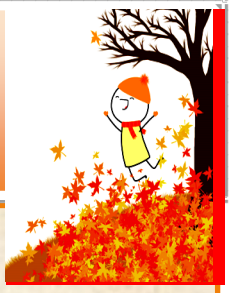
THE SEEKER FOR NOVEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Be Illuminators

"You are the light of the world!" This is the word Jesus had for his followers at the Sermon on the Mount, and it is his word for us—for you: You are the light of the world.

Columnist David Brooks wrote an opinion piece recently in which he introduces some themes from his new book, How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen. In it he makes a distinction between diminishers and illuminators. Brooks writes:

"In any collection of humans, there are diminishers and there are illuminators. Diminishers are so into themselves, they make others feel insignificant. They stereotype and label…make assumptions. Illuminators have a persistent curiosity about other people. They have …a hold of the craft of understanding others. They know how to ask the right questions at the right times, so that they can see things from another's point of view. They shine the brightness of their care on people and make them feel bigger, respected, lit up. Illuminators are a joy to be around."

It occurs to me that so much of his writing about illuminators is practical characteristics we aspire to in living our Christian faith. To be good listeners, to offer people our very best self, is a form of hospitality in Christ's name. Light always has effects. It always illuminates. Illuminators see people well and radiate warmth, Brooks claims. Jesus asks us to be the light, to communicate to people that you see them as having infinite value and dignity, that each person is made in the image of God, and, as Brooks reminds us, "that you are seeing someone so important that Jesus was willing to die for that person."

Imagine offering that level of hospitality, that level of light.

This is the month we will celebrate Thanksgiving. We will have an opportunity to practice hospitality whether we are hosting a gathering or attending one, or even if we are planning to spend the day quietly going about our routine, without any particularly special gathering. No matter the circumstances, when we interact with another, whether family, friends, neighbors, grocery clerks, librarians, wait staff, or service providers, may we hold the lamp up high, be illuminators, and remember Jesus' words: You are the light of the world!

Faithfully,
Ali

Happy Birthday

2 Joni Steiner
11 Dotty Kopf
13 Beth Corriveau
16 Scott Quigan
17 Bob Gunther
22 Jeb Trowbridge
25 Alan Chandler

Volunteers needed to rake the church's leaves.

Bags are provided on the back porch.

November 5th

News from the Haiti Mission School

Mission School
PO Box 445
Lake Luzerne, NY. 12846
haitimissionschool@gmail.com
www.haitimissionschool.org
A 501(c)3 organization

General Haiti News:

Since our October News Letter The United Nations Security Council has approved sending an international police force led by Kenya to Haiti. Kenya has agreed to send 1,000 police officers as Washington continues to pledge $100m and logistical support. As you know, Haiti has been faced with paralyzing gang violence, poverty, food & medical shortages, high gasoline (when it can be found) prices and more. ***'IF'*** international assistance does succeed in controlling or eliminating the gangs, there is still a need to address the above issues plus Haiti's lack of a central government. This void has left a political power vacuum since President Moise was assassinated in July of 2021. The last UN mission in Haiti lasted from 2004 to 2017 and has been accused of human rights abuses, sexual violence, introducing cholera to the county that killed more than 9,000 people and more. Can a foreign intervention avoid repeating these and many other mistakes of the past? Please pray with us that it will be so.

Fun, Food and Fundraising:

The church where we attend offers a mission each month for our church family to learn about and contribute to if they feel so called. The Haiti Mission School was selected to be the focus of our Mission outreach for the month of October. Last Sunday we held a luncheon following worship to thank people for their continuing prayers and support of this mission. As I moved around among the people, one of the most frequently asked questions was "how much does it cost to send a student to school?" Now, we have those figures, however they did not seem to be at the top of this ole gray head. So I decided to attempt to answer that question in this news letter

Primary School:

The costs of the primary school have changed since the Haitian government has assumed management of the school. Mostly what has changed is that we no longer pay the teachers and we do not have a significant responsibility in the day to day operation. What we do provide is a hot meal each school day for the students, staff, kitchen staff, an elderly blind gentleman and perhaps a few others. We also provide money for books, uniform material and other miscellaneous supplies. Food is our main expense at around $1,200 each month. This pays for the food, transportation, kitchen staff and salary and expenses for Junior (our guy on the ground). The average over all cost per student this year including food is about $225. The families and the local committee usually request a special food distribution during the extended Christmas break and one in the summer. Knowing the serious poverty and food scarcity in the area we have been trying to help in this way since the devastation of hurricane Matthew in October of 2016 followed by the major earthquake that destroyed our school buildings and the walls of most of the homes in the area in August of 2021. The cost for these distributions last year was about $5,000. The families each receive a portion of rice, beans and oil. This works out to be an extra $70 per student at this year's enrollment. That would bring the cost per student to almost $300 for the year. This last cost per student ($300) is a bit inaccurate because our secondary school student families and others in the area have access to the food distribution. It is so very difficult to say no when people are starving.

Secondary School:

Calculations for the Secondary School Students is a bit easier to explain. Our students costs at College Dumas, the nearby Secondary School works like this. Each student is charged and 'Inscription fee' which takes care of paperwork processing, grade cards etc. This year it was 2,000 goudes or about $15 at the current exchange rate. Next they (we) pay an 'Entrance fee' of 7,000g or about $55. This covers things like books, uniform material, supplies, computer class, a sport etc. Lastly there is monthly tuition which varies by grade and averages out to about $115 per student. So the average cost this year is about $185 per student or about $5,000 total for the year.

College Students:

This year we have 4 students in College. Our numbers have doubled! Because of space limitations we will need to share their information with you in our December Newsletter.

As you can see, in relation to US prices and considering our costs have increased significantly the price of feeding and educating these children is still quite a bargain. We hope this information has been interesting and helped to answer some of your questions.

We join our students, their families, our boards (in Haiti and US), our staff and others in offering our sincere gratitude for your continuing encouragement, prayers and support.

Advent Wreath Making Event

We will hold our annual Wreath Activity on the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3 after church in the Middle Room.

We will distribute Styrofoam rings, fresh greens and candles, all the materials needed to make a beautiful Advent Wreath. If you have pruning shears, bring those along. If you have your ring from last year, bring that as well. We will conclude with a brief Advent reading, song and the lighting of the first Advent candle. Join us for this meaningful Christmas tradition. Watch for the sign-up sheet or contact Sarah King at (518)744-9348 or scubakings@roadrunner.com or Lynda Glenn at 668-9293 -if you would like to attend.

Church Wide Cookie Exchange

A church wide Cookie Exchange will take place on the same day as the Advent Wreath Making Event.

You may do one or both activities. The exchange takes a very short time in the Coffee Room **before the wreath making event.**

Rules for Exchange:

Bring 6 dozen of the SAME kind of cookie. They may be on a tray, cookie sheet or box cover whatever is easiest for you to transport.

Also bring a Tupper ware container to collect your cookies. (You bring six doz. and take home 6 dozen of a mixed variety.

Thanksgiving Meal Baskets

The Deacons will once again be offering Thanksgiving Meal Baskets to our Food Pantry recipients as well as members of the Lake George Community. We work with the elementary school nurse to identify families in need who don't necessarily come to the scheduled Food Pantry distribution.
The basket will include a traditional Thanksgiving menu of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, vegetables and dessert. Families will pick up their baskets on Friday, November 20th from 10-1.

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER CONCERNS : Countries at war, Joyce and Loren Compson, McTague family, Papo Villarubia, Jo Ellen's friend Cindy and cousin Ruth, family of Chris Wright, Megan Klein, Tom Nace, Lindsay, Dennis Carey, Danielle, Jessica Army, Fred Sciallaba, Shirley Von Dem Bussche, Chris Beall, Ella Cavas, Andrea, 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.

Lunch and Learn Presentation at Saint James, Thurs. , Nov. 16, 11:30-1:30. Ronald McDonald Charities of the Capital Region presented by Kimmy Venter, Interim CEO ~ Free lunch - Soup, Dessert, Beverages but please bring in a donation for the Ronald McDonald House or the food pantry. Reservations required: Call 518-668-2001 and leave a message or e-mail office.stjameslg@gmail.com

Community Thanksgiving Hymn Sing, Sunday Nov. 19 at 4 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls. It is a benefit for the Family Service Association of Glens Falls, Inc. Suggested donation $10.

Consider joining the Caldwell Choir for Christmas! The more the merrier!!!
We meet on Weds. evenings at 6:30 to rehearse.
Please contact Jim or Beth if you have questions.

A Word on Caldwell's Stewardship Campaign 2023

As we enter this year's Stewardship campaign, the Finance Committee wants to acknowledge, thank and encourage all of you for the many ways in which you give your time and talent in serving the church, and volunteering.

Stewardship, however, is in many ways even more important. By funding our church, we lay the foundation for all that we do at Caldwell. We provide the space for our Food Pantry, the home for our Preschool, and host meals, bible studies and meetings important to our community. In these ways, your pledge is the first among equals in your giving at Caldwell.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your pledge for 2023. With your commitment and with God's guidance, Caldwell will continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of many.

Your Finance Committee

Thanks You from the Haiti Mission School

We at the Haiti Mission School are grateful to all who have supported the students and their families of the Haiti Mission School throughout the years and especially during the month of October. We appreciate your interest, encouragement and prayers.

A special thanks to the people who helped with the Haiti Mission School Luncheon…to those who helped with setting up and cleaning up, those who made delicious soups and desserts and those who kept all things going in the kitchen. We thank those who came for the fun, the food and the fellowship. We thank those who donated their time, talent and their resources in any way.

We join the students and their families, the boards (in Haiti & the US), the church at Labastille and the staff in thanking each one for your caring and kindness.

Caldwell Preschool News:

Preschool continues to be a busy. This year we have 29 students and five employees. The four year old class has walked to the library twice to check out books and listen to a story. The 3s and 2s class made applesauce using an apple corer peeler. There is nothing quite like eating something that you made. On Friday Oct 13, school families met at Sunnyside Gardens in Saratoga springs. Sixty seven people attended. We took a hayride, wandered in acorn maze, rode a train, and of course had cider and donuts. For Halloween each class will dress up to parade for their families. It is exciting to watch all the happy faces.

STORY TIME THANKS AND PLANS FOR NOVEMBER

Our gratitude goes out to each one who helped make our October Story Time such a great experience for all involved. Special thanks to those who helped prepare food, serve food, eat food and/or clean up.

Our heartfelt thanks to our brother and friend Bob Blais for sharing with us about his growing up years and how he came to know and love our Lake George Community. The relationship felt almost preordained. Thank you Bob for letting us share in your life.

Our Next Story Time is scheduled for 19 November 2023 following worship. We are grateful to Rolf Ahlers for volunteering to share part of his life story with us on that day. We look forward to hearing from Rolf. This will be our last Story Time until January so mark it on your calendar so you will not miss out.

Believing ***'Everyone Has A Story'*** we continue to encourage each of you to prayerfully consider joining in this time by sharing some of your own story about your growing up years, your time here as part of our Caldwell family, your work (volunteer or paid), your family, hobby, travel or other life experiences. Our story tellers usually share for 15-20 minutes. Some have pictures or other memorabilia…some do not.

Many people 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 say you are a unique and loved part of our family and we would be delighted to hear in your own way and your own words about your life. If you are willing to share some of your story, please contact the Church Office, JoEllen Parsons, Bev Roach or Sarah King.

Please plan to be with us on 19 November 2023 following worship.

COMMUNITY DINNERS!!!

Special Thanks to all who worked to help make our Kick Off October Community Dinner such a great success. We are grateful for all the delicious food provided by the ADK PUB….the many excellent deserts provided by folks from our Lake George Churches….and to all of you who helped set up, serve and clean up or in any other capacity. It was a great evening of fun, food and fellowship.

Now…. coming quickly and you won't want to miss it is our November Dinner. So be sure and put this date on your calendar, 8 November 2023. As usual, our Lake George Community Churches will be providing desserts. There will be signup sheets in the coffee room for those who would like to help with desserts, setting up (4:30), serving (4:45) and cleaning up (5pm to eat and then we can get started on the cleaning up). For those who wish to join in the food, fun & fellowship come between 5 & 6. We hope to see you there.

COMMUNITY DINNER (Free)

WEDNESDAY, November 8th, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church from 5-6 PM

*****Food prepared by:**
Holiday Inn & Lake George Bakery!!

Menu Includes:
Mac & Cheese, Garden Salad, Fresh Bread, Additional Item Yet to be Determined
Desserts by Lake George Community Church Members

Finance Committee Report

We Need Your INPUT!!

We have received a substantial donation of funds from an anonymous donor. They wish to be advised on how we intend to use the funds to benefit our church and our community. Please let Bob Blais or Ray Van Anden know your thoughts (Rvananden2@roadrunner.com).

Darlene Gunther, our longtime financial secretary has chosen to retire after many years of faithful service. Session has approved the hiring of Linda Shudt of Lake George at an annual salary of $2500. Linda is a bookkeeper at Krystal Jeep in Warrensburg and the spouse of Tim Shudt, Lake George Village Wastewater Chief Operator.

Our Stewardship Campaign is presently underway. Please prayerfully consider your 2024 pledge at this time.

Pledges allow us to plan our annual budget to meet our needs necessary to continue to spread God's work and good in our community.

—Bob Blais, Financial Elder and Church Treasurer

Friends of Caldwell Lake George Library Fundraising Dinner

on Friday, Nov. 17th from 4 pm to close at the
Adirondack Pub and Brewery,
33 Canada Street, Lake George.

A percentage of all meals will be donated to the library. Please help us plan on how many are coming by responding to the library at #518-668-2528. Hope to see you there!

