

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 2018

Volume 69, Issue 5



WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost

CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY

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 for Faith Formation	nbabington@fccriveredge.org 201-956-3435
Anne Cooper Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712

We Are God's Creation

Story is told of a young child in New Haven, who was practicing what she had heard of the family's prayers. The child prayed: "Our Father who lives in New Haven, how do you know my name?"

I write this note the day after my birthday. Thankfully, my birthday (April 22) came on a Sunday this year . . . and it was a quite special and wonderful day. For whatever reasons of (false?) humility, I try to keep my birthday quiet. But my family of faith has not let me get away with that quiet conspiracy. Cards and calls and cakes kept greeting me throughout the weekend.

It has been wonderful to feel my life and my milestones being celebrated by others. It has been an encouraging reminder to me that God knows my name...and my worth. God knows our names and our worth.

My birthday is also Earth Day. Earth Day is a moment and movement in which people around the world attempt to celebrate the life of our planet. But I sometimes sense that the church sees Earth Day as a secular celebration which has little or nothing to do with the heart of Christian faith. We buy into our culture's understanding that the "world of nature" has a separate existence, apart from humanity and apart from God. That is a sad response. And it is wrong.

I celebrate that I am a creature of God; I celebrate that God knows our names and our worth. But God's creatures can't be separated from the rest of God's creation. "And God saw that it was good," on every day of creation, not just the first. All the world is God's creation. I believe that *all* of God's creation is named and given worth by God.

And I wish, oh-so-deeply, that, just as God's people have given me reminders of God's love for me, that God's people would also lead the world in offering reminders of God's love for and preservation of all creation. I wish that, rather than taking the life of the world for granted, that we would celebrate its worth, realize our dependence on it, and pursue God's call to *care* for it (*not* "subdue" it).

God knows our names...and our worth. An empty tomb has declared that God values you and me and all people. But let's not be so self-centered that we forget the rest of the story:

"And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God!"

(Romans 8:20, Phillips)

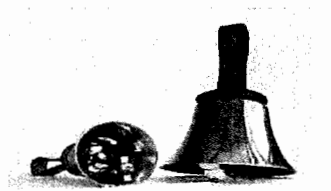
Godspeed,
Pastor Dennis

MAY 2018 CONGREGATOR

The First Congregational Church of River Edge
and
The River Edge Culture Center
present

Bells & Whistles

XVIII



with

The Pilgrim Ringers, directed by Gloria Norton

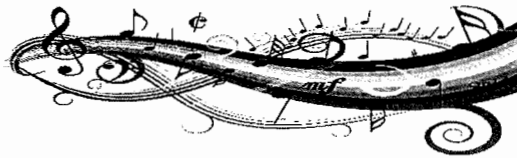
John Maiolo, trumpet

Linda Stark, Pam Weiler, piano

Heather Nicheski, flute

Joy Lynn Jacobs, Signe Myhren, Bert Schmitt, and Tim Wallace, vocalists

Gloria Norton, organ



7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24, 2018

First Congregational Church

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge NJ

www.fccriveredge.org

A free-will offering will be received to benefit the local foodbank.

The Sanctuary is air-conditioned and accessible.

Refreshments will be served after the concert.



Family Promise

Sunday, May 6th Hike and Bike Bergen

12:00 ~ 4:00 pm

What if you were a mom, working for an hourly wage, and you got the flu?

And then you couldn't pay your rent?

What if you had to leave your home and could only take what you could carry?

What would you take – clothes, id papers, a toothbrush and comb?

Where would you go? - to wash, to get warm, to sleep, to be safe



How would you care for your children?



Come walk or ride with the FCC team,
~~First Congregational Flyers~~

All Funds benefit
homeless working families

Can't be with us that day?

Help by being a Sponsor

Sign up at Fellowship Time

EDUCATION

Confirmation Class 2018

Our Confirmation class continues their journey of faith as we approach Confirmation Sunday. They have completed their Statements of Faith and have visited two very historical churches, Riverside Church and The Chapel at St. John the Divine. We had a very successful retreat which included pizza making, an escape room, FCC history, faith reflection, UCC history and a scavenger hunt! Thanks to Michelle Heinzinger for your suggestions and Evelyn Fialko for your incredible archives knowledge!



Confirmation Breakfast

As we all know, Confirmation Sunday is a very important day for 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.

Save the Dates

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 raised \$288 and are on our way to a new laptop for the church school program.

Childcare 2018

May 6-Claudia Drummond
May 13-Allie Henkle
May 20-Alice Frylinck
May 27-Nicole Babington

Summer Childcare

As you know, FCC offers childcare to families in the summer months. This is extremely important for families who may have guests visiting or for new families just visiting our church. Please contact me if you are willing to do just one Sunday this July or August. I will also be reaching out to past helpers via email. Thanks in advance for your support!

One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks so all of our church school children and their families for their generous contributions to the OGHS program. They collected **\$104.74!**

Congregational Survey



I just want to thank everyone who participated in the Congregational Survey. It provided me with your thoughts, concerns and interests that could assist in planning future programming for the church school program, youth and adult ministries. Your input is greatly appreciated.

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 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. Touch base with me if you are willing to help out.

Children's Message

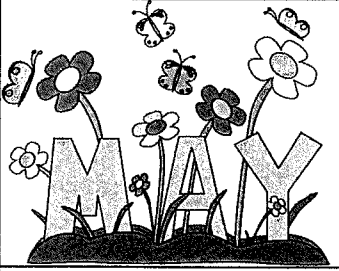
Our weekly children's message plays an important part in getting our children involved in the service of worship. It also gives the members of the congregation an opportunity to show our youngest members that we have a lot to teach them and that we care about their faith development. **I still have Sunday 5/27 open** so please consider giving **3 minutes to our children**. There will be a sign-up sheet during Fellowship time.

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 Christmas 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!

~Nicole Babington

MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 Mission Team	2 7:00 AA 7:00 Boy Scouts	3	4 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	5 8:30 KWIS 3:30 Spring Piano Recital 7:00 AA
6 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 12:00 Family Promise Bike & Hike 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday	7 Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board 3:45 ATWAS 7:00 Worship Team 7:00 Step by Step NA	8 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Shawl Ministry	9 6:00 Funds Advisory Group 7:00 AA 7:30 River Edge Swim Club	10 1:00 Shawl Ministry	11 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	12 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
13 Mother's Day 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 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	14 Church Office closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board 3:45 ATWAS 6:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Step by Step NA	15 7:00 Leadership Council	16 7:00 AA	17 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	18 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums 8:00 Jersey Jubilation	19 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
20 Pentecost/Confirmation 8:00 Confirmation Breakfast 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/Education Team 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	21 Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 3:45 ATWAS 7:00 Step by Step NA	22	23 7:00 AA	24 7:30 Bells & Whistles XVIII	25 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	26 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
27 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 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	28 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:00 Step by Step NA	29	30 7:00 AA	31		

CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral Service

Nanette Isabelle Shields – March 16, 2018 (d.)

Service – April 7, 2018

Officiant – Rev. Dennis TeBeest

New Members – April 15, 2018

Sharon Struzzi	Philip Struzzi
Brianna Struzzi	Gabriella Struzzi
Nicole Babington	Richard Metz

Baptism

Gabriella Lynn Struzzi, April 22, 2018

Daughter of Sharon & Philip Struzzi

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.

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Ruth Marion
Dorothy Huggett

In Memory of Nanette Shields
Dennis & Carol-Ann Walker
Richard & Radiana Fitzpatrick
Hilma Albrecht

FLOWER ROOM REFURBISHING

In Memory of Nannette Shields
Janice Hildreth

BUILDING RENOVATION FUND

In Memory of Nanette Shields
Adria B. Brown
Evelyn & Bob Fialko

WORSHIP TEAM



Sunday, May 6, Communion will be served in the pews. The bread is gluten free. Please join us as we share the Lord's Supper.

