

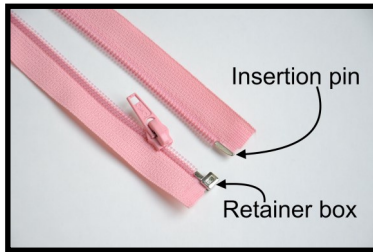


THE VOICE

November 2025

"The Retainer Box Thanksgiving"

This past week, as I was preparing for my weekly golf retreat, I took out a wind jacket to wear before heading to the course. This jacket happens to be one of my most cherished pieces of golf attire because it's made of an expensive waterproof fabric called Gore-Tex. Jackets like this are usually beyond my budget since they're among the best of their kind—and also the most expensive. But God was gracious to me and provided an opportunity many years ago to purchase this jacket at a bargain price I could actually afford when it went on sale at an online golf store.



Over the years, the jacket's water repellency began to wear off, and it needed some "reconditioning," which required washing it with a special chemical meant to "renew" its waterproof quality. This past week was the first time I tried wearing it after that reconditioning. For some reason, though, I couldn't zip it up. After several failed attempts, I gave up in frustration and decided to investigate the

problem.

I brought out another jacket to compare the zipper mechanisms and better understand what was going wrong. That's when I discovered something fascinating: my favorite jacket wouldn't zip up because the *retainer box*—the small piece at the bottom of the zipper—was missing. I even had to look it up online to learn its name for the first time!

The retainer box, also known as a *pin box* or *starter box*, locks the two sides of the zipper together at the bottom, providing a secure starting point for the slider to move upward, engaging the teeth and closing the zipper. It's attached at the very bottom of the zipper, and most people probably never even notice it exists. But when that small, almost invisible part detached—likely during the washing process—this expensive, high-end Gore-Tex jacket became completely useless. Everything that made the jacket great—its design, fabric, function, and even its prestige—suddenly didn't matter anymore, all because of one tiny missing piece.

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, my hope is that we take a moment to recognize and appreciate the "retainer boxes" in our lives—the things and people who rarely get recognition because they often go unnoticed and are taken for granted. We might consider them insignificant or easily overlooked because other things seem more important or deserving of attention. Sometimes they're the tasks we quietly despise, the people we underestimate (or even despise), or the experiences we'd rather ignore. We may not say it out loud, but deep down, we often devalue them.

Yet the truth is, these "small" things and people are indispensable to our well-being, success, and happiness. Let us remember this Thanksgiving that even the finest Gore-Tex jacket is worthless without that tiny retainer box at the bottom of the zipper.

Have a wonderful and grateful Thanksgiving!

Pastor Park

November Birthdays

November 1	Abbey Pierce
November 10	Glenn Plumstead
November 13	Myrtle Connell
November 14	Dana Taylor Stelter
November 14	Tony Gazzillo
November 20	Jan Taylor



November Anniversaries

Nov. 14, 1987	Bruce & Liz Ciccione
Nov. 5, 1988	Carole & Chris Volz
Nov. 19, 1993	Christine & Jon Waddington



It's Our Third Anniversary!

Tea & Coffee Socials

Come Celebrate With Us

Friday, November 7th

9:30 am to 12:00 noon

All Are Welcome



Dates for

Upcoming Tea & Coffee Socials

November 7th - 3rd anniversary of Tea & Coffee Socials –Holiday items for sale

December 5th-Holiday items for sale

Times for Tea & Coffee Socials are
9:30 am –12:00 noon

Stop by any time between those hours



Food Cards for ShopRite, Foodtown and Stop & Shop are available to buy. Order your Food Cards by calling the church office at 973-226-4410 or on our website: caldwellchurch.org.



Saturday, November 29 - 9:30 a.m.

Join us on Saturday, November 29 at 9:30 a.m. as we gather to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas season. There will be some low-level work as well as some ladder climbing. Everyone is invited to help. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Waddington at 973-420-2089 or mitchsmum@aol.com



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Now through December 14th

You are invited to donate new unwrapped toys and games for children in Paterson aged infant through 16. Why unwrapped? Moms, who might otherwise not have the means to shop, are empowered and given the opportunity to hand select gifts for their children.

Simply place your gift in the bin in our sanctuary narthex.



2025 Christmas Poinsettias

We are anticipating a beautiful Christmas season in our church. If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary, the cost is **\$10.00** for each 6.5-inch pot. Please fill out this form and include it, with cash or check made payable to Caldwell UMC (specify poinsettias in the memo), and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Poinsettias can also be ordered through our website: caldwellchurch.org. If paying by credit card, please note the option to offset the processing fee. Thank you.

