

# The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 2016

Volume 68, Issue 3



## "KNOWING GOD" CONTINUES

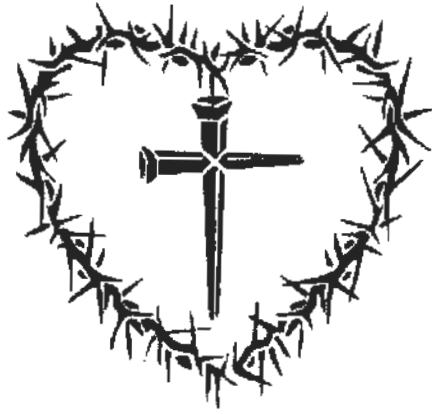
Please join Pastor, The Rev. Dennis TeBeest, for the following opportunities of Bible Study, prayer and Communion:

What questions have God's people had about their creator? How can we know the unknowable God? This seven session study will be offered in two times and formats (interchangeable!):

- **Brown Bags and Bibles.** *Tuesdays, March 1 -- March 29, Noon - 1:20, Pilgrim Hall.* Bring your lunch at noon. After 20 minutes of eating and conversation, we will dig into our Bibles and Resource Books.
- **WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND COMMUNION.** *Wednesdays of Lent, March 2 - March 16, 6:15 - 6:45 p.m.* A simple and quiet service of scripture, Lord's Supper and guided prayer in the *Sanctuary Chancel*.
- **Evenings with the Bible.** *Wednesdays, March 2— March 30, 7:00 - 8:15 pm., in the Parlor.* We focus on how this great theme of the Bible unfolds from Genesis to Revelation.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Any decision to cancel Sunday worship service and classes due to inclement weather will be posted on our website [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org) by **8:30 am Sunday Morning**. We will also update our church office voicemail greeting (201-261-1712 x100) by **8:30 am** with such a decision.



*Wondrous  
Love*

by Lloyd Larson

**Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016**

*The Cantata Choir*

*Pam Weiler, piano*

*Michelle Heinzinger and Wayne Placek, narrators*

*Allison Rupp, clarinet*

*Joy Jacobs, mezzo soprano*

*Signe Myhren, mezzo soprano*

*Bert Schmitt, baritone*

*Tim Wallace, baritone*

*The Cantata will be under the direction of  
Gloria Norton, Minister of Music*

\* \* \*

*FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE*

*109 Continental Avenue*

*River Edge, NJ 07661*

*201-261-1712*

*fccriveredge.org*

## Take a Spiritual Journey -- Walk the Labyrinth



Do you ever wish you had more time for self-reflection, meditation and prayer? Walk the church labyrinth on Tuesday, March 22 and you may have a spiritual experience that can help lead to healing, self-discovery and inner peace.

A labyrinth is a circular, one design path that ultimately leads to the center and out again. Unlike a maze, it has no dead ends. The labyrinth's design is symbolic for life's twists and turns. It is a tool that can be used to release stress, help you through difficult times, and clear your mind.

Walking the labyrinth is a personal experience. There is no right or wrong way to participate, and the walk can take as little as 30 minutes to more than an hour to complete.

Labyrinths have been used for more than 4,000 years as a meditation and prayer tool in almost all religions and cultures, and can be found in Ancient Egypt, Hindu and Hopi images. For Christians, walking the labyrinth can represent a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and therefore gains popularity during the Lenten season. This year's theme is *Walk to Jerusalem*.

Labyrinths can come in various shapes and sizes and are often found in churches, health spas, spiritual centers and other serene locations. Our church labyrinth is based on the design of the Chartres Labyrinth, laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral around 1220. It measures 35 feet in diameter, and because it is portable, it is often loaned to other churches for retreats and special events.

You can walk the labyrinth on Tuesday, March 22, from 2 pm to 7 pm. Ask a neighbor or a friend to join you. Simple instructions will be provided on how to make the most of your walk.

Walkers will be asked to remove their shoes and are reminded to wear socks. It is not recommended for children under 13.

For more information, see Alice Rushforth or email her at [arushforth@verizon.net](mailto:arushforth@verizon.net)

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





## **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Once again Women's Fellowship will be assembling Church World Service *Gift of the Heart* kits. They are in great demand in the recent hurricane damaged states. Below you will find a list of the needed items for the health and school kits (the most needed). Won't you consider sharing your blessings with those in impoverished areas, refugee camps or other difficult settings? Michelle Heinzinger will accept your donation any Sunday until April 3. Our church will again serve as a collection site on April 18 and April 19, 2015.

### **To assemble a School Kit you will need:**

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages  
**(no loose-leaf or filler paper)**
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)




### **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)
- Six 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.

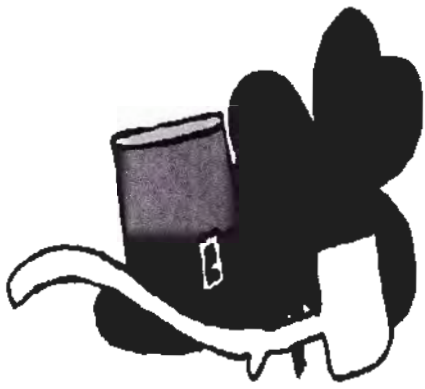
Thank you for your support of this Women's Fellowship project!

Michelle L. Heinzinger  
President – Women's Fellowship

# March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 12:00 Noon <i>Brown Bags and Bibles</i> 5:30 Worship Team	<b>2</b> 6:15 Evening Prayer & Communion 7:00 "Knowing God" - A Bible Study for Lent & Beyond	<b>3</b> 6:30 Education Team 7:00 Pilgrim Ringers 8:10 Cantata Choir	<b>4</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums rehearsal	<b>5</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
<b>6 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> <u><b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b></u> 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/ Communion/ Church School/Child Care/ 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:30 Korean Baptist Church	<b>7</b> 12:00 Noon AI-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA	<b>8</b> 12:00 Noon <i>Brown Bags and Bibles</i> 7:30 Shawl Ministry	<b>9</b> 6:15 Evening Prayer & Communion 7:00 "Knowing God" - A Bible Study for Lent & Beyond 7:00 Funds Advisory Group 7:30 AA	<b>10</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Pilgrim Ringers 8:10 Cantata Choir	<b>11</b> 6:00 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums rehearsal 	<b>12</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
<b>13 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Church School/ Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 12:30 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday <u>Deadline for plant orders</u> <u>Daylight Savings Time Begins</u>	<b>14</b> 12:00 Noon AI-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board 7:30 Step by Step NA	<b>15</b> 12:00 Noon <i>Brown Bags and Bibles</i> 7:00 Leadership Council	<b>16</b> 6:15 Evening Prayer & Communion 7:00 "Knowing God" - A Bible Study for Lent & Beyond 7:00 Membership Team 7:30 AA	<b>17</b> 7:00 Pilgrim Ringers 8:10 Cantata Choir	<b>18</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums rehearsal	<b>19</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
<b>20 PALM SUNDAY</b> <u>Sixth Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Cantata Choir 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Cantata/ Church School/ Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:30 Korean Baptist Church 7:00 Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> 12:00 Noon AI-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA	<b>22</b> 12:00 Noon <i>Brown Bags and Bibles</i> 4:00 - 8:00 Walk the Labyrinth 7:00 Property Team 7:00 Mission Team	<b>23</b> 6:15 Evening Prayer & Communion 7:00 "Knowing God" - A Bible Study for Lent & Beyond 7:30 AA	<b>24 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 6:45 Chancel Choir 7:30 Worship Service	<b>25 GOOD FRIDAY</b> Church Office Closed	<b>26</b> 7:00 AA
<b>27 EASTER DAY</b> 8:30 Cantata Choir 9:15 Choirs 10:00 Worship/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care (Easter Egg Hunt following service) 12:00 Korean Baptist Church *Church School students should return One Great Hour of Sharing banks to Church Narthex.	<b>28</b> 12:00 Noon AI-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA	<b>29</b> 12:00 Noon <i>Brown Bags and Bibles</i>	<b>30</b> 6:15 Evening Prayer & Communion 7:00 "Knowing God" - A Bible Study for Lent & Beyond 7:30 AA	<b>31</b> 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers		

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON  
 SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016  
 DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!**



# *Céad Mile Fáilte*

*“a hundred thousand welcomes”*

to

*First Congregational Church's*

***CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE***

***DINNER***

*Friday, March 11, 2016*

*6:00 pm to 9:00 pm*

*Hors d'oeuvres, Corned Beef & Cabbage,  
Irish Soda Bread, soft beverages and dessert*

*Kid friendly food for little leprechauns*

*Irish Dancers and Tri-County Pipe & Drums*



*First Congregational Church of River Edge  
(Fellowship Hall)*

*109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey*

*201-261-1712*

*\*Ticket: Adults \$20.00*

*Children \$10.00*

*\*Available at Fellowship Time or by calling the Church Office.*



**CHURCH REGISTER**

**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.

**RENOVATION FUND**

In memory of Edith Haystrand  
From Evelyn & Robert Fialko

In memory of William Hamilton  
From Evelyn & Robert Fialko  
\* \*

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Friday, March 25, 2016**

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**WORSHIP TEAM**

*Communion*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, March 6, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The bread served at Communion is gluten Free.

\* \*

**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.

\* \*



**MISSION TEAM**

**January 28th - Family Promise**

During the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>, we helped to host 4 homeless families – 4 mothers and 5 children all under the age of 12– at St. Peter's. We provided the room setup for one family of 3 for the week. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, we provided a warm dinner for all the families, as well as hosts for the evening and overnight at St. Peter's.

Thank you to all those who helped with set-up, with food preparation and with evening and overnight hosting.

**GOOD NEWS!**

One of the families (mom and children ages 3 and 7) moved into transitional housing at the end of January! This young family will have continued support and housing stability as they forward.

Our next hosting opportunities will be the weeks of July 17 – 24<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendars!

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**One Great Hour of Sharing –  
Sunday, March 6**

In 2016, our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is being received on one 'Great Hour', at our Sunday service on March 6.

As you know, the goal of the OGHS mission is help people in our own country and around the world who are suffering from natural disasters, conflicts, or severe economic hardship. This year, the OGHS offering focuses on refugees and displaced persons. For decades, First Congregational Church has been open-handedly providing for others through this fund. Our donations have helped victims of floods and tornadoes in the US; they have helped the unaccompanied children who fled to the US from Central America; they are helping the citizens in Flint, Michigan to get free clean filtered water; they are helping displaced persons in many places and many precarious circumstances.

Please give with your usual most-generous heart to this cause. Together, we can make life-sustaining, future-giving differences to those most in need.

Helen Koons, Team Leader

**ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON**

The Worship Team recognizes the many people who participated in the luncheon that was held after the Annual Meeting. For those who planned the menu, ordered the food, put up tables and chairs, brought desserts, served the food, shared fellowship and then cleaned up, we offer many thanks.

Our Fellowship Time is "Team Work" at its best!

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 or 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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**Un-decorating Thanks!**

Thank you to all those who came out to help us take down the Church's Christmas decorations. We did it in record time. It was so nice of you to join in the effort!

Janet Arena  
Worship Team - Leader

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**Thank You to Ash Wednesday  
Soup Makers**

Thank you so much to our Ash Wednesday Soup Supper providers: Adria Brown, Pat Canzani, Nancy Chiang, Connie Doerner, Evelyn Fialko, Michelle Helinzinger, Janice Hildreth, Carole Meeks, Barbara Placek and Arlene Rudd. The soups were all delicious. Thank you also to those who brought bread. Thank you to Janet Arena, Kate Jerome and our Confirmands for their help setting up and serving the soup.

Carole Meeks

\*\*

Come --

***Walk the Labyrinth to Jerusalem***

The Worship Team invites you to join us as we follow Jesus' journey during Holy Week. The Labyrinth will be open to all on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-7pm. This is a contemplative experience that is enhanced with low lighting and spiritual music.

Janet Arena  
Worship Team, Leader

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**PRAYER CONCERNS LIST**

Names on the Prayer Concerns list are the initial communication to the church of a need for prayer. In order to keep the list current, names remain on the list for six weeks. If you would like a name to remain on the list for additional time, please contact the Church Office. **Please be sure to call the Church Office at 201-261-1712 to inform them of hospitalizations.** To place someone on the Prayer Concerns list, please add their name to the sheet in the Narthex or call the Church Office.

\*\*

**Easter Egg Hunt**

On March 27, Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter egg hunt after worship service on the lawn used for Pumpkin Patch. Children will line up on the front side walk. Children will be cleared to go in groups by age with younger children first, then 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, then older children. Have a good time, but remember to share.

Kate Jerome  
Director of Christian Education

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**MARCH 2016**

**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 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. Then just serve your fellow worshippers and clean up after. You'll receive directions for making the coffee/tea in the mail and 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

\* \*

**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.

\* \*

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to donate altar flowers for one of our worship services, please contact our Flower Coordinator, Carole Meeks at 201-262-3020. The donation for the flowers is \$25.00. Flowers can be taken home after the service or given to one of our shut-ins. The deadline for ordering altar flowers is the Sunday prior to their being placed on the Altar.

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**EDUCATION TEAM**

I want to thank those of you that went to Movie Day.

Please keep a lookout for another babysitting night opportunity by our Confirmation Class.

Thank you

Denise Cannizzaro Garcia  
Education Team - Leader

\* \*



**HAVE YOU PLEDGED YET!**

In order for the ministry of our community to continue to serve God's mission, and in order for that ministry to grow, we all need to consider the ways we are called to support the work of our congregation. Your financial support to our common ministry will ensure that the work to which God has called us will continue and thrive. Prayerfully consider your giving.

