

The Seeker for September 2022

Newsletter for the Caldwell Presbyterian Church



What is Your Operational System? Scarcity versus Abundance

Whether we realize it or not, each of us has an operating system. It may be camouflaged sometimes, or hidden beneath a veiled layer of disguises of who we project ourselves to be. But deep down, there is a core value system by which we see the world and interact with others. I have yet to hear of a better way of explaining it than scarcity versus abundance.



For me, the scarcity mindset says, “I don’t have enough,” and “me first,” while the abundance mindset says, “I am grateful for all life’s blessings,” and puts others first. At any given moment, we draw from one mindset or the other, in our relationships, our work ethic, our lives in the community. When confronted with a challenge, big or small, what is your first response? Is it “I can’t, there’s no way” or is it, “I believe, with God’s help, I can do this.”

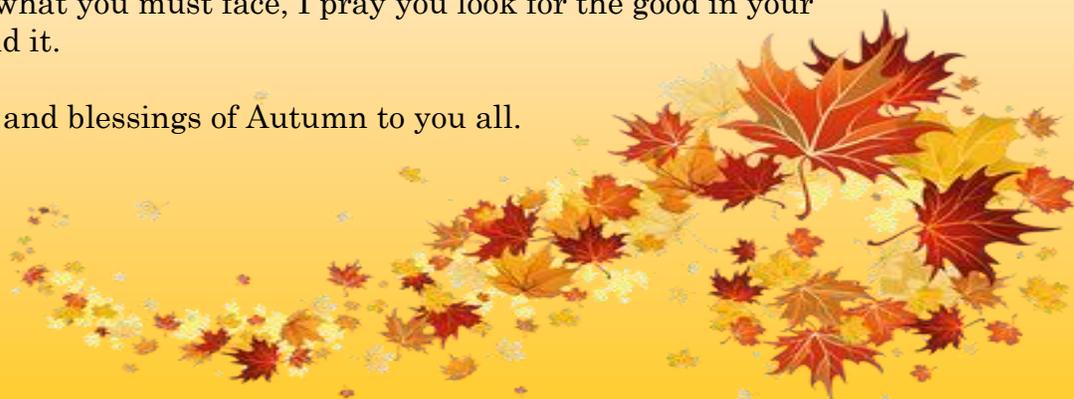
One mindset is narrow, shallow, fear-based, isolating, and pulls others down. The other is expansive, hopeful, understands that failure is part of living a full life, is necessary for growth, and is never defined by it, but strengthened by it, and knows one’s identity as God’s own.

As we come to another Fall, what is on the horizon you see? Is it bright and hopeful? Fall gives us all another chance to reset our mindset, to start anew. As you contemplate your life, your health, your prospects, your activities, spend some time quietly reflecting on the roots of your attitudes and perspectives. Revisit your inner core, and see what you find there. I cannot know what you know of yourself, but I can assure you of this: God will meet you where you are, God will take your hand if you give God your trust, and God will guide you toward hope.

I pray that no matter what you must face, I pray you look for the good in your circumstances, and find it.

God’s grace and peace and blessings of Autumn to you all.

Faithfully,
Ali



SEPTEMBER PRESCHOOL NEWS

It is school time again! Caldwell Preschool is getting ready for the new year. The basement and cupboards have been emptied and organized. Supplies are being bought and floors are being waxed. Thank you to our hardworking Preschool committee and friends. The school had some staff changes over the summer, **Meghan Quillen was hired as new director** and will be teaching the 3 year old class. She will be assisted by Lee Ann Bombard.

Wendy McCabe will teach the 4 year olds assisted by Jordan Miller.

Our four-year-old class is full at 16 students and the 3 year old class has 5 enrolled.

If you know a 3 year old who is interested in preschool, have them email Meghan at caldwellprespreschool@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to a rewarding year.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our new Season (2022/23) of Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 11th. Welcoming all of our students back for another faith filled and fun year!



Little Angels (Pre-k-grade 2), Young Disciples (grades 3-5), and Youth Group (grades 6-12) are all invited to our opening session during service. We can't wait to hear about your summer adventures, and we'd like to fill you in on the wonderful things we have planned for this year, like **MINI GOLF!!!**

All Christian Ed students are invited to join us, after church on **September 11th**, for "Golf Around the World!" (The Parking Lot for Golf Around the World is located next to Pink Roof Ice cream.)

