

THE SEEKER FOR DECEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear Friends,

My cup runneth over! I am thrilled and honored to be writing you as your new pastor. I loved meeting many of you last Sunday and I look forward to getting to know you and sharing in the journey of life with you. It is a particular joy to join you in ministry at the beginning of Advent, the season of waiting and anticipation of the coming of the Christ child.

The commercialization of our sacred season is everywhere we turn—on the radio, in the news, and in the storefronts and shop windows. There are to-do lists a mile long, mine included, and for many of us, it's not because we are caught up with "things," but rather, 'tis the season to be joyful and generous and, as an extension of our faith, we want to be part of that. Even still, with 3 Advent Calendars at home, all involving chocolate consumption before 7 a.m., welcoming the Christ Child can feel a little bit like swimming upstream.

Amidst all the frenzy and preparation, it's those moments of quiet that come on occasion that are most precious. A walk along the lakeshore, a snowshoe in the winter woods, lights twinkling on the trees, a candle's steady welcome in the window—whenever we can take a moment to pause, and to be still, and to realize the great story of our faith, and that we are part of it—that is a moment very well spent. Our restless searching for God's presence according to our expectations pauses in these moments, and we behold the astonishing gift of the season: God with us.

English poet Christina Rossetti wrote a Christmas poem in the late 19th Century, and it later became the beloved Christmas carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter." Remember these lines?

What can I give him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man
I would do my part
Yet what I can I give him
Give my heart.

Together let us set out on our journey to Bethlehem, to hear again the old but always stunning story of the Creator entering into Creation—Emmanuel, God with us. May our days be filled with wonder as we marvel at this birth, and share the joyous news with the world.

A blessed Advent to you all.

Faithfully,

Ali

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE

There is still time to get your pledge card in.

I am happy to report that our time for recognizing all that God has given us and our response of being good stewards has done very well so far.

About 2/3 of the members of Caldwell have pledged to support the mission of the church. The reason for this article is, I know that some of you are away or not able to attend at this time and I want to remind you that you still have an opportunity to take us over the top.

With our new pastor, Ali, and the excitement I felt on Sunday I know that we have great opportunities ahead of us this year to serve the Lord in powerful ways. And since the elders are budgeting for next year, I want them to feel free to take giant steps of faith without money concerns.

Soooooooo if you have not sent in your pledge I encourage you to do so very soon and remember to be good stewards of all God has given you.....your time, talents, love and care of His world as well as your wealth.

Sincerely,

Lynda Glenn

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to recycle paper. We received another check from Green Fiber in the amount of \$65.00.

Keep up the good work!



Christmas Eve Singers Wanted:

If you have always wanted to join the choir, but couldn't commit to a full year, or Thursday nights, here is your chance! We are seeking singers in 7th grade through adult to sing with the choir on Christmas Eve at 7:30.

Rehearsals are on Thursday night at 7:30, and we are going to rehearse Sunday after church starting on Dec. 7th., at 11:30. Hope to see you on Thursday, or Sunday!

Beth & Jim



Fellowship and Hospitality

Committee Members: Emilia Bernd, Helene Horn, Ann Kohland, Tom Jenne, Joni Steiner, Sue Moore and Jessica King (chairperson).

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30am in the middle room at Caldwell Church. We encourage anyone who would like to be a part of this committee to join us. Perhaps you would just like to help at some of the events we sponsor. If that is your choice please contact one of our committee members.

Our committee arranges for Coffee hour hosts. Please check the bulletin board in the coffee room to see when your name appears. If you find the date you have been assigned is not good for you, we ask that you find someone to take your place. It is possible to just switch dates with someone else who is listed with their permission. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHANGE ON THE CHART AND NOTIFY TOM JENNE OF YOUR ACTION. (Tom's-cell:#716-870-0013).

We celebrate the first Sunday of each month as Birthday Sunday for all people who have birthdays in the current month. A cake is provided which will be found in the refrigerator in the church kitchen. You may choose to serve just cake and coffee or if you prefer you may add other snacks as you see fit. There is a list of instructions to follow on the cupboard door near the sink describing how to make the coffee etc.

Our Church has a history of being warm and friendly. If anyone in the congregation has visitors sitting in a pew near them we ask that you reach out and encourage them to come to the coffee hour and share in the fellowship and hospitality



Coffee Hour Hosts:

DECEMBER

7 Monroe family

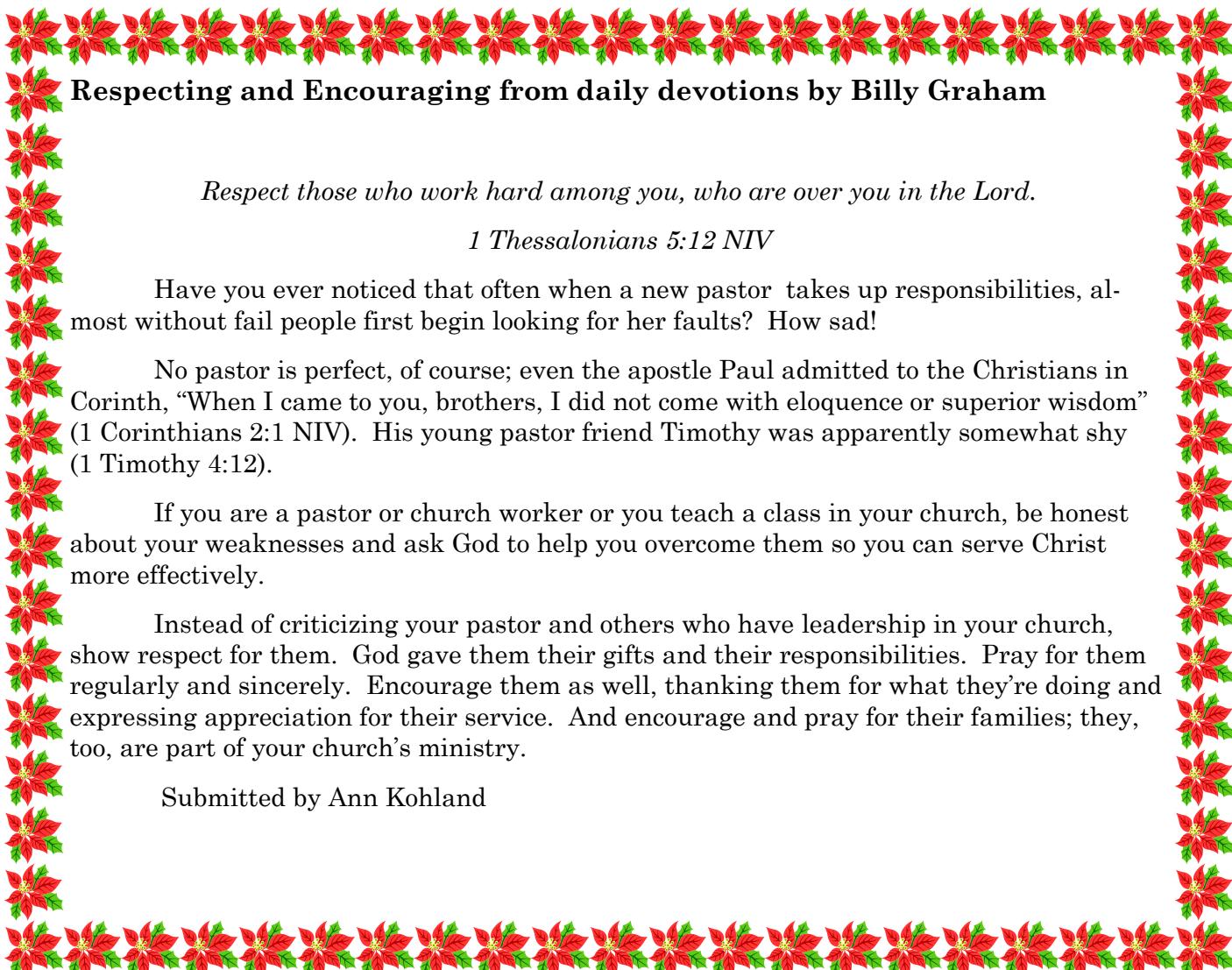
14 Jeff & Patti Brozyna

21 Jess King

28 Dave King family

7

Please note that the **Seeker Deadline** for January 2015 is December 17th! This early due to the Christmas holiday the following week.
Thank you .



