



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
OCTOBER 2023

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings!

Happy almost October. Below are a few somewhat-related events and thoughts.

The newsletter is a bit early this month, in part, so that the details about my installation service get to you once again. It will take place in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 1st at 2:00 PM. We will also livestream it if you are not able to be here in person. Though the “installing” me makes it sound like I am a major appliance, there is important theology behind the idea. Hear these words from the UCC website:

In our faith tradition, we don't refer to positions that ministers fill as jobs, but as calls. Those of us who engage in ministry talk about receiving a call. There is something deeply and profoundly sacred about this. We do believe that the Holy Spirit is an engaged partner in the unfolding life, health, and vitality of the Church...The service of Installation is more than just saying to someone, “This is your new job – do it well.” It is a way of affirming the movement of a Holy Spirit who participated with us in the process, and who called THIS leader to THIS place for THIS time.

It is taking time to build an altar of remembrance for something we already know is true: God has called us to share this next chapter of life together—and I am deeply grateful.

I will be away for two Sundays during October and one in November. On October 8th, Antonio Vargas, a Yale Divinity Student, will be preaching. On October 22nd, our own Aren Alberico will be leading in the service. On November 5th, another YDS student, Lauren Maxwell, will be preaching. I appreciate their willingness to help out.

All Saints Day is November 1st and is usually celebrated on the first Sunday in November. Since I am going to be gone that day and did not want to miss that celebration, our service on October 29th will be our All Saints service. We will also observe Communion that Sunday instead of November 5th since the idea of the Communion of the Saints is so connected to our most sacred meal.

Stewardship: Getting Things in Order

One of my favorite cookbooks is Michael Ruhlman's *Ratio: The Simple Codes Behind the Craft of Cooking*. That's an odd way to begin an article on stewardship but stick with me.

Ruhlman's basic premise is that ratios—the relationship between ingredients—are the key to cooking, alongside of technique. If you can grasp how things go together, you can learn how to cook. In his section on baking, however, he makes another observation that is illuminating.

Pound cake is perhaps the best-known recipe called by its ratio. One pound each of butter, sugar, egg, and flour are combined using the creaming method, whipping the butter and sugar together first. But a perfect sponge cake can be achieved with those exact ingredients, if you use the foaming method, whipping the eggs and sugar together first.

It's not just what is in the cake, but the order in which the ingredients are added that changes the outcome.

The elements of a stewardship drive are simple, much like a pound cake: budget requirements, ministry needs, trust (in God and in one another), generosity, joy, responsibility. Like Ruhlman's cake example, the order in which the ingredients are added has a profound effect on the outcome.

To start by mixing the needs of the budget with our responsibility to help pay the bills may get us to our goal, but we can easily lose any flavor of joy or generosity. Making our pledge to the church falls right in with what we pledge to NPR or the fees we pay Park and Rec to play pickleball. We end up with something that tastes like the cost of doing business.

If we begin with the joy of the ministries we hope to foster, and the generosity of sharing our resources with one another, we are still paying the bills and keeping our promises, but we also get a taste of the church as a web of relationships rather than an organization of which we are members, and we end up with something that tastes like belonging.

As we contemplate our recipe for stewardship, it's worth double-checking the order in which we add our ingredients so that we can bake up a big batch of joy and generosity in the process of keeping our financial promises. When Paul wrote his stewardship letter to the church in Corinth he said, *"Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Cor. 9:7 CEB)

God loves a grumpy giver, too; the love of God is not at stake here. What is on the line is how we can best order our lives to feel that love most fully. If we start by mixing joy and generosity and then adding trust, we will always have enough to go around.

