



THE VOICE

March 2026

“Warm Up For Easter”

One thing I have learned from playing golf is that golf is much more enjoyable when I play well than when I do not. I have not yet met a single person who says they enjoy golf more when they make bogeys instead of pars and the occasional birdie. Indeed, golf is far more fun when I make pars and birdies than when I make bogeys; when I drive the ball straight down the fairway rather than out of bounds; and when I shoot one of my best scores rather than one of my worst.

For that reason, when I play golf, I try to arrive at the course early to warm up at the driving range before teeing off. Warming up at the practice range and spending time on the putting green before a round is vital for building confidence in my swing, which often translates into playing better. Playing without warming up is usually a recipe for poor performance and a disappointing round of golf.

I believe the importance of warming up also applies to many other areas of life—from education to important life celebrations, from pursuing life goals to nurturing our spiritual lives. Simply put, warming up for a round of golf—or for anything else in life—is really about preparation.

Whether it is achieving academic success in school, preparing for a beautiful and memorable wedding, or planning an enjoyable family trip, proper preparation is essential. While nothing in life is ever guaranteed, careful preparation usually leads to greater success and deeper enjoyment.

The same can be said about our experience of Easter. If Easter is nothing more than just another holiday to us, then there is probably nothing we need to do except wait for it to arrive on the calendar. However, if Easter means something far deeper—if Easter is a sign of hope because God has broken the power of death, if Easter represents the promise of new life and a new beginning for those who place their hope and trust in the God who raised Jesus from the dead—then it is important that we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Arriving at Easter without preparing our hearts would be like arriving at a wedding day without any preparation and expecting it to be a beautiful and memorable celebration.

Traditionally, Christians around the world prepare for Easter through the forty-day season of Lent. In the Christian church, Lent refers to a period of forty days—excluding Sundays—that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The name “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for those who were preparing to be baptized on Easter Sunday in the early church.

Today, Lent is commonly observed as a time to reflect, repent, and prepare our hearts for Easter. Many people do this by reflecting on the life and ministry of Jesus, examining their hearts in light of his teachings and example, and practicing compassion, mercy, and self-denial, such as fasting.

As we think about Lent, we might ask, “Why forty days?” The number forty carries deep meaning in the Bible. It often represents a time of preparation that leads to the fulfillment of God’s promises and the beginning of something new. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years in preparation for entering the Promised Land. Jesus also spent forty days in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. For Jesus, those forty days were a time of preparation and testing.

What does Easter mean to you?

May the remainder of this Lenten season be a time for you to prepare your heart and mind for the joy, hope, and promise of Easter.

Pastor Park

March Birthdays

March 3	Jill Plumstead
March 7	Karen Gazzillo
March 11	Christine Pavlishin
March 17	Walter Hartmann
March 18	Mary Hartmann
March 25	Carole Volz



March Anniversaries

March 21, 1982	John & Jan Taylor
March 27, 1992	Gordon & Denise Stelter



Coming Up Soon!

Save the date!

FISH & CHIPS

SATURDAY, MAY 9

**& CHICKEN,
TOO**

5-7 P.M.



**CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8 ACADEMY ROAD, CALDWELL**

973-226-4410 caldwellchurch.org

Jersey Cares
COAT DRIVE

Over 50 coats were donated by CUMC this winter. Thanks to Leslie Pierce for coordinating and to all who participated!



Thank you to all who bought \$20 grocery store gift cards for donation.

They will be given out at Pastor Park's discretion.

In need? Reach out to Pastor Park.

OASIS TOY DRIVE

Thanks to your generosity, 60+ Christmas gifts were delivered to Oasis, a Haven for Women and Children, in Paterson for Christmas

Thank you!





Those attending the January 20th Tea & Coffee Social, hosted by Dave & Rita Whetton, made Valentine's cards which were brought to a local long term care home. The handmade cards & visits were very much appreciated by the residents.





Scout Sunday at Caldwell UMC February 15, 2026



A Message From The Scoutmaster of Troop 3

Good morning, friends.

It is a blessing to stand before this congregation today, a congregation that has prayed, served, sung, and sacrificed for generations in this community. On behalf of Troop 3, established in 1917, I want to thank you — because our story is deeply woven into yours.

In 1917, as the world was at war and our nation was finding its footing on the global stage, a small group of boys and faithful adults gathered with a simple purpose: to build character, serve others, and honor God and country through the program of the Boy Scouts of America. They could not have imagined all that Troop 3 would become.

Over the decades, our troop has weathered wars, economic hardships, social change, and cultural shifts. We have seen generations of young men learn to tie their first knot, pitch their first tent, cook their first slightly-burned pancake over a camp stove, and discover that they are capable of far more than they believed.

And through it all, this church — this Methodist congregation — has stood as a steady anchor.

