

# THE SEEKER FOR MAY 2023 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*

This morning was one of those days. We missed the bus! You watch it come and go right from the living room window, and with it, the small but certain wave of disappointment of the day not quite starting off on the right foot. Quickly you recalibrate, and offer something like, “well, at least now you can take your time and finish the rest of your toast.” Not very helpful!

For our “take two,” we hopped in the car, and the radio was tuned to the news full of the latest headlines – everything from cable TV anchors to the war in Ukraine—the level of concern rises as we turn onto West Mountain Road, the car silent, pondering the weight of the world, and a welcome perspective on the challenges we face verses the ones others face across the globe.

At some point, a song from a favorite Spotify playlist was chosen, I think it was from Abba. A tiny glimmer of light and levity returned. By the time we arrived at the school, everyone was in good enough form, and off they went with about 25 lbs of backpack and sports and musical instruments and lunch and water bottle balanced on their backs. I thought, *this can't be good for them to haul all that every day*, but they seem to manage just fine. I watched as they made their way to the door and disappeared inside the building.

On the return trip home, now solo in the car, I tuned the radio again to my go-to, NPR, and to my surprise and delight, there began a segment about the stresses of daily life. The segment took the listener to an audio meditation of sorts, a recording from a hike up Hackensack Mountain in Warrensburg, where the young woman making the recording spent more time listening to nature sounds than speaking into her microphone. You heard birdsongs, lots of them, and the scurry of chipmunk feet, and then utter stillness. The wind rustled, and then came the rhythmic drill of a woodpecker searching for breakfast. As she hiked, she described the Adirondack



scenery in the early Spring sunlight which penetrated her skin giving her more warmth outdoors than she'd had in months. She described the view of the village, complete with church spires and shops and streets, and the reminder that we live in a place where winter likes to hang on for as long as it can, but with Spring comes the welcome return of new life, the wonder of creation and its cycles.

Needless to say, by the time I pulled into the driveway, my day had been totally re-established, grounded in the landscape of creation's quiet yet constant promise of hope and new beginnings everywhere you turn. As I often do with bright points in my day, I made a mental note to be sure to play the NPR audio postcard for my family later tonight when we gather for dinner.

I love the words of the Prophet Isaiah: *“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*. My prayer is that you have a chance to get outside in these days of Spring and take in the wonders of new life happening all around us, and that those moments become for you holy moments where God makes a way in the wilderness of whatever you may be facing, a river in the desert, so that your heart is gladdened.

Every morning is a chance to step forth again as our world opens up and as nature unfurls its wonders of spring. God invites us 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, and to be glad.

Faithfully yours,

Ali



## *The Haiti Mission School Newsletter for May 2023*

### **General Haiti News:**

As violence and chaos continue to rage on in Port au Prince, citizens armed with shovels, sticks and machetes are beginning to take matters into their own hands. Within the last few days the people of Port au Prince have killed more than a dozen gang members. They say they want their city back, they want their children to be able to go to school, they want to be able to work their businesses and most of all they want the threat, violence, chaos and terror of gang rule to stop. The UN is begging for someone to step in and help bring the violence under control. Canada is hoping the US will step in, the US is hoping Canada will be the ones, consequently no help is forthcoming. Who can fault the citizens for taking the law into their own hands? However, it is a gruesome situation to watch.

Meanwhile, out on the peninsula in Jeremie Town and the surrounding countryside, things are calming and except for the limited supplies, slow and unpredictable deliveries and high costs of goods, life seems to be moving more towards normal. We are grateful for this and continue to pray for God's hand in raising up leaders from among Haiti's people who will love God and the Haitian people and do what is right by all.

### **School News:**

By the time this news arrives in your box it will be May. The school year is rapidly moving towards completion. We are sending what we believe to be the last two months of tuition for our 24 secondary school students. The average cost per student per month is about \$20, which remains quite a bargain as we look at the cost of education here in the US. There is some question if our students will go for an additional month because they were a month late getting started. We await decisions from the Haitian Department of Education and the officials at College Dumas where our students attend school.

