

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 2017

Volume 68, Issue 4



PALM SUNDAY – April 9, 2016

Don't miss the Palm Sunday Parade!

Sunday, April 9, worship *begins* not in the Sanctuary, but *in the Parlor*, along with the main Entryway and the Narthex. After some instructions, and the receiving of palms for all of us, our children and families will lead us (promptly, at 10 am!) in an impromptu and celebratory procession into the Sanctuary, and the singing of *All Glory, Laud and Honor!* (Those who have mobility concerns are welcome to be awaiting us in their sanctuary seats.) The children will foster our celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and into our lives.

Here's an idea: come *EARLY* to worship on Palm Sunday! To encourage your early presence, Hot Cross Buns will be served before worship (beginning at 9:30 am) in the Entryway, as well as after worship in Fellowship Time.

**

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017 - WALK THE LABYRINTH

Come and "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, April 11 from 4-8 pm. This is a contemplative experience that is enhanced with low lighting and spiritual music.

**

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 13, 2017, 7:30 PM

Our classic service of remembrance of Jesus' last mandate to his disciples, his Last Supper, and our participation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We then experience the service of Tenebrae, the darkening shadows of Holy Week denial and betrayal, through the stories of scripture. The choir, youth and adults will participate in leadership.

**

EASTER DAY – APRIL 16, 2017

10:00 AM Worship Service
The Rev. Dennis TeBeest - Pastor

Child Care will be available

FCCRE Folk: Thank you for your recent invitation for me to continue to serve and live with you as Settled Pastor! Here is my response, which was read to the congregation on March 12:

Dear People of God, gathered at First Congregational Church,

I write to affirm that I share your belief that God is calling me to serve as the Settled Pastor of the First Congregational Church of River Edge. I accept the formal call to ministry that you have graciously extended to me. I look forward to continuing—with creativity, courage, honesty, and faithfulness—the journey of Christian faith which you have already begun sharing with me as your Acting Pastor. I trust that the Body of Christ at FCC does hear “the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’” . . . and is ready and willing to say “Here we are, send us.” If that’s true, I want to go with you!

I am convinced that God is calling me to help lead First Congregational Church into a faithful future. I believe that my gifts and longings will benefit the people and build the future of this congregation. I also ask you to challenge, honor, and pray for that leadership; I hope that you will be a gift of God’s grace to me.

There is much building and rebuilding that we have ahead of us. Please pray with me that God’s Spirit will bless the details of this transition, and will breathe life into our worship and work, our wellness and our witness. . . in order to best foster the mission, ministry and fellowship of the church. I am eager to work with you to discern the details.

Together, let’s look for and work for the will of God, and find the Spirit accompanying us! Let’s keep praying for one another, and find in each other faithful friendship.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. TeBcest". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

The Rev. Dennis L. TeBcest

LENT AND EASTER

As you prepare for Holy Week, April 9-15, keep in mind the many ways that the First Congregational Church of River Edge will be recognizing the special days.

April 9 is Palm Sunday and we will be gather in the Parlor for hot cross buns at 9:30 AM prior to worship. While in the Parlor palm fronds will be offered for parishioners to hold as we enter the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM reminding us of Jesus' journey.

On **Tuesday, April 11** the Labyrinth will be in Fellowship Hall from 4 PM-8 PM. "Walk to Jerusalem" and experience self-discovery and inner peace.

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:30 PM take part in a service of remembrance as we share the sacrament of the Last Supper in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, April 16 at 10:00 AM join us as we will celebrate the risen Christ!

* *

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE HOMEBOUND

If you aren't able to get to church, or if you know someone who is homebound or nursing home bound, you or they can still enjoy the church services at First Congregational.

Do you know that you can request a CD-ROM (audio) of the entire service? It's free of charge and someone can deliver it to you if you can't get out. Call the Church Office and leave your name for Cindy Fordham (201-261-1712) or fill out a request form which can be found with the devotionals etc. in the Narthex (or ask an usher). Or you may have another reason to want a CD of a service which you want to refer to again.

And do you know that if you can't get out for a Communion service for an extended period, Pastor TeBeest and a member of the Worship Team will bring the sacraments to you? Call the Church Office to leave a message for the Pastor.

* *

CHURCH INFORMATION

At First Congregational we seek to serve you in any way we can. Below you will find contact information when you have questions or needs.

Information about programs for children and youth?

Call Nicole Babington, for information about Church School, Youth Group and other programs (201-261-1712 ext. 103).

