

THE SEEKER FOR OCTOBER 2022

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear Caldwell Church Family,

In a recent devotional called “Hope in the Lord Always,” written by theologian Jill Duffield, I was reminded of the power of trusting in God. Calling up the Psalms, the Prophets, and the Gospel of Jesus, Duffield offers words of encouragement to keep the faith during hard times. Here are a few I love:

“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” -Psalm 37:4

“Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.” -Psalm 91:14

And perhaps my favorite of all:

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” -Lamentations 3:22-23

This fall marks the beginning of a new era for Caldwell. As you read through this Seeker you will note all the new and exciting opportunities, from Bible studies, to book studies, to a new Community Culture event, to Taizé worship, to Youth Programs, to preparing Advent devotions, to opportunities for parents and families to gather for service and friendship, to the return of the Community Dinners and the Rummage Sale. For a long stretch we have kept the faith during the hard times of Covid. Now, for the first time since March of 2020, we are hitting the ground running.

One of the points Duffield makes in her series on “Hope in the Lord Always” is to take small steps in the direction of trust, delight, commitment, and stillness, to renew our hope, reestablish our faith practices, and be recharged for our faith journeys. I invite you to open your heart and mind as you peruse these pages and explore the spiritual practices and opportunities for service that speak to you.

I encourage you to try something new this fall. Attend to God’s presence, take a breath, trust in the Lord to deliver you from the old ways of the last few years, and bring you to something new. You may even experience delight in God’s amazing grace that comes in surprising ways.

Hope to see you soon!

Faithfully,

Ali

A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the sky and the water. The waves are crashing on the shore, and the sand is visible in the foreground.

Because of
the LORD’s great love
we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new
every morning;
great is your
faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV

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Christian Education Corner

Happy Fall! We kicked off our Sunday School year on Sept. 11 with some fun getting acquainted activities during Sunday School time and a trip after church to play mini golf in the village. Thanks to all who attended. If you missed it, we hope to see you soon for more exciting activities! For our older kids (grades 6-12), we have a twice a month book study. Our younger class (pre-k thru 5) meets each Sunday and will start a unit on the Armor of God in October. We had fun in September learning about David and Goliath and throwing marshmallows at our 9' Goliath on the wall.



October Mission of the Month - Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry provides families with healthy food and hygiene products. Caldwell Church's Food Pantry serves all of Warren County and has been serving our community since the mid 1980's, starting with a small cupboard in the church kitchen. Today the pantry has its own room with shelving, two freezers and a refrigerator.

Dedicated volunteers keep the pantry shelves stocked. Clients come from Lake George and surrounding communities. In 2021 nearly 1000 people, comprising over 450 households benefited from the Food Pantry.

In the summer season, workers come from all over the world to supply the workforce needed for the tourist season. Many of these workers have struggled all winter long, eagerly awaiting the start of an income again.

And then Covid! Through generous donations we were able to distribute food, face masks, soaps, hand sanitizer and all sorts of hygiene items, every week, right from the onset.

Our pantry supplies the needs of the fluctuating population with integrity and inclusion, supplying only quality items to ensure that no one ever feels inadequate by being supplied with second class products. To never let anyone feel ashamed that life has thrown them a curve ball or to be embarrassed about seeking help. And to ensure that everyone is treated like family we strive to go beyond just supplying their physical needs. We also try accommodate special needs, sometimes purchasing gas cards, milk cards, cook ware, reading glasses, school supplies or other requests that fall outside of the basic food pantry items.

Your support can make all the difference for neighbors who need a helping hand.



Preschool News:

The preschool is up and running and we are having a great time. We have a total of 25 students. This month, the fire department will visit for fire safety week. The fire men will show us their gear and how to respond to a fire. Then students will check out the fire truck parked outside! Also, we have a field trip planned for students and families at Sunny Side Gardens. It is a wonderful to get to know the families and enjoy the fall weather.



Thank you to Karis and Jose Filomeno for the preschool fundraiser at the Beach Club. These funds make it possible for the preschool to purchase items on our wish list. We are so grateful for yours and their support!

-Meghan Quillen, Preschool Director



Upcoming Youth Events for October

Hello Everyone!!!! I'd like to share three exciting offerings happening at Caldwell Church in October:

Sunday, October 2nd is our Fun in Fellowship event, which is open to all youth especially those with sweet tooth! Right after church, we'll be gathering around the fire to make Smores!!!! Please join us for this Youth Group Fall Tradition! All ingredients and marshmallow sticks will be provided, as well as Hot Coco served.

