



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 20th, 2020

CHRISTMAS LIVESTREAM SERVICES

Sunday, December 20th—9:30AM

Family Christmas Service

The children and youth will present the Christmas story in word and song in a virtual Christmas Pageant.



Wednesday, December 23rd—7:00PM

Illuminate Christmas Service

Exploring the meaning of Christmas through interviews with members of our church family and through song.

Thursday, December 24th—Christmas Eve—8:00PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Special choir music, Christmas Brass, and our handbells highlight this worship experience. Have a candle or small light ready to use at home during the singing of “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World” at the end of the service.



CHRISTMAS EVE OUTDOOR GATHERING—IN PERSON



Thursday, December 24th—

Christmas Eve—9:30PM

Christmas Eve Outdoor Gathering

Share the joy of Christ’s birth at an in-person time of music, prayer and message on the church lawn. Glow sticks will be available in place of candles. Pre-registration required as space is limited. [Click here to register.](#)

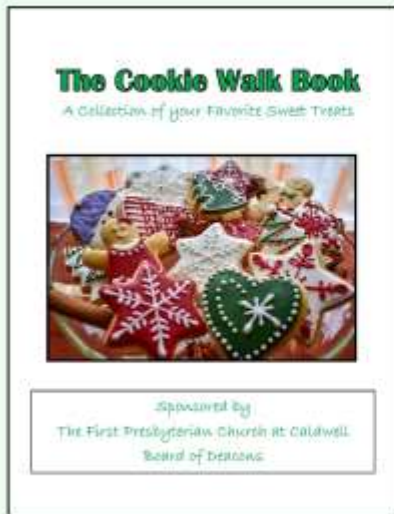
SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS LIVESTREAM CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

Sunday, December 27th—9:30AM

Christmas Carol Sing

We will be having a Christmas Carol Sing during worship on Sunday, December 27th.

[Click here to submit a request for your favorite Christmas carol.](#)



On Sale Now!

Available for Pick Up
or Shipping*

For ordering information go to
www.firstprescaldwell.org

Cost: \$ 20 per book

*Plus shipping if you choose this option

If you have questions please email:
1stpres.cookiewalk@gmail.com

A SWEET SURPRISE!

The December Cookie Walk at The First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell is a beloved and anticipated tradition in the West Essex Community. It also is a vital fundraiser for a variety of ministries during the following program year. Since 2020 presents many challenges with regard to safe gathering, the Board of Deacons has prepared a collection of recipes in the form of a "Cookie Walk Book" in hopes of spreading cheer, while still providing support to FPC. Orders may be placed on the church website at www.firstprescaldwell.org/cookie-walk-book, at a cost of \$20 per book. Currently, on the website, you will find an order form that you may print and return to First Pres, and an online ordering option. Please consider purchasing a cookbook for yourself, family members, neighbors, or friends near or far. It will be the perfect stocking stuffer or holiday treat! Wishing you a sweet and blessed holiday season!



CHRISTMAS COVID CONCERT

A special Christmas COVID Concert was released last Sunday, December 6th. [Click here to watch the hour long concert!](#) Special songs sung by: Michael Hardenberg, Rae de la Cretaz, Michael Restaino, Lauren Restaino, Scott & Michelle Westenberger, Sarah Solie, Tap Dance - Adriana Pierce and Michael Hardenberg, and featuring a special presentation by the Headmaster Singers from Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville, TN, directed by Westminster Choir Alum, Michael Colavita, Director of Choral Activities at the school. Plus, a visit from Santa Claus!!



MORE THAN 250 ITEMS COLLECTED

The Deacons thank you for the overwhelming and generous response to our "Share the Warmth" drive! Over 250 items were collected, and shared with our Mission partners. Specifically, 20 children's items were contributed to our Nursery School's drive for the Salvation Army, more than 160 items were given to Our Lady of the Valley's Soup Kitchen to meet immediate needs as well as provide warm Christmas gifts, and the remaining items deemed appropriate for OASIS and St. John's Soup Kitchen are being routed

their way. Thank you for supporting this special drive and providing comfort and joy to our neighbors in need. Wishing you all the blessings of the Christmas Season!

