



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, January 18, 2026

## ***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 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: \$249,426



## **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.

## **BINGO NIGHT!**

Food Pantry Bingo & Pot Luck  
Saturday, January 24, 2026  
6pm - 8pm  
Doors open at 6pm  
Bring donations for  
The Food Pantry  
and a Potluck Dish to share

**Neighborhood Brigade West Essex — Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
**Formerly Neighbor Brigade now operating under a new umbrella**

Once a big part of FPC, the former Neighbor Brigade has reinvented itself to meet the needs of the community. While not an FPC organization, we would like to bring attention to the newly created version, in an effort to bring awareness that these services are once again available, with a need for volunteers. Consider being a neighbor helping neighbors!

Neighborhood Brigade is a local volunteer group serving residents in our community. Our Volunteers can: Provide rides to medical appointments and assist with grocery shopping. We are proud to be part of the Caldwell Senior Citizen Advisory Board which affords us supplemental liability insurance coverage under the Town of Caldwell's umbrella. We are currently looking for Neighbors who could benefit from a helping hand and Volunteers willing to share their time and kindness. For more information, please contact Barb Bruchac 973-454-5583 or Jennifer Payne 973-610-7754. Together, we can care for our neighbors and strengthen our community.

**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](mailto:lydia.spinelli@gmail.com)

Or

Liz Moore at: [coachlizmo@yahoo.com](mailto:coachlizmo@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Project 2025 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 1-18-26 Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Members of both congregations will also be stationed in the parking lot of Jack's Foodtown (Caldwell) to collect donations. Date: Monday (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) 1-19-26 Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm

\*\*If we need to cancel the Monday event (1-19-26) due to inclement weather, the Foodtown collection will take place the following Sunday (1-25-26) from 11:00 am – 2:00 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 participate 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

[socialjustice@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto:socialjustice@firstprescaldwell.org).

Scan the QR code to donate.



### **SANDWICH NIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sandwich Night is next month on Wednesday, February 11th, hosted by Caldwell Rotary 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.

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Meets every other Monday.

Next meeting, in the parlor and via zoom, is Monday January 26th, 2026

Please call Barb Bruchac at (973) 454-5583 with any questions.

### **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](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+.

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

## 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, January 18th**

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour, Room 120

3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel

5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

### **MONDAY, January 19th**

**Office Closed**

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Yoga-Vinyasa, Room 120

### **TUESDAY, January 20th**

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Session Meeting

7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel

### **WEDNESDAY, January 21st**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

### **THURSDAY, January 22nd**

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, January 23rd**

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120

### **SATURDAY, January 24th**

7:00 PM Men's Basketball, Gym

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

8:30 AM Soccer Shots

6:30 PM Bingo, Gym

### **SUNDAY, January 25th**

10:00 AM Annual Meeting, Santurary

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour, Room 120

11:15 AM Bible Study Adults, Chapel

11:15 AM Bible Study Children & Youth, Room 207

3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel

5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

**The Communications Committee  
is excited to announce...**



Beginning January 25th, visit us in person after Worship to verify & update your information.

We will have red binders with profiles listed alphabetically by surname with preprinted data and room for corrections.

Additional data is sought for partner projects and future enhancements, so we are asking for completeness! Help us minimize tracking you down!

Separately, casual headshots will also be requested for inclusion in the final product. You can have your picture taken on the spot or keep an eye on First Press and eblasts for details on submitting your own photo.

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell Presents:

# SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

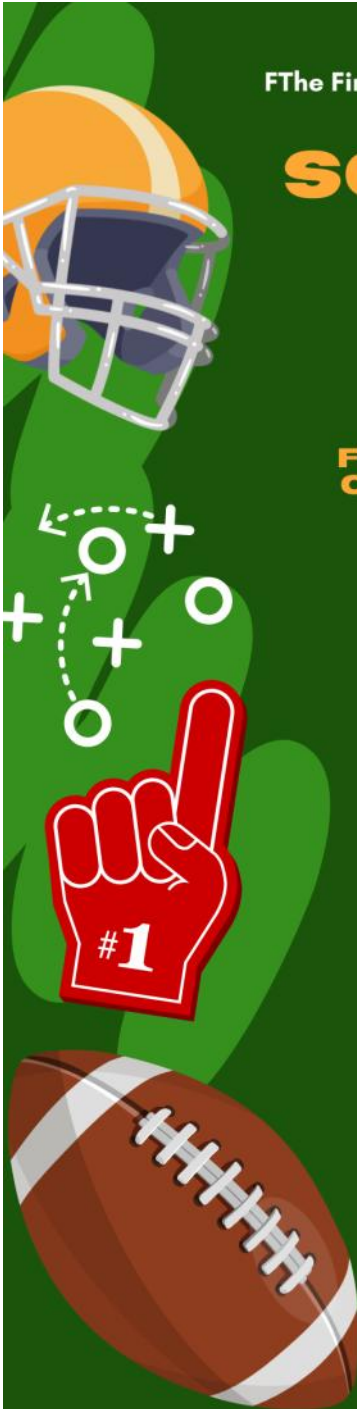
**NOW THROUGH  
FEBRUARY 8TH**

**PLEASE CONSIDER THE  
FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR THE  
CALDWELL FOOD PANTRY...**

- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER TOWELS
- SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER
- DETERGENT
- DISH AND HAND SOAP
- CLEANING PRODUCTS
- COFFEE
- SHELF MILK
- CANNED HA/CHICKEN
- DRY CEREAL
- CANNED FRUIT
- RICE/PASTA
- JUICE (BOXES OR BOTTLES)



Can't donate in person? Scan the QR code or go to  
[https://yougivegoods.com/drive-  
landing/swacne5owoksxw8nr4szy1smd](https://yougivegoods.com/drive-landing/swacne5owoksxw8nr4szy1smd)



***Join FPC in the Fight Against  
Hunger!***



***Scan to donate online or drop off  
your non-perishable donation in  
the church lobby***

***Now through February 8<sup>th</sup> 2026***  
***(Super Bowl Sunday!)***



**For more information, contact the  
church office**

**fpc@firstprescaldwell.org**  
**973-228-0310**