**PLEDGE CARDS AND PLEDGE ENVELOPES** for 2016 are available on the table in the Narthex and Parlor.

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Please make sure to include your **financial number** on any regular or capital campaign offering envelopes and/or checks so that the church's Financial Secretary can include this information on your financial statements. Any questions, please contact Dona Berg, Church Financial Secretary, at 201-265-2523.

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

***Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30 pm***  
***Thursday, February 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/evening with us. Everyone is welcome. For information, please contact Alice Rushforth at 201-265-1062.

\*\*

**SECOND SUNDAY GROUP**

Love was in the air this past Sunday as we celebrated Valentines Day at the 2016 Second Sunday Valentines Dance. The disco ball lit up the hall as DJ, Andrew Wallace kept the tempo going with many of our favorite tunes. With the help of our stellar staff, we prepared and served a delicious roast beef dinner to over 85 people with plenty for all. The clients always look forward to this evening as a time to share a dance with a special friend. Pastor Tebeest started the evening by blessing the gathering and the food, and Tim Wallace was our MC for the night. This program means so much to all the clients and it is only possible with the help of so many loving and hard working volunteers. I feel blessed to be a part of it. We thank the people from the congregation that generously supplied food for the dinner. We hope that our church will continue to support this great program. Food donations are needed monthly so if you have not given lately, please consider looking for the sign up list at Fellowship Time. We are always happy to welcome newcomers to our volunteer staff as well so if you want to be involved please contact me for more information as to how you can help. You will be rewarded in more ways than you can ever know.

Any questions or your would like additional information, please contact me at 201-661-1678. Thank you.

Betty Hogan

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***SPRING into SPRING CONCERT***

The Haworth United Church of Christ invites you to a special concert on Palm Sunday, March 20 at 4:30 pm in their Sanctuary. Haworth's Director of Music, Dr. Olga Stepanov will be featured on both piano and organ. She will be accompanied by talented instrumentalists and vocal soloists. Refreshments will be available for a time of fellowship following the concert.

Hope to see you there!

In faith,

Rev. Lauri Craig, Pastor

**MEMBERSHIP TEAM**



The Membership Team is currently looking at planning a *Progressive Dinner* for members and friends of the Church in late Spring. If you were here the last time we had this event, you will remember how enjoyable it was for all the adults who attended. If you would like to be involved, please see Russ Van Wetering, Team Leader at Fellowship Time.

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**RIVER EDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

PRESENTS

*The Bantry Boys*

*Sunday, March 13, 2016 from 1- 2 PM*

Come enjoy an afternoon of Irish folk music. Irish Soda Bread, tea and cookies will be served after the program. For information please call 201-261-1663, ext. 4

\*

**THANK YOU**

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone who expressed their kind get-well wishes to me after my spinal surgery and during my stay at Englewood Hospital and the Oradell Health Care Center. I am truly happy to be home - over four weeks now already. Time has gone much faster in my own room than in foreign ones!

Next I need out-patient physical therapy; I have felt well during my recuperation so far, but I recently realized that the total recovery time for me will be much longer than I had anticipated. I have no doubt that your heart-felt prayers and thoughts have helped me along the way.

Fondly, Patty Wallace

\*\*

Dear Church Family,

The Hamilton family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for all the thoughts, concerns, prayers and cards relating to the untimely passing of our beloved husband/father. It is comforting to know we have this loving support group during this special time of need.

Sincerely,

The family of William M. Hamilton

\*\*

Dear Members & Friends of First Congregational Church,

Thank you for your get-well thoughts and prayers and for the cards and emails that you have sent in recent weeks. I am recovering well from surgery, and look forward to returning to full activity in about six more weeks.

Sincerely,

Chuck Holm

\*\*

**Pumpkin Patch 2016**

Pumpkin Patch information sessions will be held on Sunday, March 13 and Sunday, April 17, immediately following morning worship in the Church Library. These brief sessions will explore whether there is enough interest to hold this event October 2016. General information about Pumpkin Patch will be provided, as well as the history of our church's involvement in it, and a description of the help that is needed to plan for the possible 8th annual Pumpkin Patch. If you are unable to attend the meeting but are interested in receiving this information, please contact Pam Weiler or Ron Phillips by email, [pamron244@aol.com](mailto:pamron244@aol.com); or phone, 201-261-3895. Hope to hear from you or see you at the meeting!

Pam Weiler  
Pumpkin Patch  
Coordinator

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## **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@verizon.net">dtebeest@verizon.net</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