THE SEEKER FOR JUNE AND JULY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2025

Summer: A Time to Live Out Your Story

Even though I'm probably too old for this, I still get excited about summer break. The chance to switch gears, change focus, and be outside more brings out the inner child in me, and perhaps, in you, too. The three summer months stretch before us, and I'm intentionally thinking more about my summer reading list, planting the garden, and making plans with family and friends. From the friendly glow of fireflies at dusk, to the bluebirds going about their early morning chores, to making time to look up at the stars at night, there is endless wonder to explore. There are returning miracles, new every morning.

One of my favorite writers is theologian Ted Loder whose gift with language has inspired my faith. From his book, *Guerrillas of Grace*, I share excerpts which, for me, and hopefully for you, open the doorway to the wonder ahead of us, no matter our age or stage in life. He writes in verse, all prayers, so let us pray this together:

O God of miracles, of galaxies and crocuses and children,

I praise you now from the soul of the child within me…

Help me unbury my talents for wonder, and humor, and gratitude,

So I may invest them eagerly in the recurring mysteries of spring and beginnings,

of willows that weep, and rivers that flow and people who grow

in such endlessly amazing and often painful ways;

that I will be forever linked and loyal to justice and joy,

simplicity and humanity,

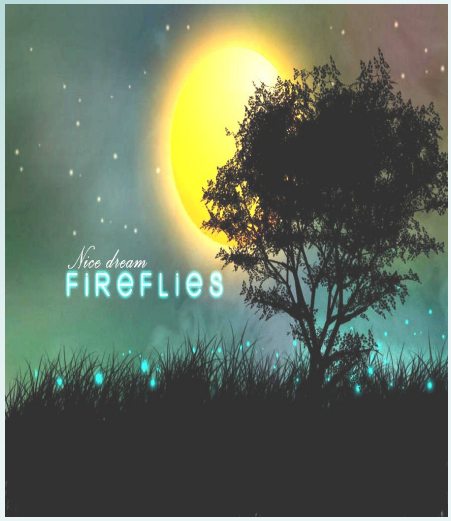
Christ and his kingdom…

The one who taught us about moving mountains,

healing touches, wondrous stories, great banquets, first suppers,
broken bread, crosses, and resurrections…

Throughout these summer months, nurture in me the song of a lover, the vision of a poet, the questions of a child, the boldness of a prophet, the courage of a disciple…O Lord, it is said you created people because you love stories.

Be with me as I live out my story.



Blessings of summer to you all. I hope to see you!

Faithfully,

Ali

2024-2025 Community Dinners:

This article comes with much gratitude and appreciation for all those who have helped with or in any way been a part of our Community Dinners throughout this year. I believe they have brought much grace and rich blessing upon blessing to many in our community and nearby area.

Special thanks and gratitude to the local restaurants who so faithfully provide a delicious meal for us each month. Please stop in and thank the ***ADK Pub crew*** who faithfully provide our October kickoff dinner; ***Holiday Inn*** for bringing us our pre Thanksgiving feast; ***Fort William Henry*** for our December Community Christmas dinner; ***Barnsider Smokehouse BBQ*** chef and crew for a hot meal on a cold midwinter January evening; ***Mama Riso's*** for our sweet Valentines Day dinner in February; Mario's for our delicious and abundant March dinner; and our newest addition, ***Spargle's on 9*** and their crew for the awesome roast pork dinner; and last but not least, in May, ***our own Lake George Church Community*** for the mouth watering chili, coleslaw and rolls.

For our May Dinner, a special thanks goes out to those who came on Tuesday to help in the preparation of the chili and other culinary delights. Thanks, as well, to all who made those plentiful and mouth-watering desserts. They were plentiful and delicious. It is always fun to welcome and visit with those who come early for coffee or tea, have time to chat and catch up on what has been happening during the last month and, perhaps, to be first in line to select their favorite desserts. We served over 100 meals most months during this season. Of course, our dinners and our thanks would not be complete without expressing our gratitude to the folks in our Lake George faith community who lovingly prepare desserts each month. What meal would be complete without them??!! The dinners would not be possible without the faithful ones who help setup, serve and cleanup after all the fun and friendship sharing is past. We also thank our friends at Sacred Heart for welcoming us into their bright and comfortable community space each month. It truly does take a village. What a Blessing.

A woman told me that she has a monthly date with a loved one and it has been such a blessing to both of them….wondering if that might not have happened without these dinners. And that is certainly one of the many blessings we hope will happen. We hope you have been blessed in some way as well.

We hope your summer is filled with fun and joy. laughter, friends and family. We look forward to seeing you back again in the fall for more great food, friendship renewing and building and the sharing and receiving of many more rich and abundant blessings. ~ JoEllen Parsons

THE SPRING RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE WAS A BIG WIN!

The sale raised over $3400.00! The Deacons thank everyone who helped with setting up, advertising, baking, selling the items, buying and cleaning up.

Prayer Concerns

Pat O'Reilly family, Kurt & Kim, George Bishop, Whippoorwill Campground, Persecuted Christians around the world, David Quin, Shannon Mower, Susan York, Skip Bush, Addison Potts, Rolf Ahlers, Melissa Chambers, Bonnie Cleveland, Mark Williams, Nick Kopf, Rebecca Schermacher, Lilly Smith, Ray's friends Jim & Tom, Andrea, Chaz, Alice Huppert, 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, Wetherly Gharzouzi, Paul Kubik, Audrey Carr, Peg Earl, Dr. Chris, Nicole Goller, Katie Boxley, John Onjack, Barlo McCann, Wars across our world, Haiti gangs.

Summer 2025
News from the
Haiti Mission

Haiti Mission School
PO Box 445, Lake Luzerne, NY 23846
www.haitimissionschool@gmail.com
A 501(c)3 Organization

General News from Haiti:

Recent reports indicate a continuing humanitarian crises in Haiti, marked by escalating gang violence, cholera outbreaks and food insecurity. Cholera outbreaks continue to emerge, adding to other existing humanitarian crisis, putting further strain on already scarce resources. The lack of clean water, sanitation, deteriorating infrastructure and lack of social services increases exponentially the potential for these and other kinds of disaster.

Within the last few weeks, the U.S. has officially designated a powerful gang coalition in Port au Prince as a foreign terrorist organization, raising concerns the designation could deepen the country's humanitarian crisis at this critical time. The US Department of State warned that "persons, including American citizens, that engage in certain types of transactions or activities with one of the designated gangs or individuals may expose themselves to sanctions risk." At this point, it is nearly impossible for aid groups, especially in Port au Prince, to avoid dealing, in some way, with some of these designated gangs. The Aid Groups in the capital are forced to work with the gangs in order to be able to reach vulnerable populations. According to the State Department, the first consequences will be on these types of humanitarian aid groups. They are basically the only thing preventing many vulnerable people from starving.

Even people such as ourselves could be affected by the new designation, as gangs control areas surrounding a key fuel depot, the port, as well as the main roads that lead in and out of the capital. The gangs charge tolls for all goods to move from the capital into places like Jeremie and on out to places like Labstille where the school is located. The "terrorist" designation could make some of these payments a criminal offense. Although we do pay these fees directly, places where we purchase food and other supplies do pay them. It is currently thought that doing any kind of business with or in Haiti is going to carry a much greater risk and drive the cost of doing business much higher.

Haiti School News:

According to friends on the ground, life in Jeremie is calm. Getting food and other vital supplies remains very expensive and yet, for the most part, people are safe. Mothers Day was celebrated on May 25 in Haiti. Much appreciation goes out to each Mom. It is so hard to imagine mothering in such harsh and scarce times.

We recently received a request from our five college students, asking if there is anyway we can help to support them through the rest of their time in college. At our last Board meeting, The US Board was agonizing about leaving these young people in the middle of their college years. They been part of our lives for so many years, have worked so hard and come so far. Granting this request would extend our work there up to 3 additional years. Two students, Roseberline (Nursing/$1550 per year) has 1 additional year, as does Brunia (Computer Sci./ Business/$1315 per year). Bruno has two years remaining at the college of Dental Science ($1325 per yr). Sonia has two additional years in Agronomy/Business. ($1220 per year) and Jennyfer has three years to finish Agronomy/Business ($1475 per year). That would mean a cost of $7,000+ next year; $4,500+ the following year and $1,500+ the third year. The + sign is there because we anticipate the cost will increase each year as it has in the past and we will need to pay salary and expenses for Junior to administer the program. Although that is significantly less than the $35,000 per year it cost us last year, it is still a significant amount of money, and we will not be able to do it without help from many of you. ***We thank you for your prayerful consideration and for your continuing concern, prayers and support for the children and families of Haiti over the years.***

Continuing Thanks and Gratitude...to you...And:

It is with much gratitude that we salute Junior Eustache, our ever faithful man on the ground in Haiti. We have tried working with a several others over the years, most often with unsatisfactory results. Junior, however has been working with and for us for more than 12 years. He purchases and delivers food, pays tuition and other bills, sends and receives reports, translates letters, helped us build a cistern, repair homes, rebuild the church, gives honest and sound advice when we are struggling with what to do in a certain situation. He often finds himself in the middle of desperate people asking for help, transferring requests and responses. He has a real heart for the children and families of Haiti. He is also a loyal and steadfast companion when we are in Haiti, transporting, translating, watching over and guiding. Our thanks and gratitude go out to you Junior, as do out prayers go out for you and your family and all Haiti.

YOUTH SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST.:

We will follow it with a light lunch in the coffee room. All are invited!

Orientation for our J-1 Students Coming Up:

Over the years, one of the special things we here at Caldwell have had an opportunity to do is host Orientation Information and Get To Know You Programs for the J-1, mostly college age, student workers who come to our community from around the world to work for the summer.

During the orientation, guest representatives from, Banks, Social Security, local transportation authority, fire company, sheriff's office and others come together to welcome the young people to our area and begin to help them understand and navigate some of the services that will be so important to them during their time here in our community.

This year our first orientation is scheduled for June 11th from 4 to 7 pm. The Adirondack Brew Pub has generously volunteered to provide hot finger food and snacks. People from our Lake George Church Community are being asked to help provide desserts. The second orientation meeting will be July 16th.

If you have a few minutes we could also use some help in setting up tables and chairs. Providing space for these young people to meet and get to know one another is also another special benefit of these orientations. Last year we had over 100 students in attendance. We're certain they found the information helpful and we know they loved sitting around table getting to know each other, asking questions and sharing information they have found helpful.

If you would like to help there will be sign up sheets on the table in the coffee room. If you would like to come meet, greet and welcome these young people, learn a little about their lives and culture, and share a little about your own, we know they would be most appreciative of your presence. **Please see Alex Parrott** following worship or give a call to the church office.

Happy Birthday

JUNE

1 Luise Ahlers
5 Tina Bunalski
9 Ali Trowbridge
17 Nancy Earl
18 Justin Blanco
20 Ralph Ahlers
21 Chelsea Blanco
21 Al Kopf
25 Madeline Gorey
25 Dax Cavas
26 Jo Ellen Parsons

JULY

1 Ray VanAnden
4 Bob Blais
4 Maddie MacEachron
5 Emilia Bernd
11 Loren Compson

AUGUST

1 Debbie Mosebach
2 Margi Mannix
8 Lilly Trowbridge
12 Michele MacEachron
19 Andre'a Leombruno
20 Laura Chapman

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Join us for our annual Youth Sunday on June 1. Slide show highlights of the year, preschool and Sunday school teacher appreciation, dedication of Tom Parsons Memorial bench and more!

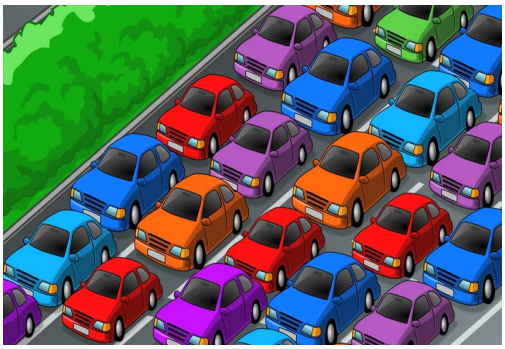
We will not be doing a Subs, Salads and Sundaes. Instead, the Christian Ed. Committee and youth families will provide a celebratory coffee hour celebrating our youth and our amazing Christian Ed. Support team!

Starting on June 15, we will be taking a break from our regular pre-k through grade 5 Sunday school lessons. Join us for **Bible Craft Sundays,** from 10:15am-11am June 15-August 24. We will resume our regular VBS style curriculum on Sept. 7.

Have a great summer!

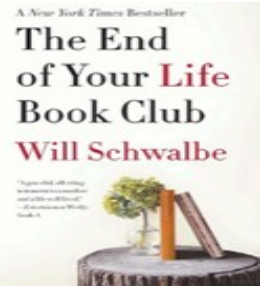
Your CE Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUMMER PARKING HELP NEEDED: A great way to enjoy Thursday evening fireworks and to help raise funds for our ministry is to sign up to do parking on our lawn and lots. Please sign up in the coffee room. **We only have five evenings left that we need to fill! July 10, 24, 31 and Aug. 7 and 28th.**

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



SUMMER BOOK GROUP AT CALDWELL CHURCH: Wednesday, July 16 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. We take a little break over the summer months but want to stay connected, so our only book for summer is The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe. The title may give you the trigger warnings you need; there is a son and his mother dealing with chemo, cancer, and grief in this book. BUT there is also the shared passion for books, as well as the love and relationships that sustain us and lift us up during difficult times. This is memoir/biography. We invite anyone who is interested to join us.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: ***God's Promise: I Am With You*** by PW/*Horizons* Study book is $10. Meeting dates: 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. Please join us in the office following the service.

SPRING BOOK STUDY: Tyler Mayfield's *Father Abraham's Many Children: The Bible in a World of Religious Difference.* Books are $10 in the office. Class meets Wednesdays, May-June 11th, 12:00-12:30 fellowship/bring your lunch, 12:30-1:30 discussion. All are welcome!

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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Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email— ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org