

THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024



It's Not Over!

“Spreading the light” on Christmas Eve is so very special: the sanctuary is full, and a small candle is held in each hand, illuminating all the faces, aglow with wonder, as we sing the most beloved hymn of all, “Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright”—it’s a scene forever fixed in my memory. At Christmas Eve, time seems to stand still and we linger for a few extra moments in this holy embrace, softly singing, praying the whole world be filled with heaven’s peace.

During Christmastide, the 12 days until Epiphany, we look for and try to find more of those holy moments, to live into the Christmas season, in special music, in decorations still charming our homes, in leftovers reheated, and in special visits from family and friends in the days ahead.

Quietly and perhaps more quickly than we’d like, the New Year approaches, and off we go into 2024 with new and exciting opportunities, and for some, with challenges which will ask much of us. I want to remind you that the miracle of the birth of our Lord is not over! Even as our lives beckon, and we know we must move onward, we have Emmanuel, God with us, who is born over and over, in us and in all people. Listen to the poet, Ann Weems:

It is not over, this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which God can throw stars.
When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,
that’s just the time that God will be born
in a place we can’t imagine and won’t believe.
Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening, always listening for angel words.

Ann Weems
“Kneeling in Bethlehem”

Friends, God is with you, *Emmanuel*, and God is determined to enter into whatever you must face. That is where God wants to be—in your heart. Watch with your hearts, listen for the Advent of God, and remember: *There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.*

Happy New Year!

Faithfully,
Ali





Birthday's January:

1 Addison Potts	4 Dave King
4 Oscar Blanco	5 Grace Moody
5 Clay Moody	7 Lynda Glenn
7 Berne Kouba	8 Helen Horn
8 Beverly Roach	10 Sarah King
10 Kendall Glen	11 Judy Dewey
14 Nathan Fuller	16 Daniel Hoose
18 Ross McIntyre	19 Rodonna Leombruno
19 Denise Paddock	29 Tim Hunsicker
	30 Melanie Hague

Birthday's February:

3 Alex Parrott	4 Jean Stanton	5 Kate Trowbridge
7 Scott Mac Eachron	10 Tom Roach	11 Ann Kohland
11 Ben Gorey	14 Dana Whitcomb	

Prayer Concerns:

PRAYER CONCERNS: Walsh family, Sabina Tidd, Green family, Goodal family, Mary Marcello, Jo Anne Pedersen, Margies's sister Elizabeth, Ken Hughes, Connie Smith, Phillip Ceresa, Alyson Laurence, Dennis Dickenson, Linda's sister, sister-in-law & friend Trina, Melissa Chambers, Michael Amrock, Papo Villarubia, Jo Ellen's friend Cindy and cousin Ruth, Megan Klein, Tom Nace, L. Rose, Dennis Carey, Fred Sciallaba, Shirley Von Dem Bussche, Chris Beall, Ella Cavas, Nicole Coller, Jean Gady, Kathy Hamme, Liz Klein, John, Ruth, Diane Fair, Ron Powers, Dr. Chris Hunt, Tom Roach, Kathy Duell, Peg Earl, Pam Parrott.

Hello Everyone,
If you get a change please try liking us/following us
on our facebook page.

Sarah has been busy uploading pictures and
posting events.



www.facebook.com/CaldwellPres

FREE TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

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

VITA

A Tri-County United Way Collaborative

**VOLUNTEER
INCOME TAX
ASSISTANCE**

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

Mission of the Month, January, 2024 — Captain Community Health Services

CAPTAIN Community Human Services one of our community's most recognized and dynamic human services community-based agencies today as a result of the December 2017 merger between CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services and Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Community Human Services.

CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services was founded in 1977 when a group of concerned parents, teens and community members came together to create a grassroots organization to help troubled teens. Since then, CAPTAIN (formerly Community Action for Parents, Teens and Interested Neighbors) developed into one of the most recognized and highly respected volunteer-driven organizations serving the principal needs of youth, individuals and families in Saratoga County and beyond. For over 40 years, CAPTAIN had been providing programs that address the core issues facing our society today, including homelessness, poverty, youth violence, hunger, academic failure, family dysfunction, and human trafficking. CAPTAIN approached and continues to approach these issues through numerous programs and services. CAPTAIN CHS seeks to uphold the dignity of each person by serving the basic needs of those struggling in the community that surrounds us. Our over thirty programs and services protect and nurture children and youth, strengthen families, connect seniors, resolve crises, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, support the emotionally challenged, and empower our community members to build a brighter future for themselves and their neighbors.

Detailed information can be found at <https://captaincares.org/>

The Deacons would like to thank you, our church family, for supporting us this past year. With your prayers and gifts we have assisted many Lake George families facing personal struggles. The highlight for us has to be the Christmas "Mitten Ministry." What better way to show God's love than helping children?

Through your caring and generosity a total of 24 children from the Lake George Elementary School and the Lake George Food Pantry at Caldwell received warm winter outerwear (jackets, snow pants, mittens, and boots) as well as pants, shirts, underwear and socks (over 100 pairs!). The Chase Family, owners of Castaway Marina, and their boating clients provided all of the toys and crafts for these local kids through their Boatload of Toys donation drive. The Christmas food bags, with frozen turkeys, apple pies, potatoes and all of the other fixings for the families were a gift from Karis Flood Filomeno and Jose Filomeno, owners of the Lake George Beach Club .

As we are blessed, we bless others. Looking forward to a new year of blessings for you, our church and our community members!

January Youth Events

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7)

As you read this, the three Kings are following the Star of Bethlehem knowing that they are on a journey to the new born king. With them, they have their individual beliefs, thoughts, prayers and meditations. Their journey completes at the Feast of the Epiphany - January 6th. So how does / can this relate to us? What can we do with this contemplative time to further our own journey in following the light of Christ? I offer this: Imagine yourself a King. Walking towards a greater you. What gift do you hold in your hand? What gift will you bring to the world? What is your greater light?



January is Four Legged Friend Month at Caldwell! Youth are asking for help in their service project for TWO local pet shelters: The North Shore Animal League in Glens Falls and the SPCA located in Queensbury. We are collecting donations of:

- Newspapers (Box will be in the Church Narthex (as you enter.)
- Dry dog food for their food pantry for pets in need (Box in the Coffee Hour Room.)
- Caned Cat, Kitten food and Cat Treats.
-

Christian Ed offerings, this month please join us...

.....January 7th, **Confirmation Class** for Youth Group, after Service

.....Every Sunday, during Church, **Angel Disciples Stellar**. Shine a Light!

.....January 28th, during Church, Youth Group, **Spiritual Cinema**

All groups are invited to this month's "Fun in Fellowship" 1/14 at 11:30am, **Making Dog and Cat Toys!** Let's support our four legged friends with a fun toy. Materials provided. Refreshments served.

STORY TIME:

Believing that **'Everyone has a Story'** we are moving into the new year in **faith**. We have a date reserved, 21 January '24 following worship. At this writing we do not, yet, have a guest speaker. So we continue to encourage each of you to prayerfully consider joining in this time by sharing some of your own story. You can share with us about your growing up years, your time here as part of our Caldwell church family, your work (volunteer or paid), your family, a hobby, your travels or other life experiences of your choice. As you know, people usually share for 15-20 minutes. Some have pictures or other media, some do not. We will be glad to work with you.

Again, we hear many say "Oh, my life isn't interesting enough or I haven't really done anything, or I couldn't do what one of the other people did or tell my story in the way they told their story." We believe you are a unique and loved part of our family and we would be delighted to hear your own story in your own special way. If you are willing to share some of your story, please contact the Church Office, JoEllen Parsons, Bev Roach or Sarah King.

We are excited to say we have someone who has agreed to share their story in February so stay tuned and please save the date of 18 February 2024 following worship. Thanks.

COMMUNITY DINNER THANKS & JANUARY PLANS:

It sounds like a 'Rich Feast' was provided and fun and fellowship abounded during our December community dinner. We are grateful to the Fort William Henry for the delicious and bountiful feast they generously provided. Many thanks for the mouth watering deserts, the hands and hearts who helped set up, serve and clean up after us, to our sisters and brothers at Sacred Heart who so generously provide space for us and for the fellowship offered by all. Great thanks to each one.



A Rich Feast

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
(Psalm 63:5)

O God our help, bless you.

When we are thirsty,
you pour water.
When we are hungry,
you offer good food to eat.
When we are tired,
you hold us up.
When we are hurting,
You care.

Feast with us today, God of love
so our lips can celebrate your glory

O God our help, bless you.

Our new year dinner will be on 10 January 2024. As usual, it will be served at Sacred Heart between 5 and 6pm. Our food will be provided by the Barnsider ...stay tuned for the menu. If you would like to help, sign up sheets will be available in the coffee room starting this week. If you would be willing to make a desert a sign up sheet will be available for that as well. If you would like to be part of the fellowship come between 5 & 6 with a good appetite, you do not need to sign up.

Thanks to all who participated in our annual youth service and pageant! It was great to see something reinvented for the Christmas story. Thank you, Margo, for your creativity and organization of this year's pageant!

Here are a few pics from the day. Please check out Caldwell Presbyterian Church on Facebook to see more. And click the "like" thumbs up button to see more pictures of events held at Caldwell.

<https://www.facebook.com/caldwellpres>





**COMMUNITY
DINNER
Free to all**

**WEDNESDAY, 10 January 2024
Serving from 5-6 PM**

**At:
Sacred Heart Catholic Church**

*****Food prepared by:
The Barnsider Smokehouse BBQ**

**Menu Includes:
Stay Tuned!!!!**



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

The Daily Bible Verses

<http://thedailyverses.blogspot.com> - www.facebook.com/thedailybibleverses



General Haiti News:

The general news of Haiti has not changed significantly. Gangs continue to rampage through and control major portions of Port au Prince, extending north into the 'Bread Basket' and along the coast and also south (our way) towards Le Cayes . The head of Haiti's National Police System, Frantz Elbe met in Kenya with their Police Chief, Japhet Koome in mid December making a three day official visit for bilateral security discussions between the two law enforcement agencies. Koome had recently spent several days in Port au Prince on a fact finding mission. It is thought these are efforts to coordinate Kenya's leadership of a multi-national security force to Haiti. This move is quite controversial on both sides and there are multiple legal hurdles to overcome in Kenya before the deployment. Unless these legal decisions are made in January to block the deployment, however, it is expected the first group of 300 Kenyan officers will be deployed in early February. When complete a multi national force totaling 3,000 officers made up of 1,000 Kenyans will be deployed mostly to the Port au Prince area.

On another front, a man named Guy Philippe, a charismatic coup leader instrumental in a 2004 rebellion against then President Aristide, has been released from prison here in the US and repatriated to Haiti. There is concern in some camps and excitement in others about what role, if any, he may play in the current political instability. Some see him as a hero and have been anxiously awaiting his return, others see him as a villain and are concerned about what role he may play in an increase of violence and instability. Please pray for the best possible outcome for the poor people of Haiti.

From the Haiti School, the students and their families join me in warm thanks and greetings to each one. We hope your Christmas season has been filled with much joy and many blessings and that your new year will include ample servings of the same.

As here, our students are on holiday break and will be returning about the same time as US students. We have traditionally tried to help the students and their families during this period with a food distribution of rice, beans and oil. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to help in this way because of a shortage of finances. Because we feed both students and their families the distribution costs about \$2500. That is more than twice the amount we spend for monthly food when the students are in school.



The Church at LaBastille:

As many of you know, the church building at LaBastille was destroyed first during hurricane Matthew and then what had been rebuilt was destroyed again in the 2021 earthquake that destroyed so much of our part of the island. In partnership with a concrete company in Schenectady providing a generous donation and labor provided by the people of LaBastille church and area, a new building is once again being constructed. It is our hope and plan that this will be a multipurpose building, providing classroom and auditorium space for the school, community gathering space, worship space and a safe place in times of disaster. It is our prayer that this building and those who occupy it will be a beacon of our Lord's light and life and hope not only in times of danger and desperation but also on a daily basis among this people who are quite poor in resources yet rich in faith and resilience and spirit. Please pray with us.

Thank you from our Boards (Haitian & US), students, families, facility and friends for your continu-



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:

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Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email—Ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org