

THE SEEKER—DECEMBER 2022

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear Caldwell Family,

In his book *The Longing for Home*, Frederick Buechner remembers his grandparents' home in Pittsburgh where he and his mother and brother lived for a while after his father's death. Buechner recalls the library with rows of books, the parlor, the portraits, the large moose head on the wall, and "the smell of that house I remember best" he writes, "was the smell of cooking apple sauce"(p. 9).

He continues, "One of the delights of my life is to step off the elevator in our building and be hit with the wonderful aroma of a pot roast cooking in the apartment next to ours. It happens fairly often and every time it does, I am transported a half-century and 550 miles away to my mother's kitchen." Buechner says the older we get, the more we find ourselves remembering one particular home—the home we knew and will always be homesick for.

Even if we did not have such a home, we still long for a place that belongs to us and where we belong. Homesickness seems to be built into us. Advent is the time when we take stock of our spiritual lives, and for many of us, we realize we are in some way far from home.

"Homesickness," Barbara Brown Taylor says, is "God's tug at our hearts, a kind of homing instinct planted in each of us."

In his book on home, Buechner writes:

"To be really at home is to be really at peace, and our lives are so intricately interwoven that there can be no real peace for any of us, until there is real peace for all of us." (p. 140)

That is what we anticipate in Advent. A young couple, a man and a woman heavily pregnant, traveling many miles to return home, and when they arrive, making a home, a birth place in a cow stall, transforming a manger into a home to which we all, in some way, return.

Perhaps you will agree with me that our one true home is where Christ is. The home to which we return, regardless of the geography of the thing, or from whom we are separated this Christmas; home is there, that simple manger scene where we know we belong, where we know once again the strong, saving news that there is One who loves the world so much as to be born into it, loves the world so much as to never give up on it, loves the world so much as to continue to work for redemption and peace in unexpected and surprising ways. That's where we're headed again this Advent: Home, where we know ourselves to be loved and cared for—and ultimately fully safe, whole, at peace...that modest manger in Bethlehem, the place where, at midnight, even the oxen kneel.

May God bless you on your Advent journey home.

Faithfully,

Ali



Announcements



- Dec 4: Advent II Worship and Communion, 10 a.m.
Caroling, Cookies, and Cocoa after church.**
- Dec. 11: Advent III Worship and Children's Message, 10 a.m.**
- Dec. 14: Community Dinner sponsored by Fort William Henry at Sacred Heart Church, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Free. All are welcome.**
- Dec. 18: Youth Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m. Youth arrival 9:00 for rehearsal.**
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.**
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day Worship, 10 a.m.**



Christmas Joy Offering for December Mission of the Month

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, assisting communities of color.

Developing & Sustaining Our Leaders

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Your Impact

Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



Caldwell Presbyterian Church Food Cupboard Fundraiser

What: We are selling car wash tickets from **Hoffman Car Wash** as a fundraiser for our church's food cupboard. You know your car will get salt and grime all over it this winter. Remember it says somewhere "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", not sure where, but I am sure you've heard that before. 50% of each ticket will go to this worthy cause. Our goal is \$1,500. But we would love to surpass that goal.

When: Thursday, December 1 – December 31, 2022

Do I have to buy a certain amount and how does it work: You may buy one car wash ticket or as many as you would like. These make great Christmas/birthday gifts. You will receive a confirmation email when you order. Then you will get a separate email for each ticket you purchase, at this point you can either print out the ticket to give as a gift, forward that email to a friend or relative or keep it in your email and bring it up when you go to the car wash.

Here is the link to connect you right to our fundraising page:

<http://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraisers/caldwellchurch>

Questions you may have:

- Tickets do not expire
- Tickets can be used at **any full service** Hoffman Car Wash. They cannot be used at self-service locations such as Kingston and Saratoga.
- Any questions you may have, call the church at 518-668-2613 and we will get back to you with an answer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Dinner: Our December Community dinner is scheduled for Wednesday 14th from 5:00-6:00 pm. It will be held in the community room at Sacred Heart Church. The food will be provided by the Fort William Henry. We will need some help with deserts, setup, serving and clean up. Sign-up sheets are in the coffee room. So put this date on your calendar and come and join in the fun, food and fellowship.

Lunch & Learn Series at St. James: Thurs. Dec. 15, 11:30-1:30. Christmas sing-a-long. Free lunch. Bring 2 doz. cookies for cookie exchange. RSVP 518-668-2001.

