

# The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 2019

Volume 70, Issue 5



National Day of Prayer, *May 2, 2019*  
Mother's Day, *May 12, 2019*  
Armed Forces Day, *May 18, 2019*  
Victoria Day (Canada), *May 20, 2019*  
Memorial Day, *May 27, 2019*  
Ascension, *May 30, 2019*

*First Congregational Church  
109 Continental Avenue  
River Edge, New Jersey 07661*

## CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

*Phone (201) 261-1712  
Website – [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)  
Church Office e-mail – [office@fccriveredge.org](mailto:office@fccriveredge.org)*

## 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 Minister of Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:nbabington@bergen.edu">nbabington@bergen.edu</a> 201-956-3435
Anne Cooper Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:office@fccriveredge.org">office@fccriveredge.org</a> 201-261-1712
Jeff Bernard Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:financeoffice@fccriveredge.org">financeoffice@fccriveredge.org</a> 201-538-3563

## *Something(s) New . . . !*

It is May (at least it will be when you receive this!) . . . Easter season (finally, after a late Easter!) . . . Spring is finally in full bloom (every car on the street is green with pollen!). When May has come around First Congregational Church my first years here, I have almost audibly perceived a corporate exhale. And with it a temporary lessening of energy and excitement in our worship, life and work.

Not so this year! What a diverse list of involvements, accomplishments, and undertakings. Though there remain some significant and visible “capstones” to our Building Renovation project, we can feel and experience its benefits to us. New members are an affirmation to our life and ministry. Fellowship events like the New York Botanical Gardens trip bring together broad generations. Bible study has energy. Mission engagements bring us Hiking for Hope. Fellowship Hall is bursting with the “treasures” of the first FCC Thrift Sale in my experience with us. The church kitchen is bright and white, and ready for new floor and appliances. This Second Sunday will be the first to have the resource of elevator lifts!



And, oh yes, did I mention Paris?! True, technically it happened in April, but our *April in Paris* dinner/fundraiser/extravaganza was unreservedly the most diverse and energizing event I have seen FCC undertake, short of the Pumpkin Patch!

*April in Paris*, last Saturday evening, brought together 140 people from FCC and all around New Jersey. Of course there was a rich range of items and services auctioned, from sports tickets to professional photography, gardening, handcrafted gifts, tutoring, art works . . . each item is priceless in its own way, with the signature of its giver written all over it. The purchase and winning of over 100 items will go far toward assuring that we fully fund the rebuilding of the church kitchen.

The products of *April in Paris*, however, are not my main joy. Its greater gift was the fun and fellowship with one another . . . the sharing of good food and drink . . . the new relationships found. It was a memorable evening, with appetizers, refreshments, and desserts, much laughter, and more conversation. It is a sign of our readiness to try something new for the continuing good of our faith and our fellowship. It took the exhaustive work of countless people (led by Diane Lento, Janet Arena and Susie Choi), but it sent us into May with the certainty that we have energy for new things, new creativity, new relationships, and new faith.

The diversity of gifts exhibited (including our incredible musicians!) was amazing . . . all setting us to dancing. As I said, I felt Jesus there as much as he was at the celebration of the wedding at Cana!

May . . . our life, faith, fellowship and service continue to grow. May we continue to build each other up for the life and tasks of our ministry!

Godspeed,  
Pastor Dennis

The First Congregational Church  
&  
The River Edge Cultural Center

present

bells &  
whistles

XIX

Thursday, May 23, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Featuring

The Pilgrim Ringers, Gloria Norton, Director

Melissa Murray and June Marano-Murray, piano

Vocal selections by Joy Jacobs, Signe Myhren and Tim Wallace

Audience Ring-along

Gloria Norton, organ

A free-will offering will be received to benefit a local food bank.

