



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 21, 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

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

SUNDAY PARKING FOR WORSHIP

The staff parking lot and the circle are reserved 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: \$239,266



TODAY IS NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Please join us in welcoming our newest members:

Tori and Kyle Hoffer who recently moved to Caldwell and their one year old son Finn.

Erica Toth-Riga from Montclair and her children Theodore & Aurelia.

Dr. William (Bill) Boss from Essex Fells. Bill's daughter Lindsey is also joining FPC today.

Lindsey Boss-Perella from North Caldwell and her children Andrew, Penelope, & Michael.

A special thanks to Pastor Chris for his time & insight he shared with this Inquirers Class along with Donna Heun, and Ellen Johnson for their assistance & organizing the class. A special shout out to our Elders, Rich Heun & Chris Dombrowski along with our

Clerk of Session Betty Resch for their participation as well.

Please join us in Room 120 after the service for cake and to extend the hand of friendship as we welcome our newest members to FPC.

If you are interested in being part of our next new member class here at FPC or have questions about joining the church, please contact the church office for details.

Thank you to Darcy Asche for the making the new member boutonnières.

OASIS IS BLESSED TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF GENEROUS FPC MEMBERS!

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the kindness of our congregation in support of the 2025 Oasis Christmas Project this year. The total number of gifts we collected through the Amazon Gift Registry was 317 toys! Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we have been able to brighten the Christmas season to those less fortunate.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Ellen "Elf" Johnson

HOW TO SPREAD KINDNESS

If you're looking for a way to make a difference in the new year, here's a perfect chance to extend some Christian love! As part of a long-standing card-writing ministry (since 2012!), a team of church members join to reach out each month to show our homebound members that they are being remembered by their church family.

Here's how it works: You would volunteer for one month of the year—your choice—and you would have a partner for that month. The two of you would share the list—that means you would each write about 15 messages, using a provided list, which is updated monthly. Each sends a greeting card with a personal message. Cards can be sent all at once or interspersed through the month as your schedule permits. Volunteers choose (or make) their own cards and are responsible for the postage. "Thinking of you" cards are available in the office.

If you would like to know more about this quiet but much-appreciated ministry, ask any of the card-writers...or feel free to call/text Jack and Lynne Stoddard at (973) 896-8216, or email them at jandlstod@gmail.com.

TAKE A BOW! Thanks to our 2025 card-writers: Laura Bogert, Deb Califf, Diane Casciano, Nancy Franks, Lenore Hayden, Barbara Heil, Carol Ingersoll, Lois Jackson, Sarah Johnson, Diana Lanza, Barbara Liptak, Nancy Meehan, Liz Moore, Valerie Shondel, Sarah Solie, Gail Marie Stewart, Courtney Tannler, Sue Tannler, and Alison White.

SAVE THE DATE SUPER BOWL EXTRAVAGANZA

Join us for our Annual Super Bowl Tailgating Extravaganza on Sunday, February 8th. The event will feature our Great Chili Cookoff. The winner will take home the coveted trophy! It is a BYOB event, and we encourage everyone to bring their tailgating supplies for a fun indoor tailgate! Stay tuned for information on the sale of our Super Bowl boxes as we get closer.

SAVE THE DATE TIKI NIGHT

Tricky Tray & Silent Auction—April 25, 2026, at 6:00 PM
To benefit local, state, and international charities.

We are accepting donations of empty baskets and new items that could go in baskets at the Christian Ed desk and will follow up with more information in the new year.

If you would like to help with this event,
Please email: Lydia Spinelli at: lydia.spinelli@gmail.com

Or

Liz Moore at: coachlizmo@yahoo.com

SANDWICH NIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT

Sandwich Night is next month on Wednesday, January 14th, 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

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

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 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+.

Open play PICKLEBALL is on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-8PM in Fellowship Hall. However, Tuesday night is currently FULL. New participants are welcome to join us on Thursday nights. Please contact Darcy Asche if interested. 973-768-4217 cell

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meets every other Monday.

Next meeting, in the parlor and via zoom, is Monday January 12th, 2026
Please call Barb Bruchac at (973) 454-5583 with any questions.



OFFERINGS

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

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.

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

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

website: www.firstprescaldwell.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, December 21st

9:30 AM Inquirer's Meeting, Parlor

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Coffee Hour & New Member Welcome Reception

11:00 AM Rehearsals Section Leaders

11:15 AM Bible Study Adults, Chapel

11:15 AM Bible Study Youth, Youth Room

3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel

5:00 PM Contemporary Christmas Worship Service, Chapel

6:00 PM Live Nativity with Caroling

MONDAY, December 22nd

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Yoga-Vinyasa, Room 120

7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

TUESDAY, December 23rd

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel

WEDNESDAY, December 24th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service-Lessons & Carols

8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service-Communion

10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service-Candlelight & Communion

THURSDAY, December 25th

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 26st

Church Office Closed

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120

SATURDAY, December 27th

7:00 PM Men's Basketball, Gym

8:00 AM Dads with a Mission, Rockin' Joe Café

SUNDAY, December 28th

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120

3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel

5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel