



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**

## ***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)

### **Upcoming Worship Schedule**

10:00 am Traditional Service  
5:00 pm Contemporary Service

***Sunday School** for children in preschool through 6th grade will begin again in the fall.*

***Nursery care** is available every Sunday in the Cradle Room.*

*Worship online any time via our YouTube account which is available on our website.*  
[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)

### **SUNDAY PARKING FOR WORSHIP**

**The staff parking lot and the circle are reserve on Sunday for those with mobility challenges.**

We ask that all others park on the street, the non-permit spots in the lot behind the diner, or in the community center parking across the street next to the firehouse.

### **PLEDGE! PLEDGE! PLEDGE!**



Please take the next few weeks to faithfully consider how you can pledge to the church in 2026. Last year, our goal was \$240,000. We didn't just meet that goal, we reached \$266,000! Unbelievable! Now, we are aiming for a new goal: \$305,000. I know it sounds like a massive jump. After all, it's about a 14% increase. But even if a few more pledge this year, I have no doubt in my mind that we will reach that number and may well go even higher! You can use

this QR code to pledge:

Pledges collected to date are: \$228,905

### **THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL!**



You are invited to THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL:  
The Best Christmas Present EVER!  
A children's musical created by Celeste and David Clydesdale.  
Sunday December 14 at the 10AM Service

For more information go to:  
[www.caldwellbroadwayarts.org](http://www.caldwellbroadwayarts.org)  
or scan the QR code  
or contact Valerie Shondel, Director of Music:  
[valerie@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto:valerie@firstprescaldwell.org)

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Meets every other Monday. We will be pausing our study on the Holy Spirit and beginning a new Advent study titled "The Marvel and Miracle of Advent"  
Next meeting, in the parlor and via zoom, is Monday December 1st.  
Please call Barb Bruchac at (973) 454-5583 with any questions.

## **UPCOMING CHURCH FAMILY BRUNCH DATES**

This is a chance to come together for a time of fellowship. Come and check in with one another, see how others are doing, and what we all have going on in the coming days.

*DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>—CHRISTMAS BRUNCH*

*FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, CRAFTS!*

**Sign up before Dec.7 by scanning the QR code below!**



## **SANDWICH NIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sandwich Night is next month on Wednesday, December 10th, hosted by the Sunday School starting at 5:30pm, in Fellowship Hall. At Sandwich Night we prepare over 400 bagged lunches to benefit those in need at St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. When you participate, you get to spend time with new and old friends. And it usually only takes one hour!

Everyone is welcome to join in this wonderful mission!

## **SOUP KITCHEN ANNOUNCEMENT NOVEMBER**

We want to thank everyone who has donated food to the Soup Kitchen. We hope that more people will consider donating food so that we can continue to provide delicious meals for the growing number of patrons at Our Lady of the Valley Soup Kitchen, in Orange, NJ. We serve meals every Thursday and the 4th and 5th Saturday of each month.

Please check the website to see how you can help.

If the drop off times are inconvenient, food can be delivered to church during office hours. If other arrangements are needed or you have any questions, please call Laura Schalles at 973-476-8616.

## **VINYASA YOGA AT FPC**



**Remember new start time of 6:30pm**

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 6:30pm 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](mailto:btannler@gmail.com) or 862-684-3673.

## **VOLLEYBALL & PICKLEBALL**

Join us for volleyball in Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Volleyball is open to all ages 18+. Our Tuesday night session of Pickleball is currently full; however, new participants are welcome to join us on Thursday evenings. Beginners will play from 6pm to 6:30pm From 6:30pm to 8pm, we will have a mixed level play. New participants must contact Barb Bruchac at (973) 454-5583.

## **OFFERINGS**

Offerings will be collected during worship. If you prefer, you may give online at:

[www.firstprescaldwell.org/give](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org/give). Mailed in donations are also 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 3pm, we cannot guarantee inclusion of material submitted after that. Please email Dennis Velez at [dennis@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto:dennis@firstprescaldwell.org).

## **OUR STAFF**

**Rev. Christopher Houtz**, *Pastor/Head of Staff*  
**Valerie Shondel**, *Director of Music*  
**Christine Brunner**, *Office Manager*  
**Chris White**, *Building Manager/Head Sexton*  
**Amanda Lecuona**, *Director of Youth Ministry & Christian Education*  
**Erika Hallenbeck**, *Contemporary Band Leader*  
**Dennis Velez**, *Communications and Outreach Engineer*  
**Brittany Heun**, *Sunday Receptionist*  
**Kaitlyn Heun**, *Sunday Sexton*  
**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](mailto:prospecthillcemetery@firstprescaldwell.org)*  
**Dr. Robert R. McGruther**, *Pastor Emeritus*

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We are looking for volunteer nursery help on Sundays for our 10am and 5pm services. Please consider giving an hour of your time to make sure that we can provide a loving space for our youngest worshipers each Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on the door, and for any other questions please ask Amanda!

## **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**

### **SUNDAY, November 30th**

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
10:45 AM Tree and Chapel Decorating  
11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120  
3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel  
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

### **MONDAY, December 1st**

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 PM Yoga Vinyasa, Room 120  
7:45 PM Woman's Bible Study, Parlor, Zoom

### **TUESDAY, December 2nd**

5:30 B&G Meeting, Parlor  
6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel  
7:00 PM Personnel Meeting, Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, December 3rd**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor  
7:00 PM Deacon and Session Christmas Party  
7:00 PM Cemetery Meeting, Parlor

### **THURSDAY, December 4th**

5:30 PM Jr. Handbell Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Room  
7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### **FRIDAY, December 5th**

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120

### **SATURDAY, December 6th**

8:00 AM Dads with a Mission, Rockin' Joe Café  
9:00 AM COOKIE WALK!, Fellowship Hall  
12:00 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal, Room 120  
1:00 PM Dysautonomia Intern. Support Group  
4:30 PM Christmas Tree Lighting Town of Caldwell

### **SUNDAY, December 7th**

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120  
11:15 AM Bible Study Adults, Chapel  
11:15 AM Bible Study Children & Youth  
11:30 AM Church Life Meeting, Parlor  
12:15 PM CYM Meeting, Youth Room, Hybrid  
3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel  
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel  
5:00 PM Teen Contemporary Voices Rehearsal

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

# COOKIE WALK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

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 AVE, CALDWELL, NJ 07006

## NEW THIS YEAR!

Cookie Bake  
Off!

\$100 Prize  
Scan the QR  
code to enter



Dog  
Cookie  
Treats  
Available for  
Purchase

Pictures  
with  
Santa  
9:30-11am

*Do you have a favorite cookie Recipe?  
Think it could win first prize?*

# Join Our Cookie Walk Bake Off!

**\$100  
Prize**

*Cookie Drop off  
Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 4pm-7pm*

*Sign-up Here*



*Winner will be announced  
at the Cookie Walk  
Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm*

*First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell  
326 Bloomfield Ave*

## 2025 Christmas Project for Oasis, A Haven for Women & Children



As we begin to prepare for the Christmas season, several people have asked about our Giving Tree project which I have been doing for the last 16 years. This year, after discussions with the mission committee and sharing with session, it was decided to limit the project to an online gift registry at AMAZON. There are over 500 toys to pick from with a variety of prices that will be shipped directly to Oasis in Paterson for distribution to the over 150 kids & their families that are part of the Oasis program. The easiest way to access the Registry is by scanning the QR code directly:



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

- \*Go to Amazon.com and Click on the Registry- Gift List tab button.
- \*Under "Find a Registry or gift list-search by Name" enter "First Press Caldwell" This will bring you to the Oasis 2025 gift registry.

**Last day to order from the Registry is Dec 10th** to provide enough time to deliver your gifts to Oasis. Please note that we will not be accepting any toys dropped off at the church as **this project will be on-line only.**

Thank you for your continued support & generosity of the Project! Please contact Ellen Johnson at [johnsonellend@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonellend@gmail.com) if you have questions.