Do you want to receive our newsletter, *The Congregator*?

Call the Church Office (201-261-1712 ext. 100).

An illness, hospitalization, birth, wedding or death in the family?

Call the Church Office any time (201-261-1712).

Questions about baptism, membership or adult education?

Call the Church Office (201-261-1712) to make an appointment with Pastor TeBeest.

For any question or concern not on the list – please call us anytime. We are here for you!

* *

WALK THE LABYRINTH TO JERUSALEM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

**invites you to join them as they
follow Jesus' journey during Holy Week.**

We often speak of the journey of the spiritual path, and walking the LABYRINTH makes visible the journey and the quiet needed to walk the path of the Sacred.

Fr. Blessing

The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in cultures around the world in many different forms. The labyrinth entered Christian prayer life during the Middle Ages, when it was integrated into cathedrals across Europe. The labyrinth inside Chartres Cathedral in France is one of the few that remains in its original form.

First Congregational Church of River Edge's labyrinth is based on the one at Chartres Cathedral.

The canvas labyrinth will be available for walking in Fellowship Hall

April 11, 2017

between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

(Walkers will be asked to remove their shoes and are reminded to wear socks.)

For additional information
go to:
www.fccriveredge.org
or call 201-261-1712



PERSONNEL TEAM

The Personnel Team is pleased to announce Nicole Babington has been hired to serve as temporary support for Christian Education. Her official starting date was Sunday, March 26. She will serve in this capacity until a replacement can be hired. To that end, a search committee will be formed and begin their work shortly. Personnel, Christian Education and the Leadership Council wholeheartedly endorsed Nicole and welcome her to the Staff.

Michelle L. Heinzinger
Personnel, Team Leader

* * * * *



GENERAL SYNOD 2017

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship and fellowship with friends (new and old).

In June 2017, thousands from across the country (and abroad) will gather for General Synod 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland, June 30 – July 4. Together, we will discern resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. We will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And we will join together in worship each day to lift up the Still-speaking God.

At General Synod 2017, we will “Make Glad!” as we celebrate, debate, worship and witness.

For further information please contact Alice Rushforth 201 265-1062 (arushforth@verizon.net)

* *

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The Education Team is very pleased to welcome Nicole Babington, as the Temporary Support Staff person for Christian Education. Nicole along with the Education Team, will continue to support our Christian Education programs, especially our church school and youth programs until a permanent Director of Christian Education is hired. As an active church member, a parent of four children, and a volunteer church school teacher, Nicole is very familiar with our Christian education programs and will be an asset to our children/youth and our church families.

SAVE THE DATE: Church School Sunday Service is planned for Sunday, June 4, which is also Pentecost Sunday. A special service is being planned with our children and youth as active participants in our worship service.

For more information about upcoming children and youth activities please check out our church’s website and the Congregator.

Beth Shuler
Education Team Leader

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.

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Robert W. Egner

- Carl Ferraro
- Claudia & Robert Drummond
- Noreen & Russell Van Wetering
- Dot & Don Huggett

* *

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Good Friday
April 14, 2017

* *

WORSHIP TEAM

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on **Sunday, April 2**, during the 10:00 am. Worship Service. (The Communion bread 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.

*

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

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 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.



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

- Tuesday, April 18, at 7:30 pm*
- Thursday, April 20, 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.

The Shawl Ministry will be hosting Fellowship Time on Sunday, April 23 where they will have a display of some of the shawls they have made.

* *

NO PIZZAPALOOZA

Fellowship Time in April

Pizzapalooza Fellowship Time will return in May. On Sunday, May 21, 2017, pizza will be available for the members and friends of the congregation.

Hope to see you there!

Russell Van Wetering
Membership Team- Leader

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.

* *

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the **May** 2017 issue of the Congregator is Thursday, April 20, 2017.

* *

FELLOWSHIP TIME BULLETIN BOARD

Just recently, we added a Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall to highlight different ministries and events that happen at First Congregational Church. Please take a moment to check it out each Sunday. You will never know what you will find behind those *push pins!*

* *

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

To the members and friends of
First Congregational Church of River Edge –

June 1997, I accepted a job with you to work as one of your Church Office secretaries. You welcomed me then and many of you have become good friends. At this time, I am writing to let you know that I have resigned my position as Administrative Assistant. I will be continuing part time until the position is filled. I thank you for your help, friendship, and for all I have learned while in the Church Office.

Theresa Wallace

* *

MISSION TEAM

The Benefit for Haiti Hurricane Matthew Relief - The Spaghetti Dinner held on February 25 raised over \$1,400!

Thanks to everyone who cooked, the youth who set up, served and cleaned up, and all who came and ate for a very good (and delicious) cause.

*

THANK YOU ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP MAKERS

Special thanks to Janet Arcna, Barbara Placek, Barbara Weiboldt, Pam Weiler, and Nancy Chiang, Evelyn Fialko, Carole Meeks, June Morris, and Alice Rushforth for making the delicious soups for our Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on March 1st. Your help was very much appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE -

Progressive Dinner

June 10, 2017

* *

MUSIC THANK YOU!

A big *thank you* to the CANTATA CHOIR, PILGRIM RINGERS, Pam Weiler, Signe Myhren, and Susanna Motoike, for their excellent presentation of PSALMS FOR SINGING on March 26. Special thanks to Pastor Dennis for designing a beautiful service of worship around the music.

Gloria Norton
Minister of Music

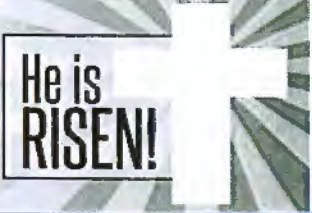
* *

NEW ADDRESS

Joan Sullivan
396 Forest Avenue
Apt. 212
Paramus, NJ 07652

Best wishes to Joan in her new home!

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
2 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 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 <u>Deadline for plant orders</u>	3 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 3:30 ATWAS 6:00 Girl Scout Troop #95983 7:30 Step by Step NA	4 7:00 Worship Team	5 Noon – 1:15 pm Brown Bags & Bibles 6:30 Education Team 7:00 AA	6 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 Passion Narrative Rehearsal 7:30 River Edge Swim Club 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	7 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
9 PALM SUNDAY SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:15 Carol and Nowell Choir 9:30 Gathering for Processional 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time/ (Easter Egg Hunt following service 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunda	10 CONGREGATOR <u>DEADLINE</u> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board 3:30 ATWAS 7:30 Step by Step NA	11 4:00 to 8:00 <i>Walk the Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall</i>	12 7:00 AA 7:00 AA	13 <u>MAUNDY</u> <u>THURSDAY</u> 6:45 Chancel Choir 7:30 Worship Service	14 <u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	15 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
16 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:20 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care 12:30 Korean Baptist Church <i>*Church School students should return One Great Hour of Sharing banks to Church Narthex.</i>	17 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 3:30 ATWAS 7:30 Step by Step NA	18 7:00 Leadership Council	19 7:00 Membership Team 7:00 AA	20 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	21 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	22 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
23 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 – <i>Shawl</i> <i>Ministry will host and display shawls</i> 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	24 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 3:30 ATWAS 7:30 Step by Step NA	25 7:00 Mission Team 7:00 Property Team	26 7:00 AA	27 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	28 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	29 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
30 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 11:20 Journey Ringers 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<i>*SHAWL MINISTRY WILL HOST FELLOWSHIP TIME ON SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AND DISPLAY SOME OF THEIR SHAWLS.</i>					

Sunday May 7th 12:00 ~ 4:00
Family Promise Hike and Bike Bergen

Van Neste Square, Ridgewood



In the words of a 10-year-old whose family recently moved into Family Promise transitional housing

“I made Honor Roll – and my little sister started talking more ...

Thanks to Family Promise, me and my family will have a great future.”

Last year, you raised over \$1,600 for Family Promise through Hike and Bike. Come for a day of family/fellowship fun and a way to help **homeless working families** in Bergen County.



All Funds raised benefit
homeless working families

Register:

- Registration Fee: \$25 per person in advance;
- \$30 per person on-site.
- Kids under 5 are free with adult registration

Recruit your Sponsors

Choose your route:

- 3 mile hike
- 3 mile bike, OR
- 15 mile bike

SIGN UP ON LINE OR AT FELLOWSHIP TIME

Can't be with us that day? Be a Sponsor!

Details and signup from link on our website:

<https://www.fccriveredge.org>

[Family-promise-hike-or-bike-2017 Button](#)

Be sure to join the team

First Congregational Flyers!

Schedule for the Day – Rain or Shine

- . Noon Check-in opens
- . 1:00 15-mile Bike begins
- . 1:30 3-mile Hike or Bike begins
- . 3:00 Hike or Trike for under 5. Free with adult registration
- . 3:30 Celebrate! Refreshments, music, games, prizes more!

APRIL 2017 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, April 2, 2017 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS – Wayne Placek, Janet Masiello, Russell Van Wetering, Jane Silane, Michelle Heinzinger, Janet Arena
COUNTERS – Cindy Fordham, Barry Arena, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan, Don Huggett
GREETERS – Denise and Hannah Garcia
LAY READER – Frank Meeks
ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Heinzinger and Sara Myers
CHILD CARE – Alice Frylinck and Kelly Kobbe
FELLOWSHIP TIME – *Volunteers Needed*

Sunday, April 9, 2017

PALM SUNDAY

TEAM/USHERS - ☒ Jenn Young, Inge Reist
COUNTERS – Betty Hogan, Michelle Heinzinger, Terrie Clark, Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett
GREETERS – *Volunteers needed*
LAY READER – Bert Schmitt
ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Heinzinger and Sara Myers
CHILD CARE – Christine Banks and Sara Myers
FELLOWSHIP TIME – *Volunteers needed*

Sunday, April 16, 2017

EASTER SUNDAY

USHERS ☒ Carole Meeks, Jeff Keehn, Frank Meeks, Helen Koons, Marvin Orendain
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER -- Robert Wieboldt
ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Heinzinger and Sara Myers
CHILD CARE – *Available in Pilgrim Hall*

Sunday, April 23, 2017

USHERS – ☒ Janet Arena, Robert Wieboldt, Barbara Wieboldt, Bill Hamilton, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, June Morris, Don Huggett
GREETER – *Volunteers Needed*
LAY READER -- Erin Smith
ALTAR GUILD - Michelle Heinzinger and Sara Myers
CHILD CARE – Claudia Drummond and Barbara Walcott
FELLOWSHIP TIME – *Shawl Ministry (display of shawls during Fellowship Time)*

Sunday, April 30, 2017

USHERS – ☒ Vic Babington, Sr., Don Herrick, Betty Hogan, Russell Van Wetering, Chet Price
COUNTERS – Robert Owens, Diane Lento, Russell Van Wetering, Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett
LAY READER – Linda Stark
GREETER – *Volunteers Needed*
ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Heinzinger and Sara Myers
CHILD CARE – Pat Canzani and Kim Shirk
FELLOWSHIP TIME – *Volunteers Needed*

☒ **Team Leader**

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BOOK CLUB EVENT!



The Magnolia Story

Sunday, April 30th

2:00 pm

Where: 54 Magnolia Way, North Haledon

Hosted by: Jayne Wieboldt

If you are like me, you are also possibly addicted to the HGTV channel and have doubtlessly stumbled at one time or another upon the show "Fixer Upper". The show distinguishes itself from the other reality home improvement shows in that the host couple not only creates magnificent homes together, they do so in a pleasant, kind, and often, comical manner.

The undertone of the show is that the two people in this couple, Chip and Joanna Gaines, have faith in one another and they have faith in God.

The book, "The Magnolia Story- Chip and Joanna Gaines" follows the real lives of the hosts of the television show and the path that brought them to where they are today. (Gentlemen, this is not just a female thing, the book is written in the voices of both Chip and Joanna and it is fun to hear both sides of the same story.)

My mom bought me this book for Christmas and I loved it! My copy has been passed through my family and has had a wide appeal.

As we embark on our own "fixer upper" renovation adventure at the First Congregational Church of River Edge, I invite you to join me and others in our church family in discussing the book at an informal gathering at my home on Sunday, April 30 at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested, I will have a sign-up sheet at Fellowship Time or email me at rsvp2jw@gmail.com before April 28.

Hope to see you there!

Jayne Wieboldt

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Prayer Concerns – April 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.

Prayers for Those Who Are Ill

Robert Owens, Annamae Relph, Joanne Hernandez, Eleanor "Pat" Hamilton, Mike Mantell, Barbara Schmidli, Tim Wallace, John Hamilton, Arlene Rudd, Patty Wallace, Roger Kreh, June & Ron Seilheimer, Michelle Heinzinger, Victoria Churchill, Marie Herick, Russell Smith, Joanie Jones, Lorraine Skrekgast, Harold Smith, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hatchfeld, 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

* * *

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

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

Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

**Church Office Hours: Monday – office Closed*

Tuesday and Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

*(*we suggest that you call before coming to the Church Office to confirm schedule)*

Church Staff

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Pastor	dtebcest@fccriveredge.org 201-390-5548
Gloria Norton, S.M.M., Minister of Music	glorinor@aol.com
Nicole Babington	201-956-3435
Theresa Wallace Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712