

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 2017

Volume 69, Issue 2



ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The Leadership Council has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Congregational Church of River Edge for Sunday, February 12, 2017 immediately following the morning service in the church sanctuary. The business will include the presentation of annual reports of church teams and organizations, the financial report of the church, and election of officers.

Annual Report booklets will be available prior to the meeting. Child care will be provided for younger children.

Alice Rushforth
Church Clerk

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Souper Bowl Sunday



Don't forget to bring your donations of soup to Worship Service on Sunday, February 5, 2017.
Church School youth and children will be collecting these during worship.

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 by **8:30 am Sunday Mornings**. We will also update our church office voicemail greeting (201-261-1712 x100) with such a decision.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

President's Day

Monday, February 20, 2017

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

Tuesday, February 14, at 7:30 pm

Thursday, February 16, 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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PIZZAPALOOZA Fellowship Time

Once again we will be offering *Pizzapalooza* Fellowship Times. Following worship on Sunday, February 19, 2017, 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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FEBRUARY 2017

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**THE TIME FOR SINGING
HAS COME!**

If you like to sing, then plan now to be a part of the CANTATA CHOIR for its spring presentation.

The 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, March 26, will be a musical service, **PSALMS for SINGING**, and all who love to sing are invited to be in the choir that day.

Rehearsals for **PSALMS for SINGING** will be Thursday evenings at 8:10 p.m. February 16 and 23, and March 2, 9, 16, and 23.

See you then!

Gloria Norton
Minister of Music

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The Lord
is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
Psalm 23: 1

What Are You Looking For?

I wasn't looking for this. I have never been to Israel. I have never harbored a deep desire to put that experience on my bucket-list.

That may seem a strange admission for a "religious professional." Truth be told, my faith has just felt neither the need nor the intense longing to "walk where Jesus walked." I may seek out and enjoy meaningful or historical sanctuaries or cathedrals for the prayerful feeling that they invoke. But the Old and New Testament stories which speak so strongly to me speak more through the characters and their lives and relationships, than through their geography.

But that lack of longing disappeared some months ago, when I heard of an interfaith trip to Israel and Palestine being planned by a gathering of Jews, Christians and Muslims from Upstate New York. For the second half of February, almost two dozen of us from the "Abrahamic faiths" will travel, dine, and seek to pray together (or at least try to more deeply understand one another's prayers). Suddenly, I am excited to be immersed in this region and culture which has birthed and generated the faith which is foundational to who I am.

For a dozen days my travel group will experience historical and contemporary sites, and enter dialogue with religious and community leaders in this region of deep meaning, but also of intense division. I don't expect to depart with much religious tchotchke; I do hope to return with a deeper faith understanding and devotion . . . and with a better handle on what it means to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly" with my God (Micah 6:8).

I undertake this trip not as a vacation, but as a most wonderful example of how I need to engage in continuing education as a faith leader in the Christian church; to be a person of faith, to rub shoulders with the diverse faiths of our world, and to encourage and nurture the Christian faith and witness of the First Congregational Church of River Edge (you!). Will I find what I'm looking for? Will I succeed?

In my report to our Annual Congregational Meeting, I quote one of my favorite philosophers, Dr. Seuss. May his message of Godspeed inform not only my study trip, but also the journey of FCCRE which absolutely needs *your* looking for some surprising things in your own journey of faith and life; of using your gifts and your distinct witness wherever in the world you find God sending you:

*Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away! . . .
You'll get mixed up, of course,
as you already know.
You'll get mixed up
with many strange birds as you go.
So be sure when you step.
Step with care and great tact*

*and remember that Life's
a Great Balancing Act.
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.
And never mix up your right foot with your left.*

*And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3 / 4 percent guaranteed.)*

KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

Oh, the Places You'll Go!, Dr. Seuss

What are you looking for? What is God calling us to?

Traveling Mercies,
Dennis



Dear Church Friends;

Thank you for helping me over my latest "Speed bump." I really appreciate your caring thoughts and prayers, and your cards and phone calls of encouragement.

All these things help so much. It is really wonderful to have such a loving church.

With thanks and prayers for your own good health and happiness in 2017,

Cindy Fordham

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To all at the First Congregational Church of River Edge,

Thank you so much for thinking of me with the beautiful Poinsettia plant.

Between the passing of my sister and my unfortunate fall while in Santa Fe, it was a bright symbol of love, hope and joy for this new year.

Also, thank you for all the cards.

Blessings to all,
Lois Holland

*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the lovely poinsettia plant. I wish you all a very happy New Year!

Mildred Alderdice

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CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the **March** 2017 issue of the Congregator is Thursday, February 16, 2017.

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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 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.

USHERING TEAMS

The Ushering Team is looking for volunteers. If you've ever thought about getting more involved, this is a great way to meet new folks with very little time commitment. Usher Teams have a seven-week rotation. Responsibilities include arriving 40 minutes prior to the service to prepare the sanctuary, handing out the bulletins, participating in the offering, and closing up the sanctuary after the service. Each team has a leader and 4 to 5 members. If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate, please contact Jenn Young, Jlf0721@yahoo.com, 201-906-1682.

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Please note that the annual Women's Fellowship February Luncheon/Meeting has been **cancelled** and will be rescheduled at a later date.

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STEWARDSHIP TEAM

*Go and do the same –
it's not too late to make a pledge for 2017!*

We are making great strides towards our goal, but we still have significant steps to take. If you have not done so, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to the First Congregational Church of River Edge. By supporting your church, you are supporting those people along the roadside, about whom Jesus speaks.

This is why your continued financial support is so important.

Your commitment to the church is an opportunity to grow by making a choice to make a gift that makes a difference. Our mission is to worship God, care for one another, and witness to Jesus Christ in our community and the world. Thank you for being a partner in the ministry of the First Congregational Church of River Edge!

God Bless,

Your Stewardship Team

CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral Service

Louise Spencer – January 13, 2017 (d.)
Service – January 17, 2017
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.

BUILDING RENOVATION FUND

In Memory of Shirley Dahlstrom

Hilma Albrecht
Evelyn and Robert Fialko
Peter and Monica Dahlstrom

In Memory of William Lins

Adria B. Brown
Robert and Evelyn Fialko

In Memory of Robert W. Egner

Adria B. Brown
Robert and Evelyn Fialko
Frank and Diane Lento
Hilma Albrecht

In Memory of Louise E. Spencer

Robert and Evelyn Fialko
Adria B. Brown

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Robert W. Egner

Boyajian Remodeling
Dorothy Mogerly
Diane Brownlee
Evelyn Pachner
Ronald and Judith Murray
Tod and Lisa Schleier
Darlene M. Ham
Jeune Bitzer
Ridgewood Country Club
Cathleen Sutliff
Minda D. King
Arax Sarajian

Linda and Millard Pintard
Mr. & Mrs. James Quisenberry

In Memory of William Lins

Ruth and Hugo Tschudin

In Memory of Louise E. Spencer

Michael and Mary Azarian
Doris E. Smith
William and Gertrude Hartmann
Hilma Albrecht

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WORSHIP TEAM

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 5**, 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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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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DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Souper Bowl Sunday – Sunday, February 5, 2017

Don't forget your soup! Our children will collect the soup cans during service to be donated to the *Center for Food Action*.

Intergenerational Ice Skating Planned - Sunday February 12, 2017, 2:00 pm

Our ice skating event was such a hit last year, that we are planning on doing it again. On February 12, after the annual meeting, we will be going down to *The Ice House* in Hackensack for their open skating hours. We will be leaving the church parking lot at approximately 2:00; if you are coming later, just meet us at the first floor snack bar section of the *Ice House*. We will be there.