For our primary school students it is time to purchase and deliver another \$1000 in food supplies to get our students through the month of May. Even with fewer students, the costs continue to escalate because of increasing shortages and costs in goods and transportation.

One of our supporters donated money to purchase shoes for those who cannot attend school because they have no shoes. Like here, students are required to wear shoes in order to attend school. Unlike here, not everyone has shoes. In order to preserve their shoes and hand them down to other siblings the students do not wear their shoes as they walk to and from school. They carry their shoes, like the little girl to the right, and put them on when they arrive at school.



### **College News:**

We reported in the April news letter that we are providing food for Bruno who is attending the College of Dental Science in Jeremie. Bruno and Junior went shopping for his food of rice, beans and oil. This is Bruno picking up his food for the month. Bruno continues to be very excited about his opportunity to attend dental college. He is so very grateful for this opportunity. As I look at him, I cannot believe how much he has grown up and matured since the last time I saw him in person.

### **Home Repairs:**

We are pleased to report we have completed rebuilding the earthquake destroyed walls of another Haiti Mission School student home. The father in this family was so grateful for the help with their home, for the opportunity for their children to attend the Haiti Mission School and the opportunity for them to have a hot meal each school day. Unfortunately, just before their home was completed, Mr. MacLine passed away so please keep this family in your prayers.

It cost \$2,300 to purchase the materials, transport them from town to the drop off place along the road where they were carried on the backs of people and a mule to this home about an hour into the mountains. We also paid a boss mason to do the work and for Junior to oversee the process and do the purchasing etc. In addition to the transporting the family carried water, mixed sand and concrete and put in other sweat equity to help in the rebuilding of their home.

The money to rebuild the walls of this home was donated by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Scotia, NY. The MacLine family sends their grateful thanks and wishes you many blessings.



## The Haiti Mission School Continued:

Before



After



This is Marie Catherine standing in front of her home. She is hoping someone will help with the rebuilding of the walls of her home. They are currently using tarps supplied by the school after the earthquake to enclose her home and protect she and her family from the elements, from people trying to steal from her and for a little privacy. There are 6 people living in this home. Two children from this family attend the Haiti School. The family also lost their 3 goats in the earthquake and their outdoor kitchen space and all that was in it burned to the ground.

If there are persons or organizations who would like to help this family rebuild the exterior walls of their home for a cost of between \$2,300 and \$2,500, please contact the Haiti Mission School at the above email.

***Thank you from our Boards (Haitian & US), students, families, facility and friends for your continuing encouragement, support and prayers for us and for our Haitian sisters and brothers. Blessings.***

*Haiti Mission School  
P.O. Box 445  
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[haitimissionschool@gmail.com](mailto:haitimissionschool@gmail.com)*

### **May Community Dinner**

Our last Community Dinner until Fall will be held on May 10, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church. As you know the Dinner is free and served from 5 to 6pm. Our own church families will be providing the food for this dinner. The menu will include: Chili, Coleslaw, Cornbread, Dessert and Beverage. As usual we will need help from our congregations in setting up, serving, cleaning up and providing desserts. There will be signup sheets in the coffee room starting 30 April 2023. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to share in the food, fun and fellowship.

We are grateful to our local restaurants and cafe's for their generous and delicious donations of food throughout this Community Dinner season. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to: Caffe Vero, Mario's, Barnsider Smokehouse BBQ Restaurant, Mama Riso's, Fort William Henry, Holiday Inn, and the ADK Pub. We are also grateful to each one of you for all you have done to help make this mission of serving our community possible and successful.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 10, 2023.

## May Mission of the Month Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Our mission for May was chosen in memory of Helene Horn. Helene served on the Mission Committee for decades and was chairperson for multiple terms. To honor her dedication to helping others, we have selected a concern that she felt strongly about, migrant workers and their working conditions.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) advocates for workers to improve housing, fair wages, ending forced labor and other human rights abuses in the fields.

