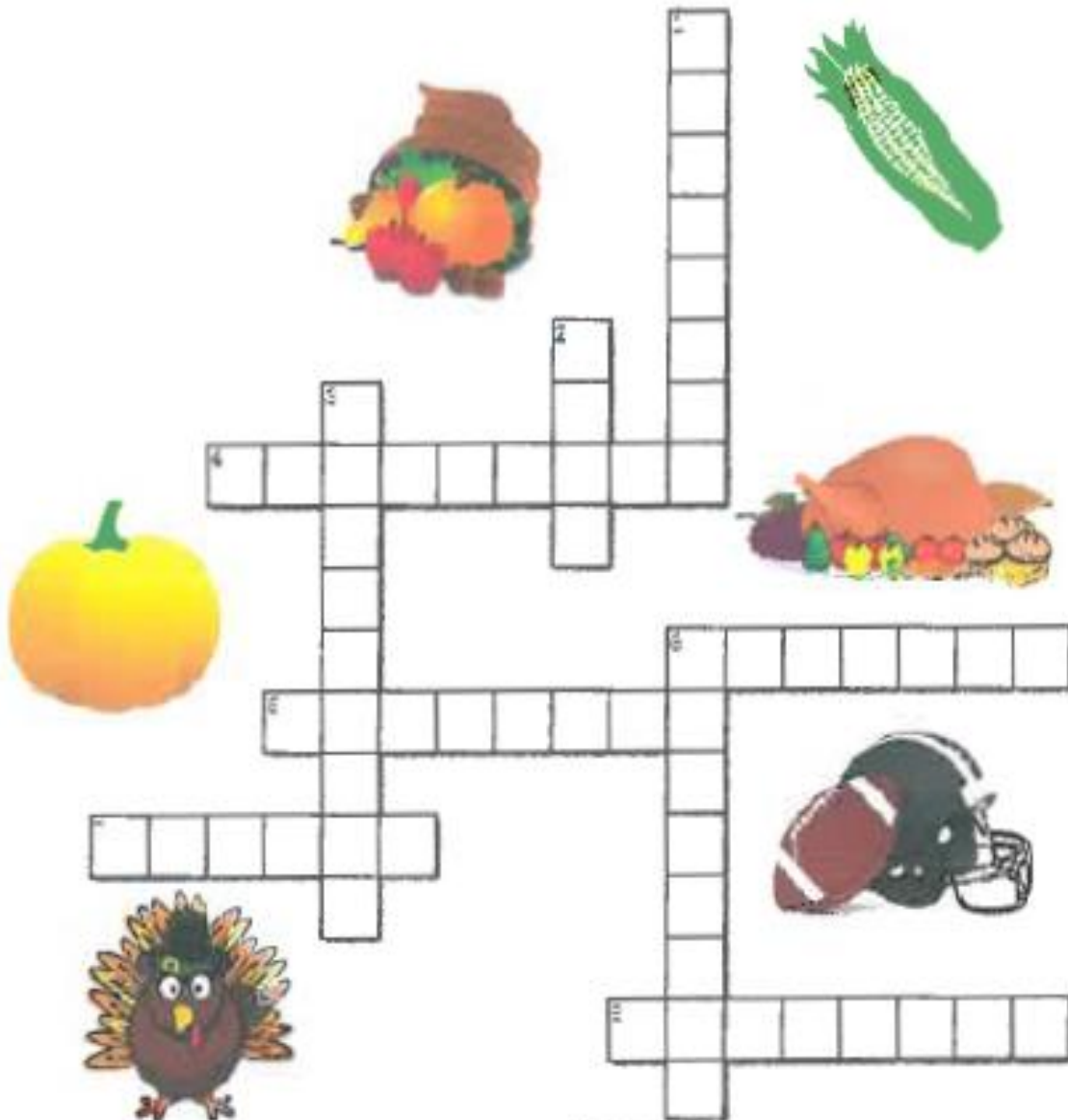
One who had given them life!.

The pilgrims were thankful to God for His love; for all of

the blessings He'd sent from above. New friends

Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues to fill in each word in the crossword puzzle.



Across

4. A tart red berry.
5. I will make a _____ pie for dessert.
6. We watch the _____ game on Thanksgiving Day.
7. It is the Thanksgiving bird.
8. My favorite meal is turkey with _____.

Down

1. Thanksgiving falls on this day of the week.
2. You can eat it on or off the cob.
3. The Pilgrims sailed on the _____.
5. The Pilgrims landed on _____ rock.



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