

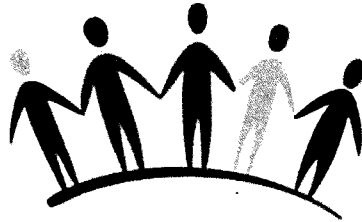
The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 2019

Volume 70, Issue 2



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Sunday, February 10, 2019

The Leadership Council has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Congregational Church of River Edge for Sunday, February 10, 2019 immediately following the morning service in the church sanctuary.



*"In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year,
the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other."*

Linda Ellerbee

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the **March** 2019 issue of the Congregator is Monday, February 18, 2019.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Any decision to cancel Sunday worship service and classes due to inclement weather will be posted on our website www.fcriveredge.org by **8:30 am Sunday Mornings**. We will also update our church office voicemail greeting (201-261-1712 x100) with such a decision.

Retire It?

In a few weeks the core of our facilities at First Congregational Church will re-open to our full use. Already the new restrooms are available to us. The lifts are almost fabricated, so that anyone can soon get to these gracious spaces. A new enclosed entry porch will warmly welcome all to our worship, learning and service spaces. There's no denying the excitement!

But new spaces will also change the way we do things. The unfolding (and desperately needed) renovation of the church kitchen will challenge us to use the space to grow our hospitality ministries (*Hebrews 13:1-2*). The attractive core of our building will challenge us to an internal mission project to paint and renew the hallways and rooms which our entry leads to. And our Parlor will take on a whole new function in our daily ministry. Its new dual role as our transportation hub, as well as our warm welcoming and gathering space, has even led the Leadership Council to retire the word "Parlor" . . . and to rename the space "*The Commons*." I sense that name change is a big deal . . . a sign that we want to step into God's future!

All these changes and challenges that are possible for our ministry, our fellowship, our outreach and our future bring me back to a relevant little column by Martin E. Marty, in *The Christian Century*, about some words (and old concepts) he would like to retire. I hope that we can retire them too:

First, retire "retirement." One-third of America's retired are doing full-time work, many of them because of dot.com and 9/11 and crooked CEO depletions of their "retirement" funds. Replacements for "retirement"? We pastors and professors, among other professionals, have it easy: we become "emeritus." But theologically we struggle with that word if we are in the grace-not-merit camp.

Second, volunteer to give up "volunteer." According to the Civic Ventures conference, the word connotes amateurism and lack of seriousness. It prefers "work" as in "paid work, unpaid work, incentive work, flexible work." But that can be a bit grim to those of us in the faith-not-works tribe, and misses the element of leisure and play that Christians are to honor. Find another alternative.

"Modify associations with the word 'old,'" the conference advises. It finds "old" connected with too many "d-" words, as in "declining, decrepit, disabled," and points to the younger generation's "d-" word about aging: "denial." Here the problem has to do not with the word itself, but with some of its connotations. We do cherish old friends, old wines, old collectibles.

The church may have some cleaning up to do, too. Think of the role of the word "elder." Tom Campbell dealt with the word years ago. Every pastor and lay progressive, he said, complains about the elders, claiming they put the brakes on creativity, are suspicious, don't want to try too many new things. His solution? Keep the term "elders" but elect and appoint only "youngers" to be such. Meanwhile, appoint the "older" people to head "committees on innovation." And get ready for surprises.

So I'm getting ready to live myself into the truth that there is more than enough excitement on both sides of this monumental project to renew the buildings that house our ministries. I think that God is doing something new . . . through all of us. I'm ready for the surprises!

Godspeed,
Pastor Dennis

Advance Notice: Here's What's Coming in Lent!

❖ **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 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 two Sunday morning sessions. The planned dates are Sunday, **March** 10 and 17, 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 an April Sunday.

If you want to participate, please **call the church office at 201-261-1712 or email: office@fccriveredge.org.**

❖ **BROWN BAGS AND BIBLES**

The Way. Let's do a Lenten journey that is part Bible-study, part illustrated travelogue. Through the book and video by Adam Hamilton, we will gain a “first-person” experience of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, accompanied by biblical wisdom and historical knowledge. We will meet on **Tuesdays, March 12 – April 23, Noon-1:15 pm.** Bring your lunch at noon. *Books will be available mid-February; sign-ups will be helpful for planning.*

❖ **EVENING PRAYER & COMMUNION**

The **Tuesdays of Lent, March 12 – April 9, 6:15 – 6:45 p.m.**

A simple and quiet service of scripture, Lord's Supper and guided prayer in the *Sanctuary Chancel*. Come and make space for God!

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.

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LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



The Leadership Council has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Congregational Church of River Edge for Sunday, February 10, 2019 immediately following the morning service in the church sanctuary. The business will include the presentation of annual reports of church teams and organizations, the financial report of the church, and election of officers.

Annual Report booklets will be available prior to the meeting. Child care will be provided for younger children.

Alice Rushforth
Church Clerk

CAN YOU HELP?

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



WORSHIP TEAM

“Many hands make light work” was so wonderfully demonstrated by our congregation on Epiphany Sunday. Thank you to all who helped “undecorate” our Sanctuary and/or were able to share Fellowship Time afterwards.

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, February 3rd by intinction (forward), during the 10:00 am Worship Service. The Communion bread is gluten-free.

THE LENTEN/EASTER SEASON BEGINS



Ash Wednesday is March 6th

The first day of Lent is Wednesday, March 6th. The Worship Team will host a Soup and Bread Supper at 6:00 PM to usher in this special time in the Church calendar. You may bring bread, cheese or fruit to share with others if you wish.

There will be an Ash Wednesday Worship Service in the Sanctuary beginning at 7:00 PM following the Supper.

If you would like to participate in the preparations in Fellowship Hall on the day of the Supper (setting up or cleaning up), please contact Carole Meeks (201-262-3020).

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

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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.

* *

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.

* *

SHAWL MINISTRY



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

Tuesday, February 12, at 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 14, 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.

* *

BUILDING RENOVATION

There are monthly envelopes for the Building Renovation Fund in the bulletin, and occasionally in the Congregator. Please use these envelopes for contributions toward the Building Renovation Fund.

MISSION TEAM

Family Promise – Tuesday, February 19th
We will once again be helping host homeless, working families at St. Peter's on Tuesday, February 19th. Please consider coming to help serve and entertain from 6:30 to about 8:30 pm. Signups at Fellowship Time.

All Wrapped Up



THANK YOU! Many of the needs-lists for our Christmas All Wrapped Up gift-giving come through the Bergen County Head Start program. Our lists include not only the pre-school children in the program, but also their struggling family members. We received the Thank You "Notes" from these preschoolers, and they are posted on the church website (fccriveredge.org) and Facebook page. You don't want to miss them!

* *

IMPORTANT MESSAGE



Please be aware of an email scam that is currently being perpetrated against churches in North Jersey including several members of our congregation.

The scam involves members receiving an email supposedly from a Pastor asking for a favor. The email instructs the recipient to reply to the email. And, once the member responds, a follow-up email asks them to purchase gift cards or other similar items of monetary value.

If you receive an email like this, do not reply to the email or provide any information.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



On Tuesday, February 5, Women's Fellowship invites everyone to our annual luncheon meeting beginning at 11:30 am in Pilgrim Hall. We will begin with our brown bag luncheon with dessert provided by the Executive Board. Following lunch, Sue Becker will teach us the art of stamping. Each of us will go home with a beautiful, hand-crafted card. To cover the costs of materials, we will collect \$5.00 from each participant.

COUNTING TEAM

Offering Envelopes



In order to assure that your Sunday donation is credited to your church account, please use your offering envelopes. If you haven't picked up your envelopes, they may be found in the Narthex.

Don Huggett
Counting Team

* *



To My Church Family,

Many thanks to all of you for the Get Well cards, the meals brought to our door ready-to-eat, the visit from Pastor Dennis, the beautiful poinsettia plant, and most of all the private concert by the Christmas Carolers – lovely.

I really do appreciate it all and hope to be back soon. God Bless!

Gratefully,
Doris Price

EDUCATION



Volunteer's Needed!

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. The team is looking for 1 full term member in addition to Co-Op positions, 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

VBS Volunteers needed



The Education Team has chosen a theme for this summer's VBS! "ROAR! Life is Wild, God is Good" is a 5 half day program designed for kids to explore and celebrate faith as it powers them through life. It uses Bible stories and creative activities to help them experience God's word and apply it to their own lives. 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. We are aiming for a week in August, so please look out for volunteer sign-up sheets during Fellowship time or email me at nbabington@fccriveredge.org. Meeting dates will be announced very soon.

Youth Group Fundraiser

Thanks to all of your book donations, our “**Make a Donation, Take a Book**” fundraiser is 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 over the next few weeks. 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

We will be participating in a CFA coin collection promotion for Souper Bowl Sunday. A container will be out during Fellowship time to collect any change you may like to donate. This collection can be instead of or in addition to our traditional soup can collection. Thanks in advance for your generous donations!

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

Childcare 2019

February

Feb. 3-Michele DeVincenzo

Feb. 10-Heather Nicheski

Feb. 17-Amanda Hosgood

Feb. 24-Joan Buono

SAVE THE DATES

2ND Annual First’s Lenten Film Festival



The Education Team and Pastor Dennis will once again be presenting a Lenten Film Series during this season of Lent. The intention is to get the congregation together to watch a few inspirational and inspiring films that display the great strength of the human spirit! These films are family appropriate and all are welcome. This was great fun last year and very well attended.

Sunday 3/3, Sunday 3/17, Sunday 3/31 at 4pm

Films to be announced

~Nicole Babington

JOURNEY RINGERS



Journey Ringers is an exploratory group for folks of any age who want to learn to ring handbells. Ability to read music is not required.

During February, Journey Ringers will meet at 11:20 a.m. in the Bell Room on Sundays, February 3, 17, and 24.

Everyone is welcome!

CALLING ALL SINGERS.....



ADVANCE INVITATION:

All singers are invited to be a part of the Cantata Choir which will sing for the special Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) 10:00 a.m. service on April 14.

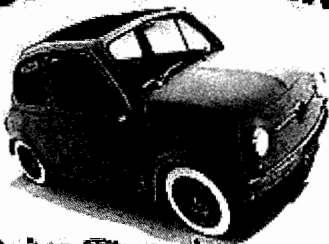
Rehearsals for this will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays, March 14, 21 and 28; and April 4 and 11.

A special invitation goes out to folks who love to sing, but are unable to commit to regular Chancel Choir rehearsals.

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.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

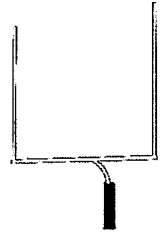


Like Drive-Thru, but not really!

A Progressive Dinner is being planned for late Spring! Please join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun. Details coming soon!



Souper Bowl Sunday



2 ways to give to the Center for Food Action


You can donate:

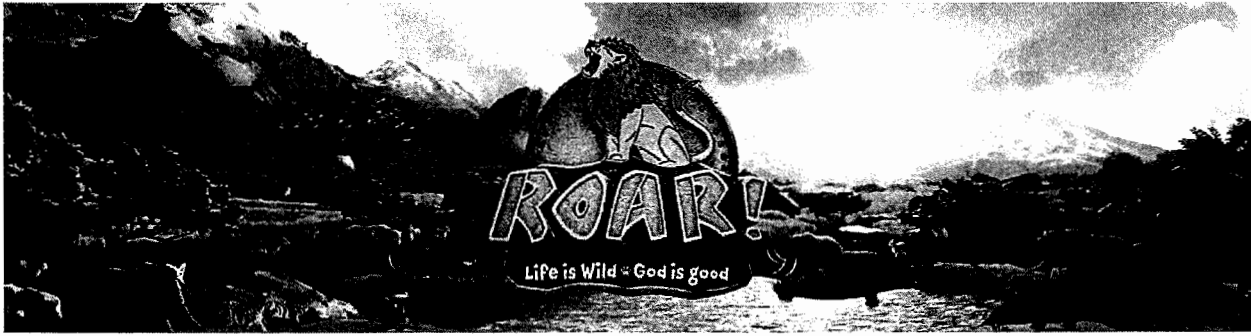


Please bring in a can of soup or a collection of loose change to worship on Sunday Feb 3. Our church school children will be collecting during the Children's Message. A container will also be available during Fellowship Time.

