



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, May 1st, 2022

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/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](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FPC'S AUCTION

When attending the recent meetings to determine what we value most about First Pres, it was very clear that helping those in need is a great priority of our congregation. As you know, the auction on June 11 supports just that as it provides the mission budget. So we need your help! Please click on the link below to fill in your availability to help. And if you have donations, that would be great too! If the times below don't exactly match your availability but you want to help, please email Barb Bruchac, bebru8190@gmail.com. In addition to help with set up and clean up; during the auction, we will need help with technical assistance since we will be bidding online, help with food and drink, live and silent auctions, Tricky Tray and check-in and check-out. Thanks so much for making a difference!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4EA9AA283-first>

YOUTH DODGEBALL

6th-12th grade students are invited to bring a friend and join us for Dodgeball and Pizza in the Gym **today, May 1st at 3:30 - 5:00pm**. We ask that everyone in attendance come with \$5 to cover the costs of Pizza. We are excited to bring back this fun event, and we hope to see you there! Questions? Please email kaitlynheun@gmail.com.



ADULT EDUCATION SPRING OFFERING ON PRAYER

May 4 * Tonight, we'll be talking about categories of prayer and about written prayers--and how they might help us to pray on our own or together as a community. Pastor Bill will be facilitating and will lead us off by sharing a handful of texts that have been important to his life of prayer including Psalms, hymns and prayers in the PC(USA)'s Book of Common Worship. After that, we'd love to hear from you. Have you found it helpful to read prayers written by others as you pray? What sources do you turn to for written prayers--a devotional or a book or maybe even the Bible itself? What about writing--has that ever been a part of your prayer life? Is it possible to read or write--and also to pray as you do these things?

May 11 * Tonight, our focus will be on praying through song. Barb Piercy will be moderating our conversation. Barb will share a bit of her own experience of praying through song. After that, we'd love to hear from you. Have you ever heard a song that expressed a prayer that you otherwise didn't have the words to express? Have you ever sung in a group (a crowd or a choir) and felt that your song was a kind of prayer? We'll also share a few recordings of songs that some of us have found prayerful (and some of them might surprise you!)

May 18 * Our focus tonight is on silence--and we have a lot to say about it! Scott Westenberger will share a practice of silence he has found valuable as a way of centering himself. After that, we'd love to hear from you. Has silence been a part of your prayer life? Is it something you seek out regularly? Or has silence found you--when you wandered into an empty cathedral or found yourself alone for a few minutes in a beautiful natural area? Have you had negative experiences of silence? Have you been scolded for making noise in a sacred setting? Or tried to sit quietly only to find yourself squirming with discomfort within moments of starting? What has your experience of silence taught you about prayer?

May 25 * Tonight, our focus will be on intercessory prayer, which is prayer in which we are asking God for something for ourselves, for others or for the world. Judi D'annunzio and Pastor Bill will each share some of their own experience with this kind of prayer--how they do it, leading group intercessory prayer and what it means to them. We hope you'll join us! After hearing from our leaders, we'd love to hear from you. What has been your experience of intercessory prayer? What do you wonder about this kind of prayer?

June 1 & 8 * Lectio Divina -- A method of prayerful reading of scripture that can be applied to other written material. During the first night Bonnie Chiappetta will introduce what Lectio Divina is and the methods used as she guides us through it with a simple source like song lyrics or a poem. On the second night she will guide us through the process once more using a source she learned through in seminary using a chapter from Harry Potter.

Register for the evenings that you will be joining us for the Adult Education Spring Offering on Prayer: <https://forms.gle/7NrhKTSYiXkRm93T7>

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83631660857?
pwd=YjArV1RPa2VXSzJzTTBibE5WNm02QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83631660857?pwd=YjArV1RPa2VXSzJzTTBibE5WNm02QT09)

Meeting ID: 836 3166 0857

Passcode: 217860

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 8th, 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. Our Sunday School students received the familiar fish banks, so families can put aside contributions between now and May 8th. 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.

WHAT DOES FPC MEAN TO YOU?

As we continue to work on being an inviting church, rather than a welcoming church, we ask members and friends to share with us a few words. What does The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell mean to you? Tell us about how you came to the church, and what made you stay. Perhaps you have a specific memory that you would like to share. If there is a church ministry that you are involved in, tell us about why you are passionate about it! We are excited to hear from all - children and adults, current members and friends, as well as those who may have moved away!

How can you participate?

1. Record a 60-90 second video of yourself.
2. Write two to three sentences about what FPC means to you.
- 3.

If you choose to record a video, which is preferred, you can do so on your phone. Please film horizontally - sometimes it's hard to edit videos if they are vertical! When you are done recording, you can email the video to Lauren Restaino at lauren@firstprescaldwell.org. If you have any questions about submitting your video, or would like assistance with filming, please email Lauren at lauren@firstprescaldwell.org. If you'd prefer not to be on video, that's okay too! Please send two to three sentences sharing you FPC experience to Lauren at lauren@firstprescaldwell.org. We will then transfer your words to a shareable graphic.

Please know that these videos and graphics will be distributed online via social media, email, and website and possibly used during the worship services. We hope you will join us in sharing with others how very special our church is.

MIDWEEK VINYASA YOGA AT FPC

Relax, recharge, and renew for the rest of the week by moving through a sequence of poses to increase strength, flexibility, and focus led by Sue Tannler.

Who: You and an open-mind

Where: FPC Fellowship hall

When: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning May 4th

What: Bring a mat and a water bottle. If you have blocks and a strap, scarf, or belt, bring them as well. (Extras will be on hand as well).

Any questions reach out to Sue Tannler btannler@gmail.com or 862-684-3673.

JOHN R. AND INGE P. STAFFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

On March 18, 2014 the Session at the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell established the John R. and Inge P. Stafford Memorial Scholarship. We are excited once again to be able to offer Scholarships for the 2022– 2023 academic school year. This scholarship is open to anyone planning to attend or who is already attending a 2 or 4 year accredited college. Applications can be found at www.firstprescaldwell.org. Application Due Date: 12:00 PM May 15, 2021.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Why is it important to make a pledge commitment for 2022?

Pledging makes it possible for First Presbyterian to discern what commitments to make for the year ahead; it provides church leadership with an understanding of the resources that can be available for those commitments.

First Presbyterian asks all new and ongoing members for pledges of time, talent and treasure. There is an expectation that all members will participate with a financial pledge that is meaningful and manageable in their current financial situation. If circumstances change, your financial pledge can always change.

Why does my gift matter?

Pledged commitments directly determine what is possible for us to do through mission and service, education and discipleship, and worship and music.

Pledging is about more than what we can do. It is also about who we are. Making a commitment and giving annually to the church is one of the ways we express what it means to be disciples and a part of this faith community. By being generous in our financial giving, we express our gratitude for what God is doing in our own lives and in the world.

How can I make a financial pledge commitment?

If you have already made a financial pledge for 2022, Thank You!

If you have not had the opportunity to participate by making a financial pledge for 2022, it is not too late to prayerfully consider doing so. You may submit your pledge online on our church website, www.firstprescaldwell.org. You may also complete and submit a pledge card by placing it in the offering basket during worship or delivering it to the church office. Finally, you may contact the church office directly at 973-228-0310.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS, 4/19/2022

Rev. Schram moderated via Zoom due to testing Covid positive on Saturday, 4/16
The session of First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell dealt with the following in April:

The session heard from Rev. Rose Niles, our regional representative from the Presbyterian Foundation. Rev. Niles shared an overview of stewardship resources and planned giving resources, which session agreed to follow up on.

Session approved again selling beer and wine at the Auction in June.

The session adopted a Behavioral Covenant detailing the way they will act with one another in decision making and discussion.

The Mission Committee reported on a mission statement for the committee:

As followers of Christ, we as a committee are called to love our neighbors as ourselves by serving those in need, and working together towards a world of compassion, peace and justice. We strive to express the words of our Lord "To whom much is given, much shall be required. (Luke 12:48).

Heard a report on a meeting with borough officials and session members regarding the borough's proposal to take a section of the green overseen by the church, give the church another portion so that a new municipal center and library might be built. Session discussed viewpoints and history of the deed restriction placed by church trustees in 1891 when land was given to remain a common for the village. Borough officials had said they would put together discussion points raised in a written proposal to the church. We are still waiting for that.

