



# FIRST PRESS

Sunday, December 27th, 2020

## Merry Christmas!



### CHRISTMAS COVID CONCERT

There is still plenty of time to still enjoy Christmas music! Check out our Christmas COVID Concert. [Click here to watch the hour long concert!](#) Special songs sung by: Michael Hardenberg, Rae de la Cretaz, Michael Restaino, Lauren Restaino, Scott & Michele 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!!

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CHURCH STAFF!**

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 28th.

### 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.

## **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.



## **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 2021**

Looking for a chance to brighten some lives? You're invited to join the group of caring souls who write to our homebound members. Staying in touch during the pandemic has become even more important—but one avenue not closed to us is the U.S. mail! You and a partner will be assigned a month of your choice, and we'll give you a list of about twenty names to send a "thinking of you" card that includes a personal message. Especially during 2020, our recipients have been truly appreciative, as our homebound friends are touched to be remembered by their church family. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you have questions about what you'd be signing up for, call or text Jack and Lynne Stoddard at 973-896-8216.

Thanks to the writers who reached out so thoughtfully in 2020: Laura Bogert, Gordon and Kathleen Bruchac, Deb Califf, Diane Casciano, Nancy Franks, Barbara Heil, Carol Ingersoll, Lois Jackson, Barbara Liptak, Nancy Meehan, Max and Elizabeth Oehler, Sue Olsen, Pam Ramsden, Debbie Reynolds, Lois Schnell, Sarah Solie, Mary Ann Straub, Sue Tannler, and Alison White; and our Teen Writing Team of college students August Bogert and Courtney Tannler. We extend a warm welcome to new volunteer Gail Marie Stewart, and look forward to other new writers joining the group.

**Volunteers are not paid...not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.**

## **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 18, 2020, we have received 56 pledges totaling \$229,180 .

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*

## 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!

## WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

*"New Year's most glorious light is hope."*  
Mehmet Murat ILDAN, Turkish author

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 27th**

9:30 AM Worship Service, Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream

### **MONDAY, December 28th**

**Church Office Closed**

### **TUESDAY, December 29th**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Room 120

### **WEDNESDAY, December 30th**

8:30 AM RRC Meeting, Zoom Meeting

### **FRIDAY, January 1st**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Church Office Closed**

### **SUNDAY, January 2nd**

9:30 AM Worship Service, Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream