

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 2019

Volume 70, Issue 1

Mark your calendars!



Date for the Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 10, 2019

Please forward your reports to the Church Office.

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other."

—Unknown



Fellowship Time Hosts and Greeters are needed for Winter/Spring 2019. Please sign up at Fellowship Time or contact Russell Van Wetering at 201-261-1795 or at aprilsky@optonline.net.

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.

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy New Year!		1	2 7:00 AA 7:00 Boy Scouts	3	4 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	5 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
6 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Communion/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest/Child Care 11:00 Undecorating of Church followed by Pizzapalooza 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	7 Church Office Closed 7:00 Step by Step NA 7:00 Worship Team	8 6:00 Kitchen Renovation 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Shawl Ministry	9 6:00 Funds Advisory 7:00 AA 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:30 RE Swim Club	11 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	12 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
13 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	14 Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship 7:00 Step by Step NA	15 7:00 Leadership Council	16 7:00 AA	17	18 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	19 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
20 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	21 Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:00 Step by Step NA	22 February Congregator Deadline 7:00 Mission Team	23 7:00 AA	24 2:00 Care Ministry	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 Time 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	28 Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:00 Step by Step NA	29	30 7:00 AA	31		

First Things

It is Epiphany. The light is growing out there. Not brightly, mind you, but not the total darkness of two weeks ago. Even as winter deepens, each day is a little more illumined than the day before. And for that I give thanks.

The season of Epiphany was called the “Festival of Lights” as many as seventeen centuries ago. The season is about us—and the world—being illumined with the radiance of Christ’s glory, and about our very selves shining that glory to the ends of the earth a little more each day.

I confess that it is hard for me to focus my attention on shining that glory outside of 109 Continental Avenue right now. Our building renovations have my/our daily attention—the limits on our life . . . a progress we hoped would be completed by Christmas, but now almost certainly will stretch to Lent . . . the mess that construction is. But, with Epiphany, we have turned a corner. The tearing apart stage is over, and the new potential for access and service is growing by the day. By Lent, we will be freed to new opportunities and challenges for ministry through FCC. I am eager for the new shining of that glory that we can offer our neighbors.

Miriam Therese Winter’s prayer is mine, that the light of the world will be more manifest to and through us each new day of 2019:

Light of the world,
we bow before You
in awe and adoration.
Bless us
and our simple faith
seeking understanding.
Epiphany means manifestation,
lifting the veil,
revelation.
Reveal to us then
what we need to know to love You,
and serve You,
and keep Your word
with fidelity and truth,
courage and hope,
this day and always.
Amen.

Godspeed,
Pastor Dennis

JANUARY 2019 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, January 6, 2019

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS - Michelle Heinzinger, Russell Van Wetering, Carole Meeks, Jane Silane, Vic Babington
COUNTERS – Chet Price, Tom Rushforth, Kathy Caughlan, Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett
GREETER – Joanne Hernandez
LAY READER – Tim Wallace
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks, Adria Brown
CHILD CARE – Alice Frylinck
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Pizzapalooza

Sunday, January 13, 2019

USHERS - ☒ Carole Meeks, Frank Meeks, Jeff Keehn, Helen Koon, Marvin Orendain
COUNTERS – Cindy Fordham, Barry Arena, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan, Don Huggett
GREETER – Don Huggett
LAY READER – Erin Smith
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks, Adria Brown
CHILD CARE – Emma Babington
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Carol & Nowell Choir

Sunday, January 20, 2019

USHERS - ☒ Janet Arena, Bob Wieboldt, Barbara Wieboldt, Bill Hamilton
COUNTERS - Betty Hogan, Michelle Heinzinger, Terrie Clark, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth
GREETER – Volunteer needed
LAY READER – Joanne Hernandez
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks, Adria Brown
CHILD CARE – Cathy Raffa
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Shawl Ministry

Sunday, January 27, 2019

USHERS – ☒ Vic Babington Sr., Betty Hogan, Russell Van Wetering, Chet Price
COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, Don Huggett
GREETER – Volunteer needed
LAY READER – Janice Hildreth
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks, Adria Brown
CHILD CARE – Ronnell Kearns
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteers needed

☒ **Team Leader**

MISSION TEAM



Homeless Family Outreach Tuesday, February 19th

We will once again be helping host homeless, working families at St. Peter's on Tuesday, February 19th. Please consider providing a food item for the dinner, or coming to help serve and host from about 6:00 to about 8:30. If you can give a few hours to help these struggling families, your support would be most appreciated! Signups at Fellowship Time.

First Sunday Food Pantry Donation



On the first Sunday of each month, a Food Pantry envelope is included in our bulletins. The donation you put in these envelopes goes mainly to the Center for Food Action (CFA). CFA provides emergency food packages and assistance with housing, heating and utility expenses to Bergen County's poorest and most vulnerable residents.

- *A parent skipping meals, so her children can eat,*
- *A child going to bed with an empty stomach,*
- *A grandmother, raising her grandchildren, who regularly adds water to milk to make it stretch a few more days*
- *An elderly person choosing to pay rent rather than buy groceries,*
- *An elderly man going through a dumpster outside a local restaurant*

At Thanksgiving and Christmas, the CFA typically receives an outpouring of donations to help these struggling families and individuals. But if you visit the CFA food distribution center at other times of the year, the shelves are often almost empty.

The needs are year-round and we're year-round Christians. Thank you for continuing to put your generous donations into those Food Pantry envelopes **every** month. Never doubt that they are much needed and most appreciated.

- UPDATE

All Wrapped Up Recap

THANK YOU! Every member of the families and all the older/disabled folks on our list were 'adopted' and all got many generous gifts, often more than their needs/wishes lists requested. We even had a few members of our congregational family who asked if there weren't more adoptees available! In addition to the gifts, we gave **\$2,150** in gift cards, mainly to ShopRite! The faith-full spirit of Christmas is alive and well at First Congregational Church of River Edge.

THANK-YOU LETTERS

From: Crosby Fund for Haitian Education

...we thank you for your gift of \$350 in support of our scholarship and education program in... Haiti. We are very happy that you would like to continue supporting Benestha Andre's scholarship for this academic year... In a country where education is not free, where literacy is a privilege and not the norm, the opportunity to attend school transforms a person's life. Thank you so very much for your support... It means so much... With gratitude, The Rev. Rebecca Crosby, Executive Director.

From: IEA – "...please accept our deepest gratitude for your generous gift of \$225. We hope you realize the impact your donation makes in the lives of the children and adults at IEA. Every day at IEA students are empowered with the skills they need to enable them to lead full, productive lives with their families and communities.... We deeply appreciate your support"

WORSHIP TEAM

Welcome 2019!

Thank you to all who helped our Advent/Christmas season be so meaningful and memorable. If you participated by reading, singing, playing an instrument, taking part in services, attending the Chrismon service, Sunday worship services or Tuesday Advent evening prayers, Christmas Eve services, driving someone to church, contributing to the toy and clothing drive, helping to decorate (or un-decorate), putting flowers on the altar, delivering flowers to shut-ins or baking cookies for the cookie exchange.

As the new year begins we are looking forward to seeing new and longtime friends and congregants. Happy New Year, everyone!



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 6**, during the 10:00 am. Worship Service. (The Communion bread is gluten-free.)

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

CONGREGATOR

The deadline for the February 2019 issue of the Congregator is Tuesday, January 22.

SHAWL MINISTRY



Fifteen years ago, Alice Rushforth asked if I would be interested in knitting. She and Robin Helenius had been introduced to the Shawl Ministry organized by two women in Connecticut. To them it sounded like something our Church would be interested in starting. That's how it all began. Although Robin is no longer at FCC, the Ministry has flourished with Alice's guidance.

Today we gather for fellowship and service. Knitters, crocheters and fringers attend either a Tuesday night 7:30 pm or a Thursday afternoon 1:00 pm, or both, monthly meetings. Sign up is not required, just come if you are able. We deep bond between this group of women. In fact to see us at work, go to www.fccriveredge.org/missionandoutreach/shawlministry.

These shawls have been presented to women and men in times of crisis, celebration, bereavement, illness and other occasions. Babies are given special Baptism shawls and young people are presented with shawls upon their confirmation.

On January 20, 2019 during our regular Sunday service we will celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of this powerful outreach.

Barbara Wieboldt

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

Tuesday, January 8, at 7:30 pm
Thursday, January 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.

JOY TO THE WORLD!!!



Thank you to all the musicians who brought beauty and grace to our Advent and Christmas services of worship: Chancel Choir, Carol and Nowell Choir, Pilgrim Ringers, instrumentalists, Liturgical Dancer--you are ALL very much appreciated!

A special note of gratitude goes out to the ten singers who went caroling on Sunday, December 17, calling upon several individuals and nursing homes. You were blessed by your gift of time and music, and you brought lovely cheer to all who were visited!

Gloria Norton

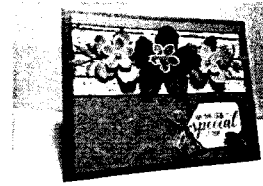


If you would like to donate altar flowers for one of our worship services, please contact our Flower Coordinator, Carole Meeks at 201-262-3020. The donation for flowers is \$25.00. Flowers can be taken home after the service or given to one of our shut-ins. The deadline for ordering altar flowers is the Sunday prior to their being placed on the Altar.

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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



On Tuesday, February 5, Women's Fellowship will gather in Pilgrim Hall for our annual luncheon. Join us at 11:30 am and bring a sandwich. The Executive Board will provide dessert, coffee and tea.

Our program (back by request) will be Mrs. Susan Becker. She is a Stampin Up teacher and we will once again make a lovely card to go home with. Invite your friends – there's always room around the table and the cost is only \$5.00 each.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

COUNTING TEAM



If you have not picked up your Stewardship Envelopes as yet we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. The information recorded on these envelopes insures that your stewardship account is both accurate and up to date.

Although not indicated on the envelope the new accounting system requires that amounts offered by check have the check number indicated on the outside of the envelope. Your assisting the counting teams by doing this would be greatly appreciated. By doing so, this would help to speed up the counting process and insure accuracy.

Thank you for using your stewardship envelopes.

Don Huggett for the Counting Teams

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Education Team would like to thank everyone who helped and participated in our 46th Chrismon Service! Despite our challenges this year, the church looked festive, the children looked beautiful, and our congregation's generosity shined once again. We collected winter gear and over 95 toys that were donated to Operation Holiday to support children in need in Bergen County. The offering that was collected to support our Child Sponsorship program was amazing. Thank you!

Congregational Cookie Swap



Christmas Cookie Swap

Thanks to all who participated in our 2nd annual cookie swap. Lots of delicious treats to share and a wonderful atmosphere created by the Wieboldt family. Looking forward to keeping this new tradition alive next year!

Youth Group Fundraiser

Thanks to all of your book donations, our "Make a Donation - Take a Book" fundraiser will be off to a fantastic start! We currently have a great selection of both adult and children's books to share. Please look for our "library" during Fellowship time beginning January 13. If you have any gently used children's or adult books, please drop them off in the Education Office. Proceeds will go towards future programming for the Youth Group as well as our donation to The Seeing Eye, Inc.

Souper Bowl Sunday

In addition to our traditional soup can collection, we will be participating in a CFA coin collection promotion for Souper Bowl Sunday. Keep your eyes out for coin collection containers during Fellowship Time beginning in January. You may also bring the container home and return it on Sunday 2/3. Thanks in advance for your generous donations!

VBS Volunteers needed



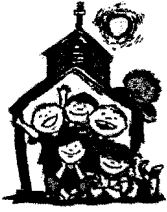
The Education Team will begin the planning of a potential Vacation Bible School for this summer. We will need a devoted team of volunteers to assist with putting this all together. Members of this team should be creative, hardworking, fun and available to help create a great program for our children. Options will be discussed at the next Education Team meeting, so please look out for volunteer sign ups as well as a VBS team meeting schedule.

Education Team Needs New Members



Interested in getting involved with our Youth/Adult/Family Ministries? These ministries are hoping to become more active in enhancing our member's faith formation experiences. In order to do this, some committed volunteers who are open to new ideas are needed. There are Co-Op positions available, so if working with just one ministry and/or activity is your thing, the Education Team needs you! If interested, please contact team leader Beth Shuler at bethshuler7@gmail.com or Nicole at nbabington@fccriveredge.org

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 will be reaching out for volunteers for the Spring, so please consider giving 3-4 minutes to our children. There will also be a sign-up sheet during Fellowship time.

Childcare 2019

The Education team is in need of volunteers who are interested in helping out with childcare. Volunteering will allow parents the opportunity to worship while their young children are being properly supervised.

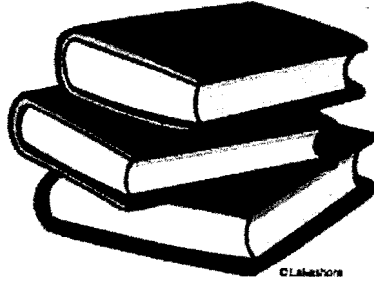
Depending on the willingness of all of you, we are looking at possibly 2-3 Sundays/volunteer throughout the year. This is a very small commitment that has an extremely large effect on our congregation. Supporting young families will help us grow! Please contact Nicole at nbabington@fccrivedge.org and say you will help!

Jan. 6	Alice Frylinck
Jan. 13	Emma Babington
Jan. 20	Cathy Raffa
Jan. 27	Ronnell Kearns

~Nicole Babington

FCC Youth Group Presents...

“Make a Donation, Take a Book Fundraiser”



You can help support our Youth Group and
The Seeing Eye by:

- Contributing to our book collection of gently used children's and adult books
- Making a monetary donation and taking a book or two from our “library”
- Just make a donation or just take a book

Please drop off any **book donations** to the
Education Office.

Fundraising tables will begin on January 13 during
Fellowship Time.