The Seeker for September 2023

Newsletter for the Caldwell Presbyterian Church

Beginnings…

I hope you all had a great summer and that you found ways to enjoy the small, often unnoticed miracles of daily life. I had a chance to travel with my family to some National Parks and was awed once again by the beauty and diversity of this country.

Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park took our breath away; hiking up to a place called *Mary's Rock*, and joining the Appalachian Trail for part of that hike, was perhaps the highlight of the trip for me. At the summit we took in a most stunning view of endless mountain ridges on a crystal clear afternoon –they could have been waves on the sea extending into the limitless distance. We also made it to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and, as luck would have it, arrived midweek for our 3 day stay. One part of the park, Cades Cove, an 11-mile one-way loop, is accessible only by foot or bicycle on Wednesdays, and that was our day to tour this must-see portion of the park. So we rented bikes and had one of the best rides I can remember, great rollers and challenging hills. Last summer for our bike trip in Nova Scotia I tried to talk to the girls about anticipating the hills, using the lowest gear, and patiently pedaling forth, trusting that you *would make it to the top* without getting off to walk. Kate remembered that little nugget of knowledge and never once had to disembark, to the envy of her older sisters. We rode thinking about the Cherokee Indians who lived and hunted there in those hills, and then the European settlers thereafter. As we biked along we saw churches, a working gristmill, barns, log houses, and many other restored 18th and 19th century buildings. We saw a coyote, turkeys, deer, groundhogs, many bird varieties, and Jeb got the biggest props for spotting a black bear at the forest edge, further away than any of us were looking, and requiring distance vision we were impressed he had!

It's so good to get away and experience new places and people and listen to new surrounds, as well as the inner voice that can sometimes be drowned out by the familiar. Just as exciting as it is to travel, for me it is even more of a blessing to return home. Like a gravitational pull, there is a deep sense of belonging here at home that fills the spirit uniquely, almost completely.

September is a busy month around here at Caldwell. There are countless opportunities to "return home" to community activities, chances to serve people in need, gatherings to make connections and form friendships, and moments to deepen our faith.

I was deeply moved by David Brooks' article in the September Issue of The Atlantic, *"How America Got Mean,"* in which he emphasizes the need for community organizations, including religious ones, to be a place of ongoing formation where people can find purpose, where the seeds of a healthy moral life are planted, and where people can become the best versions of themselves.

That is what Caldwell is all about. When we gather for worship, book or Bible studies, Food Pantry, Christian Education, or community events, we do so under the framework of faith and our Judeo-Christian beliefs which teach us to hold to the good, honor all God's people, learn servant leadership, and engage in the most rewarding human relationships based on mutual care, kindness, and respect. Here we operate under Jesus' ethic that you have to lose yourself in a common cause to find yourself.

I invite you to come and see what's happening around here this Fall. If you don't know what you can offer, call me to set up a time to fill out a spiritual assessment questionnaire so that you can identify your gifts, which may have evolved or changed over the years, and can readily share them with others, to God's glory.

Fall is a time for new beginnings. May Caldwell Presbyterian Church be the first step in yours.

Faithfully,

Ali

SEPTEMBER PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool is organizing and arranging for the new school year. We are offering a new two year old program, which is already almost full. We still have openings for students in our three and four year old classes. This year we were able to offer two scholarships to students.

Thank you for all your generous support!

Meghan Quillen, Director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Ed Community: Our new Semester of Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 10th. We welcome all Angel Disciples (Pre-k-grade 5), and Youth Group (grades 6-12) back for another faith filled fun year! We can't wait to hear about your summer adventures, and we'd like to fill you in on some of the wonderful things we have planned for our community this year! Like: MINI GOLF!!! All Christian Ed students are invited to join us, after church on September 10th, for "Golf Around the World!" (The Parking Lot for Golf Around the World is located next to Pink Roof Ice cream.) Note: In the event of rain our start of the year outing will take place at the Bowling Alley.

In CommUnity,

Margo Nelson
Youth Director
Caldwell Presbyterian Church
Lake George, NY

..."Let there be light." Genesis 1:3

LG Methodist Church Chicken Barbecue

at Shepards Park on Canada Street

Presented by Big D's Barbecue which includes a half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll/butter and water.

Cost is $15.00 per dinner.

Tickets available at

Lgumc@Lakegeorgeumc.org

Thurday Sept. 14th, 3-5:00

or until sold out!

Take Out Only.

Save These Dates!

Communion Sunday is changed to Sept. 10th.

All Christian Ed Students invited to play mini golf after the service.

The Food Pantry date is changed from 9:30 to 11:00, Sept. 15th and 29th.

The Wednesday Ecumenical Book Study on Genesis will begin on September 13th from 12:30 to 1:30. Bring your own lunch.

Pastor Ali's "Time to Talk on Tuesdays" Meeting times are at 10:00-11:30.

Rummage Sale Oct. 5-7th.

Community Suppers, Oct. 11th, Nov. 8th, and Dec. 13th.

Story Hour in the sanctuary Oct. 15th

Elder Meeting is Oct. 17th, 5:30, zoom only.

Deacon Meeting is Oct. 22nd following church.

News From the Haiti Mission School:

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

Dear Friends:

It seems as though we just said BonVoyage to school in our summer news letter and here we are saying Bonjou (good day/hello) to you and gearing up for a new school year. We hope you and had a good and safe and fun summer and are approaching September renewed and refreshed and ready to send children to school, feed them and encourage and help them in any way we can.

General Haiti News: We would like to say that during these three months things have changed and improved...that life is safer and easier…that food and medical care are more plentiful….that our Haitian brothers and sisters are working, worshiping, learning and raising their families in a more safe and secure environment. Alas, this is not the case. Violence, gang rule, high prices on necessary goods and medical care and supplies are still the way of life for most of Haiti. Financial support for these gangs continues to come mostly from violence, kidnapping, smuggling, drugs and extortion. Within the past few days there have been talks between the UN, U.S. and Brazil about a multinational force lead by Brazil going to help the Haitian police regain control and restore some modicum of peace and security. However, there is so much disagreement about how that might happen that the Haitian people, and I must admit I, am not very hopeful. Also, we remember the last time Brazil sent forces to "help" Haiti. Not a pretty memory.

Some good news is our part of Haiti did escape the vestiges of Tropical Storm Franklin receiving some much needed rain for their crops. This is certainly not true of the Dominican Republic and the northern panhandle areas of Haiti and we need to keep them in our prayers.

School News: Since school just ended in late July for Haitian students it is difficult to think about resuming. For this reason and because of the chaos in Haiti school will probably not resume before October. The families and committee for the school have requested help in the form of food. The US board has agreed and have sent $2500 for a summer food distribution.

We are in the process of receiving information about the status of our secondary school students. Six graduates from our primary school have been selected for secondary school scholarships. They will need to pass an entrance examination before they are accepted into College Dumas. Sister Roseline, from the LaBastille church has paid for them to sit for the examination. Just like here in the US the cost of tuition for the students entering grade seven has increased from 1,000g ($7.35) to1300g ($10) per month. The Inscription and Entrance fees have also increased. Overall, we are expecting perhaps a 10% increase in cost. This is still a very reasonable price for a very good education. We are blessed to have this school available to our students.

This year we have two graduating students sitting for the Haitian National Examinations. These examinations are a comprehensive compilation of all the students have learned over the past 12 years. They are very difficult and few students pass them the first time. Last year two of our three students passed the examination on their first try and a third student passed on her second try. The students who passed are both attending college and the third is hoping to enter a college program this fall. We are providing scholarships for our first two graduates and hope to be able to continue with our new graduates. This is a big undertaking and we offer much gratitude to those of you who have been helping finance those scholarships. We are awaiting the results of their first year. More about this next month.

The Church at Labastille: As many of you know, the church at LaBastille was totally destroyed several years ago during a severe earthquake. The people of the church have been worshiping in a temporary space. Classes have been held there as well. This summer, while school has been out, the people of the church have started to rebuild. They have asked our help and we are helping as much as we can. There is a construction company in Schenectady willing to help financially with this project. f you would like to help you can send your donation to the address above indicating your wish for the donation to go to the church building project. The new building will be a combination of worship space, school space, community space and safe place for those who need it during storms, hurricanes, earthquakes etc. They are doing their best to make the building hurricane and earthquake safe.

Then and Now as they continue their work

Once again, welcome back. There is much more to tell in the months to follow. In the meantime ***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, Jo Ellen Parsons***

PRAYER CONCERNS

Kathy Hammer, Roxi Isaac's & family, Ella Cavas, Barb O'Reilly, Linda Van Anden, Nicole Coller, Liz Klein, Covid breakouts at nursing homes, fire victims and people of Maui, Jessica Army, Sarah Powers Delbecio & family, Ilieo & his family in Belarus, Karen's friend John, Jo Ellen's cousin Ruth, Diane Fair, Ron Powers, Lori Rehm, Regina Ellis, Chris Hunt, Jeff Simpson, Jonathan Simmes, Tom Roach, Jack Brennan, Kathy D., Sofia Amrock, Alison Darby, Peg Earl, Pam Parrott, Andrea

RUMMAGE SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rummage Sale will be held in October 5-7!

Set up Oct. 1-4, and clean up on Oct. 7th.

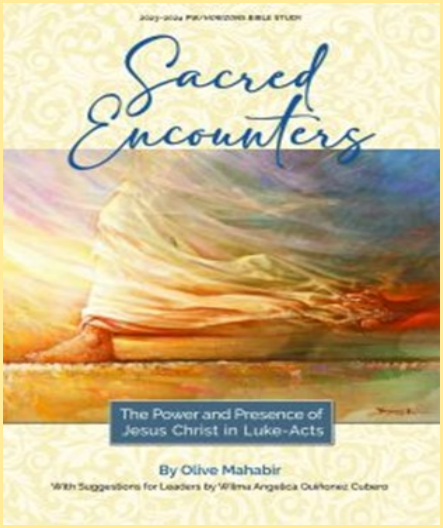
Please start collecting your donations and watch for a sign up sheet to volunteer to help during the sale.

Thank you!

SEPTEMBER

2	Jo Anne Pedersen	20	Marjorie Mannix
4	Emily Fuller	21	Drew Jackson
8	Stan Rummel	24	Rosemarie Earl
12	Mark Mannix	26	Bobbie Hoffman
13	R Hunsicker		
16	Sarah Mannix		
17	Norman Duell		

Looking to Deepen your Faith and share in Community?



Join us on **Zoom only, Thursdays beginning September 28th, 9-10 a.m.,** for PW's Sacred Encounters, a 9-week Bible Study on The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts, by Olive Mahabir, with Suggestions for Leaders by Wilma Angélica Quiñonez Cubero.

Summary of the Bible Study: Within this study, Olive Mahabir invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled, and this message invites the church to deeper, compassionate engagement with the world. "What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformative love of Christ Jesus?"

The studies are as follows:

Lesson 1: Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter, Luke 1:1—24; 39—45

Lesson 2: The Exorcism in Gerasa, Luke 8:26—39

Lesson 3: A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ, Luke 8:43—48

Lesson 4: Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus, Luke 10:38—42

Lesson 5: A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus, Luke 17:11—21

Lesson 6: A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus, Acts 3:1—10

Lesson 7: An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus, Acts 8:26—40

Lesson 8: Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship, Acts 16:11—15

Lesson 9: People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples, Acts 9:36—43

About the Authors

Olive Mahabir is a fourth-generation Presbyterian and the first in her family to be an ordained minister. She was born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. In ministry for more than 20 years she has pastored churches in Michigan, Atlanta, and Jonesboro, Georgia. She's a graduate of St. Andrew's Theological College in Trinidad, the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

Wilma Angélica Quiñonez Cubero is ordained as minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). She is from Puerto Rico and has served Iglesia Presbiteriana en Country Club since 2009. A specialist in ministry with people who are functionally diverse, Wilma is also an associate professor at the Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico. She served the larger church as a member of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People.

Study Guide is $10. Please sign-up in the Church Office or at Coffee Hour by Sept 10th so that materials may be ordered in time for our first class.

****This course is open to everyone!**

Looking to Deepen your Faith?

