

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 – 10:00 AM

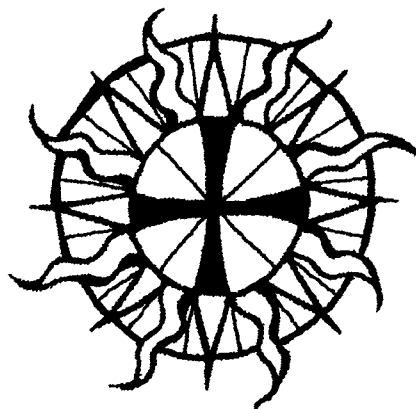
*We are happy you are here this morning!
The First Congregational Church of River Edge
welcomes visitors and members to the warmth of our
community.*

*All are invited to join in fellowship and conversation
in Fellowship Hall following worship.*

✠ Invites the congregation to stand, as able.

***Bold Text** is spoken in unison by the congregation.*

Please turn off or silence all electronics before worship



*We seek to be a dynamic community of faith
committed to spiritual growth, following
Christ's example and God's Word . . . with
diverse worship, education, mission and
compassionate care for all.*

WELCOME

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide

J.S. Bach

*During the Prelude, we invite you to take time to quiet your heart
and discover anew God's renewal of life.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell the whole congregation of God's people:
This is a day of new beginnings.

This is a time of God's appearing.

This is the moment for faithful response.

Praise God in the assembly of the faithful.

Make melody to God and sing a new song.

Praise God for life enriched by love.

Praise God for love that fulfills God's law.

This is the hour to wake from our sleep.

The energy of God's love fills this place.

Here we claim our identity as Christians.

Here we become the church of Jesus Christ.

✠ OPENING HYMN 31

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have not been faithful to your commands. We have been more ready to condemn than to console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence but to gossip about those who are absent. Our sins are destroying us, God. Turn us around to a new way of being. Amen.

Silence for confession

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *O Lord, Have Mercy on Us* Jayne Southwick Cool



O Lord, have mer-cy on us and hear our prayer.
O Christ, have mer-cy on us and hear our prayer.
O Lord, have mer-cy on us and grant us peace.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

☒ PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people offer a sign of peace to one another.

SOLO *You Raise Me Up* Brendan Graham & Rolf Lovland

COMMISSIONING OF LEADERS

Each commissioning of gifts ends with:

In thankfulness for these gifts:

People: **We promise to support with love.**

Children: **We will try to live God's way.**

We also make covenant with you, God, and with each other, to assure that, in our circle, everyone is welcome, no one is excluded, and everyone's gifts are received with love.

We promise to be loving, respectful and welcoming of all your people, as we all try to live in your way, O God.

O God, giver of all good gifts,
fill us with grace and grant us the strength and peace of your Spirit.

Church School teachers and children will be invited to come forward.

Today we especially commission our teachers.

*Teachers: In response to the gifts God has given us,
we offer ourselves to welcome and walk with these children of God. We will wonder
and talk with you, lead and learn from you, and pray for you and with you.*

Children: Jesus loved little children just like us.

We are glad you are willing to love us and lead us in his name.

*We thank you for sharing your life with us as you teach God's ways
and God's wisdom.*

**We will offer prayers for you and promise to let our own lives shine
with Christ's love so that all together, we give glory to God.**

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

Nicole Babington

*(During the Organ Interlude, Church School children, youth and teachers
may leave to go to Fellowship Hall. After worship, families may meet children
and youth in Fellowship Hall.*

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 12:1-14

(OT pg. 58)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠ HYMN OF RESPONSE 354

God, When I Came Into This Life

LAND OF REST

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

(NT pg. 20)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Like a Lamb to Our Labors

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem

A Prayer for Humility

Mark Patterson

✠ Doxology

✠ Prayer of Dedication

O God, unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share your good news. Keep us in the light when we are tempted to ignore and violate your commandments. With these prayers, we dedicate our gifts. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Jacques Berthier

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER

(using "debts...debtors")

✠ HYMN 495

Called As Partners

BEECHER

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord Christ, the Only Son of God

J.S. Bach

This is a time for reflection and prayers, and we invite you to remain seated in silence until the postlude is ended.