The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 14, 2025.

I wish to give my poinsettia to the Glory of God _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Number of Poinsettias (_____) Amount enclosed (_____)

You may take your plants home after the Christmas Eve service to enjoy with family and friends. The Christmas Eve service is at 8 p.m.

Meet Louise Woodcox



Louise was born in Trenton, New Jersey to a father of Hungarian descent and a mother of Italian descent. She and her family, including younger brother Jack, lived in Central Jersey where her father worked on a farm that supplied tomatoes for Campbell's Soup. He also ran a family farm and became a machinist during WWII, a career maintained alongside farming until retirement.

Good food was a part of Louise's childhood, from fresh produce and Italian dishes like her mom's homemade ravioli to Hungarian specialties like chicken paprikash served with nokedli, noodles similar to German spaetzle. Her favorite comfort food even today is pastina made with oil, garlic, and shredded egg.

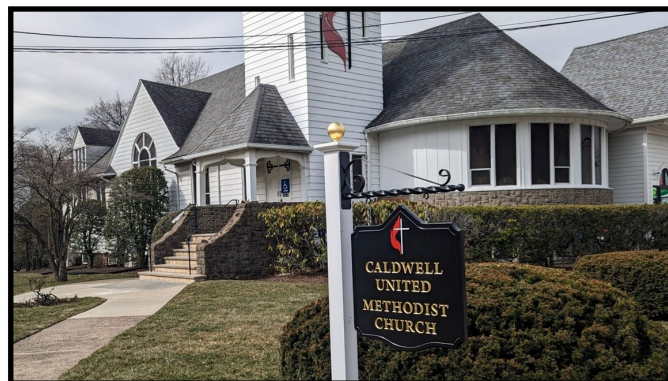
Louise and her family settled in the Caldwell area in 1948. Extended family members who had previously moved to the area recommended they attend what was then called the Episcopal Methodist Church (later renamed Caldwell United Methodist Church), praising Pastor Guyn in particular. By 1952, the family had purchased a home and property in Caldwell Township (now Fairfield) where they owned and operated their own seven-acre farm raising pansies, tomatoes, corn, pumpkins, and various other vegetables. Produce and flowers were sold wholesale as well as at the family farmstand.

Jeff and Louise met on a blind date in 1975 and wed in 1977, the bride in her mother's wedding gown. She and Jeff built a home next to her family home, where Louise still resides. In 1995, Louise's father's health began to fail, so she and Jeff took on the main responsibility of running the farm. Jeff suffered a heart attack in 2012 and younger brother Jack died in 2013. At this point, Louise was in her seventies and decided it was time to stop farming. She still loves nature and gardening, however, and plants flowers and a few vegetables in her yard every year. One of her current goals is to cultivate more perennials.

Louise grew up with a great appreciation for music. She was a talented accordion player, having taken lessons starting at age six. She also loved to dance tap and ballet as a child, a passion that later led to ballroom dancing, a favorite pastime of her parents. Jeff and Louise loved to dance together and collected a good number of trophies in amateur ballroom dancing contests. Their favorites? Swing, rumba, and tango.

In addition to work on the farm, Louise cut and styled hair as a certified hairdresser in several salons throughout the 1970s and 80s. She also worked as a secretary at Sandoz, now known as Novartis. Her last job as secretary was with the Salvation Army. This was her favorite because she found people in the faith-based organization to be kind and caring. Louise had always dabbled with painting as a girl. She found the smell of paints, brushes, and turpentine intriguing. What you may not know, however, is that she didn't take a formal art class until age 35. She quickly developed into a talented artist who enjoys working with oils and pastels en plein air (in the open air) as well as in her indoor studio. Some of you may even have taken art lessons with Louise in her studio.

In terms of faith, Louise feels blessed to have found her spiritual home. She feels she is just where she wants to be, in the company of a loving church family. She appreciates Sunday mornings with music, worship, and coffee hour, and pitching in as a volunteer. As a child, Louise regularly played accordion for men's fellowship events. In her adult years, Louise served as Fall Festival Coordinator, Director of dramatic Maundy Thursday reenactments and Fellowship Chair. If Louise could dine with any biblical character, she'd choose Judas to ask why he betrayed Jesus. Favorite hymns include *Amazing Grace* and *Because He Lives*. Favorite scripture includes the 23rd Psalm and 1 Corinthians 13: 4-13. Louise hopes to continue to grow in her faith.



FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT,
I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I
WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN.

~ MATTHEW 25:35

GROCERY GIFT CARD DRIVE



FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

You are invited to purchase \$20 gift cards to Shop Rite, Food Town and Stop & Shop for those in our community who need some extra help putting food on the table now. How? Contact Ellen directly, place a check with memo "grocery gift card drive" in the collection plate, or look for a special offering envelope on Sunday morning.

YOU ARE

IN NEED? SPEAK WITH PASTOR PARK



Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".

-Matthew 25:40

"And do not forget to do good
and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is
pleased"

-Hebrews 13:16

Community Thanksgiving Food Drive

Saturday, November 22, 2025

SPONSORED BY **PREMIO** MEDIA PARTNER **CBS NEW YORK**

**GIVE THE
GIFT OF A
HOLIDAY
MEAL**

CFBNJ
COMMUNITY
FOODBANK
OF NEW JERSEY

**25TH
TURKEY
& FIXINS' DRIVE**



MONETARY DONATIONS
ALSO ACCEPTED
SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH
YOUR DEVICE OR GO TO
CFBNJ.ORG/TURKEY

FROZEN TURKEYS & HAMS
(NEVER FRESH OR THAWED)
CANNED SOUPS & STEWS
CANNED FRUITS & VEGETABLES
PASTA, RICE & GRAINS
OTHER NONPERISHABLE FOODS

*No glass, cellophane, bottled water, soda, or baby food

**Caldwell United Methodist Church
is a collection site**



Celebrating Friends & Family on October 12, 2025



Friends & Family Sunday





WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL CUMC WOMEN INVITED

Let's celebrate!

The Details:

6:00pm

December 12, 2025

7 Loughheed Avenue, West Caldwell



**Bring your favorite dish and
\$20 wrapped gift for grab bag**

RSVP by December 8

Christine : 973-420-2089 / mitchsmum@aol.com

Questions?

see Barbara Ingra or Christine Waddington

Join Us!

AT THE MOVIES

Your Ticket to God's Story

ENJOY THE MOVIE AT CHURCH OR HOME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

MOVIES WILL BE SHOWN AT
CHURCH ON FRIDAYS, NOV.
7TH, 14TH & 21ST AT 7 PM
FREE ADMISSION



★ NOVEMBER 16 ★
"BIG HERO 6"



★ NOVEMBER 9 ★
"K-POP DEMON HUNTERS"



★ NOVEMBER 23 ★
"LITTLE BOY"

 Caldwell United Methodist Church



WEST ESSEX MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

INVITES YOU TO A

Community Interfaith
THANKSGIVING SERVICE

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING TO UNITE WITH YOUR
NEIGHBORS AND GIVE THANKS.
FATHER THOMAS DENTE OF NOTRE DAME ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL BE GIVING THE SERMON.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025
7:30PM

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ISRAEL

20 Academy Road; Caldwell

Nonperishable food items and/or monetary donations will be collected to
benefit the Caldwell Food Pantry and the Community Foodbank of NJ.

Thank you for your support.

Those at home may join us by the following links:

<http://www.agudath.org/livestream>





Upcoming Events for 2025

Caldwell United Methodist Church

Life is Better Together!



Join Us for Worship Sundays @ 10 am

November 2	Communion
November 23	Thanksgiving Sunday
November 30	Youth Sunday
December 6/7	Hanging of the Greens
December 7	Communion Sunday - Prayer Doves
December 13	Blue Christmas Service
December 14	Christmas Concert
December 24	Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30 pm
December 28	Hymn Sing

November



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Saturday AA 10:00 pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10 am Communion Sunday AA 6:30 pm		Trustees meeting 7:30 pm HUB 3-5 pm		HUB 3-5 pm	Tea & Coffee Social 9:30 am	Saturday AA 10:00 pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		HUB 3-5 pm Veterans Day		HUB 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 10:00 pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		Church Council meeting 7:30 pm HUB 3-5 pm		Essex Photo Club 7 pm HUB 3-5 pm		Saturday AA 10:00 pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Thanksgiving Sunday 10 am Sunday AA 6:30 pm		HUB 3-5 pm Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:30 pm				Saturday AA 10:00 pm
30						
Worship 10 am Youth Sunday Sunday AA 6:30 pm						



Caldwell United Methodist Church

Life is Better Together!

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**

**Invite a friend or family
member to join
in worship**

