



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, November 21st, 2021

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

For more information about our church, please visit our website:
www.firstprescaldwell.org.

9:30am Sanctuary Service
11:00am Illuminate Service
Sunday School and activities are available at both services except the first Sunday of each month.

Advance registration for in-person attendance is not required at this time. All registration will be done on-site beginning at 9:00am for the Sanctuary Service, and 10:30am for the Illuminate Service. Updated indoor worship guidelines are available at the following link:
<https://www.firstprescaldwell.org/indoor-worship-guidelines/>

Worship online any time via livestream by clicking the links below.

[9:30am Livestream Sanctuary Service on Facebook](#)

[9:30am Livestream Sanctuary Service on Livestream Website](#)

[11:00am Livestream Illuminate Service on Facebook](#)

THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

Please join us for WEMA's Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, hosted by the West Essex Ministerial Association, including several houses of worship from the surrounding community on Tuesday, November 23rd at 7:30PM at Saint Aloysius Church. Fellowship will follow in the gym. Masks are recommended. Nonperishable food items and/or monetary donations will be collected to benefit The Caldwell Food Pantry and the Community Foodbank of NJ. Those at home may livestream at

https://youtu.be/_X6Ejb572Ic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL **NOVEMBER** **COLLECTION FOR** **THE CALDWELL** **FOOD PANTRY**

Our Sunday School is collecting food items for The Caldwell Food Pantry during the month of November. The Caldwell Food Pantry is in need of food items for kids—snack packs for lunch, granola bars, cereals, and Chef Boyardee-type microwavable meals. Items will be collected during the Sanctuary Worship Service, and during Illuminate. A bin will be available at the Christian Ed desk and items can be dropped off on Sundays or during church office hours.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on Dec. 5 at 10:30, in person and on Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect the new slate of elders, deacons and the congregational nominating committee.



Expressing Gratitude Together

Recalling the Gospel story of the four people who bring a paralyzed man to Jesus for healing by digging through the roof of the crowded house where Jesus was staying and lowering the man down on ropes, got me thinking about Stewardship here at FPC. The scripture reads, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5). Did it ever register that Jesus was talking about the faith of the four friends, not the faith of the paralyzed man who may or may not have initiated the encounter or may have just been along for the ride.

When Jesus witnessed this act of faith, he might have said, "With people like that around, we have something here!". When I looked around the sanctuary or the gym on Sunday mornings, I see volunteers outside to collect coats, or see the committed faces on the recent Zoom session meeting, or hear of the choir's plans, washing pans for soup kitchen meals being taken, see new (to me) faces at worship I have to agree! Some very exciting things are happening at First Pres especially considering the pandemic challenges,—with people like that around, we really do have something special here at FPC!

It makes me grateful to be part of the effort to share and express our faith in this place and time. Continuing to engage in ministry through a pandemic has taken positive and faithful hearts. For those who have such hearts, I am grateful.

A stewardship campaign also requires a great deal of faith and gratitude --not just from some of us, but from the whole group of us together. Our 2022 stewardship theme is "Expressing Gratitude Together." We have faith that if each of us, in gratitude for what God has given us, makes a commitment to sustain our church financially, the sum total of our pledges will be what we need to support our ministry in the coming year.

We have set Nov. 21 as our Pledge Dedication Sunday. [You can record your pledge online by clicking here.](#) We will send cards to those not on our email address list, and you may ask the office to send you one.

"One recent hymn at the first service had us singing together:
We've been through fire, we've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of His name
We've fallen deeper in love with You
You've burned the truth on our lips."

If not fire and rain, we've been through viruses and masking, distancing and caution. I hope you have felt a deep love in God for seeing us through it all. What's been done will be stepping stones to the future if we respond with gratitude and hopeful spirits. Let us all respond by Expressing Gratitude Together.

From Your Stewardship Committee

PLEASE JOIN our ZOOM ADVENT STUDY “CHRISTMAS IN THE FOUR GOSPEL HOMES”

WEDNESDAYS: December 1st through December 22nd

TIME: 7:00 to 8:30 pm

REGISTER BY November 25th: Email adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org with your Name and Phone #, and we will forward your 4 FREE lessons on each of the Gospels, as well as the weekly ZOOM invitation.

During the approaching holiday season, many of us visit other people’s homes - for a cup of coffee, or a Christmas party or maybe we’re visiting relatives. When we do this, it can be interesting to see other people’s homes – how they decorate, what kinds of things they cherish, how their styles reflect their personalities, their thinking.

