



# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, January 31st, 2021

## SERMON QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 31ST

1. Do you remember having a version of the "God as cosmic Santa Claus" way of thinking?
2. Think about John 3:16. What does this verse tell us about: the nature of God; the nature of people; the relationship between God and people?
3. What does the sending in John 20:21 mean to you?
4. What do you recognize as the nature and purpose of Jesus' earthly mission/ (Luke 4:18,19)
5. What does it mean to you to now be both a channel and recipient of grace in a hurting world?
6. In what ways might our church unwittingly show the badness of "goodness dammed up?"

[DOWNLOAD SERMON QUESTIONS RESOURCE](#)

## PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT IS DUE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2021



**Per Capita Apportionment** is the amount of money paid to the presbytery, synod and General Assembly by every Presbyterian Church to share in the cost of coordinating and evaluating mission. **Per Capita** is calculated on church membership, based on the assigned amount for **2021 of \$32.00 per active member** (active members include confirmed youth, as well as adults).

On **February 21st**, the “**Per Capita Special Offering**” will be received and you are invited and encouraged to participate by contributing the amount of **\$32.00** for each active member in your family. For each of us to give our per capita apportionment is a special gift to our church and contributes to its overall mission. Submit your per capita by choosing ‘Per Capita 2021’ on the donate page: <https://www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate>.



## SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

The pans are out and ready for pick up for our February soup kitchen. We are excited to announce a new day—Thursday. For more information reach out to Joyce McGrath, 201-738-6531. Thank you for your support!

The Adult Ed. Committee wants to share this opportunity with the congregation. Congregation Agudath Israel is one of our fellow members of the West Essex Ministerial Alliance.

/ CONGREGATION AGUDATH ISRAEL & ADL PRESENT /

# ISRAEL: JEWISH, DEMOCRATIC AND RELIGIOUSLY DIVERSE - HOW DO WE MAKE IT WORK?

**Sunday, February 7, 2021  
Noon EST**

Panel Discussion featuring:

- **Rabbi Michael Melchior**, former Israel Minister of Social & Diaspora Affairs
- **Qadi Iyad Zahalka**, Director of the Sharia Courts in Israel
- **Pierbattista Pizaballa**, Latin Patriarch

Moderated by **Carole Nuriel**, ADL Israel Director

Our panel of religious dignitaries will discuss how Israel engages with religious diversity, while trying to maintain her mission as a state for the Jewish people.

RSVP at <https://www.agudath.org/online-events.html>. Zoom information to follow for registrants.

Sponsored by:



agudath.org | adl.org

## **“TIME TO TALK”**

The Reopening and Revitalizing During COVID-19 Session Subcommittee (RRC) will host a “Time to Talk” (open house / drop-in format) via Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month. A few members 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. Please note that the time for the 4th Wednesday Zoom event has been moved to 6:30-7:30 pm. The second Wednesday of the month meeting time will remain from 5:00-6:00 pm.

## **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, January 15, 2021, we have received 73 pledges totaling \$265,460.00.

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*

## **FACING RACISM TASK FORCE BOOK STUDY**

First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell's Facing Racism Task Force will be holding a six part winter/spring book study about the PCUSA recommended book - No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice. This study will be via Zoom from 7:30 pm-8:45 pm (every other week) on the following dates: Feb. 22, March 8, March 22, April 5, April 19, and May 3. FRTF is able to provide a free copy of this book to participants. To order your book and reserve a spot in this book study please RSVP by Feb. 14 to [facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com). All are welcome!

**HOW CAN WE  
PRAY FOR YOU?**

Submit a prayer request at  
[www.firstprescaldwell.org/prayer-request](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org/prayer-request)

## **IT'S NOT EASY TO SIGN UP FOR THE VACCINE, BUT HERE ARE A FEW WAYS:**

### 1. [Covid19.nj.gov](https://covid19.nj.gov).

Visit the site and register for the vaccine, if you already haven't. Once registered, you will receive an email with a place to click "Here" and you will have appointments to sign up for. Be sure to save the email as you will need it to sign up again if the first place does not work out. Don't pick a close distance, as you won't get anything. One known experience was choosing 25 miles which came up with a list with all close places filled. The choices were Elizabeth or Raritan Valley Community College in Somerset. But two drives to Somerset may be worth vaccine.

If you click on how and where can I get vaccinated, you will come up with a list of places.

Under "Click here to view a full list of these designated vaccination sites" click.

Go to Morris County and find Morris County Megasite, and click on the link to [health.morriscountynj.gov](https://health.morriscountynj.gov). Once in that site go to the very bottom and click on <https://bit.ly/3onkSkC>, and this will take you to the place to pre-register with Atlantic Healthcare for the Megasite at the Sears at Rockaway Townsquare Mall.

### 2. [Essexcovid.org](https://essexcovid.org).

You have to keep going in as they keep adding dates, and you may have the site tell you no vaccines are available on a given date, and as they get vaccines, it may change. So right now it is saying no vaccine on any of the dates they have listed, but as vaccines come in that will change. People are going in a few times a day and eventually getting a slot. This is an annoying site as you have to put in a lot of information each time. It is your way to the school on Passaic Ave or the Kmart in West Orange.

3. Both Vanguard and Summit Medical are contacting their patients to schedule. They call you rather than you initiating the call.

4. Shop Rite, CVS, and other sites are available with more limited numbers.

Persistence pays.

## **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.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

This year is different for many reasons. But, one thing that is the same: the need to tackle hunger with the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year, the need for hunger relief in our country has grown exponentially. Our local food charities need our help!

More than 30 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.” Since that day, more than \$100 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Souper Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving. Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need.



Each year, our FPC middle schoolers collect and organize donations for the Caldwell Food Pantry. In 2020, we collected \$353.00 and 410 cans of food. Our goal for this year is \$360.00 and 500 cans of food! **Our collection will run until the Big Game Day on Sunday, February 7th.** There are three ways in which you can help us reach our goal and donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative:

1. Direct food donations (contactless) can be made via <https://yougivegoods.com/FPCCaldwell>. Shop online using the link provided and all donations will be delivered to the Caldwell Food Pantry after the drive is over.
2. Monetary donations will be accepted online and through the church office. To donate online, please visit [www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate) and click ‘Souper Bowl of Caring’ in the drop down menu. You may also mail checks to the church office made out to The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell, or drop off a monetary donation during church office hours. If writing a check, please indicate “Souper Bowl of Caring” in the memo.
3. There will be a bin at the Christian Ed Desk to drop off canned goods during church office hours.

We invite you to be a part of the tradition of using the energy of the Big Game to tackle hunger. Every dollar and can of soup donated goes to the Caldwell Food Pantry. Thank you for helping make a collective impact on hunger!



## CELEBRATE A SPECIAL OCCASION WITH FLOWERS

A donation to the flower fund is an opportunity for members to publicly express their special concerns and share their generous support. Our congregation benefits from this offering in special ways. Of course, worshippers appreciate the beautiful reminder of God's work on earth. Also, these floral arrangements are separated into smaller bouquets which are then presented to individual church members to recognize their personal joys, sorrows and accomplishments.

During this time of virtual worship, we are not consistently decorating the sanctuary with fresh flowers as we have previously. However, there are many families who enjoy honoring loved ones, past and present, with flowers to commemorate a special date. That opportunity is still available. During those special weeks we will arrange to have a fresh arrangement in the sanctuary for Sunday worship, to honor special family members or friends. Simply complete the flower memorial order form. Mail or drop off your form, along with a check to the church. You may also make your request via telephone call to the office with the details, and pay on-line.

**A suggested offering of \$40.00** can be made Payable to the First Presbyterian Church. Please write FLOWER FUND on the memo line.

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Envelope #** \_\_\_\_\_

The enclosed donation to the First Presbyterian Church Flower Fund is given:

( ) **In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

( ) **In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

( ) **To Celebrate:** \_\_\_\_\_

( ) **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

These flowers should be placed in the sanctuary during the month of \_\_\_\_\_

( ) First Sunday                      ( ) Second Sunday                      ( ) Third Sunday

( ) Fourth Sunday                      ( ) Fifth Sunday

**\*\*Please note—in 2021 there will be no flower memorials on:  
April 4 (Easter); November 21st or 28th (Thanksgiving); December  
12th, 19th or 26th (Christmas Poinsettias)**

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	
Amount Paid \$	_____
Check #	_____
Cash	_____
Date Paid	_____



## WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

*"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."*  
Aristotle

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 Hicoek**, Superintendent

Prospect Hill Cemetery - 973-228-4410

[prospecthillcemetery@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:fpc@firstprescaldwell.org)

website: [www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### **SUNDAY, January 31st**

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

### **MONDAY, February 1st**

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

### **TUESDAY, February 2nd**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120

### **WEDNESDAY, February 3rd**

8:30 AM RRC Meeting, Zoom Meeting

### **THURSDAY, February 4th**

6:30 PM Chancel Handbell Choir, Sanctuary  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir, Zoom Meeting

### **SUNDAY, February 7th**

9:30 AM Worship Service, Livestream  
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting  
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream  
5:00 PM Youth Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, Church Lawn