



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 18th, 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](#)

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	Davis DeRuyter	Joss DeRuyter
Conner Dombrowski	Hope Dombrowski	Ella Flanagan
Brooke Fout	Grahm Fout	Grace Hemesath
Jeremy Jimenez	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.

A SERVICE OF PEACE AND HOPE

Deacons and Stephen’s Ministers 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 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



A SPECIAL NOTE FROM “ELF” JOHNSON

My sincere thanks to our wonderful congregation for your amazing support of the Oasis Giving Tree Project 2022 to benefit the families down in Paterson. Your overwhelming generosity will truly make a difference by bringing Christmas joy to so many in need this holiday season. With Gratitude, Ellen “Elf” Johnson



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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a brief congregational meeting between worship services at 10:30am on January 8, 2023. The purpose will be to elect officers and Nominating Committee members.

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. 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 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.

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 or 862-684-3673.

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

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. 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 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

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, 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

MONDAY, December 19th

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Parlor

TUESDAY, December 20th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

5:00 PM Caldwell-4U Basketball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Session Meeting, Chapel/Zoom

WEDNESDAY, December 21st

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

7:00 PM Yoga, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, December 22nd

7:00 PM Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room

FRIDAY, December 23rd

7:00 PM Contemporary Christmas Service, Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, December 24th

8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, December 25th

Merry Christmas!

10:00 AM Pre-recorded Worship Service, Online Only