



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 31, 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.

Regular Sunday Schedule

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](#)

A CARING OPPORTUNITY

It is almost time for New Year's resolutions...if you have vowed to extend more Christian love in 2024, here's a perfect chance! As part of a long-standing card-writing ministry, a number of church members join to reach out each month to show our homebound members that they are being remembered. Over the years, we have had many positive responses from these individuals or their family members indicating that these personal notes have been truly appreciated.

Basically, a volunteer is assigned one month of the year, with a partner. Each sends a greeting card with a personal message to their half of the list. The list is updated monthly, and cards can be sent at any time during the month. Volunteers choose their own, or there are "thinking of you" type cards available in the church office.

If you would like to know more about this quiet but effective ministry, you are invited to come to the Heritage Gallery (next to Room 120) for "A Bit of Brunch" on January 7. Depending on which service you attend, stop by any time between 10 and 11:30. You can meet some of our card-writers and ask questions about how the whole project works. Or, feel free to call/text Jack and Lynne Stoddard at 973-896-8216, or email jandlstod@gmail.com.

TAKE A BOW! Thanks to our 2023 card-writers: 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, Debbie Reynolds, Sarah Solie, Gail Marie Stewart, Sue Tannler, and Alison White. Special gratitude goes to Debbie Reynolds and the Bruchacs, who are "retiring" after many years of faithful service. The Bruchac Family has participated since 2013; in the early days, the children added their own drawings. Debbie began writing in 2015 and for at least five years, has volunteered for two months each year.
That's a lot of cards! That's a lot of kindness!

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.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Project 2024 organized by
The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell and Congregation Agudath Israel**

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell and Congregation Agudath Israel are teaming up once again to invite you to participate in a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Project benefitting the 7th Street Bistro of Memorial West United Presbyterian Church in Newark, New Jersey. This soup kitchen helps to address some of the food insecurity needs of families who live in the West Ward of Newark. We will be collecting **requested items** to help restock the food pantry of 7th Street Bistro of Memorial West United Presbyterian Church.

Members of Congregation Agudath Israel and First Presbyterian Church will be stationed outside of First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell (326 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ) on the circle/staff parking lot to receive drive-by donations: **Date: Sunday 1-14-24 Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.**

Members of both congregations will also be stationed in the **parking lot of Jack's Foodtown (Caldwell)** to collect donations. **Date: Monday 1-15-24 (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) Time: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Requested items:

- Vegetable soup, tomato soup, cream of chicken soups
- Crackers
- Canned beans: black beans, kidney beans, pinto beans
- Canned tuna fish or pink salmon, canned chicken
- Peanut butter, grape or strawberry jelly/jam
- Assorted canned fruit: pears, pineapple, peaches. (However, please do not donate low/no sugar products.)
- Canned brown or chicken gravy
- Canned vegetables: green beans, collard greens, corn, spinach, mixed vegetables,
- sweet potatoes
- Any juices (especially apple)
- Potato flakes, and boxed/bagged rice
- Spaghetti, rotini, pasta shells, macaroni
- Boxes of mac & cheese
- Pasta sauce (any variety), diced tomatoes
- Any prepared canned meals (Chili or Chef Boyardee products)
- Cold breakfast cereals
- Variety packs of oatmeal
- Hot chocolate packs
- Pancake mix
- Pantry milk/non-fat dry milk

****If we need to cancel the Monday event (1-15-24) due to inclement weather, the Foodtown collection will take place the following Sunday (1-21-24) from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Foodtown parking lot.**

If you would prefer to participate 100% remotely, there will be a donate button for monetary donations towards this project on the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell's website. We will be happy to do the shopping for you!

We would love for you to partake in this Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Project in whatever way you feel comfortable; and in doing so, assist us to continue to help realize Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community." For questions or more information, please email facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com.

A NOTE FROM ELLEN "ELF" JOHNSON

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the kindness of our congregation in support of the Oasis Christmas Giving Tree Project this year. The total number of gifts we collected through the Target Gift Registry was 515 gifts! We delivered an additional 83 gifts down to Paterson that were dropped off at the church in support of the Giving Tree. We had tremendous support from so many members of the community this year with 59% of the gifts donated coming from outside of the church. Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we have been able to brighten the Christmas season to those less fortunate. With heartfelt gratitude,
Ellen "Elf" Johnson

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.

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.



Food Pantry Bingo & Potluck

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

Fun for All Ages!

Fellowship Hall Doors

Open at 6:30

first call at 7pm

*Entry fee is food for the pantry
and you get 2 bingo boards*

&

Bring an appetizer, salad, or sweet treat share

All donations go to the Caldwell Food Pantry

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

We still have some soup kitchen dates for December. Sign up to prepare a meal and make someone's Christmas a merry one. 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. 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 takes place in Room 120 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.

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>

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/3EdAOYq>

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 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 31st

10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

MONDAY, JANUARY 1st

Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Parlor

7:00 PM Yoga, Room 120

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2nd

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

7:00 PM Caldwell Township Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd

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

5:00 PM Caldwell Chiefs Basketball Practice

7:00 PM PNC Meeting, Parlor

7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4th

5:00 PM Caldwell Chiefs Basketball Practice

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room

7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5th

7:00 AM Adult Basketball

8:30 AM Soccer Shots, Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th

9:00 AM Card Writers Brunch, Heritage Gallery

9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

11:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

12:15 PM Church Life Committee, Parlor

12:15 PM Children & Youth Committee, Youth Room