How then might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a “house,” which the church visits at Christmas.

Each week author Cynthia M. Campbell takes us on a journey to examine the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel.

We are asking: Where does each author think that the good news of Jesus’s incarnation begins? *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* creatively reimagines the season and inspires new and exciting reflection for Advent. JOIN US as we start with Mark’s “house.”





2021 Christmas Giving Tree Project for Oasis, A Haven for Women & Children

The Oasis giving tree project is set up to provide Christmas gifts & warm clothing for the children of Oasis, A Haven for Women and Children in Paterson. Please be an angel this holiday season and bring some joy and Christmas spirit into the lives of those less fortunate by participating in this very special cause. Similar to last year, we have set up a gift registry at **Target.Com** where you can see a list of over 500 items including toys, winter coats, & pajamas for you to select from in a variety of prices. The easiest way to access the Registry is by clicking on the link directly:

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/oasisgivingtree2021>

You can also access the gift registry by using the following steps:

*Go to Target.com

*Click on the Registry button in the upper right corner.

*Under “search for Organization” enter OASIS, A Haven for Women and Children.

*This will bring you to the Oasis gift registry with over 500 items.

Once you select your gift and put it in the cart, the registry is set up to **send all items directly to Oasis at 59 Mill St. Paterson** so be sure not to change that feature when checking out. Please **DO NOT** have your items gift wrapped.

If you prefer to provide financial support rather than purchase a gift, you may do so by going to the church website, firstprescaldwell.org, and clicking on the drop-down tab labeled DONATE in the top right corner and from there you will see another drop down which will show you the OASIS Giving Tree Project. You can also send in a check made payable to First Pres Caldwell and be sure to put in the memo section Oasis Giving Tree. All monetary donations must be received no later than November 28 to allow us to shop on your behalf. **Last day to order from the Registry will be Tuesday Nov. 30th** to provide enough time to process & ship your gifts to Oasis. Please **do not bring any gifts to the church** office. We recommend shopping early for the best selection, and keep in mind that if you purchase an item from the Target Registry and the price goes lower before December 24, 2021, you can request a price match. Please refer to the Target.com website for additional details regarding their price match guarantee.

Thank you for your continued support & generosity of the Oasis Giving Tree Project!
Please feel free to contact Ellen Johnson at johnsonellend@gmail.com or phone 973-229-2453 if you have questions or need assistance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COCOA TO GO

Be sure to join us at our 9:30am Sunday School on November 28 as we kick off our Advent season! At the end of Sunday School everyone will get some “Cocoa To Go!” - some delicious cocoa and a Christmas mug! Also be on the lookout for a link to an Advent Devotional for your family - an adorable activity filled adventure booklet to lead you throughout the Holiday Season!

TURTLE BACK ZOO EVENT

Here’s a fun way to get in the holiday spirit - Meet your Church Friends at the Turtle Back Zoo at 6:30 on Wednesday Dec 15. Join us as we take a stroll through the Turtle Back Zoo under the sparkling lights of over 50 winter and animal characters. Admission is free but they are asking for a non-perishable food item donation. (Rain Date Thursday 12/16) Please let us know if you will be meeting us there by emailing Susan Jones at sjjones127@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Help us accommodate everyone who wishes to attend Christmas Eve worship in person. We ask that you estimate how many might be coming and sitting together in your group - one person per group should respond. We know this is an estimate - but that's okay. This will help us to determine if we need overflow spaces and where to set up this technology for remote viewing and participation. Yes, there will be livestream viewing of each service as well. This survey will close on Sunday, December 12. Fill out the survey online:

<https://forms.gle/Ho6BJ3tYaV7Yt9W7A>, or fill out the paper form at the end of First Press.

Please only fill out one form.



SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

We are excited for November’s schedule—both the Saturday and Thursday Soup Kitchens. The pans for November’s Saturday Soup Kitchen are available on the Christian Ed Desk. The Thursday pan sign ups are now available at www.firstprescaldwell.org/soup-kitchen-news. Once again, thank you for all the support you have given this important ministry. Many blessings for a wonderful and safe holiday season.

NEIGHBOR BRIGADE

If you are in need of some assistance during a temporary time of crisis in your life, Neighbor Brigade is here to help you. We provide meals, rides to doctor appointments, dog walking, food shopping, etc. If you need this type of assistance or would like to be a volunteer, please call (973) 321-7353 or contact one of our chapter leaders: Barbara Bruchac, Carol DeFrance, or Sarah Solie.

OPEN GYM

VOLLEYBALL

Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

PICKLEBALL

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm



CALLING ALL BAKERS!

We need your delicious cookies!

There are a few ways to sign-up.

1. Look for a Cookie Coordinator after service
2. Call the Church Office 973-228-0310
3. Sign up via email at:
1stpres.cookiewalk@gmail.com

Cookie drop off:
Friday, December 10th 4pm – 8pm & Saturday,
December 11th 8am

Any questions email 1stpres.cookiewalk@gmail.com
Or
Call Bonnie Chiappetta 609-339-9800

- ⇒ All current sanitary food prep guidance must be adhered to. For example, frequent hand washing, no touching of face, mask wearing, sanitizing food prep surface, etc. is advisable.
- ⇒ In addition, please remember that masks must also be worn and good hygiene must be maintained while handling and transporting cooked food.

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
Annual Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 11th
9 am – 12 pm
Church Gym

Come shop our delicious homemade baked goods!



Christmas Musical 2021

Join your friends at The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell to present the children's Christmas musical, "The Animal Alleluia" for the Family Christmas Service on Sunday, December 19 at 9:30am. Wanted are performers and backstage help who are in **Grades K – 7** to put together something very special for Christmas. Everyone can be a **star!**

"The Animal Alleluia" retells the Christmas Story through the eyes of the animals at the stable where Jesus is born and reminds us that even the humblest among us have important gifts to share! The story is told entirely through scripture readings and songs, which allows for maximum flexibility with Covid restrictions of small groups & distancing.

There will be plenty of rehearsals for us to work together and so that everybody can come as often as possible. We will also enjoy fun Advent activities on the Saturdays in December. There are some logistics that we will work out together with the church session as we continue our ongoing pandemic journey. In the meantime, put these dates down and let's get ready for the baby Jesus!



NOVEMBER

Between worship services at 10:30am – 11:00am in the Chapel

- Sunday, November 7
- Sunday, November 14
- Sunday, November 21
- Sunday, November 28



DECEMBER

- Saturday, December 4 at 11:00am – 1:00pm: Rehearsal & Advent Activities
- Sunday, December 5 at 10:30am – 11:00am (Between worship services in the chapel)
- Saturday, December 11 at 11:00am – 1:00pm: Rehearsal & Advent Activities
- Sunday, December 12 at 11:00am – 1:00pm (Between worship services in the chapel)
- Saturday, December 18 at 10:00am – 1:00pm: Dress Rehearsal & Advent Activities

CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday, December 19

- 8:45am: Cast & Crew gather in the Chapel
- 9:30am: Christmas family worship service
- 10:30am: LIVE NATIVITY on the Church Lawn



Important Note!!

Participants must wear masks to rehearsals.

All rehearsals & activities are pending approval by the church Session and will be confirmed in advance. **SAVE THE DATES!**



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

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



Offerings will continue online at www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate. Mailed-in donations continue to also be gladly accepted. In addition, there will be baskets at the entry door if people choose to leave donations. Knowing that our income could be impacted, we invite those with extra resources to consider making a special gift.

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 - 4PM , F 8AM - 3PM
Office Phone: 973-228-0310
e-mail address: fpc@firstprescaldwell.org
website: www.firstprescaldwell.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

ALL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE VIA LIVESTREAM

SUNDAY, November 21st

9:30 AM Thanksgiving Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
10:30 AM Children's Christmas Music Rehearsal
11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM Youth Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

MONDAY, November 22nd

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Zoom

TUESDAY, November 23rd

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Chapel
6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Worship Committee, Zoom
7:30 PM Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, St. Aloysius

THURSDAY, November 25th

Thanksgiving Day
Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, November 26th

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, November 28th

9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
10:30 AM Children's Christmas Music Rehearsal
11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM Youth Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Christmas Eve In-Person Worship

Help us accommodate everyone who wishes to attend Christmas Eve worship in person. We ask that you estimate how many might be coming and sitting together in your group - one person per group should respond. We know this is an estimate -but that's okay. This will help us to determine if we need overflow spaces and where to set up this technology for remote viewing and participation. Yes, there will be livestream viewing of each service as well. This survey will close on Sunday, December 12.

* Required

1. Which service(s) are you most likely to attend in-person on Christmas Eve? *

- Illuminate Service at 7 pm on December 19, 2021
- Traditional Candlelight Service at 8 pm on December 24, 2021
- Traditional Candlelight Service at 10:30 pm on December 24, 2021

2. How many people do you anticipate will attend all together with you? (If you will attend more than one service, please indicate how many will attend at each service) *
