



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, June 20, 2021

RECENT COVID POLICY CHANGES AT FPC

Not all that long ago, people would use the phrase “The more things change, the more they remain the same.” Recently, when it comes to pandemic guidance, it seems better to say, “The more things change, the more they will keep changing.”

That’s certainly been true of the requirements and guidance from the state and the CDC. Your leadership is putting effort into keeping up with all of this and keeping you informed. Please feel free to use your energy in asking for information if our efforts lag behind your curiosity. Also practice some patience as each public announced change by the state or CDC requires discussion at the church and changes in practice here need to get discussed and then get Session concurrence.

As of this writing, here’s a summary of recent revisions in our church COVID practices that have been made:

- Congregational singing, spoken responses and prayers can be done indoors with people masked.
- Outdoor worship no longer requires masks even for congregational singing.
- Social distancing must be maintained between unvaccinated people at all times. If you do not know the vaccination status of an individual, maintain social distance.
- Vaccinated people can sit with other vaccinated people, not just with people from the same household.
- Activities other than worship or worship preparation can be planned, both indoor and outdoor. The size of the activity will determine if the parlor, chapel or sanctuary will be the suitable site. While the Nursery School is in session, rooms in their wing are not available during the week. While the Nursery School is in session there can be no use of the bathrooms.
- Guidelines for off-site indoor and outdoor activities are in process.
- Currently the Session has not voted to require proof of vaccination or to restrict participation to those who have been vaccinated.

We intend to fulfill our Christian calling to love our neighbor and to care for, as Jesus said, “the least/most vulnerable of these.” That is why we encourage and welcome all ready to re-gather in a setting we worked to make safe. That is why we continue to require masks indoors. That is why worship will continue both on site and on-line so that not vaccination status, or personal comfort levels, or travel will keep anyone from a worship opportunity.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL

WHERE 804 Bloomfield Ave, West Caldwell, NJ 07006

WHEN Thurs, Jun 24th

FROM 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Order online at panerabread.com and enter code **PRFUND** at checkout.
You can also bring this flyer or show a digital version to the cashier when ordering at the café to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.

DINE & DONATE—THE SEEING EYE

During a typical year, our Children & Youth Committee chooses an organization that we collect an offering for during Sunday School all throughout the year. Because this year has been anything but typical, we have chosen to host a fundraiser at Panera in West Caldwell on **Thursday, June 24th from 4:00pm—8:00pm** to benefit [The Seeing Eye in Morristown, NJ](#). 20% of the sales will be given to First Pres and we will donate all of the proceeds to The Seeing Eye. We hope that you join us for our dine & donate event. You may order online at panerabread.com and enter code PRFUND at checkout, or you can bring this flyer or show a digital version to the cashier when ordering at the café to ensure that a portion of the proceeds are donated.

We are very excited about donating to this particular organization because of the special connection that the Barnes Family (church members and active participants in our Children & Youth Program) has with The Seeing Eye. Read the next page for a special message from 7th grader, Daniel Barnes.

My name is Daniel Barnes and I have been raising puppies for The Seeing Eye since I was 9 years old. The Seeing Eye is an organization that for over 90 years breeds and trains dogs to help guide blind people. It also teaches blind people how to work with the dogs properly.



I belong to a club called Eyes of Hope whose members raise the puppies till they are old enough to go back to The Seeing Eye in Morristown, NJ for guide dog training. The club teaches you how to raise the puppies the right way. We have regular meetings and go on outings and even overnight trips. Puppy raisers are 9 years old or above. Some people in the club have raised over 50 puppies for The Seeing Eye.



I am currently raising my fourth puppy. My first puppy was Pria. Pria is a German Shepherd and is now a guide dog for a young mom in California. She will always be special to me. My second puppy Quincy is a yellow Labrador Retriever and now guides a woman in New Jersey to her job in New York on mass transit. You must be one of the best guide dogs to do that, but we always knew he was the best. I even brought him to church sometimes.

