



# THE VOICE

April 2024



## “April Showers Bring May Flowers”

I am not a big fan of rain showers. My guess is that most people, like me, also do not like rain showers. But I have lived long enough to learn that things that I don't particularly enjoy can have significant benefits for me. Rain is one of those things and the saying “April Showers Bring May Flower” beautifully captures that important wisdom.

According to one research, the saying “*April showers bring May flowers*” originated from the United Kingdom, where April for them is one of the soggiest months of the year. Since this area typically has a cooler climate, the lower temperatures often push back the appearance of flowers to late April and early May. The phrase may also come from an early poem with a line that goes, “*Sweet April showers, do spring May flowers.*” Regardless of its origin of source, the wisdom expressed in this saying deserves our attention and embrace. In short, the wisdom in this saying can be summarized in this way: a period of discomfort or hardship can provide the basis for a period of happiness and joy later on.

As I look back on my own life journey, I am thankful not only for the high mountain top experiences but also for the low valley experiences that sometimes kept me up at night and caused much frustration, anxiety and inner struggle. I am thankful for these experiences, not because I enjoyed the struggles, but because they stretched my mind and my faith in ways that resulted in growing as a person, as a Christian, as an adult, as a parent and as a pastor.

In our family life, one of the temptations that we need to be mindful of and be careful in parenting, I believe, is the temptation to shelter our kids from experiencing discomfort or hardship. As loving parents, our instinct is to provide for our kids, satisfy their needs and help them to avoid any and all kinds of hardships. So, we do everything in our power to provide a “comfortable” life for our children. While doing this may be good in minimizing our own sense of vulnerability or worry, in the long run, this will not help our kids to develop into independent, responsible, and mature adults. This is because the situations of discomfort, struggles and hardships in life often serve as life's classrooms in which our children can learn important life skills and develop character that are needed to thrive later in life in their relationships, at work and in all other pursuits to live the best life they can live. I believe this is why God our father in heaven also allows certain trials and struggles in our lives who are His beloved children. As our good and loving Father in Heaven, our God wants us to grow in faith and thrive in this world as people of love and hope. For this reason, God sometimes sends trials our way in order to train us, prepare us and develop our faith for a greater life in this world. So, the Apostle Paul said in Romans 5:3, “...*but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope.*”

Although I am not a big fan of rain showers, I am grateful for April showers because they make it possible for us to experience the great beauty of May flowers. I am also reminded that, even though it would be nice to have sunny days all of the times, that is not going to be good for me either because we have name for that place where it is sunny almost everyday—“a desert.” And I would rather have few rain showers here and there than to live in a desert.

*Pastor Park*

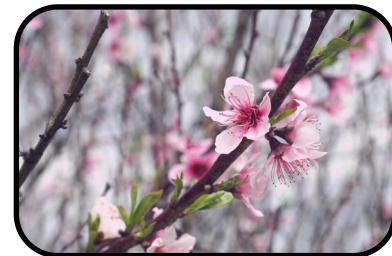
## April Birthdays

April 3	George Carnrick III
April 10	George W. Carnrick, Jr.
April 10	Joe Dolce
April 11	Andrew Hansen
April 12	Brandon Narine
April 12	Isabel Voca
April 14	Bailey Ann Winkler
April 18	Kevin Pierce



## CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Trustees are pleased to announce that there is a limited amount of funds available to children who are active in our church for post-secondary education, such as colleges, universities and trade schools. Applications must be received by the Trustees **no later than May 1** to be considered for this year's scholarships. Late applications will not be considered. To receive an application please contact Christine Waddington (mitchsmum@aol.com) or by contacting the church office at 973-226-4410.



Once again THANK YOU to my Angels for their continued support for our Fellowship (coffee hour) by hosting a Sunday with delectable treats. I want to personally thank Kathy Zajac, Carol O'Donnell, Tracy Voca, Jee Yong Park, and Mama Park, for taking part in food preparation for our Easter Sunday celebration. There is a new sign up sheet to host in the future months so please consider hosting a Sunday Fellowship coffee hour. The sign up sheet is now in the auditorium, since we will be meeting there for the future months.

I want to also thank Tracy Voca and Christine Waddington for taking the time to help me with the setting of tables and bringing down the Lattice Screens from the stage to beautify the auditorium for our Easter celebration.

Also, thank you to everyone that has donated for the ALTAR FLOWERS. There are several openings for the coming weeks, so please consider a donation in memory, or celebration of a loved one or friend. There is a sign up sheet in the auditorium. The cost is \$20.00 cash or check. If payment is by check, make out to me Louise Woodcox. I would ask that you put your request along with payment in an envelope with instructions for the sentiment you would like. I thank all for your consideration to beautify the Altar on Sunday with flowers.

In Christian Love,  
Louise Woodcox





**Good Friday**  
**March 29th**





# Easter Worship

## He is Risen!







**Handbell Choir –Good Friday**

**Preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt**







## Easter Egg Hunt 2024

A big thank you to Tracy and Adrian Voca, Kate Volz, Carol O'Donnell and Pastor Park who made it possible. A special thank you for all the families who participated.





**Save the Date!**

**April 20, 2024**

**Caldwell United Methodist Church**

# **Annual Fish & Chips Dinner**



**April 20th from 5pm-7pm Dine In or Take Out**

**Catered by Tastefully British**

**Pre Paid Only-Order Your Tickets By April 13th**

**On our website: [caldwellchurch.org](http://caldwellchurch.org) or call 973-226-4410**



## **Upcoming Events!**



## **Tea & Coffee Socials**

**Friday, April 19th**

**Stop in any time between 9:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**Come & enjoy time with neighbors and friends over a complimentary cup of tea or coffee!**

**Baked goods for sale and a selection of gift items is available to purchase**

**All proceeds to benefit the church.**

**Church members and friends are welcome so stop in with a friend or by yourself!**

**Questions? Please call Dave & Rita Whetton at 862-702-6144**



**Our Prayer and Chant Circle accompanied by Visiting Harp occurs on the second and fourth Tuesday every month at 10:00 AM.**



**Please join us in the sanctuary for 30-45 minutes away from the world surrounded by God's light and love.**



***Caring for God's Creations***

Ruth Carrarra found a chrysalis in the tall grass near her home. To keep it safe from predators (and the landscapers' mowers), she brought it inside. Under Ruth's care, a Polyphemus moth with a 6" wingspan emerged from the chrysalis and was released back into nature.

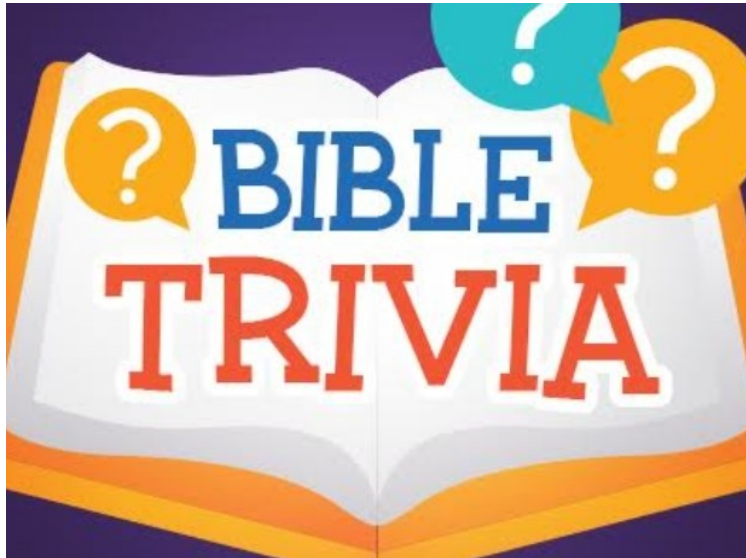


**Cub Scout Pack 801**

Roseland Cub Scouts with whom we share our space, sent these photos of the boys having fun at their December pack meeting.







## **BIBLE TRIVIA**

Test your knowledge of the Bible by answering these questions. See how many you can answer correctly without looking at the answers.

**What was Jesus' crown made of?**

**Where does Jesus give his first sermon?**

**What are the four Gospels in the New Testament?**

**How many days and nights did Jesus fast?**

**How many days was Lazarus dead before Jesus came to visit?**

**What is the name of the garden where Jesus went to pray after the Last Supper?**

**After Jesus fed 5,000 people, how many baskets of food were left over?**

**What color are the four horses in the Book of Revelation?**

**Who is considered the 13th apostle to replace Judas Iscariot?**

**What unusual gift did King Herod promise his daughter for her birthday?**

Answers:

1. Thorns
2. On the mount
3. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
4. 40 days
5. Four
6. Garden of Gethsemane
7. 12
8. White, Red, Dark and Pale
9. Matthias
10. The head of John the Baptist



# April



# 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm	Good Friday Service 7:30 pm		Easter Worship 10 am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Finance & Trustees 7 pm Prayer & Chant Circle 10 am				Last Day to Place Your Fish & Chips Dinner Orders!	Worship 10 am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				Tea & Coffee Social 9:30 am – 12 noon	Fish & Chips Dinner 5-7 pm	Worship 10 am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Church Council 7:30 pm Prayer & Chant Circle 10 am					Worship 10 am
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12



**Caldwell United Methodist Church**

*Life is Better Together!*



# THE VOICE

## CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Newsletter Editor: **Ellen Elcavage**

**SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH**

**HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT** at Academy Road Entrance

FRIEND US ON 



**Worship with us  
Sundays at 10 am**

**Invite a friend or family  
member to join  
in worship**

