

THE VOICE

December 2022



For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given, and the
government shall be upon
his shoulders. And he will be
called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Fa-
ther, Prince of Peace.

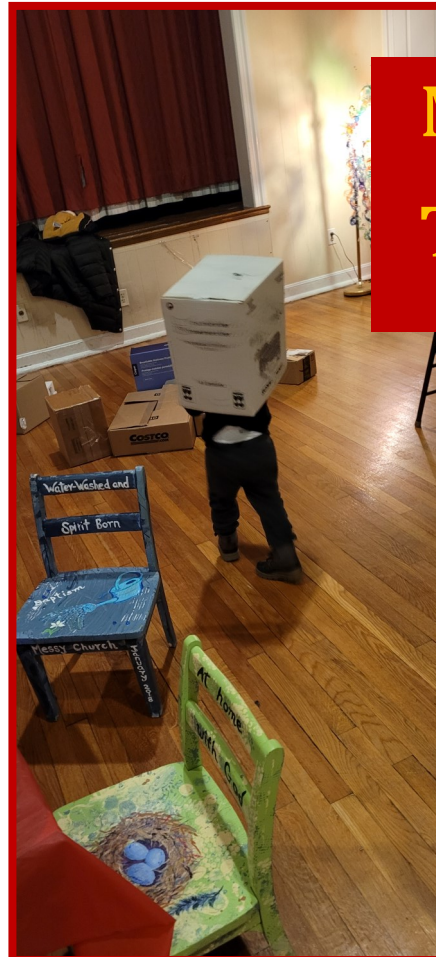
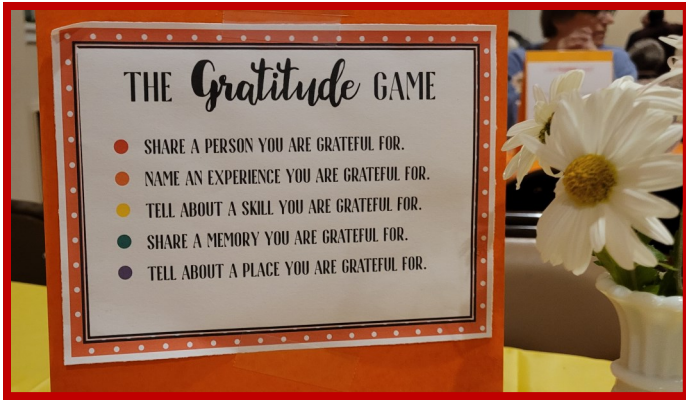
Isaiah 9: 6

Dear Friends,

Prophets are painters. They paint pictures of a time to come when people will be at peace with one another, hope will be made real, and all will shout for joy! Even if that time seems far off, we know it has already begun in Jesus, who is love come down to transform our lives and the world. This Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, **we celebrate how He has made possible what once seemed impossible – peace, hope, joy and love!**

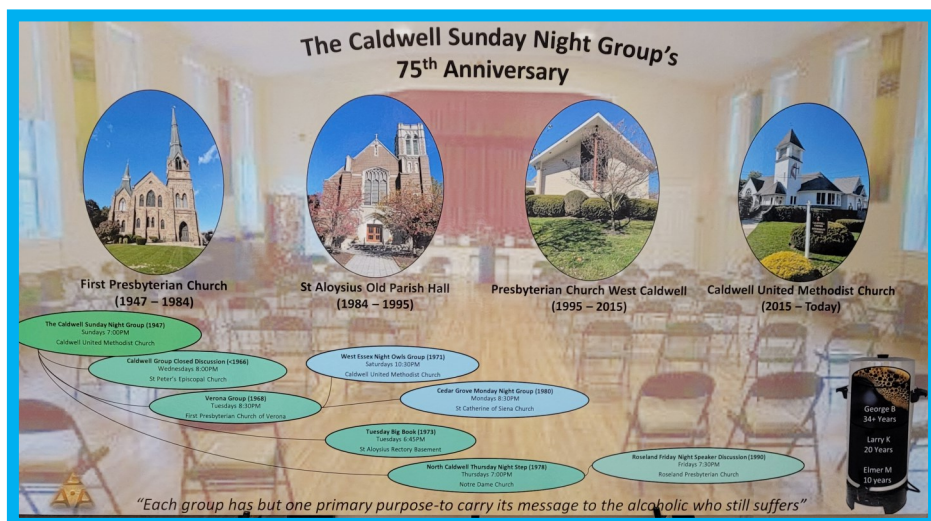
Entering these four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas Eve and Day, every Sunday we *will explore the possibilities of our faith in what often seem like impossible situations.* Won't you join us on Sunday mornings in person or on zoom? And, may the blessings of the season fill your hearts and homes with reassurance of God's love for you and those you love.

Have a Merry Christmas! Pastor Viv



MESSY CHURCH THANKSGIVING

On Friday evening November 18th, thirty women, men and children gathered to share a Thanksgiving Meal, autumn crafts, and the message of God's love for everyone. Tracy Voca, Amy Hansen and the Pastor planned the evening and many donated food for the meal, including Robb McCombe who roasted a turkey in the church kitchen. **Our next Messy Church is Saturday morning at 9 AM on December 10—MESSY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA.**



Sunday Night AA Group Celebrated 75th Anniversary on November 13.

One hundred persons gathered in the church auditorium for dinner and the evening's program. Pastor Viv offered prayer and words of appreciation for the group's contributions to the community. The poster on the left was designed by a member of the group.

"Irreverend" Web Series

The series held its premier showing here in the church—where it was filmed—on Saturday, October 29. There was plenty of food, lots of friends, and the viewing of all ten episodes on the big screen in the sanctuary. Congratulations to creator/ producer Noelle Gizzi and her Team for such an entertaining Series!



RECEIVING BAPTISM October 23 is **Maeve Anastasia McCall** (092121), daughter of **Ashley Rose Lagrosa** and **Frank Robert McCall**, 63 Pier Lane, Fairfield, NJ 07004. Godmother is **Samantha Lagrosa**, Hillsdale, NJ and Godfather is **Kevin McCall**, West Milford, NJ. We pray God's blessings on little Maeve and her family!



MANY THANKS FOR RESTART OF OUR FAMOUS COFFEE HOUR

As we approach the Christmas season let us think of all that we are thankful for. Since the pandemic many things have changed in our lives, even at church, with no church, only ZOOM, and virtual coffee hour. Gradually, church reopened but still no coffee hour. Finally this past August Paige Moeller got the ball rolling, so let's thank Paige for the initiative she took to start the process of gathering after church service to share in church family time with a cup of coffee and a treat. Our dear friend Jane Vogelsang continued hosting coffee hour until she moved. In order to continue someone had to help with this ministry, so I volunteered. Then we reached out to our members to donate refreshments and help with the preparations for the coffee hour. At this time a big thank you to all of our church family that have volunteered to do so. I would like to recognize each of you and say thank you once again: Pastor Viv, Pastor Karen, Yovanny Reyes, Michelle Sauer, Louise Woodcox, Myrtle Connell, Tracy Voca, Erin Chambrone, Christie Pavlishin, Joyce Francavilla, and Zorina DeMilio.



Before we know it January 2023 will arrive and I need volunteers for the coming year. There is a sign up sheet in the church entrance, so if you are so inclined to volunteer to help out for the coffee hour I would be very grateful. What is required? Bake or buy something, have it prepared to serve, I will supply the milk and cream for coffee and tea. Helping with the cleanup after coffee hour. That's it, Folks. Easy. Until next time, I wish each of you a joyous season filled with happy moments.

In Christian Love,
Louise Woodcox



Breakfast with Santa

Kids of all ages are invited to gather to
start the day with a pancake breakfast,
visit with Santa, carols and
Christmas activities and crafts.

Saturday, December 10th 9-11:30 a.m.

Financial Report through October 2022

We project that we will end the year with a shortfall of \$12,604. This assumes that everyone catches up on their giving, and finishes the year as pledged. This also assumes faithful givers give at their current giving pattern. We would also need to meet our Thanksgiving budget of \$4,000 and our Christmas budget of \$7,500. We will be communicating a Christmas special giving opportunity to help us achieve our budget goal for the year.