ADIRONDACK PUB & BREWERY

He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand. 3. Psalm 145:14

YOUTH EVENTS:

Social Gatherings: This month, our Fun in Fellowship event will be **November 26th**. Following service, join us for a field trip - **Gratitude Movie**. Meaning, we are grateful for one another and an opportunity to be together! So let's go to the Regal Cinema, get some popcorn and enjoy a movie! This field trip is open to all. *Please send me an email if you believe you will be interested. Actual movie we will see will be determined on 11/20 by what's showing on 11/26 and I will send out an email with details at that time.*

November 5th "Stuffie Tea Party"
Inviting all Pe-School children and families!

Wear your tea party best and bring your favorite Stuffie for a tea party!
This event will be offered once a month, after church, and will be outdoors when we can, indoors when we need to.
Angel Disciples and Youth Group welcomed to bring their Stuffie too!!!

November Mission of the Month

November's Mission of the Month was scheduled to be for the Covenant House. We had this Charity selected earlier in the year and it was postponed to support the Food Pantry. We will get there but with what has happened in Israel and Palestine we felt that we need to postpone it once again. Instead we have chosen:

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, PDA is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance.

We have witnessed the millions of people caught in the middle of the devastating conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. This is a dire humanitarian crisis and the loss of human life is unimaginable. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable, and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of their neighbors. Our biggest concern is the safety and care for those caught in the middle of this conflict and in need of humanitarian aid, no matter their religious beliefs, politics or nationality. Years of recovery lie ahead. Will you stand in the "GAP" for all affected by this conflict? — Give. Act. Pray.

PDA has approved solidarity grants and will continue supporting our partners providing humanitarian assistance. Our response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals.

Our Church has raised the following amounts for the June- Aug Missions:

June, 2023 - Caldwell Preschool - $470
- Special LG Scholarship - $300
July, 2023 - Food Pantry - $1365
Aug, 2023 - LG School Backpacks - $950

Thank you for continuing support!

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

-Numbers 6:24-26

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

November 5th, Confirmation Classes with Pastor Ali.

Children's Message with Pastor Ali, During service on **November 5th**. An inspiring message for all children and youth.

"Stellar" Shine Jesus' Light! For our Angel Disciples (Pre-K through 5th Grade.) continues Sundays in November. It's an out-of-this-world Sunday School adventure with some faith-building fun! During Church Service. ***Inviting all Pre-School students to join in the fun!***

"Spiritual Cinema" November 26th. During Church Service. Youth Group - come watch "Just Breath". Discussion will follow. Then we'll make a craft to use for a technique introduced by the film. Popcorn included.

Faith in Motion: Join Margo in service to the community, Wednesday, November 8th. at the November Community Dinner. Your help is needed in announcing our Prayer Flags for Peace initiative. Youth and Angel Disciples also have the opportunity to serve, clean, and enjoy a great meal! Can you help with setting up, serving at, and/or clean up? At Sacred Heart Parish Center Office, 51 Mohican St. Setup starts at 4:30. Servers begin at 4:45pm. Cleanup 5:45 – 6:30pm.

PRAYER FLAGS FOR PEACE – November 5th

Caldwell Presbyterian Church Invites One and All to join our new initiative to spread positive vibrations and words of hope to peoples everywhere. Join us on November12th, after service, for a viewing of an inspiring video by Yael Deckelbaum entitled "Prayer of the Mothers". Then make a prayer flag of your own to be installed on the lawn of the Church. This is a larger community initiative based on the Tibetan tradition and belief that prayers and mantras will be blown by the wind to spread peace, compassion, strength, and wisdom into all pervading space. *All are welcomed.*

"Make a Joyful Noise" Youth Choir grab a snack at coffee hour and let's get together on **November 12th, and November 19th.**

Upcoming: Save these Dates! **December 10th Pizza Party Christmas Pageant Practice** during Sunday School time.. ALL YOUTH, please come to the Pizza Party Practice and discuss the plan for **Youth service and Christmas pageant which will be held on December 17th!** We've got a new inspiration brewing as we plan for something a little different this year.

Pre-registration for all classes and events always appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you! If you have questions or would like to attend an event &/or class please email Margo at youthdirector@caldwellpres.org Friends always welcomed!

Christmas Craft Fair

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St., Lake George

Saturday, December 2, 2023

10 am—4 pm

Shop for your Christmas gifts here!

Goat milk soap, mandala dot painting, hand sewn items, maple syrup, bake sale, cookie table and much more

Buy Local!

Parking available behind the church.

Please stop in, have lunch and browse.
Raffle items from each vendor.

Snow date is Sat. Dec. 9th

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 10 am.

Contact Information:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Office Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email— pastor@caldwellpres.org