



THE VOICE

February 2023



"Have mercy on me, O God,
According to your steadfast love,
Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin."

Psalm 51: 1

Dear Friends,

The Season of Lent is upon us and our annual opportunity to reflect upon our beliefs and to renew our discipleship. We will take time this spring to explore the simple yet eternal questions that help us to deepen our faith. I encourage you to intentionally live into this Lenten Season.

Pray daily,

Read and study the Bible,

Attend worship,

Give generously,

Forgive those who have wronged you,

Seek healing for damaged relationships.

Choose a "fast" of good deeds

Let's usher in Lent at Messy Mardi Gras with a pancake supper and follow it at Ash Wednesday Worship where we will receive the sign of the cross.

See you at worship! Pastor Viv

OUR LENTEN QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday: Living with Questions | Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 6:1-6

Feb. 26: Who is God? | 1 John 4:7-19

March 5: Is the Bible Reliable? | Hebrews 4:12-14

March 12: Why Should I Go to Church? | Psalm 100

March 19: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? | Psalm 137

March 26: How and Why Do I Forgive? | Matthew 6:9-15

April 2 (Palm/Passion Sunday): Why is Jesus Special? | Mark 11:1-11

April 6: Maundy Thursday: Are You Scared of the Future? | John 13:1-7, 31b-35

April 9: (Easter Sunday): Why Be a Christian? | Mark 16:1-8

February Birthdays

February 1	Eric Pierce
February 2	Madison Totka
February 7	George Inglis
February 8	Amanda Crooks
February 12	Owen Scott Winkler
February 14	Denise Stelter
February 15	George Pierce
February 15	Patty Sampson
February 17	Kyle Totka
February 24	Jack Ripa
February 25	Joan Carnrick
February 25	Marybeth Mitstifer
February 26	Bryan Hansen
February 26	Leslie Pierce
February 26	Gordon Stelter
February 27	Joan Coleman
February 27	Adrian Voca

February Anniversaries

February 8, 1975 Sal & Joyce Francavilla

Notes from Maxine

Thank you all so much for your kind support and generous staff gift. Caldwell United Methodist Church is such a warm, welcoming community of fellowship and spiritual learning. Thank you to our Bell Choir for committing to rehearsals and we're looking forward to having Bells at our services soon. Thank you to our Choir and musicians for a special Cantata this Season. If you ever would like to join in singing or other talents please reach out to me. My email is max13A@aol.com We continue to learn about new talents of all ages. It's always ok to come and try , or come when you're able so please speak with me directly with any ideas.

Gratefully yours, Maxine



Financial Report through December 2022

We had an incredibly successful Tree of Hope program where we raised over \$34,000 which exceeded our goal of \$25,000. The Golf outing raised roughly \$20,000 of which \$4,000 went to our partner the WEFAS leaving \$16,000 for our church. This program together with the golf outing helped us to end the year within 3% of our income goal. Our overall giving was \$9,500 less than our annual goal. Through the year of 2022 our expenses exceeded our Income versus our projected budget by \$13,878.

Our expenses were \$4,700 greater than expected. Savings from our personnel, ministries and Building and Grounds were the primary areas that resulted in keeping our expenses within 1% of our budget expectations. We have paid all of our Conference Billings, Shared Ministries and Workman's Compensation for the year.

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

Our Stewardship Campaign begins February 2023.

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee



Thank You's to the Congregation

"Robb and I thank you for the many expressions of love, cards and kind gifts that we have received this holiday season. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Pastor Viv

"Thank you for the cards & gifts but most of all thank you for including me in your church family. A happy, healthy and safe new year to everyone!"

Ellen Elcavage, secretary

Trustee News

The 2022 Church year has been a busy one for the Trustees. As our building ages, maintenance has become more important than ever and the trustees thought it might be good to share some of the work we did this year (2022).

- We painted the exterior of the connecting building between the sanctuary and the gym (parsonage side only). This included scraping and repair of exterior wood as needed. We also replaced an exterior door in that area.
- We repaired exterior door to boiler room and repaired and installed auto door closers on exit doors to infant room.
- The concrete steps in that area were also repaired.
- The entrance door to A Pleasant Day was also repaired along with installation of a new lock.
- We replaced four exit signs and install new batteries where required.
- We also re-lamped Pleasant Day and fixed units requiring repair.
- A number of minor and not so minor plumbing repairs were made to both bathrooms and to sink in Pleasant Day.
- We made repairs to the elevator and resolved safety compliance violation.
- Our major project – new signs for the church was also completed in 2022.
- Repaired flashing on parsonage roof.

We also elected our new officers at the January meeting. **Tony Gazzillo**, President, **Leslie Pierce**, Secretary, and Acting Treasurer **Ken Ingra**. Returning Trustees are **Christine Waddington**, **Barbara Ingra**, **Christie Pavlishin**, **Gail Plumstead**.

I want to thank all the Trustees for getting this work done and keeping our building in good shape.

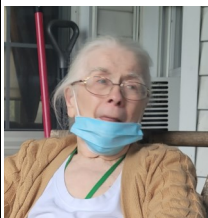
Tony Gazzillo

Parish Notices



Kenneth Bechtold entered the life eternal on January 7, 2023.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 73 years, Barbara Bechtold; his children, Kenneth G. Bechtold Jr. (Julie), Steven G. Bechtold (Ellen) and Nancy J.B. Carver (Don).



Charlotte Tinfow passed from this life into the next on January 8, 2023. She is survived by her three sons and one daughter. Charlotte and her husband, Lionel (d. 1999) were both very active in the church and sang in the choir.

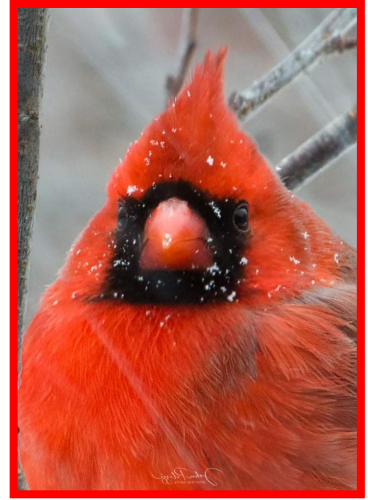
The wedding of **Rameeza Narine** and **Rabindra “Robin” Sookramnauth** took place on December 30, 2022.
Many blessings and best wishes for your life together!





TRULY HE TAUGHT
US TO LOVE ONE
ANOTHER, HIS LAW
IS love AND
HIS GOSPEL IS
peace





MESSY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA





DECORATING THE CHURCH







**Cookie
Walk
and
Hot
Chocolate
Bar**

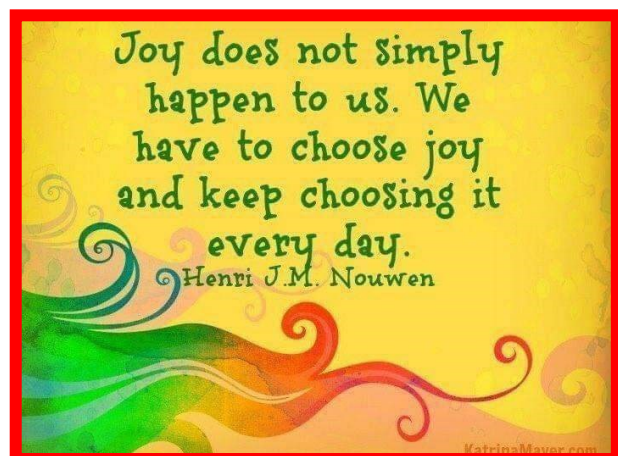




Women's Fellowship Christmas Dinner



John and Myrtle Connell celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in January!





At Christmas we had a special giving program entitled the Tree of Hope. The monies you donated at Christmas would be matched with a goal of raising \$25,000. Through your most generous giving we were not only able to meet our goal, we exceeded it! The total raised for the Tree of Hope is in excess of \$34,000! **This allowed us to fulfill 100% of our Billings and Shared Ministries!**

Thanks to our givers: Carlene Strake, Dorothy Theile, George Pierce, John and Jan Taylor, Bill Carter, Tracy Voca, Midge Winnicki, Barbara and Ken Ingra, Paige Moeller, Dave and Rita Whetton, Pastor Viv and Robb McCombe, Richard and Nancy Mudd, George Carnrick, Joyce Francavilla, Stephanie DeBruyne, Leslie Pierce, Doreen Boyer, Aisha Lettsome, Natalie Conklin, Myrtle and John Connell, The Volz Family, Doug and Cathy Wallace, Pastor Karen and Tony Gazzillo, The Stelter Family, Patty Sampson, Jeannie Laureano, Linda Wahlers, Ken and Barbara Bechtold, Christie Pavlishin, Walter Hartmann.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE SO GENEROUSLY
TO LIGHT THE TREE OF HOPE STAR**

THE VOICE

CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT at Academy Road Entrance

FRIEND US ON 



Mardi Gras!

MESSY MARDI GRAS

February 21, 2023

Winan's Auditorium

6:00 p.m.

All are welcome for a pancake supper,
Mardi Gras games & activities for all ages,
burning of the palms and imposition of ashes.

New This Year: Mardi Gras Trivia Contest



Soup & Bake Sale

Sunday, February 5th during Coffee Hour

Make your favorite soup, chili or stew
and/or scrumptious baked goods, then

Join us after church.

As always, we need everyone's support
to make this fundraiser successful.

Questions or comments, please contact Myrtle at
973-214-3437 or myrtjohn@optonline.net

