



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, January 10th, 2020

SERMON QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 10TH

1. What does baptism mean to you?
2. In what ways is your baptism similar to and different than Jesus' baptism?
3. How does it feel to know you are God's beloved child?
4. What does it mean to you to see yourself called as a servant of Jesus' love?
5. What is peculiar/unique about our calling at baptism?

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

This was a very challenging year for us all but, we got through 2020. Not only did we get through, our congregation continued to support and volunteer to keep this ministry active.

For the 2021 beginning season, PANS ARE OUT, WE HAVE 2 SATURDAYS THIS MONTH, **Saturday, January 23rd & Saturday, January 30th**. Pick up your pan and allow us to continue this glorious mission. The pans for the 23rd are on the shelf under the bulletin board, they are orange in color, pans for the 30th are on the Christian Ed Desk, gold in color. Please be aware of your date and color and when to drop off.

BLESSINGS FOR A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR, peace, love, happiness and health.
Soup Kitchen/Sandwich Night Committee

“TIME TO TALK”

The Reopening and Revitalizing Reopening and Revitalizing During COVID-19 Session Subcommittee (RRC) will host **“Time to Talk” on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 pm starting Jan. 13 via Zoom**. Pastor Bill and a member or two of the RRC will be present to engage in conversation, hear any concerns or questions regarding reopening for in-person worship, revitalizing the church during COVID-19, or just to chat. The Zoom link for this is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82965137916?pwd=REhiSXpBTWtZWVhJmMk2d0EvTmsyZz09>

FOUR Week ZOOM Study from Adult Education
Great Themes of the Bible
Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:30
Jan 20th, Jan 27th, Feb 3rd, Feb 10th

Viewed as one whole document, what is the Bible saying? What are the big messages by which interior messages are to be interpreted? Our study, guided by Pastor Bill Schram, will lead us through four key messages, covered in FOUR Sessions.

GOD IS WITH US; we are not fugitives wandering the earth bereft of larger meaning.

GOD RELATES TO “THE LEAST OF THESE”; God is most concerned not with kings and human power but with “the least of these my brothers and sisters.”

GOD LOVES US; at the center of the creation is a heart of compassion.

GOD IS ALWAYS BIGGER THAN WE THINK; our minds are repeatedly too small to fathom the enormity of God’s mind and heart.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, January 15th

RSVP to adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org with your NAME, PHONE #, EMAIL

NO BOOK NECESSARY

READINGS will be forwarded to you after registration, 3-4 pages for each session

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational meeting and election of officers will be on **Sunday, January 24, at 10:30am**. It will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. Follow this link to access the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84407070567?pwd=VWNMTk5XUTFIQWtBMmpHdVRIN2R6dz09>

REGISTER TO RECEIVE YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE TODAY

We hear that one of the steps to being back together is to be vaccinated for Covid19. On Tuesday, January 5, the state opened a portal for you to pre-register for vaccine if you are 16 or older. Each person in a family must register. This registration will help the distribution of vaccines since the state will be able to see how many doses are needed, where and when. This portal will send you an email when your turn arrives. It may be for vaccine at one of the state sites or it may list other sites where you can then make an appointment. Please remember to register at covid19.nj.gov today so you don’t forget this important step towards being together again.

MASKS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church has received a generous donation of disposable surgical masks from Sean and Kristen Glasser through Sean’s company Blue Track, Inc. This donation was made to assist members of our congregation individually, as well as being a resource for the church when we are able to safely resume in person worship. If you are in need of masks, please call the office at 973-228-0310 to arrange a pick up time.

FPC's MLK Jr. Day of Service Project 2021

Since 1994, the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday has been designated as a national day of service. This year, the Facing Racism Task Force and Confirmation Class of First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell invite you to participate (in-person or remotely) in a MLK Jr. Day of Service Project benefitting the food pantry for Oasis – A Haven For Women And Children.

We will be collecting any of the requested items to help restock the food pantry of Oasis, which is a mission partner of FPC. Since the start of the pandemic, Oasis has been facilitating a very large food distribution effort by providing for families in need and impacted by COVID-19, both hot-meals-to-go, as well as bags of shelf-stable foods and other needed items.

Requested items:

Food (Please check expiration dates, and if possible, choose low sugar/ low salt and whole grain options. Thanks!)

Dry beans -1 pound bag Black or Red Beans,
Canned Beans such as Kidney, Black, Pinto
or Chick Pea
Rice – one pound bags or Box
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Spam/Vienna Sausages in a can
Canned Vegetables (low salt)
Canned Soups
Cereal - Oatmeal
Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup
Canned fruit in natural juices
Canned Tuna, Salmon, or Chicken
Macaroni and Cheese -7.25oz Boxes
Pasta / Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce & Tomato Sauce – **no glass jars**
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Beef Stew or Chili
Milk (Parmalat)
Baby Formula – all varieties

Personal Hygiene Items

Toilet Paper
Laundry
Detergent
Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Shampoo & Conditioner
Deodorant

We will be stationed outside of FPC on circle/staff parking lot to receive drive-by donations:

Dates: Sunday 1-17-21

Monday 1-18-21 (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Times: From 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (both days)

How: Socially distanced and following COVID-19 prevention protocols

If you would prefer to participate 100% remotely, there will be a donate button for monetary donations towards this project on the church website. FPC will be happy to do the shopping for you!

In addition, members of the Task Force will also be stationed in the parking lot of Jack's Foodtown to collect donations from the community from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on 1-18-21. Please also note that there will be a rain date of 1-23-21 if either collection dates (1-17-21 or 1-18-21) are cancelled due to inclement weather. We would love for you to partake in 2021's MLK Jr. Day of Service Project in whatever way you feel comfortable; and in doing so, assist FPC continue to help realize Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

For questions or more information, Please email facinigracismfirstpres@gmail.com.

John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

JANUARY COVID CONCERT

In honor of Epiphany (January 6), the COVID CONCERT series features special selections from Advent worship services and Christmas Eve 2020. Enjoy listening to your holiday favorites as we officially end the Christmas season. Thank you to the 50 singers, ringers and instrumentalists who blessed us with their musical talents during the Christmas Season. Not only can you enjoy watching the concert as a video but also enjoy listening to just the audio. A wonderful treat while driving!! The January COVID Concert features Chancel Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs, Soloists: Rae de la Cretaz, Madison Goodson, Micki Hardenberg, Paul Salierno, Alan Smulen, Dancer: Chloe Wynne, Brass, Organ & Timpani. [Click here to view the full video.](#)

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 2021

Looking for a chance to brighten some lives? You're invited to join the group of caring souls who write to our homebound members. Staying in touch during the pandemic has become even more important—but one avenue not closed to us is the U.S. mail! You and a partner will be assigned a month of your choice, and we'll give you a list of about twenty names to send a "thinking of you" card that includes a personal message. Especially during 2020, our recipients have been truly appreciative, as our homebound friends are touched to be remembered by their church family. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you have questions about what you'd be signing up for, call or text Jack and Lynne Stoddard at 973-896-8216.

Thanks to the writers who reached out so thoughtfully in 2020: Laura Bogert, Gordon and Kathleen Bruchac, Deb Califf, Diane Casciano, Nancy Franks, Barbara Heil, Carol Ingersoll, Lois Jackson, Barbara Liptak, Nancy Meehan, Max and Elizabeth Oehler, Sue Olsen, Pam Ramsden, Debbie Reynolds, Lois Schnell, Sarah Solie, Mary Ann Straub, Sue Tannler, and Alison White; and our Teen Writing Team of college students August Bogert and Courtney Tannler. We extend a warm welcome to new volunteer Gail Marie Stewart, and look forward to other new writers joining the group.

Volunteers are not paid...not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

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 Wednesday, January 6, 2021, we have received 72 pledges totaling \$263,640.00

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

THE COOKIE WALK BOOK—18 BOOKS LEFT

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. Wishing you a sweet and blessed holiday season!

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.



**HOW CAN WE
PRAY FOR YOU?**

Submit a prayer request at
www.firstprescaldwell.org/prayer-request

WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

“One kind word can warm three winter months.”

Japanese Proverb

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

Irma Clare, Administrative Assistant

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

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, January 10th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Livestream
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream
6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, Church Lawn

TUESDAY, January 12th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120
6:00 PM Finance Committee, Zoom Meeting
7:00 PM Deacons, Zoom Meeting

WEDNESDAY, January 13th

8:30 AM RRC Meeting, Zoom Meeting
5:00 PM "Time to Talk," Zoom Meeting

SUNDAY, January 17th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Livestream
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream
1:00 PM MLK Jr. Day of Service Collection, Driveway
6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, Church Lawn or Zoom