



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 3, 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](#)

There will only be one service at 10:00am on December 17, 2023.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!

Celebrate with the George and Bruchac families as they welcome their newest little additions to their families!

Aarhoe Knight Ahuja

Son of Roopak and Kathryn Ahuja
Grandson of Stephen and Kristiane George
Born November 17, 2023

Cecelia Kakavitsas

Daughter of Cori and Bobby
Granddaughter of Barbara and Mike Bruchac
Born on November 22 at 12:32 am
8 lbs. 8 oz. And 21 inches

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA BY DECEMBER 6TH

It's time to think of our wonderful Christmas Poinsettias.

These beautiful flowers of Christmas not only grace our Sanctuary and Chapel but bring the joy of Christmas into our homes. If you wish to be a part of our Christmas tradition and donate a poinsettia, please complete the printed form and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office, or you may also place your order online: <https://forms.gle/DX8dJis4nNt2WPix9> The cost of each Poinsettia is \$15.00 and **the deadline to order a poinsettia is December 6th.**

Please make sure you mark whether you want the poinsettia to take home, or if you want to leave it to help spread the joy of Christmas where needed. The flowers will be displayed for two Sundays and delivered to people after worship on the 17th. If you are able to help with the delivery, please contact the church office at 973-229-0310. Many hands make light work and this is a great family activity.





2023 Christmas Giving 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 Oasis 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 **AMAZON.COM** where you can see a list of over **1000** 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.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1HJN4PRFE4GNG>

You can also access the gift registry by using the following steps:

*Go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

*Click on the Registry- Gift List tab button.

*Under “Find a Registry or gift list-search by Name” enter OASIS A Haven for Women and Children *This will bring you to the Oasis gift registry.

Once you select your item and put it in the cart, **be sure to select the Oasis Gift Registry address** to send all items directly to Oasis at 59 Mill St. Paterson. **Last day to order from the Registry will be Thursday, Dec 7th to provide enough time to process & ship your gifts to Oasis.**

This year we are offering a “hybrid” collection so you may either order items online at Amazon or select a tag from the Giving Tree located by the Christian Ed Desk and purchase an item and drop it off in the red collection bin at church **December 10th**. As a reminder, gifts should not be wrapped and we are only collecting **NEW ITEMS** for the Christmas Giving Tree Project.

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 **DEC 1ST** to allow us to shop on your behalf. **Last day to order from the Registry is Dec 7th and drop off gifts in person at church will be Monday Dec. 10th** to provide enough time to process & deliver your gifts to Oasis.

Thank you for your continued support & generosity of the Oasis Giving Tree Project! Please feel free to contact Ellen “Elf” Johnson at johnsonellend@gmail.com if you have questions or need any assistance.



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
COOKIE WALK

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
9AM-NOON**

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
(GYMNASIUM, BOTTOM FLOOR)

*All proceeds will go to support the good works
of the First Pres Deacons.*

All are welcome!



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07044 (973) 228-0310

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 8th, from 4:00PM until 8:00PM, or Saturday morning (day of the sale), December 9th, by 8:30AM 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 9th, 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.

Facing Racism Task Force's Discussion Series:
"Listening, Learning, and Moving Forward!"

We have one meeting left in the series, "Listening, Learning, And Moving Forward!" Please join us, even if you have never previously attended one of our discussion events. The Presbyterian Church USA's website states: "Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ." With that in mind, join First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell's Facing Racism Task Force on Dec.11 as we, guided by the ministry of Jesus Christ, continue to try to unpack the topic of racism. We will discuss three short videos that we ask you to watch before the meeting. Several potential discussion questions will be provided but do not hesitate to add your own. We will meet via Zoom from 7:30- 8:45 pm. We know you are busy and will try to keep to the schedule! Here are the videos we will be discussing on Dec. 11:



-- Don't Lose Heart: Why It's Worth It to Fight for Racial Harmony Even When We Don't See Progress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9Mv5NJkJE>

-Fifth Avenue Courageous Conversations: Jamie's Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbRUMk54oI0>

-The Legacy of the Catawba Presbytery <https://www.presbyofcharlotte.org/ministry-teams/anti-racism/> (Please scroll down to find the video "The Legacy of the Catawba Presbytery")

Please RSVP for the Dec.11th meeting by the morning of Dec.11th to facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com. You will be sent the meeting's agenda and Zoom link. Finally, we want to thank the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church's Courageous Conversations curriculum for their list of resources which inspired much of this series!!

SANDWICH NIGHT

Merry Christmas All—Come one, come all to our next Sandwich Night on **Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30PM** in Fellowship Hall. This Sandwich Night will be hosted by our wonderful youth at Essex County VoTech. This group has been coming for the last three years and we so enjoy seeing their enthusiasm for the task ahead.

We welcome family, friends, and congregants to join in this fast pace ministry, as we prepare 400 to 450 bagged lunches to be sent to St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. Come and enjoy while making their client's very happy.

See you on the 13th!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING

Join us on December 16th at 2pm at Sunrise Senior Living for Christmas Caroling! We will meet at First Pres at 1:30pm to carpool over as there is limited parking at the location.



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 BLOOMFIELD AVE, CALDWELL, NJ 07006

*Sponsored by the Church Life Committee
& the Children and Youth Committee*

Christmas Brunch & Crafts



Sunday, December 17th, 2023



**Following the 10am Christmas Musical
In Fellowship Hall**



****Sign -up November 12th through December 10th****

In-person see Bonnie Chiappetta or the church office

online at: www.firstprescaldwell.org/christmas-brunch-and-crafts
or by calling the church office 973-228-0310

please make sure to pick up your tickets in the office if you signed up online

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR UPCOMING CBA EVENTS.....

December 17 FPC and CBA Christmas Musical
December 22 Live Nativity & Caroling
August 5-9, 2024 CBA Musical Theater Camp





JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S FPC CHRISTMAS
MUSICAL

RADIO J-O-Y!!!

Directed by Sarah Solie

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 17
AT THE 10:00 AM SERVICE**

A Children's Christmas musical featuring over 40 young performers between the ages of 4 and 15!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

For information contact:
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
valerie@firstprescaldwell.org

AFRICAN DREAM ACADEMY MISSION TRIP

It's time to make a decision about participating in the mission trip to Liberia from March 28 to April 9. The Deacons are offering two \$2000 scholarships for high school students. The students will need to raise approximately another \$1000. For more information, contact Lydia Spinelli: lspinelli@brickchurch.org.

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.

THANK YOU — MUSIC CHAMBER CONCERT

Thank you to all who attended Cali School of Music Chamber Concert. We are so pleased to be able to showcase the talents of these amazing students. Thank you to Dan Batchelder for putting such a varied program together!

More concerts to come soon! Stay informed by emailing Valerie@firstprescaldwell.org.



***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

All your favorite Christmas songs!!!! Song sheets will be provided.

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

You can also sign up on the sheet on Valerie's Office Door OR by calling the Church Office at
973 228-0310.

**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.





FPC MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER 3, 2023 ADVENT I

THE EYES OF ALL WAIT UPON THEE (JEAN BERGER)

O COME, O COME EMANUAL (PERFORMED BY THE SELECT BELL ENSEMBLE)

DECEMBER 10, 2023 ADVENT II

THE DAPPER DAN'S

DECEMBER 17, 2023 ADVENT III

THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL : RADIO JO-Y!

DIRECTED BY SARAH SOLIE

DECEMBER 24, 2023 ADVENT IV

PEOPLE LOOK EAST (BARRY FERGUSON)

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

(ARR. LLOYD LARSON)

FPC CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec 22	5:30-7:00pm	Live Nativity
	7:00pm	Contemporary Christmas Service
Dec 24	10:00am	Worship Service
	8:00pm	Christmas Celebration
	10:00pm	Candlelight Service Lessons and Carols



THERE IS STILL TIME TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2024 **STEWARDSHIP 2024 - BOLDLY...RESPONSIBLY...FAITHFULLY**

Our Stewardship theme this year is “Boldly...Responsibly...Faithfully.” We are asked to act boldly and responsibly in faithfully stewarding our part of Christ’s body into the future. This church has witnessed great acts of caring, wonderful acts of worship, lives changed by experiencing and knowing our gracious Lord and savior. It was accomplished by Boldly, Responsibly and Faithfully using what God has given us in service to Christ. As Jesus said, more will be added to faithful witnesses. In receiving more and using it boldly, responsibly, and faithfully, we shape our church’s future.

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. Pledging is about more than what we can do. It is also about who we are. Making a commitment and giving regularly to the church is one of the ways we express what it means to be disciples and a part of this faith community. Your pledged commitment is a financial investment in the mission and ministry of The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell.

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.

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.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

We hope that your Thanksgiving was full of happiness and good food. Here we are looking forward to Christmas and a new year, where does the time go? We thank all for making Thanksgiving special for our clients. They enjoyed their turkey and fixings and asking for seconds. Kudos to all who has the time to prepare a pan.

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!

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 4th or 18th.**

ROVING REPORTERS NEEDED

"If a picture is a worth a thousand words, then a video is worth a million." First Pres is looking for roving reporters to help us with capturing our services, programs and events via photos and/or videos. If you take any photos or videos at FPC, please email them to Lauren at lauren@firstprescaldwell.org.

PNC: NEW PROCESS for referring applicants for our next installed Pastor

After navigating PC(USA)s launch of the new CLC call posting system, potential candidates should be directed to apply online via the following link: [Church Leadership Connection](http://ChurchLeadershipConnection)

To navigate directly, go to <https://clc.pcusa.org/login>. On the left under Discerning Your Call, enter NJ to Select State and press Search. On the Opportunity Search Results screen, type "Caldwell" in the City field and press Update Search. Our listing will appear. Feel free to follow the link and View MDP for an understanding of qualifications. Please note that the PNC operates confidentially. Therefore, we are not able to share status updates on any referred applicants.

THE CALDWELL FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF DONATIONS.

Please consider donating the following items to help your neighbors in need. Items include canned tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, rice, beans, canned veggies, kids snacks, coffee. Place your donation in the red shopping carts in either entrance of the sanctuary.

VOLLEYBALL & PICKLEBALL

Join us for volleyball in Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. 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>

SIGN UP TO ACOLYTE THIS YEAR

It's a very special responsibility to bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary for our services of worship. Children in grades 3-5 are encouraged to participate in this wonderful ministry of light. To sign up to be an acolyte, use the following link: <https://bit.ly/3EdAQYq>

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>

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.

SINGERS: Teenagers to adults. NO experience needed. Come ***SING*** with us!!

BELL RINGERS: Teenagers to adults. NO experience needed!! Come ***RING*** with us!!



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: Teenagers to adult performers looking to join the Contemporary Service Musicians! Come ***JOIN*** us!

For more information contact:

Valerie Shondel, Director of Music valerie@firstprescaldwell.org

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 3rd

9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

12:15 PM Children & Youth Committee, Parlor

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Parlor

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

5:00 PM Building & Grounds Meeting, Parlor

6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6th

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

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room

7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th

9:00 AM Cookie Walk, Fellowship Hall

10:00 AM Christmas Musical Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Tree Trimming

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

12:15 PM Church Life Committee, Parlor