Speaking of Fall Traditions! On Sunday, October 30th It's our Community Wide "All Together Now" event we'll be carving pumpkins! You supply your own carving utensils and we'll supply the pumpkins!!! Apple Cider and donuts will be served!

Also, this Month, we are launching a new seasonal event on Saturday, October 15th. The evening begins with a special Taize Service (please see attachment for details) led by Pastor Ali at 6:00pm. Then at 6:30pm our "Open Mic Cultural Cafe" starts! A simple meal of soup and salad, bread and beverages will be served. We will also have a guest musician performing. Do you have a joke you'd like to tell, an instrument you'd like to play, a story you'd like to share or a song you'd like to sing??? We'd love to have you!!!! This Open Mic event is for you!!!! And a fun way to express yourself!!! Sign up now!

As always, I look forward to hearing from you! Please let me know if you can make it to any or all of our October events. Invite a Friend or two. And please keep your eyes open for a more detailed note about our Taize Service and Cultural Cafe.

In CommUnity,

Margo Nelson, Youth Director

Caldwell Presbyterian Christian Ed Fall Programing

Led by Sarah King, Margo Nelson, Dana Power

Here's what's happening for our first semester.

Please know that friends are always welcomed! RSVP's needed & appreciated!
For questions contact Margo at Youthdirector@caldwellpres.org.

FUN IN FELLOWSHIP ~ 1st Sundays-following church. For all Youth

October 2nd: S'mores!

November 6th: Expressions of Gratitude! Short Film, Popcorn & Card Making

December 4th: Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa!

ALL TOGETHER NOW ~ 5th Sundays of the Month, for all of our Church

New: Taizé Church Service at 6pm

What is Taizé Worship? Started in France, Taizé is a simple, meditative form of worship incorporating music, scripture, silence, candlelight, and prayer to commune with God in an ecumenical setting and to experience the power of centering in the Holy Spirit. All are welcome.

Seasonal Saturday Cultural Café-October 15th 6:30pm - 8:00pm

October 30th: Pumpkin Carving

Mark Your Calendars: Monday, December 5th YOUTH SERVICE
Pizza Planning Party

Sunday, December 18th YOUTH SERVICE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS this School Year:

Angel Disciples (Grades PK-5th) *Every Sunday during Church*

Youth Group (Grades 6 - 12th) *Book Study: 2nd Sundays at 9:15am;*

3rd Sundays at 11:00am

Pastor Ali's Message the 2nd and 4th Sundays during Church

Attention! An Advent Devotional is being created by members of our congregation. Please take some time to think of a daily devotion that you could write to be a part of this project. Please give Jo Ellen Parson's your devotion that you would like to contribute. You can email her at tjparsons@frontiernet.net



Announcements

Rummage Sale Time! Please volunteer to help set up on Oct. 16-19th, sell Oct. 20-22, and clean up 22-23rd. Contact KC: kcglenn129@yahoo.com

Time to Talk with Pastor Ali is open to all Tues., Oct. 4th, 10:00-11:30.

Ecumenical Book Study is a 4-part study of "A Guiding Light" next on Oct. 5th. 11:30-1:00 pm. Please bring your own lunch.

Community Choir at Rockwell Falls Presbyterian Church. All singers invited to rehearse "A Christmas Jubilee" starting Oct. 2, at 7 pm. Concert Dec. 4 at 3 pm.

Community Dinner is free to everyone on Wed., Oct. 12, 5-6 pm at Sacred Heart. Food prepared by ADK Pub. Please volunteer to make desserts. Sign-up sheet in the coffee room. Thank you.

Evening Taizé Church Service: Saturday, October 15th at 6:00 pm-6:30. *A service of prayer, silence, and centering in God*

Evening Cultural Café: Saturday, Oct. 15th, 6:30pm to 8:00pm: An Open Mic of Stories, Poetry, Jokes, Music, *and* a Special Performing Guest! Soup & Salad, Bread & Beverage will be served **Contact Margo Youthdirector@caldwellpres.org** if you'd like to perform something, and/or *if you feel inspired to make a soup, salad or rolls.* Please extend the invitation to Friends & Family!

Prayer Concerns:

Hurricane and flooding victims, shooting victims, Students and teachers, Laurel Cormee, Mark's friend Tim, Jess King, Steven Fairbanks, Ned Quinn, Margo's daughter Nicole, Judy Edmunds, JoEllen's relatives Jenn, Ron & friend Peter, Andrea, Karen Davita, Sue Conklin, Bob Bayle, Darlene's friend, Marge Hull, Peg Earl, Pam Parrott, Loren Compson, Nancy Hollenbeck, Fuller's father-in-law.



Happy Birthday



Annabelle Trowbridge	Oct. 3
Dorothy Prouty	Oct. 17
Sue Hunsicker	Oct. 21
Charlie Fuller	Oct. 24
Samantha Gorey	Oct. 30
Carol Whalen	Oct. 31



Get to Know You Project *with* Carol Triggs Whalen

by Kate Trowbridge, 7th Grade, Queensbury Middle School

I had such a great time talking with Mrs. Whalen today! All these years I've seen her in the congregation but never knew enough about her. So, on this stormy day, it was such a pleasure learning about her. She shared useful advice and astonishing facts about her life that I found were really amazing, and I'm very excited to share them with you!

For starters, Mrs. Whalen has 2 children named Jennifer and John who are both medical doctors. Along with 7 grandchildren of whom are teenagers. She's so proud of them and all they've accomplished. As a child growing up, she lived with not only her parents, but her grandparents in a single house! Despite all the people around her, she was lonely as an only child so she had an imaginary friend whose name was Ghana! She'd play with Ghana in the back yard just as she would with anyone else her age at that time, climbing trees and having fun. Mrs. Whalen is turning 89 this year, and she said she was born before plastic was made! "If you wanted to bring a sandwich to school, you wrapped it in a paper bag." – Mrs. Whalen.

To further discuss her church life, she was born a Presbyterian and has been one ever since! She grew up in Madison, New Jersey and went to the church called... (you guessed it) Madison Presbyterian Church! When she moved to Glens Falls, she joined First Presbyterian Church, which is where my Mom used to work. Mrs. Whalen loved that church, "It's a beautiful church, we used to joke about it being a cathedral! The organ is magnificent there." After that, she met Skip Bush who had been the pastor of Caldwell and he recommended for her to visit our church once in a while. She took his advice and ended up joining Caldwell in the 1970's. She's had a lifelong affiliation with the church and is still very attached to it. She's contributed to Caldwell years back, by joining the session and was on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Currently, she's a member of the Gardens Presbyterian Church in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

The next question I asked Mrs. Whalen was what invention in her lifetime she thought was the most amazing. She clarified that there were so many but if she had to choose one, she said Birth Control pills. Her reasoning was that Birth Control pills are one of the things that changed women's lives. Before that, there was birth control, but it was illegal and outlawed in a lot of places. But once it was available, it changed women's lives dramatically.

As of her career, she loved writing and reading and stuck with it. After raising her kids, she worked as a "stringer" at the Post Star and covered Lake George. Mayor Bob Blais was also the mayor then too! This has to do with her career because he'd hold the meeting and after the meeting, Mrs. Whalen would go to the pay phone and dictate the story off the cuff. She also worked at the Chronical as a writer, which she loved. Even though she enjoyed these jobs, her favorite years were in her 20's. After graduating from Smith College in Northampton, MA, she moved to New York City and worked for McMillan Publishers. She lived in a small apartment and could walk to theaters and Central Park. She once heard Leonard Bernstein conduct the New York Philharmonic. She got in while spending little to no money because there were sometimes extra seats and you could sit down for a Sunday Matinee!

As far as travelling goes, as a young woman, Mrs. Whalen travelled to India for 3 months with her parents! Her father worked with the Ford Foundation as a consultant which is what led them there. She and her mother would buy clothes and be measured for new clothes to be made. They'd sometimes dress in saris when they were invited to people's homes. Later on, after her father passed away, she travelled some more. She visited Costa Rica, Panama, Russia, and Africa (in Kenya and Tanzania). She recalled camping out on safari tours, being surrounded by free animals such as lions and cheetahs!

Mrs. Whalen also mentioned some lifelong advice that will serve us all well. One piece she gave is to write everything down. What people say to you, what's interesting to you, what you hear, all of it. "Someday when you're writing something, it'll make it sparkle the way you'd wanted it to." Another point she made was to leave yourself open to opportunities as they come along. Her point being, you might not expect being offered to speak to a group, or give a toast at a wedding, or do something that puts you in the limelight. "I was always shy about things like that, I wish I had taken those opportunities along the way." She also said to have a plan. Just like you go to the grocery store and you have a list. It's the same with your career—if you want to plan a career, you have to plan in a similar way. But to also be flexible and open to lots of things, even things that don't quite fit into something you had planned all along. She mentioned that when Tom Parsons preached, he would offer people to respond to his sermons. Mrs. Whalen said she was always too shy to speak up. But she wished she hadn't been, she wished she had said "what does this mean?" or "what do you think of that?" But speaking up isn't always easy. She gave an example, "Supposing I go to one of my grandchildren's graduation ceremonies, and I learn that the graduation speaker can't come, and they ask *me* if *I'd* step up to the microphone and give 20 minutes of advice? I don't know if I could do that or not." But her overall message is to *be open, learn all you can, be ready, and don't shy away from opportunities*. To conclude our call, Mrs. Whalen says, "Caldwell is my home church. I feel comfortable there. I know so many people there. It is where I have gone for years. It's beautiful. Caldwell is my home."

Well, thank you for reading! I hope that you took away something from this whether it's a fact about Mrs. Whalen you were interested to learn or a piece of advice that you'd like to carry throughout your life. I also hope that you look at Caldwell similarly to Mrs. Whalen! Have a great rest of your month!

Haiti Mission School News - Updates from Haiti

The news from Haiti is not good. It is in times like these when we are so thankful that our students and their families are in the countryside, a long grueling trip from Port au Prince. Our students are safe, however, they are not in school. Because of the chaos and danger in the Capital and other large cities it is not safe for students or teachers to be out on the street or in the schools or anywhere else so the government has postponed the starting of school to 3 October.



Although there has been much violence and chaos in the Capital City, Port au Prince, since their President Moïse was assassinated over a year ago, it began to escalate exponentially last week. The escalation was precipitated when prime minister, Ariel Henry, announced that the government would be raising the price of fuel to almost double the current price (already high even by our standards). Anger and discontent of peasants and gang members alike over their economic misery spilled over into the largest national protests in years. The fact that there are many more guns available and in the hands of gangs is also a contributing factor. The police in the cities are severely outnumbered, out armed, discouraged and consequently unwilling and

or afraid to go to work. The chaos and the escalation of gas prices has caused the prices of food, medicine and other necessities to increase significantly as well. The shortage of and increased cost to transport these items are what affects our families in significant ways. (Is any of this sounding familiar??!)

In the meantime, we have been doing what we can do by preparing for our students return to school and praying that 3 October will be the day. We have purchased new books for our K-1 and 2 students. They write in them so they need to be replaced annually. We have also purchased replacement books for the upper grades (3 through 6). We have purchased material to replace uniforms. We are ready to prepare and serve hot meals for October. We have paid inscription and entrance fees plus the first three months of tuition for our secondary school students. We are ready to go!! Please pray with us that 3 October is the date.

At the same time we are preparing to rebuild the exterior walls of another home. One of the churches that have faithfully supported our school over the years has donated the \$1800 to buy the materials, pay for the boss mason and purchase and transport the materials.

We are sorry to report that the father of this family passed away just a short time ago. So please keep them in your family prayers.

If you, your church or organization would like to be a part of helping our student families rebuild the exterior walls of their home please contact us. There are many little homes left with walls needing rebuilding. **We thank you for your prayers and on-going support for this ministry.**

History of Haiti

In last month's news letter we said we would begin to write about the history of Haiti and how that has precipitated many of the problems (financial, social, political and other) they continue to experience to this day. So here we go on the first installment with a little history.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus, along with his three ships the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria and crew arrived on the island to first be known by the Spanish as Hispaniola and which we now know as Haiti. They encountered and were welcomed by the indigenous Tainos people who then numbered up to a million. Within 50 years, through diseases brought by these invaders, war and outright killing, this entire population had been virtually eliminated.

The first permanent European settlement in all the Americas was built on the island of Hispaniola. It was a fort named La Navidad, built in 1492 from timbers salvaged from one of Columbus' ships that ran aground. When Columbus returned a year later, he found the fort burned to the ground and the 39 men he had left behind killed by the Tainos for kidnapping and raping Taino women.

When it became clear there was little gold to be found on the island and was, in fact, found in much more abundance on the more mainlands of the Americas, many of the Spanish left for greener pastures, so to speak. Others remained and concentrated their energy on cattle ranching and agriculture there on the fertile plains more at the center of the island (probably somewhere along the current northern border of Haiti and southern border of the Dominican Republic). Sugar cane, tobacco and coffee began to be exported from that "bread basket" and areas around Santo Domingo. For several decades this colony was the center of Spain's New World empire. **Stay tuned next month as the French to appear in the life of Hispaniola.**





Taizé is a meditative form of worship incorporating special music, scripture, silence, candlelight, and prayer to commune with God in an ecumenical setting in the sanctuary and to experience the power of centering in the Holy Spirit.

**Please join us on Saturday, October 15 th , 6:00-6:30 p.m.,
in the sanctuary.**

~ All Are Welcome ~

Stewardship Campaign 2023

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. 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 2023. 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,
Alex Parrott,
Nate Fuller,
Bob Blais.



The Seeker

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St.

Lake George, NY 12845
