



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
JUNE 2024

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings!

As the days grow longer and brighter and greener, I am grateful once again that we are sharing them together. Summer means schedule changes and sojourns for many. If you are traveling this summer, know that we will hold you in our hearts. (That is also true if you are staying home.)

For much of June, I will be in the north of Ireland, serving as the chef for two peace retreats that combine the beauty of the country with time spent studying what we can learn from its recent history. I leave on June 5th and will return on June 29th. Ginger, my wife and the Lead Minister at the First Congregational Church of Guilford, will be available for emergency pastoral care. I can also be reached by email. It is 2024, after all.

While I am gone, the pulpit will be filled by Lillian Steinmayer (a Yale Divinity student) on June 9th, Tom Duffy on June 16th, and Aren Alberico on June 23rd. I am grateful to all three for offering their gifts on these days.


Please remember we will move our worship start to 9am from July 7th through September 8th. That enables us to stay in the sanctuary, and also makes it easier for our hall rentals. Since most all our clean up and set up is by volunteers, the time change makes it easier on everyone. Thank you for your flexibility.

Speaking of volunteers, we need ushers! We are working to expand the pool of folks who will help set the stage for worship each week. The job is both crucial and simple, and it is made easier when we don't expect the same folks to always be at the door. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Parish House.

Peace,
Milton

JUNE 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>June 2nd, 2024: Holy Communion <i>Second Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Mark 2:23-3:6</p>
<p>June 9th, 2024 <i>Third Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 1 Samuel 8: 4-11 (12-15) Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3: 20-35 Guest: Lillian Steinmayer</p>	<p>June 16th, 2024 <i>Fourth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17 Mark 4: 26-34 Guest: Tom Duffy</p>
<p>June 23rd, 2024 <i>Fifth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 1 Samuel 17: 32-49 Psalm 9: 9-20 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 Mark 4: 35-41 Guest: Aren Alberico</p>	<p>June 30th, 2024 <i>Sixth Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Mark 5: 21-43</p>



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Vera DeAngelo	June 5 th	Natalie Amato	June 10 th
Tom Duffy	June 17 th	Sally Jaynes	June 23 rd
Valerie Duffy	June 27 th		

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

Milton Vacation/Pastoral Support

As a reminder, Reverend Milton will be out of state from June 5th through June 29th. During his absence, pastoral support will be provided by Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, his wife and pastor of First Congregational Church of Guilford. If at any time you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office and we will put you in touch with her.

-Office Staff

Office Closure: June Vacation

Please note that the office will be closed the week of June 18th through June 20th. This will not affect any groups that meet in the Hall and/or Parlor. If you require immediate assistance during this time, please feel free to contact me by email at office@mccucc.com.

-Aren Alberico

Summer Service Times

Starting on Sunday, July 7th, we will begin holding our worship services an hour earlier at 9:00am to account for the summer heat. This 9:00am summer service time will continue through July and August, ending on Sunday, September 1st. Our regularly scheduled 10:00am service time will resume on Sunday, September 8th.

-Office Staff

Faith Formation

Church School. Church School has ended for the year due to conflicts with schedules. We will regroup and look ahead to next fall.

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

Outreach

One Great Hour of Sharing. We have collected \$250 for *One Great Hour of Sharing*. Thank you for your donations to this church mission program.

-Debbie Wooley

Stewardship

As we have reached the halfway point of the year, it is even more important to keep your pledge current. Attendance tends to drop off during the summer months when people go away but as we know, the bills do not go away. You may also still make a pledge if you have not done so. If you have any additional questions regarding stewardship and pledging, please contact me by email at ce@mccucc.com. Thank you.

“Giving is not a debt you owe; it is a seed you sow.” – Unknown

-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 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 by the second to last Tuesday of the month and we may include your article in our next publication! Our next newsletter will be in August, so we hope to hear from you!

-Aren Alberico

FINANCIAL REPORT: MARCH 2024

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

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$10,864.00
	Other Income:	\$2,078.00
	Investment Income:	\$7,500.00
	Total Income:	\$20,442.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$18,932.00
Net Income (Gain):		\$1,510.00

FINANCIAL REPORT: APRIL 2024

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

Income:	Pledges and Offerings:	\$10,496.00
	Other Income:	\$3,674.00
	Investment Income:	\$17,000.00
	Total Income:	\$31,170.00
Expenses:	Total Expenses:	\$24,729.00
Net Income (Gain):		\$6,441.00

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!

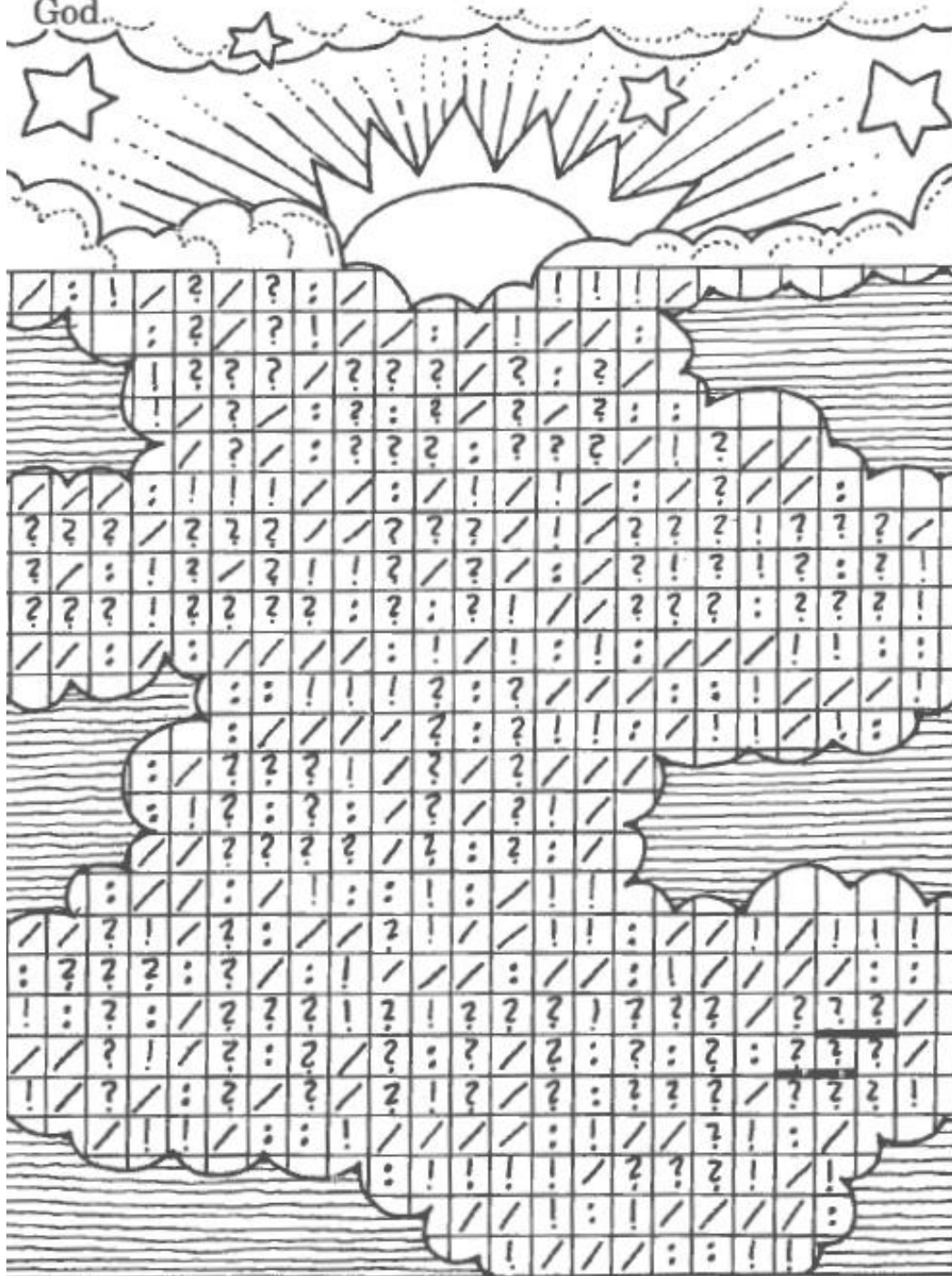
Food Bank. Donations for the Food Bank are always needed if you are able to contribute. Non-perishable items such as canned beef stew, hearty soups, canned fish, peanut butter, mac and cheese packages, and oatmeal would be greatly appreciated.

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.

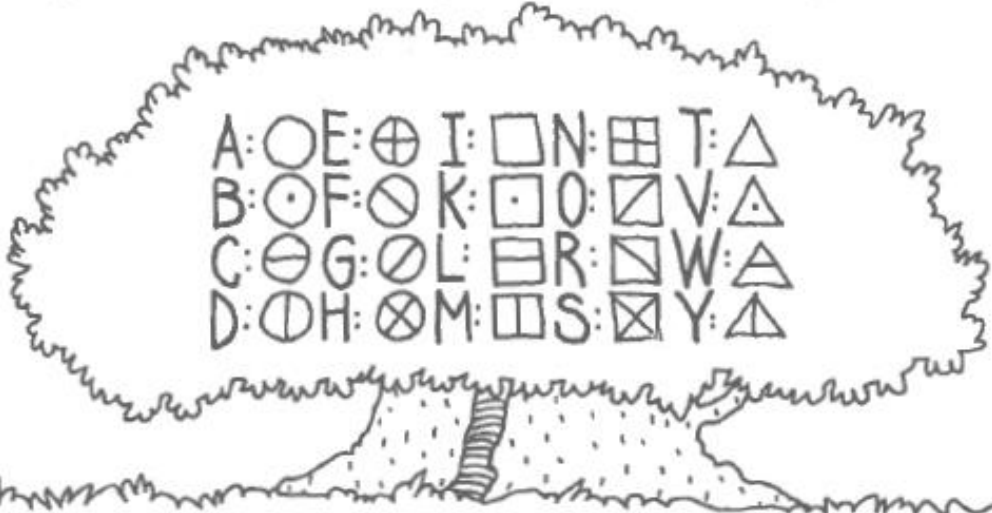
WHY ME?

Read Job 38:1-11; 42:1-3. God asked Job some questions to show Job who He really is. Use a pencil to color in each square that contains a question mark. When completed, you will find Job's answer about God.



Strange Tree

A sad event occurred at this tree to make it different from all other trees. Use the code from the strange tree to solve the puzzle. Read the story in Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-23.



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REGISTER TO
**RIDE OR
VOLUNTEER
NOW!**



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and Yale New Haven Hospital

RideCloserToFree.org



Mount Carmel Congregational Church
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lyndapedersen@att.net

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

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato
treasurer@mccucc.com

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