



# FIRST PRESS

**March 22nd, 2020**

Dear Friends in Christ,

We hope this finds each of you healthy and safely sheltered at home.

As our community life is transformed in many ways, we are so grateful that we were able to worship last week via Facebook Live. 78 families joined us online and we hope to reach even more in the coming weeks.

Session met on Tuesday and decided to suspend “in-person worship” until further notice. We will hold worship each Sunday at 9:30am, which will include elements of both the traditional and Illuminate services. You can access us via Facebook Live. We invite you to follow The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell page and tune in each week.

Our highest priority is the health and safety of our congregation and community. Please note the following steps we are taking:

- The church building is closed to all committee meetings and outside groups. Essential staff is working in the building but are encouraged to work from home if possible.
- If you have an immediate pastoral care need during this crisis, please contact us directly at
  - Pastor Don 973-487-7401
  - Pastor Barb 201-349-7355
- Children’s and Youth Ministries are working on providing remote learning opportunities.
- Of course, one of the implications of suspending public worship is that our regular offering isn’t being collected. As it is essential to pay our staff and meet our current obligations, we ask if you are able, please mail your offering to the church or visit [www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate) to submit your offering online. Knowing that our income could be impacted, we invite those with extra resources to consider making a special gift.

As always, we want to be a pastoral presence in your life. Please contact us with any concerns or questions you may have. We pray for the day when we can talk about this in the past tense, but until then we want to be the body of Christ together.

We encourage you to keep those most affected by this situation around the world in your prayers. If you would like to submit a prayer request online, visit [www.firstprescaldwell.org/prayer-requests](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org/prayer-requests). Prayers will be offered during the 9:30am worship service. As always, we place our trust in Jesus and are grateful that we have been called together into this community of faith.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Don Brown & Pastor Barb Piercy

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER OPPORTUNITIES

### HOLY WEEK

#### **Sunday, April 5th**

9:30 AM - Palm Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
11:00 AM – Palm Sunday Illuminate Service in the Chapel



#### **Thursday, April 9th**

7:30 PM - Maundy Thursday Worship Service in the Sanctuary

#### **Friday, April 10th**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM - Good Friday Children's Program  
12:00PM - Good Friday Meditation in the Chapel  
7:00 PM - Good Friday Illuminate Service in Fellowship Hall

#### **Saturday, April 11th**

8:00 PM - Easter Vigil Worship Service in the Sanctuary (begins on the lawn)

### EASTER SUNDAY

#### **Sunday, April 12th**

6:15 AM – Early Dawn Worship Service in the Old Burying Ground  
9:30 AM – Festival Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
10:30 AM – Easter Egg Hunt in the Old Burial Ground  
11:00 AM – Easter Illuminate Service in Fellowship Hall



**MANY OF THESE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE GIVEN THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY. IN THE EVENT THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO MEET IN PERSON, WE WILL WORK TO PROVIDE AN ONLINE EXPERIENCE FOR EACH OF THE OPPORTUNITIES LISTED ABOVE.**

### **JOHN R. AND INGE P. STAFFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

On March 18, 2014 the Session at the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell established the John R. and Inge P. Stafford Memorial Scholarship. We are excited once again to be able to offer Scholarships for the 2020– 2021 academic school year. This scholarship is open to anyone planning to attend or who is already attending a 2 or 4 year accredited college. Applications are available online at [www.firstprescaldwell.org/memorial-scholarship](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org/memorial-scholarship) can be submitted online by emailing Kaitlyn Heun at [kaitlynheun@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlynheun@gmail.com). **Application Due Date: 5:00 PM April 15, 2020**

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### **VIRTUAL CUPCAKE WARS**

Instead of hosting our Cupcake Wars event in-person, we'll be holding a virtual contest open to all youth in 5th through 8th grades! We are encouraging you to bake and decorate cupcakes at home and share your best cupcake with us! Submit a picture of your decorated cupcake to [youthministry@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto:youthministry@firstprescaldwell.org) by Sunday, March 29th. We will then post all picture on Facebook anonymously and have our community vote for their favorite cupcake based on creativity! The winner will be announced on Sunday, April 5th and they will receive a \$25 gift card to a local eatery!

### **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUSE**

Unfortunately, our Youth Coffee House events are cancelled until further notice; but we still want to see your performances! Please send us a video of your performance—music, poetry, comedy, etc. Get creative and send your video to [youthministry@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto:youthministry@firstprescaldwell.org) by Sunday, March 29th. Videos will be posted on our youth Instagram page @fpcaldwellyouth and our youth ministry Facebook group. Ages 13-20 are encouraged to submit a video!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### **LENTEN CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

The mid-week program is cancelled until further notice. Bible study and music resources will be posted soon!

### **WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY**



*"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after winter."*  
Rachel Carson

To find out more about this caring, listening, confidential ministry call the confidential line at 973-228-0310 ext. 235, or speak to one of our pastors.

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Live  
Lent  
with Love