



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

Saturday, December 24th, 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](#)

## **UPCOMING SERVICES**

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

**December 24th 8:00 PM**

Candlelight Festival Service

**December 24th 10:00 PM**

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

**December 25th 10:00 AM**

Pre-recorded Service Available via Livestream

**January 1st 10:00 AM**

One Worship Service in the Sanctuary

## **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.

## **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.

## **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



## **ADULT EDUCATION WINTER NEWSLETTER**

Greetings! Our focus this winter and spring is Amazing Grace. Just what is grace, you may ask. It is an unearned, possibly undeserved gift, given freely to the receiver but at a cost for the giver. Gifts have differing values which are contingent on two things: how indispensable the gift is to the receiver, and how costly it is to the giver. For example, an unexpected cup of coffee from a friend is appreciated, especially if we are in dire need of an energy boost to meet a dreaded deadline and, even more so, if your friend is someone you have placed on the back burner for a long time. You have been graced by a friend who overcame hurt and did not allow your ungrace toward them to continue. Both the need and the cost pump up the value of their gift, and, in turn, the relationship with the giver. Grace is truly amazing when it enters into deep hurt, despair, a closed mind, or a hard heart. Even everyday “graces” can be powerful glue to relationships when we don’t let the everyday aspect cloud over the unmerited nature of the gift we’ve received, or the gift’s goodness in our day.

When we consider the mission of First Pres Caldwell to Shine God’s Light, we are talking about sharing the amazing grace of God through the gift of his one and only Son. In Philippians 2: 3-8 the apostle Paul beautifully parses, line by line, the sacrifices Jesus chose, bearing the price of our sins so that we might choose him. Remembering too that there is nothing we can do to lose his love, then how do we respond to such love? Paul also entices us to be grace dispensers: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” Let the gift of his humility also be ours and invite his Spirit to build in us a desire to respond to others’ “interests” as Jesus does. This issue is about offering grace in a world filled with “ungrace”. Sharing God’s grace can be costly, but it can also be truly amazing for the receiver and the giver.

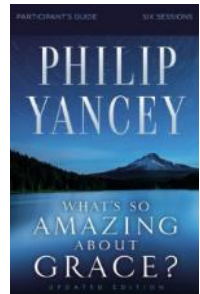
Let us know how we are doing at [adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto:adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org).

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

## **WINTER/SPRING BIBLE STUDY**

“What’s So Amazing About Grace?” by Philip Yancey

For more information about this study, download the Adult Education Newsletter:  
<https://bit.ly/3BJSNge>



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## **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.

## **TEN YEARS OF SENDING LOVE: JOIN US!**

In the fall of 2012, a small group of friends decided to reach out to our homebound members, and individually sent cards with personal messages for the last months of the year. Other volunteers soon joined the group, and in January 2013, we launched with a twelve-month schedule for card-writing. Over the years, the volunteer list and the homebound list have both grown. (This ministry is an ad hoc addition to Deacon outreach.)

Congratulations and a giant thank you to our TEN-YEAR VOLUNTEERS, who have been part of this thoughtful project since the beginning: LAURA BOGERT, GORDON and KATHLEEN BRUCHAC, LOIS JACKSON, NANCY MEEHAN, SUE OLSEN, and PAM RAMSDEN. Over the decade of service, they have been kind and faithful in touching many lives.

Much appreciation goes also to the rest of the 2022 team: Deb Califf, Diane Casciano, Nancy Franks, Lenore Hayden, Barbara Heil, Lois Jackson, Diana Lanza, Barbara Liptak, Debbie Reynolds, Sarah Solie, Gail Marie Stewart, Mary Ann Straub, Sue Tannler, and Alison White.

A piece of mail may not seem like a big thing, but hearing from your church when your days are long and lonely, it is a bright spot. Feedback is that our outreach is very much appreciated. If you are interested in participating, call or text Jack and Lynne Stoddard at 973-896-8216 or email us at [jandlstod@gmail.com](mailto:jandlstod@gmail.com). We'll be glad to answer questions about how the schedule works!

## **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.

## **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

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

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

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

## **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 Hicock**, *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**

### ***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

### ***MONDAY, December 26th***

#### ***Church Office Closed***

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

### ***TUESDAY, December 27th***

#### ***Church Office Closed***

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

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Worship Committee, Zoom Meeting

### ***WEDNESDAY, December 28th***

7:00 PM Yoga, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM PNC Meeting, Parlor

### ***THURSDAY, December 29th***

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

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

### ***SUNDAY, January 1st***

#### ***Happy New Year!***

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120