



The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell

# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, March 29, 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 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:  
\$256,196



## **A Queen vs Elton John Candlelight Experience**

An unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting in door setting First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell 326 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ  
Friday May 15th

2 Sittings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm

Scan the QR code below to purchase tickets!



## **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.



## **REUSABLE BAG COLLECTION**

*-Two Hundred and Sixty Four-*

That is how many reusable bags were needed to send the non perishable groceries collected at our Turkey Drive to the Community Bank last year. The Deacons also use the reusable bags at the Cookie Walk and other events throughout the year!!!

The Deacons are asking for your help. We will begin collecting reusable plastic bags this week in Room 120 during Fellowship Hour and will relocate the box to the Christian Ed Desk area after the Auction. We will accept all sizes and shapes of reusable bags.



### **SANDWICH NIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sandwich Night is next month on Wednesday, April 15th, hosted by Essex County Vo-Tech 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.

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

Meets every other Monday.

Next meeting, in the parlor and via zoom, is April 6th.

We are currently in a 4 week Lent Study – “The Power and Promise of Easter”

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, March 29th

PALM SUNDAY

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Extended Palm Sunday Fellowship Hour hosted by Church Life, Room 120

3:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel

5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

MONDAY, March 30th

5:30 PM Jr. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Yoga-Vinyasa, Room 120

6:30 PM Handball Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

TUESDAY, March 31st

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel

WEDNESDAY, April 1st

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:00 PM Tenebrae Service, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, April 2nd

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, April 3rd

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:00 PM Good Friday Service, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, April 4th

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

SUNDAY, April 5th

EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM Choir Breakfast, Parlor

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour, Room 120

12:30 PM Contemporary Easter Worship Service, Chapel



First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell is hosting its second Tiki Night Tricky Tray on May 2 at 6:30 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.



Dear First Pres Members and Friends,

We have suggestions for donations to our Tricky Tray, Tiki Night, to be held on May 2. 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:

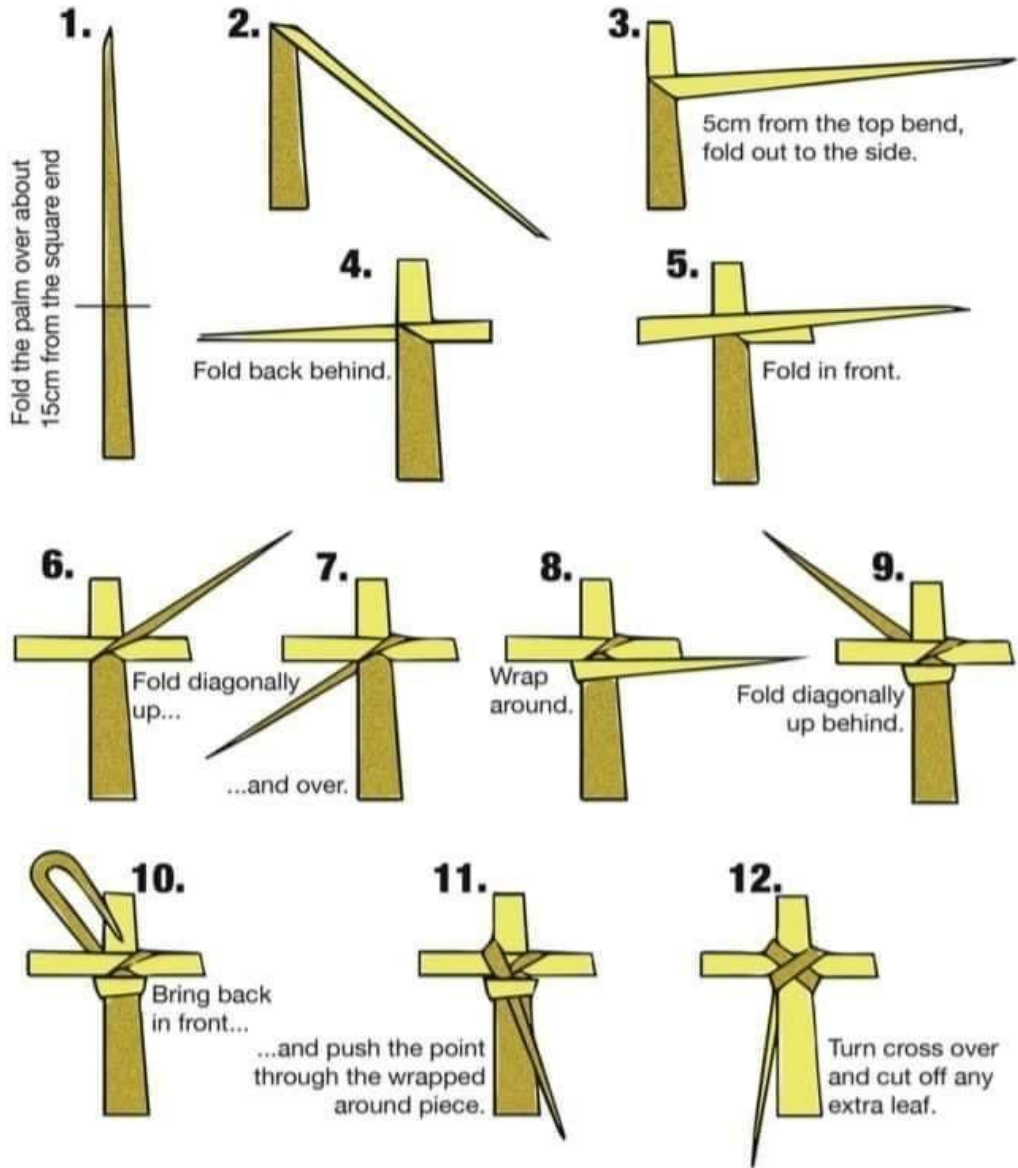
Movie Night	Spa Day	Gardening
Sports Fan	Camping	Picnic
BBQ- Griller's Delight	Beach/Pool	Favorite Kid's Books
Coffee/Tea	Cooking/baking	Arts/Crafts
Back to School	Date Night	Teachers' Appreciation
Tailgate	Eco-Conscious	Outdoor Adventures
Chocolate Lover	Cinco de Mayo	Gusto Gourmet Italian
Family Game 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)		

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

# How To Make A Palm Cross

You will need one palm leaf strip about 60-65cm long and 1cm wide, tapering to the end.





*Scan the QR code below  
to start shopping!*



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALDWELL  
online store has been launched!

All orders must be placed by April 5, 2026.

The direct link for the store is:

<https://awardsobrick.chippily.com/firstpresbyterianchurchcaldwell/>

All orders must be placed online to ensure accuracy.



**Sign Up by April 9**

**\*\*Must be pre-registered**

# Paint Night Out

**\*\*\*Choose ONE of the three projects to paint when signing up**



**Spring is here!  
Join the fun as  
we paint exquisite  
wooden pieces &  
enjoy terrific  
appetizers &  
some wine!  
\$50 per person**



**Includes:  
All Premium Art Supplies,  
Instruction, Light  
Charcuterie Board & Wine  
\*\*21 and over**



**WHERE? First Presbyterian Church  
(326 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell)**

**WHEN? Saturday, April 18  
7-9 pm, doors open at 6:45pm**

**\*\*Scan the code to sign up:**



# Easter Lilies



*The beautiful and fragrant flowers of Easter not only grace our sanctuary but bring joy to those who cannot join us in worship and can also be an expression of thanks to those who give so much of themselves to our church. If you wish to be a part of this Easter tradition please complete the form below and place it in the church office.*

*You can enjoy the display of these lilies in our sanctuary during the  
Easter Sunday worship services.*

***ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY APRIL 1, 2026***

***The cost of a lily is \$15.00***

- ◆ Please consider participating in dedicating a Lily to brighten our sanctuary.
- ◆ If you indicate deliver, they will be distributed to homebound members after the 10:00am service.
- ◆ **PLEASE** take time to help the worship committee in delivering donated lilies. Indicate your availability to participate in the order form below.  
*Many hands make light work and this is a great family activity!*

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

**( ) TAKE HOME**

**( ) DELIVER TO SPREAD EASTER BLESSINGS**

**( ) I AM WILLING TO HELP WITH LILY DELIVERY**

**IN MEMORY OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GIVEN BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill out a separate form for each lily or individual remembered.  
Return these forms with your payment of \$15.00 for each lily ordered to  
the church office.*

*Online payments can be made on the church website*

[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)

*(Checks made payable to The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell with  
"Lily" marked in the memo.)*

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check       Cash

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_

# Lillies Ordered \_\_\_\_\_