

THE SEEKER—MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear Caldwell Members and Friends,

During the month of March we are offering what for some will be a first, even a once in a lifetime opportunity in interfaith exploration. If you've never before visited a **synagogue** or spoken with a **rabbi**, or a **mosque** and spoken with an **imam**, or a **monastery** and been led in a Vespers Service by **monks**, you have an opportunity to do so this month.

A longtime friend and mentor from my days in Chicago is Rev. Paul Rutgers, whose service on the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, an inter-religious community of leaders from diverse faith traditions, has been a source of inspiration for his Christian faith practice. The council gathers with the purpose of furthering friendship and understanding. Paul would tell you that his faith as a Presbyterian Pastor is not diluted by his involvement on the council, but rather strengthened by opportunities to join together in sharing prayers and spiritual practices in faith traditions other than his own. In my own interfaith experiences, I have found the same to be true.

You will see in the schedule below, there are three outings to which you all are cordially invited. Join us as we get to know each other personally and professionally, sharing in our faith commitments in community. Join us as we explore shared and distinctive dimensions of our faith traditions. And join us as we engage in discussions about inter-religious and civic issues, and provide support to one another when issues of religious prejudice, discrimination, and persecution arise.

Our purpose is to find common ground, to build friendship, and to be Christ's body shining forth God's great love in each of these places and beyond, all for the common good. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

God be with you all,

Ali



Judaism: Sunday, March 3rd, 12:30-1:45 at Temple Beth El, 3 Marion Ave, Glens Falls. Rabbi Norman Mendel, or "Rabbi Norm," of Temple Beth El, is giving an open forum talk on "A Taste of Judaism."

Islam: Saturday, March 9th, 11:45-1:30 at Latham Mosque Al-Hidaya Center, 322 Troy Schenectady Rd, Latham, NY. We have been invited by Imam Djafer and the Muslim Youth Group to have pizza lunch, then 12:30-12:45 we will join their prayer service, followed by a discussion "Intro to Islam" led by Imam Djafer.

Eastern Orthodox Church, Friday, March 22nd, 3:30-6:00 p.m. at New Skete Monastery, 273 New Skete Rd, Cambridge, NY. Brother Gregory, a monk who raises the German Shepherds, will lead us on a tour, give us history about the Eastern Orthodox Church, show us the puppy kennel if there are puppies (the monks source of income), take us to Vespers at 5 p.m. (30 min service), and give us a piece of the famous cheese cake (nuns source of income). \$6/person.

All are welcome to attend any and all of these ecumenical and interfaith events. We would be delighted to have you join us.

Preschool News

~Thanks for your support by being so generous at the Pie Auction

~ **Fundraiser and Celebration of the 45 years of the Preschool**

March 19th, 5:30 at the Holiday Inn, LG

We have invited Teachers/Directors from the past
and students from the past and all of the LG community.

Please come for a great night out and celebrate this wonderful school
and it's many years here in the community.

~ Registration for the Fall is coming along nicely

13 kids in the 4's class, 4 kids in the 3's class

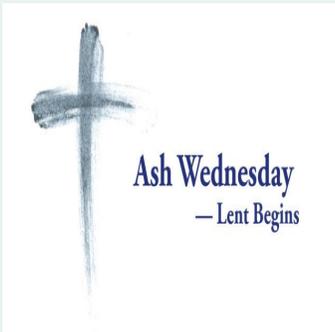
Thank you for your support and love for the preschool.

It is a wonderful light here in the Lake George community.

You are all such a blessing to us!



LENT at Caldwell Presbyterian Church



Join us on the journey to Jerusalem

Ash Wednesday Service ~ Wednesday, March 6, 12:00-12:30 p.m.

A Prayer Service with the Imposition of Ashes.

NEW!: Lenten Lunch and Book Study: Join us as we explore our faith on Wednesdays throughout Lent studying Sam Gould's *Being Christian in the Twenty-First Century*, a book written for: "those who are yearning for a faith and understanding of Christianity that is beyond literalism, dogmatism, and creedal formulations--all of which seem to be driving people away from the church...by building upon progressive thought available today and throughout history [this book] offers an important resource for Christians and Christian *alumni* seeking a more fulfilling yet thoughtful faith journey."