Peace,
Milton

OCTOBER 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><u>October 1st, 2023</u> <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am: Worship with Holy Communion Scripture: Exodus 17: 1-7 Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2: 1-13 Matthew 21: 23-32</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>October 1st, 2023</u> <u>Installation of Reverend Milton</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please join us on this very special Sunday at 2pm for the official installation of Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham as our minister. A short reception will follow.</p>
<p><u>October 8th, 2023</u> <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21: 33-46 Sermon: Alexa Rollow</p>	<p><u>October 15th, 2023</u> <i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Exodus 32: 12-23 Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14</p>
<p><u>October 22nd, 2023</u> <i>Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Exodus 33: 12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22 Sermon: Aren Alberico</p>	<p><u>October 29th, 2023: All Saints Sunday</u> <i>Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Holy Communion Scripture: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 34-46</p>



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Gail Traester	October 8 th	John Spencer	October 14 th
Jan Hewitt	October 10 th	Gil Spencer	October 15 th
Patricia Williams	October 11 th	John Spencer	October 15 th
Debbie Wooley	October 12 th	Ezra Kroon	October 31 st
Martha Buller	October 12 th	Linda Vanacore	October 31 st

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

Office Closed October 5th

The Office will be closed on Thursday, October 5th, as Aren will be out of state. Aren will not be able to answer emails until his return on October 9th, so if you need any assistance during his absence, please contact Debbie Wooley (ce@mccucc.com) or Ellen Amato (treasurer@mccucc.com).

-MCC Staff

Annual Blessing of the Animals

We hope that you and your furry (or not so furry) friend will join us for our Annual Blessing of the Animals, which will be held on Saturday, October 14th, at 10am on the green in between the Church and Parish Hall. As always, we will be giving out certificates of blessing, so if you plan on attending, please reach out to us via email at office@mccucc.com with your pet's name and we will have one ready for you!

-MCC Staff

Faith Formation

Church School. Church school has begun, and we are hoping to gather twice each month. The first Sunday of each month is Communion so there will not be church school. Children can attend church with their parents to partake in the sacrament of bread and wine. Watch for the "God's Special People" bulletin board where the children's photos will be posted!

-Debbie Wooley

Outreach

Neighbors in Need. Neighbors in Need (NIN) special offering will be Sunday, October 1st, 2023. Please make your check out to the church, putting NIN in the memo. Thank you for supporting the wider missions of the church.

Thanksgiving Turkeys. I realize it is early to mention this, but I may need freezer space to store the frozen turkeys. The last couple of years there has been a shortage of turkeys, so I had to purchase them early. I was able to store them at Archie Moore's which I can no longer do since Jim has retired. If there is no shortage, I should be able to get them closer to the delivery date in November. Let me know if you can help with that. The food list will be in the November newsletter and weekly reminders later this month. See Debbie if you would like to pick up a food shopping bag to collect your donations.

Ark Banks. The ark banks brought in \$123.28 which will be deposited in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We have used this account on several occasions to help people in need. If you have not picked up a bank yet, they can be found in the narthex or in the entrance to the parish hall. Please help yourself and keep the arks floating!

-Debbie Wooley

Stewardship

“The wealth or abundance of our lives is a gift, not just a given. That is, no more than with life itself do we have this as something we can earn or deserve. It is not entitlement but blessing in which others are meant to share.” – Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Stewardship Sunday is November 12th, 2023. Keep an eye out for your very own Stewardship Letter, coming to a mailbox near you!

-Debbie Wooley

Fall 2022 Tag Sale

The next tag/craft sale is scheduled for October 15th from 9am-2pm. Table spaces are \$20 each. Please call Vera at (203) 239-7135 to make a reservation. As per usual, we will be selling delicious Cabot cheese and will be holding a bake sale. There will also be a variety of church craft and tag tables. We hope to see you there!

Thank you,
The Craft Ladies

All Saints Sunday

In honor of All Saints Day, we will be honoring the names of the deceased during our All Saints Sunday service on Sunday, October 29th. If you would like to submit the name of a loved one who has passed this year, please contact the office by phone or email by Tuesday, October 24th at the latest. Thank you.

-Aren Alberico

Congregation Pictures

We are always looking for new pictures to spruce up the Church website. If you happen to attend a Church event, please feel free to snap a few pictures and send them to us by email (office@mccucc.com)!

-Aren Alberico

FINANCIAL REPORT: AUGUST 2023

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

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,361.00
	Other Income:	\$1,653.00
	Total Income:	\$7,014.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$8,529.00
Net Income (Loss):		- \$1,515.00

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 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Committee Openings. Looking to get involved? There are several Committee Openings for Deacons (1 opening), 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. 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 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.

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.



