



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, May 17, 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
1:00 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:

\$275,076



MEMORIAL DAY HOT DOGS ON THE LAWN

Join us on Memorial Day, May 25th for the parade and hot dogs on the lawn. Weather permitting.



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.



CELEBRATE THE FPC MUSIC MINISTRY **SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2026 DURING THE 10AM SERVICE**

Music to include:

Prelude by the Bellerinas

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus": FPC Handbell Choir

"Let All The World" (John Rutter) FPC Chancel Choir and Youth Choir

"In the Sweet By and By" (arr. Howard Helvey) FPC TTBB Ensemble

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again" FPC Chancel Choir, FPC Handbell Choir, Bellerinas

SANDWICH NIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT

Sandwich Night is on Wednesday, May 13th, hosted by 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

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 May 18th.
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, May 17th

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour, Room 120

12:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel

1:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

MONDAY, May 18th

6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Yoga-Vinyasa, Room 120

7:00 PM Woman's Bible Study, Parlor

TUESDAY, May 19th

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Dapper Dans Rehearsal, Chapel

7:30 PM Session Meeting, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, May 20th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

4:15 PM G3Sports, Gym

THURSDAY, May 21st

4:15 PM G3 Sports, Gym

5:30 PM Jr. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell room

6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell room

7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, May 22nd

5:30 PM AA Meeting, Room 120

SATURDAY, May 23rd

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

SUNDAY, May 24th

10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour, Room 120

12:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal, Chapel

1:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.**

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) : Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees : Receives 32% of funds raised

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP) : Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed : Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP) : Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues : Receives 32% of funds raised

Our Sunday School students received the familiar fish banks so families can put aside contributions between now and May 31. You may also donate through the church website by clicking the link below. Be sure to choose the tab that says "One Great Hour of Sharing." Join Presbyterians around this country in providing resources that touch people's lives around the world and throughout the year.

BECAUSE FOOD IS LIFE



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



LUMOS

An ABBA Candlelight Experience

an unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting
indoor setting

First Presbyterian at Caldwell
Caldwell, NJ 07006
Friday August 14th
2 Sittings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm



Book tickets now!
www.lumos-experiences.com