



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
SUMMER 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,

As most of you know, I am spending the month of June in Northern Ireland. My dear friends Gareth Higgins and Brian Ammons lead a number of peace retreats each summer and fall (www.irelandretreats.com) and have invited me to be the chef for two of them this month. I received the invitation about the same time I began filling in here at Mount Carmel in January. I will be preparing meals for about thirty people in each retreat and will have a few days between them to do some exploring of my own.

In my absence, Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, my wife and Lead Pastor at First Congregational Church in Guilford, will be covering for me if there are pastoral care needs. Please reach out to Aren and he will put you in touch with her. We have two students from Yale Divinity School who will be preaching—Rachel Sauls, 6/4 and Jackson Ringley, 6/11—as well as Rick Terry on 6/18 and Aren Alberico on 6/25. I will be back in the office on June 29th and in worship on July 2nd.

We are moving into the season of the church year we call Ordinary Time, which is another name for the season between Pentecost and Advent. The word "ordinary" here does not mean "routine" or "not special." Instead, it refers to the "ordinal numbers" (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Third Sunday after Pentecost). This term comes from the Latin *ordinalis*, which means "numbered" or "ordered." In short, it's the churchy way of telling time.

In July and August, I am going to step away from the Revised Common Lectionary for my sermon texts and do a short series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer. We will begin by looking at what it means to pray and then take each phrase of the prayer and expand on them a bit. We will also look at variations of the prayer that people have offered over time. I am hopeful that it will be a meaningful journey.

Summer is a relaxing time for many, and vacation time for most. If you are traveling this summer, for whatever reason, or if you are staying home, I hope the days are full of hope and meaning for you. And let's stay connected.

Peace,
Milton

JUNE / JULY 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><i>As some of you may already know, Reverend Milton will be away in Ireland during the month of June. In his absence, we will be hosting a mixture of lay preachers and Divinity School students. We ask that you help support them by attending service during those days.</i></p>	<p><u>June 4th, 2023</u> Trinity Sunday - Holy Communion Scripture: Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-20 Sermon: Rachel Sauls</p>
<p><u>June 11th, 2023</u> <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-9 Psalm 33: 1-12 Romans 4: 13-25 Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26 Sermon: Jackson Ringley</p>	<p><u>June 18th, 2023: Father's Day</u> <i>Third Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 18: 1-15 (21: 1-7) Psalm 116: 1-12, 12-19 Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23) Sermon: Rick Terry</p>
<p><u>June 25th, 2023</u> <i>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 21: 8-21 Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39 Sermon: Aren Alberico</p>	<p><u>July 2nd, 2023</u> <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Holy Communion Scripture: Genesis 22: 1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6: 12-23 Matthew 10: 40-42</p>
<p><u>July 9th, 2023</u> <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49 Psalm 45: 10-17 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30</p>	<p><u>July 16th, 2023</u> <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 25: 19-34 Psalm 119: 105-112 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23</p>
<p><u>July 23rd, 2023</u> <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 28: 10-19a Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43</p>	<p><u>July 30th, 2023</u> <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scripture: Genesis 29: 15-28 Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b Romans 8: 26-39 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52</p>

JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Vera DeAngelo	June 5 th	Valerie Duffy	June 27 th
Natalie Amato	June 10 th	David Jurkiewicz	July 1 st
Thomas Duffy	June 17 th	Kevin P. Delaney	July 1 st
Sally Jaynes	June 23 rd	Sara Kroon	July 7 th

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

Pastoral Support

During Reverend Milton's absence, his wife, Reverend Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, will be available for pastoral support. If at any time you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office and we will put you in touch with her.

-MCC Staff

Tag/Bake Sale Update

Many thanks to all who participated in our Spring Tag Sale on May 20th. Despite it being a rainy day, we netted \$1083.00 for the Church, even without our outdoor vendors! A good time was had by all. We look forward to our next tag sale in the fall!

-Tag Sale Committee

Faith Formation

Ark Banks. Please keep dropping off your ark banks. We have already collected \$176.00 this year for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. You may pick up an ark in the narthex or entranceway to the parish hall. When it is full, you may leave it in the offering plate on Sunday or drop off in the office during the week.

-Debbie Wooley

Summer Coffee Hours: Made Simple!

This year, we want to make our Summer Coffee Hours simple and easy. In fact, we don't even need coffee! All we need is something sweet (cookies or pastries) and something refreshing (iced tea or lemonade). We can even show you where to find the cups and napkins! If you are interested in this easy breezy summer coffee hour, simply sign up on the board in the parish hall entryway. All drinks and treats will be served in the Parish Hall, to be enjoyed in our Parlor!

-Debbie Wooley

FINANCIAL REPORT: APRIL 2023

Following is the financial report for April 2023. Financial reports for May and June will be in the August Bell Tree. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$5,751.00
	Other Income:	\$1,836.00
	Total Income:	\$7,587.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$14,420.64
Net Income (Loss):		- \$6,833.64

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!

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. During Reverend Milton's absence, his wife, Reverend Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, will be available for pastoral support. If at any time you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office at office@mccucc.com or call the church office at (203) 248-7408.

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.