Time to Talk with Pastor Ali is open to all Tues., Dec. 6, 10-11:30.

Advent Bible Study Wed., 11:30 -1:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Lake George Community Christmas Day Dinner: If you or someone you know is not able to prepare dinner, is alone, or homebound on Christmas, there is a dinner offered for free at the Courtyard Marriott. Dinner will be served at 2:00, seating starts at 1:45. There is a choice of turkey or ham along with all of the trimmings. Food is being prepared by the Inn at Erlowest. Please RSVP by Friday, Dec. 16th. #518-668-2613.





DEACON'S CORNER

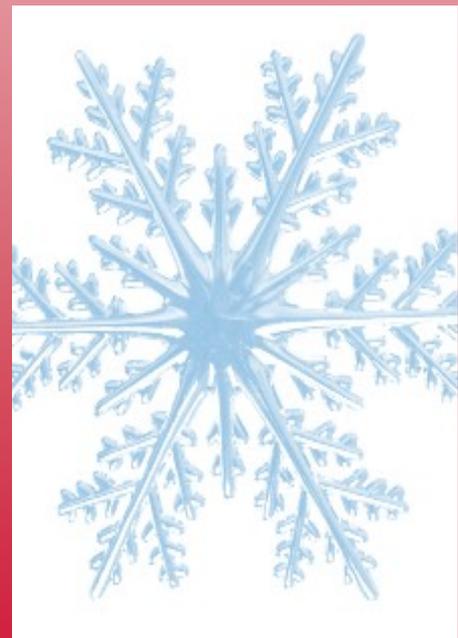
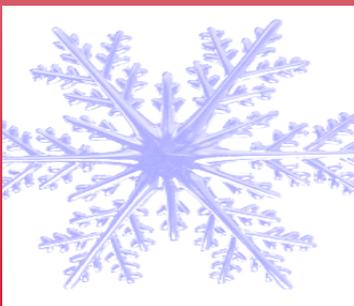
As we enter the Christmas season, let us reflect on the many blessings which God has provided. Once again our church family partnered with the Lake George Elementary school and Castaway Marina customers to provide a meal, clothing, and toys for families in need at Christmas. Our mitten ministry is the highlight of giving for many of us! Already, all of our mittens have been taken by someone in the congregation. Thank you for helping! Please bring the mitten and unwrapped gift back to the church by Sunday, Dec. 4th. If you didn't get a mitten and would still like to participate, we are accepting cash or checks to purchase needed items.

Also, if you know of anyone that is shut in or ill. The Deacons have a variety of soups available in the church kitchen freezer. You are welcome to take some to that person in need. You are also able to contribute to our supply if you have some extra soup that you made. Please be sure to mark and date the container before placing it in the freezer.

Finally, we were able to provide over 53 Thanksgiving baskets, along with donated 10-20 pound turkeys, thanks to the owners of the Lake George Beach Club, and the efforts of our Deacons.

Blessings and Merry Christmas.

The Caldwell Deacons



December 2022



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Dec 4: Advent II Worship and Communion, 10 a.m.
Caroling, Cookies, and Cocoa after church

Dec. 5: Youth Group: Pizza, Painting, Pageant Planning Party 5:30-7 pm.

Dec. 11: Advent III Worship and Children's Message, 10 a.m.

Dec. 14: Community Dinner sponsored by Fort William Henry at Sacred Heart Church, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Free. All are welcome.

Dec. 18: Youth Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m. Youth arrival 9:00 for rehearsal.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.

Happy Birthday

1 Xander Bunalski	20 Brynne Chase
4 Jessica King	20 Karen Azer
10 Kim Cornelius	22 Maggie Earl
10 Sean Mannix	22 Todd Earl
12 Tom Jenne	25 Jesus Christ
17 Kathy Duell	31 Oliver Hoose



Prayer Concerns – Bruce Kilburn, Ebony and her family, Rolf Ahlers, Van Anden's friend Felix, Jess King, Papo & Lynn Villarubia, Dorothy Frost family, Glenn's friends Anna & Greg, Mel's friends Vanessa & Bruce, Joyce Compson and her friend Penny, David Humphrey, Nancy & Ralph Wehmann, Volodymyr Abaschnik, Rich, Jessica Army, Peggy Green, Judy and Dick Edmonds, Margo's friend on hospice, Ella Cavas, Tammy S., Danielle Thomas, Laurel Cormee, the starving people of Haiti, Jim Putnam, Pam Parrott, JoEllen's friend Peter & Ron, Andrea, Darlene's friend, Marge Hull, Peg Earl, Nancy Hollenbeck, Fuller's father-in-law.



