



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 6th, 2020

ADVENT WORSHIP

Connect with us in worship this Advent, as we lift up the Advent weekly themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. **During the 9:30 AM service**, we will light the Advent wreath candles symbolizing those themes.

At both the 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM services, the sermons will be reflections from people who lived in the times of Jesus birth.

- * **12/6** John the Baptist will talk about the peace that comes with repentance.
- * **12/13** the innkeeper (actually never mentioned in the Bible) will share about how busy-ness can keep us from seeing reasons for joy.
- * **12/20** love shines forth through the Children's program at the 9:30 service and in the music of the Illuminate service.

On **Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM**, FPC will offer short devotional services prior to the 7:15 PM Advent Conspiracy study. This **Wednesday, December 9th**, Scott Westenberger will lead the service and it will be livestreamed on the Illuminate Facebook page.



Last Wednesday, we experienced technical issues with our livestream. The video is now available on The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell Facebook page.



**The First Presbyterian
Church at Caldwell**

VISIT WWW.FIRSTPRESCALDWELL.ORG
FOR LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS LIVESTREAM SERVICES

December 20th

9:30 AM Christmas Family Service

11:00 AM Illuminate Service

December 23rd

7:00 PM Illuminate Christmas Eve Service

December 24th

8:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service



CHRISTMAS COVID CONCERT

A special Christmas COVID Concert will be released on Sunday, December 6th—so be on the lookout for the video on Facebook and your email inbox! Special songs sung by: Michael Hardenberg, Rae de la Cretaz, Michael Restaino, Lauren Restaino, Scott & Michelle Westenberger, Sarah Solie, Tap Dance - Adriana Pierce and Michael Hardenberg, and featuring a special presentation by the Headmaster Singers from Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville, TN, directed by Westminster Choir Alum, Michael Colavita, Director of Choral Activities at the school. Plus, a visit from Santa Claus!!

THE MITTEN TREE PROJECT

Our First Pres Nursery School is proud to partner with a local chapter of the Salvation Army to provide hats and mittens for children in need. We have set up a Christmas tree at the top of the stairs at the Nursery School entrance. If you would like to participate, please purchase a new hat or pair of mittens for your child to hang on the tree. Each classroom teacher will explain what the Mitten Tree is all about and we invite you to do the same at home. The Mitten Tree Project will run until **Friday, December 11th**. Thank you for joining us in our efforts to teach children to be kind and caring and to help others.



THE FACING RACISM TASK FORCE

First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell's Facing Racism Task Force is holding a series of monthly Zoom discussions on issues related to structural racism, as our denomination has a strong commitment to addressing this issue. Our last conversation in this series will take place from 7:30 pm-8:45 pm on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020. The topic of discussion will be the first fifty minutes of the PC(USA) Week of Action: Anti-Racism Town Hall (August 25, 2020), To join the conversation, please RSVP by Sunday Dec. 13, 2020 to facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com. Hope to “see” you there! (For security reasons, please do not share this Zoom meeting announcement on social media. Thank you!)

On Sale Now!

The Cookie Walk Book

A Collection of your Favorite Sweet Treats.



Sponsored by
The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
Board of Deacons

Preorders begin Sunday,
November 22nd, 2020!

Available for Pick Up or
Shipping*
around December 5th!

For ordering information go to
www.firstprescaldwell.org

Cost: \$ 20 per book

**Plus shipping if you choose this option*

If you have questions please email:
1stpres.cookiewalk@gmail.com

A SWEET SURPRISE!

The December Cookie Walk at The First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell is a beloved and anticipated tradition in the West Essex Community. It also is a vital fundraiser for a variety of ministries during the following program year. Since 2020 presents many challenges with regard to safe gathering, the Board of Deacons has prepared a collection of recipes in the form of a "Cookie Walk Book" in hopes of spreading cheer, while still providing support to FPC. Orders may be placed on the church website at www.firstprescaldwell.org/cookie-walk-book, at a cost of \$20 per book. Currently, on the website, you will find an order form that you may print and return to First Pres, and an online ordering option. Please consider purchasing a cookbook for yourself, family members, neighbors, or friends near or far. It will be the perfect stocking stuffer or holiday treat as they will be available for pick up, or shipping shortly! Wishing you a sweet and blessed holiday season!



**Virtual
Christmas
Social**

Saturday, December 12th at 4pm
Bring your Hot Chocolate or Egg Nog
Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater
&
Share your favorite Christmas memories or decorations.

Invite to Join by Zoom or teleconference coming via email. To join by phone, call the church office (973)228-0310.

Come join in some Christmas Cheer!
Hosted by the Church Life Committee



You are invited to join us at
A Service of Peace and Hope
Sunday, December 13
7:00 PM

In a year marked by anxiety, tensions,
losses, and limitations,
let's share in a time of quiet and calm
prayer, soft music, and candle lighting.

Watch for more information on how to participate.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

The Christmas Season is upon us and again we ask for your help in making this holiday wonderful for our clients at Our Lady of the Valley. First and foremost we need to thank our marvelous cooks for their continued donations and their hearts for service. God Bless.

PANS ARE OUT, and as we approach Christmas and the beginning of a new year we need to remember that there are families who are still in need of our help. So, pick up a pan to prepare a meal. Lets serve in the name of the Lord.

As mentioned last month, the Soup Kitchen/Sandwich Night Committee is now serving at Our Lady of the Valley every Thursday, we are asking our congregation if they would be willing to prepare or provide a main dish, 2 dozen eggs, or a dessert.

If you wish to help, please contact Joyce McGrath, 201-738-6531 or email at jlmlamby@aol.com. Once again, we appreciate our church family for all you do. Blessings to all in this Season of Hope, stay safe and healthy.



MESSIAH SING

Exciting News! It is still possible to enjoy great musical traditions during a global pandemic. The FPC annual MESSIAH Sing will be happening **on Friday, December 18, 7:30pm - 9pm**, on Livestream through the church Facebook page, or at your convenience through a link that will be provided. This is no normal MESSIAH Sing. What makes this one so unique is that you can sing all of the solos and choruses in the Christmas portion of MESSIAH. And, in whatever octave of voice-part you desire! As a bonus, there will also be a carol-sing with some of your favorite Christmas carols.

We have gathered a few friends who will lead the singing from the church sanctuary (wearing masks and socially distanced, of course!) and FPC Associate Music Director, Noel Piercy, will be conducting and sharing witty MESSIAH stories. You may stop by the church office during normal business hours and borrow a MESSIAH score to take home. No need to practice just put on your favorite Christmas Sweater and sing-a-long.

WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile a kind word, a listening ear. The smallest act of caring can turn a life around.”
Leo Buscaglia

To find out more about this caring, listening, confidential ministry call the confidential line at 973-228-0310 ext. 235, or speak to one of our pastors.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.



OUR STAFF

Rev. Bill Schram, Interim Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy, Minister of Music
Noel Piercy, Associate Director of Music
Kaitlyn Heun, Interim Director Youth Ministries
Susan Jones, Interim Director Children's Ministry
Scott Westenberger, Worship Leader
Lauren Restaino, Youth Ministry & Communications Coordinator
Christine Brunner, Office Manager
Chris White, Building Manager/Head Sexton
Brittany Heun, Sunday Receptionist
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

One of the implications of suspending public worship is that our regular offering isn't being collected. As it is essential to pay our staff and meet our current obligations, we ask if you are able, please mail your offering to the church or submit online at www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate. Knowing that our income could be impacted, we invite those with extra resources to consider making a special gift.



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, December 6th

COVID CHRISTMAS CONCERT AVAILABLE

9:30 AM Worship Service, Facebook Livestream
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream
6:00 PM Youth Choir, Church Lawn/Zoom

MONDAY, December 7th

10:00 AM Advent Study, Zoom Meeting
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

TUESDAY, December 8th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120
6:00 PM Finance Committee, Zoom Meeting
7:00 PM Deacons, Zoom Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 9th

8:30 AM RRC Meeting, Zoom Meeting
6:30 PM Advent Devotional, Illuminate Facebook Live
7:15 PM Advent Study, Zoom Meeting

SUNDAY, December 13th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Facebook Livestream
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream
6:00 PM Youth Choir, Church Lawn/Zoom