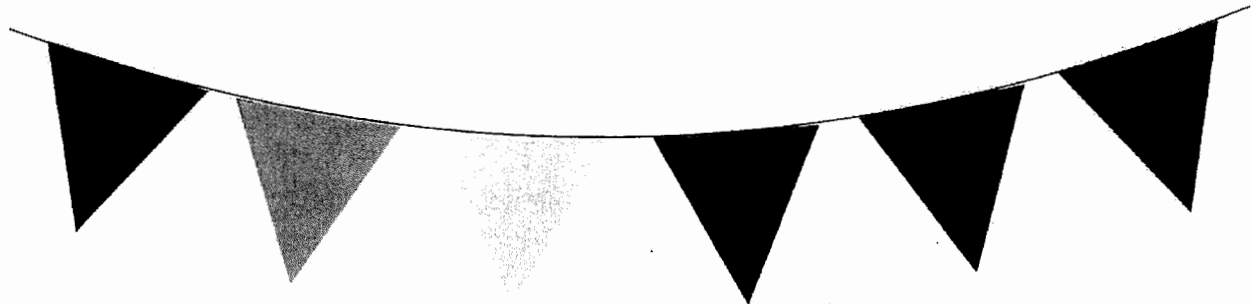
A reception will follow the concert.



*The Sanctuary is air-conditioned and accessible.*

First Congregational Church, 109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661  
201-261-1712  
[www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S  
*WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP*



# THRIFT SALE

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

[www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

- ❖ Wearable & Usable Clothing  
(Men's, women's & children's)
- ❖ Shoes
- ❖ Linens
- ❖ Board Games
- ❖ Belts, Handbags
- ❖ Household items
- ❖ Stuffed Animals
- ❖ Hard Toys
- ❖ Bikes

Proceeds from this collection will benefit Women's Fellowship mission projects and Kitchen Renovation.



# The Blue Chip Chorus



*Traditional Barbershop Harmony, and a little bit More!*

**SPECIAL FREE PERFORMANCE**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**FREE WILL OFFERING TO BENEFIT  
THE CHURCH RENOVATION FUND**

**TUESDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30PM**

**109 CONTINENTAL AVE.**

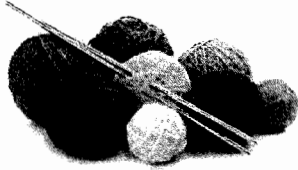
**RIVER EDGE, NJ**



## 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 14, at 7:30 pm*

*Thursday, May 16 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 time in The Commons with us. Everyone is welcome. For information, please contact Alice Rushforth at 201-265-1062.

## PRAYERS



Longtime member, Norma Bonard, passed away in Florida on April 13. She and Dan, her husband, retired to Florida after a long and active membership at the FCC of River Edge. She was a joy to know. Please keep Dan and the family in your prayers.

## MISSION TEAM



# Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

**Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup> –6:00 pm ~ ~**

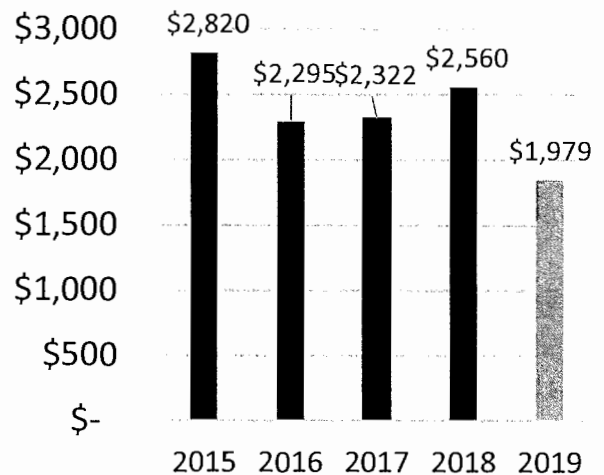
Our church will again be helping to host homeless, working families at St. Peter's in River Edge. Volunteer to cook, serve, entertain the kids or stay the night. This is a great outreach which truly helps these struggling folks who are our neighbors. It only takes a few hours to make a big difference in their lives. Sign up at Fellowship Time.



### *Results*

Our contribution this year was \$1,979, vs. \$2,560 in 2018.

To everyone who contributed to this vital fund to help the victims of disasters both in the US and worldwide, **THANK YOU!**



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### *Gift of the Heart Kits*

Thank you to all who donated to this project. Because of your generosity Church World Service responded quickly to natural disasters during 2018. During 2018, your compassion helped to provide more than 174,041 kits and blankets to people around the world, helping families to clean up, rebuild and have hope.

Our River Edge Congregation completed 70 school kits and 14 hygiene kits. Your compassionate response is changing the world.

With Gratitude,  
Michelle Heinzinger

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

### **Annual Book Fair** *Memorial Day Weekend*



*Saturday, May 25, 2019 – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm*

*Sunday, May 26, 2019 – 12 noon – 4:00 pm*

*Monday May 27, 2019 – 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

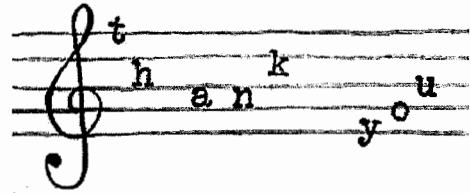
## TYING THE KNOT



I said "I do" and, we are!!!

Diane Rolfs and Rick Iaconetti are getting married on Saturday, June 15, 2019 @ 11:00 a.m. We would love to see your smiling faces in the pews on our very special day!

## MUSIC!



Hearty thanks to all the musicians of our church for their beautiful and meaningful contributions to our special services during Lent and Easter.

The Cantata Choir, Chancel Choir, Pilgrim Ringers, Carol and Nowell Choir, Pam Weiler, and vocal soloists, all added so much beauty to our worship. Special thanks to Pastor Dennis for creating the narration for our Palm Sunday cantata, The Way of Mercy.



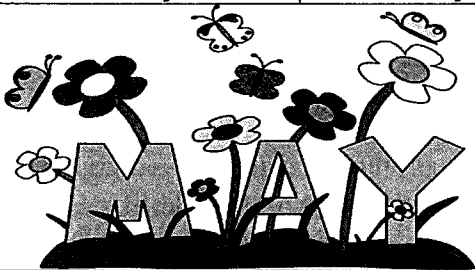
Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the lovely ceremony welcoming us as "new" (old) members. That Sunday was memorable. Also, we so enjoyed the delicious cake and other goodies at the following week's fellowship time. What nice people we have in this church to work so hard for both occasions!

Besides all that, James and I would like to heartily thank everyone who prayed for the safe return from Afghanistan of our daughter-in-law, Lt. Amy Hildreth. As she says, and we all know, "There's no place like home." That's how we feel about our church--it's like home!

Janice and James Hildreth

## MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 AA 7:00 Boy Scouts	2	3 6:00 – Girl Scouts 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	4 8:30 KWIS 9:00 Thrift Sale 7:00 AA
<b>5</b> 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 Time 12:00 Family Promise Hike 12:00 Korean Baptist Church 4:30 Second Sunday	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 3:45 ATWAS 7:00 Worship Team 7:00 Step by Step NA	<b>7</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 Women's Fellowship 7:30 The Blue Chip Chorus Concert	<b>8</b> 6:00 Funds Advisory 7:00 AA 7:30 River Edge Swim Club	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	<b>11</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 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	<b>13</b> Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 1:30 Women's Fellowship Executive Board 7:00 Step by Step NA	<b>14</b> 7:30 Shawl Ministry	<b>15</b> 7:00 AA	<b>16</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	<b>17</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums <b>Deadline for                      June                      Congregator</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b> Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 3:45 ATWAS 7:00 Step by Step NA	<b>21</b> 7:00 Leadership Council	<b>22</b> 7:00 AA	<b>23</b> 7:30 Bells & Whistles XIX	<b>24</b> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drums	<b>25</b> 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
<b>26</b> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol and Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ /Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	<b>27</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:00 Step by Step NA	<b>28</b> 6:00 Family Promise	<b>29</b> 7:00 AA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



**MAY 2019**

**FELLOWSHIP TIME &  
GREETERS**

Your help is needed for Fellowship Time and Lemonade in the Parlor. Please sign up during Fellowship Time or contact Russell Van Wetering at [aprilskv@optonline.net](mailto:aprilskv@optonline.net) or 201-261-1795.

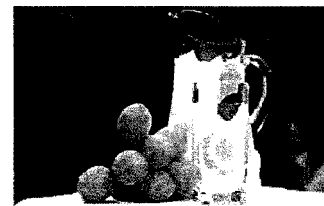
**PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

*JUNE 8*



A Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 8! Members and friends, please join us for a wonderful night of fellowship, conversation and food. Hosts are needed for dinners. Please sign up at Fellowship Time or contact Russell Van Wetering at [aprilskv@optonline.net](mailto:aprilskv@optonline.net) or call 201-261-1795

**LEMONADE IN THE COMMONS**



Commences on June 16<sup>th</sup> and continues throughout the summer and into September.

**CONGREGATOR DEADLINE**

The deadline for the **June** issue of the Congregator is **Friday, May 17, 2019.**

## EDUCATION

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Please mark your calendars with a very important date in the lives of our children. Church School Sunday will be held on **June 9 at 10am**. This service is a celebration of our 2018-2019 church school year and gives the children an opportunity to SHINE! We will be acknowledging all of our participants as well as the volunteers that make our program possible.

### **NY Botanical Gardens Trip**

Thanks to all who attended our day trip to the Gardens. It was a beautiful day to spend with friends and enjoy the gorgeous Orchid Show! We had 22 people in attendance.

### **VBS 2019**

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. This exciting adventure will be held Aug. 12-16, 2019 from 9-12pm at FCC. Cost is \$25 per child or \$40 per family. For more information or to register your child, please contact Nicole at [nbabington@fccriveredge.org](mailto:nbabington@fccriveredge.org) or visit our website [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org).

### **VBS Volunteers needed**

We will need a devoted team of volunteers to assist with putting this year's VBS together. Members of this team should be creative, hardworking, fun and available to help create a great program for our children. We are scheduled for mornings **Aug. 12-16, 2019**. Please look out for volunteer sign-up sheets and registration forms during Fellowship time or email me at [nbabington@fccriveredge.org](mailto:nbabington@fccriveredge.org). A volunteer form should be available on our website very soon as well.

### **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](mailto:bethshuler7@gmail.com) or Nicole at [nbabington@fccriveredge.org](mailto:nbabington@fccriveredge.org)

## Childcare 2019

May 2019

May 5-Kim Shirk

May 12-Pat Canzani

May 19-Sara Myers

May 26-Emma Babington

### CHILD CARE



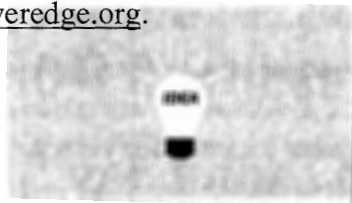
Summer

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!

### Summer Activities Anyone?

Last summer we had a book club, went to a NJ Jackals baseball game and had some fun activities for our children. I am going to begin planning for this summer, so if you have any ideas, please feel free to share with me in person or at [nbabington@fccriveredge.org](mailto: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 am continually reaching out for volunteers, so please consider giving 3-4 minutes to our children. There will be a sign-up sheet during Fellowship time. I still have a few spots left for this church school year.

