

THE SEEKER FOR NOVEMBER 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear Caldwell Church Family,

As you know we are in the midst of our Annual Stewardship Campaign—a time when we are reminded of how critical it is for each of us to prayerfully consider what we can pledge for the coming year. Many of us think of this as money talk. I think of it as far more than that.

After all, it is not the pursuit of wealth we are discussing—for we know as the Apostle Paul said, “Love for money is a root of all kinds of evil.” (1 Tim 6:10) Notice it’s not that money is evil. It’s the love of money that gets us in trouble.

Read 1 Tim 6:6-19. Essentially Paul is saying, “set your first hope not on your portfolio, your savings account, your IRAs, but on God, who generously provides everything for our enjoyment.” God wants us to enjoy the gift of life. That is a very important theological statement. But Paul continues...to enjoy the gift of life, you need to do good—be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. (1 Tim 6:18-19)

The responsibility is theirs [Paul’s audience], and ours: “take hold of the life that is really life.” That’s the heart of the matter here—not percentages and numbers, pledges and church budgets, but cultivating “a life that is really life.”

In Diana Butler Bass’s book from 2018 *Grateful, the Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, she writes: “Gratitude is not about stuff. And Gratitude is not only an emotion; it is something we do. It is like tending a garden. It takes planting and watering and weeding. It takes time and attention. It takes learning. It takes routine. But, eventually, the ground yields, shoots come forth, and thanksgiving blooms, and there is a more sustained process, an ethic,” she calls it, “a personal ethic of gratitude.”

What about the world’s weariness and brokenness? How can we be grateful about that? Bass writes: “We should never be grateful for suffering, but the truth is we can be grateful through suffering, and that little prepositional switch -- that’s where the empowerment comes.”

Many people find gratitude difficult because we largely think of it in terms of some benefactor giving us a gift. We are the beneficiaries of that gift, and we’re in debt. We say this all the time: “I owe you a debt of gratitude.” So we are in debt to the benefactor until we discharge that debt: a thank you note, a return gift, a favor.

In the book, Bass sights one of her favorite verses in the bible: from the Gospel according to Luke, where Jesus says that when you give a dinner, don’t just invite your relatives and your well-to-do friends in expectation that you’re creating a quid pro quo system in hopes that they’ll pay you back. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, all those people who can never afford to repay you. He literally says to invite the poor because you will not get any payback. There will be no payback. This is the definition of generosity for me: the habit of giving freely, without expecting anything in return. And that habit of generosity is the food that nourishes and grows the grateful heart.

Bass warns us: until we get over the idea that our giving, our being generous, is really just another way of trying to control the universe in which we live – and that it is transactional and economic – we cannot be the disciples Jesus calls us to be, and churches cannot be the kind of iconic community of gratitude that’s envisioned by the New Testament.

It’s for each of us to decide how deeply and profoundly we will live our lives. The church needs our support, that is what our Annual Stewardship Campaign is all about, but the truth is, even more, you and I need to give, without counting the cost. As St. Paul told his young friend, Timothy, “Do good, . . . be rich in good works, . . . ready to share, . . . take hold of the life that really is life.”

Faithfully,

Ali

Each day I make the intentional decision to breed love, hope, and generosity, for these are my rebellious acts of protest.

-Christine Organ, UU World



Coffee Hour Hosts

November

- 3 Hunsicker family
- 10 Howard & Linda Nicols
- 17 Dale Tolene & Eileen Horgan
- 24 MacEchron family



December

- 1 Earl family
- 8 Fuller family
- 13 Carol Bayle & Berne Kouba
- 22 KC & Becky Glenn
- 29 Jo Anne Pedersen & Ed Kopf



**Volunteers needed to rake the church's leaves.
Bags are provided on the back porch.
Thank you!**

Love Feast, Advent Wreath, & Cookie Exchange

Again this year, we will hold our Love Feast and Advent Wreath Activity followed by our third annual cookie swap on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st at 5:00 pm in the Middle Room .

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, fruit, chips, etc. 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. If you have your ring from last year, bring that as well.

This activity will conclude with a brief Advent reading, song, and the lighting of the first Advent candle.

If you would like to participate in the **CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP**, it will start at 7 following the Love Feast. Please bring 6 dozen homemade cookies, all the same type and an extra tray/container to collect cookies. We will then "swap" cookies, so each participant will be going home with a beautiful assortment of everyone's cookies. Come on time so that you don't miss out!

Come, join your Caldwell family in this meaningful Christmas tradition. Watch for the sign-up sheet or contact Sarah King at 518-798-0615 or at scubakings@roadrunner.com if you would like to attend.

Christian Education Updates

“Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” – *Psalm 95:2*

Happy November from The Christian Education Committee!

In this season of gratitude, let us give thanks for those who give of themselves to the youth of Caldwell - Sarah King, Dana Power, Howard Nicols, Lynda Glenn, KC Glenn, Jeb Trowbridge, Tom Jenne, Yvonne Fuller, Gretchen Amrock, and Lesley Clemons.

Just a reminder that the grades 9-12 class does not have class the first Sunday of the month. The 4-7 grade class will return to the sanctuary for communion.

Some Dates of events to put on your calendar:



Sunday November 17th 1pm- Packing party at Operation Adopt a Soldier, 891 Saratoga Rd, Gansevoort. **We will be collecting items prior to the packing/shipping party.** To honor of our Veterans, youth and family come help pack and ship packages to deployed military personnel for Christmas. Please feel free to bring special cards or note to include in the packages. **List of items needed is located in the coffee room.**

Tuesday November 19th- Sacred Heart Church. Please help prepare the meal for the Community Dinner on Wednesday. Caldwell Pres is hosting and cooking for the November Community Dinner. Please RSVP to Pastor Ali /ali@caldwellpres.org for times and to let her know if you'd like to help cook.

Wednesday November 20th- Sacred Heart Church. We are looking for youth volunteers to help with table setting, serving and clean up. Starting at 4pm finishing up by 6:30pm. Come to help at any point during that time. Caldwell is providing the dessert too, please sign up if you are able.

Sunday November 24th- Thanksgiving Card making and Gift Basket packing during church service.

“Thanks go out to Yvonne Fuller for organizing our October events —”The Great Pumpkin Race and The Escape Room trip!”

Our next CE meeting will be on Nov. 7th at 5:30pm. Please join us if you can.

See you in Church,

The CE committee

Laurie Southworth is looking for opportunities to be a companion, do shopping, drive to appointments, provide meals, and can do light housekeeping. Great rates.

You can contact her at #518-361-5272.

Thanksgiving Meal Baskets



The Board of Deacons will once again be offering Thanksgiving Meal Baskets to our Food Pantry recipients as well as members of the Lake George Community. We work with the elementary school nurse to identify families in need who don't necessarily come to the scheduled Food Pantry distribution. The basket will include a traditional Thanksgiving menu including turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, vegetables and dessert. You can support this annual mission with a monetary gift or a food item such non-perishable canned goods. Families will pick up their baskets on Monday, November 26th at church from 9-11:30. For more information please contact Patti Brozyna.

THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
ON NOV. 17TH TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

Save the Dates November 2019

Stuff the Bus at the Queensbury Price Chopper, Friday, Nov. 1st

Turn back your clock! Sat. Nov. 2nd

Communion Sunday, Nov. 3rd

Christian Education Meeting, Nov. 7th, 5:30.

Community Dinners, Nov. 6th & 20th.

Food Pantry, Nov. 8th & 22nd, 9:30-11:30

Operation Adopt a Soldier, Sun. Nov. 17th, 1:00

Prepare the Community Dinner, Nov. 19th

Session Meeting, Nov. 19th, 5:30

Thanksgiving Basket distribution, Tues. Nov. 26th

Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 28th.

Love Feast Wreath Making, Dec. 1st at 5:00

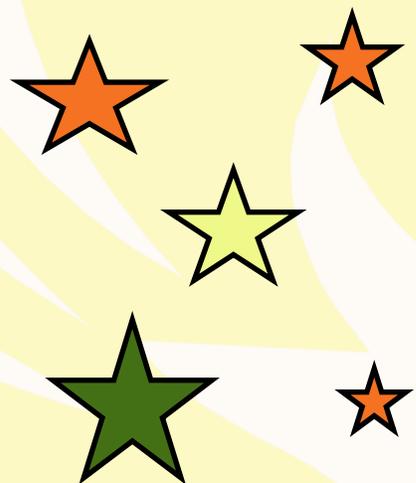
Cookie Exchange, Dec. 1st at 7:00

Dec. 15th, Christmas Pageant

More details about each of these events can be found through out the Seeker.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Joni Steiner | 22 Jeb Trowbridge |
| 11 Dotty Kopf | 23 Susan Moore |
| 13 Beth Corriveau | 26 Billy Green |
| 16 Scott Quigan | |
| 17 Bob Gunther | |



PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer Concerns

Karen Azer, Justin, Chelsea & Alex Blanco, Pam Parrott, Bud Steiner, Bill O'Reilly, Len & Tina Bunalski, Dee Spencer, Eileen's mother Shirley, Elaine Berninger, Sharon Koshak, Buell Brayton, Thomas Duer, Patricia Dever, Linda Moxham, Uncle Kracher, Nancy Hollenbeck and granddaughter Marie, Julianna Potts, Kay Kupa, Bill Tinsen, Marianne McCarthy, Ann Brendel, Peg & Les Edwards, John Kohland & his daughter's inlaws, Donnie Smith, Harry, youth from our church, Sue & Shelly, Reiley family, Irving Rosado, Dee Spencer, Ephraim Suarez, George Brendel, Pastor Shawn, Marcy, people of Syria, people of Haiti, people in the Bahamas, Dottie Kopf, Kari Haskell, Gus Hoffman, Tim Hunsicker's father, Darlene's Aunt Marion, Mary Morrano, Marion Morey.



A Word on Caldwell's Stewardship Campaign 2019,

As we enter this year's Stewardship campaign, the Finance Committee wants to acknowledge, thank and encourage all of you for the many ways in which you give your time and talent in serving the church, and volunteering, during Caldwell's fundraising efforts; including parking, Americade breakfasts, dinners, and rummage sales.

Stewardship, however, is in many ways even more important. By funding our church, we lay the foundation for all that we do at Caldwell. We provide the space for our Food Pantry, the home for our Preschool, and host meals and meetings important to our community. From Christmas Dinners to meetings for Scouts and AA, it is our collective support of Caldwell that allows us to provide it all. In these ways, your Stewardship Pledge is the first among equals in your giving at Caldwell.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your pledge for 2019. With your commitment and with God's guidance, Caldwell will continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of many.

Sincerely,

Your Finance Committee: Don Tenne (chair), Robert Blais (Treasurer), Darlene Gunther & Laura Moody (Financial Managers), Howard Nicols & Rod Cornelius.



For more than ten years now, the Caldwell Church has been an active participant in the life of the Haiti Mission School. Through your continuing prayers and generous donations, we have been able to provide education, books, supplies, material for uniforms, clean drinking water, bibles, eyeglasses, support through the devastation of Hurricane Matthew and so much more.

In the midst of the chaos that currently characterizes Haiti, our school remains a bright spot. Fortunately for the children of the Labastille region, nearly all the turmoil is occurring in the cities including Jèrèmie, where schools continue to be closed. Meanwhile, our school is open, educating and feeding about 150 children daily. For more information, see the article about the school elsewhere in the *Seeker*.

As a way of thanking you, and also as a fund-raiser, we will again offer the popular GOURMET SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON following worship on NOVEMBER 17TH. We hope you will plan to join us that day.

Fall Orange Soup Recipe by Marybeth Mitcham, MPH, Nutrition, Food Safety, and Healthy Living Educator, CCE of Warren County

I love soup. There is something incredibly comforting about curling up with a big bowl of something healthy and warm, especially during the colder nights of fall and winter. I also love that soup is incredibly easy to make, allowing you to use whatever vegetables, meat, or other things that you have. Really, you can't go wrong with soup! My current soup favorite is any combination of vegetables cooked in a little vegetable broth and then pureed. Rather than ladling the cooked vegetables to a blender for pureeing, I instead use an immersion blender. This very inexpensive tool allows you to bring the blender to your pot, as it were, enabling you to easily blend your food together. If you do not have an immersion blender, you can always use a blender, or instead use a potato masher to smooch your cooked vegetables. This version of pureed soup is called orange soup for the richly orange fall color of the butternut squash, carrots, and sweet potato; vegetables which are rich in Vitamins A and C, and that are also fantastic sources of fiber. A traditional Jewish recipe, the spices are deliberately omitted here, so that you can tailor the flavor to your liking. If you want sweet, add in some honey, cinnamon, and ginger. If you want savory, why not add in some crushed red pepper, garlic, sea salt, and smoked paprika? Feel free to experiment with spices! Also, do not feel that you have to measure out exact amounts of these vegetables for this soup to come out delicious. I made a pot of this soup today, using frozen carrots, squash, potatoes, onions, sweet potato, and cauliflower. Nothing was measured, but the end product was delicious!

“Orange” Soup Ingredients: • 1 butternut squash • 2 large sweet potatoes • 1 white potato • 1 large zucchini • 4 carrots • 2 onions • 3½ cups water • Salt to taste (I used 2 tbsp. kosher salt)
Directions: 1. Cut the vegetables into chunks. 2. Place all ingredients in a strong-bottomed pot. 3. Bring to a boil. 4. Reduce heat and simmer until vegetables are tender (approximately 1 hour). 5. Remove cover of pot, and allow vegetables to cool for at least 1 hour. 6. Blend until smooth.
Yields: 4 servings.

Variation 1: Spice it! I prefer this soup plain, but feel free to play around with the flavors. Add some nutmeg and cinnamon to bring out the sweetness. Or, add some pepper and garlic. It's soup—it's hard to go wrong! **Variation 2:** Change the consistency. Do you prefer a thinner soup? Add an extra cup of water. Like it thicker? Drain some of the liquid

DEACON NEWS:

The Board of Deacons will be providing a **Thanksgiving Meal basket** for our food pantry clients and families in need from the Lake George Elementary school. We will assemble around 55 baskets. **If anyone would like to contribute money** or help with assembly we will be working on Sunday, Nov. 24th to put together the bags. Pick up will be on Tues., Nov. 26th. **We welcome donations of frozen turkeys** to include with the bags.

Stuff the Bus, organized by C.W.I. (Community Workshop Inc), services 13 area soup kitchens and food pantries. It is our third year to participate. The mission, in coordination with Price Chopper in Queensbury, challenges shoppers to purchase non-perishable food items to "Stuff the Bus" on **November 1st**. Our food pantry will then receive a portion of the donated items.

College Care Cards; the Deacon's will soon be mailing off a friendly greeting to our college freshmen. We understand how it may be hard to be away from family and home so we hope to send them our love and prayers. Please give KC Glenn the address for your student.



Preschool News:

"O give thanks to the LORD for he is good" Psalm 106:

Here in the preschool we have so much to be thankful for. We are grateful for:

1. A wonderful group of students and families
2. For our preschool staff who are so wonderful with these children.
3. For this church family that loves and cares for this preschool.
4. A new playground thanks to Michael Burrows 5.

God's blessing on this little school and His care for us. We look forward to our Thanksgiving Feast on November 25th. A great time of singing, giving thanks and families coming together.

Happy Thanksgiving Church Family, Love the Preschool



Community Dinner Schedule of Providers at Sacred Heart.

All are welcome at 5:00!



November 6~ Sacred Heart

November 20 ~ Caldwell Chili Dinner

December 4 ~ Sacred Heart

December 18 ~ The Barnsider

January 8 ~ Sacred Heart

January 22 ~ Café Vero

February 5 ~ The Knights of Columbus

February 12 ~ The Fort William Henry

March 4 ~ Sacred Heart: The Columbiettes

March 18 ~ Holiday Inn: Crocitto family

April 1 ~ Sacred Heart

April 22 ~ Adirondack Brew Pub

May 6 ~ Sacred Heart BBQ

There are two community dinners each month. The food, fun and fellowship are great. Please mark your calendar and come out to help set up and serve, or to join us for the meal. The cost is free.

Thank you to Kelly at Bella's Deli for the great food served at the Community Dinner last week. It is such a blessing to have merchants in our community who willingly give back. Please stop by and tell her thanks.

She wants the community to know that she offers take out dinner service. Bella's Deli now has a weekly dinner menu available for pick up if you call by 1 pm. Pick up is between 4-5 pm. Delivery will be provided for shut ins living in the Lake George village.

**May your stuffing be tasty, May your turkey be plump,
May your potatoes and gravy Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious And your pies take the prize,
And may your Thanksgiving dinner Stay off your thighs!
-Grandpa Jones**



News from the Haiti Mission School



Tens of thousands of Haitians went to the streets again this week to demand the removal of Haitian President Jovenel Moise. Moise refuses to step down. The situation has shuttered schools, businesses, transportation and essentially paralyzed the entire nation for six weeks. (*For more information about causes, etc., see last month's newsletter*). At least 18 people have died in the protests.

As a result of this, our planned trip to Haiti has been postponed until at least December, with hopes that the situation will have calmed down by then. We are deep in prayer for our friends and associates in Haiti and hope you are joining us to pray that God soon will lead to a peaceful resolution of the issues.

Meanwhile the Board of the Haiti Mission School met on October 6. We took a number of actions that we hope will continue to assist the school. Perhaps the most important was an action that we hoped we would not have to make: i.e., loans to the teachers.

We have been concerned that this might reopen the door to a situation where we are supporting the school financially, but now without any say in how it is operated. The problem is that the government is not paying the teachers (as they had agreed) and hasn't for more than a year. We are certain that this results in the teachers not having the same energy and passion for educating the children. The current director of the school in an email said that he and the government's regional inspector will guarantee that if we will loan the teachers some money, when the teachers are finally paid, they will see that we are repaid from the teachers' salary payments. It would be so much better if we could discuss these things in person.

In any case, the Board has agreed to offer to loan the teachers an amount a little less than we were paying them in 2017-18, which was our last year paying the teachers. We hope this will allow them to buy groceries and pay their bills, but not encourage the situation to continue. Of course this is a temporary fix which will not be able to continue forever. If the teachers have not been paid, this plan would remain in effect to the end of the current school year, and then be reassessed.

Another action taken by the Board was to approve a loan to our food manager in Haiti. He has been asking us to loan him an amount to buy a three-wheel motorcycle that he can use to transport the food to the school. He has been carrying the food on his two-wheel motorcycle, but that is on dangerous roads and requires him to make many trips each month. The price of gas is currently \$13.00 US/ gallon.



Finally, we also took action to change the official name of the organization from *Siloam School at Labastille, Inc.* to the *Southwest Haiti Rural Education Foundation, Inc.* This will more closely describe the work that the Board is doing, and plans to do. We will continue to be known in newsletters, mailing address, etc. as the *Haiti Mission School*.

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



Thank you for keeping Sabrina and Haiti's other Restavec children in your prayers and thank you for continuing to pray for and support the school.

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 10 am.

Contact Information:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Office Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email—pastor@caldwellpres.org

