

# **The Congregator**

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 2016

Volume 68, Issue 10

## ***Building on a Strong Foundation*** **Building Renovation News!**

We are very pleased to share, that after months of performing due diligence, and with much careful and prayerful consideration, the Building Renovation Team has unanimously voted to select Phelps Construction of Boonton, NJ for our renovation project! We look forward to working with a firm of such extensive experience, professionalism and expertise! We will keep you posted as we continue to move forward!

The Building Renovation Team

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### **MISSION NEWS**

#### **Habitat for Humanity**

- 1) Our September 24<sup>th</sup> Building Team – Thank you so much for giving up your Saturday and your energy and your skills to help build a house in Bergenfield for a lovely young family. For more information on the team's experience, please visit the church website at [fccriveredge.org](http://fccriveredge.org).
- 2) Our fund drive – Thank you to each of you who donated to our 'Hammers for Habitat' fund drive. **We raised \$1,225!** It seems so appropriate that, as Christians (and therefore heirs to a family of carpenters), we are able to help provide tools for Habitat's building efforts. You are a generous people.

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#### **Center for Food Action**

*Excerpts from August 26<sup>th</sup> Thank you letter -*

We (you!) received a thank-you letter from the Englewood Center for Food Action for our second donation this year. It reads, in part...

*"Thank you for your recent \$1,400 donation.... Your support is helping to provide 4,700 emergency food packages monthly to local residents...each food package supplies seven day's worth of food... funding such as yours permits us to add fresh produce, meat and eggs ....to supplement the donations of foods we receive.... Thanks for being a partner in this important work."*

Helen Koons  
Leader, Mission Team

**LEGACY OF FAITH**

A meaningful way to remember/honor loved ones and friends is to make contributions to the Memorial Fund, Renovation Fund, Music & Arts Fund or the General Fund of the First Congregational Church of River Edge.

**In Memory of John Chatellier:**

**Memorial Fund**

Christine Egner  
Robert Egner

**WORSHIP TEAM**

**COMMUNION**

On Sunday, **October 2**, we will have Communion by intinction. Please join us as we share the Lord's Supper. (The Communion bread is gluten-free.)

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**JOYS & CONCERNS LIST**

Each Sunday, on the table to the right of the double doors to the Sanctuary, there is a place for you to write any prayers requests that you might want included during the service.

Janet Arena  
Worship Team - Leader

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**COUNTERS NEEDED!!**

Counters are needed on Sunday mornings to process the worship offering. Teams are set up on a five week rotation. If you can help to would like further information, please see Don Huggett in the Board Room on any Sunday or call him at 201-261-2273. Thank you!

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**NOVEMBER CONGREGATOR**

The **deadline** to send in any material for the October Congregator will be **Wednesday, October 19, 2016.**

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**SPECIAL THANKS!**

A heartfelt thank you to Joy Lynn Jacobs! Her time and talent were enjoyed by our community on August 25th. Besides being a wonderful evening of music, spirit and entertainment, it was a very successful fundraiser! Over \$2300 was raised.

Thank you, Joy!

With Joy,  
The Stewardship Team

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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.

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

An up-to-date *Church Directory* will be printed shortly. If you did not send your form in yet, the information on file will be used. If you have moved, changed phone numbers or would like to update any of your information, please either return your form or call the Church Office. If you need a form or never received the original one, please contact the Church Office at 201-261-1712 or [office@fccriveredge.org](mailto:office@fccriveredge.org). Forms are also available in the Church Narthex.

We want the directory to have your correct information in it!!!

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**PIZZAPOLOZZA**

**Fellowship Time**

Once again we will be offering *Pizzapolozza* Fellowship Times. Following worship on Sunday, October 16, November 20 and December 18 pizza will be available for the members and friends of the congregation.

Russell Van Wetering  
Membership Team- Leader

## YourStory/OurStory

We've been calling it *Dialogue and Direction*. And, by now, I'm fairly confident that everyone around the First Congregational Church of River Edge is familiar with this unfolding project to discover how God has shaped and blessed FCCRE . . . by starting to listen to the stories of how God has blessed and led our own lives.

In the waning weeks of Summer, many of us did the wonderfully helpful work of filling out a survey that sought to gather our members' and friends' values, experiences, and dreams for our congregation, as well as listening for our member's suggestions of the best ways for us to provide a Settled Pastor for the congregation. The Dialogue and Direction Task Force is gathering our responses, and it is great reading! The results reveal the pulse of our congregation, share some great ideas, and provide a direction forward that will build on our strengths, prayers and hopes.

But, before Leadership Council can begin to work on applying our written input, all the folks of FCCRE (that's you!) have another important gift to give: some real *dialogue*. We need to tell our – and listen to others' – stories. We want to actually *hear your* story, in order to be about the "whole business" of FCCRE. We want to listen to each other's experiences and visions – to hear *your* story . . . and to give you the gift of hearing the stories of others. When we hear those stories, we believe we will see much more clearly the vision of the future into which God is leading us, and just where we need to be "making space" (in our lives, our leadership and our facilities) for God, for others, and in ourselves.

So, let the *Congregational Conversations* begin. On one of two Sunday mornings (**October 23 or 30**), we need *you* to stay in Fellowship Hall following 10:00 am worship, to participate in the Dialogue and Direction Conversations, where all (including youth) will have opportunity to discuss what drew us to First Congregational Church, what continues to draw us, and what are visions are for the future of FCCRE. Four questions to be talked about in small groups for 45 minutes . . . and you're on your way by noon! Leadership Council members will then use your stories and ideas (both surveys and conversations) to help us plan for our future as the body of Christ in North Jersey.

Remember: "It is absolutely crucial . . . to keep in constant touch with what is going on in your own life's story and to pay close attention to what is going on in the stories of others' lives." We need you; without you, the story isn't complete! And I guarantee: your participation will be fun, rewarding . . . and hope-filled.

See you at church,  
Pastor Dennis

**OCTOBER**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Church School**

Church School began on September 11. Living in God's Light is the theme, with Old Testament lessons in classes, but stories and parables throughout the fall in worship, along with youth involvement. We have introduced additional teaching tools: music and CD players, children's Bibles for readings and Bible related crafts for when lessons are over.

A big thanks goes to our teachers:

- Erin Smith and Nicole Babington – Junior Youth Class, 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Margot Pohl and Beth Shuler – Middler Class, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Denise Cannizzaro Garcia and Noreen Van Wetering – Early Primary class, 3 yrs old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade

**YOUTH GROUP**

Our new Youth Group started on September 18<sup>th</sup> in the Drop-In Room. Five teens attended this session. The activities and service projects will be planned by them. Already, many plans were made for the year.

- In October, we are planning a month-long drive for Blankets for the Animals. An apple picking outing for October is also in the works, date to be announced. Next meeting October 2.
- In November, we will try to go hiking weather permitting. Youth group
- In December we hope to visit the NY Christmas tree, and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Denise Cannizzaro Garcia helped as group advisor – Thanks Denise.

**PRE-CONFIRMATION:**

The Pre- Confirmation class meets for the first time on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, in the Drop-in Room. They will discuss the sermon and get to know each other.

Kate Jerome  
Director of Christian Education

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

*Monday, October 10, 2016*

in observance of Columbus Day.

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

As we celebrate World Communion on the first Sunday in October, we give thanks for our differences as well as our similarities. Our languages may sound unusual to some, our eye color may be unique, but we all worship God and thank God for making us as we are.

From infants to centenarians we are welcome in God's house. The Worship Team is so glad to see the church school children joining us each week in worship. A new school year and a new season have begun and we are blessed!

"Autumn . . . the year's last, loveliest smile."

- William Cullen Bryant

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### CALLING ALL SINGERS.....

On Sunday, December 11, the Cantata Choir will present *Savior of the Nations, Come*, by Michael Burkhardt. If you like to sing, you are invited to be in the choir for this special event. All voice parts are welcome, and it's not necessary to be able to read music - a love of singing is all that is necessary. This is a great opportunity for folks who enjoy singing but can't commit to the usual weekly choir rehearsals. Remember, the *very best* music is the music you make yourself, especially with friends.

Rehearsals will be at 8:10 p.m. on Thursdays: October 27; November 3, 10 and 17; and December 1 and 8.

You can also support the Cantata monetarily! Gifts can be made in honor of, or in memory of loved ones. These gifts will be acknowledged in the December 11 bulletin.

Gloria Norton  
Minister of Music



On Wednesdays (October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30 and December 7 from Noon to 1:10 pm) bring your lunch, your Bible and a readiness to discuss scriptures of preparing a way, led by Pastor TeBeest.

### YOUTH GROUP REQUEST

The new Youth Group would like to have donations of lightly used towels or sheets that they will be collecting for local animal shelters. They will be accepting donations during the month of October.

We would also like you to know that we had our first Youth Group meeting on Sunday, September 18. The Youth Group members, Kate Jerome and I are excited for this coming year.

Denise Cannizzaro-Garcia  
Education Team - Leader

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### MEMBERSHIP TEAM NEWS

**NEW JERSEY DEVILS**

vs.

**BUFFALO SABRES**

Saturday, November 12 at 7:00 pm

Seats in Lower tier, Section 16,

Row 21, Seats 9-18

10 tickets available - \$50.34 each

For tickets see Russell Van Wetering at Fellowship Time.

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## THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

On behalf of my family I'd like to thank everyone who participated in my Dad's memorial service....an incredibly beautiful celebration of his life! Dennis your honest words about our Dad were so awesome as were your visits with him (and with me there at the end....) The bulletin was just what I hoped for thanks to Theresa! Thank you to Gloria for accompanying my Samantha to sing *Sweet Low Sweet Chariot*....one of my Dad's favorites! The choir was great! Thank you also to Michelle, Alice and the Women's Fellowship for refreshments after ....it was amazing to see so many people from my past....it was greatly appreciated by all of us.

Carol Chatellier



The next regular meetings of the Shawl Ministry will take place on:

*Tuesday, October 11, at 7:30 pm*

*Thursday, October 13, at 1:00 pm*

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us in making shawls...or bring your current yarn project and spend a relaxing afternoon in our air conditioned Parlor with us. Everyone is welcome. For information, please contact Alice Rushforth at 201-265-1062.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### TWO YEAR CALENDARS

They have arrived! The two year calendar planners are available for the price of \$3.00 each.

Please see Michelle Heinzinger at Fellowship Time or contact her at 201-265-9057 to purchase one or several to give as gifts. These will go fast so make sure to buy yours soon.

## CHILD CARE AREA

There is a dedicated space for child care. Babies and toddlers up to three years of age may be brought to Pilgrim Hall on Sunday mornings. Cribs, furniture, toys and books have been selected for this area so that children will be comfortable while parents are attending worship. Ask an usher or greeter for assistance.

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## RIVER EDGE DAY

*Sunday, October 16, 2016*

*1:00 pm to 4:00 pm*

*Memorial Park*

*Continental Avenue*

Representatives from local organizations will be hosting information tables for residents and friends to find out what is happening in River Edge. First Congregational Church of River Edge will be hosting a table with information on the Church. Make sure to stop by and show your support of FCCRE.

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## FELLOWSHIP TIME!

### Volunteers Needed

Each Sunday morning the congregation at First Congregational Church enjoys a time of fellowship following the worship service. Members, non-members and visitors have an opportunity to get to know one another while enjoying a baked good along with coffee.

Volunteers are urgently needed as hosts for Fellowship Time. It's easy to serve. First, just sign up on the clipboard by the kitchen or Parlor for a Sunday that works for you. Find some other members to sign up with you and the work is even easier! Next, each of you brings baked treats (homemade or store-bought), milk for coffee or lemonade (depending on the season). Then just serve your fellow worshipers and clean up after. If you have any questions you can contact Russ Van Wetering at 201-261-1795. Please sign up now. *Your help is needed!* Make the morning special after Worship.

Thank you,  
Russ Van Wetering, Leader  
Membership Team

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# **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 and canned items.**

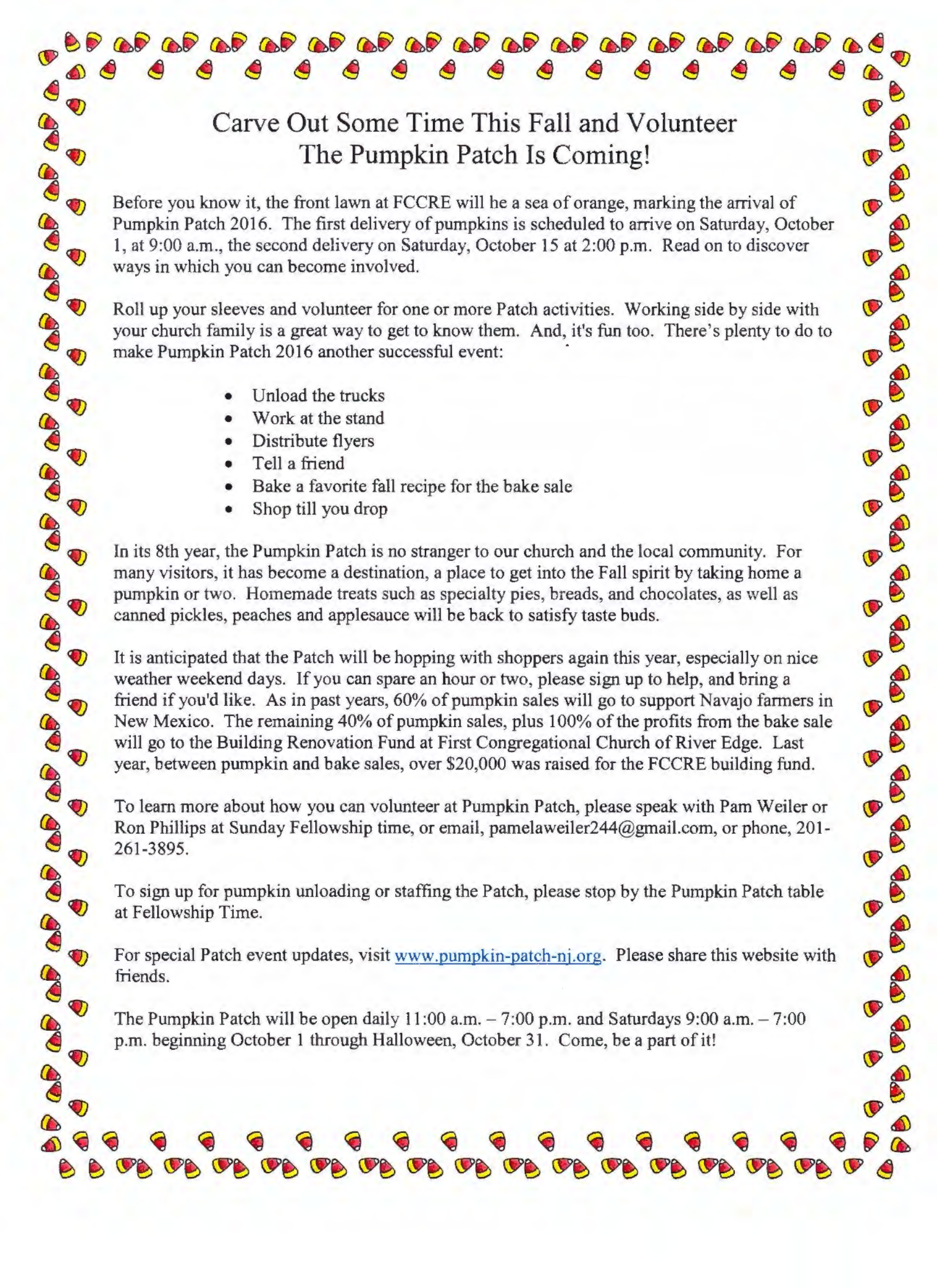
## **October 1-31**

**Open Monday-Friday 11 am-7 pm**

**Saturdays 9 am-7 pm; Sundays 11 am-7 pm**

OCTOBER 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 8:30 KWIS 9:00 - 1:00 Pumpkin Unloading 7:00 AA
<b>2</b> <u>World Communion Sunday</u> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Communion/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care/Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:00 Youth Group (DIR) 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>3</b> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step	<b>4</b> Worship Team TBA	<b>5</b> 7:00 AA	<b>6</b> 6:30 Education Team 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	<b>7</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums rehearsal	<b>8</b> 8:30 KWIS 10:15 Budget Meeting 7:00 AA
<b>9</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care/Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday	<b>10</b> <u>Church Office            Closed</u> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board 6:15 Girl Scouts 7:30 Step by Step	<b>11</b> 7:30 Shawl Ministry Pastor's begins Study Leave	<b>12</b> 7:00 Funds Advisory Group 7:00 AA	<b>13</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 RE Swim Club 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	<b>14</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums rehearsal	<b>15</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA 2:00 Second Pumpkin Unloading
<b>16</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ Guest Preacher - Brandy Mullins /Child Care/Church School 11:00 Pizzapalozza 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>17</b> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 6:00 Girl Scout Troop #95983 7:30 Step by Step	<b>18</b> 7:00 Leadership Council Pastor returns from Study Leave	<b>19</b> 7:00 Membership Team 7:00 AA	<b>20</b> 7:00 Personnel Team 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	<b>21</b> 4:30 Kopstein/Jones wedding 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums rehearsal	<b>22</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
<b>23</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Baptism - Cole Hosgood/Child Care/Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time/ Congregational Conversations 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>24</b> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step	<b>25</b> 7:00 Mission Team 7:00 Property Team	<b>26</b> 12:00 Noon - 1:10 <i>Brown Bag Bible            Study begins</i> 7:00 AA	<b>27</b> 7:00 Pilgrim Ringers 8:10 Cantata Choir	<b>28</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums rehearsal	<b>29</b> 8:30 KWIS (Halloween Fun) 3:30 Halloween Piano Recital 7:00 AA
<b>30</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care/Church School 11:00 Loaf & Ladle/Congregational Conversations 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>31</b> <i>Happy Halloween            Pumpkin Patch            closes tonight</i> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step					





## Carve Out Some Time This Fall and Volunteer The Pumpkin Patch Is Coming!

Before you know it, the front lawn at FCCRE will be a sea of orange, marking the arrival of Pumpkin Patch 2016. The first delivery of pumpkins is scheduled to arrive on Saturday, October 1, at 9:00 a.m., the second delivery on Saturday, October 15 at 2:00 p.m. Read on to discover ways in which you can become involved.

Roll up your sleeves and volunteer for one or more Patch activities. Working side by side with your church family is a great way to get to know them. And, it's fun too. There's plenty to do to make Pumpkin Patch 2016 another successful event:

- Unload the trucks
- Work at the stand
- Distribute flyers
- Tell a friend
- Bake a favorite fall recipe for the bake sale
- Shop till you drop

In its 8th year, the Pumpkin Patch is no stranger to our church and the local community. For many visitors, it has become a destination, a place to get into the Fall spirit by taking home a pumpkin or two. Homemade treats such as specialty pies, breads, and chocolates, as well as canned pickles, peaches and applesauce will be back to satisfy taste buds.

It is anticipated that the Patch will be hopping with shoppers again this year, especially on nice weather weekend days. If you can spare an hour or two, please sign up to help, and bring a friend if you'd like. As in past years, 60% of pumpkin sales will go to support Navajo farmers in New Mexico. The remaining 40% of pumpkin sales, plus 100% of the profits from the bake sale will go to the Building Renovation Fund at First Congregational Church of River Edge. Last year, between pumpkin and bake sales, over \$20,000 was raised for the FCCRE building fund.

To learn more about how you can volunteer at Pumpkin Patch, please speak with Pam Weiler or Ron Phillips at Sunday Fellowship time, or email, [pamelaweiler244@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaweiler244@gmail.com), or phone, 201-261-3895.

To sign up for pumpkin unloading or staffing the Patch, please stop by the Pumpkin Patch table at Fellowship Time.

For special Patch event updates, visit [www.pumpkin-patch-nj.org](http://www.pumpkin-patch-nj.org). Please share this website with friends.

The Pumpkin Patch will be open daily 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. beginning October 1 through Halloween, October 31. Come, be a part of it!



## **Seventh Annual Pumpkin Carving** **Event: "Loaf and Ladle"**

**Sunday, October 30**

**Fellowship Hall**

**following Fellowship Time**

- ❖ Soup, bread or dessert to share.
- ❖ Bring a pumpkin (any size) to carve.
- ❖ We will supply carving tools, candles, drinks.
- ❖ Family and friends are invited, the more, the merrier!!

***EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO AN  
AFTERNOON OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!***

**First Congregational Church  
109 Continental Avenue  
River Edge, NJ 07661  
201-261-1712  
[www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)**



## New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs

★ ★ Sept. 15, 2016 FRAUD ALERT ★ ★

**ALERT – Beware of Fraudsters Posing as Your Utility Company** – According to NJ.com, an increased number of scam artists have been trying to trick Public Service Electric & Gas (“PSE&G”) customers into parting with their money. According to the article, quoting a PSE&G news release, “[t]he would-be thieves are calling customers and telling them their service will be disconnected if they don’t immediately pay their bill with a pre-paid card.” Beware of scammers attempting to steal your money by posing as a utility company. Remember to never provide personal information over the phone and be suspicious of anyone purporting to be from a utility asking that you pay money using a pre-paid credit card, money order, or wire transfer. If you believe a call supposedly from a utility company may be a scam, hang up the phone and call the utility from a number provided in a past bill or statement to verify whether this is a scam or not.

**ALERT – IRS Scams Now Operate Year-Round, Not Just Tax Time** – The Division of Consumer Affairs is getting reports of IRS scam calls being received, not only during tax time, but year round. One resident of Morris County received a computerized voicemail recently indicating that the IRS was going to be filing a “lawsuit” against the resident and to call a phone number “immediately” to receive information about how to resolve the “case.” Phone calls threatening lawsuits and even arrest are scams and are not legitimately from the IRS. The IRS monitors such scams and information concerning this and other other scams can be found on their website [www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts](http://www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts).

**ALERT – Division of Consumer Affairs Files Action Against Emergency Medical Response System Companies Targeting Seniors** – On September 14th, the Division announced the filing of a complaint against Monmouth County companies operating under the names “Life Aid Connect,” “Safety Alert USA LLC,” “Med Aid Alert,” and “Mobile Alert, Inc.” The complaint alleges that these businesses defrauded senior citizens into purchasing emergency alert wireless systems that were never delivered, did not operate properly, or did not operate at all through “highly aggressive and misleading” telemarketing. If any senior has a complaint against these companies, please contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at (800) 242-5846 or (973) 504-6200.

**Contact us  
if you suspect FRAUD**



N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs  
**800-242-5846**  
**FightingFraud.NJ.gov**

# **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE**

## ***Our Mission***

*Our mission is to worship God, care for one another, and witness to Jesus Christ in our community and the world.*

## ***Our Vision***

*We seek to be a dynamic community of faith committed to spiritual growth, following Christ's example and God's Word. Respecting our past and recognizing today's challenges, we move forward with diverse worship, education, mission and compassionate care for all.*

*First Congregational Church  
109 Continental Avenue  
River Edge, New Jersey 07661*

### **CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION**

*Phone (201) 261-1712*

*Website – [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)*

*Church Office e-mail – [office@fccriveredge.org](mailto:office@fccriveredge.org)*

*Church Office Hours: Monday to Friday*

*9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 to 4:30 pm*

### **Church Staff**

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Pastor	<a href="mailto:dtebeest@fccriveredge.org">dtebeest@fccriveredge.org</a> 201-390-5548
Gloria Norton, S.M.M., Minister of Music	<a href="mailto:glorinor@aol.com">glorinor@aol.com</a>
Kate Jerome Director of Christian Education	<a href="mailto:kjrecong@aol.com">kjrecong@aol.com</a> 201-261-1712
Theresa Wallace Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:office@fccriveredge.org">office@fccriveredge.org</a> 201-261-1712 Ext. 100