Approved start of coffee hour after the 9:30 service in room 120, effective April 24. It will be overseen by the deacons. The 11 service will have refreshments available prior to and after worship in Fellowship Hall.

* Noted a special session meeting to be held May 3 at 7 pm. Rev. Greg Horn of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry will be present to talk about next steps in electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee.

WANTED: Lay Readers

WHAT: To read scripture or other printed parts of the worship service.

WHY: to remind us that worship is an act of all the people.

REQUIREMENTS: Being able to read in front of the congregation

WHEN: Readers needed at the 9:30 and 11:00 services

WHERE: At some (but not all- we will rotate) services. Your availability will help determine how often.

If interested contact: fpc@firstprescaldwell.org

Come on - this is an easy way to help out and it gets you in front of a microphone!! Looking forward to getting swamped with volunteers! From the Worship Committee

PLEASE DONATE FOR THE AUCTION

You may or may not know that the biennial auction supports most of the Church's mission budget, enabling us to help these wonderful organizations that make a difference to so

many people: Caldwell Food Pantry, The Foodbank of New Jersey, Oasis, Our Lady of the Valley Soup Kitchen, St. John's Soup Kitchen (Sandwich Night), Urban Promise, 7th St. Bistro and African Dream Academy. **We don't want to let our mission partners down so we need our June 11th auction to be a huge success.** Our title "Here Comes the Sun" and beautiful photo by our own Rob Thiemann signifies the hope we feel for the future that our congregation will rally to help those who are so much in need. We are hoping you will submit a donation to the auction.



All kinds of items are welcome: jewelry, handbags, new clothes, electronics, and household items, etc.. Please note that items should be new except for jewelry, antiques, art work, china, crystal, collectibles, etc. that people would want to buy. You might have season sports or concert tickets and be willing to give up one event. The businesses you frequent might be willing to donate something. A favorite restaurant might be willing to donate a dinner for four or you might offer to cook dinner in the bidder's home or yours. You might have a vacation home you are willing to donate for a week or weekend or frequent flyer miles you won't use. You might have connections for a children's birthday party. Donations can range from preparing a will or a decorating consultation to making a birthday cake or wrapping Christmas gifts, gardening or mowing lawns.

There are two ways to donate an item. You can do it directly online at the auction website. Or you can fill out and mail in a donation form or drop it off at Church. There will be a box in the back of the Church. If you don't have anything to donate and prefer to send a monetary donation, you can do so on the auction website. Visit www.firstprescaldwell.org for access to the acution website.

If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions, please email: lydia.spinelli@gmail.com.

We are so grateful for your support,

The Auction Co-Chairs, John Dusinberre, Ellen Johnson, Susan Jones and Lydia Spinelli

Emergency response to Ukraine war



As the violence in Ukraine continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. Our response will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

GIVE: To support emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine, designate gifts to DR000156. You can also text PDAUKR to 41444 to donate. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/UK22, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device.

ACT: Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY: *May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help.*

May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly.

May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.

May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.

And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

-Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



\$500 \$125 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

UK22-BI

AMAZON SMILE—SUPPORT FPC

What's an easy way to support First Pres not only during the Christmas season, but all year long? Just sign into Amazon using the link below before you start shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to First Pres. [Click here to get started.](#)

OFFERNIGS

Offerings will continue online at www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate. Mailed-in donations continue to also be gladly accepted.

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.

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, May 1st

9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120
11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
12:15 PM CYM Committee, Parlor/Zoom Meeting
12:15 PM Deacon Visitation Committee, Chapel
3:30 PM Dodgeball & Pizza, Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM First Church Ringers, Sanctuary
6:00 PM Westminster Choir, Sanctuary

MONDAY, May 2nd

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

TUESDAY, May 3rd

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor
5:00 PM Building & Grounds, Zoom Meeting
6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, May 4th

7:00 PM Adult Education Spring Offering-zoom
7:00 PM Yoga, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, May 5th

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM Chancel Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
7:30 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, May 8th

Happy Mother's Day!

9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120
11:00 AM Illuminate Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM First Church Ringers, Sanctuary
6:00 PM Westminster Choir, Sanctuary