



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, October 2nd, 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 Contemporary Service
Sunday School and activities are available at both services except the first Sunday of each month. Nursery care is available in the Cradle Room.

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 Contemporary 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.

[Livestream on Facebook](#)

[Livestream on Livestream Website](#)

TWO SERVICES TO BEGIN AGAIN TODAY

We will begin to have two Sunday worship services again on **Sunday, October 2nd**, which is also World Communion Sunday. The traditional service will begin at 9:30am in the church sanctuary and the contemporary service will begin at 11:00am in Fellowship Hall. We invite all to join us in-person, and also on livestream.

COME STOP BY TO SEE US AT THE CALDWELL STREET FAIR TODAY FROM 12PM-5PM!



DEACONS FALL/WINTER DRIVE

The Deacons are sponsoring a fall/winter drive to benefit our friends at St. John's Soup Kitchen. **We are collecting gently used winter coats, sweaters, hoodies and sweatshirts. In addition, St. John's has requested used backpacks and overnight canvas bags.**



Beginning **Sunday, October 2nd through Sunday, October 16th** a drop off bin for donations will be accessible outside by the church circle.

Additionally, we will be in person collecting donations by the church staff parking lot on Westville Avenue on:

Saturday, October 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Should you have questions, please contact FPC326deacons@gmail.com

As always, the Deacons and St. John's thank you for your support!

African Dream Academy now has 1500 students on two campuses (that's 600 more than last year). Please do what you can to ask friends and neighbors to fill red bags. It's better to fill more bags with less in them. There are red bags at the Christian Ed desk and at both entrances to the Church. For those who do not attend the services in person, red bags can be delivered to you, please email Lydia Spinelli: Lydia.spinelli@gmail.com. If you prefer to make a financial contribution to this effort, please do so at www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate and click "African Dream Academy" and we will purchase items and fill bags for you. Thanks so much!

Let's give the children at African Dream Academy a Dream Christmas.



DREAM CHRISTMAS



Help
a boy or girl
from African Dream
Academy, Monrovia, Liberia

(www.africandreamacademy.org)
receive his or her only Christmas gift.

Liberia is one of the five poorest countries in the world. Pick up a red bag with a child's name and age on it. Fill it with goodies and return to Church by October 23 at the latest. Then we will pack barrels and ship them to Liberia.

Please include a composition book, pens and pencils. Other Suggestions: a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, Band aids, pair of socks, hard candy, paper, markers, crayons, glue, tape, other art supplies, sunglasses, a ball, an age-appropriate paperback book, a flashlight, toys for younger children (little cars, little dolls, etc.), toiletries for older girls, headbands, barrettes, jewelry, lip gloss. Enclose a note or Christmas card if you like! If you would like to contribute towards shipping, write a check to African Dream Academy Foundation for \$10.00. Please do not put it in the bag.

Return to
Church.

URBAN PROMISE BOOK DRIVE

Thank you to all those that participated in our Book Drive to benefit the children and teens at Urban Promise down in Camden. The Amazon Registry will remain open through **Sunday October 2**, so there is still an opportunity to purchase those few remaining books that are still needed. You can access the custom registry listed under "Urban Promise Book Drive" by clicking on the link at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/1M0PUDQLI9H4Y/guest-view>

We sincerely appreciate your support of this important mission partner and showing your generous heart!

A CONVERSATION LEAD BY REV. BILL SCHRAM

If you've been alert to mentions of Christianity in the national news, you've doubtless heard about "Christian Nationalism" or "Christian Nation-ism." "Christian nationalism" has support by a segment of our country, is feared by a segment, and has left others up in the air. It has become part of an intersection of Christian faith and public discussions.. Of course, you will agree or disagree with various points and interpretations. That's expected! Talking about a subject is often a good way toward greater understanding — and moderating any fear we might have.

I am willing to host a conversation about this at **7:00 pm Thursday evening October 6 and/or October 20**, in person or by Zoom. Contact Pastor Bill, bill@firstprescaldwell, for the Zoom link. This will be a time to raise questions, listen to one another and practice applying our faith to our public lives.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

Our numbers are up and we need your help! Our Thursday soup kitchen menus are available online for the months of October and November. Please consider signing up to prepare a meal for those in need to benefit Our Lady of the Valley soup kitchen in Orange.

Our Saturday soup kitchen menus are also available online and for your convenience, pans are located on the Christian Ed desk.

<https://www.firstprescaldwell.org/soup-kitchen-news/>

Drop off for Thursday soup kitchen is in the staff parking lot on Wednesdays between 4:00pm and 5:00om. If that does not work for you, you may drop off earlier at the church office. Drop off for Saturday soup kitchen is in the staff parking lot on Saturdays between 9:00am and 9:30am. Again, you may drop off earlier in the church office.

If you have any questions, or wish to volunteer to join us at the soup kitchen on Thursdays or Saturdays, please contact Laura Schalles (973) 476-8616 or Joyce McGrath (201) 738-6531. We make a difference in the lives of clients, with a smile, kind word and hot lunch. Help us serve in his name.

SANDWICH NIGHT

Thank you all for participating in our September Sandwich Night, hosted by the deacons. Now we have a chance to meet the hosts of October's Sandwich Night, The Board of Elders. This is a great time to connect and meet with some of the officers of The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell while helping others in need. Our Sandwich Night benefits St. John's soup kitchen in Newark. Come out and join in the fun and fast paced evening of creating 400 to 430 bagged lunches for St. John's. Our selected date is **October 26th, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall**. Friends, family and youth (especially those who need service hours) are all welcome to join us!

FACING RACISM TASK FORCE

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell's Facing Racism Task Force invites you to a fall/winter book study of a new book, co-authored by West Orange, NJ resident, Kerry Connelly. Published in 2022, *Wait – Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church* has already gotten positive reviews. Pastor and author Robert W. Lee described the book as this: "...You have before you a guidebook, a survival guide, a deconstruction chisel, and a faithful interpretation of the reign of God that is at hand. This book made me think critically about my own blind spots while also acknowledging the potential areas of growth that could happen in my personal and professional life. ... You would be wise to sit with this book—it will change you."

Connelly's co-authors of the book are Bryana Clover and Josh Riddick.

The Facing Racism Task Force will be able to provide the book to you free of charge. This study will meet via Zoom for five Thursdays on the following dates: **Oct. 27, Nov. 17, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 & Jan. 26**. Meeting times will be from 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm.

To reserve the book and a spot in this book study, please RSVP to facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com.

Blessings to All and we hope to see you on Thursday, October 27!

OASIS - A HAVEN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Oasis- A Haven for Women and Children is actively seeking volunteers to help in their childcare rooms, food pantry, and to coordinate food pick-ups from BJ's, Costco, Starbucks, etc. Please contact Andrea Johnston, Volunteer Coordinator, (973)881-8307 x121 for more information.

VOLLEYBALL

Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

PICKLEBALL

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

NEW REGISTRANTS Contact Barb Bruchac
to confirm availability at 973-454-5583

OUR CHRISTIAN CALL TO GRATITUDE, GENEROSITY AND STEWARDSHIP

We invite you to read this passage from scripture and to reflect upon God's call to each of us to be grateful and generous stewards.

Proverbs 3:5-9 (Trust in the Lord with all your heart, honor God with your first fruits)

Proverbs offers a lot of pithy one-liners that can be used to reflect on our call to stewardship and generosity. It is helpful to see it in the larger context as well, not only is this a call to give generously from our first fruits, it is a reminder to trust in God, follow God, and seek God's wisdom. All of these are forms of stewardship and all are deserving of our attention and reflection.

ADULT EDUCATION—NEWSLETTER

WELCOME to our new venture in Adult Education ministry. We believe a newsletter with diverse resources has the power to serve you better. As a seasonal publication, we will provide updates on our traditional group Bible studies and more resources for growing personally and as a community of faith while honoring the diversity of life rhythms and life experiences of our members.

We realize that making time for our spiritual life often competes with a lot of distractions. Yet Christ tells us that He is our living water (John 4:13,14). Who can live without water? In this world we can easily become spiritually dehydrated as distractions make us forget to drink. Adult Ed is aiming to find ways to rehydrate you by meeting you where you are on any given day; helping you to grab a quick refreshing sip or drink deeply from the well. Our digital world offers quick access to many resources focused on our rehydration: Apps that include easy access to devotionals and bible study tools, Podcasts that give daily messages we can listen to while we walk, drive, or do daily tasks, and more. We will also offer books for different groups and timeless treasures for everyone. We want to inspire you to discover proven tools for dipping into this deep well of "living water" so we can all remain refreshed and ready for our mission "Shining God's Light by KNOWing Christ, GROWing in His in love, and GOing where He leads."

DOWNLOAD NEWSLETTER: <https://bit.ly/3dXvkiL>

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRADLE ROOM

We have officially launched another amazing Sunday School program for the 2022-2023 year and we need your help! Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays to volunteer as a Sunday School Assistant. Learn more here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b4ea4af28a1ff2-sunday>

We are excited to once again provide nursery care for babies up to the age of 4 years old in our Cradle Room and we need your help. We are looking for adults to provide nursery care to our very youngest in our church family! Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays. We won't be able to provide this service to our church families without valuable volunteers. Thanks in advance! Learn more here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b4ea4af28a1ff2-fpcnursery>

Session Highlights

The FPC Session met on September 20, 2022 and opened with prayer at 7 pm.