CIW is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence at work. The CIW is also recognized for the development of the Worker-driven Social Responsibility model, a worker-led, market-enforced approach to the protection of human rights in corporate supply chains. In 2011, CIW launched the Fair Food Program (FFP), a groundbreaking model for Worker-driven Social Responsibility (WSR) based on a unique partnership among farmworkers, Florida tomato growers, and participating retail buyers, including Subway, Whole Foods, and Walmart. In 2015, the Program expanded into other states and additional produce items.

Under the FFP:

- Workers clock into work on farms who participate in the Fair Food Program.
- CIW conducts worker-to-worker education sessions, held on-the-farm (and on-the-clock) on the new labor standards set forth in the program's Fair Food Code of Conduct; --The Fair Food Standards Council, a third-party monitor created to ensure compliance with the FFP, conducts regular audits and carries out ongoing complaint investigation and resolution.
- Participating buyers pay a small Fair Food premium which tomato growers pass on to workers.

The FFP standards are enforced through market consequences guaranteed by CIW's legally binding Fair Food Agreements, in which participating buyers commit to buy Florida tomatoes only from growers in good standing with the FFP, and to cease purchases from growers who have failed to comply with the code of conduct. The United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights has described the FFP model as "a smart mix of tools" that "could serve as a model elsewhere in the world."

Totals collected:

February, 2023 – Ronald McDonald Retreat at Krantz Cottage (Lake George) - \$860

March, 2023 – One Great Hour of Sharing - \$1330.41

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: Thursday, May 4th, 3-7 pm**

**Friday, May 5th, 10-5 pm**

**Bag Sale, Saturday, May 6th, 9-11 am**

**Women's, Men's & Children's Clothing, Household items, toys,  
and seasonal items.**

**Sign up to help in the coffee room please!**

## NEW HEARING ASSIST DEVICES:

We are thrilled to announce that thanks to a very generous donation from an anonymous donor, as well as the devotion of Dave King and the technical expertise of Ray Supply, Caldwell Church now has a newly installed upgraded Williams AV Hearing Assistance System in the sanctuary! The new system includes the transmitter, which provides both FM and WiFi signal options, four rechargeable receivers with surround earphones, two neckloops for use with T-Coil equipped hearing aids, and a wireless access point which is used to provide the Wifi functionality for the system. ***Please stay tuned for a training time to be announced for after worship for those interested in using the system!***

## SAFETY TEAM UPDATE:

Thanks to a grant for our Preschool through Warren County, we now have new air purifiers for the Preschool and therefore have equipped the rest of the Church with an air purifier in every meeting room including the Coffee Room, the Middle Room, and the Church offices. We care about your health and safety and continue to do all we can to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and safe to return to gathering regularly!

## **NEW! Ecumenical Book Study for May: A Four-part study on Jonah:**

**The Reluctant Prophet, May 3, 10, 17, and 24th, 1-2 p.m.** \*\*The first meeting will be held at Sacred Heart due to the Rummage Sale! All remaining meetings will be at Caldwell. The story of Jonah can cause some division of understanding within a group, and of course it's mainly to do with that fish (or was it a whale!). We can empathize with Jonah's reluctance to comply with God's request to travel to and prophesy against Nineveh, the heartfelt and contrite psalm in chapter 2 after he is washed ashore, and even his anger and frustration at God not punishing the people in chapter 3, but it's difficult (literally) to ignore that fish! Jonah is not just a story of its own time, because it has plenty to teach us which is of relevance to our own culture, particularly in the way we look at other people. It is also a wonderful example of God's mercy in action. In short, it is a story that is well worth re-visiting! Please join us! All are welcome. Sign-up in the Coffee Room (or call the church office). Study guides are free.

**Deacons Prayer Call Ministry:** If you would like to join in making calls to church members and friends to stay connected, receive prayer requests, and support the praying ministry of the Deacons, please consider joining the Prayer Call Ministry. If you are interested, please contact the church office. Thank you!

