



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, June 28th, 2020

Hello Friends and Friends to Be,

I've only had a chance to meet a few of you so far, and most of that only virtually. Already I know I'll need to be reminded of names. Regardless of my memory, my heart has been touched by the consideration I've received from the Search Committee, and the staff. I'm also impressed by the energy, creativity and dedication so many of you put in as your church dealt with a transition in leadership and a transition to virtual church all at the same time. I'm excited about learning to work with the wonderful mix of folks who make up this church.

By now, you've received background information about me. I'm going to give you my best in terms of worship leadership, pastoral care, and working with boards and committees. I also look forward to helping the church with the specific tasks of the interim period. These are:

1. Coming to terms with history. This is a sharing of the stories of the congregation. Some of the stories are uplifting, some sad, some funny; some may tell of successes and some of difficulties overcome, —or issues not yet resolved. Recalling the totality of the church's history helps put things into perspective. I usually have had a congregational Town Hall to share some of the stories so I can get caught up. How to do this virtually will be one of my first challenges.
2. Discovering a new identity. This may be especially important for a congregation coming off a long pastorate, during which the church has taken on a personality and an identity closely associated with the longtime pastor. Self-reflection is important. You've recently done the work on your New Beginnings initiative. I suspect fine tuning will be all that is needed.
3. Allowing needed leadership change, empowering new leaders. As a church becomes aware of who it is and aware of being in transition, leadership changes follow naturally. A change in pastoral leadership often means other adjustments. A transition can afford the opportunity for some members who have been followers to step forward.

4. Renewing denominational linkages. This happens more or less naturally, as the Newark Presbytery becomes involved in the life of the church as a “church in transition.” It is comforting during times of uncertainty to be able to turn to the larger church, to printed resources and human resources. It helps to know that we are not alone—that, in addition to the care and concern of God, we also have fellow human beings to turn to.

5. Awareness of and adjustment to cultural/social changes that impact churches. Technological changes, attitudes towards churches, increasing diversity of people and beliefs, realities of declining percentages of people identifying with churches and organized religious institutions — all this and more make the world different than when many of us became part of a church. Just doing standard things well will not produce the results they once did. How do we best serve Christ in new situations and settings? In study times at session, in some sermons, and in discussions we will start appreciating these changes.

6. Commitment to new leadership and a new future. As the congregation moves toward calling a new pastor, all should be looking ahead. One helpful image at this time may be of the church as a canoe, rather than a rowboat: in a rowboat, the rowers have their backs to the future, and indeed face where the boat has already been. In a canoe, the paddlers face forward, so they can see clearly what is coming.

I hope that together we can make this interim period a time of meaningful reflection and discovery rather than a period of simply marking time and jumping through hoops to get on with finding the next installed pastor. I am confident we can have fun doing this work.

Peace,
Pastor Bill

A Prayer Service for Racial Justice
A livestream service from Notre Dame

All Houses of Worship are invited to join us on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Together, we will pray for those who have been affected by racial violence and acts of injustice.

Guest Homilist: Fr. Juan Esteban

To take part in this live stream service, visit ndparishnc.com.
We encourage you to share with your family and friends.

GIVE ONLINE

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 your offering online at <https://www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate/>. Knowing that our income could be impacted, we invite those with extra resources to consider making a special gift.

WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY



“Our job is not to straighten each other out, but to help each other up.”
Neva Coyle, 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.



HAVE YOU WONDERED HOW YOU
CAN HELP OTHERS IN OUR
COMMUNITY WHO ARE FACING
CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE
COVID-19 CRISIS?

VOLUNTEER WITH THE WEST ESSEX
NEIGHBOR BRIGADE
WWW.NEIGHBORBRIGADE.ORG



DONATE TO THE CALDWELL FOOD PANTRY

The Caldwell Food Pantry (14 Park Avenue) is in need of food donations. The pantry is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30am - 4:30pm and food may be dropped off in the foyer. Additionally, we are collecting monetary donations to be sent to The Caldwell Food Pantry. You may submit your donation online at <https://www.firstprescaldwell.org/donate/>. You may also mail your donation with Caldwell Food Pantry in the memo.

JOIN US ON MONDAY, JUNE 29TH FOR A FACING RACISM TASK FORCE MEETING WITH A SPECIAL GUEST MODERATOR

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell's Facing Racism Task Force will be holding a Zoom meeting on June 29, 2020 from 7:00-8:00 pm to discuss the Ted Talk by Verna Myers: How to overcome our biases? Walk boldly toward them. We will also be discussing the Video Remembering Recent Victims of Racial Violence by PCUSA Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson. Our special guest moderator for the discussion will be Kelly Stein.

Kelly considers herself to have grown up at FPC, spending much of her formative years within its walls. She served as a Deacon and credits her passion for service and community outreach to the Church's youth programs. Currently, Kelly lives in Brooklyn and is a second grade teacher at an all-girls independent school in NYC. There she serves on a school-wide Equity Leadership Council, in which she helps curate resources and facilitate discussion with faculty and staff on topics of racism, inequity, and injustice.

To join the conversation, please RSVP for links and documents by June 28th to facingracismfirstpres@gmail.com. New members welcome!

(For security reasons, please do not share this Zoom meeting announcement on social media. Thank you!)

OUR STAFF

Rev. Tom Malek-Jones, *Pulpit Supply Pastor*
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*
Jennifer Garcia, *Administrative Assistant*
Brittany Heun, *Sunday Receptionist*
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*
Rev. Robert Pryor, *Parish Associate*

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website: www.firstprescaldwell.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, June 28th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Facebook Livestream
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream

TUESDAY, June 30th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Zoom Meeting

SUNDAY, July 5th

Rev. Bill Schram's First Sunday

9:30 AM Worship Service, Facebook Livestream
10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting
11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream