



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
OCTOBER 2024

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

My church family,

As you read this, I am days away from getting a cochlear implant and embarking on a journey that feels both incredibly promising and daunting. I am deeply grateful for the support you have shown thus far and the encouragement you continue to give. Being able to share this journey with you makes it richer for me. Thank you.

I will be working from home in the days following the surgery and I will be leading worship on October 13, though I don't know what that is going to feel like just yet, other than to say I am sure I won't be able to hear your prayer requests that day or be much of a conversationalist at Coffee Hour. We will see how it goes.

October begins our stewardship emphasis. Every year we try to find some sort of theme that will energize us and awaken us (again) to what it means to be co-creators with God and with one another. Making our pledges—committing our financial gifts—to God and to the congregation is about more than paying the bills. It is a statement of faith, of trust. We are using our wallets to say we trust that God has called us to be together in these days and in this place to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

Sometimes the money we share is used to host orphan choirs, sometimes it is used to pave parking lots. Whether we are paying salaries or buying groceries for someone in need, we share what we have so we can do the work of God's ministry here in Hamden.

Thank you, in advance, for your part in our commitment to God and to each other.

October begins with our annual Blessing of the Animals (Oct. 5) and World Communion Sunday (Oct. 6) and takes us right up to All Saints' Sunday on November 3. It is a month for gratitude and anticipation. I look forward to sharing these days together.

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 6th, 2024: Holy Communion</u> World Communion Sunday <i>Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mark 10: 2-16</p>	<p><u>October 13th, 2024</u> <i>Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Job 23: 1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22: 1-15 Hebrews 4: 12-16 Mark 10: 17-31</p>
<p><u>October 20th, 2024</u> <i>Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Job 38: 1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c Hebrews 5: 1-10 Mark 10: 35-45</p>	<p><u>October 27th, 2024</u> <i>Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Job 42: 1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34: 1-8 (19-22) Hebrews 7: 23-28 Mark 10: 46-52</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.

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 5th, 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!

-Office Staff

Outreach

Neighbors in Need. Our next special offering will be Neighbors in Need (NIN). NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. This year, our offering will be held on World Communion Sunday, October 6th, 2024. Please make your check out to the church, putting NIN in the memo. Thank you for supporting the wider missions of the church.

Thanksgiving Food Drive. Stay tuned to your bulletins and emails later this month for the full list of items that we will be needing for our Thanksgiving Baskets this year. We will have bags at the end of the month for anyone who wishes to participate!

-Debbie Wooley

Fall 2024 Tag Sale

Our annual Fall Tag and Craft Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Per usual, there will be a variety of unique craft and tag tables to choose from, making our tag sale the perfect place to find some 'Tag Sale Treasures', or get some early Christmas shopping done. There will also be delicious food to purchase via our Snack Bar, as well as some delectable treats to discover via our Church Bake Sale table. We hope to see you there!

Thank you,
The Craft Ladies

Church Clerk

We are still searching for our next Church Clerk! This vital role involves maintaining thorough records of all business meetings, including reports from officers and committees. The Clerk will also manage the membership register, noting admission and transfer dates, as well as recording baptisms. Additionally, the Clerk will handle the issuance of transfer letters and provide official notice of all church meetings. If you are detail-oriented and passionate about supporting our community, we encourage you to contact Tom by email at 'thomasduffy67@gmail.com'!

Thank you,
Tom Duffy

Faith Formation

ARK Banks. We will continue to collect money for the Pastor's Discretionary fund. Please bring in your filled ark, place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the office. Empty banks are available in the narthex or at the parish hall entry. Thank you.

-Debbie Wooley

Stewardship

This year, Stewardship Sunday falls on November 10th. Keep an eye out on your mailboxes for your Stewardship letters, which have gone out in the mail!

Pledge cards can be dropped off, mailed in, or placed into the offering plate during Sunday Worship on November 10th.

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” – John Bunyan

-Debbie Wooley

Tai Chi

If you are looking for a low impact exercise class, then tai chi may be for you. No equipment is required and it is done standing up. Tai chi is very good for balance, can lower blood pressure, and relieve stress, among other things. Stop by the parish hall Tuesdays, 9:30 am to try Tai Chi with me. Cost is \$10 per person each session. Contact Debbie Wooley at jhwooley@snet.net if you have any questions.

-Debbie Wooley

FINANCIAL REPORT: AUGUST 2024

Following is the financial report for August 2024. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$4,848.00
	Other Income:	\$5,642.00
	Total Income:	\$10,490.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$15,411.00
Net Income (Loss):		\$4,921.00

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ushers. We are always looking for more Ushers – no experience necessary! If you would like to sign up to Usher on a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. If you have any questions, please contact Dave or Bev Jurkiewicz for more information.

Bell Tree. 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!

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 contacting the Office by email at office@mccucc.com or phone at (203) 248-7408.

Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour volunteers are always needed. If you would like to volunteer to run Coffee Hour for a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. If you have any questions, please contact the Office by email at office@mccucc.com or phone at (203) 248-7408.

Altar Flowers. If you would like to sign up to provide Altar Flowers for a Sunday, you may do so by using the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the entrance of the Parish House. Note that you must purchase or provide flowers; flowers are not provided by the Church. If you have any questions or wish to add a specific message for the bulletin, please contact the Office by email at office@mccucc.com or phone at (203) 248-7408.

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. Our Hall Rental schedule is filling up, so contact the office to book your event today!

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.

2024 Directory. If you would like a digital copy of our Directory, please fill out the following Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/directory>) and we will send you a copy as soon as possible. If you would like a physical copy, please contact the office and we will set a copy aside for you.



WHERE:

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
3284 WHITNEY AVENUE, HAMDEN CT 06518

WHEN:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
9:00AM—2:00PM

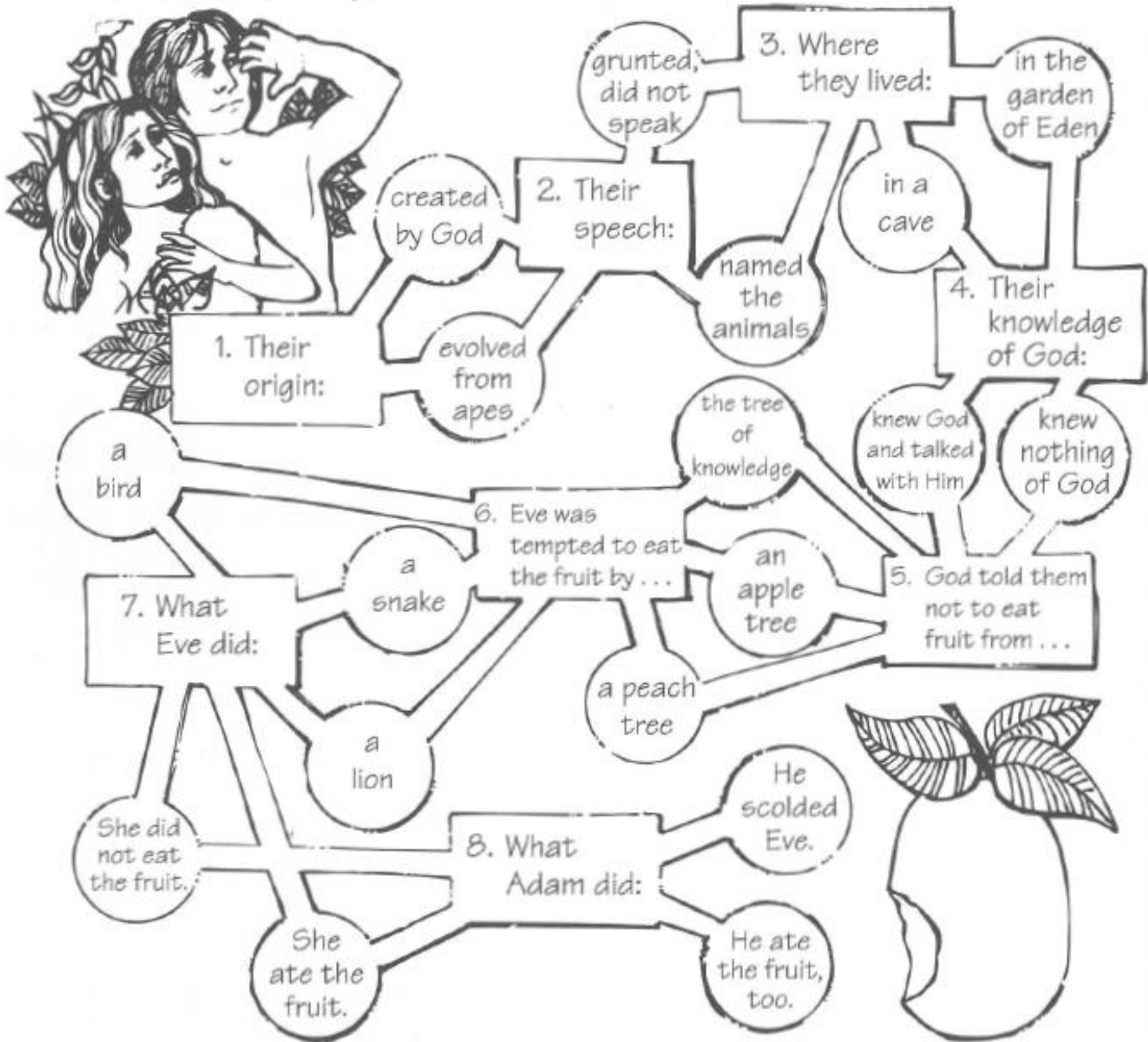
WHAT:

TAG SALE TREASURES!
CRAFT TABLES!
SNACK BAR!
BAKE SALE!
& MORE!



A Trip to Eat Forbidden Fruit

Where did Adam and Eve come from? What were they like? Where did they live? What forbidden fruit did they eat? To answer these questions, draw a line from Adam and Eve to the puzzle's end, passing through the correct circles. Use the Bible to help you make the correct choices, if necessary.



Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit. After that, all people were born sinners. Have you sinned? To find out, read Romans 3:23.



Jesus told a rich young man to sell everything he had and follow Him. What did the rich man do? Work these math problems to learn the code. Then fill in the blanks below to find out. Read Mark 10:17-22 to check your answer.

$$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ +5 \\ \hline \end{array} = A$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ +15 \\ \hline \end{array} = C$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ + 7 \\ \hline \end{array} = L$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ + 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = N$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ +13 \\ \hline \end{array} = S$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 34 \\ +14 \\ \hline \end{array} = U$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ +15 \\ \hline \end{array} = Y$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 37 \\ -12 \\ \hline \end{array} = D$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 34 \\ -17 \\ \hline \end{array} = E$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ -11 \\ \hline \end{array} = R$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 48 \\ -19 \\ \hline \end{array} = T$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array} = B$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = G$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array} = H$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = W$$

12 17 21 17 27 29 14 21 14 39 37 14 25

6 17 31 14 48 37 17 12 17 12 14 25

9 4 17 14 29 21 17 14 19 29 12





Mount Carmel Congregational Church

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

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Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham
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Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen
lyndapedersen@att.net

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

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato
treasurer@mccucc.com

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Officers:

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