Christian Education Gratitude Films:

In November we held our first Annual Gratitude Short Film Festival. It was clear by the discussion and reflections which followed that everyone was inspired by the films we presented. For those of you who could not make it, here are the links to the films which can be viewed on YouTube.

"Gratitude" short film by Loie Sschwartzberg (5:54)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4115qFsdWKQ>

"Gratitude Story for Kids" Help others value humanity and time. (2:16)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3cpV_dnN_I

"Molly's Pilgrim" (1985) (23:44)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3o4hxoT9NCQ>

"Do You Make A Difference" Short film - Gratitude by Vishal Sanghani (9:26)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JePCR3keik>

Christian Ed Programing for all Youth:

Fun in Fellowship: December 4th: Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa!

Sunday School: Angel Disciples (PK-5th) *Every Sunday during church*

Youth Group (6-12th) *Book Study: 2nd Sun.-9:15; 3rd at 11:00 am.*

Please take time to fill out the Stewardship Card we mailed you.

and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the office.

This will help us to plan our budget for 2023. Thank you.



Preschool News:

On November 21, Caldwell Preschool hosted it's first annual Thanksgiving Festival.

Families, students, staff, and church volunteers enjoyed delightful food and activities. The festival had six activities for the students, including ring toss, making a head band, and turkey bowling. We are looking forward to making gingerbread houses in December.

Merry Christmas!

Meghan Quillen, Preschool Director



Christian Education News:

The Tree of Christmas Blessings

It's time to reinvent the Christmas tree in the coffee room. You're probably thinking, "what Christmas tree?" It's easy to miss. With your help, this tree will now be known as *The Tree Of Christmas Blessings*. Help yourself to an ornament in the nearby basket, grab a marker, and share a Christmas blessing, hope, wish, verse, illustration, whatever moves you. We hope this tree inspires you this holiday season and for many years to come with the hopes, wishes, and inspirations of your Caldwell Family.

Caldwell Puzzle Swap

Need help getting through those long cold winter days? Visit our puzzle swap shelf in the library off the middle room. Take a puzzle and return when you're done. Working a puzzle can be great fun and satisfying to complete.

Advent Goodie Bags for Kids

Sarah King has created 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

Next Ce Meeting is on Mon., Dec. 12 on Zoom at 7pm. All are welcome. Contact Sarah King for Zoom link.

We had a great day for some pumpkin carving on the last Sunday in October. We had delicious cider donuts and cider and it was lots of fun.





Holiday Happenings at Caldwell Church...Please Join Us!



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth..."

Sunday, December 4th: 11:30am – 12:30 pm - "Fun in Fellowship" Christmas Caroling

All are welcome, young and old, to join in song! Let's together share in the joyful service of Christmas Caroling in our Community! House to House; Heart to Heart. Followed by Hot Cocoa and Cookies in the Parish Hall. Please let me know if there is a special song you'd like us to include in our caroling! Join us and spread the holiday cheer! Instruments and Bells welcomed!

Monday, December 5th: 5:30 - 7:00pm - Pizza, Painting, Pageant Planning Party

Calling all Youth! Enjoy Pizza and Beverages as we talk about our upcoming Christmas Pageant and the ways in which you can make it so special through song, reading, acting, etc. *You'll get to choose* the role you'd like to play. Costumes will be available to try on. We will also paint a set piece (backdrop) for the Pageant. ***Pre-School "Angels" will be needed !!!***

***** Sign Up Deadline for Pizza is Sunday, Dec. 4th***

~ Let me know if you have special dietary needs.

Sunday, December 18th During Church Service:

Christmas Pageant

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..."

Isaiah 9:6

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with our traditional Christmas Pageant. Beautifully performed by the Youth of our Church Family.

Would love to know if you can join us at these Special Christmas Events!

Please Contact Margo To

RSVP: YouthDirector@caldwellpres.org



December News From the Haiti Mission School

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

Greetings to each one. We, the board of the Haiti Mission School, hope you had a good and grateful Thanksgiving and wish you blessings as you move into the season of Advent.

Gangs “Armed gangs are “terrorizing” residents in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, a United Nations official has warned, as deadly violence and instability continue to complicate the country’s response to a worsening outbreak of cholera.” (AlJazeera News). Although the gangs in Port au Prince continue to be in control of the countries economy and survival, there is now some food, gas, medical supplies, building materials etc... getting through. It is all very expensive because the gangs charge high fees for everything that leaves from the capital city to the countryside and the towns and cities beyond.



Food distribution Because families were near starvation and the students were not in school to get a hot meal each day, the board in Haiti requested we help by providing a food distribution to the student families. The US board was in agreement and Junior was requested to purchase and deliver to Latibolliere \$2,500 US worth of food. About \$1500 more than it was costing to feed the students each day for a month while they were in school. We had hoped to provide the three basics; rice, beans and oil. The bad news is, because of the current high cost of essentials, for that amount we were only able to buy rice and oil and gas for transporting the delivery. Gas alone to transport the food cost more than \$200 US. There were many trips made on a motorcycle with the food covered in order to prevent people from stopping Junior and robbing the food. The good news is about 70 families had food they might not have otherwise had.

They are grateful to God and to you all for your continuing prayers and support.

Secondary School restarts We do have some good news. College Dumas, where we scholarship 6 of our top graduates each year, reopened its doors on 14 November. Our students are there and in class, learning and getting a hot meal each school day. We are hopeful this will continue. There is something to be said for living in the countryside away from the noise, chaos and danger of city life. College Dumas is a Private Secondary School run by a Catholic organization in Canada. It is one of the better Secondary schools in the area and so our students receive a quality education.



The primary school is scheduled to reopen on 28 November. We are in the process of purchasing material for uniforms, books and food for our depot. We are purchasing it in smaller amounts in order to protect it from theft. We have never had a problem before, however, people are so hungry....

Need seeds We have also received a request to provide money for seed (corn & beans) for the upcoming planting season (December). Usually the farmers save seed from the previous seasons crop...which they did this year. However, because of the food shortages and serious hunger problems, the seed was used to feed their families. The US Board has approved \$2500 US for this program plus expenses for implementing and monitoring the program. The plan is to provide say 5 cans of seed and when the crops are harvested have the farmers return 7 cans. We would use the beans and corn we receive to supplement our food programs and perhaps provide for some of the local orphanage and restavec programs.

Banking in Haiti Each time Junior goes to the bank to withdraw money he faces long waiting times in lines that look like this. The bank has several very large and well armed guards posted around inside the bank to keep order and protect the employees and bank assets. Junior, however, does not withdraw large amounts at a time because it is currently too dangerous to leave the bank with large amounts of cash. Can you imagine facing these kinds of obstacles each time you needed to go to the bank!!!

Prayers Life continues to be very difficult and at times dangerous for our Haitian brothers and sisters. So, we join our students and their families and others in thanking you for your continuing support and your prayers for safer and better times.



*The Poinsettias are Given to the Glory of God,
and in Memory of Loved Ones:*

In Memory of_____

Given by_____

Dear Folks, if anyone would like to make a donation towards the Christmas flowers used to decorate the sanctuary. Please fill this slip out along with your donation made out to Caldwell Presbyterian church flowers, and place it in the offering plate or the office by December 18th.

In insert will be placed in the Christmas Eve bulletin to honor your loved ones.

History behind the famous Christmas hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem” 1968

The words to the hymn were written by Phillip Brooks, a well known Episcopalian minister who was a native Bostonian. At the age of 30, Philips visited a Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. He was so moved by being close to the spot where Jesus was born and hearing the whole church ringing with splendid hymns of praise to God. Three years later, he could still recall hearing those voices telling everyone of the wonderful night of the Savior’s birth. So feeling inspired, he decided to compose an original hymn for the children in his church to sing for their Christmas Pageant. He handed the words to his organist, Lewis Redner and asked him to come up with a tune.

Lewis struggled with his assignment, but awoke the night before the pageant with music ringing in his soul. He jotted down the melody and the next day 36 children and 6 Sunday School teachers sang “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”

Brooks was so pleased with the tune that he originally named it “St. Louis “ after his organist. He changed the spelling so that he wouldn’t embarrass Lewis. The fourth stanza is usually omitted from our hymn books. Here is how it goes:

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to Thee, Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

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—pastor@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org