

# ***The Congregator***

**First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey**

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 2016

Volume 68, Issue 11



## **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**

On Sunday, November 13, we will come together as a congregation to worship and to present our 2017 pledge cards at the altar. Our mission here at First Congregational Church of River Edge is to worship God, care for one another, and witness to Jesus Christ in our community and the world. Your efforts in being good stewards has allowed us to do this.

Please join us for Stewardship Commitment Sunday to worship and pray that we will be able to "Go ... and do the same." for 2017. The Rev. David Popham, Associate Conference Minister of the New Jersey Association, along with our Pastor, The Rev. Dennis TeBeest, will lead us in worship. Afterwards, please join us in Fellowship Hall for a special Fellowship Time.

Your Stewardship Team,  
Jane Silane, Dona Berg, Bob Owens,  
Tom Rushforth and Russell Van Wetering

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### **THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016 AT 4:00 PM

RIVERDELL INTER-RELIGIOUS CLERGY ASSOCIATION  
invites you to the annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

hosted by

***Grace Lutheran Church***

***925 Fifth Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661***

***EVERYONE IS INVITED!***

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**CHURCH REGISTER**

**Baptism**

Cole Richard Hosgood  
Son of Amanda & Richard Hosgood  
October 23, 2016  
Officiant – Rev. Dennis TeBeest

**Wedding**

Joan Kopstein & Willie Jones  
October 21, 2016 (Sanctuary)  
Officiant – Rev. Dennis TeBeest

**Funeral/Memorial Service**

John Chatellier – June 1, 2016 (d.)  
Memorial Service – September 17, 2016  
Officiant – Rev. Dennis TeBeest

Roger Hall - September 26, 2016 (d.)  
Funeral Service – September 29, 2016  
Officiant – Rev. Dennis TeBeest

**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:**

**Renovation Fund**

Janet & Barry Arena  
Christine Egner  
Robert Egner  
Dorothy & Don Huggett

**In Memory of John & Doris Chatellier:**

**Renovation Fund**

Cynthia & William Fordham

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**COMMUNION**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, November 6, during the 10:00 am. Worship Service. (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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**CAN YOU HELP?**

Can you help? Counters are needed on Sunday mornings to process the worship offering. Teams are set up on a five week rotation. To sign up or for further information, please see Don Huggett in the Board Room on any Sunday or call him at 201-261-2273. Your help is needed and very much appreciated! Thank you!

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**Prepare the way!**

Share the spirit of Advent and Christmas by joining us in the decorating of the Sanctuary of the First Congregational Church on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00PM.

We will hang the greens, put up the tree, ready the crèche for the birth of baby Jesus and have good cheer. Hope to see you then.

Worship Team  
Janet Arena – Leader

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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.

Happy Thanksgiving



**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
THANKSGIVING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**



## O Come, All Ye Faithful

Yes, I *do* want to talk about Christmas!

Which is kind of surprising. I usually moan and complain about our consumer-driven culture jumping the gun so horribly on Christmas. Because it is true – all the discount stores had their Christmas decoration shelves filled by Labor Day. And already the television advertisements have begun (at least in our state, where the presidential candidates aren't buying up much advertising real estate!). Normally, I'd be begging us to not get ahead of ourselves; to do some real Thanks-Giving with God in November, then give the season of Advent its due for a few (four) weeks after that, letting the season of Christmas (and many, many of its carols) wait until its proper twelve days, beginning 12/25.

But, this year, we have some First Congregational Church Christmas Eve News (“nowell”) that we want to let you in on early and often! Our Worship Team spent a good deal of time in the early months of this year listening especially to the concerns of families with young children . . . concerns that our Christmas Eve service is just too late in the evening for young children. So, after months of listening to and processing those concerns, the Worship Team has come up with a new Christmas Eve schedule and approach, about which we are quite excited and eager. And these Christmas Eve changes become even more significant in this year, when Christmas Day is a Sunday!

