

THE SEEKER FOR NOVEMBER 2022

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



PRACTICING THANKSGIVING in NOVEMBER

November is here, and English poet Thomas Hood from the early to mid 19th Century put it like this: “No butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!—November!” It is true that many of the markers of bustling life in creation quiet down at this time of year, and nature goes underground for deep rest and silent preparations for next spring. In the meantime, Thanksgiving is coming, a time to pause and give our thanks for God and one another.

Karl Barth once said that the basic human response to God is not fear and trembling, not guilt and dread, but thanksgiving. “What else can we say to what God gives us but to stammer praise?” Barth asked. And what better way to stammer than with some of the greatest hymns of all, which we will sing at our worship service the Sunday before Thanksgiving: “Come Ye Thankful People Come,” “We Gather Together,” and “Now Thank We All Our God,” which the late Robert McAfee Brown once said is the best all-purpose hymn, suitable for every important occasion—birth, baptism, wedding, ordination, or funeral—and was sung at his own. Here is the first verse:

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who, from our mother’s arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

In her book *Fresh Bread*, Joyce Rupp divides the year into months and seasons. The chapter on November includes a litany that I invite you to pray. As the days grow shorter and we turn our clocks back, marking the end of Daylight Savings, may Thanksgiving be on your mind and this litany of gratitude on your heart—a companion throughout the month of November:



A Litany on Gratitude

Gracious God, silence in us any thoughts but your own so that we may live in gratitude:

To share whatever gift it is that you have given to us...

To acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts...

To give without counting the cost...

To share without expecting something in return...

To be wise in the way of caring for ourselves and others...

To hold all of our treasures and values with open hands...

To have gospel priorities and to align our life, love, and time in their light...

To be gracious and ungrudging in our giving...

To recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day...

To know the freedom that comes with true generosity...

To accept our talents, whether many or few, and to use them in service of the Kingdom...

To grow in giving thanks for everything...

PRAYER: Gracious God, who so generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude, a center that grows so strong in its thanksgiving, that sharing freely of our treasures becomes the norm and the pattern of our existence. Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hour of our greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and love. Amen.

Thanks be to God for each of you.
Faithfully,
Ali

Happy Birthday

2 Joni Steiner

22 Jeb Trowbridge

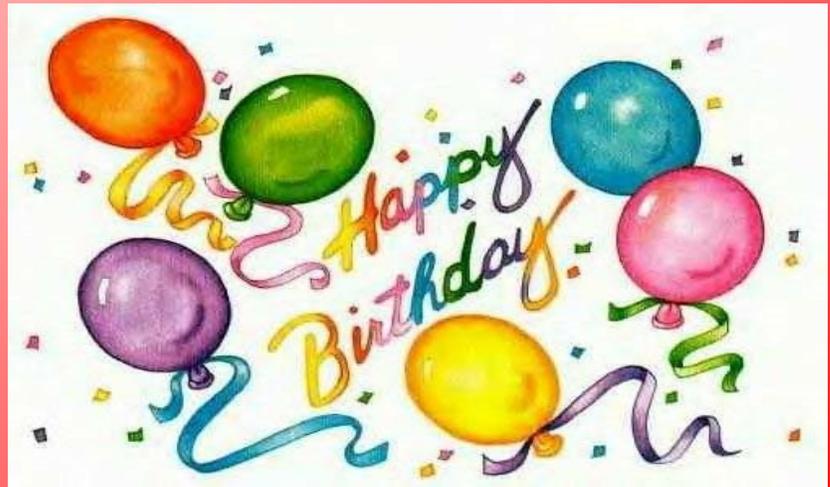
11 Dotty Kopf

25 Alan Chandler

13 Beth Corriveau

16 Scott Quigan

17 Bob Gunther



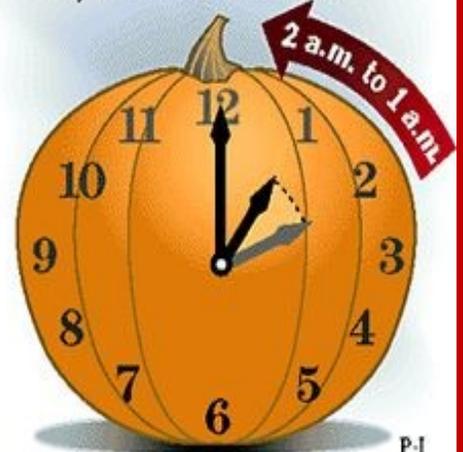
Volunteers needed to rake the church's leaves.

Bags are provided on the back porch.

November 7th

Daylight-saving time ends

- Turn your clock back one hour tonight before going to bed.
- It's also time to change batteries in your smoke detectors.



Christian Education Events:

Thanks to those who attended our mini golf outing in October. It was a bright sunny day and we all had a great time. If you missed out, we hope you can join us for another fun upcoming activity.



We are so excited to have Margo Nelson as our new Youth Director! She has been busy setting up all sorts of fun events for our youth to enjoy.

"In Your Own Voice ": An explorative translation of bible quotes, stories, psalms, hymns and more. As interpreted in your own voice using art, music, journaling and improv. In our first meeting in November, you will be collaging your own journal which you will use in the coming sessions. This series will run on the **first and 3rd Sundays of each month (for Nov. 7th & 14th) during Sunday school time for youth group members grades 7-12.** Come as you feel inspired. All materials provided.

"Fun in Fellowship" Calling all young disciples! Join us for special events and field trips planned with the intention to play and nurture our child like spirit. "Without play, without that child still alive in all of us, we will always be incomplete. And not just physically, but creatively, intellectually and spiritually as well" ~ Anonymous.

Fun in Fellowship will be the 1st Sunday of the month, beginning with **Nov. 7th - Gratitude Camp Fire.** Our young disciples will make Thanksgiving cards (for our Thanksgiving Baskets) and enjoy getting to know one another around the campfire for hot cocoa, stories & s'mores.



Nov. Mission of the Month—Adirondack Vets House

The Adirondack Vets House, Inc., built in 2000, is a 501 c (3) Non-Profit longer term facility for homeless veterans located in Glens Falls, NY. The house can accommodate 9 residents. The house has 3 full bathrooms, a dining room, sitting room, and a renovated basement for limited storage. The house is now an all male facility and handicap accessible. We place women Vets directly into permanent housing. There are no more time limits for our resident Veterans!! Great news!!

Each resident is assigned cleaning chores for the week at the house as well as maintaining the outside and adjoining areas, cooking one meal per rotating schedule, and will be accountable by fair and reasonable rules and regulations to maintain the integrity of the program. The location of the house is within walking distance to the VA medical clinic for medical or psychological assistance if needed. All other appointments not in the approximate area can be arranged through a VA van service to accommodate their needs.

The latest statistics we have gathered reported that Veterans make up as high as 40% of the homeless population in the US. The figure jumps to almost 60% in larger cities. The staff and Board of Directors meet this challenge of reducing homelessness by creating programs that fit the needs of the Veteran, because each Veteran is unique and needs a tailor made program, not a "cookie cutter" program that works for some of the Veterans some of the time.

They accept donation of certain goods:

- Laundry Detergent, coffee (dark roast, dark coffee)
- canned soup everything but tomato, we have plenty of that type.
- snacks; the residents love treats. Cookies, donuts, cakes, etc.
- Paper products, toilet paper, paper towels. No tissues or toiletries, we have plenty!
- Gift cards for gas and coffee from Stewart's, grocery stores (for our meats and milk), Walmart (for our bedding needs, pillows, sheets and blankets full size bedding), Lowes and Home Depot for supplies.

Thank you for your support!

Advent Wreath Making Activity! Sandwiches, Candles and Cookies

We will hold our Love Feast and Wreath Activity on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27 at 5:00 pm in the Middle Room. Those attending should bring enough sandwiches, whole pieces of fruit and baked goods for their family. The idea is to make the sandwiches special, as if for a friend because all of the food is pooled and shared. If you want to eat your own sandwich for any reason (gluten free bread or picky eater), that's ok too.



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. The two hour evening will conclude with a brief Advent reading, songs and the lighting of the first Advent candle. Come join our Caldwell Family in this meaningful Christmas tradition. Watch for the sign-up sheet or contact Sarah King at (518)744-9348 or scubakings@roadrunner.com if you would like to attend.

Church Wide Cookie Exchange Resumes!

A church wide Cookie Exchange will take place on the same evening as the Love Feast. You may do one or both activities. If you plan to do just the cookie exchange, please bring your cookies no later than 7 PM. The exchange takes a very short time in the Coffee Room following the wreath making event.



Rules for Exchange:

Bring 6 dozen of the SAME kind of cookie. They may be on a tray, cookie sheet or box cover whatever is easiest for you to transport. Also bring a Tupper ware container to collect your cookies in. (You bring six doz. and take home 6 dozen of a mixed variety.)

Thanksgiving Meal Baskets



Thanksgiving Note Cards

Dear Parents,

Please encourage your child to write or draw a little note of thanksgiving to return to the church so that the Deacons can put one in each families food basket. Thank you. The families always appreciate the hand written cards made by our children.

*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. The basket will include a traditional Thanksgiving menu including turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, vegetables and dessert. Families will pick up their baskets on Monday, November 21st from 5-7. For more information please contact Patti Brozyna.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Ella Quillen, The Ukraine, our country and our leaders, Warrensburg Methodist Church, School shooting victims and their families, Tammy S., the starving people of Haiti, Jim Putnam, Hurricane victims, Laurel Cormee, Jess King, Pam Parrott, JoEllen's friend Peter & Ron, Andrea, Bob Bayle, Darlene's friend, Marge Hull, Peg Earl, Loren Compson, Nancy Hollenbeck, Fuller's father-in-law.

Do you or someone you know need a breathing machine?

A Respironics Breathing machine has been donated to the church. It is a REMstarPlus M series. It is used but you are welcome to take it home if you know someone with a need for one.

Please call Beth in the office to pick it up.

A Word on Caldwell's Stewardship Campaign 2023

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,

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 choir rehearsals, 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 2022. 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

Youth Group News

Fall. Days grow shorter. We can't help but respond to the shift of light in the outer world. This deepening of the dark of night invites us to bring our awareness to the power of our inner light. Each religion has its own "Festival of Lights" such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Advent, Yule which all include a lighting of a light. Makes me wonder, what are the ways in which we keep our spiritual lamps lit during the dark time of the year? Let's consider: light your lamp by connecting to what brings you joy. Light a lamp by embracing connection thru simply sharing a smile. Light your lamp through connection to our fellow beings with random acts of kindness. Whatever inspires you, find a way, to spread your light this season. And may I suggest....

...Join our **book group**, whether in the comfort of your home or by joining us on **2nd Sundays at 9:00am and on 3rd Sundays at 11:00am** at church. "**The Dream Giver**" journey awaits you and connecting to your dreams is a great way to light your lamp!

...**Sunday, November 1st "Fun in Fellowship"** ~ Join us after service for a "Gratitude Short Film Festival" with popcorn in hand, we'll watch 4 inspirational award winning short films with the common theme of Gratitude/Thankfulness. A short discussion will follow. We'll then get creative by making Gratitude cards for someone you care for, and also, for our Church Thanksgiving Baskets.

...**Sunday, November 20th Rock Painting** ~ Calling all youth! Express your God inspired creativity by painting rocks for our Inspirational Rock Garden. No experience necessary! All ages invited. You just need a willingness to have fun! During Church Service. (This will be happening every 3rd Sunday.)

Save the Date! Our next Cultural Café Open Mic will be on Saturday, February 11th.
Let your voice be heard at this open, inclusive event!

Taize Service will precede the Cultural Café.

Thank you to all who attended our first service of Taize at Caldwell.

It was an ecumenical event attended by friends from surrounding churches and Christian denominations. The worship service is comprised of scripture, prayer, silence, and song. As we sang "Jesus Remember Me," congregants were invited to come forward and light a candle at the communion table near the display of iconography which arrived to us from Taize, France, just in time for our first service.

We held silence for five minutes. Afterwards people wondered how five minutes vanished so quickly. We will double our time of silence to ten minutes at our next Taize worship on Feb 11th. Please mark your calendars. We hope you can join us for this meditative, peaceful, powerful service of prayer and ecumenical solidarity.

Blessings to all,

Ali



Adopt a Family—AKA Mitten Mission

The Deacons will be "adopting" several families in Lake George to provide Christmas gifts and food baskets to. Last year they served 10 families and have signed up for additional families this year.

Please watch for more details in the church bulletin and consider if you would like to shop or donate money towards the effort of serving needy families in Lake George during the holidays.

Christian Education Corner ~ We had S'more Fun in October!

We had lots of fun in Oct. We started the month with our Fun in Fellowship event, s'mores around the campfire. We had a nice sunny day although it was windy. Kudos to Dax for getting that campfire roaring! In class, the youth group started a book discussion (more on that from Margo), and the elementary kids began a unit on The Armor of God. Great photo ops! On Oct. 15, we had our first Taize service and our first Cultural Café. We'll end the month on Oct. 28 with our All Together Now activity, pumpkin carving. We hope you were able to join us for some of these fun events.



Advent Goodie Bags

I plan to create some advent goodie bags for kids coming into the church on the 4 Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve. Please look for them in the narthex and take one per child.

Our next CE meeting will be on Monday Nov. 14, on Zoom. Let me know if you wish to receive the link. Everyone is welcome.



Caldwell Preschool

The sound of leaves crunching underneath our feet inspired us to investigate in piles on the playground. Students were heard saying "This is the best day ever" as they jumped. Classes followed up our leaf investigation with leaf rubbings, art and stuffing a scarecrow. So many things you can explore in the natural world.

What a blessing these children are! In November we are looking forward to a Thanksgiving feast with all our families. Pastor Ali and friends will also continue a Coffee and Crafts group for families during school. Several mom's met yesterday and had a wonderful time creating a fall craft and socializing with each other and Pastor Ali.



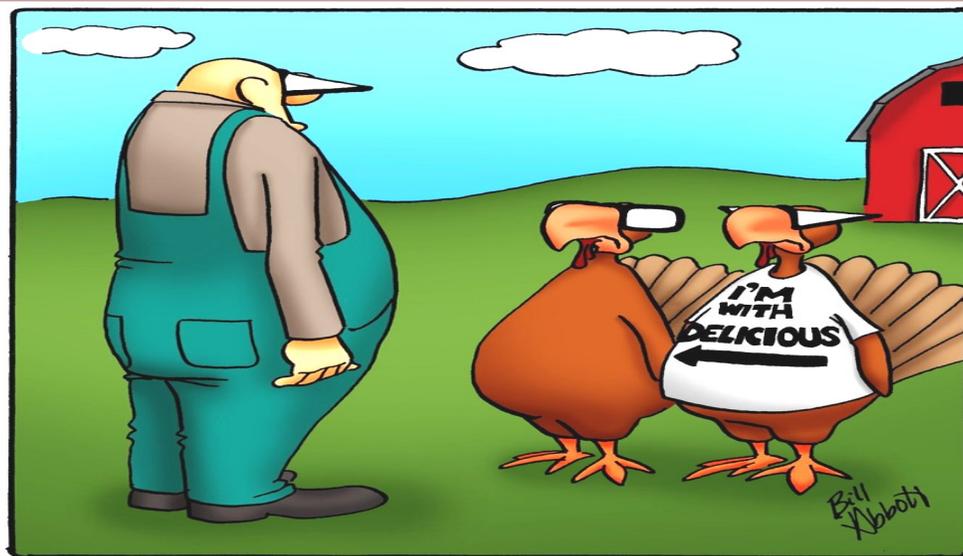
Happy Thanksgiving!

Meghan, Preschool Director

CALDWELL PUZZLE SWAP

ARE YOU A PUZZLE DOER? I GOT ADDICTED DURING COVID. EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED THE JOY OF PUZZLES, YOU CAN NOW JOIN THE CALDWELL PUZZLE SWAP.

I'VE SET SOME PUZZLES ON THE BOOKSHELF IN THE LIBRARY. PLEASE HELP YOURSELF TO A PUZZLE AND LEAVE ONE YOU'VE COMPLETED IN ITS PLACE.



Announcements

Time to Talk with Pastor Ali is open to all Tues., Nov. 1st, 10-11:30.

Ecumenical Book Study is studying "Meet the Disciples," 11:30 -1:00 p.m.
Please bring your lunch. Copies are in the office.

Community Dinner is November 9th from 5- 6 at Sacred Heart.

The food will be provided by the Holiday Inn.

The cost is free and all are welcome.

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

October 2022

News From the Haiti

Mission School

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

As of this writing school has not started in Haiti and for those of us who love Haiti and her people the news is so frightening and discouraging it often feels as though there is no hope. Yet, I am reminded of what our Lord says through the voice of the prophet Jeremiah in chapter 29:11... "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'." I don't know what this means for Haiti and yet my Haitian friends and I cling to this hope because it seems all there is left.

As many of you know Haiti's interim government has devolved into total chaos since the July 2021 assassination of their former president Jovenel Moise. Armed gangs currently rule. They have been blockading access to the main fuel depot in Port-au-Prince, leading to a shortages across the country of basic goods such as gas for transportation and for town generators necessary for electricity, food, clean water, medical supplies etc., all during a cholera outbreak. The main medical resource needed during a cholera outbreak is access to clean water. As a result of the chaos and blockades and the lack of clean water, children and adults suffer and die needlessly. Some goods, of course, can be purchased but at exorbitant prices.

The UN is weighing a motion to send an international force into Haiti as acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry has requested. Many Haitians are begging for just that. However, many Haitians say "no foreigners!!". "When the UN was last here," many say, "all they brought was kidnappings, rape and cholera," and some of this is true. Some say, "it is a military solution to a political problem". Yet others say "in the end it is a choice between an intervention or the danger and total chaos of gang rule." Things are rarely simple and straight forward.

Some good news is that as a result of the distribution of water purification systems we provided a few years ago, our school families and several neighborhoods in the Jeremie area able to provide potable water for themselves and their neighbors. Despite the shortage and exorbitant price we continue trying to find ways to purchase and transport food and other necessities to our school families. We have had to postpone the rebuilding of walls for our student families for now. We hope and pray for safer and better times.

We and the people of Haiti appreciate your continuing kind thoughts, support and prayers. Much thanks and blessings to each one.

(No pictures included in this issue as the writer does not know how to do those more hi tech maneuvers!!)

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