



THE VOICE

January 2021

Dear Friends,

As we enter this new year, let's do so with a newness in our spirits as well! Only a few more months until most of us are vaccinated and the pandemic can be viewed in the rear view mirror of 2020. **In the meantime, how might we renew ourselves and our faith for the new year?** Some lessons we have learned from the pandemic:

- **Cherishing every opportunity** to be together with family and friends.
- **Practicing new things** we've been learning or doing during the pandemic like regular exercise, meditation, writing letters, baking, knitting, volunteering, or whatever.
- **Worshipping God can be done everywhere** not just in a church building on Sunday mornings. God is found everywhere throughout our neighborhoods, at work and school, in our living rooms on Sunday mornings and can be worshipped all these places as well.
- **Living as if nothing is impossible with God!** **[Luke 1: 37]** We don't know when the pandemic will end; when we will be back in the church building; if our members will still be faithful members; if our finances will be sufficient. However, we can proceed into 2021 with the assurance that God goes with us! For that, we give God thanks!

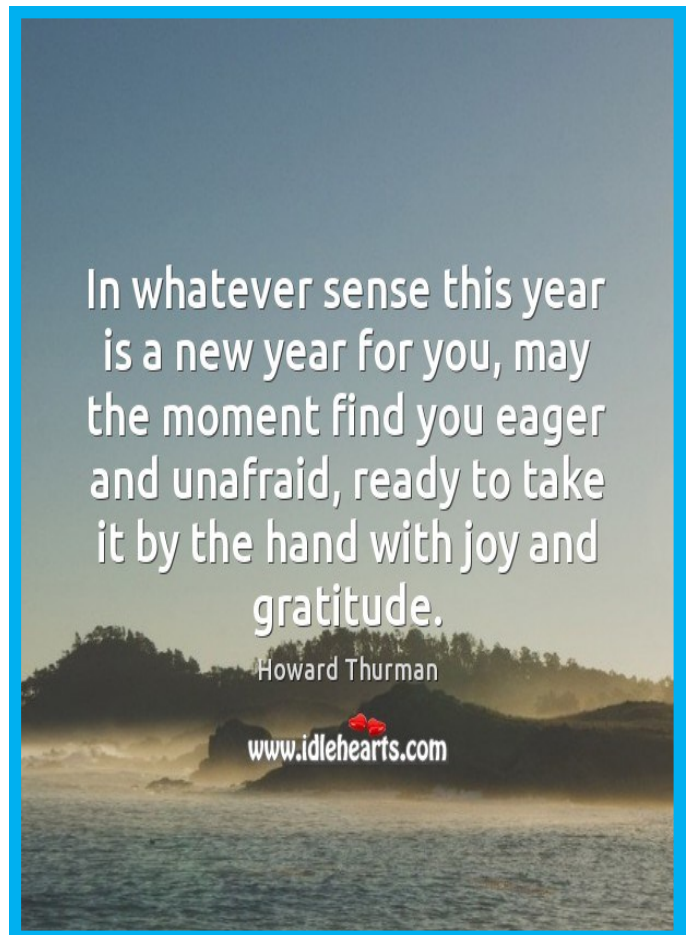
May You Have A Happy

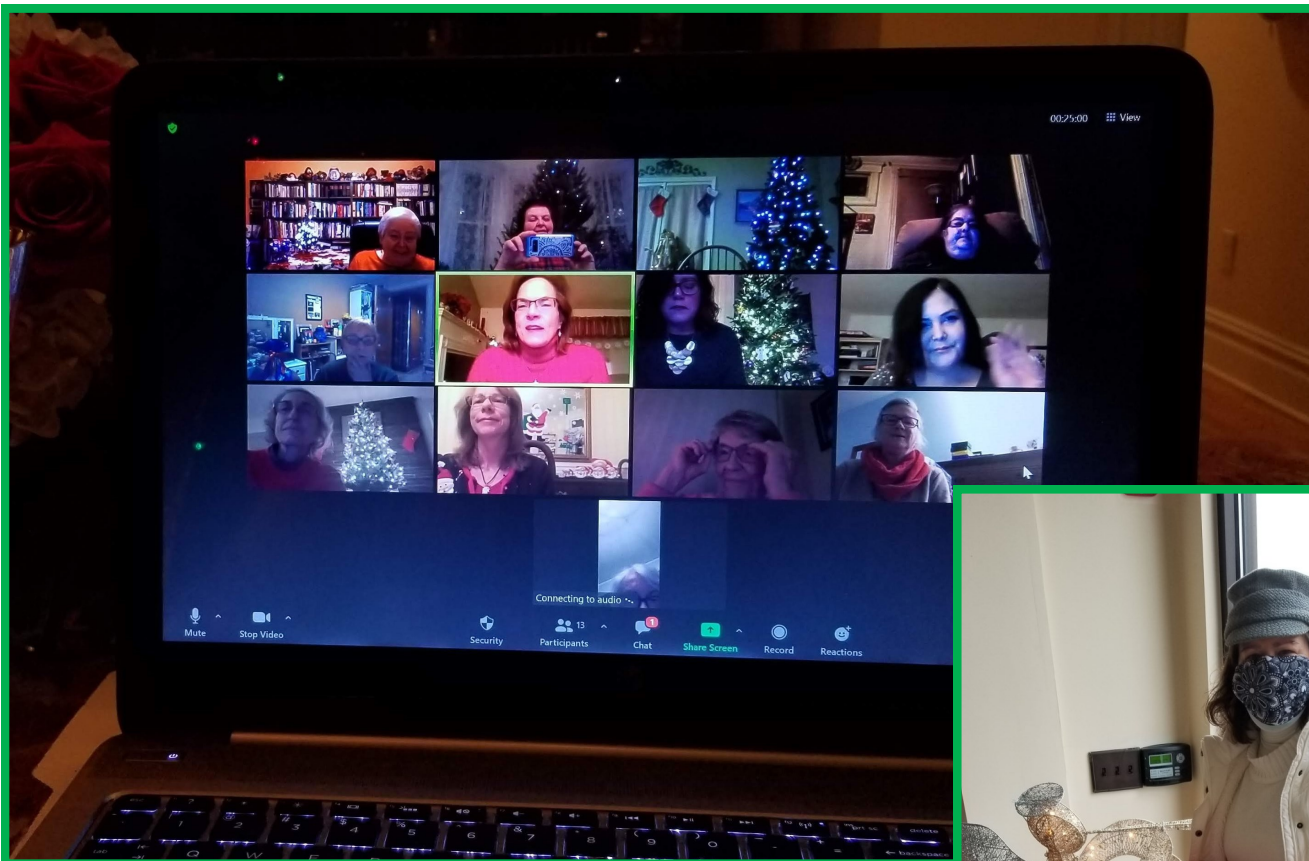
and Blessed New Year! Pastor Viv

In whatever sense this year
is a new year for you, may
the moment find you eager
and unafraid, ready to take
it by the hand with joy and
gratitude.

Howard Thurman

www.idlehearts.com



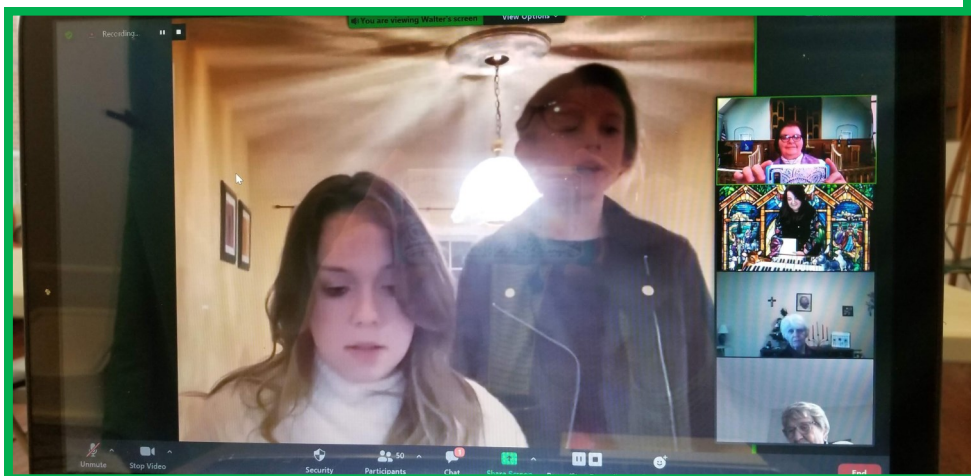


VIRTUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Methodist Women's Fellowship was not deterred by the pandemic! Myrtle Connell and Tracy Voca masterminded the Virtual Christmas Party complete with gift exchange! Twenty four women attended that evening.



