

# *The Congregator*

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 2017

Volume 68, Issue 6

JUNE

LOOK  
What's  
Planned!!

## PENTECOST SUNDAY / CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

*JUNE 4, 2017 SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM*

*Help decorate First Congregational Church – bring a RED Geranium and wear some RED!*

\* \*

## PROGRESSIVE DINNER – Saturday, June 10, 2017

Have you signed up to host or be a guest? Don't wait until the last minute!  
Participants at last year's Progressive Dinner are still talking about all the fun!

## CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND FRIENDS

*Sunday, June 18, 2017 – Cookie Decorating!*

*Begin the morning at the Service of Worship. Children/Youth will be escorted to Pilgrim Hall, after a message from Pastor Dennis, and begin this **fun** program.*

*What designs can you come up with! Show your colorful talents!*

*And the best is – afterwards you get to eat the cookies!*

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Funeral Service

Marguerite M. Krokus – May 12, 2017 (d.)  
Service – May 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.

### RENOVATION FUND

#### In Memory of Don Herrick

Adria Brown  
Evelyn & Robert Fialko

#### In Memory of Ronald Seilheimer

Adria Brown

### MEMORIAL FUND

#### In Memory of Don Herrick

Barbara & Ronald Sticco  
Michelle & Stuart Heinzinger  
Noreen & Russell Van Wetering  
Carol & Tom Nerviano  
Judy Cromwell  
Adria Brown  
Ruth & Hugo Tschudin  
Dolores Cromwell  
Linda Kudera  
James S. Nystrom  
Fire Guard Sprinkler Corp.  
Gunnel & Walter Wuehler  
Donna Madronal  
Hilma Albrecht  
Kay & Charles Keehn

#### In Memory of Ronald Seilheimer

Noreen & Russell Van Wetering  
Ruth & Hugo Tschudin

#### In Memory of The Rev. Harold C. Smith

Ruth & Hugo Tschudin

## SECOND SUNDAY FUND

In Memory of Don Herrick  
Penny F. Rosser, PhD

\* \*

## WORSHIP TEAM

### COMMUNION

Sunday, June 4 Communion will be served in the pews. The bread is gluten free.

Please join us as we share the Lord's Supper.

\*



Pentecost will, also, be celebrated on Sunday, June 4. Come and learn about this special day. The paraments will be red and we invite you to wear this color and we will adorn the sanctuary with red geraniums.

\*

### 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.

\*

### USHERS NEEDED

The Worship Team welcomes you to become an usher. What do ushers do? They ready the sanctuary by turning on lights, unlocking doors, handing out bulletins, lighting candles, welcoming long-time friends and new/returning visitors, ringing the steeple bells, collecting the offering. You would work on a team with others who will help guide you as you learn the routines. Your team will be scheduled only **once every 9 weeks**.

If you would like to join this rewarding mission, please contact Jenn Young ([Jlf0721@yahoo.com](mailto:Jlf0721@yahoo.com), 201-906-1682 or Janet Arena ([jga125@aol.com](mailto:jga125@aol.com), 201-261-6143).

Janet Arena  
Worship Team – Leader

\* \*

## If You Build It . . .

It is a 45 year-old Avery and Marsh song, but still you hear our kids sing it. And I still like it . . . because I believe it:

*The church is not a building;  
the church is not a steeple;  
the church is not a resting place;  
the church is a people.*

*I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!*

So, when I came to FCC a year and a half ago, in a transitional pastoral role, and heard that a (the?) central goal in front of us was a comprehensive building renovation, I was cautious. Certainly this congregation had many challenges ahead, in order to make our facilities a resource for ministry rather than a hindrance and a drag on our life. But the project in front of us was so massive that (in my humble opinion) it threatened to overwhelm us, rather than enable us.

Thankfully, we've taken the Renovation project slowly. We have given priority attention to what we can do to be "the church together." Our *Dialogue and Direction* process has reminded us of your core priorities for *worship*<sup>1</sup>, *fellowship*<sup>2</sup> (especially youth and senior adult) and *outreach*<sup>3</sup>. You've blessed me by inviting me into your *pastoral leadership*<sup>4</sup> priority (and by giving the great Music Ministry leadership of Gloria--now we need to renew that staff by hiring helpful successors to the big shoes of Theresa's long and loyal administration and the Faith Formation work of Kate!).

But *Facilities Renewal* does still remain an essential priority. It is painful to see us turning people away from our ministries because of barriers to access. It is sad to not be able to welcome one another and our neighbors in useable spaces with serviceable restrooms. We may not have the financial resources to responsibly do all we'd hoped. But we can and must do something that treats these buildings as God's gift.

By giving a prayerful and (sometimes frustratingly) careful look at our priority to renew our facilities, I believe that the Building Renovation Team has brought us to a much more realistic, affordable and purposeful way to renovate essential spaces so that they can be of ongoing value to our worship, growth and service. We have been able to declare our two priorities of accessibility and hospitality . . . and to pursue only those renovations which will fulfill those priorities.

And, for the first time since I have joined you, I actually believe that we are about to embark on this renewal . . . soon! The Building Renovation Team has struck a responsive chord with architect, general contractor and borough. You continue to chip away at this financial priority, so that it won't overwhelm our other ministry priorities. Very soon you will see the detail of the renewal of the core of our buildings. And I expect that we will be at renovations in a few months . . .

All so that you and I can be the church!

Godspeed,

Dennis

# Women's Fellowship Clothing & Household Drive

---

Saturday, June 3, 2017  
9:00 am - 12:30 pm

The Women's Fellowship Clothing & Household drive  
will take place on  
Saturday, June 3, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm  
in the Church's parking lot.  
Women's Fellowship will be working with  
*Big Brothers Big Sisters* for this event.

## Accepted Items:

Clothing, shoes, purses  
Bedding, draperies, holiday decorations,  
dishes (well wrapped)  
Tupperware, luggage, sports equipment,  
Telephones, Toys, stuffed animals, VCR's, tapes, radios

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE**  
109 Continental Avenue  
River Edge, NJ 07661  
201-261-1712  
[www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)

**INQUIRERS GROUP**

ARE YOU:



- New to the First Congregational Church of River Edge?
- Thinking about becoming a member of First Congregational Church?
- Wanting to discuss basic issues of Christian faith;
- Wanting to know more about how First worships and works?

If you answered “**yes**” to any of these questions, then come to the **Inquirers’ Group** which will gather for a Sunday morning session. The planned date is Sunday, June 11, 11:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. After the conclusion of the class, those who wish to become members of the congregation will be received as members on a following Sunday.

If you want to participate, please **call the church office at 201/261-1712 or email: office@fccriveredge.org**, to reserve your place in the class!

---

---

New Church Directory

First Congregational Church of River Edge

Update Form

**NAME(s)** (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** - \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE** - \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONE** - (1) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** - (1) \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONE** - (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** - (2) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and place in plate or return to the Church Office.*

**JUNE 2017**

**MISSION TEAM NEWS**

**Family Promise Hike and Bike**

On Sunday, May 7, we participated in the Family Promise Hike and Bike to support homeless working families. Our Team, the First Congregational *Flyers*, had **23 participants** (of about 150 total) and we raised **\$2,435!** (We were the #4 team in fund-raising of the 20 teams). The Director of Development for Family Promise called our Team 'just fantastic!'

Thank you everyone – Those who walked and rode, and those who so generously donated to support our Flyers Team and this great cause. The funds we raised will help renovate the newly-acquired apartment which will be used as transitional housing for a homeless working family.

**Family Promise Hosting**

Just an early notice, we will be helping to host Family Promise at St. Peter's this summer on **Tuesday, July 18** and **Tuesday, August 15** – If your summer schedule permits, your help would be very much appreciated.



**JUNE 14TH**

## 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.

\* \*

## SHAWL MINISTRY FOR JUNE

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

*Thursday, June 8, 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.

\* \*

## SAVE THE DATE

Sign up at Fellowship Time and plan on having a great evening, June 10, 2017 at our next *Progressive Dinner*. A representative from the Membership Team will be answering questions and signing up participants at Fellowship Time.

Russell Van Wetering  
Moderator

\* \*

## GRADUATIONS ANYONE?

Please forward any announcements for graduations and awards for your family so the congregation can share in these special events. They will be listed in the next Congregator.

