



THE VOICE

March 2025

"Learn from the Trees"

A few days ago, I stopped by Panera Bread in West Caldwell to pick up a cup of coffee. It was a frigid day, with temperatures reaching only the upper 30s. After getting my coffee, I quickly returned to my car to head home. Just as I settled into the driver's seat, fastened my seatbelt, and prepared to pull out of the parking spot, something caught my attention—the sight of a few trees along the sidewalk near Panera Bread. They were small trees with thin branches reaching toward the gray sky.

At first, I noticed something unusual about them. They looked different from what I expected for this time of year. Almost in disbelief, I leaned forward to get a better look through my windshield. Sure enough, it was exactly what I thought—I saw tiny buds forming on the branches. This sight of tree branches suddenly filled my heart with exhilarating joy and hope. Those budding branches carried a simple yet profound message: spring was on its way! No matter how long and cold this winter had been, beneath the snow and frozen ground, nature had been quietly at work, preparing for a season of renewal and new beginnings. Life was stirring beneath the surface, slowly loosening winter's grip.

For me, the power of nature at work—bringing a season of renewal and new beginnings in ways that are not always evident—is the power of God at work. It is God who designed the natural order to function this way, setting the laws of nature in motion at the beginning of time.

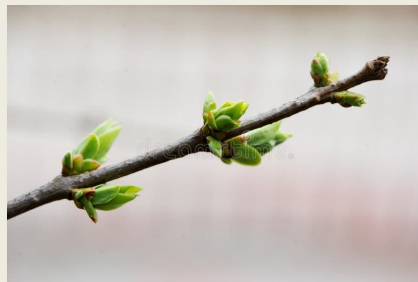
Just as God is at work in nature, He is also at work in our lives in ways that may not always be clear to us. He brings healing to our physical bodies and inner beings in ways we do not fully understand. He moves history forward to fulfill His will and purpose, even when circumstances suggest otherwise. And He is at work making things right, ensuring that all things work for the good of those who fear and honor Him, in ways that transcend human logic and understanding.

The Bible teaches us that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." In other words, faith is like looking at tiny buds forming on bare branches on a frigid winter day and seeing the promise of spring, even though it has not yet arrived.

Faith and hope go hand in hand—we cannot have hope without faith. In the winters of life, one thing we need most is faith—faith that God is at work, even when we do not feel it or see it, bringing us new life and new beginnings.

Learn from the trees.

Pastor Park



March Birthdays

March 3	Jill Plumstead
March 7	Karen Gazzillo
March 11	Christine Pavlishin
March 17	Walter Hartmann
March 18	Mary Hartmann
March 18	Tim DeBruyne
March 25	Carole Volz

March Anniversaries

March 21, 1982	John & Jan Taylor
March 27, 1992	Gordon & Denise Stelter



Souper Bowl Soup Sale

To all the soup makers and soup buyers,

Thank you for helping to make the Annual Souper Bowl Soup Sale a success!

Tea & Coffee Social March 28th



Tea & Coffee Socials are hosted once a month by Dave & Rita Whetton as a time to share fellowship and conversation with our church family and neighbors. All are welcome.

Stop by any time between 9:30 am and 12:00 noon to enjoy a complimentary cup of tea or coffee and check out the array of fresh home baked goods as well as other items for sale.

All the proceeds from sales go to the church.

Happy 2nd Anniversary!

At the November 15th Tea & Coffee Social we celebrated our second anniversary! The Tea & Coffee Socials have raised over \$2,000 to date from the sale of baked goods.

Thank you to all who have supported this monthly event.



24 HOURS
That Changed the World

LENTEN *Soup* &
BIBLE STUDY 

WEDNESDAYS | 3/12, 19, 26, 4/2, 9, 16

SOUP @ 6:30 PM / BIBLE STUDY 7 PM

JOIN US!



Caldwell United Methodist Church



caldwellchurch.org



8 Academy Rd. Caldwell, NJ



Easter Flowers
Easter April 20, 2025

EASTER FLOWERS

To beautify our sanctuary for Easter on April 20th, we are offering you the opportunity to place lilies, tulips, and daffodils on the altar in memory or in honor of someone dear to you. .

Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate (with payment) or mail it to the church office **by Sunday, April 13th** to have your dedication put in the bulletin. Please make checks payable to Caldwell UMC and put "Easter Flowers" on your check or envelope. Flowers can also be ordered through our website: caldwellchurch.org. If paying with credit card, please add 3.5% to help with the transaction fee. Thank you!

I/we would like to place a flower in the Sanctuary for Easter

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

Given by: _____

Indicate your choice by specifying the number of plants desired:

() lily \$12 each () tulip \$10 each () daffodil \$10 each

Number of flowers (____) Amount enclosed (____)





The Caldwell Food Pantry gratefully accepted our 65+ pounds of soup cans. Thank you to all who donated! Food pantry families need the items listed below. Simply place contributions on the table in the sanctuary narthex by Sunday, April 6th. Thank you!

Shelf Stable Milk (i.e. Parmalat)
Pasta Sauce
Breakfast Cereal (no Cheerios, please)
Canned Beans (i.e. garbanzo, red, black, cannellini – not green beans)



Jersey Cares Coat Drive Update

Big thanks to Leslie Pierce for coordinating our coat drive this year.

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank CUMC members for their prayers, and cards over the past 2 months. I am continuing rehab now and hope to go to Allison for a few weeks in the beginning of March before going home alone. It has been a long journey but the Lord has granted me strength by being by my side through your prayers.

CUMC is very special to me, especially the friends over the years.

Again, thank you for your prayers.

Linda Wahlers





Hammering 4 Habitat

On Saturday, February 22nd, Erin and Horatio helped to build a wall for Habitat for Humanity, at their H4H event in Ridgewood.

Bonus: They built in messages of love!





UPDATE

The HUB is humming! We are happy to report that more than 30 Grover Cleveland Middle School students are now registered, and that number continues to increase. Nearly 20 youth arrive after school every Tuesday and Thursday, eager to complete homework, shoot hoops, and enjoy snacks. The recent addition of Nok Hockey is a big hit and UNO is making its debut in response to student request. We're growing and evolving! Eight James Caldwell High School students signed up to mentor and offer homework help. The high school Key Club advisor accompanied them for an orientation session 2/25. Parents have reached out to express gratitude and ask how they can support us. Praise God!

The HUB is truly making a difference in our community. This is only possible through the support of our congregation. Thank you to all who volunteer to supervise on a regular basis. You are needed and valued! We would love to grow our volunteer force, so please reach out if you'd like to learn more and join in. We hope to open the upstairs youth lounge soon but can only do so with proper supervision in line with our safe sanctuaries policy.

How else can you help The HUB thrive? Consider making a small donation to CUMC with the earmark "HUB". We regularly offer popcorn and water, along with other snacks, and that's adding up. If you'd like to purchase nut free snacks directly, that is most welcome, too. In regard to water, we now go through over 30 bottles of water each HUB session. That's a lot of heavy lifting and discarded plastic. Please start saving your spare change and stay tuned for a fabulous plan for ever-flowing filtered cold water.

With gratitude and joy,

HUB organizers Pastor Park, Kathy Zajac, Christine Waddington & Tracy Voca



HUB Students doing homework with volunteer Barbara Ingra.



In November 2024 the Inspirations entertained us at a concert to benefit Caldwell United Methodist Church. We would like thank this group of talented individuals for generously sharing their time and talent with us which made for a wonderful afternoon of music.

Thank You from the Inspirations

On behalf of the Inspirations, we want to thank you for inviting us to perform a benefit concert at your church. We truly appreciate the warm welcome we received from everyone and the joy that we saw in your faces as we performed the songs that many of you grew up with. It was so enjoyable to see everyone singing along with us and swaying to the music. What a pleasure it was to receive a standing ovation and to meet many of you after the show.

We truly hope donations generated from this concert will be used to fulfill a special need at your church.

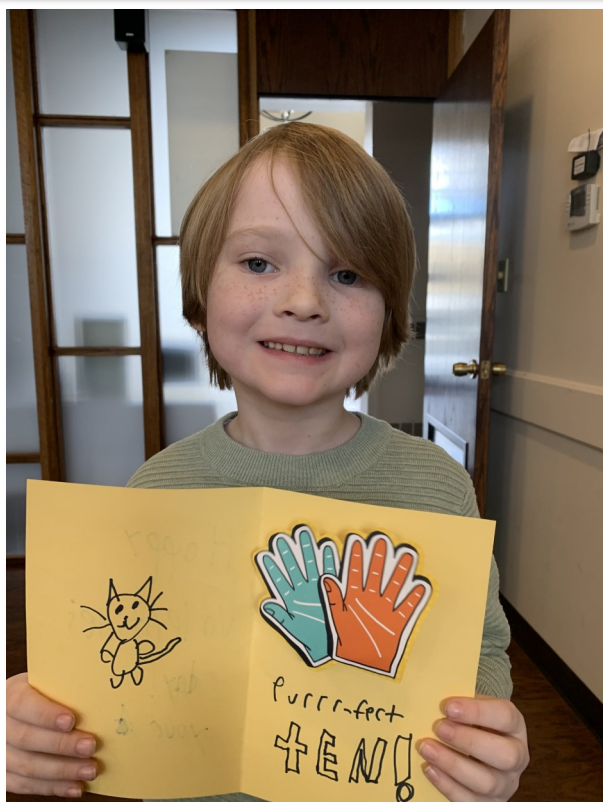
With joy and a song in our hearts,

The Inspirations



The CUMC MLK day of service was a success, making and writing 50 cards for seniors in care homes. The cards were gladly received and brought joy to the recipients.

Thank you to all who came and participated. You made a difference and made someone's day!



MLK Day of Service—January 20th
Special Tea & Coffee Social

March



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
				Hub 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 6:30 pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10 am Communion Sunday AA 6:30 pm		Hub 3-5 pm	Ash Wednesday 1st Presbyterian Church 7 pm	Hub 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 6:30 pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10 am Daylight Savings Time begins		Hub 3-5 pm Finance & Trustees meeting 7 pm	Lenten Soup & Bible Study 6:30 pm	Hub 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 6:30 pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		Hub 3-5 pm Ad Council meeting 7:30 pm	Lenten Soup & Bible Study 6:30 pm	Hub 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 6:30 pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		Hub 3-5 pm	Lenten Soup & Bible Study 6:30 pm	Hub 3-5 pm	Tea & Coffee Social 9:30 am- 12:00 noon	Saturday AA 6:30 pm
30	31					
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm						



Caldwell United Methodist Church

Life is Better Together!

THE VOICE

CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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**

