



# THE VOICE

December 2025

## "Peace is a Person"

One thing that everyone longs for in life, I would argue, is peace. More than money, health, or success, we all yearn for a deep and abiding sense of peace. Peace is like water to the human body—without it, life becomes difficult, even unimaginable. What good are money, health, or success if our hearts are restless? Jesus once said, "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet forfeits his soul?" Peace is the lifeline of every soul. Without it, the soul withers, and with it the meaning of our success and even our life itself.



But how do we find peace—real peace—and keep it throughout our lives? Peace can feel elusive and fleeting. We may feel at peace one day, only to lose it the next. In that sense, peace often seems temporary. Yet what we truly desire is not temporary peace but lasting peace. And to find a lasting peace, we must first understand what true peace really is. How can we find something we do not fully know?

The most important truth about peace is this: true and lasting peace is not merely a condition or circumstance. It is not simply the absence of war, conflict, or worry. True peace is a Person. Just as genuine love is found not in a romantic setting but in a relationship with another person, true and lasting peace is experienced in a relationship with the One who is the author and source of peace. Without this Person, there is no true peace; any peace found apart from Him will fade because it depends on circumstances—and we all know that circumstances constantly change.

God also desires everyone to have this peace. But the peace He offers is not dependent on our situations. It is a peace that can endure even in the most difficult and challenging times. In His love, goodness, and mercy, God made this peace available to all—not by creating perfect conditions for us, but by giving us a Person: Jesus the Christ.

Advent is a season of waiting for the coming of this Person of Peace, preparing our hearts to welcome Him into our lives. And when we receive Him, we come to experience true and lasting peace. Christmas, then, is the celebration of the birth of the One Scripture calls the "Prince of Peace."

It is no coincidence that "peace" is one of the words we hear most often during this season. But in the midst of the commercialized holiday atmosphere, we can easily misunderstand it, imagining peace as the cozy feeling of sitting by a fireplace next to a beautifully decorated tree with wrapped gifts beneath it. Certainly, that is a lovely moment of stillness. Yet true and lasting peace is not found in a scene—it is found in a Person.

My prayer is that you will welcome this Person into your life this Christmas—and in doing so, discover the true peace your heart has been longing for.

*Pastor Park*

### December Birthdays

December 6	Scott Plumstead
December 10	Greg Elphinstone
December 17	Christine Waddington

### December Anniversaries

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



**Thank you!**

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1325 for our cold, filtered water campaign. Did we get the ultra-fancy totally new water fountain/water bottle filler of our dreams? Nope. The cost to install that option entailed drilling through a 12-inch-thick brick wall and significant electrical and plumbing work. Installation costs would have eclipsed the cost of the actual unit and was beyond budget. That's okay, though - Plan B is fabulous, too! We installed a water filter inside the current unit and a retrofitted the unit with a cup filler. Goal of healthy, filtered cold water met. Bonus? We were also able to install a filter on the sink in our kitchen island. Now we have healthy, clean water for coffee, tea and all our drinking needs. The price tag? \$915.58. This leaves funds to purchase annual replacement filters.

**Thank you for your support of this project!**

### GROCERY GIFT CARD DRIVE FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in.  
- Matthew 25:35*

You are invited to purchase \$20 gift cards to Shop Rite and Food Town for those in our community who need some extra help putting food on the table. How? Contact Ellen directly, purchase online through the church website, or place a check with memo "grocery gift card drive" in the collection plate.

*In need or know of someone in need?  
Speak with Pastor Park.*



# LET'S FINISH STRONG

**Dec 7 - Dec 31**

Working together to meet  
our financial goal for 2025  
to support a growing  
ministry

Please give generously to meet our goal.  
You can scan the QR Code below or go to  
<https://caldwellchurch.org/> to give. Thank you!

**"Well done, good and  
faithful servant!"**

Matthew 25:23



CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**





CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# *Christmas Cookie Walk*

**& CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**



**DECEMBER 14TH, 11 AM - 12:30 PM**



**8 ACADEMY RD. CALDWELL, NJ**



**INFO: 973-226-4410**





# Blue Christmas Service

A time for healing and remembrance

The holidays aren't always joyful for everyone.

Join us for a Blue Christmas Service—a peaceful time of reflection, prayer, and candlelight for those experiencing loss or grief during the holiday season. Come and find comfort and hope in the light of Christ.

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**Saturday,  
December 13, 2025  
at 7:30 PM**

Caldwell United Methodist Church  
8 Academy Rd. Caldwell, NJ 07006

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For more information, visit  
[www.caldwellchurch.org](http://www.caldwellchurch.org)  
or call 973-226-4410







CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*presents*

## A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

# PEACE *on* EARTH

Directed by Rosalyn McClore

Featuring

Caldwell UMC Chancel Choir

Caldwell UMC Bell Choir

Jane Kim, Soprano

Hannah Burke, Cello

Sunday, December 14th  
at 10 AM

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace, good will toward men."*

*Luke 2:14*

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY!

### COAT DRIVE



**NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 28, 2025**

Time to clean out your closets and donate coats to help keep NJ neighbors warm! Jersey Cares accepts new and gently used coats and asks that you refrain from donating coats that are stained, covered in pet hair, or in poor condition unless they are laundered or repaired prior to donating. Please **DO NOT** donate hats, gloves, scarves, or any other clothing items. Over 18,000 coats were donated last year!

*Please place coats in donation bins at church main entrance.*

*Thank you!*



**CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE**

**Now through December 14<sup>th</sup>**

You are invited to donate new unwrapped toys and games for children in Paterson aged infant through 16. Why unwrapped? Moms, who might otherwise not have the means to shop, are empowered and given the opportunity to hand select gifts for their children.

**Simply place your gift in the bin in our sanctuary narthex.**



## Community Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you to all who generously donated to this year's food drive for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. The drive was once again spearheaded by First Presbyterian Church and included partners like us at Caldwell United Methodist Church. Donation totals broke previous years' records: 386 turkeys, 14 hams, 264 bags of groceries and \$1452. Of this, we contributed over 20 bags brimming with groceries and 10 turkeys. Well done!







## 2025 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 **\$10.00** for each 6.5-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](http://caldwellchurch.org). If paying by credit card, please note the option to offset the processing fee. Thank you.

**The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 14, 2025.**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

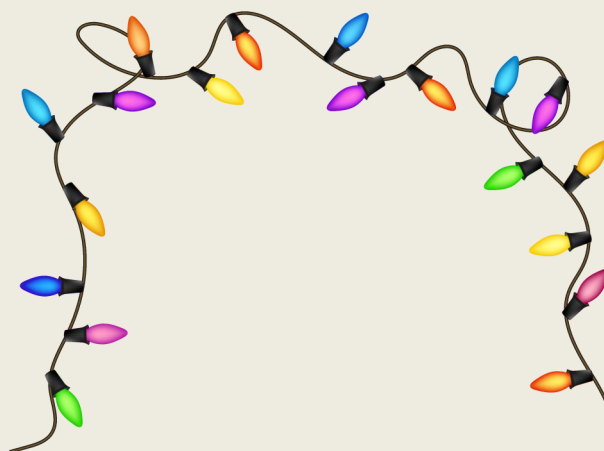
**Given by** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias (\_\_\_\_\_) Amount enclosed (\_\_\_\_\_)

You may take your plants home after the Christmas Eve service to enjoy with family and friends. The Christmas Eve service is at 8 p.m.



Soloist Bailey Winkler sings during worship on Sunday, December 9th



### Advent Daily Devotional Videos

Use the QR code or this link <https://caldwellchurch.org/events/advent-daily-devotionals> to view a new Daily Devotional video each day of Advent.







## Upcoming Events for 2025

### Caldwell United Methodist Church

*Life is Better Together!*



*Join Us for Worship Sundays @ 10 am*

December 6/7

Hanging of the Greens

December 7

Communion Sunday - Prayer Doves

December 13

Blue Christmas Service

December 14

Christmas Concert

December 24

Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30 pm

December 28


Hymn Sing



# December



# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Tea & Coffee Social 9:30 am	Saturday AA 10:00 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10 am 2nd Sunday of Advent  Sunday AA 6:30 pm		Trustees meeting 7:30 pm  HUB 3-5 pm		HUB 3-5 pm  Essex Photo Club 7 pm		Saturday AA 10:00 pm  Blue Christmas 7:30 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Christmas Cantata & Cookie Walk 10 am 3rd Sunday of Advent  Sunday AA 6:30 pm		Church Council meeting 7:30 pm  HUB 3-5 pm		HUB 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 10:00 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10 am 4th Sunday of Advent  Sunday AA 6:30 pm		HUB 3-5 pm	Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm	Christmas Day		Saturday AA 10:00 pm
28	29	30	31			
Sunday 10 am  Sunday AA 6:30 pm						
30						
Worship 10 am Youth Sunday  Sunday AA 6:30 pm		 <b>Caldwell United Methodist Church</b> <i>Life is Better Together!</i>				



# 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**

