



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 17, 2023

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 Traditional Service

11:00am Contemporary Service
Sunday School and/or quiet bible-based activities are available at both services. Nursery care is available every Sunday in the Cradle Room.

Worship online any time via Facebook or livestream.com by following the links below.

[Livestream on Facebook](#)

[Livestream on Livestream Website](#)

Blue Christmas Service of Peace and Hope

**Sunday, December 17th, 2023
5:00pm in the Sanctuary**



A SERVICE OF PEACE & HOPE

The Deacons invite you to join us at a Blue Christmas Service of Peace and Hope on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the FPC. 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 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 person and/or prayer submitted. You can choose whether or not the person will be named during the service. Please feel free to add a brief message. All submissions will remain anonymous. <https://bit.ly/3REcWNj> The service will be available via our livestream links as well.

FPC MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER 24, 2023 ADVENT IV
People Look East (Barry Ferguson)
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
(arr. Lloyd Larson)



WE ARE LOOKING FOR OFFICER CANDIDATES

Your congregational Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for election as elders and deacons at our annual meeting in January. If you know someone you consider a good candidate for either role, pass their name along to the Nominating Committee chairperson, Nancy Hauser at nehauser8@comcast.net. If you would like to be considered, then let Nancy know that. Each board, elders and deacons, meets monthly. Elders on session are also connected to a church committee, expected to attend those meetings and in some cases chair the committee. Deacons are assigned tasks to help organize or carry out tasks related to the Deacons service ministries.



FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING!!!!
CHILDREN TO ADULT
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please join us for Christmas Caroling at the Live Nativity on Friday December 22 from 5:30-7PM on the First Presbyterian at Caldwell Lawn.



Choose a time slot to join in with us as we sing our favorite carols! Time available are: 5:30-5:50 6PM-6:20 6:30-6:50

To sign up contact Valerie Shondel at valerie@firstprescaldwell.org.

THE LIVE NATIVITY—A FIRST PRES TRADITION

Join us on **Friday, December 22 at 5:30pm** on the church lawn for a Live Nativity with real farm animals, Christmas caroling, and hot chocolate and cookies!

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

On **Friday, December 22 at 7:00pm**, all are invited after the live nativity to join us in the chapel for an evening of worship, storytelling, and music celebrating the birth of our Savior.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

December 22nd	5:30-7:00pm	Live Nativity & Caroling
	7:00pm	Contemporary Christmas Celebration
December 24th	10:00am	Sunday Worship Service
	8:00pm	Christmas Celebration Worship Service
	10:00pm	Candlelight Service Lessons & Carols

ALL SERVICES AVAILABLE VIA LIVESTREAM

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

December’s schedule is out. Just a reminder to sign up and make someone’s Christmas a merry one. We have two Saturdays to prepare for so be generous and help out if you can. We could also use help serving at the soup kitchen—families, friends, congregants, and of course our youth would be a great addition to our day at the soup kitchen. Times can be tough and money not always plentiful, but we do need your help to be able to feed our clients. It’s their holiday too, and these meals mean a lot to them. Sign ups can be found at www.firstprescaldwell.org/soup-kitchen-news. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOD BLESS!

FPC JOYFUL NOISE—CHILDREN’S CHOIR

We are now accepting registration for Joyful Noise, a children’s choir for singers 6-11 years old. Rehearsals are on Sundays from 10:30-11:00am at The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell. All are welcome!! Rehearsals begin on Sunday, January 14th, 2024. Sign up TODAY!!! For information and to sign up, contact Valerie Shondel, Director of Music, at Valerie@firstprescaldwell.org.

VOLLEYBALL & PICKLEBALL

Join us for volleyball in Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm and Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Our Tuesday night session of Pickleball is currently full; however, new participants are welcome to join us on Thursday evenings. Beginners will play from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. From 6:30pm to 8:00pm, we will have a mixed level play. New participants must contact Barb Bruchac at (973) 454-5583.

SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is an opportunity for church members and friends to gather in fellowship while enjoying coffee and refreshments. Coffee Hour begins again in Room 120 on September 17th in between the two worship services. Please review the calendar and consider signing up for any dates that work for you to either host or provide refreshments. Sign up using following link. <http://bit.ly/3XqBYQb>

NEIGHBOR BRIGADE

If you are in need of some assistance during a temporary time of crisis in your life, Neighbor Brigade is here to help you. We provide meals, rides to doctor appointments, dog walking, food shopping, etc. If you need this type of assistance or would like to be a volunteer, please call (973) 321-7353 or contact one of our chapter leaders: Barbara Bruchac, Jennifer Payne or Sarah Solie.

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. Join us on Mondays at 7:00pm in Room 120. Bring a mat and a water bottle. If you have blocks and a strap, scarf, or belt, bring them as well. Please enter through the gym doors in the parking lot. Any questions reach out to Sue Tannler: btannler@gmail.com or 862-684-3673. **No Yoga on December 18th.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Children and Youth Ministry Committee is excited for this Sunday School year! If you can spare a Sunday morning, or a few, we would greatly appreciate your assistance! Please take a look at the schedule below, and consider signing up to help us with Sunday School! <https://bit.ly/3FHQBba>

THERE IS STILL TIME TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2024

STEWARDSHIP 2024 - BOLDLY...RESPONSIBLY...FAITHFULLY

Pledge cards were mailed to members and friends, and are also in the pews now. You may complete and submit a pledge card by presenting it during worship today or delivering it to the church office. You may also submit your pledge online on our church website, www.firstprescaldwell.org. Finally, you may contact the church office directly at 973-228-0310.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of
Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.

Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to
work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve.

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.



DRIVERS WANTED

The Deacons are involved in coordinating transportation to and from church for church members who are unable to drive themselves. 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. <http://bit.ly/3kuNYSj>

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, *Director of Music*

Kaitlyn Heun, *Interim Director of Youth Ministries*

Amanda Lecuona, *Youth Education Coordinator*

Scott Westenberger, *Worship Leader*

Lauren Restaino, *Communications Coordinator*

Christine Brunner, *Office Manager*

Chris White, *Building Manager/Head Sexton*

Celesta Silvera, *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

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 17th

10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship/Christmas Musical

11:00 AM Christmas Brunch & Crafts, Fellowship Hall

5:00 PM Service of Peace & Hope, Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Parlor

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th

4:00 PM Thursday Soup Kitchen Drop Off, Staff Lot

7:00 PM PNC Meeting, Parlor

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room

7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

5:30 PM Live Nativity & Caroling, Church Lawn

7:00 PM Contemporary Christmas Worship, Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

8:30 PM Soccer Shots

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary

8:00 PM Christmas Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 PM Candlelight Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary