



# FIRST PRESS

**Sunday, December 13th, 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 are reflections from people who lived in the times of Jesus' birth.

\* **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 16th**, Rev. Bill Schram and Rev. Barbara Piercy will lead the service and it will be livestreamed on [The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell Facebook page](#).



**The First Presbyterian  
Church at Caldwell**

VISIT [WWW.FIRSTPRESCALDWELL.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTPRESCALDWELL.ORG)  
FOR LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

## **CHRISTMAS LIVESTREAM SERVICES**

**December 20th**

**9:30 AM** Family Christmas Service

**11:00 AM** Illuminate Service

**December 23rd**

**7:00 PM** Illuminate Christmas Service

**December 24th**

**8:00 PM** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



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 ON FACEBOOK](#)

[WATCH ON THE LIVESTREAM WEBSITE](#)



### **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](mailto:facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com). Hope to "see" you there! (For security reasons, please do not share this Zoom meeting announcement on social media. Thank you!)

### **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.

## **The Cookie Walk Book**

A Collection of your Favorite Sweet Treats



Sponsored by  
The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell  
Board of Deacons

# **On Sale Now!**

## **Available for Pick Up or Shipping\***

For ordering information go to  
[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)

**Cost: \$ 20 per book**

*\*Plus shipping if you choose this option*

If you have questions please email:  
[1stpres.cookiewalk@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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! Wishing you a sweet and blessed holiday season!



## **CHRISTMAS COVID CONCERT**

A special Christmas COVID Concert was released last Sunday, December 6th. [Click here to watch the hour long concert!](#) 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!!



## **MORE THAN 250 ITEMS COLLECTED**

The Deacons thank you for the overwhelming and generous response to our "Share the Warmth" drive! Over 250 items were collected, and shared with our Mission partners. Specifically, 20 children's items were contributed to our Nursery School's drive for the Salvation Army, more than 160 items were given to Our Lady of the Valley's Soup Kitchen to meet immediate needs as well as provide warm Christmas gifts, and the remaining items deemed appropriate for OASIS and St. John's Soup Kitchen are being routed

their way. Thank you for supporting this special drive and providing comfort and joy to our neighbors in need. Wishing you all the blessings of the Christmas Season!

## **A TOTAL OF 1204 ITEMS WERE PURCHASED**

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the overwhelming kindness of our congregation in support of the Oasis Christmas Giving Tree Project. The total number of gifts we collected through the Target Gift Registry was a record breaking 1204 gifts! We were able to deliver 724 toys, 106 winter coats, 40 pajamas, 154 hats, and gloves, 69 books, along with 755 pairs of Underwear and 8 baby items to a most appreciative organization in Paterson. Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we have been able to brighten the Christmas season to those less fortunate.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Ellen "Elf" Johnson



## **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](mailto: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.

## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

The Prayer Ministry has started on its spiritual journey to offer prayers for the needs and interests of others. Please note: All are welcome to participate in this journey ...

To join, please contact Barbara Heil by email: [prayerministry@firstprescaldwell.org](mailto:prayerministry@firstprescaldwell.org) or by phone: 973-227-1343. Please provide your name and email or phone number.



## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The 2021 weekly offering envelopes will be mailed directly to your home on a quarterly schedule. This will replace the previous full year weekly offering envelope booklets. Any questions, please call the church office.

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Thank you to those of you who have already submitted your pledge to the work of Christ through FPC for the year 2021.

As of Friday, December 11, 2020, we have received 45 pledges totaling \$207,850.00.

For the 2020 year, there were 124 pledges received, totaling \$414,057.11.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR 2021 PLEDGE ONLINE](#)

*Abundant Life*



*Joyous Generosity*

## WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

*"My idea of Christmas, whether old fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others."*

Bob Hope

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:fpc@firstprescaldwell.org)

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, December 13th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Livestream  
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting  
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream  
12:00 PM Christian Education, Zoom Meeting  
7:00 PM Service of Peace & Hope, Livestream  
6:00 PM Youth Choir, Church Lawn/Zoom

### MONDAY, December 14th

10:00 AM Advent Study, Zoom Meeting

### TUESDAY, December 15th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120  
7:00 PM Session, Zoom Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, December 16th

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

### THURSDAY, December 17th

6:30 PM Chancel Handbell Choir, Sanctuary  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir, Zoom Rehearsal

### FRIDAY, December 18th

7:30 PM Messiah Sing, Facebook Livestream

### SUNDAY, December 20th

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