As you begin to look at your Christmas Eve and Christmas Day plans, please be aware of these worship times. Plan to attend both on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day . . . and give an open invitation to others to celebrate the birth of Christ, God-With-Us, in these ways:

- **Christmas Eve (Saturday, 12/24), 4:00 p.m.:**  
*Family Service* – We are shown the way to Bethlehem, with story and drama that reaches to all ages, and to singles, couples and families. We make our own journey to the manger, and add our lights to the Light of the World. Children's Choir, participatory carols, and characters in God's drama surround us.
- **Christmas Eve, 10:00 p.m.:**  
*Candlelight Communion* – The Story of God-With-Us in scripture, sermon and song (Carols and the Chancel Choir). We celebrate the Lord's Supper, and carry the light with us into the night!
- **Christmas Day (Sunday, 12/25), 10:00 a.m.:**  
*A Service of Lessons and Carols* – We weave scriptures of promise and fulfillment with Carols of the Choirs and our own Voices. Children, youth and adults share in declaring the News (nowell) of the Birth (noel)!

Please let this news shape your Christmas plans and expectations!

See you at church,  
Pastor Dennis

**THANK YOU!**

Dear Church Family,

*Thank you* for the beautiful flowers delivered by my Granddaughter, Kim Shirk.

Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and does more good than the medicine I take.

Sincerely,

Clara Stoll

\*\*



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

*Tuesday, November 8, at 7:30 pm*

*Thursday, November 10, 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 the Parlor with us. Everyone is welcome. For information, please contact Alice Rushforth at 201-265-1062.

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**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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**PIZZAPOLOZZA Fellowship Time**

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

*Hope to see you there!*

Russell Van Wetering  
Membership Team- Leader

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**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
**TWO YEAR CALENDARS**

They have arrived! The two year calendar planners are available for the price of \$3.00 each. And a great place to keep track of all your important dates.

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.

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**NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

Many of you may have noticed that there are more teens in our church lately, whether they are singing in service, helping with classes and child care, or helping with mission projects like Second Sunday and Habitat for Humanity. The Youth group does a myriad of activities. Some, like child care and Pumpkin Carving, are traditional church activities, where their help is needed and requested, but many service and fellowship activities are also chosen by them. We are so overjoyed to have them with us.

For October, our Youth Group planned their own community service project, *Blankets for Animals*. They will collect and deliver blankets, sheets, towels, and newspapers to area animal shelters. A box has been placed in the Narthex for linens, and newspapers should be brought to the Christian Ed. Office.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Youths and 4 adults attended the *Youth Group Hike*, which was run by Betty Hogan. Betty loves to hike and said "Sure, let's hike!" at the first suggestion. Pastor Dennis, Vic Babington, and Eddie Garcia supervised the teens. The hikers met in the parking lot, after the Dialogue and Direction meeting. The hikers went to *Norvin Green State Forest*, which is about a half hour from River Edge and hiked 3.5 miles! They came back tired but happy, before 5 PM.

Youth were also asked to help with River Edge Day, the Pumpkin Patch, the Loaf and Ladle Pumpkin carving, Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, and Second Sunday. These are all service opportunities for them. They can choose among them, and get Service Hour letters for the projects they volunteered for.

They can also actively be a part of our church by volunteering to usher and greet. Several students have already said they would like to. Any youth that are interested should contact Kate Jerome or Jenn Young. If they want to be a lay reader, they should contact Cindy Fordham.

The next **Youth Group meeting is November 6**, when the group will decide if they want to have the cocoa fundraiser again this year to pay for youth activities. Other November plans include, a Pizza Party (date to be determined) in the Drop-In Room, cocoa-making if approved, and, of course, involvement in the Chrismon Service.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We will again be planning a Vacation Bible School this summer (probably the first or second week in August.) Anyone who has participated or would like to plan or help, please contact me by email at [kjrecong@aol.com](mailto:kjrecong@aol.com), or by phone. I am starting a list of volunteers.

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**PRE-CONFIRMATION NEWS**

Our Pre-Confirmation class has met once and planned to meet once a month with their mentors. On September 25, they discussed the sermon and what they learned with their mentors. They gave insights about what church means to them. Reverend Dennis stopped in to chat and encourage.

The next Pre-Confirmation meeting was scheduled to be held October 23. Mentors and students will meet at the Dialogue and Direction meeting and help to determine the course of our church. Our students are preparing to be active members.

We have had a very busy Youth Group and Pre-Confirmation class this year. Youth and young adults are becoming increasingly active in our church. We are very lucky to have such wonderful young people with us.

**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

Our church school curriculum this fall is all about the Old Testament. Older students learn about prophets and kings and how God's word was spread. Younger children learn the simple lessons of faith and goodness that are taught through some of the stories. In service, you may have noticed that the Children's Messages are about lessons and parables. We try, whenever possible, to match the lessons to the sermons, so that parents can discuss the lesson with their children at home.

**NOVEMBER 20 FOOD DRIVE**

A food drive is planned for November 20, when students and congregation members are invited to bring non-perishable food to the service, where it will be collected by the children of the church. This does not take the place of the monetary collection, done monthly, but is a physical reminder to all of us of how very fortunate we are and our need to share our good fortune.

Food will be delivered to the Center for Food Action in Englewood. Urgently needed items are:

Peanut Butter & Jelly	Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Meat & Canned Tuna	Canned Fruits and Vegetables
Macaroni & Cheese	Diapers (size 3,4,5,6)
Rice/Beans	Instant Formula/Baby Food
Hearty Soup	Dental Hygiene Products
Pasta/Cereal	100% Juice

And remember, no glass containers. Thanks everyone. Let's help our neighbors and make our church proud.

Kate Jerome  
Director of Christian Education



**ADULT BIBLE STUDY, WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**

(Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 )

***Ruth – Lessons for our Fractured Word***

Where does the Book of Ruth fit into God's story?

Where do outsiders fit into God's story?

Where do I fit into God's story?

Join us for five weeks of study of who are meant to be recipients of God's love and mercy, and of our loving deeds.

*Make it a Brown Bogs & Bibles event:*

*Bring your lunch and Bible!*

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE**

**"At Risk" Residents Wanted**

River Edge is committed to helping "at risk" residents during serious emergencies, for example, during a massive power outage with significant snow accumulation. However, rendering assistance requires knowing who needs help when precious moments count.

"At Risk" residents include (but are not limited to) the homebound elderly, those living with health care aides, or in some instances, those living alone. Residents of any age with serious health issues, such as a child or adult on a respirator, or those who might need special medications or supplemental oxygen.

If you have a friend, or are the neighbor of someone who you believe would be "at risk" in a serious emergency, please contact River Edge Public Health Nurse, Arlene Faustini, at (201)599-6289. Information provided can help save a life. All information will be kept confidential.

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## CANTATA

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

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## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget to turn your clocks back when you go to bed Saturday, November 5.

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## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship is awaiting their order of Pecans. They will be sold in one pound bags at \$12.00 each. Also, they still have planning calendars available which make nice gifts for Christmas. Please watch for future notices in the bulletins and on the website for their arrival.

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## CHRISMON 2016

Chrismon ornaments are Christian Symbols that remind us of Christ's glory. This year's ornament will be a crown, which is the symbol of the Kingship of Jesus, telling of his victory over sin and death, and His place of honor at the right hand of God. Sales of Chrismon ornaments will begin on November 6<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall after the Worship Service.

## CHRISMON SERVICE

Our church will be holding its annual Chrismon Service on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 4 pm. The Chrismon Service, a 44 year tradition, is held in the Sanctuary and begins with those attending placing their Chrismon ornaments on the Sanctuary tree. Chrismon ornaments are white and gold religious ornaments that represent Christ and celebrate his birth.

As Chrismons are brought to the tree, participants also bring unwrapped gifts of clothes and toys to be placed under the tree for children in need. After gifts are arranged, the church school children and youth recreate the Nativity Story to usher in the Christmas season.

Unwrapped clothing and toys brought forward at this service will be presented to the Greater Bergen Community Action Program for distribution to children and youth of Bergen County's neediest families.

For further information, please check our website: [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org) or call/email the Director of Christian Education, Kate Jerome, at 201-261-1712 or [kjrecong@aol.com](mailto:kjrecong@aol.com).

## 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

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## November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 10:00 Worship Team  4:00 Building Renovation Team	<b>2</b> 12:00 Noon Brown Bags & Bibles  1:30 Stewardship Team  7:00 AA	<b>3</b> 6:30 Education Team  7:00 Pilgrim Ringers  8:10 Cantata Choir	<b>4</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum	<b>5</b> 8:30 KWIS  4:30 Hamilton/Saad Wedding  7:00 AA
<b>6 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY</b> 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) 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>7</b> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon  7:00 Step by Step	<b>8</b> 7:30 Shawl Ministry	<b>9</b> 12:00 Noon Brown Bags & Bibles  7:00 Funds Advisory Group  7:00 AA	<b>10</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry  7:00 Pilgrim Ringers  8:10 Cantata Choir	<b>11</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum	<b>12</b> 8:30 KWIS  7:00 AA
<b>13 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest with The Rev. David Popham – Associate Conference Minister/Child Care/Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday	<b>14</b> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon – Anniversary Meeting (FH)  1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board  7:00 Step by Step	<b>15</b> 7:00 Leadership Council	<b>16</b> 12:00 Noon Brown Bags & Bibles  7:00 Membership Team  7:00 AA	<b>17</b> 7:00 Personnel Team  7:00 Pilgrim Ringers  8:10 Cantata Choir	<b>18</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum	<b>19</b> 8:30 KWIS  Turkey Drive  7:00 AA
<b>20</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/ChildCare/Church School/Food Collection 11:00 Pizzapalooza 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:00 River Dell Inter-religious Clergy Thanksgiving Inter-faith service at Grace Lutheran Church	<b>21</b> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon  7:00 Step by Step	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:00 Noon Brown Bags & Bibles  7:00 AA	<b>24</b> <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>  Church Office Closed	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed  7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum	<b>26</b> 8:30 KWIS  7:00 AA
<b>27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/ChildCare/Church School/Food Collection 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church  <i>Chrismon Rehearsal – Time TBA</i>	<b>28</b> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon  7:00 Step by Step	<b>29</b> 7:00 Mission Team  7:00 Property Team	<b>30</b> 12:00 Noon Brown Bags & Bibles  7:00 AA	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b><u>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</u></b></p> <p><b>CHRISMON SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 4, 2016</b></p> </div>		



# POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2016

To enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, the Worship Team of First Congregational Church of River Edge is offering members and friends, the opportunity to order red Poinsettias to help complete the décor.

Each contributor is given a choice to purchase a Poinsettia plant to be picked up after the Christmas Eve service or donate a Poinsettia for distribution to the sick and shut-ins. With either choice, the names of donors, and those in whose memory or honor the flowers are given, will be listed in the Church bulletin.

Checks should be payable to First Congregational Church of River Edge and designated for "Christmas Flowers," in the memo section of the check.

Checks must be received by the Church Office no later than **Sunday, December 11, 2016**. Please complete the order form below, and return it with your check to the Church Office or place it in the offering plate.

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I am ordering \_\_\_\_\_ red Poinsettias, at \$12.00 each, and I am enclosing the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

DONOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

INDICATE CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_ Take home after the Christmas Eve Service  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will give for distribution to hospitalized and shut-in  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will help distribute to hospitalized and shut-in members

**December 11, 2016 is the last day to order!**

## November, 2016 Congregator Addendum

**All Wrapped Up**— Last year, our church donors (you) ‘adopted’ five families, (17 children and 6 adults), plus 5 low-income disabled seniors, and purchased **all** of the gift items on their wish lists, **plus** donating gift certificates totaling over \$1,450! The Bergen Volunteer Center, which runs this program, was amazed and overwhelmingly grateful for our great outreach to these needy folks.

We will be participating in this program once again this year. Watch for the wish lists of the children and seniors at Fellowship Time beginning in early November.

## **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