This is an intergenerational event. As we discovered last time, many of our older congregants are more practiced skaters and are needed to teach the beginners. Everyone has fun.

Ice House General Admission is \$10; skate rental is \$5. Pay at the rink.

Haiti Dinner – Saturday, February 25, 2017, 6:00 pm

In October 2016, Haiti was devastated by Hurricane Matthew. Presently the people there are still suffering, left without homes, food and clean drinking water. On February 25, 2017, the Youth Group and Mission Team from the First Congregational Church of River Edge are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to help raise money for these Haitians. The funds raised from this event will go to a contact in Haiti, who will use it to procure blankets, tents and food for the surrounding families.

Look for your tickets, on sale soon. Adults \$12.00, children \$8.00 (under age 5 Free).

Included in this price is, spaghetti with meat sauce (vegetarian option will be available), salad, garlic bread, soft drinks, dessert, and entertainment. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. Come one, come all, and help our neighbors.

March 24 -Family Bible Service in March

A Family Bible Service is planned for Friday, March 24, at 6:30 pm. We are able to borrow a 65 ft. blow up whale from Christ Church in Summit, so that we can have a Friday evening Bible lesson (Jonah), snack and craft for our families. As with our last Family Bible Night, this will be an intergenerational event. In addition, it will tie in with the adult Bible study that is going on at that time.

Youth Group




The Youth Group is still having fun and planning. They met on January 8 to eat some chips, play some pool, and plan for the Haiti Spaghetti dinner. They all agreed to sell tickets and to help as kitchen and wait staff on the night of the dinner.

For activities, they are happy to go skating on February 12, and bowling on March 5. They also like hanging out in the drop-in Room.

Pre-Confirmation Meetings are on the last Sunday of the month, directly after service.

Kate Jerome
Director of Christian Education

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 AA	2 6:30 Education Team 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	3 7:00 Tri-County Pipe and Drums rehearsal	4 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
5 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY/ BOY SCOUT SUNDAY 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Communion/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/ Church School/ Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	6 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA	7 7:00 Funds Advisory Group	8 7:00 AA	9 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	10 7:00 Tri-County Pipe and Drums rehearsal	11 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
12 Annual Meeting 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/ Church School/ Child Care 11:00 Annual Meeting followed by Special Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday	13 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board 7:30 Step by Step NA	14 	15 7:00 AA	16 7:00 Personnel Team 7:00 Pilgrim Ringers Rehearsal 8:10 Cantata Choir <i>Pastor on Israel Study thru 2/27</i>	17 7:00 Tri-County Pipe and Drums rehearsal	18 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
19 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ Guest Preacher The Rev. Sandy Masters / Church School/ Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time - Pizzapalozza 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	20 PRESIDENT'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA	21 7:00 Leadership Team	22 7:00 AA 7:00 Membership Team	23 7:00 Pilgrim Ringers Rehearsal 8:10 Cantata Choir	24 7:00 Tri-County Pipe and Drums rehearsal	25 8:30 KWIS 3:30 Set-up for Haiti Dinner 6:00 – Spaghetti Dinner to Aid Haiti (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 AA
26 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Guest Preacher The Rev. Jim Knol / Church School/ Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	27 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA	28 7:00 Mission Team 7:00 Property Team	<p><i>Remember our homebound and assisted living residents</i></p> 			

Mission Team

Family Promise

We had lots of volunteers for our January 10 hosting date. Thank you to all who helped. We hosted two families, two single moms and three children, ages two, four and six. During the week, one of the moms who had been struggling with bus transport to her work in Closter, received a gift of a used car through a Family Promise donor. It was a truly joyous occasion for her. Our next hosting opportunity is the week of **July 16 ~ 23, 2017**.

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All Wrapped Up

We received lovely thank-you notes and letters from some of those who received your gifts. One source of the needy families that we 'adopted' were those nominated for help by the Bergen County Head Start program. Some of the children who attend the program wrote thank you notes to us for our gifts. We also received warm appreciative, notes from several parents and from the program directors at both the Bergen County Head Start and Visiting Homemaker Services. For more, including pictures of the children's notes, please see the website (<https://www.fcriveredge.org>). It is under *Mission and Outreach* and *All Wrapped Up*.

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CHURCH SCHOOL/

YOUTH GROUP

For information on First Congregational Church's – Church School and our Youth Group, please contact Kate Jerome at 201-261-1712 or kjrecong@aol.com.



Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!

FEBRUARY 2017 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Souper Bowl Sunday and Boy Scout Sunday

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS – Jane Silane, Victor Babington, Janet Masiello, Carole Meeks, Joanne Hernandez, Russell Van Wetering
COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, June Morris, Don Huggett
GREETER – *Volunteer Needed*
LAY READER – Pat Canzani
ALTAR GUILD – Pat Canzani and Cindy Fordham
CHILD CARE – Allison Rupp and Barbara Walcott
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteer Needed

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Annual Meeting following Worship

TEAM/USHERS - ✱ Carole Meeks, Jeff Keehn, Frank Meeks, Helen Koons, Marvin Orendain
COUNTERS – Robert Owens, Diane Lento, Russell Van Wetering, Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett
GREETER – Vic Babington, Jr.
LAY READER – Joanne Hernandez
ALTAR GUILD – Pat Canzani and Cindy Fordham
CHILD CARE – Kim Shirk and Reilly/Kelly Kobbe
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Annual Meeting Luncheon

Sunday, February 19, 2017

USHERS – ✱ Janet Arena, Robert Wieboldt, Barbara Wieboldt, Bill Hamilton, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS – Chet Price, Tom Rushforth, Kathy Caughlan, Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett
GREETERS – Carole and Frank Meeks
LAY READER – Wayne Placek
ALTAR GUILD – Pat Canzani and Cindy Fordham
CHILD CARE – Pat Canzani and Ronnell Kearns
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Pizzapalooza

Sunday, February 26, 2017

USHERS – ✱ Victor Babington, Sr., Don Herrick, Betty Hogan, Russell Van Wetering, Chet Price
COUNTERS – Cindy Fordham, Barry Arena, Art Caughlan, Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett
GREETER – *Volunteer Needed*
LAY READER – Alice Rushforth
ALTAR GUILD – Pat Canzani and Cindy Fordham
CHILD CARE – Claudia Drummond and Cynthia Stawecki
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Janice Hildreth and Barbara Walcott

✱ **Team Leader**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Prayer Concerns – FEBRUARY 2017

Pray for: the transition in the government of our country; all those worldwide experiencing violence and displacement, especially refugees of Aleppo, Syria; a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

For Those Who Grieve

Betty Hogan, Fred Miller and families, upon the death of their mother's (Gert Miller) partner, Dave McTernan (1/22/17)

Bill Spencer and family, upon the death of his mother, Louise Spencer (1/13/17)

The family and friends of Joanne Talbot, upon her recent death (1/16/17)

The Rev. Hyo-Jung Kim, upon the recent death of her father, Ok-Sung Kim (1/24/17)

Prayers for Those Who Are Ill

John Hamilton, Arlene Rudd, Roger Kreh, Cindy Fordham, Patty Wallace, June Seilheimer, Michelle Heinzinger, Victoria Churchill, Marie Herrick, Russell Smith, Joanie Jones, Lorraine Skrekgast, Harold Smith, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hatchfeld, Barbara Schmidli, James Devine, Dorothy Chen, Kathy Waldren, Edwina Arena, Joan Sullivan, Frank, Manoucher Katebian, Walt Lippincott, Tom Gervasio, Kathy Meeks

Those Homebound, Assisted Living Residences or in Nursing homes

Shirley Bullen, William Spencer and Mildred Alderdice

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CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone (201) 261-1712 Website – www.fccriveredge.org

Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

Church Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Church Staff

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