



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, February 15, 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 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](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: \$251,426



## **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

### **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.



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



Visit us in Room 120 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.

### **SANDWICH NIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sandwich Night is next month on Wednesday, March 18th, 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 February 23rd, 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, February 15th**

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, February 16th**

#### **OFFICE CLOSED**

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall  
**YOGA CANCELED**

### **TUESDAY, February 17th**

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel  
7:00 PM Session Meeting, Room 120

### **WEDNESDAY, February 18th**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
4:15 PM G3 Sports, Gym

### **THURSDAY, February 19th**

4:15 PM G3 Sports, Gym  
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, February 20th**

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120  
6:00 PM CYM Escape Room & Dinner

### **SATURDAY, February 21st**

7:00 AM Men's Basketball, Gym  
8:00 AM Dads with a Mission, Rockin' Joe Café  
8:30 AM Soccer Shots  
3:00 PM Bowling Church Life, Hanover Lanes

### **SUNDAY, February 22nd**

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



Dear First Pres Members and Friends,

We have suggestions for donations to our Tricky Tray, Tiki Night, to be held on APRIL 25. We have put a box by the Christian Ed desk to collect items that can go into baskets and we really need lots of empty baskets. To make this event a success and fund our mission budget, we hope that each family will participate in some way either compiling a basket or going in with another family to compile one. Other gifts are welcome besides baskets such as Vacation homes, plane, theater, concert, or sports event tickets, new electronics (blender, mixer, ice cream maker, Ooni pizza maker etc.), clothes with labels, handbags, jewelry. In addition, a bicycle, barbeque or large ice chest could also work as a stand-alone gift. Families are welcome to join together in a donation and will be recognized in the program.

Here are some ideas for baskets:

Movie Night	Spa Day	Gardening
Sports Fan	Camping	Picnic
BBQ- Griller's Delight	Beach/Pool	Favorite Kid's Books
Coffee/Tea	Cooking/baking	Arts/Crafts
Back to School	Date Night	Teachers' Appreciation
Tailgate	Eco-Conscious	Outdoor Adventures
Chocolate Lover	Cinco de Mayo	Gusto Gourmet Italian
Family Game Night	Jewelry	Making Smore Memories
Breakfast Gift Basket	Ultimate Commuter	For the Dogs (or Cats)
Car Care	Christmas	Fourth of July
Baby Love	Scoop Ice Cream	Connoisseur Gourmet
Boredom Buster for Kids	Basket for Dads	Pamper Mom
Snowy Day Survival Kit	DIY Tool Kit	Global Gifts
Around the World Wine Chest	Artisan Cheese	Get Well Kit
Shower Kit	Dorm room	Family Fitness
A Toast to you Prosecco	Cookout Kit	For the Golfers
Around the World Beer Bucket	Travel	I'm a Barbie Girl
Good Vibes Scented Candles	Luau Party	Fun with Science
Organize Your Desk	Sangria for Friends	Baking with Kids
Themed toys/games (Princess, Trains, Dinosaurs, Disney)		

Click here for the donation form (Make link).

Also, we need your help. You can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4EA9AA283-61967806-tricky>

For any questions, email us: [lydiaspinelli@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaspinelli@gmail.com) or [coachlizmo@yahoo.com](mailto:coachlizmo@yahoo.com).

Thanks so much!

Tricky Tray Chairs,

John Dusinberre, Liz Moore, Lydia Spinelli



First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell is hosting its second Tiki Night Tricky Tray on April 25 at 6 p.m.

All proceeds will go to support the following local, national and international charities:

Fight hunger locally:

Caldwell Food Pantry

Christine's Kitchen, West Orange

7th Street Bistro, Newark

St. John's Soup Kitchen, Newark

Our Lady of the Valley Soup Kitchen, Orange

Community Food Bank, Hillside

Help change the lives of women and children by breaking the cycle of poverty through compassionate programs designed to feed, clothe, educate and empower women in need:

Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children, Paterson

Help children and parents in one of the poorest countries in the world (which was founded when the American Colonization Society sent freed slaves back to Africa) to get an education:

African Dream Academy, Monrovia, Liberia

Your donation will make a difference to all the organizations listed above and you will be listed in the program and at the event.

I would like to donate:

A Basket with

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

A Silent Auction

Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Other

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash gift \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed forms by March 25 to: First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell, 326 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, NJ 07006 or email to Lydia.spinelli@gmail.com or coachlizmo@yahoo.com whom you may also contact for more information. Your contribution is fully tax deductible as allowable by law.



## Be Someone's Lucky Charm and You Could Win BIG!

Donate March 1-April 5 and you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$10,000 gift card.\* Your donation is a lucky charm for patients in need. Schedule today.

[Make an appointment at vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org) or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: <https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointment/guest/phi/timeSlotsExtr?token=z85FPBvPwHYFCFRmGNHMyxWIASMw%2FicR/T6dFTac52k%3D>

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CALDWELL BLOOD DRIVE

326 Bloomfield Avenue (Room 120)

Caldwell, NJ 07006

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Appointments are strongly recommended. Please bring valid photo identification. Do not forget to eat and drink plenty of water!



\*Terms and condition apply; see [vitalant.org/LuckyGiveaway](https://vitalant.org/LuckyGiveaway).

Find us @vitalant:     

vitalant. 

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AT CALDWELL  
IS HOSTING ITS SECOND TIKI NIGHT  
TRICKY TRAY AND SILENT AUCTION

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**  
**AT 6:00 PM**

Enjoy delicious food, wine, and beer  
Level 1, Level 2 baskets, and Grand Prizes  
Plus silent auction items including vacations  
Supporting local, state, and international charities  
Tickets: \$45 IN ADVANCE/\$50 AT THE DOOR  
Table for 8 \$360  
Includes 1 Grand Prize Ticket, 5 Level 2 tickets  
and 10 Level 1 tickets

ONLINE & OFFICE SALES CLOSE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23 AT 3PM  
LOCATION: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL  
326 BLOOMFIELD AVE., CALDWELL, NJ 07006BUY

**Buy tickets online scan the QR code:**



**or in the church office**