



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

VIRTUAL BLOOD DRIVE

We are all so excited about the plans to reopen the sanctuary for in-person worship! Spring is upon us with the promise of renewal, such a fitting time for reopening. It is also a time to give the gift of life by donating blood to those who desperately need it.



During the month of May, the Board of Deacons at First Pres are hosting its first-ever Virtual Blood Drive in partnership with Vitalant.


What's a Virtual Blood Drive? It provides you with the ability to make your blood donation appointment online at a time that is convenient for you. You can choose from one of four nearby locations: Parsippany, Paramus, Montvale or Lincoln Park. Then, on the appointed day, travel to the selected location and give your blood donation. Vitalant is very diligent in its adherence to all COVID-19 protocols to ensure the safety and well-being of all donors.

First Pres has a long history as a host of successful blood drives and with your participation, we can continue this success despite the challenges we face because of COVID-19. Please take a few minutes to follow the simple steps below to sign up for an appointment to donate blood during May. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of others!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE VIRTUAL BLOOD DRIVE LINK](#)

STEPS TO SIGN UP FOR VIRTUAL BLOOD DRIVE

1. After clicking on link, you will be taken to the Pledge page of the Vitalant website. Here, you are asked to state your intention to donate a life-saving blood product.
2. Click submit on lower right of page. You will now proceed to the Vitalant home page. Click 'Donate Now'.
3. Select the donor center that is convenient for you.
4. Select the type of donation: Whole blood, Double Red, Platelets, or Plasma.
5. Select your appointment date and time. Follow the instructions to schedule your appointment.

Thank you... 

INDOOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Members and friends of FPC Caldwell, I look forward to our next step together as we begin to phase in indoor, in-person worship starting May 2 at 9:30am. It will be good to see some of you when I look out from the pulpit.

We will be back together but not exactly the way we used to be. Continuing concern for health and safety will impact what Sunday mornings will look like. When worshipping indoors, we will see the following:

1. Social distancing requirements mean people will be spread out and people can sit together only with others from their own household.
2. All will need to wear masks throughout the service.
3. There will be no congregational singing or spoken prayers and response. As we have learned, no one can say it without spraying it, to borrow a childhood phrase.
4. Advance registration and reservations will be required and will begin the Monday before the service.
5. Sign in will include attesting to having no symptoms, no fever, no recent travel to areas requiring quarantining on return.
6. You will be seated in designated spots starting at the front of the sanctuary and moving to the rear. No more just sitting in "my usual spot."
7. Choir music (vocal and handbell) will be presented virtually in most cases.
8. There will be no lingering in clusters for conversation before or after worship while on the church grounds.

As knowledge and guidance change, some things are likely to be added to this list of differences and some will be adjusted.

Worship has always meant sharing in God's "Shalom" - the peace and sense of health and well-being from God. We will simply be honoring the full meaning of that Shalom. We ask your positive spirit and cooperation as we take these next steps.

Peace
Pastor Bill

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MOTHER'S DAY CARDS

The Women's Fellowship is selling Mother's Day Cards to benefit the Church World Service. Cwsglobal.org CWS helps families around the world recover from disaster, displacement, and build viable sustainable lives and communities.

The Women's Fellowship is once again offering a special gift idea for Mother's Day or any other special occasion. Donate a blanket in honor of that special person in your life! For only \$5.00 you can help provide warmth, protection and comfort to children and adults throughout the world. With every \$5.00 donation you provide a good wool or cotton blend blanket.

When possible, blankets are purchased close to the scene of a disaster, to speed delivery and to spur the local economy. You will receive a lovely note card suitable for mailing to the person who is special to you letting them know about the way you have honored them and helped others in their name. Keep in mind you may also order Father's Day (coming up soon), Special Occasion, or Memorial cards!

You can order and purchase via our online link below or call the church office at 973-228-0310 to order and mail a check. If you order online, be sure to choose the drop down tab that says "Mother's Day Cards/Special Occasion." The number of cards that you order will be mailed to your home for you to personalize for your loved ones.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)

**"You Asked For It" will be the theme
of sermons in July and August and
Pastor Bill needs your help.
Between now and the end of June,
please turn in topics, or scripture
passages you would want explored
in a sermon. Email Bill at
bill@firstprescaldwell.org with
your requests, or contact the
church office.**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received at FPC between Easter and Mother's Day, May 9, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.**

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) : Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees : Receives 32% of funds raised

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP) : Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed : Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP) : Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues : Receives 32% of funds raised

Our church school students were sent the familiar fish banks in the mail, so families can put aside contributions between now and May 9. You may also donate through the church website at www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate. Be sure to choose the donation tab that says One Great Hour of Sharing. Join Presbyterians around this country in providing resources that touch people's lives around the world and throughout the year.

THURSDAY SOUP KITCHEN

Menus are out for Thursday's Soup Kitchen. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for an entree or other dishes for Our Lady of the Valley Soup Kitchen. We are very grateful for all the participation and enthusiasm that has been generated by the online sign ups. Thank you all in advance for your donations.

SATURDAY SOUP KITCHEN

This month, we have two chances to serve with donations for Saturday's Soup Kitchen at Our Lady of the Valley. May 22nd will be on the ledge under the bulletin board — they are a white sheet. May 29th will be on the Christian Ed Desk and they are gold in color. Pick up your pan and help make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. Thank you in advance for your participation in this ministry.

JOIN THE A/V TEAM

Interested in PC, Stage, Film, Video Production? First Pres is in need of people like you! Learn the systems as a member of the church A/V Team. Learn about all the aspects via hands-on! Email (fpc@firstprescaldwell.org) or call the church office (973-228-0310) to learn more!

AUDIO CDS OF SUNDAY WORSHIP AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know would like an audio CD of the 9:30 am Sunday service please contact the church office during regular business hours Monday through Friday. Each week the AV group prepares audio CDs of the entire traditional Sunday service and the church office staff mails those CDs to all those on the request list. Please note the video of the Sunday service is available on livestream.com and the church Facebook page, and the audio for the Sermon is posted on the church's website each week.

WE ARE LOOKING TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR INPUT AS WE WORK TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH WEBSITE!

Please take a few minutes to fill out the following questionnaire:

<https://www.firstpreswebsite.com>

Your input to these questions will help us capture what makes First Pres so special and make it easier for anyone to engage in church activities. Feel free to write as much or as little as you want – or to leave questions blank entirely. Your responses will be read only by the website team, though you can grant permission to share direct quotes with Session at large (attributed or anonymous).

And if you'd like to discuss any of these ideas directly, drop Andy a line at ao@andyogden.com.



WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

*“They waited for me as for showers and
drank in my words as the spring rain.”*
Job 29:23

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

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, May 2nd

9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary/
Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Facebook Livestream

5:00 PM Youth Handbell Choir, Sanctuary

6:15 PM Youth Choir, Church Lawn

TUESDAY, May 4th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120

WEDNESDAY, May 5th

8:30 AM RRC Meeting, Zoom Meeting

THURSDAY, May 6th

6:30 PM Chancel Handbell Choir, Sanctuary

7:30 PM Chancel Choir, Zoom Meeting

SATURDAY, May 8th

11:00 AM Deacons' Clothing Drive, Circular Driveway

2:00 PM Earth Day Celebration, Church Lawn

SUNDAY, May 9th

Happy Mother's Day

9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary/
Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Facebook Livestream,
Outdoor Worship

5:00 PM Youth Handbell Choir, Sanctuary

6:15 PM Youth Choir, Church Lawn