Session received the Clerk's report which included highlights of the September 17 meeting of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey. Among the Presbytery actions was acknowledging Barbara Piercy's status as honorably retired.

Session took the following actions:

- On motion from the Children and Youth Ministry committee, approved the creation of a paid Cradle Room attendant for Sunday mornings, 9 am-1 pm at \$15/hour. There have been too few volunteers to guarantee weekly staffing.
- Endorsed Bonnie Chiappetta as an Inquirer for Ministry. That's the PCUSA's first official step in the process for ordination to be a Minister of Word and Sacrament.
- Approved the Reopening and Revitalization Committee's motion to end requirements for the filing of Covid precaution forms for church events, and to consider disbanding the RRC after Easter.
- Approved exploring with Congregation Agudath Israel having a table at upcoming Caldwell University student welcome events.
- Agreed that Session would sponsor Sandwich night on October 26. Lydia Spinelli will determine costs and collect money from session members.

Session received the minutes and reports of its committees and approved the plans in the reports:

- Adult Education shared their newsletter which contains links for the fall book study, links to devotional sites for personal use, book reviews and links to other study material.
- Building & Grounds reported on completed projects. Including repair and repainting of the sanctuary dormer window frames and repairs of water damage at the Bloomfield Ave. entrance near the chapel.
- Building Grounds, Mission Committee and Deacons are cooperating on a dedication of the renovated chapel, tentatively October 23.
- Children & Youth Ministry reported on the start of the Church school year. Planning has started for Confirmation class this year.
- Communications Committee reported on plans for the Oct. 2 Caldwell Street Fair and asked for volunteers.
- Mission Committee reported on plans for the African Dream Academy Red Bag collection Sept. 25-October 23, the currently running Urban Promise Book Drive, the Giving Tree program starting Nov. 1, the Facing Racism Task Force book study on "Wait - Is This Racist," which will begin October 27.
- Personnel Committee was happy to share that Valerie Shondel has been hired as the Interim Music Director, and that we have 2 AV interns now help the Sunday morning service broadcasts.
- The Stewardship Committee reported on starting an "Expressing Our Gratitude" announcement and sharing time to encourage people to think about their support of the church and to celebrate things we are doing as a church.
- Worship Committee shared minutes and reported helping organize the Piercy farewell, and supporting the work of the Music Vision/Search team. People were encouraged to do the Music survey if they haven't already.

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.

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.

Calling EMTs, First Aid responders and Medical professionals

The Worship Committee is looking to put together a list of individuals that are willing to be called upon to step in if a medical situation presents itself in order to offer care until EMTs arrive.

- Medical/Nursing Training
- EMT Training
- First Aid Training
- AED use Training

Please email Kris George via kristiane.george@gmail.com should you have any of the above training and are willing to help.

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

If one of your gifts is hospitality, there is a job in this church with your name on it! The Deacons would love your help being a greeter on Sunday Mornings in either service. Your job would start 15 minutes before the service and you would welcome folks to our church. If it was communion Sunday, you would invite them to take a communion cup as well as leave their envelope in the collection plate. You would remain at the door 15 min after the service started to receive any stragglers and then grab the offerings from the communion plate and go inside to count all the happy people you see in attending the service (including anyone running the service and those that sit in the balcony). Next, you may sit with your family for the remainder of the service. Once the service has ended please take the offerings and your count of people to the office for them to record. That's all there is to it!! If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Donna McGinley (donnalmcginley@aol.com) so we can get you started greeting folks as soon as possible!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE IS SEARCHING FOR LAY READERS

WANTED: Lay Readers

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

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

REQUIREMENTS: Being able to read in front of the congregation

WHEN: Readers needed at the 10:00 am services.

WHERE: At some 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!

AMAZON SMILE—SUPPORT FPC

What's an easy way to support First Pres all year long? 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.](#)

OFFERINGS

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*

Valerie Shondel, *Interim Music Director*

Kaitlyn Heun, *Interim Director of Youth Ministries*

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 Hicoek, *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, October 2nd

Deacons Fall/Winter Drive Begins

9:30 AM Traditional Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall

12:00 PM Caldwell Street Fair, Bloomfield Avenue

MONDAY, October 3rd

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, October 4th

5:00 PM Building & Grounds, Zoom Meeting

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, October 5th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

7:00 PM Yoga, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

7:00 PM Adult Ed Book Study, Room 120

7:00 PM PNC Committee, Parlor

THURSDAY, October 6th

7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room

SUNDAY, October 9th

9:30 AM Traditional Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall