



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 11, 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](#)



## **A SERVICE OF PEACE AND HOPE**

The Deacons invite you to join us at a Service of Peace and Hope on **Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 PM**. People are welcome to join us in person this year. In a year marked by ups and downs of anxiety, losses, and limitations, let's share in a time of quiet and calm prayer, soft music, and candle lighting.

Using the link to the form below, please write in the name of any person(s) or a situation you are keeping in your thoughts this holiday season. A candle will be lit for every prayer submitted; you can choose whether or not they will be named during the service. Please feel free to add a brief message. All submissions will remain anonymous.

<https://forms.gle/DuNgkp4HK25fLCsCA>



## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

VISIT [WWW.FIRSTPRESCALDWELL.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTPRESCALDWELL.ORG) FOR MORE INFO

- December 18th 10:00 AM**  
Family Christmas Service & Live Nativity
- December 23rd 7:00 PM**  
Contemporary Service
- December 24th 8:00 PM**  
Candlelight Festival Service
- December 24th 10:00 PM**  
Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
- December 25th**  
Pre-recorded Service Available via Livestream



## **SOME FEEL-GOOD OPPORTUNITIES**

Here's a great chance to reach out and brighten the lives of our homebound members in 2023! You're invited to join the Card-Writing Ministry, a group of caring congregants who send messages the old-fashioned way to our friends who are "stuck in place." Staying in touch continues to be even more important because in-person visits have been limited. Especially during the last several years, our homebound friends have been touched to be remembered by their church family.

You and a partner will be assigned a month of your choice, and we'll give you each a list of about twenty names to send a "thinking of you" card that includes a personal message. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you have questions about what you'd be signing up for, call or text Jack and Lynne Stoddard at 973-896-8216...or come to...

A Combination Thank You/Welcome Event: Anyone interested is invited to an informal gathering of card-writers in the Jan Huston Pryor Room (formerly the Chapel) any time between 9:00 and noon Sunday, Dec. 11. Drop in before, between, or after worship services, and have some brunch. We'll be thanking our current card-writers, and you can find out more about becoming one.

Thanks to the writers who reached out so thoughtfully in 2022: Laura Bogert, Gordon and Kathleen Bruchac, Deb Califf, Diane Casciano, Nancy Franks, Lenore Hayden, Barbara Heil, Carol Ingersoll, Lois Jackson, Diana Lanza, Barbara Liptak, Nancy Meehan, Sue Olsen, Pam Ramsden, Debbie Reynolds, Sarah Solie, Gail Marie Stewart, Mary Ann Straub, Courtney and Sue Tannler, and Alison White. We look forward to welcoming new writers to the group!

### **Family Christmas Service—Sunday, December 18th @ 10:00 AM**

A production featuring our youth, written and directed by Sarah Solie, with music direction by Valerie Shondel, will be the highlight of this Sunday Worship.

Please join in with "Mary, Joseph, Kings, Angels, Musicians and Singers" and celebrate this 4th Sunday of Advent.

#### **Featuring:**

Amanda Barlow

Joss DeRuyter

Hope Dombrowski

Brook Fout

Jeremy Jimenez

Davis DeRuyter

Conner Dombrowski

Ella Flanagan

Grace Hemesath

Jonathan Jimenez

Eliana White



Join us afterwards for hot chocolate and cookies. Congratulate the participants, and the showrunners Sarah and Valerie.

Then check out the Bethlehem stable petting zoo outside!!

Pet the animals or simply enjoy watching the children do so.

Thank you to the Children and Youth Ministry Committee for arranging this.

**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.

**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.



## **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).

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## **OUR STAFF**

**Rev. Bill Schram**, *Interim Pastor/Head of Staff*

**Valerie Shondel**, *Interim Music Director*

**Kaitlyn Heun**, *Interim Director of Youth Ministries*

**Scott Westenerger**, *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, December 11th***

9:00 AM Card Writing Brunch, Chapel

9:30 AM Traditional Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall

12:00 PM Family Service Rehearsals, Room 120

### ***MONDAY, December 12th***

5:00 PM Caldwell-4U Basketball Practice, Gym

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

### ***TUESDAY, December 13th***

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

6:00 PM Deacon & Session Dinner

6:00 PM Finance Committee, Zoom Meeting

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting, Chapel/Zoom

### ***WEDNESDAY, December 14th***

6:00 PM RRC, Zoom Meeting

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

7:00 PM Yoga, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Adult Ed Book Study, Room 120

7:00 PM PNC Meeting, Parlor

### ***THURSDAY, December 15th***

5:00 PM Caldwell-4U Basketball Practice, Gym

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room

### ***SATURDAY, December 17th***

10:00 AM Family Service Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6:00 PM Holiday Lights, Turtleback Zoo

### ***SUNDAY, December 18th***

10:00 AM Family Christmas Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Live Nativity/Hot Chocolate, Church Lawn

11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

12:30 PM Choir Recording, Sanctuary

1:15 PM Choir Potluck, Room 120

6:00 PM Service of Peace & Hope, Sanctuary

6:30 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Room