

**THE BELL TREE**  
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

*A Newsletter for*  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

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

---

### *From the Pastor's Desk...*

My dear church family,

Hardly a September comes that I don't think of the opening lines from the hit song that came from the musical "The Fantasticks":

*try to remember  
the kind of September  
when life was slow  
and oh, so mellow.*

I must say it has been a long time since September felt that way. October, too, for that matter. As we welcome the new month and move into autumn, please make sure these things are on your calendar.

**Sunday, September 8—Our services return to 10 o'clock.** We hope the weather will cooperate. We will also share Communion during worship.

**Sunday, September 15—Potluck Lunch.** We will begin our new church year doing what we do best: cooking for each other and eating together.

**Sunday, September 22—Matsiko Orphan Choir.** The Liberian choir will be a part of worship and then we will host a lunch for them with food from Whitney Donut, much like we did for annual meeting. They will also be staying in our Parish House for a couple of nights.

**Saturday, October 5—Annual Blessing of the Animals.** We will meet in the courtyard at 10 a.m. to give thanks for our furry companions.

**Sunday, October 6—World Communion Sunday.**


**Monday, October 7—My cochlear implant surgery.** I realize this is not a group activity, but you are certainly going to be a part of my journey to a new way of hearing the world. I value your prayers and support. Thank you.

More details will follow for most all of these events. In the midst of them, our regular activities continue. Please sign up to usher or host coffee hour, bring donations for the Food Bank, or come by the church and pick up a prayer shawl for anyone you know who might need a tangible sign of comfort as we continue to grow together as a community of love and trust.

Peace, Milton

## SEPTEMBER 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><b><u>September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024: Holy Communion</u></b>  <i>Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost; <b>9am Service!</b></i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Song of Solomon 2: 8-13          Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9          James 1: 17-27          Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23</p>
<p><b><u>September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024</u></b>  <i>Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23          Psalm 125          James 2: 1-10, 11-13, 14-17          Mark 7: 24-37</p>	<p><b><u>September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Potluck Luncheon</u></b>  <i>Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Proverbs 1: 20-33          Psalm 19          James 3: 1-12          Mark 8: 27-38</p>
<p><b><u>September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024</u></b>  <i>Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Proverbs 31: 10-31          Psalm 1          James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a          Mark 9: 30-37</p>	<p><b><u>September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024</u></b>  <i>Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22          Psalm 124          James 5: 13-20          Mark 9: 38-50    <b>Sermon:</b> Aren Alberico</p>



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:*

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

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

---

**Office Closure – September 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, due to administrative leave. If you require any assistance during this time, please contact me via email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

-Aren Alberico

---

**Return to Regular Service Time – September 8<sup>th</sup>**

As summer is winding to a close, we would like to remind you that our regularly scheduled 10:00am service time will resume on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, with coffee hour back at 11:00am.

-Office Staff

---

**Potluck Luncheon – September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us in celebrating the new Church year with a very special Potluck Luncheon, which will be held directly following our 10:00am worship service on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you plan on attending, or if you would like to sign up to bring a dish, please contact Debbie Wooley ([ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com)) or Aren Alberico ([office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com)) by Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

-Office Staff

---

**Matsiko World Orphan Choir – September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, our congregation has the pleasure of welcoming the Matsiko World Orphan Choir to our Church for a very special performance. The Choir, whose goal is to “use the unifying power of music to uplift every child, bring joy to all who listen, and to inspire generosity that provides a complete education for vulnerable children”, will be joining us in worship for our 10:00am service, following which they will be performing for us. In order to support their mission, as well as ours, we will be hosting the Orphan Choir in our Church Hall from Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, through to Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Following their performance, we will be holding a luncheon with food catered by Whitney Donut. We hope that you will join us in welcoming these amazing children into our community.

-Tom Duffy

---

**Shirts and Skirts Auction 2024**

Please join Shirts and Skirts for their annual Penny Auction, taking place on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm! Admission is \$3.00 per person, which will go towards paying for pizza for the event. We invite you to bring an item or two for our penny auction. In order to ensure that we order enough pizza for the event, we ask that please RSVP with Vera DeAngelo or Bev Jurkiewicz by Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope to see you there!

-Vera DeAngelo

---

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please make your check out to the church, putting NIN in the memo. Thank you for supporting the wider missions of the church.

-Debbie Wooley

---

## Annual Blessing of the Animals – October 5<sup>th</sup>

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 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am 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](mailto:office@mccucc.com) with your pet's name and we will have one ready for you! Please stay tuned for more information regarding pet food donations and potential partnerships with local shelters!

-Office Staff

---

## Fall 2024 Tag Sale – October 19<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Fall Tag and Craft Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 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. If you would like to reserve your spot for this event, table spaces are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling Vera DeAngelo at (203) 239-7135. Hurry, because spots are filling up fast!