A TOTAL OF 1204 ITEMS WERE PURCHASED

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the overwhelming kindness of our congregation in support of the Oasis Christmas Giving Tree Project. The total number of gifts we collected through the Target Gift Registry was a record breaking 1204 gifts! We were able to deliver 724 toys, 106 winter coats, 40 pajamas, 154 hats, and gloves, 69 books, along with 755 pairs of Underwear and 8 baby items to a most appreciative organization in Paterson. Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we have been able to brighten the Christmas season to those less fortunate.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Ellen "Elf" Johnson



SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

The Christmas Season is upon us and again we ask for your help in making this holiday wonderful for our clients at Our Lady of the Valley. First and foremost we need to thank our marvelous cooks for their continued donations and their hearts for service. God Bless.

PANS ARE OUT, and as we approach Christmas and the beginning of a new year we need to remember that there are families who are still in need of our help. So, pick up a pan to prepare a meal. Lets serve in the name of the Lord.

As mentioned last month, the Soup Kitchen/Sandwich Night Committee is now serving at Our Lady of the Valley every Thursday, we are asking our congregation if they would be willing to prepare or provide a main dish, 2 dozen eggs, or a dessert.

If you wish to help, please contact Joyce McGrath, 201-738-6531 or email at jlmlamby@aol.com. Once again, we appreciate our church family for all you do. Blessings to all in this Season of Hope, stay safe and healthy.

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry has started on its spiritual journey to offer prayers for the needs and interests of others. Please note: All are welcome to participate in this journey ...

To join, please contact Barbara Heil by email: prayerministry@firstprescaldwell.org or by phone: 973-227-1343. Please provide your name and email or phone number.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 weekly offering envelopes will be mailed directly to your home on a quarterly schedule. This will replace the previous full year weekly offering envelope booklets. Any questions, please call the church office.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to those of you who have already submitted your pledge to the work of Christ through FPC for the year 2021.

As of Friday, December 18, 2020, we have received 56 pledges totaling \$229,180 .

For the 2020 year, there were 124 pledges received, totaling \$414,057.11.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR 2021 PLEDGE ONLINE](#)

Abundant Life



Joyous Generosity

WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

*“When they saw the star they rejoiced with
great joy.”*

Matthew 2:10

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.*



OUR STAFF

Rev. Bill Schram, Interim Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy, Minister of Music

Noel Piercy, Associate Director of Music

Kaitlyn Heun, Interim Director Youth Ministries

Susan Jones, Interim Director Children's Ministry

Scott Westenberger, Worship Leader

Lauren Restaino, Youth Ministry &

Communications Coordinator

Christine Brunner, Office Manager

Chris White, Building Manager/Head Sexton

Brittany Heun, Sunday Receptionist

Kathleen Carlson, Director

Weekday Nursery School - 973-226-6674

<http://www.firstpresnurseryschool.com>

David Hicock, Superintendent

Prospect Hill Cemetery - 973-228-4410

prospecthillcemetery@firstprescaldwell.org

Dr. Robert R. McGruther, Pastor Emeritus

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 submit online at
www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate. Knowing that our
income could be impacted, we invite those with
extra resources to consider making a special gift.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07006

Office Hours: M-Th 8AM - 4PM, F 8AM - 3PM

Office Phone: 973-228-0310

e-mail address: fpc@firstprescaldwell.org

website: www.firstprescaldwell.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, December 20th

9:30 AM Family Christmas Worship Service, Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream

6:00 PM Youth Choir

MONDAY, December 21st

10:00 AM Advent Study, Zoom Meeting

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

TUESDAY, December 22nd

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120

7:00 PM Worship Committee, Zoom Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 23rd

8:30 AM RRC Meeting, Zoom Meeting

7:00 PM Illuminate Christmas Service, Livestream

7:15 PM Advent Study, Zoom Meeting

THURSDAY, December 24th

Christmas Eve

8:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Livestream

9:30 PM Christmas Eve Outdoor Gathering, Church Lawn

FRIDAY, December 25th

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, December 27th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream