THE SEEKER FOR MAY 2025
NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Time to Talk

As the season changes, and the shrubs and trees begin to bud and flower in the miracle of Spring, my thoughts are drawn to the notion of *time*. The writer of Ecclesiastes said: "*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted…a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh… a time to mourn, and a time to dance…*"

Spring*time* is always busy at Caldwell, and this coming May will be no different. We begin full steam ahead with the Rummage sale and carry throughout the month with many ways to get involved and grow in faith and friendship. In a world of uncertainty and change, it is good for us to come together with no particular agenda beyond love and community, to hold each other up as we find our way. For some it is a *time* to plant, for others a *time* to weep, and for others a *time* to build up or pluck up, even a *time* to laugh or to dance. We can relate to several of these "*times.*"

I want to remind you of "A Time to Talk." It's for everyone. Based on the Robert Frost poem of the same name (you can google if you wish), it's a time to stop by your church, not on a Sunday but a Tuesday, anytime between 10-11:30, and have a friendly visit, share a thought, or listen to someone's story over a cup of coffee. I have found over the years how meaningful it is to spend this time in spontaneous conversation each week. It's not only a useful skill to keep honed, but it's really an artform: the ability to carry on a conversation. We can grow rusty and our minds can forget how to "give and go" in a conversation. Sallie Bell, Jeb's beloved grandmother, our *Grammie*, was masterful at it. Even during what would be her declining years, she would greet you from her bed with a sparkle in her eye and say, "*tell me, what's new and exciting in your life?*" That curiosity is a gift, as was her energy, even and up to her final days, to greet each visitor with singular attentiveness, asking about their life, truly interested in hearing from them. It's something rare and precious to live with such acceptance, such attentiveness to "now," and to the holiness residing in each person.

So please do stop by. We do not stand on ceremony around here. Fix yourself a cup of coffee or tea, a lemonade from the fridge, a muffin or biscuit if you're hungry, and say hello. Caldwell Church is at its best when everyone engages. You can feel the Holy Spirit humming around this place these days. This is *your church home*. And besides, I'd love to see you and sit with you a while. I'm curious about "*all that's new and exciting in your life*!"

May the Easter promise of God's eternal love put a spring in your step and a sparkle in your eye. Happy Spring, Caldwell Church! Thank you for who you are and for all you do in this community and beyond. Hope to see you soon for *A Time to Talk!*

Faithfully, Ali

The Haiti Mission School Newsletter

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www.haitimissionschool@gmail.com
A 501(c)3 Organization

General News from Haiti:

Our prayers and deepest condolences go out to our sisters and brothers of the Catholic faith around the world on the passing of Pope Francis. As a persistent advocate for the poor, disfranchised and marginalized his voice, actions and love will be deeply missed by many. One of his early appointments (eleven years ago) was Chibly Langlois as Haiti's first cardinal. Cardinal Langlois will cast Haiti's first-ever vote in a papal conclave to elect the successor to Pope Francis. We pray for God's wisdom and guidance for Cardinal Langlois and all those tasked with selecting the new pope.

Meanwhile in Haiti, violence continues to spiral. In one incident, students threw stones at internally displaced people attempting to seek refuge in their school…a stark example of what one UN representative described as ***"the desperate turning against the even more desperate."*** *In another part of Port au Prince* we find a 39 year old mother of seven sitting in her workplace, the middle of a pile of garbage, filling a bag with old, torn shoes and other salvageable items she hopes to clean up, repair and resell. A pile of garbage is no place for a woman or anyone else to work. Yet, she comes and sorts through the trash in order for her family to survive. According to a reporter for The Haitian Time, the woman sells refurbished sandals for 25 to 50 gourdes ($.20 to $0.38 at todays exchange rate). On a good day she can earn between 500 to 1,000 gourdes ($3.83 to $7.65). With this she needs to feed, house and care for her family of seven…and so she labors on. *At the same time*, in Les Cayes, the next town over the mountains from Jeremie on the way to Port au Prince, a local company, Cosmos Solution, works with families and small businesses to separate organic waste at its source. The company transforms the organic waste into biogas, offering a cleaner energy source for cooking and electricity. Founder Bernice Charles said this reduces reliance on charcoal, helps combat deforestation and helps decrease air pollution. A sign of hope and what life in Haiti could be like without the gangs that control so much of the country.

Haiti School News:

We wired money to Haiti last week …. $1,000 for May food at the Primary School; $835 for April, May and June Secondary School tuition for 20 of our 21 students (our last installment for this year); $1,375 for May and June tuition for our 5 college students (our last installment for this school year) plus salary and expenses for Junior, our administrator in Jeremie and last but not least, the government's cut of $37 for bank fees and taxes on the money we send. Each one remains grateful. School in Jeremie and our part of the countryside continue to operate. In Port au Prince they are not holding school because many school buildings, if they remain standing, are being used as food kitchens and shelters for displaced children and families and because of the ever present danger for the children. It is possible that Primary and Secondary school in the Jeremie area will continue through July this year because it did not start until October. That will mean the students will be going to school during some very hot weather and for our students, it also means that they will have food for one month into the summer. So…the good news and not so good news.

Continuing Thanks and Gratitude …. to You … And:

We give grateful thanks to these two women, Sister Lusiane (right) and Sister Roseline Pamphile (left) for the faithful commitment, energy and care they have given to the organization and operation of the Haiti Mission School. Sister Lusiane, now in her mid eighties has moved to Port au Prince and is living with her daughter. For many years, however, she along with Sister Roseline and the board faithfully shepherded the church at Labastille and the school from the infancy of its first class of 24 students. They were the constant and dependable overseers of the property, staff, students and operations. Without them, there would probably be no school. Sister Roseline remains as the on site eyes, ears, hands, feet and heart for us and for Jesus. We appreciate her care, integrity, faithfulness and friendship over these many years.

We, the boards (Haitian & US), our students, their families and others at the Haiti Mission School remain ever grateful to all who pray for and support us. You are truly a great blessing and we say to you "Mesi Anpil" (many, many thanks). We hope you will continue to bless us with your prayers and support

<u>May Seeker- Christian Education</u>

Thanks to all youth who participated in April's events. We had fun "diving in-to" the Bible, making cross suncatchers, learning about Jonah and the whale, making paper doily Easter eggs, and having our annual Easter Egg hunt.

Christian Education Continued:

During the month of May, may we all celebrate our mothers and mother figures on Mother's Day which is May 11. Let's focus on the values of kindness, patience and the unconditional love that mothers exemplify every day!

Sunday school class for grades pre-k through 4th- May 4, 11, 18 (will be held outside due to ecumeni cal service), and May 25th.

Meet with Pastor Ali after church for grades 5-12- May 4.

May 4 (rescheduled from April 27) - "All Together Now" activity at 11:30 am. "**Let's Plant!"**

Everyone is invited, young and old, to get their hands dirty and plant. Plant pals, green beans in a bag and more!

SAVE THE DATES

May 17- LG COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY- crafts and more!

May 20- LG COMMUNITY DINNER at Sacred Heart Church. Volunteer hours available- set up at 4:30, serving at 5, clean up.

June 15- YOUTH SUNDAY. Slide show highlights of the year, preschool and Sunday school teacher appreciation, dedication of Tom Parsons Memorial bench and more!

June 15- CHURCH WIDE PICNIC, "Subs, Salads, and Sundaes" after the youth Sunday service. We will provide the subs and ice cream. People are encouraged to bring a salad to share.

COMMUNITY DINNER THANKS AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR…

As many of you know, our delicious and bountiful April Community Dinner was provided by *Spargel on 9* . It was such a fulfilling evening in so many ways. The hall was overflowing with people, laughter, clinking of dishes and the mouthwatering fragrance of food in the air. What a blessing. Our gratitude goes out to Spargel's for the food, our Lake George faith community for the plentiful and delicious desserts, our sisters and brothers at Sacred Heart for the warm and inviting space, to all our faithful volunteers who setup, serve and cleanup for us, to all who come to eat and nurture relationships and to the Good Lord for the many blessings given and received.

It is now time to mark your calendar for the second Wednesday in May (5/14/25) from 5 to 6 pm when we will be offering the last Community Dinner until fall. Our food will be provided and prepared by we the community. Our menu is Chili, Coleslaw, Rolls, Dessert and Beverages. There will be a sign up sheet for desserts and help in the coffee room on May 4, the Sunday after the Rummage Sale. We hope to see you all there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS for grades pre-k through 4th– May 4th -All Together Now" activity at 11:30 am. "Let's Plant!"