Come and Join our Fall LG Ecumenical

Community Study Group in Exploring

The Book of Genesis

Beginning Wednesday, September 13th, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at Caldwell Church, we will embark upon a 10-week journey through the entire book of Genesis. Our meeting is discussion based, and our resource is the Bible. A study question page will be handed out each week for the following week's class discussion to help frame our engagement with scripture. We will explore many well-known stories, some familiar since childhood: creation and the garden of Eden; an ark full of animals adrift in a flood; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the dreams of Joseph.

When we meet in community to study, we discover aspects of these familiar stories we may have missed, and we hear them again in a new way, reaffirming our faith that God created everything in goodness and love. Whether in the heights of paradise or the depths of exile, the human journey is never without the presence of God. From Eden to Egypt, Genesis affirms God's love for us all.

To sign up for this class, please contact the Caldwell Church Office or sign-up during Coffee Hour. **All are welcome!

How the Study is organized:

Week 1: Genesis 1-4: Creation Stories; the Fall of Man; Cain & Able

Week 2: Genesis 5-11: Noah and the Flood; Covenant with Noah; Tower of Babel

Week 3: Genesis 12-18: Patriarch Abraham; God's Covenant with Abram; Ishmael

Week 4: Genesis 19-23: Sodom and Gomorrah; Birth of Isaac; Testing of Abraham

Week 5: Genesis 24-27: Isaac and Rebekah; Isaac and Jacob

Week 6: Genesis 28-31: Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel; Jacob's Children; Jacob's Flight from Laban

Week 7: Genesis 32-36: Jacob and Esau Meet; Rape of Dinah; Revenge of Jacob's Sons

Week 8: Genesis 37-41: Joseph and His Brothers; Joseph's Temptation; Dreams Interpreted

Week 9: Genesis 42-46: Brothers' Journeys to Egypt; the Truth Revealed

Week 10: Genesis 47-50: Settlement in Goshen; Jacob's Testament and Funeral

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FINANCE REPORT

Our committee has decided to issue periodic reports to our congregation!
2023 pledge, loose offerings, and fundraising income are all on track to meet our approved budget.

Here are some fundraising totals:

Loose Coin Drive:	$314.60
Parking Vehicles:	$1,485.00
Rummage Sale:	$2,800.00
Americade Breakfast:	$587.00
50/50 Raffle:	$2,500.00
Bake Sale 8/9:	$324.00
Food Pantry Week:	$1,726.70

Our operating check book balance as of 8/1/23 was $26,631.35.
We ask for your continued support and faith in the mission of our church!
We are grateful to everyone who participated in our fundraising efforts.

Bob Blais, Treasurer

SignUpGenius Instructions:

You may have noted that at the beginning of each month we send out a link to the congregation for Coffee Hour sign-ups as well as other care teams, transport teams, and duties around church. For anyone new to SignUpGenius, or for anyone encountering trouble in the sign-up process, here are the steps:

1. Click on the SignUpGenius link in the email the church sends.

2. Scroll down to the date you'd like to select—make sure it says "slot available."

3. Click on "sign up" and it will immediately say "selected." Scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click "Save & Continue."

****At this point you may see an ad or a message to Accept Terms of SignUpGenius. If you have an ad, "X" it away by clicking on the "X" in the upper corner to remove it. If SignUpGenius is asking you to agree to their terms, click "Yes."**

4. You will now arrive at the "Sign Me Up" page. Fill in your first and last name, your email address, and any comment you want to leave in the appropriate boxes, and then click below on "Sign Up Now." You should see confirmation that you've signed up. You're done.

****Often at this point, there will be a series of boxes offering you free stuff, to which you just click "no."**

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP A JOINT CALENDAR TOGETHER!

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE!

COMMUNITY DINNERS!!!

Yes Folks….It is that time of year again. Time to think about and plan on joining our Lake George area brothers and sisters for some fun…fellowship….& great food.

For those of you who have not joined us in the past, we gather in the Community Hall at Sacred Heart Church usually on the second Wednesday of each month starting in October. Our food is generously provided by one of our local restaurants and served between 5 & 6 pm. We, people from the local churches, provide dessert, beverage and fellowship. We also volunteer for setting up, serving and cleanup.

We hope you will plan to join us starting in October. Save the date and stay tuned for the details.

Story Hour

Hello everyone!!! It is very difficult to believe that August has ended and we are launching into September…and yet, here we are.

We still believe that ***Everyone Has A Story.!!!*** We plan to resume our Story Hour in October and we cannot do it without you. Last year we heard some wonderful, interesting and inspiring stories from Bev Roach, Luise Ahlers, Doctor Al Kopf and Peg Earl. Starting in October we are hoping many of you will be willing to share a part of your story with the rest of us. 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 work (volunteer or paid) your family, hobby, travel, other life experiences, etc. Our story tellers usually share for around 15-20 minutes….some have pictures and some do not…some have notes and some do not. The thing they all have in common is all have been a blessing to those hearing the telling.

Story Hour is held on Sunday in the sanctuary and on zoom. Following worship we share in a light lunch of soup, beverage and desert and then return to the sanctuary for the program (usually lasting no more than 30-45 minutes). Stay tuned for the speaker on Oct. 15th!

We are looking forward to hearing from you. If you are willing to share your story, please contact the church office or Jo Ellen Parsons at 518-696-3990 or tjparsons@frontiernet.net so we can make some plans together. Thank You.

Coffee Hour Sign Ups:

Thanks to ALL who have volunteered to provide refreshments for our fellowship time after worship each Sunday this summer. It is a blessing to spend time together in community! Sept. sign-ups are full--thank you!! We are sending along the sign-up link in hopes that some of you will be able to sign up for a Sunday in Oct. or Nov.

Access the link here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AA9AD2CA6F9C61-caldwell1

MISSION OF THE MONTH—THE LAKE GEORGE LAND CONSERVANCY'S WIAWAKA UPLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECT

This Lake George Land Conservancy project benefits the local community right here in the South Basin of Lake George! Donations will go to the Land Conservancy's protection of almost 50 acres of forested land owned by Wiawaka on the French Mountain side of Route 9L. This land includes five acres of wetlands, tributary streams and many acres of sensitive soil and forest areas. The Land Conservancy will purchase a conservation easement from Wiawaka which will permanently protect the land from development and then it will establish a new public hiking trail system on the land.

The Lake George Land Conservancy is a charity established about 35 years ago to protect the waters of Lake George by preserving the land around it. The Land Conservancy has permanently preserved thousands of acres of land and miles of lake shoreline over the years. Locally, it has helped to preserve West Brook, East Brook, Berry Pond and parts of French Mountain. Thousands of people every year use Land Conservancy hiking trails all around the lake.

The Land Conservancy has secured the $700,000 necessary to purchase the conservation easement from Wiawaka thanks to grants and a public fund-raising campaign. However, money is still needed to cover the full $150,000 cost of the new public hiking trails. This transaction is a win-win for everyone.

The Land Conservancy will preserve the Wiawaka land East of Route 9L which protects the lake. Wiawaka gets paid for the conservation easement so they can use the money for their well-known charitable programs and services for women. Our community benefits from a local hiking trail system for recreation and education of young and old alike.

Your donation to the September Mission of the Month will permanently preserve a special part of God's Creation.

Thank you for your help!

Get Connected – Stay Connected!

There are many ways to be of service to the church. Not only is it necessary for the sustainability of the church, but it also enriches our own participation at Caldwell. Being involved helps us get to know others that we may not have had the opportunity to interact with. There are many ways to help at Caldwell and even if you have a limited amount of time, working together is necessary for the future of our church. There are offices of Elders or Deacons as well as several committees in which one can participate. Some people help regularly while others help when they can. You do not have to be a member of the church to be on a committee.

Listed below is a list of committees along with a form that you may fill out. On the reverse side of this insert are descriptions for Elder and Deacon. Additionally, there is more information available in our Opportunities and Resource Guide.

Committees:

** Mission
** Property
** Finance/Fundraising
** Christian Education
** Congregational Life
**Worship

I would like information on the following:

_____ Being an Elder _____Being a Deacon

_____A Committee of the Church_____

_____I am uncertain about any of these specific areas but am willing to help in some way.

Please give this some prayerful thought and place the form in the Offering Plate in the Narthex.

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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— ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org