



THE VOICE

March 2022



“In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There’s a spring
that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see. “

UMH “Hymn of Promise”

Dear Friends,

The seed and plant catalogues have begun arriving. Actually the first one arrived the week after Christmas! So on the coldest morning this past week, I succumbed and ordered a cart load of flower, herb and vegetable seeds, and plants. Come May, I will have an excellent start on the planting season!

Did you realize that the Forty Days of Lent is the “growing season” for Christians? During these next six weeks until Easter we are to do all of the things that help us continue **to grow and blossom as people of faith.**

We will pray and read the Bible daily, we will give up a “pleasure” like chocolate or social media for the duration; we may journal or participate in meditation; we may take on a special task like helping others.

And, we will gather on Ash Wednesday evening, every Tuesday night throughout Lent, and every Sunday morning to try to live more nearly as Christ would have us live!

See You in Worship!

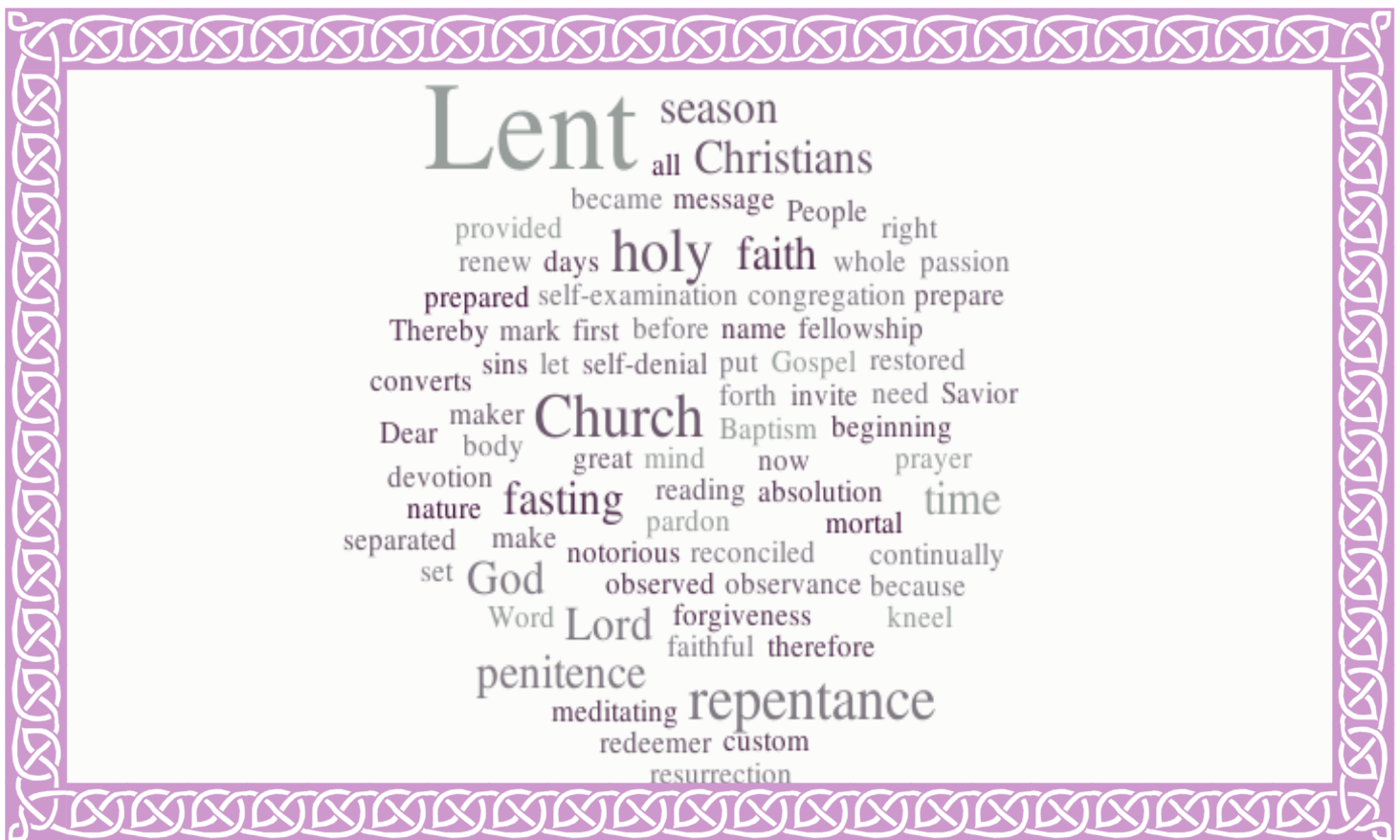
Pastor Viv



Lenten Tuesday Evening Zoom Devotions

Every Tuesday evening during Lent we will meet online for prayers and music hosted by Pastor Viv and Maxine Alstrom, and with devotions by favorite preachers. The following are our guest pastors and the evening's scriptures so you can read ahead.

Tuesday, March 8	Rev. Nancy Truscott, Crane's Mill	Romans 10: 8b-13
Tuesday, March 15	Rev. Karen Gazzillo	Philippians 3: 17- 4:1
Tuesday, March 22	Rev. Frederick Boyle	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
Tuesday, March 29	Rev. Phil Covert	2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
Tuesday, April 5	Rev. Barbara Stephens-Rich	Philippians 3: 4b-14



Ash Wednesday Simple Soup Supper

Zoom and In Person Worship

Wednesday Evening March 2

6 PM Soup 7 PM Worship

Gather with family and friends to mark the beginning of Lent. Imposition of ashes and communion usher in the forty days of Lent.



Financial Report through January 2022

Through our first month of 2022 our expenses exceeded our income versus our projected budget by \$6,626. This is similar to last year's position at this time.

Our expenses were in line with where we expected to be versus our budget.

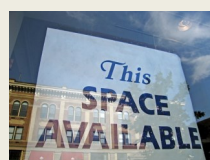
On the income side our overall giving was \$3,088 less than our goal to date. Our Faithful Givers were \$1,265 less than expected and our Pledgers were \$1,823 less than anticipated. Our miscellaneous income was also less than expected.



We will provide a status of the Stewardship Program in our next report. We will continue to provide updates regarding our financial health throughout 2022.

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

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee



Need Event Space?

Various spaces in the church may be reserved for parties, showers, meetings, classes, temporary office space, etc. If you know someone who may be interested, please contact the Church Office to check availability and for details regarding guidelines.

Music Notes from Maxine

Thank you all so much for the surprise fellowship after the Sunday service on Feb. 6! I've had a great year with you and look forward to an even better year to come. Thank you for the cake, coffee, juice, Hello Kitty Balloons and partyware. We certainly have made lemonade out of lemons together this past year. (music out of masking)

I had an amazing experience attending virtually Joseph Martin's 22 Composers in 22 Minutes, event in February.

It was an intense day and a half of each composer discussing and exploring their new and old compositions for Church Choir and Instruments. It was unique to see the positive aspects of zoom like the composers in their home environment, sharing more easily, and being geographically far but able to attend. Some of the composers were Pepper Choplin, Lloyd Larson, Don Besig and Nancy Price, Heather Sorenson, Brad Nix, and Rollo Dilworth. You have heard their pieces for years in Church. It was very educational, and inspiring for me, and very well done.

Choir and Bells will be resuming. We will be changing rehearsal days due to Lent and other scheduling issues so please stay in touch with me via emails or otherwise. The Choir will be singing on Ash Wednesday.

Also, please feel free to reach out with any musical talents if you'd like to join us. We are flexible and want to create meaningful musical worship and fellowship.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Maxine
max13a@aol.com



Parish Notice



We are saddened to announce the passing of **Jeffrey Starr** (age 32) on February 17, 2022 after a long illness. He grew up here in the Caldwell UMC and leaves behind his wife and son. Sympathy cards or notes may be addressed to his wife, Catherine Starr, 111 Warbler Way, Freehold, NJ 07728 and his mother, Cheryl Starr, 11 Scudder Place, Northport, NY 11768.

March Birthdays

March 3	Jill Plumstead
March 7	Karen Gazzillo
March 11	Christine Pavlishin
March 15	Beth Schaedler
March 15	William Kosmack
March 17	Walter Hartmann
March 18	Mary Hartmann
March 18	Tim DeBruyne
March 25	Carole Volz
March 29	Peter Ibsen
March 31	Rob Mistifer
March 31	Georgette Pierce

March Anniversaries

March 21, 1981	John & Jan Taylor
March 27, 1992	Gordon & Denise Stelter



Can you help out with technology during Sunday morning worship? Walter Hartmann, Technical Director can train interested persons. Notify the church office if you are interested.

Just a Reminder

Grocery cards are for sale from the church office. The church makes \$5 for every \$100 card you purchase.

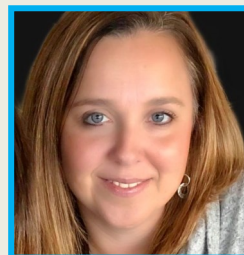


YOGA FOR CAREGIVERS

Parents and caregivers of special needs children are faced with challenges and demands that rarely ease up. This monthly class will offer parents and caregivers an opportunity to put their needs at the top of the list for just 1 hour. We will take time to be present with our body, mind and spirit. Parents will be given time to check in with themselves, be mindful of both their physical body and tension and their mindset.

Any parents in our community or in the church are invited To register for this class. Please email Kelly at kwinkler22@verizon.net for more information and to register.

These sessions will be led by Kelly Winkler. Kelly is a mom of 4, a teacher, yoga and mindfulness instructor, and meditation facilitator.



Dear Church Family,

I have felt the power of your prayers and been overwhelmed with beautiful cards and messages of concern and encouragement. There isn't a way I can tell you how much it has meant physically and spiritually, and certainly affected my recovery here at the rehab facility. I am so grateful to you all, and so thankful for the support and care of our wonderful Church Family!! See you soon!

Love, Ruth Carrara

What is **Messy Church**?

Caldwell United Methodist Church is gearing up to resume our monthly Friday evening **Messy Church** gatherings, and you are invited to attend! Now is a great time to consider joining in if you haven't done so yet.

What's **Messy Church** all about? Founded in 2004 in England as a fresh expression of church, **Messy Church** came into being in response to the reality that Sunday morning worship didn't seem to hold the central role in the lives of Christians that it once had. Many families had shifted to the "messy fringes" of faith, so founder Lucy Moore got creative. She started a movement that has spread worldwide, to over 20 countries. We at CUMC began **Messy Church** in 2015 and have seen it evolve and thrive with 40 to 90 people in attendance once a month.

The goal of **Messy Church** is to gather people of all ages for a Christ-centered evening of fun, learning and community. Each evening focuses on a Biblical theme presented in a message by Pastor Viv. Participants are also invited to learn and explore the theme through creative projects and games that, at times, get messy. There is always a playdough table for the youngest children and large motor activities for the more energetic not drawn to crafts. We often include community service projects. Activities are presented in stations so that participants can gravitate to what interests them most. A casual dinner is another integral part of the evening, most often a home-cooked meal. Lastly, the evening closes with a moment of calm contemplation around the large chalkboard where we have written our prayers. Lights are dimmed and everyone shines a mini-flashlight on the board as we pray together.

Messy Church is sure to keep evolving and changing in response to what resonates most and dependent on what gifts and talents volunteers offer. For example, there's a very good chance that music will play a more integral part in upcoming evenings ...

Please consider coming to **Messy Church** in April. All are welcome to participate at whatever level feels comfortable. Volunteers to help with meal preparation and with the evening's activities are also welcome. There's no need to register and there's no cost, though there is a free will offering. Whether crafts and games are your thing or you're simply eager to share good company over a meal and a positive message, you are sure to find **Messy Church** an oasis of welcome.

Messy Church is back (No joke!)
Friday, April 1, 2022,
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

THE VOICE

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SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT



Friday, April 1

No foolin'! See you there!

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

LENT BEGINS

On Wednesday evening, March 2 at 6:00 PM we will mark the beginning of Lent with a **Simple Soup Supper** and at 7:00 PM a service of communion and the imposition of ashes.

On the following five Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM we will have zoom devotions with a variety of presenters on Lenten themes of spiritual growth and of deepening our faith. Invite your friends to join in this annual renewal of our faith.