~Nicole



Come join the adventure  
at

# VBS 2019

Date: Aug. 12-16, 2019

Time: 9am-12pm at:

First Congregational Church

109 Continental Avenue

River Edge, NJ

To register, contact Nicole at [nbabington@fccriveredge.org](mailto:nbabington@fccriveredge.org)  
or online at [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)

## CHURCH REGISTER

### New Members – April 21, 2019

James Hildreth      Janice Hildreth  
Thomas DeVincenzo   Michele DeVincenzo  
Michael Carcich

## LEGACY OF FAITH

A meaningful way to remember/honor loved ones and friends is to make contributions to the Memorial Fund, Renovation Fund, Kitchen Fund, Music & Arts Fund or the General Fund of the First Congregational Church of River Edge.

### MEMORIAL FUND

#### **Kitchen Renovation Fund**

#### **In Memory of Rev. Sumner Harley Gill**

David and Diane Gill

#### **In Honor of our new grandson,**

**Pearce Sumner Gill**

David and Diane Gill

#### **In Honor of Tim Wallace**

Tom and Toby Graham

#### **In Honor of Robert and Barbara Wieboldt**

Jayne Wieboldt

#### **In Memory of Tom and Peg McEwen**

Judy Messmer

#### **In Memory of Kay Keehn**

Chuck and Maryanne Keehn

#### **In Memory of Bertha Myhren**

Lewis and Susan Dickinson

Nancy Goodyear

Hilma Albrecht

Robert and Barbara Wieboldt

Janet & Barry Arena

Lisa Willis

#### **In Memory of Nanette Shields**

By Claire Klepner

#### **Building Renovation Fund**

#### **In Memory of Kathleen McNally**

Evelyn & Bob Fialko

## WORSHIP TEAM



Sunday, May 5, Communion will be served in the pews. The bread is gluten free. Please join us as we share the Lord's Supper.

### PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you so much to our helpers for preparing and stripping the palms for the Palm Sunday service and/or arranging the lovely Easter flowers display in the sanctuary: Pat Canzani, Evelyn & Bob Fialko, Cindy Fordham, Joan Hammerle and Carole & Frank Meeks. The altar looked magnificent with its arrangement of lilies, hydrangeas and tulips. Alleluia!

### 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.

\* \*

### 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.

## MAY 2019 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

### Sunday, May 5, 2019

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS - Michelle Heinzinger, Janet Masiello, Carole Meeks, Russell Van Wetering, Jane Silane  
COUNTERS – Cindy Fordham, Barry Arena, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan, Don Huggett  
GREETER – Cindy Fordham  
LAY READER – Russell Van Wetering  
ALTAR GUILD – Dona Berg, Jean Babington  
CHILD CARE – Kim Shirk  
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteers needed

### Sunday, May 12, 2019

USHERS - ☒ Jenn Young, Inge Reist, Richard Metz, Paul Motoike  
COUNTERS – Betty Hogan, Michelle Heinzinger, Terri Clark, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth  
GREETERS– Volunteers needed  
LAY READER – Bert Schmitt  
ALTAR GUILD – Dona Berg, Jean Babington  
CHILD CARE – Pat Canzani  
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Susie Choi & Brian Leddy

### Sunday, May 19, 2019

USHERS - ☒ Carole Meeks, Frank Meeks, Jeff Keehn, Helen Koons, Marvin Orendain  
COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, Pat Canzani, Don Huggett  
GREETERS – Betty Hogan  
LAY READER – Jane Silane  
ALTAR GUILD – Dona Berg, Jean Babington  
CHILD CARE – Sara Myers  
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Orendain Family

### Sunday, May 26, 2019

USHERS – ☒ Janet Arena, Bob Wieboldt, Barbara Wieboldt, Bill Hamilton, Janet Masiello  
COUNTERS – Robert Owens, Diane Lento, Russell Van Wetering, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth  
GREETER – Joan and Gene Hammerle  
LAY READER – Alice Rushforth  
ALTAR GUILD – Dona Berg, Jean Babington  
CHILD CARE – Emma Babington  
FELLOWSHIP TIME – Volunteers needed

☒ **Team Leader**