

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 2018

Volume 69, Issue 4



First Congregational Church

109 Continental Avenue

River Edge, New Jersey 07661

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone (201) 261-1712

Website – www.fccriveredge.org

Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Pastor	dtebeest@fccriveredge.org 201-390-5548
Gloria Norton, S.M.M., Minister of Music	glorinor@aol.com
Nicole Babington Minister of Faith Formation	nbabington@bergen.edu 201-956-3435
Anne Cooper Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712

APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER SUNDAY 8:45 Bell Ringers 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Communion/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Church School/Child Care 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	2 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:00 Worship Team 7:30 Step by Step NA	3 7:00 Mission Team	4 7:00 AA 7:30 Boy Scouts	5 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cantata Choir 8:15 Pilgrim Ringers	6 7:00 Tri County Pipe and Druum	7 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
8 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/New Members/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:00 New Member Reception 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday	9 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Executive Board 7:30 Step by Step NA	10 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Shawl Ministry	11 10:00 Kitchen Clean Up 12:00 Habitat for Humanity 6:00 Funds Team 7:00 AA	12 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Cantata Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 River Edge Swim Club 8:15 Pilgrim Ringers	13 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal 7	14 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
15 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:15 Carol and Nowell Choir 9:30 Gathering for Processional 10:00 Worship Service/Cantata Choir The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time/Pizzapalooza 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	16 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 6:00 Girl Scouts 7:30 Step by Step NA	17 7:00 Leadership Council	18 <u>CONGREGATOR</u> <u>DEADLINE</u> 7:00 Membership Team 7:00 AA	19 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	20 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	21 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
22 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:20 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship/The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	23 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA	24	25 7:00 AA	26 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	27 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	28 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
29 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 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	30 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step NA					

A Happy Easter!

A premature greeting? It's hard to know, given the uncertainties of bulk-mailing deliveries. In this same issue of the *Congregator* are invitations for you to immerse yourself in the mysteries and meaning of Holy Week. There is no true way to get to Easter's joy without Holy Week's uncovering of perversity, and God's/Jesus' passion for us.

But Easter turns everything around. Easter begins new life and a new creation. It's date may be April 1 this year, but there is nothing fool-ish about making Easter the center of our lives and our hopes.

And the church is not foolish enough to celebrate something as huge as Easter for only a day. Easter Day has long been celebrated for an entire week. Easter Sunday through the Sunday following is known as the Easter Octave, eight days which beg us to worship with the same mood of exultant celebration that possessed us on Easter Day.

And, should you get this addition of the *Congregator* after April 7, you still need not despair: Easter is a season as much as it is a day, extending the fifty days to Pentecost. So you have fifty days to admire and become familiar with the gift we opened so hastily on Easter morning. If we had any sort of openhearted encounter with the mystery of Christ's resurrection, these fifty days are offering us time to let it sink in and ripen in our lives.

Even beyond the fifty days, Easter lives at the heart of our Christian faith year-round: every Sunday is a "little Easter;" reminder-after-reminder-after-reminder that God has turned the movement from life to death inside out.

So, Happy Easter! May you keep opening this gift which Gerard Manly Hopkins so amazingly described:

*Break the box and shed the nard;
Stop not now to count the cost;
Hither bring pearl, opal, sard;
Reck not what the poor have lost;
Upon Christ throw all away:
Know ye, this is Easter Day.*

*Build His church and deck His shrine,
Empty though it be on earth;
Ye have kept your choicest wine—
Let it flow for heavenly mirth;
Pluck the harp and breathe the horn:
Know ye not 'tis Easter morn?*

*Gather gladness from the skies;
Take a lesson from the ground;
Flowers do ope their heavenward eyes
And a Spring-time joy have found;
Earth throws Winter's robes away,
Decks herself for Easter Day.*

*Beauty now for ashes wear,
Perfumes for the garb of woe,
Chaplets for dishevelled hair,
Dances for sad footsteps slow;
Open wide your hearts that they
Let in joy this Easter Day.*

*Seek God's house in happy throng;
Crowded let His table be;
Mingle praises, prayer, and song,
Singing to the Trinity.
Henceforth let your souls always
Make each morn an Easter Day.*

Christ is risen!
Dennis

First Life in Holy Week

*As we continue through Holy Week,
into Easter's New Life,
please include these opportunities for prayer,
worship, study and fellowship on your calendar:*

PALM SUNDAY, March 25: Don't miss the Palm Sunday parade! Worship begins in the Parlor. Promptly, at 10 am, children and families lead us in a celebratory procession into the Sanctuary, and the singing of *All Glory, Laud and Honor!* (Those with mobility concerns are welcome to await us in their sanctuary seats.) To encourage your early presence, Hot Cross Buns will be served before worship (beginning at 9:30 am) in the Parlor, as well as after worship in Fellowship Time.

Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 pm: **OUR JOURNEY TO REDEMPTION.** An interfaith meal and discussion, at Temple Avodat Shalom, sharing Jewish, Christian and Muslim concepts of redemption, in presentations and dialogue. All RSVPs to be taken by Temple Avodat Shalom office at administrator@avodatshalom.net or 201-489-2463 x201.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29, 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.