***Thank you to everyone who helped with the Spring clean up  
around the church on April 21st.  
We appreciate your hard work!***



## 2023 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR AMERICA

We come with fervent hearts to praise You Lord. You are The Word, the Way, Truth and Life. The Alpha and Omega, Lion of Judah, Almighty God who was, and is, and is to come. You clothed Yourself in flesh and dwelt among us, to remove our sin and clothe us in Your righteousness that we might dwell with You forever and ever. With broken, humbled hearts we repent of our sins. Confessing to You our faithlessness, prayerlessness, and disobedience. Forgive us for our doubt, our prideful and quarrelsome words that reveal our unclean hearts.

Cleanse us and renew a right and steadfast spirit within us we pray.

With grateful hearts we thank You fervently for the blessings in our life and throughout America; they are more than we are able to count. We will remember Your grace and testify of Your goodness in all generations. Help us to refrain from complaining, but instead be prompted to pray faithfully in every circumstance. Teach us to have a content heart knowing You are always enough for our every need.

As the Church we commit to pray and love our neighbor and nation as You loved us, that our reputation in this world would be rooted in Your love. Holy Spirit work and overflow through us in every prayer, thought, word, and deed. May our character, conversations, and conduct reflect the righteousness in which You clothed us and command us to live.

With an obedient heart we put on the full armor of God; Your breastplate of righteousness guards our heart from which flows the springs of life. We pray fervently for our communities and country; the people who are in the Church, Family, Education, Business and Workplace, Military, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media. Every person is Your workmanship, fearfully and wonderfully created and loved. With hopeful hearts we pray that all would choose to receive Your love and follow You. We pray that America would confess, "Jesus is Lord" and reflect Your righteousness in every sphere of influence, and every aspect of our lives. We ask that heavenly hope would flood our hearts, silence hate, and that You will heal our land. Believing You; all You are, all You said, and all You have promised,

We pray fervently in righteousness and avail much. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

*Kathy Branzell President, National Day of Prayer Task Force*

**Please join us for May 4th at 8 p.m. ET - The National Day of Prayer Broadcast will reach into millions of homes in America to unite hearts in prayer to "Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us." [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)**



You are invited to celebrate the National Day of Prayer on Thurs., May 4th at 3:00 pm at St. James Episcopal church in the Green and Tuttle Hall. We will hold a prayer service followed by refreshments to discuss our community and our churches.

Please RSVP by email or phone by May 3rd.  
Office.stjameslg@gmail.com  
or #518-668-2001.

**Church Basement Clean-up!** : We have begun to clean up the basement of our church . If you have anything you want to save and store down there, please contact our Property Elder Ray VanAnden. Please do not put anything in the basement without permission as we are doing our best to keep it tidy and clear of clutter. Thank you!

**Story Hour Recordings:** We have recorded each of our Story Hours. If you would like to see one that you may have missed, please contact the church office and we will send you the link!

**Adirondack Voices present “Where We Find Ourselves”**

Concert is Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 7:30 pm.

Christ Church United Methodist, 54 Bay St., Glens Falls, NY

Admission \$12.00 Tickets available at the door.

**Now Available for Purchase!** The History of Caldwell Presbyterian Church written by Rev. Dr. Albert “Skip” Bush, a pastor of Caldwell from 1972-1981, and his wife Chris. These books are \$25.00 in the coffee room.

# Happy Birthday

- 16 Peg Earl
- 16 Lesley Clemons
- 18 Linda Van Anden
- 22 Rod Cornelius
- 24 KC Glenn
- 26 Darlene Gunther
- 30 Dante Corriveau

### Prayer Concerns

Lillian Napier, Dick & Elaine Lane, Douglas Liva, Van Anden's friend Gail, Muscatello family, Ralph Ahlers, Jack Brennan, Frank's friend Claire, Katie B, Ginger Aldrich family, Jim's friend Mark, Communities hit by tornados & flooding, shooting victims & families, Danny & Matthew Bishop, Kathy D., Judy & Dick Edmonds, Pam Vasio, Sofia Amrock, Evelyn Mosebach, Ben Gorey, Roxanne & Gene Isaacs, Margo's friend Alison & daughter Nicole, Ralph Clemons, Jo Ellen's sister Judy, Alison Darby, Pam York, Tom Roach, Ron Powers, Dr. Brasil, Gladys Tasker, Ella Cavas, the people of Ukraine, the people of Haiti, Bev's sister Carol, Peg Earl, Kathleen O'Brian, persecuted Christians, Pam Parrott, Volodymyr Abaschnik, Fuller's father-in-law.



### PRESCHOOL NEWS

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

The Preschool is partnering with Lake George elementary schools (LGES) for a field trip this month. Both Caldwell classes will spend a morning at LGES partnered with an older class for special activities. We will also meet with the Librarian to learn about the importance of reading 1000 books before kindergarten. The field trip ends with recess on the playground.

The Preschool is enrolling students for next year's school year. We had a great turn out for our open house- 9 families came. We are looking forward to adding to our preschool family community.





**Christian Education Event:**

**We had a great time making Palm Crosses and Crowns of Thorns and decorating Easter Eggs!**



**Caldwell Presbyterian & Sacred Heart Churches  
Pantry Dining Week**

**May 14—May 20, 2023**

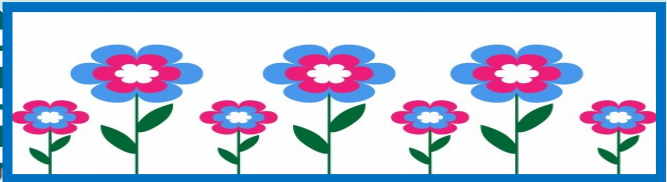
**10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Caldwell and  
Sacred Heart Food Pantries!**

**Participating Restaurants:**

**Holiday Inn    Fort William Henry    Barnsider    Mario's  
Adirondack Brew Pub                                      Log Jam**

**Patrons must mention Caldwell or Sacred Heart at time of payment.**

**Thank you for your support!**



### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Any high school senior or person actively involved in the ministry of Caldwell Presbyterian Church who wishes to further their education may apply for a scholarship. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office, or by emailing Sarah King at [scubakings@roaddrunner.com](mailto:scubakings@roaddrunner.com).

The deadline for applying for the scholarship is June 1, 2023. The Scholarship Committee would like to remind members and friends of Caldwell that they may donate to the Scholarship Fund by giving a gift in memory of or to honor someone or as a general donation.



*"Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come; the cooing of doves is heard in our land."* Song of Solomon 2:12

May – Month of Abundant beauty, where all of nature seems to be singing a fragrant song. The vibration of a flowering earth is something that we can experience outwardly with our senses. Delighting in what we see, smell, taste, feel and hear. Yet, is it not a more heavenly experience when we tap into the awareness of how it makes us feel **inside**. How it lifts our spirits and connects us to a loving God, who has provided such beauty for our enjoyment. Someone once asked me why I like to plant flowers, and my answer was simply "Because it make people happy." When it comes to May, imagine a smiling God each time we take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the flowering earth.

#### **Upcoming Youth Group Events:**

Youth Group Book Study: "The Dream Giver" 9:15 am on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

"Fun In Fellowship": Hike Pack Forest to the Grandmother Tree, May 5<sup>th</sup> after church. Note: In the event of rain we will go bowling.

Angel Disciples: Vacation Bible School runs May 14- June 11<sup>th</sup> (in place of Sunday School classes.)

**Save the dates: June 12<sup>th</sup> – Youth Service Pizza Planning Party, June 18<sup>th</sup> - Youth Service.**



**MONUMENTAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ON FOR THIS MAY!!** We are holding a modified VBS for Caldwell's Angel Disciples, and Caldwell Preschoolers and siblings up to grade 3 beginning Sunday, May 14 from 10am-11:30.

It will run for 5 consecutive Sunday ending on June 11.

We will celebrate our participants and all Caldwell youth on June 18 at our Youth Sunday service, followed by our second annual SUBS, SALADS AND SUNDAES on the lawn.

All are invited!

## **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:**

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Pastor's Email— [ali@caldwellpres.org](mailto:ali@caldwellpres.org)

Website— [www.caldwellpres.org](http://www.caldwellpres.org)