(1 Kings 10:1-13)

A Queen and Her Camel Caravan



Use the letters in the circles at the bottom of the page to complete a story about the queen of Sheba and her trip to Jerusalem. (Examples: 3 = E; 1, 2 = A)

God made King Solomon very 3,4 5 6,7 3 and 4,5 5 10 6.

The 2 4 3 3 2,3 of Sheba 6 3 1,2 4,5 8 about him.

She wanted to 6,7 3 3 if what she heard was 7,8 4,5 4 3. She

rode in a big 10 1,2 9 3 9,10 caravan on a long trip to Jerusalem. She

brought Solomon much 1 7 9,10 8 6,7 5,6 5 10 3 6,7

and precious 6,7 7,8 7 2,3 3 6,7. She asked Solomon hard

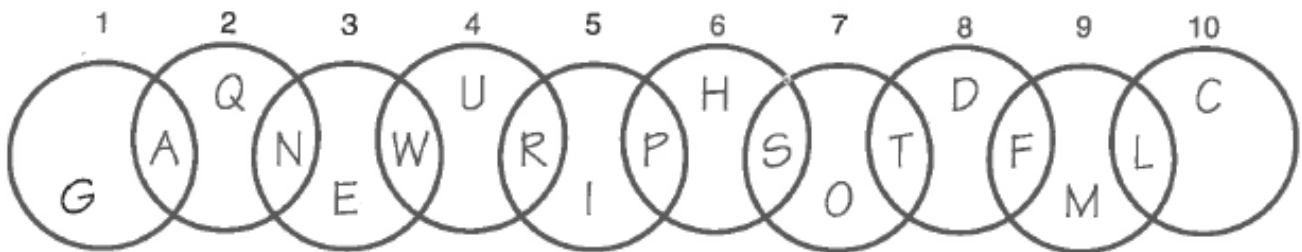
2 4 3 6,7 7,8 5 7 2,3 6,7, which he answered. The queen

said, "I was not told about even 6 1,2 9,10 8,9 of your

3,4 5 6,7 8 7 9 and 3,4 3 1,2 9,10 7,8 6." She

returned home with her 10 1,2 9 3 9,10 6,7 loaded with many

1 5 8,9 7,8 6,7 from Solomon.



God told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted. Solomon asked to be wise in knowing right and wrong. God gave him wisdom and riches, too. Will you ask God to help you know what's right and what's wrong? He will be pleased to answer that prayer.



Destination Unknown

(Genesis 11:27-31;
12:1-10,16; 13:1-5;
17:5; Acts 7:2-4)

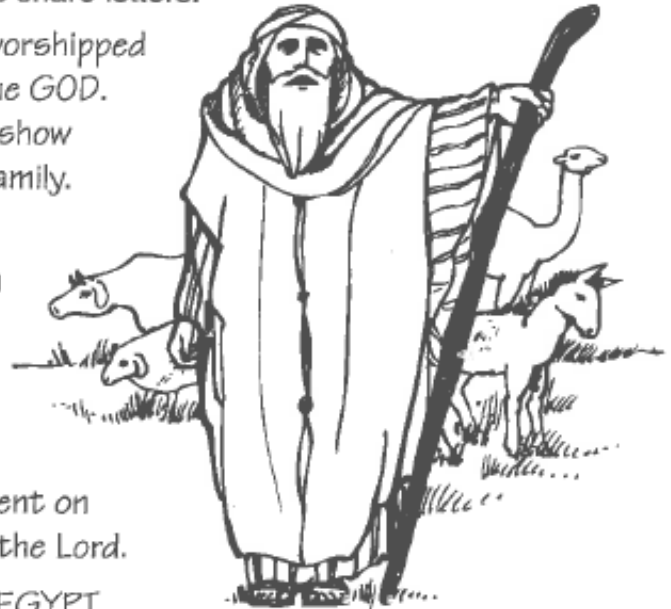
Read the story. Then circle the capitalized words in the word search. Look down and across. Some words share letters.

Abram lived in the CITY of UR. People worshipped IDOLS there. Abram loved the ONE true GOD. "Leave here and GO to a country I will show you," God said. Abram LEFT with his family.

They traveled north many miles to HARAN. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. He traveled south to CANAAN. He knew THIS was where God wanted him to be. Abram came to the town of SHECHEM. He built an ALTAR and worshipped God. Then he went on to BETHEL and built another altar to the Lord.

When a FAMINE came, Abram went to EGYPT.

Then he returned to Bethel with SHEEP, CATTLE, DONKEYS, and CAMELS. In Canaan, Abram lived in tents and moved about to find grass for his ANIMALS. Eventually, God changed Abram's name to ABRAHAM.



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

Abraham obeyed God, and God blessed him. Will you obey God?

(Matthew 10:5–16; Mark 6:12–13)

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.



Abraham was going to follow God's command and offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering. Write the letter which comes after the letter given to see what an angel of the Lord said to Abraham. Read the story in Genesis 22:1-13.

"CN MNS KZX Z GZMC NM

SGD ANX," GD RZHC. "CN MNS

CN ZMXSGHMF SN GHL. MNV H

JMNV SGZS XNT EDZQ FNC,

ADBZTRD XNT GZUD MNS

VHSGGDKC EQNL LD XNTQ RNM,

XNTQ NMKX RNM."



Mount Carmel Congregational Church

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