



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
SEPTEMBER 2023

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Church Family,

I spent some time working in the flower beds at our house this week, thanks to the cooler weather, and noticed a couple of red leaves beginning to show up on the burning bushes that run along our fence line. I thought to myself, "Is it Fall already?"

Well, it may not be pumpkin spice time quite yet, but as we move into September, we all feel a change in energy as students return to their classrooms and our routines change as well. As we look to the Fall, I want to point out a couple of things.

First, our worship service moves back to 10 o'clock beginning Sunday, September 10th. The earlier hour helped us avoid the worst of the heat this summer, but moving back to ten lets the bell choir have time to rehearse and lets us all have a little longer of a morning. We will observe Communion on that Sunday, rather than September 3rd.

We will have a potluck lunch on September 10th after church. We are good at cooking and eating together. Please make plans to stay for lunch on that Sunday. That afternoon, I will be a part of a panel at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven (360 Amity Road, Woodbridge) at 2:00 p.m., along with a rabbi and an imam, to discuss an art exhibit that looks at the role of Abraham in all three faiths. The event is open to the public if you would like to attend.

Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be Saturday, October 14th at 10 a.m. We will gather between our two buildings to express our gratitude for the love shared between our four-legged friends and ourselves. More details are to come, but I hope you will plan to be a part of the morning.

I look forward to the days ahead as we continue to grow together and seek to understand how we can best love one another and serve our community.

Peace,
Milton

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Please join every Sunday at 10am in the Church for service! Note: These are lectionary passages for your own devotional purposes. Weekly scripture readings are subject to change.

<p>September 3rd, 2023 <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Holy Communion, Service at 9am Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26 Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28</p>	<p>September 10th, 2023 - Potluck Luncheon <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Service Returns to 10am Time. Scripture: Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20</p>
<p>September 17th, 2023 <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35</p>	<p>September 24th, 2023 <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-16</p>



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Diane Scott	September 3 rd	Muriel Tiedemann	September 23 rd
Gordon Williams	September 9 th	Bev Churchill	September 24 th
Lynn Campo	September 12 th	Karen Amato	September 24 th
Katie O'Neil	September 20 th	Lee Campo	September 28 th
George Peet	September 21 st		

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

Potluck Luncheon – September 10th

Please join us in celebrating the new Church year with a very special Potluck Luncheon, which will be held directly following our 10am worship service on Sunday, September 10th. If you plan on attending, or if you would like to sign up to bring a dish, please contact Debbie Wooley (ce@mccucc.com) or Aren Alberico (office@mccucc.com) by Sunday, September 3rd.

2023 Closer to Free Ride

On Saturday, September 9th, 2023, Mount Carmel Congregational Church will offer our parking lot as a cheering location for the Closer to Free Ride, benefitting Smilow Cancer Hospital & Yale Cancer Center. For more information or to register/volunteer for the event, please visit their website at www.rideclosertofree.org.

Faith Formation

Church School. We will begin our church school year on Sunday, September 10th. Children will go to church with their parents for the beginning of the service and will be dismissed for their activity with Debbie Wooley shortly thereafter. Please see Debbie if you need to register your child. It is my hope to hold church school once or twice per month.

-Debbie Wooley

Stewardship Matters

This will be a new item in the newsletter. Our aim is to keep Stewardship alive throughout the year as a reminder of how important it is to make a financial contribution to the church. The Stewardship theme this year is, “Because of YOU, our church changes lives.” Our weekly/monthly /annual contributions make our ministry happen. Help us keep moving forward with your generosity.

-Debbie Wooley

Outreach

Our next church wide special mission offering will be the “Neighbors In Need” (NIN). NIN offering will be Sunday, October 1st. You may place your offering in the collection plate. Please note NIN in your check memo. NIN is the “UCC’s annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.”

-Debbie Wooley

Handbell Choir

Handbell rehearsals will resume again on September 17th. If you are interested in playing the bells, please contact Lynda Pedersen. We meet for one hour on Sunday mornings from 8:30 -9:30.

-Lynda Pedersen

FINANCIAL REPORT: JULY 2023

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

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$6,776.00
	Other Income:	\$3,771.00
	Total Income:	\$10,547.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$12,902.00
Net Income (Loss):		- \$2,355.00

GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

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!

Joy 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.

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.

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.



Potluck

LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 10th
Directly Following 10am Service

Please join us for a very special Potluck Luncheon
to Celebrate the Beginning of a New Church Year!



If you would like to sign up to bring a cold dish
or if you just plan on attending,

Please contact:

Debbie Wooley (ce@mccucc.com)

Or

Aren Alberico (office@mccucc.com)

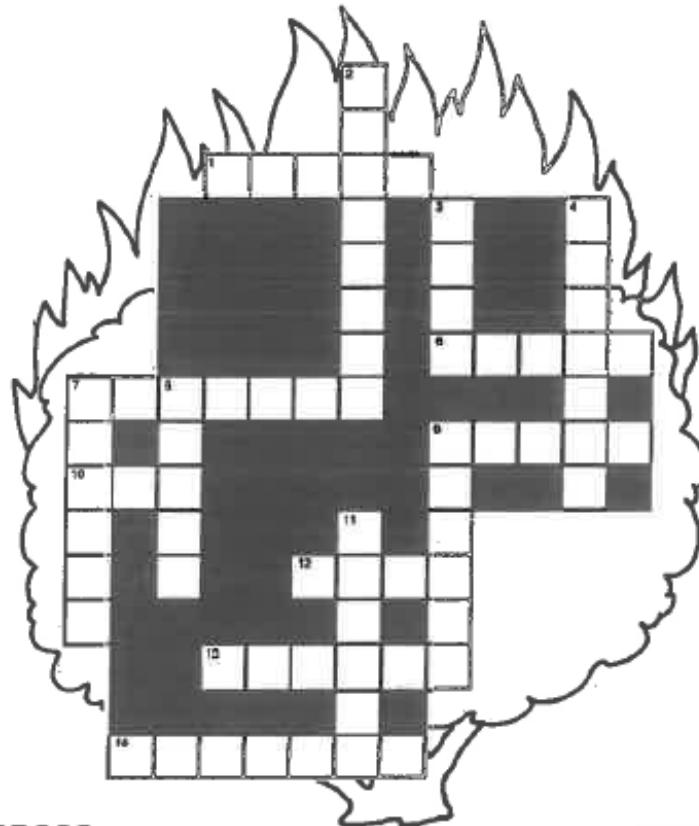
We look forward to seeing you there!

The Early Life of Moses

Exodus 1 — 12

God's people had lived in Egypt for many years. A new king made the Israelites slaves and was very cruel to them. God chose Moses to lead his people to a new land God promised them. God took care of Moses all his life and helped him be a good leader of God's people.

Use the clues to help you fill in the blanks in the puzzle. The Bible verses will help you.



ACROSS

1. The Israelites were slaves in this country. (1:8, 13)
6. Moses saw the burning bush at Mount _____. (3:1)
7. The ruler of Egypt was called by this title. (1:22)
9. This name means "drawn out of the water." (2:10)
10. The basket bed Moses' mother made was covered with slime or pitch, which is similar to a thick, black, sticky substance we call _____.
12. Moses' parents were from this tribe (house). (2:1)
15. The Israelite slaves lived in this region. (Genesis 45:10)
16. The name of Moses' son. (2:21-22)

DOWN

2. Moses' wife. (2:21)
3. God spoke to Moses from a burning _____. (3:2)
4. The city which the Israelites left after the last plague. (12:31, 37)
7. The Israelite slaves built this treasure city for Pharaoh. (1:11)
8. Moses' brother (4:14); God let him be the spokesman for Moses.
9. Jethro was the priest of _____. (3:1)
11. Moses' father-in-law. (3:1)

Love Love Love

Read Romans 12:9-19. Match the words or phrases in the flowers to the correct flower pot by drawing a stem. You will learn how God can make your life a "bed of roses."



Artist: Latanya Smith

Age: 14

Congregation: Christ the King UCC, Florissant, MO



**“God saw everything
God made and behold,
it was very good.”**

Genesis 1:31

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2023
ucc.org/nin



ST. FRANCIS DAY PET BLESSING

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

Saturday, October 14th, 2023
10am

Mount Carmel Congregational Church
3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06518

"Lord make me an instrument of your peace." - St. Francis of Assisi



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

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lyndapedersen@att.net

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ce@mccucc.com

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