



THE BELL TREE
AN MCCC PUBLICATION

A Newsletter for
MAY 2024

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings!

As May begins and Spring tries to take residence for longer than a day or two at a time, we are surrounded by many signs of new life, of rejuvenation. The cycle of life that we follow with our liturgical year—life, death, resurrection, growth—is the pattern for pretty much every created being. On the heels of our annual meeting, we have set our vision on how we can grow and thrive in the days to come, days that offer us new life together.

Part of that life together is communicating clearly. I was asked recently what days I am in the office in case people want to drop by. First, remember our office hours are limited: the office is open from nine to noon, Tuesday through Thursday. In general, I am in the office on Tuesday morning. Over time, I have learned it is good for me to vary my second day in the office between Wednesday and Thursday because I get to see different people. Twenty hours disappear quickly each week. I work hard to make the best use of them.

All of that to say, my schedule is flexible, and I am happy to meet with you any time; it just needs to be set up on purpose, so you are not frustrated if you drop by and I am not here. Text messages to my mobile number (781.405.3435) are a good way to find me if you need me quickly.

Continuing with calendar things, I will be on vacation from June 5-29. I am going back to Ireland to be the chef for two peace retreats in and around Belfast. You may remember I did the same thing last year.

I know this month's article is full of details, but that is what makes up life, isn't it?

Peace,
Milton

MAY 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>May 5th, 2024: Holy Communion</u> <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> Scripture: Acts 10: 44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17</p>	<p><u>May 12th, 2024</u> <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> Scripture: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5: 9-13 John 17: 6-19</p>
<p><u>May 19th, 2024</u> Pentecost Sunday Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21 Psalm 104: 24-34 Romans 8: 22-27 John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15</p>	<p><u>May 26th, 2024: Trinity Sunday</u> <i>First Sunday After Pentecost</i> Scripture: Isaiah 6: 1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8: 12-17 John 3: 1-17</p>



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Wishes Go to the Following:

Aren Alberico	May 3 rd	Anna Anderson	May 19 th
Greta Edelman	May 4 th	Owen Grantz	May 22 nd
Wilis Copeland	May 6 th	Richard Jaynes	May 27 th
Ellen Amato	May 11 th	Sandee Martin	May 28 th
Heidi Grantz	May 11 th	Chris Duffy	May 31 st

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

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

Outreach

Strengthen the Church. The next special offering will be Strengthen the Church. Many of these funds will be used to support youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches around the country. We will collect the offering on Sunday, May 19th. Please note “Strengthen the Church” in the memo line on your check and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

-Debbie Wooley

Shirts and Skirts

Our Shirts and Skirts meeting for this month will be held in the parish hall on May 28th at 6:00pm. We have scheduled an Indoor Picnic. Please bring your own picnic supper. Paper goods, dessert, beverages, and entertainment will be provided. Please come and join in for an evening of fun and fellowship.

-Vera DeAngelo

Stewardship

There are no additional pledges to report. There is still time to make your pledge for this year. Please see Debbie or Ellen for a pledge card. If you have any additional questions regarding stewardship and pledging, please contact me by email at ce@mccucc.com.

“You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.” – Robert Louis Stevenson

-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!

-Aren Alberico

Financial Report: March and April 2024

The financial reports for March and April are still being worked on, so they will be featured in next month's June Bell Tree newsletter. If you have any questions, Ellen can be reached at treasurer@mccucc.com.

-Ellen Amato

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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.

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.

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.

Lost & Found. As of the time of writing, we have a number of items in our Lost & Found: 1) A pair of unbranded leopard-print glasses left from the Shirts and Skirts Christmas Party; 2) A pair of Foster Grant leopard-print glasses; and 3) A straw hat. If any of these items belong to you, then please contact the Church Office at your earliest convenience.

Directory. Copies of the 2024 Directory are available in the Office. 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.

2023 Annual Report. Printed copies of the 2023 Annual Report are available for pickup in the office. If you would like a digital (PDF) copy of the report, please fill out this Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/2023report>) 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.

(Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:6-11)