The Worship Team thanks the many people who worked to prepare the Church for the Lenten season and Easter Sunday. Commitment to our church and to God was quietly demonstrated and lovingly completed as people prepared the Sanctuary, readied the labyrinth, cut the palms, arranged and delivered flowers, ushered, served communion, provided music and in many other "behind the scenes" ways.

Did you notice that on Easter Sunday new white paraments were on the communion table, pulpit and lectern? They will be used during the Easter season. These beautiful cloths were given in memory of Robert Egner.

The ushers welcome members, friends and visitors each Sunday. They provide bulletins and large print song sheets for your use.

Plans are almost complete for the work on the "flower room" and we look forward to the work beginning. When complete the room will be an efficient workspace for the tasks needed for Sunday services and for storage for the communion ware, microphones, candles and vases. Thank you for your support.

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.

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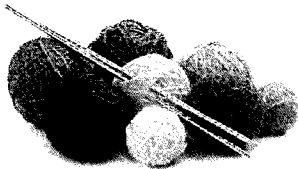
GRADUATIONS ANYONE?

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.

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



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

Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 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 in the Parlor with us. Everyone is welcome. For information, please contact Alice Rushforth at 201-265-1062.

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the **June** 2018 issue of the Congregator is Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

MISSION TEAM



One Great Hour of Sharing results-- Thank you to all who donated to this core UCC mission, which goes mainly to help folks who have suffered natural disasters. This year, we raised just over **\$2,500** total, down somewhat from the 2017 total of very close to \$3,000.

Friendship House (Hackensack) – We received a thank-you letter for our donation, which reads in part: “Please accept our sincere thanks for you most generous donation of \$250 (which)... will help provide programs for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and enhance treatment for those suffering from mental illness and autism. Your contribution helps us provide pre-vocational and job training, and supported employment services...”

Friendship House provides in-house employment opportunities through their catering operation and their printing operation, among others. The T-Shirts with our church name were printed by Friendship House.

Water Mission – We received a thank-you letter and a thank-you email from the Water Mission in response to our \$300 donation to this Christian, nonprofit engineering ministry which provides sustainable safe water solutions (often using solar energy) to people in developing countries and who have experienced natural disasters. We directed that our \$300 be used in the hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The letter reads, in part “Thank you for your gift to Water Mission. Your support will help us bring safe water and the gospel to those who need it in Puerto Rico.”

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Service for Joan Ledgerwood will be held on May 12, at 11:00 am at the Park Ridge Congregational Church
131 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, NJ

MAY 2017

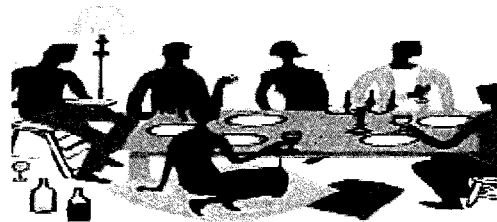
MOTHER'S DAY



Looking for Men of the Congregation to host Fellowship Time on Mother's Day. Sign up with Russell Van Wetering during Fellowship Time.

SAVE THE DATE

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – JUNE 16



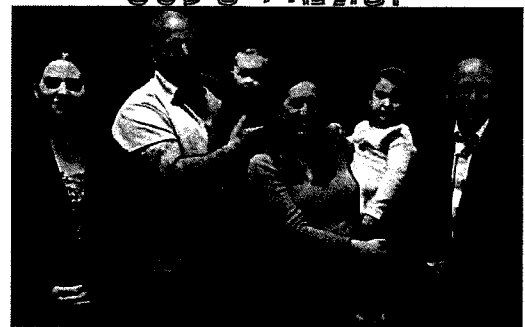
A representative from the Membership Team will be answering questions and signing up participants at Fellowship Time. Hosts are needed for appetizers, dinners and desserts.

Russell Van Wetering
Moderator



FELLOWSHIP TIME &
GREETERS

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



Nicole Babington, Philip, Gabriella, Sharon & Brianna Struzzi and Richard Metz.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Annual Book Fair
Memorial Day Weekend



Saturday, May 26, 2018 – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, May 27, 2018 – 12 noon – 4:00 pm
Monday May 28, 2018 – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

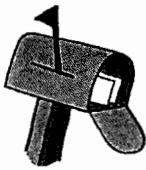
Bargains Galore!

Hard/soft cover-fiction, non-fiction, art, history, cookbooks, children's, classics, puzzles, biography, travel, history, video, CD's and much, much more!

655 Elm Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

* *

CHURCH MAIL



Many thanks to my wonderful church family! You are all special to me. Thank you to Pastor Dennis who came to visit during my recuperation at the hospital and during a time of struggle.

Thanks to Carole and Adria for the visit once I was home with the beautiful Easter Lili's. I will continue my rehab at home and want you all to know I am thankful for all your calls, cards, and visits. I will continue to work hard to enable my new knees to walk back into Church very soon.

Love,
Joan Hammerle

To My Church Family,

"Thank you" for the beautiful East Lilies. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and "Thank You" Carole Meeks for delivering the flowers.

Sincerely,
Clara Stoll

THANK YOU!



MUSIC

Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Pilgrim Ringers, and the Carol and Nowell Choir, for their lovely music at our Holy Week services of worship. You are very much appreciated!

PALM STRIPPERS AND EASTER PLANTS VOLUNTEERS

Thank you so much to our palm strippers: Carole and Frank Meeks, Evelyn and Bob Fialko, and also to those who helped set up Easter plants on the Altar and/or delivered plants: Janet Arena, Adria Brown, Pat Canzani, Cindy Fordham, Joanne Hernandez, Carole and Frank Meeks. The sanctuary looked spectacular with the cross of lilies and hydrangeas on the altar and tulips on all the windowsills.

KITCHEN CLEAN-UP

Many thanks to the following persons who worked so hard on April 11th spring-cleaning our kitchen: Carole Meeks, Heidi Buatti, Nancy Chiang, Evelyn Fialko, Michelle Heinzinger, Janice Hildreth, Alice Rushforth, and Inge Reist. Your help is greatly appreciated.

WELCOME BOOKLET

Thank you to Mr. Bob Wieboldt and our Administrative Anne Cooper for the wonderful "Welcome Booklet"!

Russell Van Wetering
Moderator

* *

PRAYERS OF JOY



Congratulations to Laura McGivern and Derek Asplint on the birth of their son Caleb Louis born on March 26, 2018

MAY 2018 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, May 6, 2018

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS - Wayne Placek, Vic Babington, Russell Van Wetering, Carole Meeks, Joanne Hernandez, Janet Arena
COUNTERS – Chet Price, Tom Rushforth, Kathy Caughlan, Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett
GREETERS – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Fred Miller
ALTAR GUILD – Nancy Chiang and Noreen Van Wetering
CHILD CARE – Claudia Drummond

Sunday, May 13, 2018

USHERS – ☒ Janet Arena, Bob Wieboldt, Barbara Wieboldt, Bill Hamilton, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS – Cindy Fordham, Barry Arena, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan, Don Huggett
GREETER – Betty Hogan
LAY READER – Frank Meeks
ALTAR GUILD – Nancy Chiang and Noreen Van Wetering
CHILD CARE – Allie Henkle
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Men of the Congregation

Sunday, May 20, 2018

USHERS - ☒ Vic Babington Sr., Betty Hogan, Russell Van Wetering, Chet Price
COUNTERS – Betty Hogan, Michelle Heinzinger, Terri Clark, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth
GREETERS – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Betty Hogan
ALTAR GUILD – Nancy Chiang and Noreen Van Wetering
CHILD CARE – Alice Frylinck
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Confirmation Sunday/Education Team

Sunday, May 27, 2018

USHERS – ☒ Stuart Heinzinger, Diane Lento, William Clark
COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, June Morris, Don Huggett
GREETERS – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – TBD
ALTAR GUILD – Nancy Chiang and Noreen Van Wetering
CHILD CARE – Nicole Babington
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteers needed

☒ **Team Leader**