My third is Sammy. Sammy is also a yellow lab. The Seeing Eye gave us Sammy as are forever dog. When we went into lockdown because of Covid, The Seeing Eye asked puppy raiser to either take back the puppies they raised or take a baby puppy. I then got a baby black lab named Duke. Duke and Sammy were good to have during lockdown. They gave me company and lots of love. They have been together for a long time now and luckily they really like each other.



Everyone always asks how hard it is to give the puppies back to The Seeing Eye. It is very hard because you have watched them grow and love them a lot but you also are very proud when they pass training and are matched with a blind person. Sometimes I think about Pria and Quincy and how much they are helping a blind person. I will always remember them.

Being a puppy raiser has been a good experience. I like being part of the club that is a mix of kids, teens and adults. I have learned a lot about dogs and how to train them. I feel good that I am helping blind people lead a normal life. Most of all I just love my puppies.



RAIN GARDEN AT FIRST PRES

A year ago First Pres. was approached by a member of the Environmental Commission for the Borough of Caldwell informing us that we were identified as a potential site to install a “rain garden” with a grant to the Borough of Caldwell through Rutgers University. This idea was presented to the Session and approved to move forward. The cost to the Church was zero. A site was selected along the Bloomfield Avenue side of the church where the garden would thrive fed by roof water draining into the garden.

The plan came to fruition this week in a combined effort between the Rutgers University School of Environmental Studies, the Borough of Caldwell and members of the First Pres. Buildings & Grounds Committee. Following a specific schematic plan designed by Rutgers, workers from the town maintenance dept. dug out the space to be filled with a layered mix of dirt and topped with mulch that would receive 70 plants to beautify both the church grounds and Bloomfield Avenue while benefitting the environment. Have a look for yourself! Stop by and view the project.

JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sanctuary Service at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

Illuminate Service at 11:00am in Fellowship Hall

Advance registration, at this time, is not required. All registration will be done onsite, beginning at 9:00am for the Sanctuary service, and 10:30am for the Illuminate service.

Updated indoor and outdoor worship guidelines are available through the below links. Please review these guidelines prior to arriving at either service.

<https://www.firstprescaldwell.org/indoor-worship-guidelines/>

Worship online any time via livestream — www.firstprescaldwell.org.

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH PROGRAM OR EVENT THAT NEEDS TO BE ADVERTISED?

The deadline for the next First Press is tomorrow (Monday) at 3:00pm. We cannot guarantee inclusion of material submitted after that. Please email Lauren Restaino at lauren@firstprescaldwell.org.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

All families are invited to join us on the church lawn for a movie night on Friday, June 25th at 7:30pm. We will be watching Disney Pixar hit movie, Soul! Please bring your own lawn chairs and/or blankets. We hope to see you there!

VIRTUAL BLOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY THE DEACONS

Thank you...Thank you...Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated blood during the Deacons Virtual Blood Drive in partnership with Vitalant during the month of May! We appreciate all your support for this important and lifesaving ministry.




**The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell**

326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006



Please watch for future announcements about upcoming Blood Drive events sponsored by First Pres and/or local organizations.

Thank you... 

BEYOND "FRÈRE JACQUES": ROUNDS OLD & NEW

The final COVID Concert will go live on Saturday, June 25, featuring an astonishing variety of rounds!

- * A round used in a Shakespeare play during his lifetime
- * A round (or catch) with hidden messages-- the "Passive-Aggressive Round"
- * Rounds imitating famous bell towers
- * Rounds composed by Noel Piercy (and more famous composers too)
- * A drinking round
- * The oldest extant round-- over 800 years old!
- * Rounds from the Taizé Community
- * And lots more!

Featured performers include Rae de la Crétaz, Micki Hardenberg, Jessica Goodson, Paul Salierno, Noel Piercy, and Greg Paradis; the Westminster and Chancel Choirs; The chorus of Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville, directed by Michael Colavita; and John Lenis, bass, and Jesse Gerbasi, drums.

Don't miss it!

