



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, January 25, 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

Upcoming Worship Schedule

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

Sunday School 10am
for children in preschool through 6th grade.

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: \$249,426



RESCHEDULED BINGO NIGHT!

Food Pantry Bingo & Pot Luck

Saturday, March 7, 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

Or

Liz Moore at: coachlizmo@yahoo.com

2026 Per Capita Apportionment

Presbytery has assessed the 2026 Per Capita at \$37.00 per member.

Presbytery per capita is crucial in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PC(USA)) for funding shared governance and mission, acting as the "glue" that connects congregations to their regional presbytery, synod, and national church (PC(USA)) by equitably sharing administrative costs, supporting leadership training, ministerial development (like ordination exams), and enabling collective mission beyond local churches, reinforcing unity and shared purpose as a "body of Christ". It's a financial commitment demonstrating mutual support and enabling the wider church's work.

You may send a check via mail or the offering plate.

An online option is available as well by using the QR code below.



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 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. 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, January 25th

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

MONDAY, January 26th

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM Yoga-Vinyasa, Room 120
7:00 PM Woman's Bible Study, Parlor, Zoom

TUESDAY, January 27th

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

WEDNESDAY, January 28th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

THURSDAY, January 29th

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 30th

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120
6:00 PM Youth Late-In, Gym

SATURDAY, January 31st

7:00 AM Men's Basketball, Gym
8:00 AM Dads with a Mission, Rockin' Joe Café
8:30 AM Soccer Shots
9:00 AM Officer Training, Room 120

SUNDAY, February 1st

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 AM Fellowship @ Christian Ed Desk before meeting
11:00 AM Annual Meeting, Sanctuary
11:45 AM CYM Meeting Hybrid, Youth Room
3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel
5:45 PM Contemporary Voices Rehearsal, 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)

SUPER BOWL TAILGATING EXTRAVAGANZA



FEATURING THE 2ND ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

**"WE PROVIDE THE MAINS,
YOU PROVIDE THE SIDES"**

- BYOB, 50/50, AND BOXES AVAILABLE
- FAN OF THE GAME CONTEST AND BEST TAILGATE SETUP
- ENTER YOUR BEST CHILI FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PLACE ON THE COVETED TROPHY, BRAGGING RIGHTS, AND A PRIZE!
- BRING YOUR OWN TAILGATE SETUP
- CHALLENGE A FRIEND TO A NUMBER OF LAWN GAMES
- COST: 1 CAN OF SOUP PER PERSON TO SUPPORT THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION

FEBRUARY

08

DOORS OPEN

5:30 PM

GAME START

6:30 PM

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP:

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Sign up at bit.ly/3VSnb8q

Questions? Please email us at
fpccomengagement@gmail.com.



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326 BLOOMFIELD AVE, CALDWELL, NJ 07006