Respecting and Encouraging from daily devotions by Billy Graham

Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 NIV

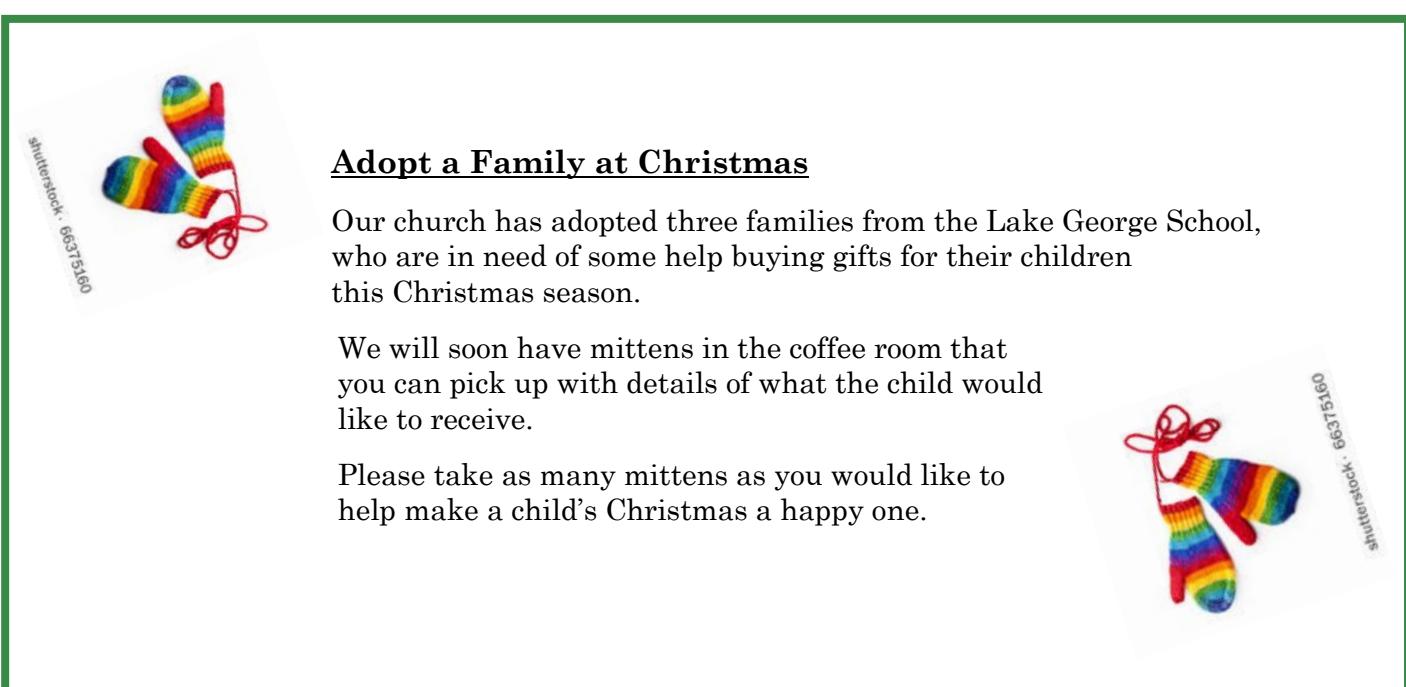
Have you ever noticed that often when a new pastor takes up responsibilities, almost without fail people first begin looking for her faults? How sad!

No pastor is perfect, of course; even the apostle Paul admitted to the Christians in Corinth, "When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:1 NIV). His young pastor friend Timothy was apparently somewhat shy (1 Timothy 4:12).

If you are a pastor or church worker or you teach a class in your church, be honest about your weaknesses and ask God to help you overcome them so you can serve Christ more effectively.

Instead of criticizing your pastor and others who have leadership in your church, show respect for them. God gave them their gifts and their responsibilities. Pray for them regularly and sincerely. Encourage them as well, thanking them for what they're doing and expressing appreciation for their service. And encourage and pray for their families; they, too, are part of your church's ministry.

Submitted by Ann Kohland



KIDS CORNER

CRAFT SUNDAY AND PICKING OF PARTS FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS THIS SUNDAY , NOV. 30TH.

—We will practice during Sunday School on the 7th and the 14th.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS SUNDAY DEC. 21ST.

If you know you will not be at church on this day, please let us know so we don't assign your child a part. If you don't plan to be in church on the 30th, let us know as well and we'll contact you if your child would like a part.

Your Christian Education Elders,
Judy Guilford, Yvonne Fuller, and Sarah King

LOVE FEAST AND WREATH MAKING ACTIVITY

Love Feast and Advent Wreath Activity

We will hold this activity on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th at 5:00 pm. This is a really nice event and does not tend to run past 7pm.

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in this special event open to all Caldwell families and friends. Here's how it works:

Those attending should bring enough sandwiches, whole pieces of fruit and baked goods for their family. The idea is to make the sandwiches special, as if for a friend because all the food is pooled and shared. (You may not necessarily eat what you bring but if you have a picky eater who only eats what you make, it isn't a deal breaker- come anyway!)