## 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*!

\* \*

## Girl Scout Needs Our Help!

Hi, my name is Fiona Flynn and I am working on my Girl Scout Silver Award collecting stuffed animals to donate to Adopt-A-Platoon. With approval from your Moderator and Worship Team Leader I have set up a collection site in the Church Narthex. I will be collecting any donation until the end of my project, Saturday, June 24. I thank you for helping me with this project.

\* \*

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Beth and Eric Shuler are pleased to announce the graduation of our son, Michael R. Shuler from Rutgers University on May 14. He earned a BA degree in Political Science with Magna Cum Laude honors. On May 17, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force at his AF ROTC detachment at Rutgers University.

\* \*

## SUMMERCHOIR IS BACK!!

During the months of June, July and August, the **SummerChoir** will sing for our services of worship.

Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to show up at 9:15 a.m. for a brief rehearsal of the anthem for that day. All ages are welcome, and the ability to read music is *not* required. A special invitation goes out to folks who like to sing but are unable to commit to Thursday evening choir rehearsals during the regular choir season. Come join us any summer Sunday you're available!

Gloria Norton  
Minister of Music

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Please join us on Sunday June 4, Pentecost Sunday, for Our Church School Service of Worship.** The service will be led by our children and youth and will include musical presentations and special recognition of our high school graduates and our dedicated teachers and volunteers. The service will be followed by a special ice cream social Fellowship Time hosted by our Mission Team.

**Teachers wanted for next year,** there will be a few openings next year for our church school classes in our junior youth and primary classes. Being a teacher is a very important part of our faith formation ministry to our children and youth. No formal teaching experience is needed. Please consider volunteering by contacting Nicole Babington at 201-956-3435.

**Summer fun activities:** On Father's Day, June 18 during the Service of Worship, children will be invited to participate in a cookie decorating activity. On Sunday, July 9 there will be a trip to Turtle Back Zoo for our children, their families and any other interested members and friends. Please look on our church's website, The Congregator and weekly bulletins for more information on these and any upcoming Christian Education events.

The Education Team thanks all our teachers, music directors, childcare volunteers and our families for their help and support this year for all our Christian Education and Youth programs.

Beth Shuler  
Education Team Leader

\* \*

## CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the **July/August** 2017 issue of the Congregator is Wednesday, June 21, 2017.

\* \*

## 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.

\* \*

## WEDDING BELLS

### Special Invitation

*Because you have shared in our lives  
and supported our love  
please join us  
for the wedding of*

**Missy Simpson  
and  
Lou Warnet**

*Saturday, June 24, 2017  
11:00 am*

*First Congregational Church of River Edge  
109 Continental Avenue  
River Edge, NJ 07661*

\* \*



## **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!**

\* \*

## **NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

### **THANK YOU TO THE BELL MOVERS!**

About ten times a year, we are inspired in worship by the music of our Pilgrim Ringers handbell choir.

Did you know that there is a crew of volunteers who help to transport the bell tables and cases up to the sanctuary and then back again to the Bell Room, every time the Ringers participate in worship? We are very grateful to *Steve Myers, Vic Babington, Jr., Marvin Orendain, Scott Young, Bill Mars, Bill Fordham, and Efren Frani*, who cheerfully volunteer to assist in this task.

\* \*

### **THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!**

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make Bells & Whistles XVII a success:

*Pilgrim Ringers, John Maiolo, Michael Phillips, Joy Jacobs, Signe Myhren, Bert Schmitt, Erin Smith, and Tim Wallace.*

Also thanks to those who helped with the non-music aspects of the evening--set-up, take-down, refreshments, and offering-taking; and special thanks to Theresa for preparing the printed program.

And finally, thank you to all who attended, brought friends, and contributed to the offering for the food bank.

You are very much appreciated!

Gloria Norton  
Minister of Music

\* \* \* \* \*

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

If your listing in the new Church Directory needs corrections, additions and/or deletions of information, please complete the form below and return to the Church Office.



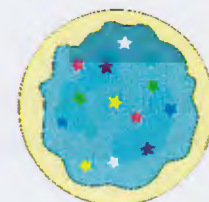
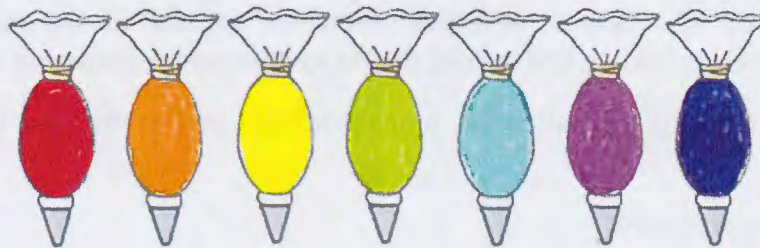
## CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### *Special* Cookie Decorating!


Join us in Pilgrim Hall on Sunday, June 18,  
to decorate sugar cookies (gluten free options will be available)  
and celebrate Summer!

Children and youth will be escorted from the Sanctuary to Pilgrim Hall after the start of the Service of Worship. At the conclusion of the Service of Worship, the decorators can be met in Pilgrim Hall.

*Childcare will be provided for children ages 3 and under in the Nursery.*



## June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin-left: 20px;">June</h1>				<b>1</b> 6:30 Christian Education  7:30 Pilgrim Ringers Bell Polishing	<b>2</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8:30 KWIS  9:00 – 12:30 Clothing Drive
<b>4</b> <u>CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY</u> 10:00 Worship Service/ Communion/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care 11:00 Special Fellowship Time – Ice Cream Social 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>5</b> <u>Church Office Closed</u>  12:00 Noon AI-Anon  7:20 Step by Step N/A	<b>6</b> 7:00 Worship Team	<b>7</b> 7:00 AA	<b>8</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry	<b>9</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:30 KWIS
<b>11</b> 9:15 SummerChoir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care 11:00 Lemonade on the Lawn 11:20 – 12:15 Inquirers Group 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 3:30 Piano Recital -Sanctuary 4:30 Second Sunday	<b>12</b> <u>Church Office Closed</u> 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board  12:00 Noon AI-Anon  7:20 Step by Step N/A	<b>13</b> 6:00 Funds Advisory Group  6:30 Rachel Circle at Michelle	<b>14</b> 7:00 AA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 8:30 KWIS
<b>18</b> 9:15 SummerChoir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care 11:00 Lemonade on the Lawn 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>19</b> <u>Church Office Closed</u>  12:00 Noon AI-Anon  7:20 Step by Step N/A	<b>20</b> 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM TMSII Graduation  7:00 Leadership Council	<b>21</b> 7:00 Membership Team  7:00 AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 8:30 KWIS  11:00 Simpson/Warnet wedding in Sanctuary  7:00 AA
<b>25</b> 9:15 SummerChoir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care 11:00 Lemonade on the Lawn 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>26</b> <u>Church Office Closed</u>  12:00 Noon AI-Anon  7:20 Step by Step N/A  ATWAS Summer Program begins this week	<b>27</b> 7:00 Mission Team  7:00 Property Team	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	

**ESSEX COUNTY  
TURTLE BACK**



Join us for a fun day at the zoo...

**Sunday July 9, 2017**

Leaving the church parking lot at 11:30 am

**\$10.00/person**

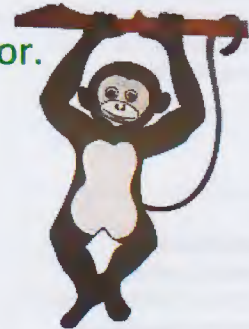
(Must provide your own transportation)



Sign up with Nicole by 6/23 at [nbabington@bergen.edu](mailto:nbabington@bergen.edu)

Or

during Fellowship Time/Lemonade in the Parlor.



**CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION**

*109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661*

*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**

- Mondays—the Office is **closed**.
- Tuesdays—Office is open, **9 am – 1 pm**.
- Wednesdays—Office is open, **9 am – 4:30 pm**.
- Thursdays—Office is open, **9 am – 4:30 pm**.
- Fridays—Office is open, **9 am – 1 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>
Nicole Babington Christian Education Support	201-956-3435
Theresa Wallace Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:office@fccriveredge.org">office@fccriveredge.org</a> 201-261-1712 Ext. 100