



The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell

FIRST PRESS

Sunday, May 19th, 2024

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.

Regular Sunday Schedule

9:30am Traditional Service
11:00am Contemporary Service

Sunday School and/or quiet bible-based activities are available at both services. Nursery care is available every Sunday in the Cradle Room.

Worship online any time via livestream.com which is available on our website or by following the link below.

Livestream Website

THE 16TH ANNUAL BOARD OF DEACONS GOLF TOURNAMENT

What could be better than a day of terrific golf, friendly competition, great food and beverages, and wonderful prizes? Join us for The 16th Annual Board of Deacons Youth & Outreach Mission Golf Tournament on **Wednesday, May 22nd at Farmstead Golf and Country Club in Lafayette, NJ**. All are welcome! The friendly 4 player/best ball team format guarantees everyone an enjoyable day regardless of skill level. Check-in begins at 11:30am. There is a grill lunch at noon and a shotgun start at 1:30pm. The afternoon on the course is followed by a buffet dinner and cash bar at 5:30pm. Come for the entire afternoon, or just for dinner. The day promises fellowship as well as the opportunity to network while directly supporting Youth & Outreach Mission projects at First Pres. Register online at charitygolftoday.com/boardofdeacons. Opportunities for various level sponsorships are also available.

MEMORIAL DAY HOT DOGS ON THE LAWN

Join us on **Memorial Day** for free hot dogs on the lawn after the Caldwell/West Caldwell Memorial Day Parade.

AFRICAN DREAM ACADEMY TRIP RECAP

On June 2, at both the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services, Jonathan and Brenda Pryor, Sophia Pedrazzi and Lydia Spinelli will do a brief presentation on their recent mission trip to African Dream Academy.

SANDWICH NIGHT

On June 5, at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall (Gym), our Women's Bible Study Group will be hosting Sandwich Night. This will be the last Sandwich Night until September. We wish to thank all our hosts, friends and family for your support of this mission. We are preparing the schedule for the upcoming 2024/2025 season. If you would like to host a Sandwich Night, please reach out to Laura Schalles (973) 476-8616, or Joyce McGrath (201) 738-6531. We would be happy to reserve a date for your group, committee or organization.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

Our menus for the month of May are available, plus the first Thursday in June. It's hard to believe that another season has passed. Where did the time go? We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge all the contributions that we've had from our congregation and our dear friends at Temple Agudath. Since partnering with Agudath, we have been able to serve our clients at Our Lady of the Valley Soup Kitchen in Orange with a little more ease. This additional help from our new friends has been a game changer. Thank you, Agudath, for your kindness, help and friendship.

As of June 6th, Our Lady of the Valley Soup Kitchen will close until September, after Labor Day, which then begins our 2024/2025 season. Look for our blurb for when we begin the new season. Now is the time to sign up for your favorite dish and we will end the 2023/2024 season with a bang. Sign ups to prepare a meal or to serve in person can be found at www.firstprescaldwell.org/soup-kitchen-news. On another note, we have some sad news. Father Miguel, the pastor at Our last of the Valley will be leaving. He will be shepherding a parish in Chicago. We will miss him and with Father God speed. We know he will miss us, but he is up for a great new challenge in the Chicago area. Have a great summer. Wishing all to be safe, good health and God Bless!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for an awesome week of exploring the Bible through recreation and crafts, and meet some new friends along the way! Vacation Bible School (VBS) will take place at The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell, both indoors and outdoors. It is open to all children 4 years old through 6th grade.

Come aboard! Feel the warm sunshine and cool breeze as we set sail on a new adventure. An ocean cruise is a perfect place for relaxing, having fun, and making new memories with people we love! When we embark on a journey like this, we can trust our captain to lead us to our destination – and we can trust God the same way! On this 5 day voyage, kids will develop a deeper understanding of how to follow Jesus as they learn that God shows us how to love others, gives us gifts to serve others, prepares us to share good news, and loves spending time with us!

The cost is \$50 per child. There is a \$100 max per family! For questions, contact Amanda Lecuona at amanda@firstprescaldwell.org. To sign up, visit www.firstprescaldwell.org/vbs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can spare a Sunday morning, or a few, the Children and Youth Ministry Committee would greatly appreciate your assistance! Please take a look at the schedule below, and consider signing up to help us with Sunday School! <https://bit.ly/3FHQBba>

SIGN UP FOR LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Coffee Hour (Lemonade on the Lawn during summer months) is an opportunity for church members and friends to gather in fellowship while enjoying refreshments. Lemonade on the Lawn begins on May 26, 2024. Please review the calendar and consider signing up for any dates that work for you to either host or provide refreshments. Sign up using following link. <http://bit.ly/3XqBYQb>

CBA MUSICAL THEATER INTENSIVE SUMMER CAMP

August 5-9, 2024 9:30AM-4:30PM Daily

Showcase Friday August 9 7PM

Open to performers 10-17 years old

Track I: 10-12 years old Track II: 13-17 years old

Learn from Broadway's Best....Singing, dancing and acting



All programs are held at First Presbyterian at Caldwell, 326 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ.

To register and for more information: www.caldwellbroadwayarts.org



JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

COME SING WITH US!!!! Joyful Noise Children's Choir is for singers between the ages of 6 and 11. Directed by Julia Pennello. The choir rehearses on Sundays from 10:30-11:00am in the FPC Choir Room. All are welcome! To register, please contact Valerie at Valerie@firstprescaldwell.org.

VOLLEYBALL & PICKLEBALL

Join us for volleyball in Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm and Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Our Tuesday night session of Pickleball is currently full; however, new participants are welcome to join us on Thursday evenings. Beginners will play from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. From 6:30pm to 8:00pm, we will have a mixed level play. New participants must contact Barb Bruchac at (973) 454-5583.

ZUMBA ON TUESDAY NIGHTS

Come to a Zumba class on Tuesday nights at 6:00pm in Room 120. Those who are interested in participating in the class can sign up for \$10 per class, or \$80 for 10 classes.

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 7:00pm 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. **No Yoga on May 20, 2024.**

NEIGHBOR BRIGADE

If you are in need of some assistance during a temporary time of crisis in your life, Neighbor Brigade is here to help you. We provide meals, rides to doctor appointments, dog walking, food shopping, etc. If you need this type of assistance or would like to be a volunteer, please call (973) 321-7353 or contact one of our chapter leaders: Barbara Bruchac, Jennifer Payne or Sarah Solie.



Dear Members and Friends of First Pres,

Our Tiki Night Tricky Tray is just one month away and we need your help to make this event a success. Please consider the options below:

Contribute any amount towards buying a grand prize:

<https://www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate/>

Help to fill a basket by donating 1 or 2 items:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4EA9AA283-49552298-items>

Help us at the event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4EA9AA283-47903186-volunteers#/>

Most importantly:

BUY A TICKET!

Tickets can be purchased at: <https://bit.ly/3UIvyfp>

If you've not yet donated your basket but are still planning to – please reach out to one of the committee members below so we can enter it into our program and collect it from you. You can also drop your items in the bin at the Christian Ed desk for our basket wrappers. **We hope to have all donations received no later than May 24 so we have time to wrap and decorate.**

Please use this email to contact Susan Jones about donations or with any questions you might have: sijones127@yahoo.com.

Thanks to all who have already contributed! We're looking forward to a fun night where we raise funds for important charities to help others.

Gratefully,

Jack Dusinberre, Susan Jones, Liz Moore, Lydia Spinelli

Rev. Chris Houtz was introduced to the community over the past few weeks via multiple local publications including The Progress, The Patch, & TapInto. If you didn't get to see the press release yet, we have included it here for you to read!

Caldwell Church Welcomes New Head Pastor

After a yearlong search, The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell has found its new head pastor: the Rev. Christopher Houtz.



Eric Kiefer, Patch Staff 

Posted Wed, May 15, 2024 at 3:19 pm ET



CALDWELL, NJ — *The following news release comes courtesy of The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell. Find out how to [post announcements or events](#) to your local Patch site.*

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell welcomes its new head pastor, the Rev. Christopher Houtz. He was previously the pastor at Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church.

Houtz was selected after a nationwide search by members of FPC's Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who received over 150 applications and interviewed 12 candidates, finally selecting him after a rigorous yearlong process. He comes to Caldwell with a youthful passion, excitement, and impressive pastoral experience, according to members of the PNC.

One member of the PNC said, "his knowledge of the Bible and his ability to make it relevant in his sermons to his congregation will make coming to his services a pleasure."

Houtz grew up in Hershey, Pa., and was active in his home church of Derry Presbyterian. He attended Hofstra University and earned his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2019. Shortly after, he began working at First Presbyterian Church of Iselin, where he met an immediate challenge of leading the congregation through a merger with another local church. The church is now named Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church.

"I am excited to begin my ministry at FPC Caldwell and bring a sense of joy to worship," Houtz said. "As we look to the future, I see endless possibilities with such a dedicated group of church members. My hope is that the church that sits beautifully at the center of town will grow to be the center of so many lives of faith in this area."

A resident of Woodbridge, Houtz and his wife Tanya have four dogs, including three labs and a German Shepherd. Before applying for the pastor opening in Caldwell, they began training one of their dogs at a location that happened to be across the street from the church - which he noted when he accepted his new role - leading to him surmising whether divine intervention had played a part in this call.

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell is located at the corner of Bloomfield and Westville Avenues in Caldwell. The church's beginning predates the American Revolution. In addition to offering worship services, the church runs a popular, highly-rated nursery school and owns Prospect Hill Cemetery in Caldwell. Individuals and families are welcome to join the church and its popular adult and childrens' choirs.

Visitors are welcome to meet Pastor Houtz and hear him preach on Sunday mornings. On Sundays, church services are held at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary (traditional worship) and at 11 a.m. in the chapel (contemporary worship). For more information, visit www.firstprescaldwell.org and for any questions, contact the main office at (973) 228-0310.

OFFERINGS

Place your offering in the plates at the welcome tables.

Or give online

at www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate. Mailed in donations

continue to also be gladly accepted.



DRIVERS WANTED

The Deacons are involved in coordinating transportation to and from church for church members who are unable to drive themselves. An online sign up form has been created and includes information related to the process for pick-up/drop-off. Please consider signing up to help with transportation for a week or two. <http://bit.ly/3kuNYSj>

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH PROGRAM OR EVENT THAT NEEDS TO BE ADVERTISED?

The deadline for the next First Press is Monday at 3:00pm. We cannot guarantee inclusion of material submitted after that. Please email Lauren Restaino at lauren@firstprescaldwell.org.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Christopher Houtz, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Valerie Shondel, *Director of Music*

Scott Westenberger, *Worship Leader*

Christine Brunner, *Office Manager*

Chris White, *Building Manager/Head Sexton*

Amanda Lecuona, *Youth Education Coordinator*

Lauren Noack, *Communications Coordinator*

Celesta Silvera, *Administrative Assistant*

Brittany Heun, *Sunday Receptionist*

Kaitlyn Heun, *Sunday Sexton*

Dennis Velez, *AV Technician*

Kathleen Carlson, *Director*

Weekday Nursery School - 973-226-6674

<http://www.firstpresnurseryschool.com>

David Hicock, *Superintendent*

Prospect Hill Cemetery - 973-228-4410

prospecthillcemetery@firstprescaldwell.org

Dr. Robert R. McGruther, *Pastor Emeritus*

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

ALL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE VIA LIVESTREAM

SUNDAY, May 19th

- 9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Joyful Noise, Choir Room
- 10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120
- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel

MONDAY, MAY 20th

- 6:30 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Parlor

TUESDAY, MAY 21st

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 6:00 PM Zumba, Room 120
- 6:30 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Room 120

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22nd

- 11:30 AM Golf Outing, Farmstead Golf & Country Club
- 4:00 PM Thursday Soup Kitchen Drop Off, Staff Lot
- 7:00 PM Volleyball, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, MAY 23rd

- 6:00 PM Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 PM Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room
- 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

SATURDAY, MAY 25th

- 7:00 AM Adult Basketball, Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 AM Dads with a Mission, Rockin' Joe Café
- 8:30 AM Soup Kitchen Drop Off, Staff Lot

SUNDAY, May 26th

- 9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Joyful Noise, Choir Room
- 10:30 AM Coffee Hour, Room 120
- 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service, Chapel