After the Feast, we will distribute Styrofoam rings, fresh greens and candles...all the materials needed to make a beautiful Advent Wreath. If you have pruning shears, bring those along. We can always use another pair. If you have your ring from last year, bring that as well. The 2-hour evening will conclude with a brief Advent reading, songs, and the lighting of the first Advent candle.

Come; join your Caldwell family in this meaningful Christmas tradition. Watch for the sign-up sheets or contact Sarah King at 798-0615 or at scubakings@roadrunner.com if you would like to attend.



FOR SALE

The coffee room drop-leaf table—20th Century Hepplewhite, mahogany with inlay —72" opens to 120" with four leaves—completely repaired, and in excellent condition—appraisal \$500.00—make offer—

contact the church office if interested.

#668-2613

DEACON'S CORNER

With your help the Deacons have been working hard all year.

The Food Pantry continues to be a wonderful community service to many. This month over 100 people have been served. You only need to go to the grocery store and see how much food costs to know there is a great need for many. We are happy to be a part of helping hungry people. We will be distributing approximately 53 Thanksgiving Baskets WOW! It is nice to know that these families will have an opportunity to eat well and be thankful.

We will continue our Soup Ministry. As a reminder, if you make soup or a meal/ casserole put some in a little container or big one and bring it to church and we will freeze it and give it to people in need. These are given to people back from the hospital, sick etc.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. This is the perfect time to sit in your favorite chair and get those needles clicking. For those of you who don't know..... using a soft yarn, a wide blanket like shawl is made for someone who is sick, suffering from a loss etc. As you make the shawl you are asked to pray for the person who will eventually receive it. It is a simple pattern that Lynda or others could teach you in a few hours.

We also sent to our college students a gift card to let them know we care and are thinking of them.

Christmas Families Soon you will see mittens hanging in the coffee room. On it you will find a gift item(age and sex included) that is on the wish list of a child that goes to Lake George School. We have chosen to support 3 families this holiday. You may take one or more mittens, buy the item, tape the mitten on the gift and bring it to church by a date yet to be announced. This year you should not wrap them as we will give the parents wrapping paper and allow them the joy of seeing the gift to be given to their child and wrapping it. If you want to buy something but hate to shop we have a couple people 'willing to take your money and shop for you'. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Remember....The Deacons are the caring arms of the church and the community, but YOU are the eyes and ears who guide us. May God continue to bless our ministry.

Sue Hunsicker-Moderator, Rummage Sale, Food Pantry, Caroling

Patti Brozyna- Christmas Families, Sunshine, Soup ministry

Lynda Glenn-Recording Treasurer, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Christmas Families, Seeker

Bob Gunther- Rummage Sale, Food Pantry, Gas Cards

Tom Jenne-Food Pantry, Holiday Baskets

Margy Mannix- Secretary, Holiday Baskets, Food Pantry, Soup ministry

Tim McCann-Rummage Sale, College Care

December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Fellowship & Hosp. Mtg. 10:30	3 Mission Committee Mtg. 7	4 Choir 7:30	5	6 Breakfast with Santa
7 Pageant Practice CHOIR 11:40 Pot Luck Lunch-eon with Pastor Ali	8	9	10	11 Choir 7:30	12	13
14 Pageant Practice CHOIR 11:40	15	16 Dinner with Deacons 6p.m. Session Mtg. to follow.	17 Seeker Deadline	18 Choir 7:30	19	20
21 Christmas Pageant CHOIR 11:40	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:30	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27
28	29	30				

Happy Birthday

Erica Quigan

Margaret Earl

Jessica King

Melody Perry

Jessie Pagnotta

Michael Quigan

Jesus Christ

Sarah Bunalski

Karen Azer

Sean Mannix

Kathy Duel

Tom Jenne

Kim Cornelius

Todd Earl





"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more!"

from *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss



Feeling grateful for the many blessings in your life?

Looking for a meaningful way to give gifts? – A way that *may help others*,
and not just add to the overabundance of “stuff” collecting dust?

On two Sundays, following church services,

November 30 and December 7

the Mission Committee will offer both notecards and Christmas cards handmade by an artist in Haiti
We will also provide a list of organizations doing wonderful work to help those in need and instructions for making a
donation.

Slips, listing the recipient of your gift will be available to insert into the cards before sending to friends and family.

Of course, cards can be purchased just to send a greeting or to use as Christmas cards, without
participating in the alternative gift portion. This will still benefit the family of the card-maker in Haiti.



WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING? A WAY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE ALL SEASON LONG.

Advent and Christmas are times to celebrate the arrival of “the true light” (John 1:9). The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides the opportunity for congregations to join this celebration by supporting those in need of help and hope.

