

*THE SEEKER FOR MAY 2021
NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



May: Time for “A New Thing”

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

Recently a dear friend introduced me to a remarkable work called *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and illustrated by Jackie Morris. It is a large, beautiful, hand-illustrated book about the wonders of the natural world that are disappearing from children’s minds, or at least, from their mouths. Words like Dandelion, Bramble, Kingfisher (see above illustration), Wren, and Lark are literally disappearing from the dictionary and are replaced with words like Broadband, Bullet-point, and Blog that are more familiar in today’s technological world which our children more frequently inhabit. But the lost words still surround us—they lie hidden in the natural world, and the book takes the reader through pages of stunning art and wonderfully creative acrostic poetry to summon the lost words back into our minds’ eye. The book is, dare I say, a devotional of sorts, offering the reader the opportunity to commune with nature, words wonderfully woven together, and God’s creatures great and small. The act of reading aloud to one another, and watching and listening for these creatures as we go about our daily lives out of doors, brings us back into union with the natural world in ways that gladden our hearts, even heal us.

As I think of life at Caldwell this Spring, I can think of nothing more fitting than to urge us all to try to spend more time outdoors, today, or whenever you next have a few minutes, and if you can’t get outside, perhaps you can open a window, and listen and watch. What do you see, what do you hear, what do you smell, what do you sense? Here is Mary Oliver from her poem “I Will Try:”

*I will try.
I will step from the house to see what I see
and hear and I will praise it.
I did not come into this world
to be comforted.....*

*I came, like red bird, to sing.
But I'm not red bird...*

*but a woman...
who thinks now, too much, of roots
and the dark places
where everything is simply holding on.
But this too, I believe, is a place
where God is keeping watch
until we rise, and step forth again and –
but wait. Be still. Listen!
Is it red bird? Or something
inside myself, singing?*

God is most certainly keeping watch over us all, urging us to rise, and to step forth again as our world opens up and as nature unfurls its wonders of Spring. God is urging you to find time to be still, so still that you can hear the birdsongs; so still that you can begin to hear your own song once again, and the new thing God is inviting you to *perceive, to behold.*

We have come into this world not to be comforted, but to sing.

Faithfully yours,

Ali



Get to Know You Project: Jessica King By Sean Mannix

The Get to Know You Project is a new initiative from Caldwell Presbyterian church, where younger members interview longtime members of the church and learn about them and their history. In my eyes, this is a wonderful idea as younger members don't have many chances to talk to the older members of the congregation, and it is a wonder to learn about them and their history. I had the honor to speak to Jessica King, a wonderful mother of two and a congregation member for 45 years. Here are my favorite parts of the interview...

Childhood

"Well, yes, I was very close to my maternal grandmother, she lived with us for short periods of time, she was a very good influence. My parents both worked. My mother was a nurse; she worked nights; I would come home from school, and when I was old enough, she would have me prepare dinner. So we did not have a lot of fun and games, I think one time we had a week's vacation, and we went to a camp on Sacandaga lake; that's the only summer vacation I remember."

Marriage and Family

"Well I met Victor because I was a nurse at Albany Medical Center and one of his neighbors wanted me to meet him, he was a widower at the time he had 2 not quite teenage children, they lost their mother at nine and 11 and we married when the children were 11 and 13. We were married for 50 years, and the day after we celebrated our 50th anniversary he died. It was a good marriage. He and I had two children, David and Suzanne. Together we had four children; so I had a full-time job the moment I was married raising his two children."

Adult life

"I graduated from high school from Drapur High School at Rotterdam and went to nursing school in Albany, and at that time it was called the Union University School of Nursing, which then became the Albany Medical Center School of Nursing. In my twenties, I was working, first training and then working at Albany Medical Center."

When did you start being a Christian?

"I was very young; I remember my grandmother being very religious. I remember going to church every Sunday, sometimes Sunday night as well. Well, they used to have fundamental churches and revival services. You choose to walk forward and accept Christ and give your life to the church. I was a teenager or pre-teen."

What is your favorite memory from Caldwell?

"Well, One of my most favorite memories is when my husband, who is Catholic, said he would like to join my church. He made that decision all on his own. He went to his own church for the first fifteen years, and I went to my church and his children went with him. After we moved to live full-time in Lake George, Victor said he would like to join. In 1976, Skip Bush was the minister and we both were very fond of him. Victor really enjoyed the church service. He was so impressed with the Presbyterian way of life because as a businessman, he liked that we had financial people who actually knew where the money came from and where it went. That was not the case within the Catholic Church."

What kind of things have made you happiest in life?

Anything that I can do with my children. Just being with them makes me happy. We don't have to do anything exciting, but having them in my presence is the happiest thing in my whole life.

What do you think the most important lesson our generation can learn from you?

"Do your best, whatever you're trying to accomplish, and do unto others what you'd have them do unto you."

May's Mission of the Month

North Country Ministry
<https://www.northcountryministry.org/>



North Country Ministry was founded in North Creek in 1992 by a small group of Catholic nuns and priests who saw great need in the area and few resources to address it. Since then, NCM has become a cornerstone of the southeastern Adirondack region, providing critically needed human services.

Our programs offer a range of assistance including everyday needs such as food, clothing and furniture, to emergency assistance through our outreach services. Over the years, these programs have impacted the lives of thousands living in our extremely rural and underserved 650-square-mile service area.

With locations in Lake George, Warrensburg, North Creek, and Brant Lake, we are able to serve the needs of our communities and assist a population living in an area with a high poverty level. It is because of our dedicated volunteers, the collaboration of our faith community, and the generosity of our donors that North Country Ministry is able to offer a *Hand of Hope* to those in need here in the Adirondacks.

The Ministry offers many different programs which can be found on their website. Pastor Ali works closely with them to help people in our community when they are in need.

She said that “when people come to Caldwell with multiple basic needs unmet, we call NCM and speak with Rebecca Bammert, Director of Case Management. The partnership with Rebecca has helped countless people over the years. This working relationship is so important to our outreach to the community. It is like having a social services arm to our ministry as Rebecca has up to date knowledge to grants and programs that can help individuals get back on their feet. “

To support this mission, please send a check to the church specifying that it is for the North Country Ministry.

**Lawn Mowers Needed beginning in May!
 Please contact Property Elder Jo Anne Pedersen,
 if you would like to help mow on occasion this
 summer. Text or call her directly: 845-721-7576.
 We greatly appreciate your help--even if it's just
 one or two times--as together we help maintain
 our beautiful church grounds.**



2021 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Lord, we look up and see the billions of stars You created, and we praise You. We look around and see the billions of people You created in Your image; uniquely, fearfully, wonderfully, and we thank You. Wrap us in Your Spirit and unite us in Your family, Lord.

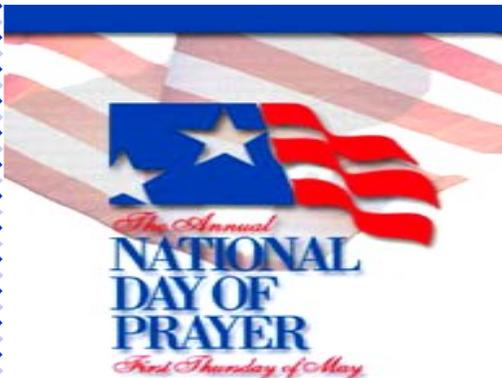
Thank You for loving us first. In Your love for the whole world, You sent Your Son to save us.

Jesus, in You alone we have abundant and everlasting life. Thank you for teaching and leading us to love and live, fruitful, and faithful. In Your life, death, resurrection, and ascension You are our Lord, our love, our life, and our liberty. You came to “bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.” You have freed us from the penalty and shame of our sin; free to live life as You designed and Your destiny for our Nation.

Spirit search us, convict us, as we repent for our sin and the sins of America. Please cleanse, fill, and send us. We rejoice, knowing that Your forgiveness makes us acceptable and effective vessels for Your love, life and liberty in our family, church, education, workplace, military, government, art, entertainment, and media.

We pray that America will be united in love to serve You with all our hearts, all our ways, and all of our days. Unite us to pray, love; to live and walk by the Spirit. Conform and transform us as we pray and proclaim, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Kathy Branzell, President
National Day of Prayer Task Force



**Please join us for more events on the
National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 6th, 2021.
www.nationaldayofprayer.org**

Wild Edibles Program

–Have you wanted to learn which wild-growing plants can be safely foraged and eaten? Come and join us for a series of three free webinars that will teach you not only to be able to confidently identify wild edibles, but also learn what parts of the plants are safely edible, when they should be harvested, and also how they can be prepared. The webinars, offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension, and instructed by educators Pat Banker, John Bowe, and MB (Marybeth) Mitcham, will be held from 7-8 PM on three consecutive Tuesdays in June: June 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Pre-registration is required, and there is no cost for the webinars. To sign up for this specific class, please register at this link: <https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpcO-gqzsqGNUckc03h4Fm-0k0lv6eUlo5>. For further information about wild edibles classes contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County at 518-623-3291, or email MB at: mem467@cornell.edu.

Amy Sabattis
Association Public Affairs Liaison
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County
377 Schroon River Road
Warrensburg, NY 12885

Lake George Community Garage Sale

Saturday May 1 & Sunday May 2, 9 am-5 pm

Spring Ecumenical Bible Study: 6 weeks, May 5 - June 9, Weds. 12:30-1:30, in-person at Caldwell or on Zoom. We will study **Amy Jill Levine's *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi***.

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message. In this entertaining and educational book, Levine offers a fresh, reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives, taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. She then interprets how the parables are not just about Jesus, but also about us--and how they still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later. All are welcome! Please order your own book (\$14.99). If you need help to order or pay, please call the office at 518-668-2613. Also, please let us know you would like to attend.

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Happy Birthday

16 Peg Earl

26 Darlene Gunter

16 Lesley Clemons

30 Dante Corriveau

22 Rod Cornelius

24 KC Glenn

Prayer Concerns

Sharon Koshak, Sean, Bill Garrel, Francis (Bud) Steiner family, John Kohland family, Southworth family, Kevin & Dennis Galloway, Rusty Pedersen, Protection for the Asian Community, Shooting victims and their families, Aunt Barbara, William Caslow, Refugees at the border, Pat McCoy, Yvonne Fuller's father, Jack Choppa, Mel Quigan, People of Haiti, Joyce Compson, Bob Gunther, Jim Trowbridge, Kathy's hip, Raymond & Anita Rios, Nicol's relative's Ronny and Stella, Jared Winters, Kris Haskell, Blais's friend with Lou Gehrig's disease, Pam Parrott, Peg Edwards, Nancy Hollenbeck.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Spring is Here! We are so glad that we are now able to get outside!

The kids are learning the things they need for kindergarten.

We are looking forward to hearing the great job they do at Kindergarten Round-up in May.

Thank you to everyone who donated and/or came out to support the preschool fundraiser at the Holiday Inn in April. With your support, we were able to raise over \$5300.00!

We are especially grateful to Kim Cornelius who organized the event.

All of us teachers are amazed at how quickly this year has gone. We look forward to graduation and are thankful for the safety measures that have been put in place to allow for good learning during this pandemic.

It is good to see these kids now displaying so many of the skills that we have been working hard for them to know.

God has been good to give us a good school year and we are grateful for your love and support.

The Preschool Committee



MAY 2021

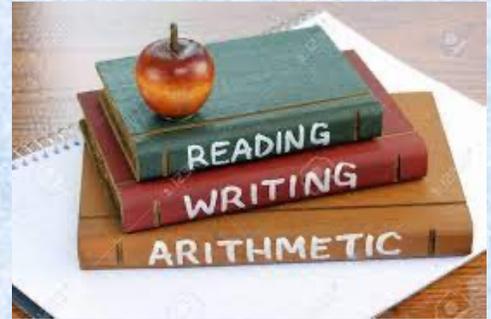
News From the Haiti Mission School

**READING, WRITING AND ARITHMETIC
(LEKTI, EKRI AK ARITMETIK)**

I was thinking the other day about what my life would be like if I couldn't read, write or do basic math. I spend a good portion of my life doing one or the other of these. And what if I had no concept of the rest of the world... of distance... of languages... of the world's religions. I guess the point is, my life would be diminished in so many ways.

In Haiti, though the constitution calls for education for all Haitians, public school is really only available in the larger towns and cities. At present, only about 70% of Haitian children are receiving a primary education, and of those children, 90% are being educated in private schools provided by religious organizations, ngo's, or private for profit schools. The vast majority charge tuition (starting at \$75 per child per yr.). In a nation where the average annual income is under \$600, even providing an education for one child is a stretch.

The above is why we have worked to make our school tuition-free, and to provide hot meals each school day. Thanks to you for helping to make this possible.



RESURRECTION OF THE CISTERN

Along the same lines, what if you didn't have water? There was no water at the school for cooking, hand washing, creating concrete blocks for building and even for drinking. Water had to be carried from the creek or other sources.

One of our significant accomplishments at the Haiti Mission School was the building of the cistern. Because there is no road, we could not get well drilling equipment to the school. The cistern was filled by a series of gutters from the roof of the church. Though the cistern survived, the church was demolished by Hurricane Matthew. Thus, we lost our source of water for the cistern. They tried rigging up some tarps to catch the water, but these never survived for long. Members of the church and school board are now engineering a

system of pipes that they believe will carry water from the two buildings in which school is being held. Eventually, when the church building is finished, they plan to go back to the original setup. Meanwhile (with many prayers and God's blessing) there shall be water. *(The picture shows one of the buildings the pipe will come from in the background, and to the left corner, the cistern.)*

2021 SCHOOL YEAR ENDS JULY 30.

Whew! This school year can't end too soon for most of us. In Haiti, the 2020-21 school year will conclude the end of July. Classes will finish on July 2 with exams continuing through the 30th. Since schools like ours have no means of providing distance learning, schools were simply closed until the COVID threat levels were determined and schools began to reopen. We completed the 2019-2020 school year in September 2020 with exams in October. Then, our 2020-21 year reopened in early November

We are concerned that having so many missed days, many of our students will not pass their exams and will be forced to repeat the year. We have not heard of any relaxing of the requirements. We also have not yet received any information on the 2021-22 school year.

Please note that there will not be a Haiti newsletter for the next two months.

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



Please continue to pray for Sabrina and all the other Haitian Restavec and the children in orphanages

Guest Preacher and Facilitator on June 6th and 7th:

This June, we are honored and thrilled to be able to welcome to the Caldwell Church via Zoom the Rev. Dr. Nichole R. Phillips for a two-part program where she will be sharing the Word with us on Sunday morning, June 6th, as our guest preacher at the 10 a.m. worship, then again on Monday evening, June 7th, 7:00-8:30 p.m., for a Faith Formation program on "The Beloved Community." Please mark your calendars and spread the word. You may attend in person in our sanctuary or on Zoom. Please call the church office if you'd like the Zoom link and we will be sure to send it to you.

Nichole R. Phillips -Associate Professor in the Practice of Sociology of Religion and Culture;



Director of the Black Church Studies Program

In addition to her role at Candler, The Rev. Dr. Nichole R. Phillips is associate faculty in the Department of Sociology at Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and a senior faculty fellow at the Emory Center for Ethics. A sociologist of religion and public theologian, she teaches courses in community and congregational studies.

Her research interests lie at the intersection of religion and American public life with a focus on community and congregational studies where she investigates the moral commitments and vision of community and congregational members. Her scholarship treats religion, critical race, gender, and cultural memory studies. She is also developing new research interests in the sociology of science and religion.

The Preschool is in need of 10 empty plastic containers with lids that they can use to make drums. . If you have any, please bring them to the back porch of the church or place inside on the table by the office.



Sunflower Garden Honoring Caldwell Youth!

As you know, we are planning to install a Caldwell Youth container garden early this summer honoring the courage and resilience of our Youth from ages Preschool to Graduate School who have forged through this pandemic school year with flying colors. We hope to transplant the sunflowers that are currently growing under grow lights around the time of **Youth Sunday, June 13**. In preparation, we wanted to kindly ask the congregation for your help: We are in need of **2 whiskey barrels and container soil**. Any of the options at Ace Hardware, Home Depot, or Lowe's will do just fine. If you are interested in donating one of these items, please contact

Property Elder Jo Anne Pedersen at 845-721-7576.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this special project!

Thank You and Happy Spring from the Garden Committee.



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 at 10am Sunday!

Contact Information:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email— ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org