



THE VOICE

August 2024

“Created for Big and Mighty Things”

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel to Colorado Springs to officiate a wedding. While there, I visited a place called the Garden of the Gods. The Garden of the Gods is a registered National Natural Landmark that features amazing 300-foot-tall sandstone rock formations against the backdrop of the breathtaking Pikes Peak, which is in the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. It was truly an awesome experience to witness the incredible rock formations and the beauty of the place. Standing in the middle of this wonderful place, I felt like I was standing on holy ground that had been touched and shaped by the very hands of God.



One stop we made before returning to the hotel was the Visitor and Nature Center where people sign up for tours, watch educational videos, visit the gift shop, and most importantly, go on the balcony to get a panoramic view of one of the main rock formations there. So, we went up to the second-floor balcony to catch the view. As I watched many people lining up to take their photos against the backdrop of this amazing view, something suddenly dawned on me. It dawned on me



that people, including myself, were going crazy over a rock that happens to be HUGE! I realized that people came from all over the country and even from other countries just to see some big rocks! And I thought it was kind of funny that people would spend so much money and time to travel this far just to see some big rocks and take pictures in front of them. Why? What is it about these rocks that so many intelligent people would travel a great distance just to see them in person? What makes people flock to this remote place that has nothing but some big rocks? After some thought, I came to my own conclusion about why people are flocking to a place like this and to other places like the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, Yosemite Park, Grand Tetons, Mount Everest, and other natural wonders. The reason? We have all been created by God to pursue grand things! Yes, we have all been created for big things in life!

Just as creatures of the sea were created to live in water, I believe that God created every human being for grand and eternal things. I believe that all of us have been created to pursue things that are greater than ourselves. The Bible teaches us in Ecclesiastes that God has set eternity in the human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11). And so, when we experience or witness things that seem bigger than life, like the rock formations in the Garden of the Gods or the great chasm of the Grand Canyon, we naturally respond to them with a deep sense of connection and awe. Because we are created for things that are bigger than ourselves and even bigger than life, we are inspired and moved whenever we witness grand things, whether they are external objects like mountains, waterfalls, rock formations, or internal things like selfless love, sacrifice, unyielding human spirit, or fearless courage. We feel most complete and satisfied when the deep yearnings for grand things at the core of our beings are fulfilled. So, it is no wonder that we feel joy as George Bernard Shaw said, when we know that we are being used for a purpose that we recognize to be a mighty one. Yes, God created every one of us for big and mighty things in life. If so, then one way to live life without regrets is to pursue after big dreams and visions in life. What is your Garden of the Gods?

Pastor Park

August Birthdays

August 12	Horatio Mercer
August 17	Bruce Ciccione
August 18	Dorothy Theile 101st birthday!
August 27	Carissa Stelter

August Anniversaries

August 18, 2019	Alissa & Andrew Wallace
August 28, 1965	Tony & Karen Gazzillo

Tea & Coffee Social August 9th



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.



Order your Food Cards by calling the church office at 973-226-4410 or on our website: caldwellchurch.org. 5% of the face value of the card goes to the church!

August Prayer Circle Dates

August 13th & August 27nd

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.

Upcoming Event!



An Afternoon of Tea and Company

*A fundraiser for **Cure Alzheimer's Fund***



*Enjoy an elegant afternoon of British tea,
sandwiches, scones, and other treats
Sunday, September 15th at 1 pm*

\$28 *Per Person*

*At The Caldwell United Methodist Church
8 Academy Road, Caldwell, NJ, 07006*

Items for sale, trivia, music, and prizes

Limited seating. Reserve a spot today!

Contact davewhelton72@gmail.com to reserve your spot

All checks should be made to **Cure Alzheimer's Fund**

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my angels who so lovingly prepare treats for our Sunday Coffee Hour celebrating fellowship. I appreciate along with our church family the time given to prepare the food for this time spent together after church service. Thanks be to God.

I thank those of our church family who have donated toward having flowers for the altar on Sunday service to beautify the sanctuary.

I would like to remind everyone that there are new sign-up sheets in the Guyn Room. So, please take a minute to consider taking part in these ministries by signing up to host coffee hour or have flowers on the altar for a loved one in memory or celebration.

With a grateful heart and in Christian Love,



Dish Ministry Update

Thank you to all who have helped with our Dish Ministry! Your assistance with sorting dishes and cutlery, filling bins, and donating toward the cost of the bins, along with your prayers, is very much appreciated. On June 5th, Pastor Park and Tracy Voca delivered 9 bins - each filled with 8 place settings, serving dishes and cutlery - to Oasis, a non-profit haven for women and children in Paterson. One more bin will be delivered to Oasis this month and another 6 bins are ready for delivery to other organizations.



Dear Friend,

The table is a sacred place. It is where we gather to nourish our bodies and souls. May these dishes and the prayers and well-wishes that accompany them be a light in your life. May they lead to fond memories of loved ones smiling and breaking bread together.

Wishing you all the best.

Blessings,

Friends from the
Caldwell United Methodist Church





Caldwell United Methodist Church

19th Annual Golf Outing

Tuesday, September 24 , 2024

In partnership with
the West Essex First Aid Squad
Knoll West Country Club
Parsippany, NJ

To register as a golfer or for information on
sponsorship opportunities contact Ken Ingra
at 201-410-1940
or keningra@optonline.net



Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit caldwellchurch.org
to register for the golf outing.

Important Upcoming Events



Coming up in October!

Our Annual Pulled Pork Dinner

Details to Follow

A Word of Thanks

Thank you all for your prayers, well wishes and support. It helped so much to know my church family was thinking of me and praying for my recovery. Thank you, too, for the wonderful fruit basket!

In gratitude,

Ellen





Faithful CUMC Members and Worshipers:

You are invited to be a part of an exciting new outreach program this fall called The Hub!

There is a need in our community for a supportive, welcoming after school location for youth in grades 6-8. To meet this need, the CUMC will open our doors twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-5 p.m., to Grover Cleveland Middle School students. Youth will come to spend time with friends, receive homework help from high school peers, enjoy sports and activities, and simply relax.

Adult volunteers are needed to help create and maintain a nurturing and affirming atmosphere.

Volunteers will be offered an orientation prior to the projected 10/1/24 starting date. There is no minimum commitment—whatever time you can devote to The Hub will be most welcome. Volunteers must be fingerprinted as part of our Safe Sanctuaries Protocol.

If you'd like to learn more, chat with Pastor Park, Christine Waddington, Kathy Zajac or Tracy Voca. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Guyn Room.

Please sign up as a volunteer for The Hub by Sept. 1, 2024.

Outreach Opportunities



Baby Items Drive for Oasis

Oasis, a haven for women and children in Paterson, NJ, needs baby items for new and expecting mothers. Please consider joining in our Outreach Mission to support women and children in our greater community.

We will collect baby items until October 1, 2024.

• Diapers	Baby clothes
• Pull-ups	Baby food
• Wipes	Baby wash & lotion
• Diaper Cream	Bibs & burp cloths
• Formula	Pacifiers & teething toys



Coming this Fall

THE HUB

**An After-School Program
for the students of
Grover Cleveland Middle School**

THE HUB will provide a safe and supportive space with adult supervision where students in 6th-8th grades can come spend time with their friends, receive help with schoolwork, enjoy sports, games or other fun activities, and simply relax after a long day at school.

**Tuesday & Thursday
afternoons from 3pm-5pm**

- ✓ Welcome & Acceptance
- ✓ Peer Connections
- ✓ Sports & Activities
- ✓ Snacks & Refreshments
- ✓ Free help with schoolwork provided by JCHS Key Club and National Honor Society students

**Registration is required and begins
August 1, 2024**



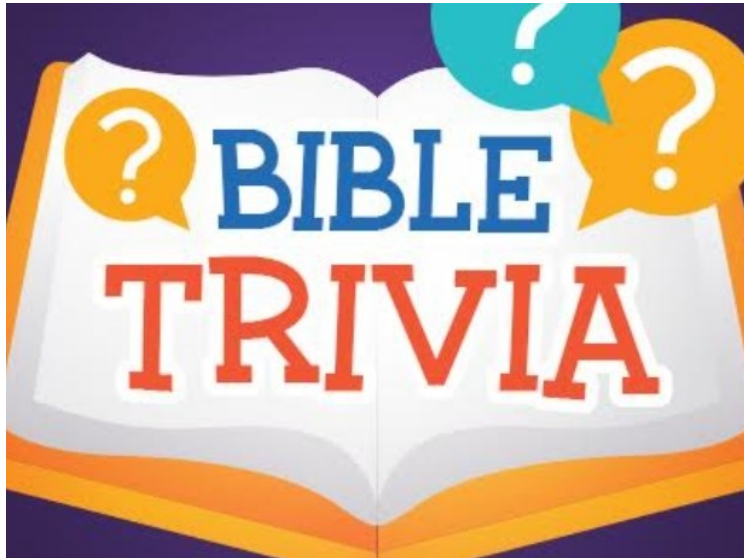
Scan the code with your smartphone camera or visit caldwellchurch.org/the-hub for registration information.

Grades
6th-8th

*New for
Fall 2024!*

*Just \$25
per semester!*

#HereUBelong



BIBLE TRIVIA: “They Did It First (1)”

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

1. What king had the first birthday party in the Bible?
2. Who was the first Christian martyr?
3. Who was the first drunk?
4. Who was the first person to fall asleep during a sermon?
5. What is the first commandment in the Bible?
6. Who built the first city?
7. Who was the first hunter?
8. Who was the first murderer?
9. What is the first book of the Bible named after a woman?
10. Who is the first prophet mentioned in the Bible?
11. Where did Jesus work his first miracle?
12. What was the first of the ten plagues of Egypt?

Answers:

1. Pharaoh, at the time Joseph was in Egypt (Genesis 40:20) 2. Stephen (Acts 6:7–8:2) 3. Noah, who planted a vineyard after leaving the ark (Genesis 9:21) 4. Eutychus, who dozed off and fell out of a window during Paul’s sermon (Acts 20:9) 5. “Be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28). 6. Cain (Genesis 4:17) 7. Nimrod (Genesis 10:9) 8. Cain (Genesis 4:8) 9. Ruth 10. Abraham (Genesis 20:7) 11. Cana (John 2:1-11) 12. The river turns to

August



2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						Men's Breakfast 9 am in the Guyn Room
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10 am communion		Prayer & Chant Circle 10 am			Tea & Coffee Social 9:30 am— 12:00 pm	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10 am						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10 am		Prayer & Chant Circle 10 am Finance & Trustees meeting 7 pm				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 10 am		Church Council meeting 7:30 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

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**

