



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, February 7th, 2021

SERMON QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 7TH

1. Have you ever found it hard to move on from something warm and comfortable?
2. Jeremiah spoke in the years before Babylon conquered Israel. The people of Jerusalem and the kingdom of Judah believed that since God had promised to dwell with them with the Temple as God's house, all would be well. They forgot that God had made a covenant with David and the people and covenant had responsibilities from both parties. As the royal and religious authorities acted in ways contrary to God's laws regarding treatment of the less privileged of the kingdom, and then dabbled with other gods, Jeremiah warned them that God wouldn't necessarily protect them against Babylon. How do you think that word was received?
3. Can you think of similar situations in history?
4. If someone stood on the steps of FPC and said God was passing judgement on things going on in the country, and people who assumed God was on their side, how would you react?
5. Have you ever yourself, or have you known someone who resisted what was good for them like the man possessed by demons did when facing Jesus?
6. What comfortable burrows do churches like to remain in rather than face up to where Jesus is calling them?

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>.

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 and click 'Souper Bowl of Caring' in the drop down menu. Monetary donations can also be made online through the Souper Bowl of Caring website, <https://map.tacklehunger.org/donate/firstpres>, and will be sent directly to the Caldwell Food Pantry.
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!

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL FEBRUARY FOUNDATIONS

Our Sunday School will spend four weeks in February discovering some foundations of our faith. Kindergarten and 1st grade will learn The Lord's Prayer, 2nd grade will learn about Communion, 3rd grade will learn the 23rd Psalm, 4th, 5th and 6th grade will learn the Apostles' Creed.

We are excited for the opportunity to both teach and learn with the children! Please help by keeping us in your prayers as we learn these new things and encourage your child throughout these weeks as we grow together in faith. Be sure to join us on Sunday, March 7th when the children share what they've learned in our livestream Family Worship Service.

"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. A few members of the RRC will be present to hear any concerns or questions regarding reopening for in-person worship and/or revitalizing the church during COVID-19, or just simply to chat. **The second Wednesday of the month meeting time is from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. The Zoom link for this Wednesday's (2-10-21) Time to Talk from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm is:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81690322284?pwd=UnViVU9KUW8yaTFUMy94MWxzTi8xZz09>
Meeting ID: 816 9032 2284 Passcode: 724849 or dial+1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Hope to see you there!

*Please note that the time for the 4th Wednesday Zoom event (2-24-21) will be at the later time slot of 6:30-7:30 pm and a different link will be sent out for that event.

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. All are welcome!



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 visit <https://conta.cc/2NYtfpz> or reach out to Joyce McGrath, 201-738-6531. Thank you for your support!



ASH WEDNESDAY— FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday, Feb 17, 2021 begins the season of Lent. We will observe it in ways geared to show our faith while observing healthy practices in these times.

There will be a pre-recorded service available to view at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

There will be an in person short prayer and song outdoor worship at 7:30 pm. Ash Wednesday stickers will be passed out to participants.

Reservations will be required. REGISTER HERE: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJYqWLA8R52Klbrfbk7LZdoUSP6cy19iAfzqu20tPxtw4hhQ/viewform?gxids=7628>

All are invited to drive through the circular driveway and pick up Ash Wednesday stickers from 4:30-5:30 pm and 8:00-9:00 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 Wednesday, February 3, 2021, we have received 78 pledges totaling \$290,502.06.

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

**HOW CAN WE
PRAY FOR YOU?**

Submit a prayer request at
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. 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.



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)**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Amount Paid \$	_____
Check #	_____
Cash	_____
Date Paid	_____

WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

*"The pine stays green in winter; wisdom in
hardship."*

Norman Douglas, British Poet

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, 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

TUESDAY, February 9th

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

WEDNESDAY, February 10th

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

THURSDAY, February 11th

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

SUNDAY, February 14th

- 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