Note: In the event of rain our start of the year outing will take place at the Bowling Alley.

**Please contact Margo to RSVP:
Youthdirector@caldwellpres.org**



Grand Dames of Caldwell

It's great when old friends can get together. Here's a recent picture of a gathering of good friends who haven't seen each other in a while. **Jess King** and **Marge Mannix** we all know but how many of you remember **Pat Radloff**. The Radloff family were long time parishioners at Caldwell who moved to Florida years ago. They were back in town for a family wedding and Pat took time to visit her two good friends Jess and Marge. Let's hope the friendships we make here last as long as this one has!



Retired Senior's Volunteer Program needs drivers!

If you have some free time to take people to Dr.'s appointments, please call #518-793-3136. You will be reimbursed for mileage by Warren/Washington County RSVP.

Save These Dates!

Communion Sunday is Sept. 4th.

The Food Pantry will be open from 9:30 to 11:00, Sept. 9th and 23rd.

The Wednesday Ecumenical Book Study will begin on September 21st from 11:30 to 1:00. Bring your own lunch.

Pastor Ali's "Time to Talk on Tuesdays" Meeting times are at 10:00-11:30 in person, outside on the lawn as weather permits.

Chancel Flower Team members needed to assist in providing the flowers for each Sunday worship. Call the office to be part of this awesome group or to give a one time donation for the altar.

New Member's Class is October 2nd. This is the only prerequisite for joining the church. The class will be held from 11:30 to 1:00. Please speak to Pastor Ali or call the office if you would like to attend.

News From the Haiti Mission School:

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

Rebuilding Efforts

It has been a while since our last newsletter. We wanted to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers over the last few months and for all the donations received in memory of Reverend Tom Parsons. After prayer and consideration we chose to use a portion of the memorial funds to support rebuilding efforts for some of the student families, impacted by last year's earthquake. We are also looking to use some of the funds to provide scholarships for graduating secondary students.

The Fontaine family, pictured to the right has two children enrolled in the Haiti Mission School. They are the latest family we are helping with rebuilding. Included below are pictures of the family, in their house as the earthquake left it and as it now looks. We are only rebuilding exterior walls so the inside is a real "open concept" home as we in the United States would call it. A quote from the Fontaine family "We send thanks to you and to your family and all who help in this work. We are so happy and so grateful to God, your family and all the families who help us. "

As you read this newsletter, we are working with another family to help rebuild their walls. Each home costs between \$1800 - \$2000 and the family helps (sweat equity) with the project. The funding provides materials, transportation (from Jeremie to LaBastille and then on into the mountains to the family homes), the cost of a Boss Mason and pay for Junior, our onsite contact, to oversee the project. The family helps transport, haul, mix and assist with other work necessary to rebuild their walls.

If you, your church or other organization would like to help support a family rebuild their walls please contact us or send your donation to the Haiti Mission School at the address at the top of the newsletter. Please include a note with the donation designating your interest in supporting rebuilding efforts.

New School Year

School in Haiti is scheduled to start on September 6, 2022. We are expecting about 100 students in our primary school grades (grades 1 -6). We are in the process of purchasing school supplies, material for uniforms, books, food and other necessities for preparing meals for primary school students.

Our secondary students start at the same time. We pay for their Entrance fees and tuition. Last year it cost about \$350 per student per year. This year we have six students who completed Secondary 4 or their Terminal year and took the Haitian National Exams. At the writing of the newsletter we are awaiting their results.

For those who pass the first time (and many do not) the question from them is can we help them with college expenses. My heart surely says yes. Several of these students have been with us since the Haiti Mission School began. When we are together in Haiti we always talk with them about their hopes and dreams. They have hopes of becoming doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, engineers, pastors etc... and helping to rebuild Haiti. We would like to help. Please let us know if you too would like to help.

There will be more to follow about these issues and others as the school year progresses. In the meantime please keep Haiti, her children and ours at the Haiti Mission School in your prayers. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers.



PRAYER CONCERNS

People of Afghanistan, Hurricane/flood fire victims, Refugees at the border, Our country and government, People in Haiti, the Ukraine, Ned Quinn, Margo's daughter Nicole, JoEllen's brother-in-law Ron & friend Peter, Becky Hanusa, Andrea, Karen Davita, Sue Conklin, Laurel Cormee, Bob Bayle, Darlene's friend with cancer, Marge Hull, Peg Earl, Loren Compson, Nancy Hollenbeck, Fuller's father-in-law, Judy Edmunds, Ted Brothers, Pam Parrott.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Class Sept. 26th, 11:30-1:00. If you are interested in joining the church contact Beth in the church office. #518-668-2613.

Elder Meeting on Weds., Sept. 8th, 5 pm, & Mon. Sept 13th, 5:30 on Zoom.

Deacon Meeting on Tues., Sept. 14th, 7 pm on Zoom.

Communion Kits are available for folks on Zoom. Please call the office to have one delivered to your house by a church deacon.

The Rummage Sale will be held in October! Start collecting your donations and watch for further updates in the bulletin.

SEPTEMBER

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|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Jo Anne Pedersen | 20 | Marjorie Mannix |
| 4 | Emily Fuller | 21 | Drew Jackson |
| 8 | Stan Rummel | 24 | Rosemarie Earl |
| 12 | Mark Mannix | 26 | Bobbie Hoffman |
| 13 | Rachel Hunsicker | | |
| 16 | Sarah Mannix | | |
| 17 | Norman Duell | | |

Getting To Know You- Ray and Linda VanAnden by Sarah King

Ray and Linda VanAnden are the newest members of Caldwell Presbyterian Church. Let's get to know them: Both Ray and Linda grew up in Washington County, Linda in West Hebron and Ray in Hartford. They both graduated from Hartford Central and were high school sweethearts. They were married at West Hebron Presbyterian Church and will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on Sept. 9.

Ray's dad was a mechanic in the air force during WWII and after that owned The Harford Garage where Ray often helped out. His mom was the Argyle Town Historian as was his grandmother. She even wrote a book on the history of Argyle. Linda's dad also served in WWII. He lied about his age when he joined up and was involved in The Battle of The Bulge at age 16. Can you imagine! When he returned home to Argyle after the war, he worked at Gardenworks in W. Hebron, where Linda often played with Megan, the daughter of the owners. Linda's mom worked at the Sherwood Catheter company in Argyle.

Ray and Linda have two sons, Scott and Robert and 3 grandchildren, Kristin, Jeffrey and Nate. They are proud grandparents and wanted to tell me about their grandkids. Kristin is the oldest and lives in Malta. She is studying to be a CPA and will be married in October of this year. Ray relayed a funny story about her finance, Ed, who is a lieutenant in the Navy. He pilots nuclear submarines had to take the NYS boater safely course in order to operate a boat in New York. Jeffery is the middle grandson, who is studying to become a State Trooper. Nate is the youngest and is finishing up at Suny Oneonta.

Ray and Linda started attending Rockwell Falls Presbyterian Church in 1978, the same year that Tom Parsons started there. Ray and Linda were both Elders and Deacons and held many positions during their 27 years there. Linda told me about her "TLC" ladies' group that she started at church. It stood for Tender Loving Care, which is what the ladies in the group gave out to their families and friends. They took local trips, went to lunch, and had an annual picnic. Linda and Ray were also involved in the buying and selling of the manses that Tom and JoEllen lived in. After talking to their attorney and a local realtor for advice, they successfully sold the first manse the Parsons were living in and brokered a deal for a new one. Linda would have freshly baked cookies in the kitchen for prospective buyers as they toured the house. Years later when Tom and JoEllen decided to buy land and build their retirement home, The VanAndens once again acted to sell the current manse.

When I asked about first jobs that could both remember, Linda said growing up on a farm, she did a lot of babysitting for the farm families for 50 cents an hour. She also mentioned that her family lived next door to a potato farmer, so she was expected to pick potatoes every year. She later worked at Stone's Pharmacy, doing all their pharmaceutical ordering, and working at a Pharmacy Tech. She also worked at a Glens Falls insurance company. Larry mentioned one of his first jobs being in a grist mill. He chuckled that he was fired from that job shortly after he started. Apparently, he was throwing grain bags with a coworker (what he thought at the time) and mentioned how he wasn't doing it very well. It turns out that the coworker was actual the owner of the mill. That was the end of that job!

Larry spent the majority of his career working for the state of NY. The day after graduating from Paul Smith's College, he started his first job for the state. 30 of his 38 years were spend as an Environmental Conservation Officer. The last 11 years of working for the DEC, one aspect of the job involved Ray being attached to Marine and Off-Road Enforcement. What this entailed was working with the Secret Service to protect then Presidents Bush and Clinton in the event they came to New York State. Another interesting aspect of his career was being a top security officer for the 1980 Olympics. If any of the athletes wanted to defect, they would contact Ray. He would do the necessary paperwork and protect the defectors. He recalls getting a primo seat at the Russia/Finland hockey game in order to be readily accessible to any possible Russian defectors.

He was also captain of "SAFE BOAT" the first New Years after 9/11. This stood for Secure Around Flotation Equipped and required him to be positioned under the Tappan Zee Bridge to guard against any terrorist threats. Linda mentioned that in Ray's career as a conservation officer, she and the boys would often take calls for Ray, then call the dispatcher who would call Ray in the field. Ray was often on call 24/7. He also mentioned that he worked in Organized Crimes out of New England. I think that's another story that I won't share here. I'm sure Ray would love to tell some good stories over coffee or lemonade on the lawn!

After retiring from the State in 2005, he started working several days a week for the LG Park Commission, which he still does. You can find him patrolling Lake George on any Sunday afternoon. For 15 years, Ray and Linda spend winters in Florida, first renting and eventually owning a condo around Melbourne, FL.

Linda and Ray first came to Caldwell in November of 2021. They had heard Ali as a guest preacher at Rockwell Falls church and knew the Parsons now worshiped here. Even before they joined, they jumped right into getting actively involved at Caldwell events. You might have seen them helping at the rummage sale, hosting coffee hour, attending Tuesday Talks or attending weekly Ecumenical Bible Studies here.

When asked about life lessons they would want to share with the younger generations, Linda mentioned two things. The first being the unrealistic ideal of achieving a perfect life. We can only strive for this through reading the Bible and keeping our faith in good times and bad. We can gain resilience to what life often throws at us through our faith. The second thing she mentioned was the importance of patience. So often we want immediate results with our wishes, but God has his own timetable for our lives. We need to learn to be patient. Larry's words of wisdom were, "find something you are passionate about and do it." He mentioned that he wanted to be a conservation officer since he was in the 7th grade. He set his goal and worked toward that and mostly loved what he did for 38 years.



SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH LAKE GEORGE ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Lake George School Backpack Program is a program that sends food home for the weekend with students who need some extra support. It is an attempt to make sure that no students are hungry over the weekend and Holiday breaks. At the end of each week (usually Friday) identified students leave school with nondescript backpacks with enough food to get them through the weekend/holiday/time off. A sincere effort is made to be as discreet as possible in order to help maintain student anonymity.

The Backpack program is continuing to grow and now serves about 30 (mostly elementary & some high school) students each week. That is 30 students, in our own community, who might not otherwise have enough to eat during their time out of school.

The program is supplied through periodic generous donations from organizations like Sacred Heart Church, LG Employee Association/PTSO, the Open Door Mission, local school teachers and now Caldwell Presbyterian has an opportunity to participate in supporting young people in our community in this special way.

We can support these young people in 3 ways:

- 1). By donating money so food such as Macaroni and cheese, soups, granola bars, fruit cups, oatmeal etc. can be purchased for their pantry.
- 2). By donating shelf stable food items such as:
 - *Boxed or Microwave Mac & Cheese
 - *Peanut Butter - snack size or regular
 - *Soup - canned or dry packages
 - *Crackers-whole grain, Fishes, Ritz (plain or w/cheese/peanut butter) etc.
 - *100% Juice boxes
 - *Instant Oatmeal*Granola Bars
 - *Apple Sauce
 - *Pretzels-individual packs
 - *Pasta & Sauce
 - *Fruit cups
 - *Canned Fruit
 - *Fruit Snacks
 - *Jelly
 - *Microwave Popcorn
 - *and of course our old stand by Ramen Noodles....
- 3). By keeping these young people, their families and the people who donate their time and energy to maintain this program in our prayers.

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