

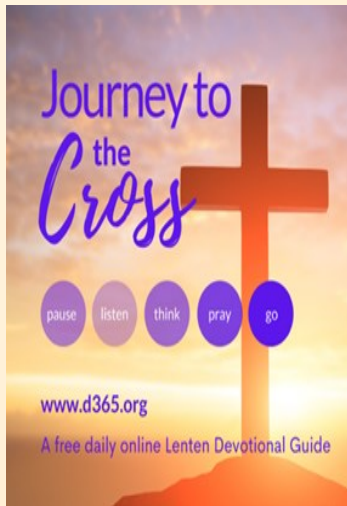
THE SEEKER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FEB. 2024



YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Dear Caldwell Congregation,

By the time you receive this February edition of the Seeker, the season of Lent will be just two weeks away. The Ash Wednesday noonday service will mark the beginning of journey to Jerusalem and the Cross of Christ, and beyond. And so I want to think with you about your Lenten journey, why it is important for our faith to mark it with intentionality, and suggest a particular observance for you to consider.



Remind me, what is the season of Lent for? Lent is a season of preparation in the church, a time for intentional quiet, prayer, repentance, and introspection to prepare us for the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Many Christians around the world set aside time to observe the Lenten journey, one that may lead to deepening of faith, cleansing the spirit, and pondering what Jesus' sacrifice on the cross means for our living. Some will give up something, others will take up something. Others try not to miss a Sunday worship during Lent so they can grow closer to Jesus, deepen their conversation with God, and try to actively experience the holiness of the season.

This Lent, I thought it would be especially meaningful to do something together as a congregation, yet individually: Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, I invite you to go to d365.org and take a few moments of your day to experience and interact with this daily devotional.

What is d365.org? It is an online daily devotional written for youth and adults by members of the PC(USA), Baptist, and Episcopal Churches. This ecumenical devotional follows a five-step format – **Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go**. There is instrumental music available (click on the musical notes) to accompany you if you so choose, or you can engage the devotional in silence.

- The **Pause** step is designed as a centering tool as you begin the devotion.
- The **Listen** step is the scripture passage for the day, using the Common English Bible translation.
- The **Think** step is the brief devotional thought by the writer.
- The **Pray** step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God.

The **Go** step is a call to action – launching you from this moment toward acting on what you have heard.

How do I find d365? You can find d365 in the App Store if you want to download it on your phone. Or you can go to the website d365.org and find your way to the Lenten devotional “**Journey to the Cross**.” You can do this devotional on your own or with your children and grandchildren.

I pray God's wisdom upon you as you think about what actions you'd like to take this Lent to deepen your faith and your relationship to God. I'm here to help you discern, and I look forward to sharing with those of you who will join me in using the d365 devotional. A holy Lenten journey to you all.

Faithfully,

Ali



Birthday's this Month:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Alex Parrott | 14 Dana Whitcomb |
| 4 Jean Stanton | 21 Nicholas King |
| 5 Kate Trowbridge | 21 Olivia King |
| 7 Scott MacEachron | 27 Gale Freiburger |
| 10 Tom Roach | |
| 11 Ann Kohland | |
| 11 Ben Gorey | |

Story Time:

Here it is February already. We can say 'the days are getting longer!:-)!! It's time to get your ice fishing equipment out!!! And Story Time for this new year is near!!

Save this date: February 18!!! Following worship on this day our friend Lynda Glenn has agreed to tell us a little about her life and adventures. People can attend in the Sanctuary or on Zoom.

As usual, a light lunch of soup, bread, beverage and dessert will be provided following worship during our regular coffee hour time. We will have 10 or 15 minutes to get some food, greet and chat with others and then return to the Sanctuary for our Story Time. You are welcome to bring your food into the Sanctuary. Story time usually lasts 30-40 minutes.

Once again, we encourage each of you to prayerfully consider joining in the fun by sharing some stories of your own about your growing up years, your time here as part of our Caldwell church family, your work (volunteer or paid), your family, hobby, travel or other life experiences. Our story tellers usually share for around 15-20 minutes...some have pictures...some do not.

We are looking forward to hearing Lynda and we are looking forward to hearing from you. If you are willing to share your story please contact the church office, JoEllen Parsons, Sarah King or Bev Roach. Our contact information can be found in your church directory. Thank you in advance.

Looking forward to seeing and joining with you on 18 February '24.

Prayer Concerns:



Cavagnolo family, Arnold family, Paul Kubic, Ina Monroe family, George Brendel, Debbie Mosebach, Linda VanAnden, Marcus, Martin, Addie Lynn, Judelin's family, Sabina Tidd, Compson's friend Tom, Rice's friend Bill, Jean Stanton, Scott Van Anden, Margo's daughter & friend Linda, Mary Marcello, Liz & Megan Klein, Papo Villarubia, Kathy Duell, Melissa Chambers, Dennis Dickenson, Michael Amrock, L. Rose, Shirley Von Dem Bussche, Ron Powers, Tom Roach, Peg Earl, Gladys Tasker, Pam Parrott.

FREE TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

for families and individuals whose household income is **\$57,000** or less per year



**VOLUNTEER
INCOME TAX
ASSISTANCE**

A Tri-County United Way Collaborative



To schedule an appointment*, please call:

1-800-211-5128

*SERVICE AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY—APRIL 15

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a national program sponsored by the IRS to provide free tax preparation for qualified residents. Locally, Tri-County United Way, Cornell Cooperation Extension — Washington County and the Moreau Community Center have partnered to create a network of VITA volunteers who serve residents of Warren, Washington, and Northern Saratoga counties. In 2020, the local VITA volunteers filed 1,800 tax returns and generated \$3.5 million in tax refunds and tax credits.

Families and Individuals with an income of \$60,000 or less are eligible to have their federal and state income taxes prepared by one of our IRS-certified volunteers for free. Our volunteers are not qualified to complete returns for those with rental income, self-employed income, active military income, stock sales and farm income.

Your taxes will be prepared by a local VITA volunteer. All volunteers go through a comprehensive training program and are certified by the IRS to prepare VITA returns. Each VITA volunteer has been trained to assure that your taxes are prepared accurately, guaranteeing you receive all the credits to which you are entitled. When completed, all returns are submitted electronically for faster refunds. VITA returns are processed using a secured software program provided directly from the IRS.

Additionally, your VITA information is always considered confidential.

COMMUNITY DINNER
Free to all

WEDNESDAY, 7 February 2024, Serving from 5-6 PM
At: Sacred Heart Catholic Church

*****Food prepared by: Mama Riso's**

Menu Includes:
Penne a la Vodka, Sausage & Peppers
Meatballs, Salad & Bread



Youth Group News

February has many themes. The Full Moon is known as the Snow moon, as our Native brothers and sisters noticed that the most snow fell during this month. We have Punxsutawney Phil predicting just how long the cold will last. It's both Library Lovers, and Black History Month. Sports fans everywhere unite around Super Bowl LVIII. There's President's Day, Winter Break, and Valentine's Day. LOVE is a BIG theme. It has inspired many poets, writers, musicians, film makers and artists. Inspires people of all ages, color, race and creeds. In the Bible, LOVE is mentioned over 500 times! Including 1 Corinthians 13 "If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing." LOVE is everything, and everything is LOVE! So, in any way we can, let's spread the love every day. In every way!

Christian Education Offerings: (Note: There is no Christian Ed offering on February 18th - Winter Break)

Youth Group: Feb. 2nd - Confirmation Class following Service, and Feb. 25th. Spiritual Cinema during Church. Rock Painting for all on Feb. 2nd.

Angel Disciples: Feb. 2nd, 11th, & 25th during church. Pre-School Families Welcomed!

Children's Message with Pastor Ali: February 11th during Service.

February 11th is "Fun in Fellowship & Pre-School Family Open House" -

Spread the Love!



Let's nourish our feathered friends and warm the hearts of Senior Citizens! Using peanut butter and birdseed you'll make a heart shaped bird seed ornament to hang in the trees at The Warren Center. Ornament Making from 11:00am - 12:00pm. Chocolate Kisses, Heart Shaped Cookies and Love Bug Punch will be served! At 12:00pm, all are welcomed to head over to the Warren Center to hang our ornaments and fill their bird feeders!

Lunch and Learn Series at St. James Episcopal Church in Lake George on Thursday, February 15th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. "Ordinary Equality, Highlighting the ERA" will be presented by Nan Scinta, Pat Vaughn and Mary Earhoring. Free lunch with soup, dessert and beverages. Please bring a donation for the food pantry.

Reservations required: Call 518-668-2001 and leave a message.

Preschool Corner:

We have enjoyed January's snow inside and out. One of our rooms in preschool has been transformed into Caldwell's winter carnival. The kids have an ice shanty to catch fish, a skating rink to ice skate and play hockey, and of course a snack bar for hot chocolate and popcorn. Enrollment for next year begins in March. We have programs for 2s, 3s, and 4 year-olds. If you know anyone who is interested have them contact Meghan Quillen at caldwellpreschool@gmail.com.



CAN TABS! ~ Help us Collect Can Tabs for the Shriners Hospitals for Children

Don't toss them away!

Tear off your pull tabs and bring them to church!

Pull tabs from cans* are donated to the Shriners who sell them to a recycling company once a year and the the money collected is used to fund transportation for needy children to and from Shriners Hospitals. The health care system improves the lives of children by providing pediatric speciality care and innovative research.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and out standing teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

*From soda, beer, cat food cans, etc.

February Mission of the Month—Medecins Sans Frontiers
Doctors Without Borders

Our Mission of the Month for February is one that most of us are familiar with and many of us support. For those who are less familiar with Doctors Without Borders here is a little information and we will be sharing more in the bulletin and during worship over the next month.

Doctors Without Borders is a Nongovernmental organization that cares for people affected by conflict, disease outbreaks, natural & human-made disasters and those excluded from health care around the world. Along with coming in to give assistance in times of crisis, they give on going aid in situations related to maternal health, malnutrition, improving water and sanitation services, immunizations and more.

Every day, Doctors Without Borders teams deliver emergency medical aid to people in crisis, with health care and humanitarian projects in more than 70 countries. They provide over 16 million medical consultations among these countries each year. They provide medical and other care with empathy and compassion to all patients regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity or politics. They strive to be independent, impartial and neutral as disasters, pandemics, wars and other crisis erupt and call them to yet another new place of operation. Additional guiding principals are *being guided by medical ethics, *being committed to bearing witness, *being transparent & accountable, *commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion.

Currently Doctors Without Borders is operational in six hospitals and one primary health care facility in Gaza; running mobile clinics in rural villages and towns in the Kharkiv and other regions of Ukraine providing primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health and mental health support. . .most of their patients are women over the age of 60 or children; they have, unfortunately, needed to suspend services in Haiti because serious danger to their providers. They are hoping they can soon begin to provide services to the Haitian community. These are just a few of the current horrific situation where their presence is so desperately needed and they are willing to take the risk to be there.

We will work to provide you with additional information each week in our bulletin. If you would like to support this mission financially, please make a check payable to Caldwell Presbyterian Church and mark it for the Mission of the Month. We hope you will also support them by keeping them in your daily thoughts and prayers as they risk their lives to provide services to those in dyer need. Thank you

Caldwell Receives \$79,000 Bequest!

We have been notified that the will of Judd Brynes contains a substantial contribution to our church.

Mr. Brynes passed on April 14, 2019 at the age of 79 and was a 60 year member of our congregation. He served as an Elder, Moderator of the Deacons and was once the Chairman of the Nominating committee. He helped in the choice of curtains and colors used in our sanctuary, coffee room, middle room, and office. He also established the Bryne's Counseling Center and held an Annual Conference hosting the general public interested in integrating others in psychology, creative arts, religion and healing arts.

He was a licensed Art Therapist, Art Educator, and was a contributor to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. and the 911World Trade Center Memorial. He also served as President of the Evergreen Cemetery Corporation, and as a counselor with Caritas, Inc. among many other outstanding accomplishments and service to our community and region.

The funds are specifically designated in the Bryne's will to "feed the hungry" and will be deposited in the Deacon's dedicated reserve fund to assist them with the expenses for the food pantry, the holiday baskets given to needy families, etc.

Sincerely,

Bob Blais, Treasurer

The Shepherd Who Stayed Behind by Tom Parsons

We were on the late shift the night that they came.
The word came down, some can go, one remain.
You can't all go off...Security, you know...
One must stay, all the rest can go.

I drew the short straw, I watched them head out.
If you looked at my face, you'd have seen a sad pout.
This night was special, we'd been waiting for years.
If this one was true, it could stave off our tears.

Ahmed and Moses, Joshua and Nadeep
Got to go see the baby, while I watched the sheep.
When they came back, they were flying so high
They told me all 'bout it... and it was no lie.

This was the answer we'd hoped for, for years.
The Lord has come down, so be of good cheer.
They went to town, they went to the stable.
I'd have gone too, but I wasn't able.

I didn't get to see the baby that night.
Still I see him each day for he is my light.
We don't get to crest the mountain each day
There are valleys in life where we often stay.

In this life of ours, we each have ^{our} a role.
I try to do mine, at least that's my goal.
I kept the sheep safe on the mountain that night.
He keeps his sheep safe for that's his delight.

And life goes on and we keep goin'
And we study and pray and we keep growin'
We work and we play and have some fun.
And hope to hear... "Good work, faithful one!"

The Wednesday Ecumenical Study Group invites you to join a devotional for Lent: Practicing Jesus' Seven Last Words. Beginning on Ash Weds., Feb. 14th, following the noon day prayer service from 12:30-1:30. There will be a time change for Feb. 21, 28 and March 6 from 1-2. Then another time change on March 13, 20, and 27th from 12:30 to 1:30. The Study Guide is available in the office. All are welcome.

NEW!! CALDWELL BOOK GROUP!! NEW!!

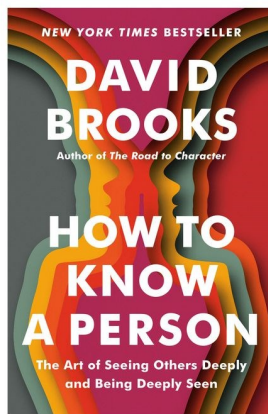
Do you love to read? Do you love to discuss a great book?

Join for a one-time discussion on David Brooks' new book:

How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen.

The only prerequisite is to buy the book and read it, and come with your thoughts on it!

We will meet on Wednesday, March 13, 2:00-3:00 p.m. at Caldwell.



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**Ash Wednesday Prayer Service
and Imposition of Ashes
on February 14th
at 12 noon
from 12 to 12:30
here at Caldwell**