Through our first ten months of 2022 our expenses exceeded our income versus our projected budget by \$43,073. This is due to our miscellaneous income and overall giving being less than anticipated.

Our expenses were \$7,931 greater than expected which is within 3.2% of our budget.

On the income side our overall giving was \$12,431 less than our goal to date. Our Faithful Givers were \$844 less than anticipated and our Pledgers were \$11,587 less than our goal. If everyone were to catch up with their pledge and what Faithful Givers gave in 2021, we would be on budget for our giving.

Our miscellaneous income is \$24,757 less than our budget. This is an improvement of \$11,516 due to having the golf outing income included. We also received \$4,300 from the Trustees to cover their expenses year to date. We have received \$4,929 in building use income which is \$3,117 more than our budgeted amount to date.

December Birthdays

December 6	Scott Plumstead
December 10	Greg Elphinstone
December 13	Lauren Crooks
December 16	William D. Carter
	Jillian Crooks
December 17	Christine Waddington
December 19	Pastor Viv
December 25	Donald DeBruyne
December 26	Angelo Pezzino

December Anniversaries

December 1, 1973	Ken & Barbara Ingra
December 17, 1972	Glenn & Gail Plumstead

Exciting Things Coming Up

RAISING \$25,000. We will be decorating the lobby tree with gold stars for every Christmas Offering to the church. And, even better, every gift is doubled by a match! **SEE THE FLYER IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held Friday evening, December 9 here at the church. **SEE THE FLYER.**

The choir's **CHRISTMAS CANTANA** will be held Sunday, December 18 with a delicious **COOKIE WALK** to follow.

Help meet our ministry goals by lighting the Tree of Hope



Each Christmas donation we receive this year will be matched.

A star will be hung from the Tree of Hope for each donation no matter the size.

The STAR on top of the Tree of Hope, in the church lobby,
will be lit to signify we have reached our goal!!

Our goal is to reach \$25,000



You are invited!!!

Our Women's Fellowship Christmas Party

December 9th at 6:30 p.m.

in the church auditorium

Please bring a bagged or wrapped gift for our
gift exchange with a suggested \$20 value.

Dinner will be provided.

Donations gratefully accepted

RSVP by December 2nd

Call or text Myrtle at 973-214-3437 or email
at myrtjohn@optonline.net

Transportation provided as needed

THE VOICE

CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT at Academy Road Entrance

FRIEND US ON



UPCOMING WORSHIP

Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5:30 PM

Candlelighting Service for All Ages

Christmas Day, December 25, Sunday Worship

10 AM & Fellowship Time to follow

New Year's Day, January 1, Sunday Worship

Video by Bishop Schol over Breakfast

Zoom link on our website caldwellchurch.org

come in person or on zoom.

The link is on our website at caldwellchurch.org

Poinsettias are Still Available for Purchase!

2022 Christmas Poinsettias

We are anticipating a beautiful Christmas season in our church. If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary, the cost is **\$6.50** for each 6-inch pot. Please fill out this form and include it, with cash or check made payable to Caldwell UMC (specify poinsettias in the memo) and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Poinsettias can also be ordered through our website—caldwellchurch.org. If paying with a credit card, please add 3.5% to help with the transaction fee. Thank you. **The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 4, 2022.**

I wish to give my poinsettia to the Glory of God _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Number of Poinsettias () Amount enclosed ()

You may take your plants home after the Christmas Eve service to enjoy with family and friends.

There is only one service on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m.



2022 Wreaths

Caldwell United Methodist Church

You may donate towards the cost of wreaths used to decorate the church this Christmas in honor or memory of someone special. The deadline to donate is Sunday, December 18, 2022.

(1) 30" wreath-window above front door (\$59) _____

(2) 28" wreaths– 2 at front of sanctuary (\$23 ea.) _____

(2) 12" wreaths– outside doors on Washburn Place (\$15 ea.) _____

In honor _____ In memory _____

Given by _____

Please note on your check: "wreaths"