The discussions promise to be engaging and fascinating as we talk about how we are practicing our Christianity and whether the way we are doing our faith walk deals with the current needs of our society. We hope you will consider making this discussion group a part of your Lenten journey. To order the book (\$18.99) call the church office (518-668-2613). If cost is a problem, please speak to Pastor Ali.

Service of Wholeness and Healing

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.

A Prayer Service with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil

All Are Welcome

Fellowship and Hospitality

The Fellowship and Hospitality 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 Berne Kouba #518-798-6180.**



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. There is a list of instructions in the kitchen on how to use the coffee urns.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- MARCH**
- 03 – Rebecca and KC Glenn family**
 - 10 – Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser**
 - 17 – Eileen Horgan and Dale Tolene**
 - 24 – Tom & Bev Roach**
 - 31 – Ed Kopf and Jo Anne Pederson**
- APRIL**
- 07 – The Moody family**
 - 14 – The Quigan family**
 - 21 – The MacEachron family**
 - 28 – The Earl family**

Caldwell For Kids

Sunday, March 10th- Spaghetti Scholarship Fundraiser after Church

Wednesday, March 27th- Community Dinner at Sacred Heart

Saturday, March 30th- Hockey Game at the Civic Center 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 7th- Confirmation Class after Church

Sunday, April 14th- Visit to Westmount after Church

Sunday, April 21st- Easter Service with Egg Hunt to Follow



MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE OF WARREN COUNTY



Enriching the Lives of Children in Foster Care



The all-volunteer Children's Committee of Warren County has provided over 60 years of service on behalf of the foster children of Warren County. There are NO administrative expenses! Your contributions are used directly for a child.

Sheila Brodie, co-chair of the Children's Committee of Warren County, will share about their work during a Sunday in March! She will be accompanied by a young woman who has received help from the organization and who will speak about her experiences with the organization.

Our own Peg Earl, a volunteer with the Committee, will also speak during a Sunday in March.

*The Children's Committee's mission as a charitable organization is to help meet some of the financial and social needs of children in foster care. Income is received from an annual fund-raiser each December, private donations and designated United Way funds.
No financial assistance is received from the government*

THE LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY HAS A BOOK SALE THE
SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
FROM 10-2.



Report from the Caldwell Safety Team

In response to a November 2018 information and safety training program provided by Undersheriff Shawn Lamoure, a safety team was formed to explore safety concerns and procedures here at Caldwell.

The safety team members lead by Pastor Ali include Todd Earl, KC & Becky Glenn, Jeb Trowbridge, Roger Glenn, Alex Parrott and JoEllen Parsons.

Our first meeting focused on safety plans for the Christmas Eve service. At our second meeting we began to make longer range plans. We considered issues of fire safety, the possibility of an active shooter, health emergencies, the safety of our preschoolers, our Sunday School students, Beth, Pastor Ali or others when they are in the building alone.

Some decisions have been made and implemented:

- (1) Space has been cleared at the front of the sanctuary so, if necessary, people can evacuate through the choir loft and/or past the grand piano as well as the narthex. (Main doors at back of church)
- (2) A new FIRST AID KIT AND AED DEVICE have been purchased and installed in the hall next to Leo's Closet (near the bathrooms).
- (3) CPR, FIRST AID AND AED TRAINING is being planned for the Safety Team members. If there are others in the congregation who are interested in this training, please call The office or send an email. If there is enough interest, we will try to provide a training at church or post in the bulletin and/or Seeker where trainings are available.
- (4) A decision was made and has been implemented to LOCK ALL DOORS AFTER WORSHIP HAS STARTED so we will know who is in the building when our children are in church school and to prevent unwanted visitors from entering the building. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE THROUGH ANY DOOR AT ANY TIME. DURING WORSHIP, PEOPLE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ENTER THROUGH THE NARTHEX DOORWAY (doors at the rear of the sanctuary).
- (5) We believe that in case of an emergency, it is important for the congregation to know what to do and be able to do it as quickly and as safely as possible. Because of this, We are planning to have a time to PRACTICE EVACUATION OF THE BUILDING. We are tentatively planning this practice evacuation at the end of the service on May 5. The service will be shortened that morning to allow for the practice. More information will be forthcoming.

The safety team will be meeting again on March 24. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to talk with any of the committee members. We believe it is better to be prepared with a plan and not need it than to need a plan and not have one. We thank you for your prayers and support.

To our friends and supporters of Haiti Mission School.

We are aware that many of you make donations to the school through your church offerings. While we send individual thanks to those who make donations directly to the school, we are not able to give separate thanks to people who donate through your Caldwell offerings.

Therefore, on behalf of parents, students and staff of the National Evangelique Siloe (AKA Haiti Mission School), we thank you very much for your generous contributions to provide for the operation of the school.

We are pleased to report to you that the school is operating with one hundred forty-seven students currently enrolled. These donations have allowed us to provide an education, hot meals for these students and staff members, and scholarships for twenty-seven of our top graduates to nearby secondary schools.

While not all of our students will progress to advanced education, our intention is that every child that graduates from the Haiti Mission School will be able to read, write, do arithmetic and have a general understanding of history, science, world geography and the bible. They will also be able to communicate in Creole (the common language) and French, the language used for all official business.

Again, many thanks.

Tom and JoEllen Parsons



March News from the Haiti Mission School

INFLATION

Exchange rates are important in our dealings with Haiti. As I write this newsletter, the exchange rate is above 80 gourdes per dollar. Last year at this time, it was in the mid 60's. For us, this means our dollars buy more gourdes. For instance, if we send 100 dollars to Junior, currently he gets 8,000 gourdes instead of the 6500 he would have gotten last year. On the surface it sounds good. Unfortunately for most Haitians, who don't have U.S. dollars to spend, the news is not so good.

One reason the exchange rate is higher is that the country is undergoing an inflation of nearly 20 percent since last year. Compounding the inflation problem are taxes on necessities such as food and gas. As a result of these issues, gas prices have almost doubled in the last year for Haitians. Food prices in Haiti are also up nearly seventeen percent over the last year according to *tradingeconomics.com*. In places like Jèrèmie, where most food and other goods need to be transported from Port Au Prince by truck, the costs have nearly doubled. As you can imagine, when a Haitian, who is already barely making it from day to day, is confronted with inflation and

increased taxes, life gets increasingly difficult. This will clearly affect the cost of our food program as well.

In addition, as I am writing this newsletter (mid-February), the government is proposing a 10,000 gourde fee for any Haitian (in country or abroad) who hasn't paid income taxes. This fee will be charged if they need any official government document (passport, birth certificate, document notarized, etc.). At the same time, they are proposing a 75% salary and benefits increase for all senators and members of congress!



Thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets in protest of this and other government corruption. They are demanding the President, Jovenal Moise, step down. Unfortunately, in Haiti the president has been forcibly removed numerous times over the years. And of course, this removal of the president causes another problem, since few people want to invest in a country where the government is unstable.

The circle goes on and on... leading to more inflation... and more protests, and so on. It makes us very sad for our Haitian friends. Please pray for Haiti and better solutions.

HAITI TRIP STILL ON

These "*manifestations*", as they call them, happen mostly in Port Au Prince. However, when we spoke to one of our representatives in Jèrèmie, *manifestations* are now happening in Jèrèmie and other places around the country. Most of the time, these protests don't last for a long period of time, so we are still planning to go in March (15-21). *Si Dieu vle—if God wants*.

Mostly this trip will follow up on the November trip. It is important to see how the school has progressed under government control. There are several actions our Board has discussed concerning things like uniforms and books that will need to be worked out with the local committee. And of course, further discussions on the building project are necessary. While in Haiti, Howard and JoEllen will also visit Howard's projects in Monet and Gomyea.

If you want to keep up with the activities of the team, you can follow us on Facebook at Howard Nicols and/or JoEllen Parsons where we will try to post pictures and stories each day.

In Christ's service,

Tom and JoEllen Parsons
The Board of the *Friends of Siloam School at Labastille*
And the students and families of the school



Haiti Mission School
P.O. Box 445
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846
haitimissionschool@gmail.com

Please continue to keep Sabrina and the rest of
Haiti's restavec children in your prayers.

March 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3 Communion Visit Temple Beth El 12:30	4 Fellowship & Hosp. Mtg. 9:30 Woman's Bible Study 10:30 Christian Ed. Mtg. 5:30 @Ambrosia	5 Supervisory Mtg. 12:15 Student Connect Mtg. 3:00	6 LENT BEGINS Ash Wed. Service 12:00 Book Grp@Caldwell 12:30 Mission Mtg. 2:00	7 Choir 7	8 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	9 Visit Latham Mos-que 11:45-1:30
10 Spaghetti Scholarship Fundraiser 11:15	11	12	13 Book Grp@Caldwell 11:30 Community Dinner 5:00	14 Choir 7	15	16
17	18	19 Session Mtg. 5:30	20	21 Wholeness & Healing Service 6:30 Choir 7	22 Food Pantry 9:30 Visit New Skete Monastery 3:30-6:00	23
24	25	26	27 Community Dinner @Sacred Heart 5:00	28 No Choir	29	30

Happy Birthday

- 2 Dave Madden
- 3 Jeff Brozyna
- 9 Jim Corriveau
- 9 Carol Bayle
- 12 Barb O'Reilly
- 12 Lauren Azer
- 13 Pat Carpenter

- 16 Mel Quigan
- 18 Tom Parsons
- 22 Tim McCann
- 23 Kate MacEachron
- 23 Leah Jenne
- 26 Linda Nicols
- 26 John Kohland



Prayer Concerns

Karen Azer, Justin & Alex Blanco, Pam Parrott, Linda Carr, Bud Steiner, Len Bunalski, John Kohland, Bill O'Reilly, Ken Austin, refugee children & families, Marie Himes, Bill Wicks, Horgan's mother Shirley, Sue Moore, Camille Cadaluto, Melody Courter, Barbara Brundage, Kevin Galloway, Paulie Stevenson, Paige Brower, Pastor Shawn, Jean Miller, Vickie & her daughters, Mel's cousin, Laura's students Nick, Oliver & Michael, Joyce Willmen, Dean Allen, Peg Edwards, Lesley's cousin Matthew, Dari Norman, Don Peltier, Morrines, Kayla's friend Debbie, Shawna's baby, Nancy Monroe, Barbara Howell, Carpenter's sister, son-in-law, neighbor Chris & Gabrielle, Jean Miller, Judd Brynes, Dorothy Quigan, Barb O'Reilly, Pyan Cooper, Aunt Lucy, John Bunalski, CA school district negotiations, Port Au Prince-Haiti, Griffin family, Ben Nicols, Elaine Berninger.



Best Because We Grow

Easter Plants From Garden Time in Queensbury

Quantity	Item	Price Ea.	Plant Color
	Lilies 6" Pot (3-5 blooms)	\$9.99	
	Lilies 6" Pot (6+ blooms)	10.99	
	Lilies 8" Pot (2 plants)	19.99	
	Lilies 10" Pot (3 plants)	26.99	
	Tulips 6" Pot	9.99	
	Daffodils 6" Pot	9.99	
	Hyacinths 6" Pot	9.99	
	Azaleas 6" Pot	19.99	
	Azaleas 10" Pot (2 plants)	29.99	
	Mums 6" Pot	9.99	
	Cineraria 6" Pot	10.99	
	Hydrangea 6" Pot (2 blooms)**	14.99	
	Hydrangea 6" Pot (3 blooms)**	16.99	
	Hydrangea 6" Pot (4 blooms)**	18.99	
	Hydrangea 6" Pot (5 blooms)**	20.99	
	Palm Buds	9.99	

Also Available *Foil Colors Available: Pink, Purple, Gold, Green, White & Blue ** White

If you order flowers, please fill out this form and make the check out to the Caldwell Presbyterian Church. Please place it in the offering plate **by Sunday, March 11th**. You can take your flowers home following the Easter Service. Thank you.

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— ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org