

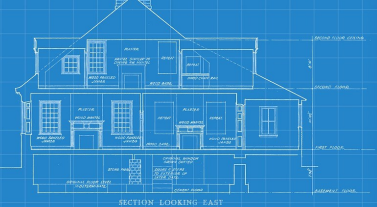


THE VOICE

March 2023

“Create in me
a clean heart,
O God,
And renew a
steadfast spirit
within me.”

Psalm 51: 10



Dear Friends,

Just this week the contractor begins the renovations on our new house. It is exciting for us to eventually see how our retirement house will shake out but it is also troubling to worry if each item we have chosen or planned for or specified will come together eventually in a livable, pleasant dwelling! In the meantime there is a lot of hard work to do.

This process is not all that different from what we try to do with our lives during this forty day season of Lent. We renovate the old—old prejudices, old ways of doing things, old grudges, old fears and old regrets so that our hearts and lives are transformed from “This Old Heart” to “This New Heart.” Think: the PBS house improvement program!

Living out our faith isn’t easy and we are challenged daily by many things. But we also have tried and true disciplines that guide our improvement/ renovation projects and prepare our hearts to “return to the Lord” as Prophet Joel proclaimed.

Attend to worship; give generously to church and charity; pray regularly for yourself and others; be cognizant of all the many, many blessings that you have and give God praise for them. And, maybe the most important “renovation” you can make daily is to read some scripture and a devotion. This Lenten season as a church we are reading daily [Toward the Cross: Heart Shaping Lessons for Lent](#). Every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM on zoom we have invited our favorite preachers to share a devotion on the week’s theme. The zoom invite will be made available weekly. [It is exactly the same as our Sunday morning zoom link.]

With Prayers for a “Constructive” Lenten Season,

Pastor Viv

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 31	Rob Mistifer

A Note of Thanks

To the soup makers, the dessert bakers, and the purchasing takers I want to express my sincere gratitude for supporting the soup/bake sale. Our efforts raised \$775 for our church. Your continuing participation is what makes these fundraisers successful, so I thank you.

Myrtle Connell

Financial Report through January 2023

Through our first month of 2023 our expenses exceeded our income versus our projected budget by \$7,460. This is similar to last year's position at this time.

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

On the income side our overall giving was \$5,248 less than our goal to date. Our Faithful Givers were \$1,110 less than expected and our Pledgers were \$4,138 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 2023.

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

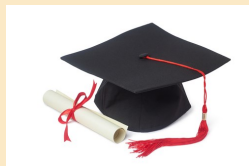
Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee

March Anniversaries

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

Trustee Scholarships 2023

The Trustees are pleased to announce that there is a limited amount of funds available to children who are active in our church for postsecondary education, such as colleges, universities and trade schools. Applications must be received by the Trustees **no later than May 1st** to be considered for this year's scholarships. Late applications will not be considered. Application forms are available by contacting the church office (caldwellumcnj@gmail.com) or Christine Waddington



Parish Notice-Georgette Pierce March 31, 1925-February 9, 2023



Georgette Pierce entered the life eternal on February 9, 2023. Georgette was predeceased by her husband of thirty-four years, Albert Wesley Pierce. She is survived by her children Glen, Michele, Wayne, Frederick, 9 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. She was a long time member of Caldwell United Methodist Church.

Conference Wide Food Drive Over the Top!

On Super Bowl Sunday we contributed 199 pounds of canned goods toward a grand total of 74,044 pounds of food for those in need. Our donations went to the Caldwell Food Pantry.



Scout Sunday 2023

ON FEBRUARY 26 WE WELCOMED the Scouts, their Leaders and Families. We honor all our young people engaged in the honorable tradition of scouting. We are proud of them, and gladly acknowledge their importance to us and our community. We thank their leaders, who give valuable time and effort to convening and training them, and for all who help with their troop in any way. **We thank you for all you do, we are proud of you! .**





MESSY CHURCH MARDI GRAS

On Tuesday, February 21, we celebrated Mardi Gras with a Pancake Supper, Mardi Gras Trivia with prizes, a "Mess"age about "Returning to God" our loving protector and parent during Lent, and at the end of the evening we burned the palms from last year's palm Sunday and received the ashes in the shape of a cross from Pastor Viv as the season of Lent began.



Eagle Scout Project

Hudson King, a member of Boy Scout Troop 3, has chosen as his project the improvement of the church stage. The entire troop, parents, and Barbara and Ken Ingra, Church representatives, cleaned off the stage and filled a dumpster with the contents. Hudson's plan is to rehabilitate the stage so it might be used for community as well as church events. Check out his Go Fund Me page—we have shared it on the church Facebook page.

WHEW!

**A busy afternoon
results in a clean
Stage!**





Let's Get Together!!

Come enjoy lunch & live music of the 50s and 60s for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Tuesday, April 4th 11 am to 3 pm
Hanover Manor, East Hanover

Lunch includes – 1 complimentary drink, salad, pasta, family style chicken & roast beef, potato, vegetable, dessert, coffee, tea & soda.

Cost is \$65 per person including gratuity

All are welcome, so bring your spouse & friends.
Reserve your space ASAP then pre-pay on the church website at caldwellchurch.org by March 26th.

Questions – please contact Myrtle at 973-214-3437
or Ann at 201-317-2381

Sponsored by the Women's Fellowship of Caldwell
United Methodist Church

FISH N'CHIPS

AND CHICKEN TOO !!

Sunday, April 30th

5:00-7:00 PM

Caldwell United Methodist Church



ADULT \$20 CHILD 10 & Under \$14

Dine In or Curbside Pickup

Benefits Mission Outreach!

PREPAID ONLY BY April 23

***Pay on our website caldwellchurch.org**

Dinner catered by Tastefully British

THE VOICE

CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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



“Toward the Cross: Heart Shaping Lessons for Lent”

*Each week's 7 PM Zoom devotion will be based
on the readings in this book of daily readings.*

Tuesday, February 28 at 7 PM Theme “A Humble Heart”

Tuesday, March 7 at 7 PM Theme “A Committed Heart”

Tuesday, March 14 at 7 PM Theme “A Gracious Heart”-

Tuesday, March 21 at 7 PM “A Heart for Seekers”

Tuesday, March 28 at 7 PM “A Purposeful Heart”