A Boat Ride to Hide From God

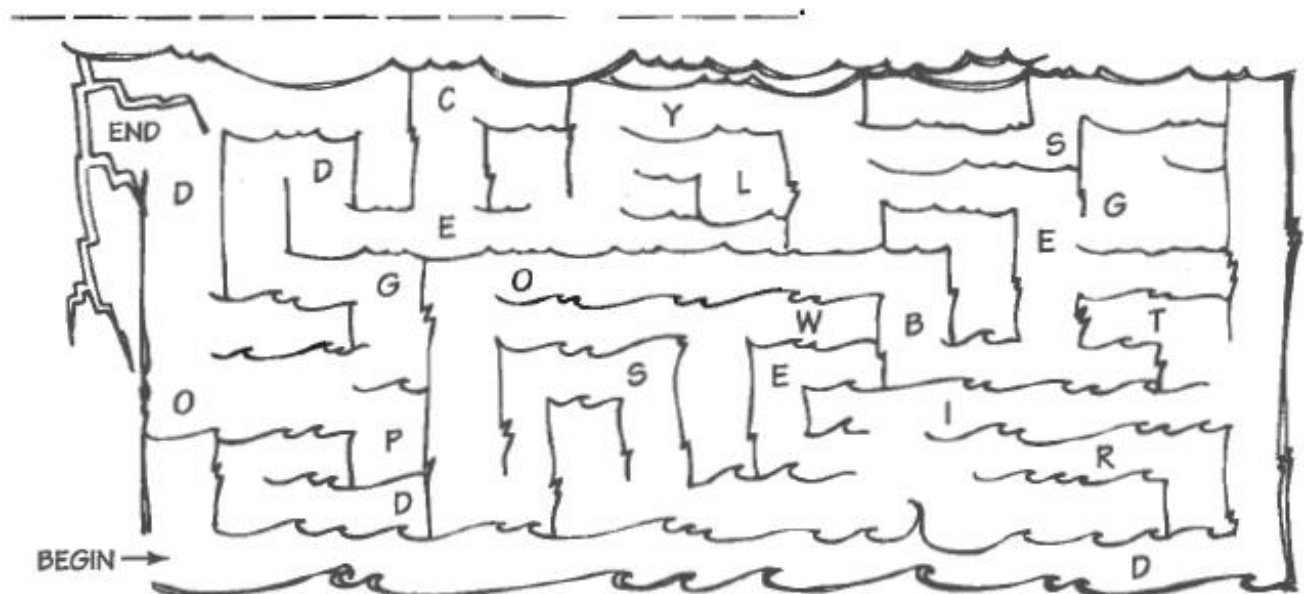
God asked Jonah to go preach in a very wicked city. What was the name of this city? To find out, read each statement below. If the statement is true, circle the letter under "T". If it is false, circle the letter under "F". Then write the letters in the blanks in order.

1. God asked Jonah to go teach in Jerusalem.
2. Jonah did not want to preach in the wicked city.
3. Jonah got on a donkey and rode to Jerusalem.
4. He went to Joppa and got on a boat.
5. Jonah went to sleep below the deck.
6. The ship hit a sandbar.
7. A very bad storm arose.

T	F
S	N
I	L
X	N
E	U
V	A
R	E
H	C

The wicked city was _____.

Go through the maze and pick up letters along the way. Write them on the lines to finish this sentence: Jonah told the sailors that God had sent the storm because he had



Did Jonah gain anything by trying to run away from God? What will you gain if you disobey Him? What will you gain by obeying Him?

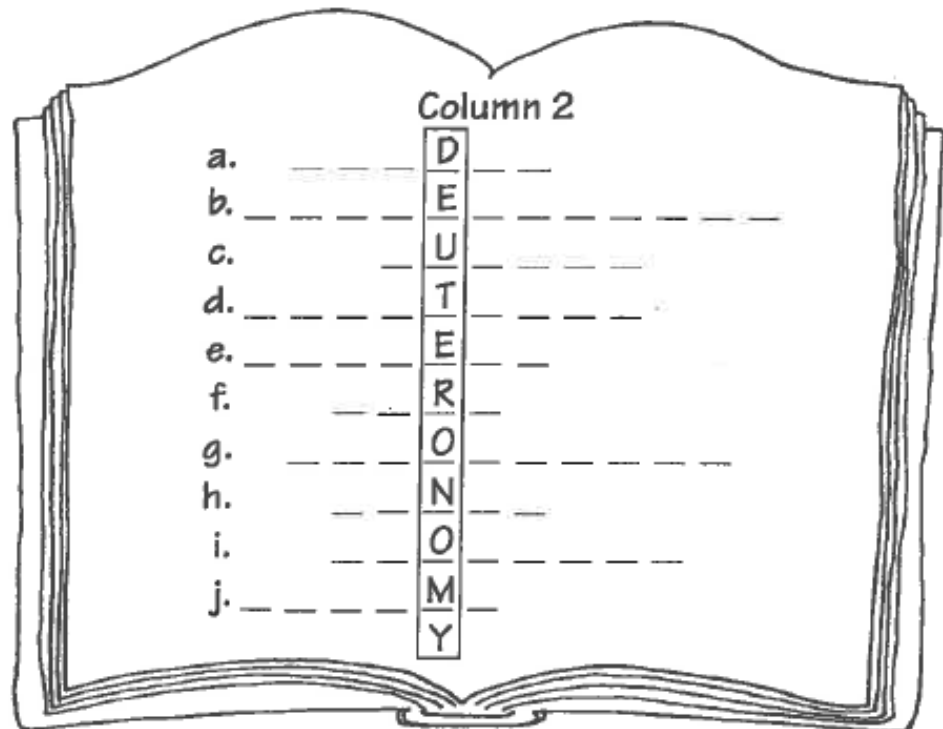
Fill In the Blanks

Books of the Bible

In order to use the Bible, you need to be familiar with the names of the many books of the Bible. The first five are called the "Pentateuch," or five books of Moses.

Ten **Old Testament** books are listed in Column 1. Place them in the correct blanks in Column 2. The boxed letters spell one book of the Pentateuch, and three others are marked with an asterisk (*). Can you name the missing Pentateuch book? (Clue: It is the first book of the Bible.)

- Column 1**
1. **KINGS**
 - * 2. **NUMBERS**
 3. **PSALMS**
 - * 4. **EXODUS**
 5. **JUDGES**
 6. **EZRA**
 7. **ECCLESIASTES**
 8. **CHRONICLES**
 - * 9. **LEVITICUS**
 10. **PROVERBS**



Peter and James are two **New Testament** books, written by the men for whom they are named. The eight scrambled words spell the names of some of the other New Testament books, including the Gospels. Place an X by the four Gospels. The index of your Bible will help you.

1. **WREBHES**
2. **STAC**
3. **EKLU**
4. **RAMK**
5. **HONJ**
6. **NEEVALITOR**
7. **WETHAMT**
8. **UDEJ**

- P**
 _ E _ _ _ _
 _ T _
 _ E _
 _ R _
 _ J _ _ _
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 _ M _ _ _ _
 _ E _
 _ S



**ANNUAL BLESSING
OF THE ANIMALS**
AT THE
**MOUNT CARMEL
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**Saturday, October 14th, 2023
10am**

**Mount Carmel Congregational Church
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06518**

***The Blessing will take place on the grass in between the
Church and the Parish House.**

Donations of unopened food and treats are greatly appreciated.



WHERE:

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
3284 WHITNEY AVENUE, HAMDEN CT 06518
INDOOR & OUTDOOR!

WHEN:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
9AM-2PM

WHAT:

TAG/CRAFT TABLES!
CABOT CHEESE
SNACK BAR!
BAKE SALE!
& MORE!

BOOK NOW:

TABLES ARE \$20 EACH AND CAN BE BOOKED NOW BY CALLING
(203) 239-7135



Mount Carmel Congregational Church

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Church Website: www.mccucc.com

203-248-7408

Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham
pastor@mccucc.com

Office Admin: Mr. Aren Alberico
office@mccucc.com

Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen
lyndapedersen@att.net

Faith Formation: Mrs. Debbie Wooley
ce@mccucc.com

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato
treasurer@mccucc.com

Facebook: @mountcarmelcongregationalchurch

Instagram: mountcarmelchurch1

Officers:

President: Tom Duffy
thomasduffy67@gmail.com

Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz
bevjur@comcast.net

Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair

Board of Trustees: Anna Anderson, Chair
aanderson545@gmail.com