NEW OFFERINGS FROM ADULT EDUCATION

REGISTER BELOW to have FREE, instant access to ALL STUDYGATEWAY materials

<https://www.studygateway.com/>

ONE OF THE BEST VIDEO ACCESS LIBRARIES FOR BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY!

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Access from your PC, Mac, Mobile Device or TV

Watch videos from the Study Gateway website, Android app or iOS app (free with your subscription).

REGISTER for free participation in this service

- 1. EMAIL adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org with your name and email address**
- 2. We will have StudyGateway email you an invitation to participate in our FIRSTPRESCALDWELL subscription.**
- 3. You accept the invitation and create your personal Username and Password. (KEEP THEM in order to LogIN)**
- 4. THAT'S IT. You will have FREE immediate access to ALL StudyGateway.com content as an FPC church member.**

NEW OFFERINGS FROM ADULT EDUCATION

NEW ZOOM Weekly Adult STUDY “The Wired Word”

Wednesday Nights 7:00 – 8:30pm

OPEN REGISTRATION THROUGHOUT

Each week’s study is independent of the others, so come when you can.

- 1) Let Adult Ed know before each session to receive study materials. adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org
- 2) ACCEPT the ZOOM invitation via email each week – JUST LIKE COFFEE HOUR.
- 3) SAMPLE: <https://www.thewiredword.com/samples>

Bringing adult Bible study lessons and class discussions to life.

The lessons presented each week could spark the most stimulating class discussion you've ever had! When you show students that the Bible is alive today by relating it to news events happening here and now, you can make a real difference in people's lives.

Extract hope from the news.

News is inevitable--whether it be good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input, is to juxtapose Scriptures as tools to persevere and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith.

No workbooks or student materials to purchase.

All class materials are provided for the teacher the Thursday before Wed. class. You'll receive a weekly lesson email from the lesson leader(s) when you register for that week.



SAVE THE DATE

HERE COMES THE SUN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AUCTION

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021
7:00 PM**

**TO BENEFIT OUR MISSION PARTNERS: CALDWELL FOOD PANTRY,
COMMUNITY FOODBANK, OASIS, OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY SOUP
KITCHEN, ST. JOHN'S SOUP KITCHEN, URBAN PROMISE, AND
AFRICAN DREAM ACADEMY**

We decided to move the auction to the fall in the hopes of having it both in person as well as online. If you would like to volunteer with donations, tricky tray baskets, decorating and display, staffing, or food and beverages, please email Lydia Spinelli, lspinelli.summersteps@brickchurch.org



WALK-IN VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE AT TWO ESSEX COUNTY SITES

Two Essex County Vaccination Centers, including Kmart at 235 Prospect Avenue in West Orange and Essex County College at 177 West Market Street in Newark, are now open for walk-in appointments from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday to anyone who resides, works or attends school in Essex County. [Click here for more information.](#)

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.



WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

"The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him."
Proverbs 23:24

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*

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07006

Office Hours: M-Th 8AM - 3PM, F 8AM - 2PM

Office Phone: 973-228-0310

e-mail address: fpc@firstprescaldwell.org

website: www.firstprescaldwell.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, June 20th

Happy Father's Day

- 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary/Livestream
- 10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
- 10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn, Church Lawn
- 11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Facebook Livestream, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 PM Youth Choir, Sanctuary

MONDAY, June 21st

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

TUESDAY, June 22nd

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120
- 7:00 PM Worship Committee, Zoom Meeting

WEDNESDAY, June 23rd

- 8:30 AM RRC Meeting, Zoom Meeting

FRIDAY, June 25th

- 7:30 PM Children & Youth Movie Night, Church Lawn

SUNDAY, June 27th

- 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary/Livestream
- 10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
- 10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn, Church Lawn
- 11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Facebook Livestream, Outdoor Worship
- 2:00 PM Chancel Choir & Chancel Handbell Choir End of Year Picnic
- 6:00 PM Youth Choir, Sanctuary

"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.