*Assisting God's people in worship this morning
are The Rev. Dennis TeBeest, worship leader;*

*Michelle Heinzinger, Lay Reader; Heather Nicheski, Soloist; and the Chancel Choir,
under the direction of Gloria Norton, Minister of Music.*

A PRAYER FOR HUMILITY

*Mighty God and gentle Lamb, Lord of all creation,
how we long to know you, how we strive to serve you,
help us now to love you even more.*

*Give us humble hearts to praise you and listening ears to hear your voice,
willing hands to serve you, thankful spirits to rejoice.
Lord of all, we adore you, and we bring this prayer before you:
Create in us humble hearts.*

*When our thoughts turn proud, remind us of the grace you freely give.
When we lose our way, Lord, find us, draw us close to you again. Amen.*

*

TEAM/USHERS - ✠ Vic Babington, Betty Hogan, Russell Van Wetering, Chet Price
COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, June Morris, Don Huggett
GREETER – Denise Cannizzaro Garcia
LAY READER – Michelle Heinzinger
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks & Adria Brown
CHILD CARE – Anabelle Babington
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Noreen, Russell & Chayse Van Wetering

WELCOME, if you are a guest or visitor with us this morning! You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex, or fill out one of the visitor cards found in your pew. Cards can be placed in the plate as the offering is received.

SANCTUARY SERVICES ARE RECORDED – All services and programs held in the church sanctuary are recorded and available on compact disc. Copies may be obtained by completing a *CD Request form* available in the Narthex or by contacting the church office.

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FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY - The first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. We receive monetary donations to support the community food pantry through the Center for Food Action. Donation envelopes are in the bulletin each first Sunday of the month.

GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS are needed! Please see Russell Van Wetering at Fellowship Time or call the Church Office to see what dates are open!

LIVING OUR QUESTIONS – The curriculum for our Autumn six-week study will be *Living Our Questions* . . . ***IF*** you help build it! Please submit *your* questions and ideas for subjects. Fill out one of the *Living Our Questions* sheets that will be in the pews throughout summer, and drop it in the offering plate (or place it in the box in the Parlor). Or write your question on the Parlor newsprint during Fellowship Time! Thanks, Dennis.

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, following the Installation Service of Pastor Dennis, there will be a reception to officially welcome him as our Settled Pastor. Volunteers are needed to plan and coordinate this special fellowship time. If you are interested in serving on the reception team, please contact either Russell Van Wetering at 201 261-1795 (email: aprilsky@optonline.net) or Diane Lento at 201 906-7978 (email: haystrand@aol.com.) We look forward to celebrating Pastor Dennis, and this exciting new time in the life of our congregation.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SEARCH – The Personnel Team, headed by Michelle Heinzinger, has begun the search process for our open Administrative Assistant position. In the interim, Heather continues to do administrative work on Wednesday and Friday evenings, 6-8pm, and Alice Rushforth provides office staffing Tuesday - Friday, 10am-2pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MFFF SEARCH TEAM -

As we begin our new Church School year, we are currently in an active search for leadership for our staff. This position will be entitled Minister for Faith Formation, currently referred to as Director of Christian Education. Our objective is to meet the needs of children, youth and families through education and mission. Our search team meets regularly and its members are Janet Arena, Pat Canzani, Betty Hogan, Kathleen Motoike, Marvin Orendain, Noreen Van Wetering.

PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED –

Volunteers can sign up with Bill & Terrie Clark or Betty Hogan at Fellowship Time any Sunday. Also, please let any teenage neighbors know that this is a great opportunity to earn service project points for school. Letters will be provided for hours worked.

SAVE THE DATE: UNDIVIDED JOY!

On the evening of September 28th at 7pm, Joy Jacobs will be holding a benefit concert at FCC! The concert will include classical songs, some spiritual, musical theater and just plain silly songs too. Some wonderful guest performers will be joining her. It is sure to be an enjoyable evening! Donations are suggested at the door and there will be a Free-Will offering to benefit the church.

**Plan to join the worship celebration
(and invite a friend!)**

as

The New Jersey Association of the UCC installs

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest

as our settled Pastor
of the First Congregational Church of River Edge

**Sunday, September 17, 2017
10:00 a.m.**

A Service of the New Jersey Association
of the United Church of Christ

**Please plan to stay for the Celebration
Luncheon following the service!**



The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, September 10, 2017

9:00am Confirmation Meeting
9:15 am – Chancel Choir
10:00 am - Worship Service/
The Rev. Dennis TeBeest /

Church School Kickoff! / Child Care

11:00 am – Fellowship Time
12:30 pm - Korean Baptist Church
4:30pm Second Sunday

Monday, September 11, 2017

Church Office Closed

10am - 9/11 Memorial Service
at Borough Hall
12:00 pm - Al-Anon
7:30 pm - Step by Step NA

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

7:30pm – Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

7:00 pm - AA

Thursday, September 14, 2017

1:00 pm – Shawl Ministry
7:00pm - Chancel Choir
8:15pm - Pilgrim Ringers

Friday, September 15, 2017

7:00 pm - Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal

Saturday, September 16, 2017

8:30 am – KIWS
7:00 pm - AA

Sunday, September 17, 2017

9:15 am – Chancel Choir
10:00 am - Worship Service/
The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/
Church School/ Child Care
11:00 am – Fellowship Time
12:30 pm - Korean Baptist Church

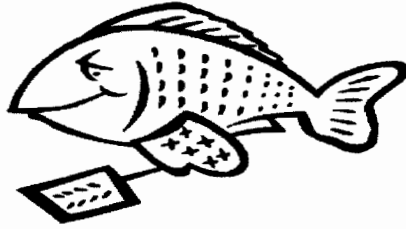
We have all witnessed the devastation the people of Houston are currently experiencing. I have been contacted by Church World Service asking for our help. Hygiene kits are needed **immediately**. Please consider completing one and bringing to church throughout the month of September. Our church will also serve as a depot for other organizations to bring their donations. Imagine the relief our donations can bring!

To assemble a Health Kit, you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®



Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure; remove excess air from bag and seal. Please do not add toothpaste – Church World Service will add this item just prior to shipment.



Fish & Chips Dinner

First Congregational Church of River Edge

(Fellowship Hall)

Friday, September 22, 2017

5:30 to 7:30 PM

(TO BENEFIT THE MISSION TEAM)

Menu Choice: *Fish filet, fries and coleslaw*

Fried chicken, fries and coleslaw

Dinner includes dessert and beverages

Lovingly prepared by: *Tastefully British**

Tickets: *Adults \$15.00*

Children (age 12 & younger) \$10.00

Reservations and Take-out orders required no later than September 20

Please specify fish or chicken when making reservations

For tickets or information: call 201-265-1062 or office@fccriveredge.org

www.fccriveredge.org

**Tastefully British has been feeding the fish lover for over 40 years!*

Pumpkin Patch

at

First Congregational Church of River Edge
corner of Kinderkamack Road & Continental Ave.

Thousands to choose from Grown in New Mexico



Fun for the whole family!

Picture taking areas for children and pets!

Items for sale include pumpkins of all sizes and shapes, gourds,
scarecrow kits, baked goods, canned peaches, our famous pickles,
and much more!

October 7-31

Open Monday-Friday 11 am-7 pm

Saturday 10 am-7 pm, & Sunday 11 am-7 pm

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Prayer Concerns – September 10, 2017

Pray for the people of Southeastern Texas and Louisiana, at risk from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

Prayers for Those Who Are Ill

Jean Babington, Autumn Owens, Bob Wieboldt, Terrie Clark, June Morris, Barbara Schmidli, Dr. Janet Mason, Annamae Relp, Eleanor “Pat” Hamilton, Joanie Jones, Mike Mantell, John Hamilton, Arlene Rudd, Patty Wallace, June Seilheimer, Victoria Churchill, Marie Herrick, Russell Smith, Lorraine Skrekast, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hatchfeld, James Devine, Dorothy Chen, Kathy Waldren, Edwina Arena, Joan Sullivan, Manoucher Katebian, Walt Lippincott, Tom Gervasio, & Kathy Meeks.

Those Homebound, in Assisted Living Residences or Nursing homes

Shirley Bullen, William Spencer, Mildred Alderdice, John Hamilton and Autumn Owens.

* * *

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mondays, the Office is closed.
Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 am - 2:00 pm.

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661
Phone (201) 261-1712 Website – www.fccriveredge.org
Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

* *

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Pastor	dtebeest@fccriveredge.org 201-390-5548
Gloria Norton, S.M.M., Minister of Music	glorinor@aol.com
Nicole Babington Christian Education Support	201-956-3435
Administrative Assistant Interim: Alice Rushforth & Heather Nicheski	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712