



FIRST PRESS

Sunday, August 30th, 2020

FPC REOPENING AND REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

The Reopening and Revitalization During COVID-19 Session Subcommittee meets weekly to evaluate the issues relating to how we can resume corporate worship, encourage and support ongoing church ministries in light of the pandemic, and determine what we can do now to help members feel better connected to the church in this era of COVID-19. Members have been sent a detailed letter on those efforts this past week. We ask for your continued prayers for this important work for our congregation. Thank You and Blessings to All, Mike Bruchac, Christine Brunner – staff rep., Jack Dusinberre, Kristiane George, Rev. Barbara Piercy, Maureen Prince – chair, Betty Resch - secretary, Pastor Bill Schram



COVID CONCERT SERIES/OCEAN GROVE VIRTUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

For this week's COVID Concert, we will share the Ocean Grove Virtual Choir Festival via Facebook and email. Our Chancel Choir has participated in this festival for 35 years. Noel Piercy, Diana Baer and Donna Chaplin have been rehearsing for this all summer and submitted their recordings for the program.

This yearly event is traditionally held in the historic Great Auditorium, directed by Dr. Jason Tramm and featuring hundreds of singers, exciting guest conductors, brass ensemble and Dr. Gordon Turk on the magnificent Great Auditorium pipe organ.

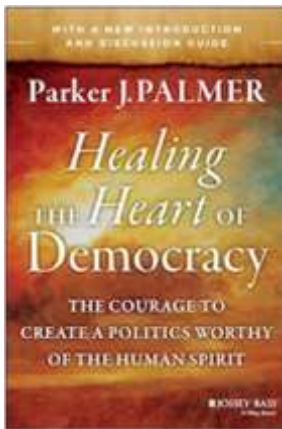
Because of the current health crisis, this year's Festival will not feature a live choir and the audience will be limited based on current guidelines from the State. The Festival Choir will appear on screen as a virtual choir, along with scripture readings and hymns led by the Dr. Jason Tramm, Dr. Gordon Turk and the Auditorium Quartet.

ZOOM Offering from Adult Education Committee!

Join this timely & important book study
“Healing the Heart of Democracy” by Parker J. Palmer
Starting the week of SEPTEMBER 14th

Pastor Bill Schram has offered to lead this important 7 WEEK STUDY at TWO TIMES.

Join us as we consider and practice ways that we can speak, listen to and value each other in order to foster a community that regenerates a democracy “of the people, by the people, and for the people”. (*A quick disclaimer: the book does not advance any political opinion. Rather it teaches us about “Habits of the Heart.”*)



“Habits of the Heart” (a phrase coined by Alexis de Tocqueville) are deeply ingrained ways of seeing, being, and responding to life that involve our minds, our emotions, our self-images, our concepts of meaning and purpose. Parker Palmer writes about five interlocking habits that are critical to sustaining a democracy:

1. An understanding that we are all in this together.

Biologists, ecologists, economists, ethicists, and leaders of the great religious and wisdom traditions have all given voice to this theme. We humans are a profoundly interconnected species. Which leads to a second key habit of the heart...

2. An appreciation of the value of “otherness”.

It is true that thinking of the world in terms of “us” and “them” is one of the many limitations of the human mind. The good news is that “us and them” does not have to mean “us versus them.” Instead, it can remind us of the ancient tradition of hospitality to the stranger in which we recognize that the stranger has much to teach us. Which leads to a third key habit of the heart...

3. An ability to hold tension in life-giving ways. Our lives are filled with inner and outer contradictions. We are flawed and finite beings whose understanding is always partial and in need of correction. The genius of the human heart lies in its capacity to use the tensions that come with our limitations to generate insight, energy, and new life. Making the most of those gifts requires a fourth key habit of the heart...

4. A sense of personal voice and agency. Insight and energy give rise to new life as we speak out and act out our own version of truth, while checking and correcting it against the truths of others. It is possible for us to know the satisfaction that comes from contributing to positive change—if we have the support of a community. Which leads to a fifth and final habit of the heart...

5. A capacity to create community. In a mass society like ours, community rarely comes ready-made. There are many ways to plant and cultivate the seeds of community in our personal and local lives. We must all become gardeners of community if we want democracy to flourish.

Sessions begin the week of September 14th

- **Monday mornings from 10 to 11:30**
- **Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30**

Register at Adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org Please include...

- Name
- Email
- Phone
- Address
- Pick your session (Monday a.m./Wednesday p.m.)
- Adult Ed buy your book (Kindle/Paperback) OR Buy your own
- Are you interested in being a discussion facilitator? (We will give you more information)
- Are you familiar with ZOOM meetings?

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS BOOK STUDY, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTACT US AT THE SAME WEBSITE Adult.edu@firstprescaldwell.org



WORDS TO PONDER FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY



“August rain; the best of summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd, uneven time.” Sylvia Plath

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.



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.



OUR STAFF

Rev. Bil 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

Jennifer Garcia, Administrative Assistant

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

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07006

Office Hours: M-Th 9AM - 4PM, F 9AM - 3PM

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website: www.firstprescaldwell.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, August 30th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Facebook Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream

TUESDAY, September 1st

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Zoom Meeting

10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

WEDNESDAY, September 2nd

7:00 PM Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

SUNDAY, September 6th

9:30 AM Worship Service, Facebook Livestream

10:30 AM Virtual Coffee Hour, Zoom Meeting

11:00 AM Illuminate Service, Facebook Livestream