TIME TO TALK WITH PASTOR ALI, Tuesdays 10 to 11:30. Please join us to chat and make new friends. All are welcome.

LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY, Saturday, May 17 We will host a BAKE TABLE, CRAFT FAIR, CHURCH INFORMATION TABLE, ROCK PAINTING AND PONY RIDES. **To be a vendor** please contact Jo Anne Pedersen #845-721-7576.

JOINT CHURCH SERVICE, Sunday, May 18th (outside), 10 am, followed by a **PANCAKE BREAK-FAST** in our church for **$10.00.** Please see Ed Kopf for tickets. **WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS BOTH DAYS.**

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY of Rev. Laura Miller as priest-in-charge at St. James Episcopal Church on Sat. May 3 at 3:00 pm. There will be a reception immediately following. Please **RSVP** to office.stjameslg@gmail.com.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: Thursday, May 1st, 3-7 pm

SALE

Friday, May 2nd, 10-5:30 pm

Bag Sale, Saturday, May 3rd, 9-11:30 am

Women's, Men's & Children's Clothing, Household items, Toys, Seasonal items, and a Bake Sale

Sign up to help in the coffee room please!

SALE

2025 National Prayer for the National Day of Prayer on May 1st.

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead; therefore, we hope in what we do not see. This world is not our home
or reality, but the Lord is our Rock, our Truth, our certainty.

God of hope, we pour out our praise and are filled with Your powerful presence.
We pour out repentance of sin and are filled with forgiveness and righteousness.
We pour out pain from the attacks of the enemy—anxiousness, fear, anger—and You fill us with
courage, assurance, and love. We pour out our needs, the desires of our hearts, and are filled with
Your Kingdom provision and purpose.

We pour out our hearts for our nation, for the people and places, relationships and responsibilities
the Lord has established: the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Arts, Entertainment,
Media, and Government. May all who live, serve, and steward in these be filled with Your purpose,
wisdom, strength, and truth. Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.
In abounding hope, anchored by our hope in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!
~Kathy Branzell President, National Day of Prayer Task Force ~

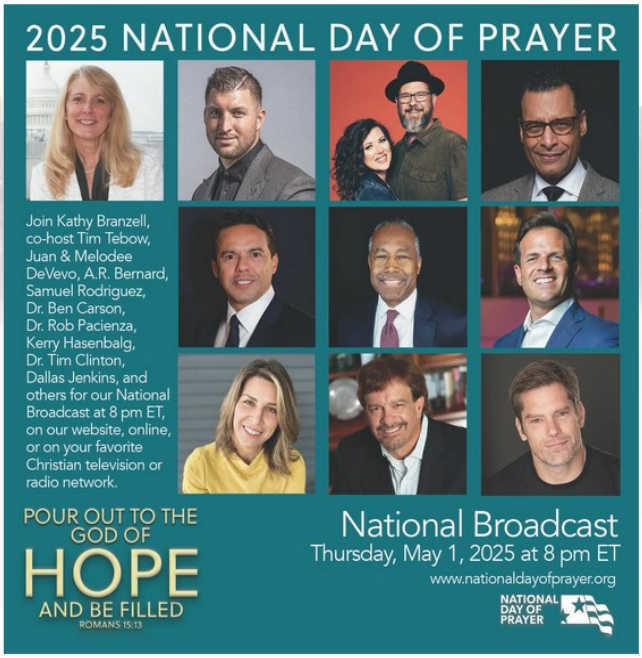
Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 8 p.m. ET

Hosted by president Kathy Branzell, alongside 2025 Co-Host Tim Tebow!

Special guests include Juan and Meoldee DeVevo of *Casting Crowns*, A.R. Bernard, Samuel Rodriguez, Dallas Jenkins of *The Chosen*, Dr. Tim Clinton, and many more!

The annual National Day of Prayer Broadcast is an invitation to unite in prayer, as the 2025 theme calls us to "Pour Out to the God of Hope and Be Filled!" from the theme scripture of Romans 15:13.

This 90-minute virtual prayer gathering is for believers across America and across the world to join together in prayer and worship, with prayers from Christian leaders in every area of influence. Lift up your prayers with us and be encouraged as we pray for neighbor and nation, and be filled with God's hope, joy, and peace in believing!



Who

Please join us for May 1st at 8 p.m. ET - The National Day of Prayer Broadcast will reach into million of home in America to unite hearts in prayer to "Exalt the Lord who has established us."

www.nationaldayofprayer.org

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: ***God's Promise: I Am With You*** by PW/*Horizons* Study book is $10. Meeting dates: May 6, 20, and June 3, 10, & 17, from 12 to 1:00.

INQUIRER'S CLASS is Sunday, June 1, following worship: Interested in learning more about becoming a member of Caldwell Presbyterian Church? Join us for the next Inquirer's Class where we will discuss Caldwell's history in the PC(USA), how your spiritual journey has brought you here, and explore opportunities for growing together in faith. This class lasts about 1.5 hours and is the only prerequisite to membership. Please RSVP to the office.

SOIL NEEDED!! Caldwell Preschool Garden is getting ready for planting and we could use some soil! Please let us know by May 2 if you would like to donate soil. Please contact the church office. Thank you!

THE COMMUNITY DINER is Weds. May 14th from 5 to 6 pm. This is the last Community Dinner until fall. May is the time when many of our local restaurateurs are working to prepare for the upcoming summer season, so we plan to be cooking the meal. Details are in this newsletter.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY: We are in the process of updating our church directory and need your help! Please stop by the information table at Coffee Hour and update your contact details.

Cards for Shut-Ins. Please take a moment to sign a card in the coffee room for several of our home-bound people. There is a list of folks who would love to hear from you.

MAY BOOK GROUP Tuesday, May 13, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Our next discussion is "March" by Geraldine Brooks, March recounts the "meanwhile" story of the father from Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. Mr. March, the father, is dealing with life on the front lines of the American Civil War where he is serving as chaplain. Brooks takes us into the father's struggles and adventures. This is historical fiction with themes of family and examinations of "ardently held beliefs."

TIME TO TALK WITH PASTOR ALI, Tuesdays 10 to 11:30. Please join us to chat and make new friends. All are welcome.

Happy Birthday

May 2025

07 Ed Hoose
11 Frank Amrock
15 Donna Amoroso
16 Peg Earl
16 Lesley Clemons
18 Linda Van Anden
22 Rod Cornelius
24 KC Glenn
26 Darlene Gunther
30 Dante Corriveau

Prayer Concerns

Susan York, Cardinals of the Pope, Persecuted Christians around the world, Skip Bush, Addison Potts, Rolf Ahlers, Melissa Chambers, Bonnie Cleveland, Mark Williams, Mary Ann, Rebecca Schrmacher, Lilly Smith, Nick Kopf, Lindsay's step-daughter, Ron's family, Ray's friends Jim & Tom, Jim Oswald, Jim Oswald, Harold Hay, Rebecca Shearmocker, Eileen Welch, Barabara Dingman, Randy Rolling, Alice Huppert, Jennifer's friend, A.L., Chaz, Haiti Mission School, Judelin Pierre & family, Alex Blanco, Chuck Combs, Carol Hunt & her neighbor, Lee Phillips, Anika & family, Ron Powers, Sharon DeKalb, Tom Roach, Pam Parrott, Sandy Thompson, Carol N., Wetherly Gharzouzi, David Quin, Paul Kubik, Audrey Carr, Peg Earl, Dr. Chris, Nicole Goller, Katie Boxley, John Onjack, Barlo McCann.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Spring is Here! We are so glad that we are now able to get outside! The Preschool visited with Lake George elementary schools for a field trip this month. The whole school played in the gym, sang together with the music teacher, and partnered with a class for special activities. We also met with the Librarian to learn about the importance of reading 1000 books before kindergarten. The field trip ended with recess on the playground.

The Preschool is almost fully enrolled for next year, with a few spots open for 4 year olds. Christian Ed has partnered with the preschool to host "Stay and Play" once a month for preschool families to stay and play on the playground and enjoy a snack together. It has been highly attended and enjoyed by all. We are also working on our outside garden boxes.

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

Website— www.caldwellpres.org