Methodism has always emphasized faith in action. Not just belief, but discipleship. Not just words, but works. That spirit mirrors the heart of Scouting. When a Scout promises to do his duty to God and his country, to help other people at all times, and to keep himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight, he is echoing values that have been preached from this very pulpit for generations.

Troop 3 is more than campouts and merit badges. It is mentorship. It is service projects that bless widows and veterans. It is food drives, flag ceremonies, and young leaders learning responsibility the hard way — and the right way. It is older Scouts teaching younger ones patience. It is adults investing time not because it is easy, but because it matters.

Since 1917, hundreds of young men have passed through Troop 3. Some went on to serve in the armed forces. Some became teachers, engineers, ministers, business owners, and public servants. Many became husbands and fathers who now bring their own sons back to the same troop, under the same number, carrying the same traditions.

And here is what I believe with all my heart: the real success of Troop 3 is not measured in rank advancements or badges earned. It is measured in character. In quiet integrity. In men who keep their word. In citizens who serve their communities. In leaders who understand that greatness begins with humility.

This church has provided more than a meeting place. You have provided moral grounding. You have provided encouragement. You have provided prayer. You have modeled servant leadership.

The partnership between church and troop works because both seek the same outcome: young people shaped by faith, guided by principle, and committed to service.

In a world that often pulls our youth in every direction, Troop 3 remains committed to being a place of stability, challenge, adventure, and growth. We teach skills, yes — but more importantly, we teach responsibility. We teach reverence. We teach that leadership means serving first.

As Scoutmaster, I have the privilege of watching transformation happen slowly, sometimes awkwardly, but always beautifully. A shy eleven-year-old becomes a confident young leader. A restless boy becomes a patient mentor. A group of individuals becomes a brotherhood.

That does not happen by accident. It happens because faithful adults show up. It happens because congregations like this one believe that investing in youth is holy work.

So today, on behalf of Troop 3, established in 1917, I say thank you. Thank you for believing in young people. Thank you for supporting Scouting. Thank you for continuing a partnership that has now spanned more than a century.

May we continue to work together — church and troop — to raise up young men of faith, courage, service, and character.

And may God bless this congregation, and may God continue to bless Troop 3.

Thank you.



Fellowship Hour

Scout Sunday

February 15, 2026



Christmas Eve 2026



Wren Hara Pak, daughter of Wesley & Pearl Pak was baptized at Caldwell UMC on January 4, 2026.

Wren is the great-niece of Pastor Park.





**CALDWELL UMC DONATED \$1000
TO WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN
IN GAZA.**

"For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink." - Matthew 25:35-40

For more information: <https://wck.org/search/gaza/>

**THANK
YOU**

Thank you Kil Jae for your donation to support our work in Gaza! Your generosity is helping **World Central Kitchen (WCK)** remain ready to respond, despite immense challenges.

The situation in Gaza remains uncertain and our ability to continue to provide meals to families in Gaza shifts from day to day. Your gift helps to ensure that we can act immediately when full access is restored. We are deeply grateful for your compassion and commitment.

A hot plate of food is more than just a meal.
It's hope. It's dignity. **It's a message: You are not alone.**

Want to see your impact in action? [Read more stories from the field and sign up for our newsletter](#) to follow WCK's journey around the world.

JOSE ANDRÉS



Tea & Coffee Social

Friday, March 27 9:30am-12:00pm

Tea & Coffee Socials are hosted once a month by Dave & Rita Whetton as a time to share fellowship and conversation with our church family and neighbors. All are welcome.

Stop by any time between 9:30 am and 12:00 noon to enjoy a complimentary cup of tea or coffee and check out the array of fresh home baked goods as well as other items for sale.

All the proceeds from sales go to the church.

PINEWOOD DERBY

On February 7th our gym became a race track when Cub Scout Pack 801 held their annual Pinewood Derby there. The kids, parents and leaders had a wonderful time!





Benefit Jazz Concert Rescheduled

Our Benefit Jazz Concert scheduled to take place on February 22nd was postponed for safety's sake in anticipation of the nor'easter that was forecast to create blizzard conditions and bring lots of snow to our area (and it did!).

New date for the Jazz Concert—April 12 @ 4 pm. We hope to see you all then for an afternoon of great music!



Benefit Benefiting the students of the CWC School District

JAZZ CONCERT

Featuring Grammy Award Winning Trumpeter Reggie Pittman

JONATHAN PERETZ LOREN DANIELS REGGIE PITTMAN BELDEN BULLOCK

"Man, jazz doesn't get any better than this... Loren's piano is superb, and Reggie's trumpet & fluehorn will take you all the way..."
Rotond Esq. - ImprovJazzation Nation Issue # 109 (Dec 10, 2010)

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 @ 4 PM
CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8 Academy Rd. Caldwell, NJ 07006

Tickets on Sale Now! \$25
STUDENTS WITH ID (MUST SHOW ID AT THE DOOR) **\$10**

GET YOUR TICKET

Women of Caldwell UMC:
Let's Gather for

COFFEE & CONVO

(GOODIES, TOO)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, 10 A.M.
CHURCH GUYN ROOM



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

LET'S BEAUTIFY OUR
SANCTUARY!

PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE AT CALDWELLCHURCH.ORG
OR DROP THIS FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE WITH CASH OR CHECK
MADE OUT TO CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BY PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ LILY \$12 _____ TULIP \$10 _____ DAFFODIL \$10

TOTAL # OF FLOWERS: _____ PAYMENT TOTAL: \$ _____



Special thanks to those who supported Caldwell United Methodist Church with your pledges and offerings throughout the past year. Our ministries to both the church and the greater community were made possible through your financial support and prayers. Thank you!

Endowments:

the Estate of William Carter

the Estate of Dorothy Theile

Memorial Donations:

Calvin, Ann
Carter, Harold
Gazzillo, Anthony
Hartmann, Mary
Theile, Richard
Voca, Tracy
Vogelsang, Jane

Pledgers:

Blessner, Nancy
Carnrick, George Jr.
Carrara, Ruth
Carter, William
Connell, Myrtle
DeBruyne, Stephanie
Drastal, Susan
Elphinstone, Greg
Francavilla, Joyce
Gazzillo, Anthony
Ingra, Kenneth & Barbara
Knight, Christine
Mittstifer, Brett
Pierce, Donna
Pierce, Leslie
Plumstead, Gail
Repoyo, Lydia
Sampson, Patty
Taylor, John
Theile, Dorothy
Voca, Tracy
Waddington, Jon & Christine
Winnicki, Marjorie
Woodcox, Louise

Faithful Givers:

Boyle, Frederick
Buckingham, David
Calvin, Ann
Choi, Eun
D'Emilio, Zorina
Davidson, Jackie
Deluca, Roseangela
Elcavage, Ellen
Hartmann, Walter
Hong, Y Park
Lakra, Ajit
Lauriano, Jeannie
Moeller, Lavinia Paige
Narine, Rameeza
Nickl, Elsa
O'Donnell, Carol
Park, Daniel
Park, Kil Jae & Jeeyoung
Plumstead, Wayne
Rueter, BethAnn
Starke, Carlene
Stelter, Gordon
Theile, Richard
Tierney, Jennifer
Tiwari, Indira
Vogelsang, Jane
Vonner, Sally
Wallace, Catherine
Whetton, David
Woods, Greg
Zajac, Kathy

Lenten Daily Devotional

Spiritual Journey of Reflection, Faith & Christ-likeness



Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection for spiritual renewal. Today, Christians use this period of time to focus on their relationship with God, seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus through daily spiritual reflections as well as taking on spiritual practices of self-emptying in the form of giving up something as well as giving of ourselves for others in acts of charity.

During this Lenten period, we are providing a daily spiritual devotional to help everyone reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus, examine their relationship with God and grow in their faith as a believer. The daily devotionals will include a scripture, reflection, a suggestion of practice for the day and a closing prayer read by members of our church community. If you are not receiving these daily devotionals by text each day and would like to, please provide your phone number to Pastor Park or the church office.





The HUB is now in its 2nd year of providing a space for the GCMS (Grover Cleveland Middle School) students to do homework or have recreational fun. The Guyn room provides a quiet space for schoolwork, discussion, board games, while the gym is busy with kids playing basketball, badminton and volleyball. We have many returning students and a few new ones who now feel comfortable in our building and make themselves right at home.

We can still use your help! If you would like to volunteer with The HUB program, we will be happy to set you up with an easy training session. We do need to follow Safe Sanctuary guidelines, so it is very important that we have enough volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-5:00 pm. Volunteers open the building, set up snacks, monitor sign in/out, clean up and lock the building, It's an easy couple of hours, but so rewarding working with the students.

If you would like to join The HUB team, please see Rev. Park, Tracy Voca, Christine Waddington or Kathy Zajac for more information.



March



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		HUB 3-5 pm		HUB 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 10:00 pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		HUB 3-5 pm		HUB 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 10:00 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		HUB 3-5 pm		HUB 3-5 pm Essex Photo Club 7 pm		Saturday AA 10:00 pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		HUB 3-5 pm		HUB 3-5 pm	Tea & Coffee Social 9:30 am	Saturday AA 10:00 pm
29	30	31				
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		HUB 3-5 pm				



Caldwell United Methodist Church

Life is Better Together!

THE VOICE

CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8 Academy Road, Caldwell, NJ 07006

Phone: 973-226-4410

Website: caldwellchurch.org

SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT at Academy Road Entrance

FRIEND US ON



**Caldwell United
Methodist Church**

Life is Better

Together!

*Join Us for Worship
Sundays @ 10 am*