Let's teach our children how important it is to share with others less fortunate.

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Groundhog Day 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	2 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
3 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Communion The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Worship Team 7:30 Step by Step	5 11:30 Women's Fellowship Annual Luncheon	6 7:00 AA 7:00 Cub Scouts	7 7:10 Chancel Choir 7:30 River Edge Swim Club 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	8 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	9 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
10 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Annual Meeting 12:30 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday	11 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Women's Fellowship 4:00 ATWAS 7:30 Step by Step	12 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Shawl Ministry	13 7:00 AA	14 Valentine's Day 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:10 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers Deadline for the The Congregator	15 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	16 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
17 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 12:30 Korean Baptist Church	18 Presidents' Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Al-Anon 4:00 ATWAS 7:30 Step by Step	19 Full Moon 6:00 Family Promise 7:00 Leadership Meeting	20 7:00 AA	21 7:10 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	22 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	23 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
24 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 12:30 Korean Baptist Church	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step	26 7:00 Mission Team	27 7:00 AA	28		



Vacation Bible School

Volunteers needed to assist
with these stations!

- 🐾 Sing & play ROAR
- 🐾 Little paws pre-school
- 🐾 Wild bible adventures
- 🐾 Imagination station
- 🐾 Stampede sports
- 🐾 Safari celebration
- 🐾 KidVid cinema

For more info and/or to sign up to be a VBS volunteer, please contact Nicole at nbabington@fccriveredge.org or sign up at Fellowship time.

FEBRUARY 2018 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, February 3, 2019

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS - Wayne Placek, Carole Meeks, Jane Silane, Alice Rushforth, Janet Arena
COUNTERS – Robert Owens, Diane Lento, Russell Van Wetering, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth
GREETER – Janice Hildreth
LAY READER – Linda Stark
ALTAR GUILD – Sara Myers, Michelle Heinzinger
CHILD CARE – Michele DeVincenzo
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Barbara Placek, Evelyn Fialko

Sunday, February 10, 2019

USHERS - ☒ Stuart Heinzinger, Diane Lento, William Clark
COUNTERS – Chet Price, Tom Rushforth, Kathy Caughlan, Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett
GREETERS– Ronnell & Rylie Kearns
LAY READER – Michelle Heinzinger
ALTAR GUILD – Sara Myers, Michelle Heinzinger
CHILD CARE – Heather Nicheski
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Annual Meeting/Lunch

Sunday, February 17, 2019

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 – Tim Wallace
ALTAR GUILD – Sara Myers, Michelle Heinzinger
CHILD CARE – Amanda Hosgood
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteers needed

Sunday, February 24, 2019

USHERS – ☒ Gary Schaechinger, Heather Schaechinger, Charlie Schaechinger
COUNTERS – Betty Hogan, Michelle Heinzinger, Terrie Clark, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth
GREETER – Jayne Wieboldt
LAY READER – Betty Hogan
ALTAR GUILD – Sara Myers, Michelle Heinzinger
CHILD CARE – Joan Buono
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Frani & Orendain Families

☒ **Team Leader**

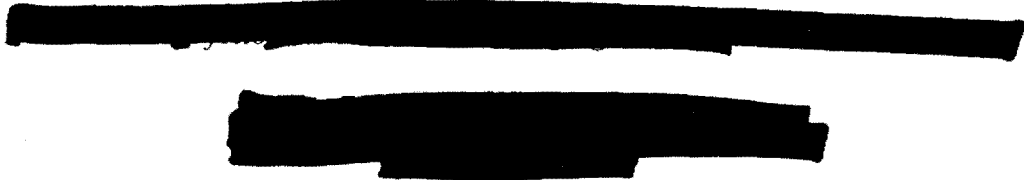
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Office is closed.
Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 – 4:00 pm.

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 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
Jeff Bernard Financial Secretary	financeoffice@fccriveredge.org 201-538-3563