Jesus Floats Through the Air



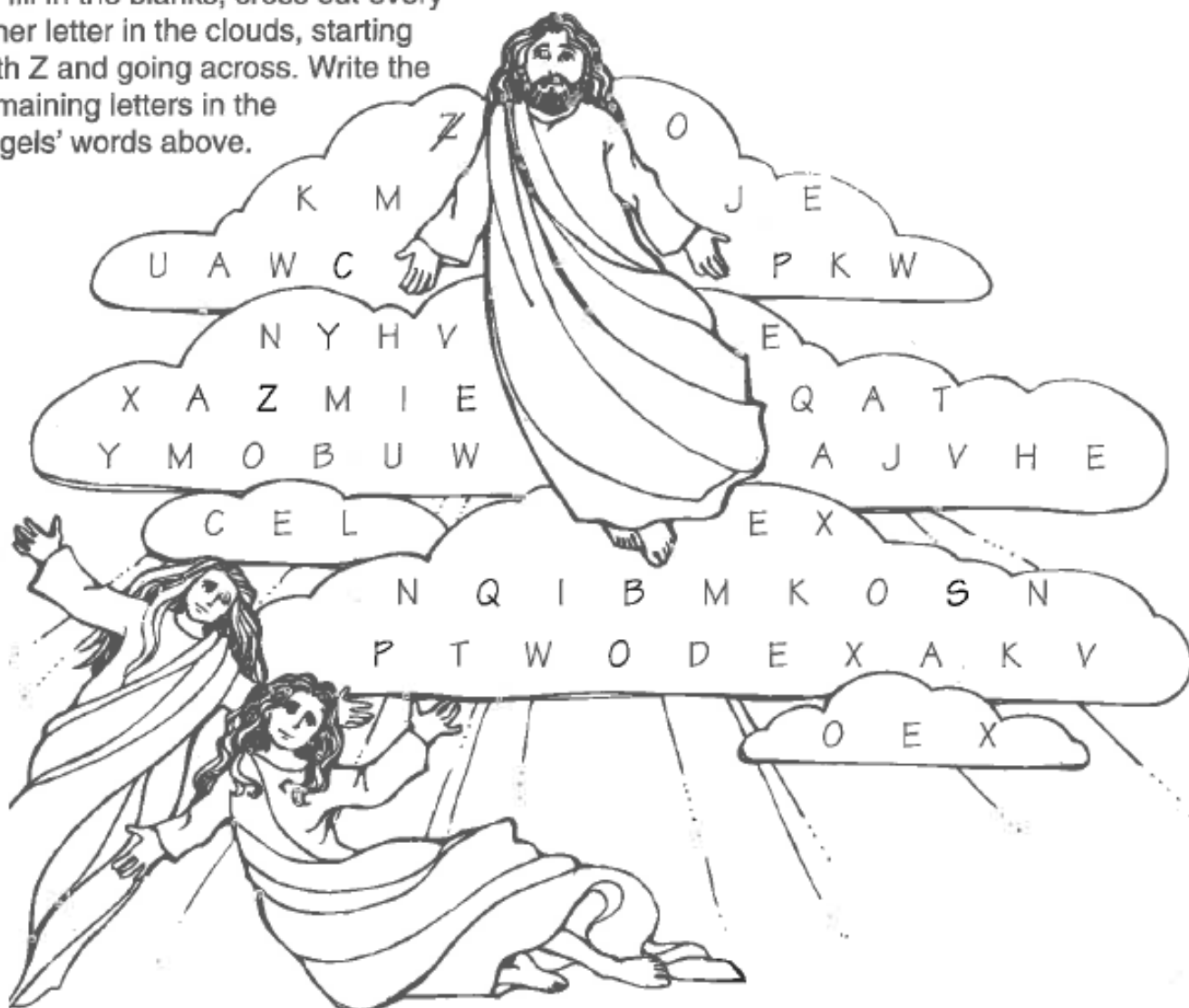
For forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, many people saw Him. On the fortieth day, as He stood with His apostles, Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed them. Then He was lifted up before their eyes, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. As they kept on gazing up, two angels stood beside them. *“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will*

c_____ b_____ i_____ t_____ s_____ w_____ y_____

h_____ s_____ h_____ g_____ i_____ h_____ n.”

(Acts 1:11)

To fill in the blanks, cross out every other letter in the clouds, starting with Z and going across. Write the remaining letters in the angels' words above.



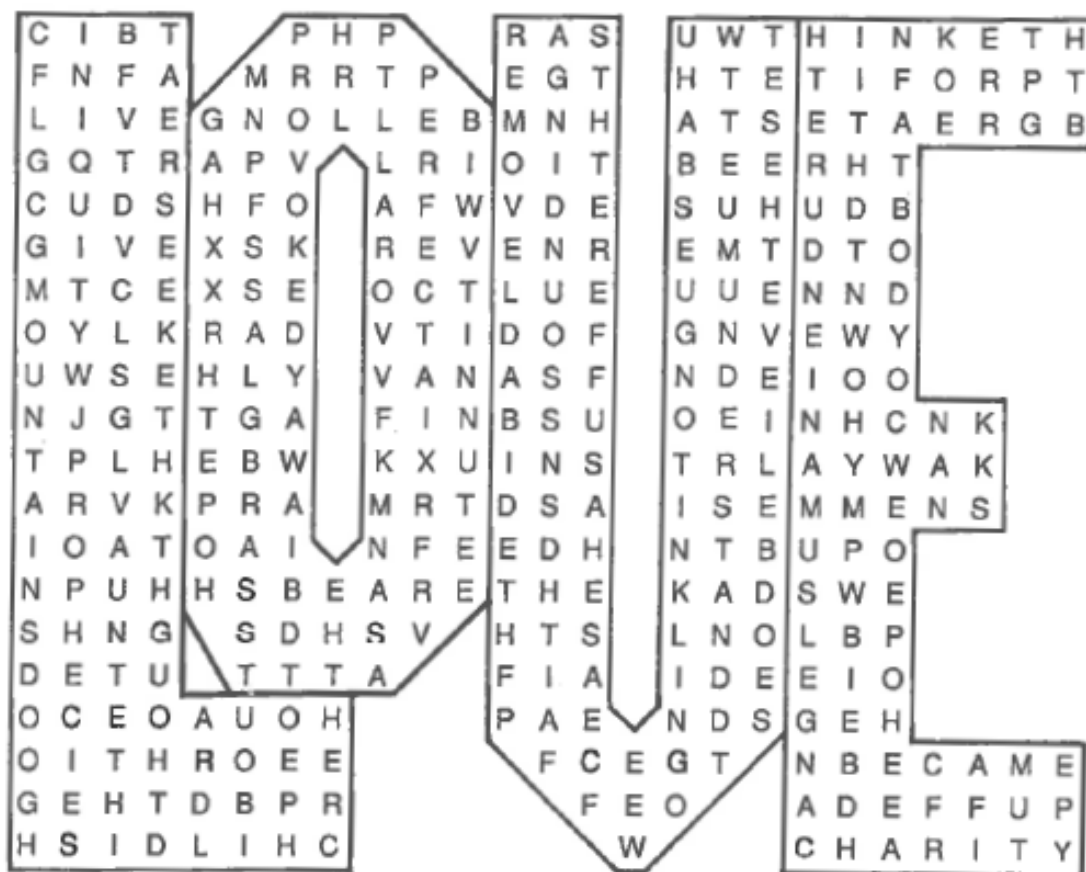
Love is the Most Important Thing

1 Corinthians 13

In his letter to the Christians at Corinth, Paul told them that the most important thing a Christian could have in his or her life was love, and Paul told the Christians how to know if they truly loved other people. This is how God wants us to live as Christians today too. In the Bible, the word "charity" means "love."

The hidden words in the puzzle come from I Corinthians 13. As you find and circle each word in the puzzle, cross it off the list. You can cross lines in finding the hidden words.

ABIDETH	BRASS	ENVIETH	GREATEST	MEN	PROVOKED	THOUGHT
ALL	BURNED	EVIL	HER	MOUNTAINS	PUFFED	THREE
ANGELS	BUT	FACE	HOPE	MYSTERIES	REMOVE	TINKLING
AWAY	CEASE	FAIL	HOPETH	NEVER	SEE	TONGUES
BEARETH	CHARITY	FAITH	INIQUITY	OWN	SEEKETH	TRUTH
BECAME	CHILD	FEED	KIND	PART	SOUNDING	UNDERSTAND
BEHAVE	CHILDISH	GIFT	KNOWLEDGE	PERFECT	SPAKE	UNDERSTOOD
BELIEVETH	CYMBAL	GIVE	KNOWN	PROFITETH	SPEAK	VANISH
BESTOW	DARKLY	GLASS	LONG	PROPHECIES	SUFFERETH	VAUNTETH
BODY	ENDURETH	GOODS	MAN	PROPHECY	THINKETH	





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A Division of Yale University
and Yale New Haven Hospital

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Save Money Save Energy

Home Energy Audits Include:

-  Heating System Safety & Efficiency Check
-  Air Leak and Draft Sealing
-  Exterior Door Weatherstripping
-  Window Caulking
-  LED Light Bulbs
-  Energy Saving Shower Heads & Faucet Aerators

Every Month

You're paying a small charge on your utility bill to help all Connecticut Residents make their homes more energy efficient. Check your own bills. (*Combined Public Benefits Charge)

SAMPLE UTILITY BILL

Delivery Services Detail Distribution Rate:001

Transmission Chrg	620.00KWH x \$0.019790	\$12.27
Comb Public Benefit Chrg	620.00KWH x \$0.00390	\$6.44
Subtotal		\$61.03

What you pay

Explanation of your charges

*The Combined Public Benefits Charge represents a combination of three charges formerly known as: Conservation and Load Mgmt Charge, Renewable Energy Investment Charge, and Systems Benefits Charge. This charge also includes the Conservation Adjustment Mechanism approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in Docket No. 13-11-14

Redeem Your Benefit

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Donald Moses

Community Outreach Representative

donald@homecomfortpractice.com

165 Benton Street m: (203) 521-8742

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Windows



homecomfortpractice.com

EnerGize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an Initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, The Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local electric and gas utilities. (With funding from a charge on customer's energy bills)



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

Office Admin: Mr. Aren Alberico
office@mccucc.com

Music Director: Mrs. Lynda Pedersen
lyndapedersen@att.net

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

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellen Amato
treasurer@mccucc.com

Facebook: @mountcarmelcongregationalchurch

Instagram: mountcarmelchurch1

Officers:

President: Tom Duffy
thomasduffy67@gmail.com

Clerk: Beverly Jurkiewicz
bevjjur@comcast.net

Board of Deacons: Bev Jurkiewicz, Chair

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