

THE SEEKER FOR OCTOBER 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Tested, Trusting, and Light

Dear Caldwell Friends,

One of my favorite pastors from my childhood gave an illustration in a sermon once that has stayed with me over all these years: it was of a car driving at night through the countryside with its headlights on—only the road just ahead is visible, everything else is veiled in mystery. The pastor's point was that this is not unlike life—and that we can trust God to light the way for us, so that the mystery of the unknown need not overwhelm us because we will be able to meet that mystery when we get to it, with God's help.

None of us could have foreseen the terrain we are now traveling through, not even back in March when we closed down in-person worship and switched to zoom. Separation, safety precautions, and bearing down have become routine aspects of our daily lives. Many call this the “new normal,” and urge people to “accept it, live into it, and do our best to navigate this new terrain because, in time, this too shall pass.”

When I attended seminary, the remarkable professors I had at Union Theological Seminary in NYC taught me all about the bible, systematic theology, church history, and psychology and religion, but nothing about pandemic preparedness, nothing about virtual committee meetings and what you do when indoor gatherings are limited to 33% of the room's occupancy, and when singing is prohibited when you gather to worship in person. The church faces unique challenges in this “new normal.” When our basic weekly function is to gather together in person, sing, reach out to one another, catch up over coffee hour (food), shake hands, and hug; and when our daily privilege is to visit one another in nursing homes and private homes, hold a hand, pray together; and when our mission is to reach out to support the basic needs of the people through revenue earned from Rummage sales, and feed the hungry and share table fellowship in our community suppers, and meet together in bible study and book study and fellowship groups to stay spiritually curious; and in death our purpose is to comfort those who mourn, not over facetime, but in person—we are being tested for sure, and it's a grind.

Luckily for us we have the biblical witness of the Matriarchs and Patriarchs, the Psalms, the Prophets and St. Paul and many others who endured testing in their day. Luckily for us we have Jesus to be our light, and to guide our way, to illumine the unknown path just ahead, promising to go out before us to lead us, and daily, summoning us to follow. This promise of our faith is a comfort.

I am grateful for the unwavering devotion of our Session, our COVID Task Force, our Preschool Supervisory Committee and Teachers, and our cleaning team



*Be Still,
and know that I am God.*

~PSALM 46:10

led by Stacey Winters, all of whom have worked hard to ensure Caldwell's reopening is to a safe and clean environment with proper protocols in place. We continue to be vigilant and thank YOU for abiding by the protocols whenever you enter the church building or the Preschool.

Caldwell Church and the community of Lake George is a very special one—people band together to help one another, and people sincerely desire to lend a hand whenever they can. We are finding new ways to “be the church”—to still “commune” together and fulfil our mission safely. We have experienced your extraordinary faithfulness to your pledges, which are essentially where we budgeted them to be at this time in the calendar year. Thank you. Looking out at the congregation last Sunday, both in person and on zoom, all of us masked and socially distanced, was something my seminary professors could not have prepared me for. But God does—God is right there with us—present in our worship, presiding in our gatherings, and a quiet comforting presence and assurance in our daily petitions and prayers.

Yes, we are being tested to be sure, but let us remember to trust that nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the love of God made known to us in Christ. Thank you for your part in sustaining the ministry of Christ in this challenging time; thank you for trusting the light of our Lord to lead the way.

Faithfully,

Ali



Preschool News:

Dear Church family,

We are excited to move into October. It is such a joy to work with the families of Lake George and their wonderful children. We are thrilled to have returned to school as of Sept. 29th. We are using lots of precautions to keep the children safe, and spending as much time as possible outside enjoying the church playground.

Please keep your eyes open for our upcoming Soup Fundraiser which will all be done online this year. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry of your church. ~ Chris Sallstrom



Christian Education for October

Sunday School will resume in person on Sunday, Oct. 11. The church has purchased 3 Hepa Filters and a disinfectant fogger. These will be used prior to holding our Sunday School classes. Hope to see you there.

Sunday School will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Please save these dates-

Oct. 11 and 25

Nov. 8 and 22

Dec. 13 and 27

Jan 10 and 24, 2021

Feb. 7 and 21

March 14 and 28

April 11 and 25

May 9 and 23

June 13- Youth Sunday

5th Sundays of the month- special events

Nov. 29- activity TBA

Jan. 31- Book Discussion of Stamped by Jason Reynolds and Ibram Kendi

May 30- activity TBA

Nov. 29 Love Feast and cookie swap will be most likely cancelled. Stay tuned for updates.

Oct. 18 (non Sunday school Sunday) Great Pumpkin Race.

—————Thanks in advance to Yvonne Fuller, who always creates a fun event!