Thank you,  
The Craft Ladies

---

## Faith Formation

Church School. Natalie Baronowski and Katie O'Neil will be taking over teaching duties this year, with Rowen O'Neil assisting with the lessons. We still hope to hold class two times a month.

ARK Banks. Our Ark Bank program continues to collect contributions for our Pastor Discretionary Fund, with our most recent donation being for \$200. We continue to collect money for this fund, which goes towards helping those in our community who need help, so please feel free to bring in your filled ark, place it into the offering plate, or drop it off in the office. Empty banks are available in the narthex or at the parish hall entry. Keep your Ark Banks floating!

-Debbie Wooley

---

## Stewardship

As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, pledges to date are \$87,426 with 43 individual pledge units. If you have any additional questions regarding stewardship and pledging, please contact me by email at [ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com).

Stewardship letters will be out in the mail starting in October, with Pledge Sunday being scheduled for Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

“We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.” – Mother Theresa

-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 play tai chi with me. Cost is \$10 per person each session. Contact Debbie Wooley at [jhwooley@snet.net](mailto:jhwooley@snet.net) if you have any questions.

-Debbie Wooley

---

## 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](mailto:office@mccucc.com) by the second to last Tuesday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication!

-Aren Alberico

---

## **FINANCIAL REPORT: JULY 2024**

Following is the financial report for July 2024. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at [treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com).

<b>Income:</b>	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,444.00
	Other Income:	\$3,722.00
	Investment Income:	\$25,000.00
	Total Income:	\$34,166.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	Total Expenses:	\$35,965.00
<b>Net Income (Loss):</b>		\$1,799.00

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Pastor@mccucc.com), or by contacting the Office by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



# **Potluck**

## **LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**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](mailto:ce@mccucc.com))

Or

Aren Alberico ([office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com))

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



**WHERE:**

MOUNT CARMEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
3284 WHITNEY AVENUE, HAMDEN CT 06518

**WHEN:**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>  
9:00AM—2:00PM

**WHAT:**

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

**BOOK NOW:**

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



(Numbers 11; 14:20-38; Deuteronomy 29:5)

# Walking in 40-year-old Sandals



God took care of His people on their journey to the Promised Land. Learn more about this story by filling in the blanks. Just add or subtract the letters under each blank.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The Israelites would not trust God to help them fight the

$\frac{I-2}{I}$   $\frac{G+2}{G}$   $\frac{D-3}{D}$   $\frac{O-1}{O}$   $\frac{S+1}{S}$   $\frac{Q+2}{Q}$  in the Promised

$\frac{K+1}{K}$   $\frac{C-2}{C}$   $\frac{M+1}{M}$   $\frac{G-3}{G}$ . So God said all who were

$\frac{R+2}{R}$   $\frac{X-1}{X}$   $\frac{E+0}{E}$   $\frac{P-2}{P}$   $\frac{S+1}{S}$   $\frac{V+3}{V}$  years old and

older would  $\frac{B+2}{B}$   $\frac{M-4}{M}$   $\frac{F-1}{F}$  in the

$\frac{C+1}{C}$   $\frac{J-5}{J}$   $\frac{S-0}{S}$   $\frac{D+1}{D}$   $\frac{S-1}{S}$   $\frac{R+2}{R}$ . Only

$\frac{K-1}{K}$   $\frac{L+3}{L}$   $\frac{R+1}{R}$   $\frac{E+3}{E}$   $\frac{W-2}{W}$   $\frac{B-1}{B}$  and Caleb,

who trusted God, would be allowed to go into the land.

For  $\frac{I-3}{I}$   $\frac{P-1}{P}$   $\frac{P+2}{P}$   $\frac{V-2}{V}$   $\frac{Z-1}{Z}$  years, the people

wandered in the desert. God kept their  $\frac{B+1}{B}$   $\frac{P-4}{P}$   $\frac{Q-2}{Q}$   $\frac{S+1}{S}$   $\frac{G+1}{G}$   $\frac{C+2}{C}$   $\frac{T-1}{T}$  and

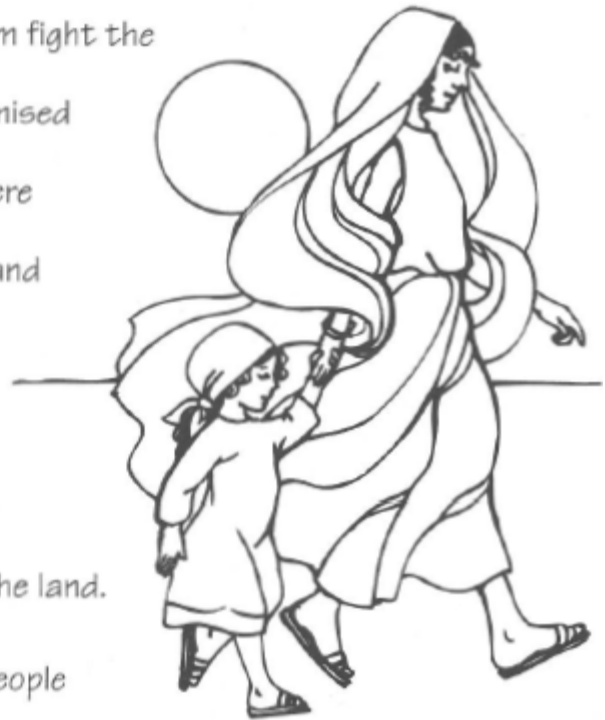
their  $\frac{T-1}{T}$   $\frac{D-3}{D}$   $\frac{M+1}{M}$   $\frac{F-2}{F}$   $\frac{B-1}{B}$   $\frac{K+1}{K}$   $\frac{W-4}{W}$  from wearing out. He gave them

$\frac{K+2}{K}$   $\frac{B-1}{B}$   $\frac{M+1}{M}$   $\frac{R-4}{R}$   $\frac{D-3}{D}$  to eat and water to drink. They fussed about the manna,

so God sent  $\frac{Q+2}{Q}$   $\frac{L+2}{L}$   $\frac{C-2}{C}$   $\frac{O-4}{O}$   $\frac{D+1}{D}$   $\frac{Q+2}{Q}$  to bite the people. God told Moses

to set up a  $\frac{A+1}{A}$   $\frac{T-2}{T}$   $\frac{L+3}{L}$   $\frac{M+1}{M}$   $\frac{W+3}{W}$   $\frac{C+2}{C}$  snake. If a person who was bitten by a

snake looked at the bronze snake, he or she was made  $\frac{X-1}{X}$   $\frac{B+3}{B}$   $\frac{N-2}{N}$   $\frac{H+4}{H}$ .



Which is right—to complain about hardships in your life or to thank God for His many blessings? Which will make God happy?

# Twelve Traveling Preachers



Usually, the apostles traveled with Jesus. In the verses below, Jesus sends them out in pairs to preach the gospel and heal the sick. He gave them special instructions about what they should do. Use the Bible verses listed below to underline the correct answer.

## A. Jesus' Instructions to His Apostles (Matthew 10:5–16)

1. Go only to the lost sheep of (the meadows; Israel).
2. Preach that (the kingdom of heaven is near; a flood is coming).
3. Heal the (sick; beggars), raise the (roof; dead), cleanse the (lepers; dirty feet), drive out (cattle; demons).
4. Do not take any (gold, silver, or copper; knives, guns, or bullets) in your belts.
5. Take no extra (food and drink; clothes and sandals) for your journey.
6. Whatever town you enter, search for (the best inn; some worthy person's home) and stay there until you leave town.
7. If no one will welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off (their rugs; your feet) when you leave.
8. I am sending you out like (sheep; children) among (lions; wolves). Be as shrewd as (snakes; foxes) and as harmless as (crows; doves).



## B. What the Apostles Did (Mark 6:12–13)

1. They preached that people should (wash their feet; repent).
2. They drove out many (sheep; demons).
3. They anointed people with (oil; perfume) and (praised; healed) them.

Do you read the Bible to find Jesus' instructions for your actions? Do you obey them? Ask Jesus to help you do both.



REGISTER TO  
**RIDE OR  
VOLUNTEER  
NOW!**



Yale  
NewHaven  
Health  
Smile Cancer  
Hospital

Yale CANCER CENTER  
A Division of Yale University  
333 Cedar Street, New Haven, CT 06510

[RideCloserToFree.org](http://RideCloserToFree.org)



## Mount Carmel Congregational Church

3284 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Church Website: [www.mccucc.com](http://www.mccucc.com)

Phone: (203) 248-7408

Minister: Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham  
[pastor@mccucc.com](mailto:pastor@mccucc.com)

Office Admin: Mr. Aren Alberico  
[office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com)

Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen  
[lyndapedersen@att.net](mailto:lyndapedersen@att.net)

Faith Formation: Mrs. Debbie Wooley  
[ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com)

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato  
[treasurer@mccucc.com](mailto:treasurer@mccucc.com)

Facebook: @mountcarmelcongregationalchurch

Instagram: mountcarmelchurch1

### **Officers:**

President: Tom Duffy  
[thomasduffy67@gmail.com](mailto:thomasduffy67@gmail.com)

Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz  
[bevjur@comcast.net](mailto:bevjur@comcast.net)

Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair

Board of Trustees: Anna Anderson, Chair  
[aanderson545@gmail.com](mailto:aanderson545@gmail.com)