The Christmas Joy Offering applied \$953,091 of funds raised last year toward integral operating expenses, like materials and program support. Thanks to you, most importantly, it provides financial assistance to individuals and families that have dedicated their lives to the church, and supports education and leadership development for students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment, we also hear the encouraging words, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:4). When we give, the light of Christ also shines through us and illuminates those in need.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's.

The Offering distributes gifts 50/50 to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Assistance Program provides integral financial support to church workers and their families.

Presbyterian-related school and colleges not only provide education and spiritual leadership, they nurture racial and ethnic heritage.

You can learn more at presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy.

The Joy Offering will be received at Caldwell Presbyterian Church on
Sunday, December 21, 2014.

NEWS FROM THE HAITI MISSION SCHOOL

The month of October was mostly a paperwork and preparation month. We began by writing letters to the Committee in Jérémie, and to Director Kenold and the teachers. In writing to Haiti, we first compose the letter in English, being careful to write so it is more easily translated and most completely understood. The latter is critical because we have learned that there are not only language difficulties, but also differences in cultural expectations and understandings.

Next we must translate the letters. In this we are aided by "Google Translate". Still, the translator by itself can come up with some rather interesting renditions, so we need to carefully read it with our own limited Haitian Creole. Frequently we feel more like students than founders of a school. It is all slow, laborious and time consuming and [we hope] ends in what we really wanted to say.

In our communications we always emphasize that the Committee in Jérémie is our partner through whom we work. We also remind people that we have a Board of Directors here in the U.S. to whom we are responsible and that Board, in turn, is responsible to our supporters. Although we are aware that this process often slows us down, it also gives us time to think, and other minds to think with us. We think of it as a three-legged stool that provides better balance and dependability than a two-legged one. This has often been difficult for Director Kenold and the teachers who would like to deal directly with us rather than through the Jérémie Committee.

October brought a special opportunity for us. During a trip to Illinois to visit family, we were able to visit and worship with the First Christian Church in Watseka, IL. They are one of our supporting congregations and this year are raising money to purchase bibles we give to our third grade students. During the children's message at church that morning, with the children's help, we talked about the Bible donation program at the school and showed pictures.



We were impressed with the children's serious questions and interest. One youngster, a boy by the name of Peter, was particularly helpful. Later in Sunday school, they only wanted to talk about Haiti. So instead of the planned lesson, they talked more about Haiti and made some greeting cards for four students they will pray for. We will translate and take them with us when we go in November.

Speaking of the November trip, by the time you read this, we will be home again. We wrote about the trip in last month's news. This will mostly be a fact-finding trip to see how the new arrangements are working out. We plan to talk about future possibilities with government representatives, the Committee and the teachers. We also plan to visit the secondary school where our graduates attend. We will share more about the trip in next month's newsletter.

Together with the students, teachers and the various responsible committees of the Haiti Mission School, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and joyous New Year



GIFTAPALOOZA—FOOD PANTRY BENEFIT AT THE LAKE GEORGE HOLIDAY INN

COME ONE, COME ALL TO SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS DURING THE LARGEST THIRTY-ONE PARTY OF THE YEAR. RACHAEL IS USING 100% OF HER COMMISSION TO HELP STOCK THE LAKE GEORGE/CALDWELL CHURCH FOOD. SHE IS ALSO GOING TO USE THE HOSTESS REWARDS FROM THE PARTY TO BUY ESSENTIAL STORAGE TOTES FOR THE FAMILIES TO USE OVER AND OVER AGAIN AS THEY RECEIVE THEIR FOOD.

PLEASE BRING YOUR CO-WORKERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS! SEE YOU THERE!

RACHAIL LUJBLI

THIRTY-ONE INDEPENDENT SR. DIRECTOR

(518) 935-3703

CAN'T MAKE IT BUT LOVE THE IDEA OF BENEFIT SHOPPING? VISIT
[WWW.SHOPWITHRACHAEL.COM....CLICK ON “MY EVENTS” THEN “SHOP NOW” NEXT TO GIFTSPALOOZA!](http://WWW.SHOPWITHRACHAEL.COM....CLICK ON ‘MY EVENTS’ THEN ‘SHOP NOW’ NEXT TO GIFTSPALOOZA!)

The Seeker

Caldwell Presbyterian Church
71 Montcalm St.
Lake George, NY 12845

All are welcomed into The Caldwell Church Family.

We would love to see you in church on
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM!

Contact Information:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613
Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org
Pastor's Email—pastor@caldwellpres.org
Website—www.caldwellpres.org