



THE VOICE

August 2023



Have you ever heard of “The Parable of the Drowning Man”? It goes like this:

A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help.

Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, “Jump in, I can save you.” The stranded fellow shouted back, “No, it’s OK, I’m praying to God and he is going to save me.” So, the rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. The fellow in the motorboat shouted, “Jump in, I can save you.” To this the stranded man said, “No thanks, I’m praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith.” So, the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, “Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety.” To this the stranded man again replied, “No thanks, I’m praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith.” So, the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, “I had faith in you but you didn’t save me, you let me drown. I don’t understand why!”

To this God replied, “I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?”

Although this story is often told as a joke, this funny story can be read as a lesson on missed opportunities in life. The man who drowned had preconceived ideas about how God will save him, i.e. perhaps a miraculous rescue through an angel? The tragedy is that God had already made provisions to save the man. But man’s preconception, biases, and/or stubbornness prevented the man from experiencing God’s deliverance. We can make similar mistakes in our own lives, sometimes without even knowing.

It’s been one month since I arrived at Caldwell UMC as the new pastor. After a month, I feel like walking around wearing a T-shirt that reads, “I survived my first month at CUMC.” These days, my life is filled with many “first timers”—the first time visiting church members, the first time serving Communion, the first time writing for the church newsletter and many more... And of all the “first timers,” perhaps the most significant one is that I am the first pastor in the history of this church who is of Asian American background, a person who is commonly labeled as an “ethnic minority” in our society.

For some in this church, this can feel so different and even strange because its their “first time” having someone like me as their “pastor.” I know how this can feel to some people. But I hope you will not let that stand in the way for you to experience what God has prepared for you and for CUMC. I believe that I am here because, in His love, goodness and faithfulness, God called me to love and serve the people here. I also believe that God has prepared something good for me and my family here as well. To me, CUMC is God’s row boat in my life. And I intend to jump in it wholeheartedly. I will also do my very best to be God’s rowboat, motorboat or helicopter for CUMC and everyone here at CUMC. I invite you to push aside whatever reservations you may have and jump in. Together, we will experience not only God’s deliverance but good and wonderful things that God has prepared for “our church” and “our life together.” Jump in, and let’s go to places! Praise and thanks be to God! Pastor Park

August Birthdays

August 17	Bruce Ciccione
August 18	Elena Krupa
August 18	Dorothy Theile 100th birthday!
August 27	Carissa Stelter

August Anniversaries

August 18, 2019	Alissa & Andrew Wallace
August 21, 1992	Glenn & Geri Tomich
August 28, 1965	Tony & Karen Gazzillo

Financial Report through May 2023



Through our first five months of 2023 our expenses exceeded our income versus our projected budget by \$17,301.

Our expenses were \$6,711 less than expected. This is mainly due to Gas and Electric, Buildings and Grounds, Office Administration, and our Ministries running under budget.

On the income side our overall giving was \$1,551 greater than our goal to date. Our Faithful Givers were \$4,963 more than expected and our Pledgers were \$3,412 less than anticipated. This is an improvement over last month. Our miscellaneous income was less than expected and accounts for our expenses exceeding our income.

We will continue to provide updates regarding our financial health throughout 2023.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries through your pledges and faithful giving.

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee



Barbara Bechtold celebrated her 97th birthday on July 14th. She and her late husband, Ken were members of the Caldwell UMC family for many years. Barbara is pictured here with her granddaughter Sarah Ellen.

The Board of Trustees is proud

to announce our

2023

Dow Rich Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Alexis Narine

Dana Stelter

Isabel Voca

David Enzo Whetton

Recipients were presented with their scholarships during worship on Sunday, June 18th.



**Caldwell United Methodist Church welcomes new pastor,
Reverend Kil Jae Park**



Memorial Day Parade



Memorial Day Parade: Our church once again extended hospitality to the senior citizens of Caldwell by partnering with the Caldwell Department of Health & Human Services. We offered seating under the shade of canopies, coffee & cold water to 20+ guests. We are fortunate to have a prime viewing spot for the parade!

Plant Sale & Covered Dish



Thank you to Joyce & Sal Francavilla & Fairfield Farms for partnering with our church for our spring celebration plant sale/covered dish in June. Thank you to all who purchased plants. We raised about \$500 for our church.



On Rev. Rodeffer's last Sunday, June 18th, Dow Rich Scholarships were given, Fathers Day observed, and our District Superintendent William Williams and family came to offer his blessing on behalf of Bishop Schol.



Caldwell United Methodist Church
39 years after first appointment!



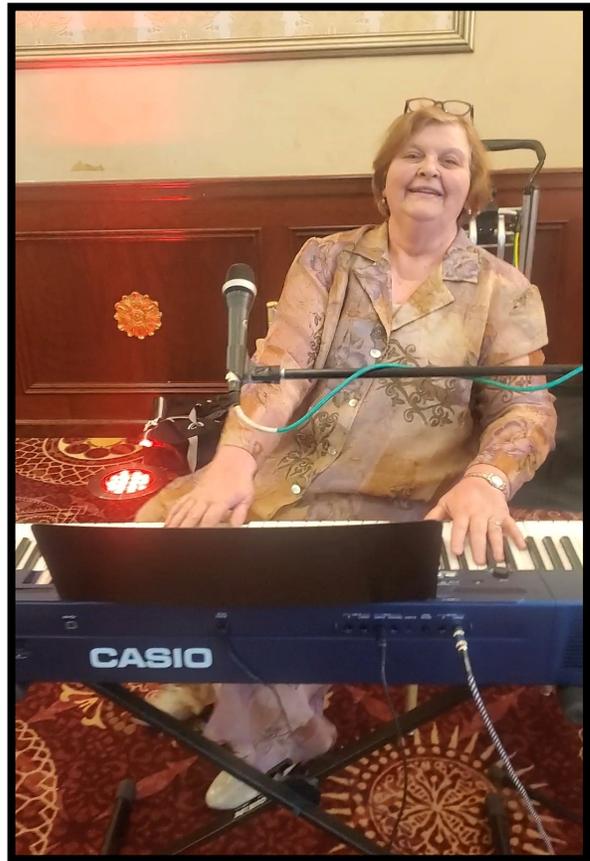
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

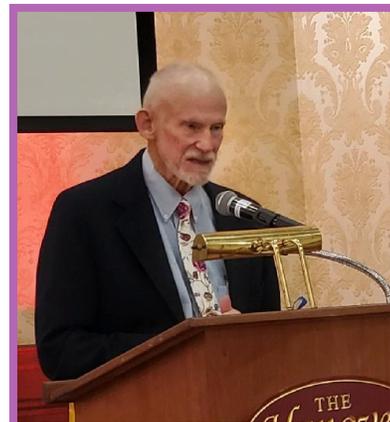
Trustee President Tony Gazzillo awards the Dow Rich Memorial Scholarships to Alexis Narine, Dana Stelter, Isabelle Voca and [not present] Enzo Whetton.





RETIREMENT DINNER





THE RETIREMENT DINNER PROGRAM included Pastor Karen Gazzillo; Rev. Veronica Palmer who served as District Superintendent alongside of Rev. Rodeffer; Staff Parish Chair Stephanie DeBruyne; Tony Gazzillo, Trustee President; Ken Ingra, Finance Chair and Treasurer; Sr. Alice Uhl and Susan Werk representing West Essex Ministerium Association; Christie Pavlishin representing the West Essex First Aid Squad; Patty Sampson, Comedian Par Excellence; a fantastic slide presentation courtesy Tracy Voca; an oil painting by Louise Woodcox; gathering music and slide presentation music, Ed Alstrom; and The Choir in a kazoo finale led by Maxine Alstrom that truly was the icing on the cake. Also, there was an unannounced keyboard appearance by Pastor Viv.

A special thank you to Pastor Karen and a wonderful planning committee who handled every detail. Even the cake was absolutely delicious and from Sorrentos! VR



Pastor Viv and Robb Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 21 and treated everyone to lunch after church. Actual date May 20, 1973. Pastor celebrated her fiftieth anniversary, moved, and retired within one month. More cake please.





Congratulations to Christie Pavlishin who is now a licensed paramedic. Christie is a member of Caldwell United Methodist Church and a volunteer with the West Essex First Aid Squad.



Adam Jain, son of Doney & Sheila Jain has graduated high school. Congratulations, Adam, and best of luck in your continued education.



Flower Ministry & Coffee Hour

With a grateful heart I would like to thank all the angels that have taken the opportunity to provide refreshments for coffee hour after church service. Also a heartfelt thank you to those of CUMC church family that have donated to the flower ministry and to those that have purchased much needed items for preparations for the coffee hour. To place flowers at the altar for Sunday worship in honor or in memory of a loved one please contact me at church on Sundays or email at woodcoxartist@icloud.com. The cost of flowers is \$20.00 in cash or check to me Louise Woodcox. If you have a preference of what type of flowers you would like please mention that in your order.

There will be a new list for coffee hour indicating months of Aug. - Dec, 2023. The list will be in the Guyn Room. Please consider hosting a Sunday for refreshments. Plan for about 25-30 people. Food items can include bagel, muffins home baked items, fruit or anything else that you may think of. I take care of the coffee and purchase milk & cream so the only thing a host needs to do is bring food items and have it ready to serve. There are platters in the church kitchen for your use. That is all there is, EASY. I thank you in advance for your consideration of putting your name on the list.

Let us continue to worship the Lord during service and please join us after service to share fellowship with each other.

In Christian Love,
Louise Woodcox

Important Upcoming Events



Caldwell United Methodist Church 18th Annual Golf Outing Tuesday, September 26, 2023

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



Tea & Coffee Socials

**At Caldwell United Methodist Church
The next socials are August 18th & September 15th
From 9:30 am to 12:00 noon**

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 & friends
are welcome
so stop in with a friend or by yourself!**

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



Save the Date!

Pulled Pork Dinner - October 21st

Details to Follow

Words of Appreciation to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

Robb and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the lovely sendoffs including the June 18th final service and luncheon **and** the retirement dinner. Sorry about so many photos of me in this Voice [I ask your indulgence.] Your very presence, your speeches, your messages of appreciation on the written cards, the plaque honoring my service, a hymn composed and dedicated to me, the plants for our yard, the generous love gift, a stunning oil painting by Louise Woodcox, the many cards and other “thank you’s” we received, all sent us on our way feeling loved.

As my dear friend Sr. Alice Uhl shared at the dinner, *retirement is a time to evolve into whatever it is that God has in store for one next!* For the time being I’m evolving into hospice chaplain and into a political candidate running for Caldwell City Council. Who knows what after that?

My thank you’s would not be complete without thanking the church’s wonderful staff! Thanks to Office Administrator, **Ellen Elcavage**, who brings a welcoming spirit and efficiency to the office that promotes good will and witnesses to the kind of organization Christ calls us to be; and likewise, my deepest appreciation to Music Director **Maxine Alstrom** whose ample creative talent knocks the cobwebs out of boring worship and enlivens our spiritual attitude by her talented and skillful renditions “off the page” and “on the page” of all types of music. Just as importantly she has invited and included many of you in opportunities to share your talents as well. Also, a shout out to our behind the scenes but very efficient, hard working and friendly sexton, **Luis Alfieri**, who doesn’t just clean, he makes things shine! Finally, a loving and appreciative nod to **Kate Volz**, who has been helping out even before the pandemic with caring for our children and other tasks as requested.

My Heartfelt Blessings to Everyone of You, Pastor Viv



Goodbye to our friends, Andrew Johnson and Erin Chambrone who are moving to Princeton, NJ where Andrew attends graduate school at Princeton University. God speed! You will be missed



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, October 8th 1-3pm

\$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 davewhetton72@gmail.com to reserve your spot

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**