



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 7, 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 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: \$230,706

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 For more information go to:
www.caldwellbroadwayarts.org
or scan the QR code
or contact Valerie Shondel, Director of Music:
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 14th—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 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. 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 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

MONDAY, December 8th

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM Yoga Vinyasa, Room 120

TUESDAY, December 9th

6:00 Finance Committee Meeting, Zoom
6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel
7:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting, Parlor

WEDNESDAY, December 10th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor
12:00 PM Staff Christmas Lunch, Room 120
5:30 PM Sandwich Night, Gym
7:00 PM Cemetery Committee Meeting, Parlor

THURSDAY, December 11th

5:30 PM Jr. Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Room
7:00 PM Paint and Sip Event, Room 120
7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, December 12th

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120

SATURDAY, December 13th

7:00 AM Men's Basketball, Gym
8:00 AM Dads with a Mission, Rockin' Joe Café
8:30 AM Soccer Shots, Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Christmas Musical Rehearsal, Room 120
12:30 PM Set up Christmas Luncheon

SUNDAY, December 14th

8:30 AM Christmas Musical Run Through, Sanctuary
10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 AM Christmas Brunch and Crafts, Gym
3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

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 if you have questions.



It's time to think of our wonderful Christmas Poinsettias. These beautiful flowers of Christmas not only grace our Sanctuary 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 form below and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

Orders MUST be received by Monday, December 15, 2025
The cost of each Poinsettia is \$15.00.

Be sure to mark whether you want the poinsettia to take home or you want to leave it to help spread the joy of Christmas where needed.

The flowers will arrive December 21st, and deliveries to our homebound members will be done after the worship service. The remaining will be on display through December 28th. Please do not pick up your poinsettia until after the Christmas Eve 10pm service, or after worship on 12/28.

There is a great need for help in making deliveries, last year Pastor Chris needed to step in to deliver on Christmas Eve! Please see an usher following the 12/21 service to volunteer.

Many hands make light work and this is a great family activity!

I would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary ... Please PRINT clearly

() TAKE HOME

() DELIVER TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY

IN MEMORY OF _____
IN HONOR OF _____
GIVEN BY _____

Please fill out a separate form for each poinsettia ordered. Return forms with your payment of \$15.00 for each poinsettia ordered with your check payable to: The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell with "Poinsettias" marked in the memo.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Amount Paid \$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Date Paid	_____
# Poinsettias Ordered	_____