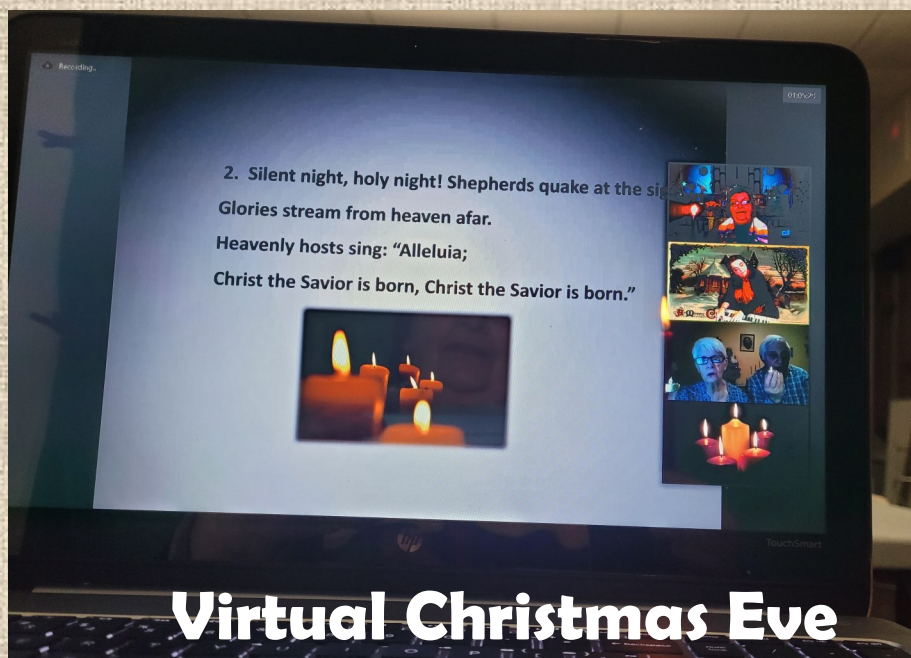
VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Baily Winkler and Kylie Totka sang a beautiful rendition of Silent Night. The Pageant was directed by our friends Megan and Clyde Mead-Bracknell of Park UMC, Weehawkin. Children from both churches participated in retelling the Christmas Story .



Maxine Alstrom, Church Musician



Virtual Christmas Eve



Surprise Guest Musician, Ed Alstrom



Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service



Special Guest Musicians Wendy Large, Bassoon, and Ruth Carrara, Piano

**A beautiful
Christmas Eve
to remember for
years. How
nothing could
prevent us from
worshipping the
Newborn King!**

Outreach and Caring Continued Through This Christmas Season!

A secret angel made delicious cookies which other angels distributed to their intended recipients! The Caring Caravan made many stops through our communities spreading cheer and prayers and leaving goodie bags.

Our Monday Morning Prayer Group continued meeting and discussing Gift from the Sea; our Caring Callers continued their good work; and small groups formed at the beginning of the pandemic continue to meet.







In Loving Memory of Diane Moser

It is with deep sadness that we share the sudden passing of our Music Director Diane Moser before Christmas. Diane shared her wonderful jazz with us regularly in worship and many had opportunity to attend her concerts and "Diane Moser's Composers' Big Band" performances at Trumpets.

We give God thanks for her life and how she enriched our lives with her music! We will miss you!



Advent Prayer Circles

Every Wednesday evening in Advent Rev. Frederick Boyle and his wife Rose Angela Deluca led us in Taizé worship with music, harp and scripture lessons. Pastor Karen Gazzillo led the weekly prayers and Walter Hartmann our zoom technology. Thank you all for these spirit filled worshipful evenings.

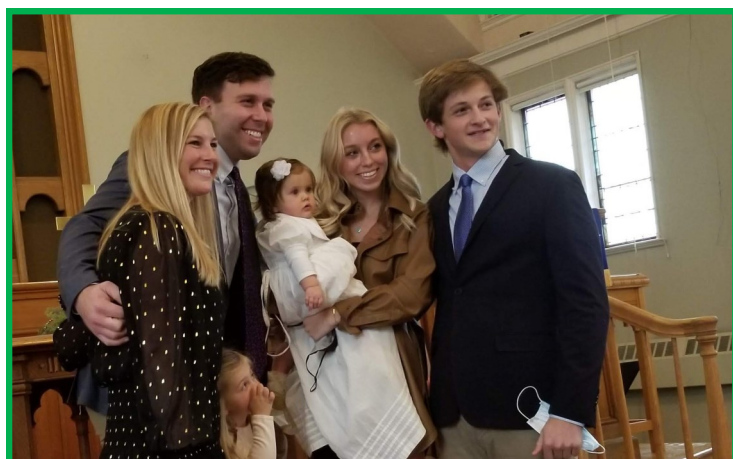


THREE BAPTISMS, THREE WAYS!

Inside with social distancing; outside on the church steps; and virtually via zoom!

We welcome **Grace Adelyn**, daughter of Samantha and Tim Pierce; **William Michael**, son of Nicole and Kevin Kosmack; and **Natalie Lynne** and **Everly Lynne**, daughters of Michelle and Mason Harriman.

May God bless these children and their families with grace and peace!



Vaccinations Begin!

Our first congregational member gets the COVID-19 vaccine. Thank you, **Dr. L. Paige Moeller** for being on the front line and being there for your patients! Your efforts are a blessing and are appreciated. We applaud the work of Dr. Doney Jain as well and pray God's health and safety for both of them.

To Our Church Family

I thank you so very much for the birthday and Christmas cards, gifts, a very generous Love Gift, and your prayers as they touch my heart! Robb and I are deeply appreciative for all that you do and the ways God's brightness shines through you and illuminates our lives on days that really need that illumination! You are precious to us and we pray for your health, safety and happiness in this new year.

Love, Pastor Viv



A Thank You to the Congregation

To my Church Family,
Thank you very much for all your wonderful birthday greetings. I was completely overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and I feel blessed to be part of such a caring and loving congregation.
You are awesome!
Bill Carter

A Note of Thanks to the Congregation

What a lovely treat to receive the delicious home-baked Christmas cookies. Bill and I were so happy to receive this wonderful surprise, and we thank the anonymous elf who has truly reflected the spirit of Christmas. Our loving appreciation for the great thoughtfulness shown.
God's blessings for a beautiful holiday season.
With love,
Dorothy Theile

Seasons Greetings To Caldwell United Methodist Church

Hope Your Holidays are filled with much joy and happiness! Looking forward to returning to our meeting—Hopefully soon.
Happy Holidays
Caldwell Sunday Night AA
*(This card was accompanied
by a generous donation)*

Message from the Church to Chad Moser, Diane's Son

Dear Chad,

The congregation of Caldwell United Methodist Church has lost a treasured friend. Your mom was a gift to us, not only as our Musical Director, but as a person. Her commitment to us was seen every week. These last few weeks were especially a testimony of your mom's dedication to us; she was not feeling well, but gave of herself to us every week, playing from home as we worshipped remotely.

Every Christmas, the congregation has given your mom a "Thank You/Love Gift" in appreciation of everything she had given to us during the past year. This year is no different. We want you to have this gift as a token of our love for your mom, and to let you know how grateful we have been for her.

Please know that the memories of Diane will stay with our congregation. We hope this will be a comfort to you knowing how much she meant to us.

With sincere sympathy, and also thanks for her life-

Stephanie DeBruyne, Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee

Parish Notices

We are saddened to announce
the passing of :

Irene Decker

on December 17, 2020

Diane Moser

on December 17, 2020

Julie Barbatsuly Elphinstone

On December 30, 2020

Parish Notices

Baptisms

We welcome:

Grace Adelyn, daughter of Samantha

and Tim Pierce

William Michael, son of Nicole

and Kevin Kosmack

Natalie Lynne and Everly Lynne,

daughters of Michelle and Mason Harriman.

BRIEF FINANCIAL UPDATE We will provide a 2020 year end summary in the February VOICE.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries through your pledges and faithful giving, and through Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings! The pledging and faithful giving to date is within 99.6% of our goal which is an amazing accomplishment!!

More to come on PPP loan forgiveness, possible application for a 2021 PPE Loan, and an upcoming New Year Stewardship Program. **We also say a fond farewell to our Chair Jon Waddington for his leadership of many years on the committee. Thank you, Jon!**

Shared by Your Finance Committee

January Birthdays

January 5	Tyler Inglis
January 6	Christina Ciccone
January 8	Gail Plumstead
January 14	Jennifer Earley
January 21	Kathy Dolce
January 29	Mitchell Waddington

January Anniversaries

January 13	Myrtle & John Connell
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Christmas Eve Memory
from a previous year!
Our Christmas Eve this
December was as pre-
cious and memorable
as any in the past for
God's Spirit was with
us that Holy Night!

Church Calendar—January 2020

Sunday, Jan. 10 10 AM ZOOM Epiphany Worship with Bishop Schol

Monday, Jan. 11 10 AM ZOOM Prayer and Discussion Group

7 PM ZOOM Finance Meeting

8 PM ZOOM Trustee Meeting –Officers Elected

Monday, Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, Jan. 19 7 PM ZOOM Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 20 NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH (keep your fingers crossed!)

Friday, Jan. 22 TBA Special ZOOM Annual Conference Session

Saturday, Jan 23 District Virtual Day of Learning (*stay tuned for workshops!*)

Saturday, Jan. 31 DEADLINE for church year end statistics

*Every Monday 10 AM Prayer/ Discussion Group

THE VOICE

CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT at Academy Road Entrance

FRIEND US ON



BEGIN THE NEW YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE:

TWO SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES WITH BISHOP JOHN SCHOL

Get the New Year started with two powerful worship services led by our bishop, John Schol. His messages, *Your Epiphany* and *You Are the Epiphany* will help you experience a deeper relationship with God by learning how God is speaking to you and how God wants to speak through you to others. We welcome Bishop Schol to our ZOOM worship services on January 3 and 10 at 10 AM.

Pastor Viv and the other Greater New Jersey Annual Conference clergy are on Covid-19 Renewal Leave through Sunday, January 10. The pastor may be contacted by text or cell #609 709 8373 in case of pastoral need or emergency during that time period.