Getting to Know You Project

This fall we will kick off our Getting to Know You Project. In this program, we will highlight some special seniors in our congregation and give an opportunity for our youth to get to know them, share advice and bring the two generations together. Once a month, we will pair a senior and a youth from our congregation. The youth will interview the senior and write an article for that month's Seeker about the person they have interviewed. We hope to see our first Seeker article in January of 2021.

**It's the Great Pumpkin Race! Join us on
Sunday, October 18th, 11:30 am.
How will this happen? Where will this
happen? It wouldn't be The Great Pumpkin
Race if it didn't involve mystery.
Trick or Treat? Wait and see.....**



College Student Addresses Needed

If you know of a freshman college student in the congregation, the Deacons would like to send them a care package or a gift card to let them know we are praying and thinking about them. Please contact KC Glenn(518-683-2659) or send an e-mail (kcglen129@yahoo.com).



Thank you to our Reach Volunteers!

Thank you for all your incredible efforts at keeping in touch with the people on your Reach list over these months of closure. Your ministry of connection and compassion and care has honored the Spirit's tether that binds us as one in Christ. We are grateful to the following volunteers:

Lesley Clemens, JoEllen and Tom Parsons, Carol Bayle, Margy Mannix, Patty Broznia, Dana Power, Sue Moore, Lynda Glen, Berne Kouba, Linda Nicols, Laura Moody, Bev and Tom Roach, Darlene Gunther, Eileen Horgan, Karen Azer.

The Reach Volunteers will continue to contact you in the months ahead even though we have reopened the church. Many of you are still on Zoom and we want to keep in touch with everyone to know how you are doing during this pandemic.



SAVE THESE DATES:

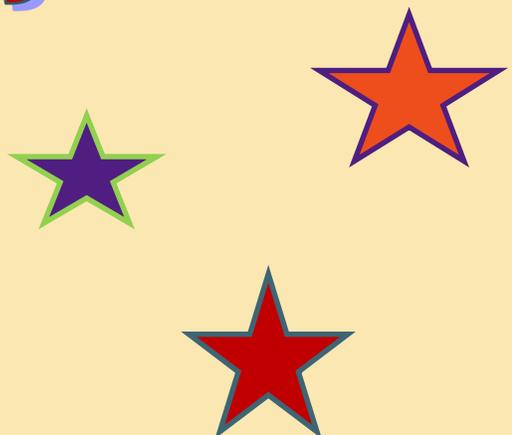
Food Pantry Dates for October are Friday the 9th and 23rd from 9:30 to 11:30.

Lake George Community Dinner is planning on a “Soup to Go” night and having everyone share the meal together on Zoom while eating. Watch for details.



Happy Birthday

Laura Corriveau	Oct. 1
Pam Quigan	Oct. 1
Annabelle Trowbridge	Oct. 3
Sue Hunsicker	Oct. 21
Charlie Fuller	Oct. 24
Samantha Gorey	Oct. 30
Carol Whalen	Oct. 31
Howard Nicols	Oct. 31



Prayer Concerns

Linda Penn, Betty Pridmore, Dale Tolene's daughter Kira's baby in utero, fire and hurricane victims across the country, school administrators, teachers, staff and students as they deal with the new covid guidelines and restrictions, for a covid vaccine to be created, Phillip and Fran Shepherd, Chrissy Nicols, McClellan, Beard and Trowbridge family, Danielle Morgan, Kathy Sanders & John, Jo Ellen's brother-in-law & niece Melissa, Laurie Southworth's father, Nicols's brother-in-law Ronny & their missing dog, Compson's niece & friend's Ronny & Ellen, Pat McCoy, Susan Conklin, Gwen DeLong, Jim Woodrift, Levi Ayala, Lesley's son Michael, Beverly Corman, Tom Jenne's friend & Aunt Gisela, Peter Barry, Liz's mother-in-law, Roger Finney, Aimee Toole, Jim Dumas, Pam & Sue Parrott, Chelsea Blanco, Kay Kupa, Mike Dalby, Bud Steiner, Anita Rios, Donnie Smith, Ryan Armstrong, Peg Edwards, Nancy Hollenbeck, Bill Tinsen, John Kohland, Julianna Potts, Jean Kratzer, Shirley Horgan, David Clemente, Melanie King.

Stewardship Campaign 2020

As we enter this year's Stewardship campaign, the Finance Committee wants to thank all of you for the many ways you give your time and talents in serving the church.

Stewardship is so 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 for 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 2020. With your financial commitment and with God's guidance, Caldwell will continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of many.

Sincerely,

Your Finance Committee:
Darlene Gunther,
Laura Moody, Howard Nicols,
Rod Cornelius, & Bob Blais.



The Seeker

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St.

Lake George, NY 12845