Friday, March 30, 2-6:00 pm.: **WALK THE LABYRINTH.** Join in following Jesus' Holy Week journey, and in Good Friday reflection. The labyrinth will be open to all, 2:00-6:00 pm. This is a contemplative experience that can unfold at your pace, enhanced with spiritual music and low lighting.

EASTER DAY, April 1, 10:00 am: Worship Celebration of the Resurrection, with choirs, scripture and sermon, the greatest of hymns, joy and hope! Christ is risen! Indeed!

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 Honor of Noreen Van Wetering

Sandra Van Wetering- Jorgensen

In Memory of Kathleen Keehn

Patricia Georgatos and Family

Don and Dot Huggett

* *

WORSHIP TEAM

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on **Sunday, April 1**, during the 10:00 am. Worship Service. (The Communion bread is gluten-free.)

The Lenten/Easter season was wonderfully filled with thoughtful and joyful services, atmosphere and activities. Our Pastor, Minister of Music and Minister for Faith Formation led our spirits in word and song as we contemplated and celebrated the glorious Easter season.

We often hear the magnificent music made by the handbell choir. **Did you ever wonder where those many handbells are stored?** Some are small in size and some are huge and are kept downstairs until they are used in worship.

Help is required to bring the bell equipment up to the sanctuary whenever they are needed.

Please contact Gloria Norton at glorinor@aol.com if you can help in this way.

The Worship Team would like to refurbish the small room that is near the organ and is referred to as the "flower room". On Sunday mornings this room is used by ushers, the communion group, altar guild, flower person, organist, musicians, and the CD recording person. Here, we prepare the elements for communion, store the communion ware, candles and candle ware, and the paraments, and work with flower arrangements. The room also houses the sound system and the recording equipment and hymn numbers.



The room is currently in a state of disrepair after many years of use and without any improvements. Specifically, there is a need for a clean workspace, additional storage, adequate lighting, and a new sink that can provide both hot and cold water.

The refurbishment of this room will reflect the respect, cleanliness, organization and efficiency that it deserves.

With this in mind we are reaching out to you, the congregation, to support and help fund the cost of the refurbishing that this space truly needs.

The Worship Team

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 10, at 7:00 pm
Thursday, April 12, 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.

CANTATA CHOIR



Once again, all singers are invited to be a part of the Cantata Choir for its spring project.

On April 15, our service of worship will have the theme of Justice, and will feature engaging and inspiring music by contemporary composer, Mark A. Miller.

Anyone who likes to sing is welcome to join the Cantata Choir for this event. All that's required is that you enjoy singing!

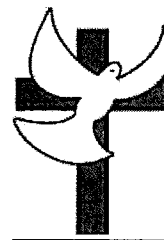
There will be just TWO rehearsals: 7:00- 8:15 p.m. on Thursdays, April 5 and 12.

See you then!

Gloria

* *

MEMORIAL SERVICES



A memorial service for Nanette Isabelle Shields will be held on April 7, 2018, 11:00 AM at the First Congregational Church of River Edge with reception to follow.

A memorial service for Joan Ledgerwood will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018, 11:00 A.M. at the First Congregational Church of Park Ridge followed by lunch at Fellowship Hall.

* *

FELLOWSHIP TIME & GREETERS

Your help is urgently needed for Fellowship Time and for our Greeting Ministry. Please consider signing up at Fellowship Time or calling the Church Office to volunteer.

SECOND SUNDAY

Despite the start of daylight savings time and pushing the clocks ahead, our 2nd Sunday guests, showed up and rejoiced in their Irish/Scottish Heritage this month with a visit from the Tri County Pipes and Drums Band. Even if you weren't Irish, you couldn't help but tap your feet or clap your hands as the band performed many of the popular St. Patty's day tunes including O Danny Boy and Amazing Grace. We are so grateful to the members of the Tri County Pipes that gave of their time to perform for the group. A light meal of pancakes, sausage and applesauce was prepared and served by our stellar 2nd Sunday Staff. We were also lucky enough to have the participation of several of our confirmands who worked right alongside our staff members. As always, God indeed continues to provide us with his "Amazing Grace" as we serve this wonderful ministry.

SAVE THE DATE

PROGRESSIVE DINNER - JUNE 16



Hosts are needed for appetizers, dinners and desserts. Please sign up during Fellowship Time or contact Russell Van Wetering at 201-261-1795 or at aprilsky@optonline.net.

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the May 2018 issue is Thursday, April 18, 2018.



Sunday May 6th 12:00 ~ 4:00

Family Promise Hike and Bike Bergen

Van Neste Square, Ridgewood



Schedule for the Day

Noon	Check-in opens
1:00	15-mile Bike begins
1:30	3-mile Hike or Bike begins
3:00	Hike/Trike for under 5
3:30	Refreshments, music, games, prizes

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

Details and signup from link on our website:

<https://www.fccriveredge.org>



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

Be sure to join the team ***First Congregational Flyers!***

EDUCATION NEWS



Co-Teacher or Substitute Needed

A teacher is needed to assist with the Junior Youth class beginning ASAP. In order for me to perform my duties as the Minister for Faith Formation, I will need to transition out of teaching before the 2018-2019 Church School year. The Jr. Youth class is a wonderful group of young people who are inquisitive and willing to participate. Please consider investing some time in the faith formation of our children. If you are not able to commit to a full year, but can help substitute this year, please let me know. I would like to attend some outings with the Confirmation class, but am unable to due to teaching. Touch base with me if you are willing to help out.

Children's Message

Our weekly children's message plays an important part in getting our children involved in the service of worship. It also gives the members of the congregation an opportunity to show our youngest members that we have a lot to teach them and that we care about their faith development. I still have 4 dates open for this Spring, so please consider giving 3 minutes to our children. There will be a sign-up sheet during Fellowship time.

Childcare 2018

April 2018

April 1- Easter Sunday, non-parishoner

April 8-Alice Frylinck

April 15-Joan Buono

April 22-Anabelle Babington

Children on a Mission

It is important for us to teach our youngest members the impact our help and donations can have on people in need. In an effort to show that "every little bit helps," our church school program has started **Change for a Change**. Please look out for our offering jar during Fellowship time to make a donation. We will begin our collection for **Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief** this month.

VBS

The Education Team and I will be putting together a team of creative, hardworking, fun and available people to assist in the formation of a Vacation Bible School program for this summer. Please see me if you would like to get involved. More info to follow in the coming months.

Plastic Storage Containers Needed

If you happen to have a Rubbermaid type storage container that you have no use for, please consider donating it. Many of our Chrismon supplies are still being stored in cardboard boxes which do not block out odor. I would love to have everything fresh and ready to go next year! Please leave containers outside my office. Thanks!

Education News

Confirmation Class 2018

Our Confirmation class continues their journey of faith as we approach Confirmation Sunday. They have begun meeting with their mentors and developing their statements of faith. We attended the Family Shabbat service at the Temple Avodat Shalom on 3/2 and have plans to visit Riverside Church on 4/8. I also have a retreat planned for 4/14-4/15 ending with a visit to St. John the Devine.

Confirmation Breakfast

As we all know, Confirmation Sunday is a very important day to both the Confirmands and their families. I would like to start the day out special with a Continental breakfast for those involved in the program this year. If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to set-up, serve or clean up, please contact me or another member of the Education Team for details.



Please mark your calendars with two very important dates in the lives of our children. **Sunday May 20** will be Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday. Church School Sunday will be on **June 10**. Plan on attending these wonderful services to support our children and watch them SHINE!

Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser

I would like to thank everyone who helped support this Church School fundraiser. We had \$825 in total sales (that's a lot of chocolate), and I am sure that will earn us enough profit to be well on our way to a new laptop!

~Nicole Babington

* *

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 (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.

* *

APRIL 2018 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS - Wayne Placek, Vic Babington, Russell Van Wetering, Carole Meeks, Joanne Hernandez, Janet Arena
GREETERS – Susie Choi, Brian Leddy
LAY READER – Bert Schmitt
ALTAR GUILD – Joanne Hernandez, Barbara Walcott
CHILD CARE – Non-Parishoner

Sunday, April 8, 2018

USHERS – ☒ Wayne Placek, William Fordham, Tom Rushforth, Diane Rolfs, Barbara Placek
COUNTERS – Cindy Fordham, Barry Arena, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan, Don Huggett
GREETERS – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Joanne Hernandez
ALTAR GUILD – Joanne Hernandez, Barbara Walcott
CHILD CARE – Alice Frylinch
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteers needed

Sunday, April 15, 2018

USHERS - ☒ Gary Schaechinger, Heather Schaechinger, Charlie Schaechinger
COUNTERS – Betty Hogan, Michelle Heinzinger, Terri Clark, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth
GREETER – Nancy and Wai Chiang
LAY READER – Brian Stroh
ALTAR GUILD – Joanne Hernandez, Barbara Walcott
CHILD CARE – Joan Buono
FELLOWSHIP TIME – PIZZAPALOOZA

Sunday, April 22, 2018

USHERS – ☒ Jenn Young, Inge Reist
COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, June Morris, Don Huggett
GREETER – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Wayne Placek
ALTAR GUILD – Joanne Hernandez, Barbara Walcott
CHILD CARE – Anabelle Babington
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Betty Hogan

Sunday, April 29, 2018

USHERS – ☒ Carole Meeks, Jeff Keehn, Frank Meeks, Helen Koons, Marvin Orendain
COUNTERS – Chet Price, Tom Rushforth, Kathy Caughlan, Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett
GREETER – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Tim Wallace
ALTAR GUILD – Joanne Hernandez, Barbara Walcott
CHILD CARE – Kate Jerome
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteers needed

☒ **Team Leader**