



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, November 9, 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: \$100,950

### **THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL!**



Open to performers ages 4-13  
Rehearsal begins November 9th

Performance Sunday December 14th, 10AM

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

### **JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC CONCERT!**

The Broadway Repertory Orchestra  
Directed by Chad Smith  
Will be at First Pres on November 17th at 7:30 PM  
They will be performing Broadway hits from:  
Gypsy, Company, Baby, Funny Girl, and more...  
Free and open to the public!



### **DEACONS COOKIE WALK COMING DECEMBER 6th!**

The Deacons annual Christmas Cookie Walk will be on Saturday, December 6th, from 9am-12pm in fellowship hall. This year there will be some exciting additions to this beloved tradition including a Cookie Bake Off contest with a \$100 prize for the best cookie and Santa will be available for free photos with the kids (and adults) from 9:30-11 am. We will also have homemade dog treats available for purchase.

Bakers are needed to help make this event a success. Santa's elves will be taking sign ups at the back of the sanctuary and in coffee hour each Sunday through November 30th. You can also sign up for our Cookie Bake Off using the attached QR code. Please contact Kathy Pace at [kpacel1@verizon.net](mailto:kpacel1@verizon.net) with any questions.

### **GOING ON NOW—CLOTHING DRIVE!**

It is that time for our second clothing drive of the year! Just like last time, we'll be collecting clean, gently used clothing. Since 80% of St. John's guests are men, we do want to stress the importance of donating men's clothing.

Disposable rain ponchos are also a much needed item for all.

Our planned donation dates are from **Sunday, October 26th through Sunday, November 9th.**

The donation bin can be accessed 24/7.

As always, the Deacons thank the congregation for their continued support of this mission. We encourage you all to prayerfully consider joining us on the Board of Deacons. We can always use more folks who are willing to join us, and serve not only the FPC community, but the community beyond.

### **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 November 3rd.

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.

*NOVEMBER 16th—STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON*

*DECEMBER 14th—CHRISTMAS BRUNCH*

## **SANDWICH NIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sandwich Night is next month on Wednesday, November 12th, hosted by the Deacons 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 9th**

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, Youth Room  
11:30 AM Church Life Meeting, Parlor  
12:30 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal  
3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel  
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

### **MONDAY, November 10th**

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 PM Yoga-Vinaya, Room 120

### **TUESDAY, November 11th**

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall  
6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting, Zoom  
7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel  
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting, Room 120 & Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, November 12th**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor  
5:30 PM Sandwich Night, Gym

### **THURSDAY, November 13th**

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

### **FRIDAY, November 14th**

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120

### **SATURDAY, November 15th**

7:00 PM Men's Basketball, Gym  
8:00 AM Dads with a Mission, Rockin' Joe Café  
10:00 AM Musical Rehearsal, Room 120, Chapel, Sanctuary  
6:00 PM Youth Group Thanksgiving Dinner, Gym  
7:00 PM Men's Basketball, Gym

### **SUNDAY, November 16th**

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
11:00 AM Stewardship Lunch  
3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel  
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel