



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, November 27, 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](http://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](#)

## **REFLECTING THE SACRED IN ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS 2022**

Friends, amazingly, Christmas rolls around every year. November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent. The prophecies and the birth story come again. How can we approach this birth narrative of our faith anew, considering the situation of our world, our communities, our lives, and our relationships. So much happens in a year and yet, we all hoped we would be further along in the healing of so many things and it feels like we have not come very far.

Brian McLaren writes “Religion is about creating the world that we and future generations will inhabit.” Our wrestling with theology matters because religion has, and does, move us to create a particular kind of world. And the world we live in at the moment has its problems (did I hear an “amen?”). The way we see the world, relate to the world, live in the world and with each other has theological roots. In other words, what we believe about the holy, what we think is “sacred” or not, determines how we treat each other and creation.

Our Advent/Christmas theme is “Reflecting the Sacred.” Christmas itself is a celebration of how the sacred became incarnate in the world as Jesus was born. The focus invites us to look deeply scripturally, and theologically, not just at Christmas, but also at aspects of our lives. How and where can we see reflections of what is sacred breaking into ordinary time, people, spaces, knowing and being? All of these times to see reflections of the sacred will have practical consequences for the world we are ideally creating and nudging toward a more graceful and just existence,

November 27, December and 11 will bring us chances to look for the sacred during our 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. Dec. 18 we will have one service at 10 am so that all can be together at our Christmas Children’s Program. Valerie Shondel and Sarah Solie are organizing it this year. It will be followed by refreshments and the opportunity to enjoy a Bethlehem petting zoo.

Can we use a lens this season that highlights the holy all around us? Can we see life as pregnant with Christ... not just Mary in a story from long ago, but everyone and everything capable of bursting forth with goodness and grace?



## Expressing Gratitude Together

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell

### **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.

#### **Genesis 45:1-5 (Joseph offers forgiveness to his brothers)**

The Joseph Novella in Genesis, chapters 37-50, provides a beautiful case study in modeling generosity. Joseph is mistreated by his brothers and sold into slavery. He rises to become Pharaoh's vizier. His brothers come to Egypt in the midst of a famine and Joseph shares generously with his brothers, giving them not just food but forgiveness. This story reminds us that we have received so much from God: food for our bodies and forgiveness to heal our spirits and our lives. Therefore we are called to respond generously, just as Joseph responds generously to his brothers in their time of need.

#### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE A PLEDGE COMMITMENT FOR 2023?**

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 2023, Thank You! If you have not had the opportunity to participate by making a financial pledge for 2023, it is not too late to prayerfully consider doing so. You may submit your pledge online on our church website, [www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://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.



## **2022 Christmas Giving & Gratitude Tree Project for Oasis, A Haven for Women & Children**

Please be an angel this holiday season and bring some joy and Christmas spirit into the lives of those less fortunate by participating in our Giving Tree Project. We will have our traditional tree with gift tags set up outside the church office as well as a gift registry at **Target.com** where you can see a list of over 900 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/oasisgivingtree2022>

You can also access the gift registry by going to Target.com and clicking on the Registry button in the upper right corner & search under “Organization” and enter Oasis A Haven for Women and Children. 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.

You can also make a financial donation by going to the church website and clicking on the drop-down tab labeled DONATE and from there 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 or drop off gifts at church will be Monday Dec. 5th** to provide enough time to process & deliver your gifts to Oasis.

This year, after you take a gift tag from our Giving Tree, please feel free to pick up one of the special “Gratitude” tags in the basket on the Christian Ed Desk and write one or two words on the back of the tag that you are thankful for in your life and then we can hang it back up on the tree to share with others. We have much to be thankful for in our lives so please take a moment during this busy season to reflect & fill out a Gratitude Tag!

Thank you for your continued support & generosity of the Oasis Giving Tree Project!

Please feel free to contact Ellen “Elf” Johnson at johnsonellend@gmail if you have questions or need any assistance.



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK**

Our Annual Christmas Cookie Walk NEEDS YOU! Sign up to bake cookies, pastries, candies, pies – whatever your special Christmas recipe is! Drop off is at church Friday evening, December 9th, from 4:00PM until 8:00PM, or Saturday morning (day of the sale), December 10th, by 8:00AM in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to bake after the 9:30AM or 11:00AM church services with a Deacon wearing the red apron or call the church office at (973) 228-0310. Thank you for helping us make this year another great success!!

Extraordinary cookies and baked goods will be for sale at the Deacons’ Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 10th, from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. We will have a hospitality table and Holiday music to enjoy all day! Please share this wonderful, festive event with neighbors and friends. The more the merrier! Your purchase will not only provide you with special treats to enjoy during the holiday season but it will also benefit those in our community who are in need during emergency situations throughout the year.

**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.

## **SANDWICH NIGHT**

If you are looking for a fun and meaningful evening, come to our Sandwich Night, meet new friends, and reconnect with established friends. If some of our youth are seeking community service, it is a fast two hours! On **Wednesday, December 7th at 6:00pm**, we will have a Sandwich Night hosted by the Essex County School of Technology. Come and check us out and maybe your group or committee will soon host one or two Sandwich Nights. See you all soon!

## **SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR**

We are asking to have more congregants sign up to host. Kaitlyn will continue to make coffee/ set up the coffee each Sunday, but we need someone to bring in and set up the food, milk, and cream, as well as host in room 120 to offer assistance and be a friendly face. If you host coffee hour you are also required to stay and clean up. Please review the calendar and sign up for any dates that work for you. If you have any questions please reach out to Diane Joy at [dianejfpc@gmail.com](mailto:dianejfpc@gmail.com) or (973)768-4656. Thank you for your help with this ministry of fellowship! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4FA5AD29A0F94-coffee>

## **TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY**

The Deacons are involved in coordinating transportation to and from church for church members who are unable to drive themselves to church. An online sign up form has been created and includes information related to the process for pick-up/drop-off. Please consider signing up to help with transportation for a week or two.



**Come share the light!**  
**Join us for The Holiday Lights  
walk-through at the Zoo!**

**Saturday, December 17th, 2022**  
**6pm - 9pm**  
**at the Turtle Back Zoo**

Entrance is free  
Bring food for the Community Food Bank of NJ

We will meet by the main entrance  
and will have blue glow bracelets for everyone

*This event is sponsored by the Church Life Committee*



## **SOUP KITCHEN NEWS**

Have you signed up to prepare a meal for our Thursday or Saturday Soup Kitchen yet? It's very easy. Visit [www.firstprescaldwell.org/soup-kitchen-news](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org/soup-kitchen-news) and click on the Thursday or Saturday links. Choose the item that you wish to prepare, click sign/submit. Add your name, phone number and email, scroll down and click sign up. Done! Any questions, please call Laura Schalles (973) 476-8616 or Joyce McGrath (201) 738-6531.

Our numbers at the soup kitchen are up and we need volunteers to prepare our meals. Think of our clients who may just have the one meal for the day. We at this church are blessed to have so much. Let's share what we have for the less fortunate. If you cannot pick up at the allotted time, you can always drop your items at church earlier. Just let the church office know when you plan to come. Thank you all for your ongoing support. God Bless.

## **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. Any questions reach out to Sue Tannler [btannler@gmail.com](mailto:btannler@gmail.com) or 862-684-3673.

## **FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 10:00 AM**

Calling all youth to participate! We will be holding our Annual Family Christmas Service on Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 AM. This year, we would like all youth from our youngest members through college age to participate.

### **IN SEARCH OF!!!!**

Angels, kings, Mary, Joseph

Readers

Helpers with the angels, kings, Mary and Joseph

Singers

Musicians (any instrument you play)

Ushers

Children who are interested in participating will have **2 rehearsals** in addition to the final run-through on the morning of the service. The rehearsals are Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 at noon. Pizza will be served. The final dress rehearsal will be Dec. 18 (the morning of the family service) at 8:00am. There will be speaking parts, non-speaking parts and NO group songs to learn. Easy and lots of FUN!

All interested should contact Valerie Shondel, Interim Director of Music at [valerie@firstprescaldwell.com](mailto:valerie@firstprescaldwell.com) 973 228-0310 ext 213 or Kaitlyn Heun at [kaitlynheun@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlynheun@gmail.com).

## **DINE & DONATE AT THE CLOVERLEAF TAVERN**

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Proverbs 118:24

What better way to rejoice a day that the Lord has made by NOT COOKING! And better yet? Contributing to a worthwhile cause! It is also a great opportunity to participate in "Giving Tuesday" which is nationally recognized on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

This year, we will be collecting to help support our Sunday School program here at First Pres, and we will collect for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. "Dine and Donate" on Tuesday, November 29th at The Cloverleaf Tavern. Simply come in (or order take out) from The Cloverleaf Tavern between 11:00am and closing and mention this fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds of your meal receipt will be put aside to donate to this effort.

Come for lunch, come back for Happy Hour and then have dinner! Calories don't count when it's for a good cause. Please contact the church office (973) 228-0310 if you have any questions. See you on the 29th at the Cloverleaf!

## **CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT**

Come join us on December 3rd in Fellowship Hall for some holiday cheer to kickoff the Christmas season! We will be watching the movie "Elf" and eating potluck style snacks and cookies, so bring your favorite movie treat to share with the group. We are asking that everyone comes at 6:00pm and we will start the movie at 6:30pm. This event is co-hosted by the Children and Youth Committee and Church Life Committee. Both adults & children are invited to join us for this fun evening of fellowship.

Dear Fellow Congregants,

It's that time of the year to think about who might be called to serve as an officer of our Church for the next three years. These years are very important for our Church as this group of officers will help to guide the Church through important transitions- to a new pastor and to revitalize our Church post-COVID. We ask for nominations for Elder and Deacon. Please email [Lydia.spinelli@gmail.com](mailto:Lydia.spinelli@gmail.com) with your suggestions. The Nominating Committee will seek to present a representative group to the congregation for your approval so if your nominee isn't chosen it is for that reason, but we will carefully consider all nominees. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,  
Lydia Spinelli

### **VOLLEYBALL**

Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

### **PICKLEBALL**

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Thursdays 6:00pm Beginners  
6:30 to 8:00pm Mixed level play

\*\*\*NEW PARTICIPANTS\*\*\*

**MUST** Contact Barb Bruchac at 973-454-5583

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Download Advent Devotional

Recommendations: <https://bit.ly/3A6iIOd>

## **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**

Place your offering in the plates are at the welcome tables. Or give online at [www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:fpc@firstprescaldwell.org)*

*website: [www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)*

## **CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

***ALL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE VIA LIVESTREAM***

### ***SUNDAY, November 27th***

9:30 AM Traditional Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall

12:00 PM Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### ***MONDAY, November 28th***

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

### ***TUESDAY, November 29th***

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

11:00 AM Cloverleaf Dine & Donate Begins

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

### ***WEDNESDAY, November 30th***

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

7:00 PM Adult Education Book Study, Room 120

7:00 PM Yoga, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM PNC Committee, Parlor

### ***THURSDAY, December 1st***

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room

### ***SATURDAY, December 3rd***

6:00 PM Christmas Movie Night, Fellowship Hall

### ***SUNDAY, December 4th***

9:30 AM Traditional Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall

12:00 PM Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

6:30 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Room