

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

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As Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure, they were full of questions — “Where are you going? How will we know the way there? Would you please just show us the Father?” — and not very satisfied with his answers. So Jesus promised to send them “another Helper” (John 14:16, ESV). And we can almost hear them protesting, like kids bemoaning a favorite coach’s retirement or church members grieving a beloved pastor’s call to serve elsewhere: “Oh, great. Someone new for us to get to know. It won’t be the same. It won’t be you.”

Except ... the word another has two forms in Greek: “another just like this one” and “another, different version.” And when the author of John translated Jesus’ Aramaic into Greek, the first definition was the accurate one. Jesus was assuring his disciples they’d be in good hands, at peace and secure because the new Helper — the Holy Spirit — would be another just like him.

—based on *Fearless*, by Max Lucad

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

Church Office: (201) 261-1712 / office@fccriveredge.org Website – www.fccriveredge.org

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Pastor	dtebeest@fccriveredge.org 201-390-5548
Nicole Babington Minister for Faith Formation	nbabington@fccriveredge.org 201-956-3435
Anne Cooper Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712
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Dear Pastor Dennis and Betty,

Thank you both for all you have done for First Congregational Church of River Edge and its members, friends and community!

We send you off with our Love, Blessings and Gratitude.

Godspeed.

Russell

Dear Dennis,

Your towering presence the past four years was always inspiring.
Your reassuring words were stress busting.
Your constant support was highly motivating.
But your constant obsession with bulletin margins drove me *crazy*.

Farewelll to a boss who will be dearly missed.

Many Blessings,
Anne

The Mission/Outreach Team thanks you for all your encouragement, support, and *active* participation

...for Hiking/Biking for Family Promise, every year, in all weather and situations

...For Second Sunday, all your backing (and for mopping the floor after the event)

...For being a carpenter with our Habitat projects.

...For always championing the Mission/Outreach budget

...For cheer-fully facilitating all kinds of crazy Moments for Mission.

...And just for being you, and being present, not just as our Pastor but as a person and a great member of the Mission Team.

Thanks and Blessings to

Dennis and Betty

On behalf of the Education Team, I would like to thank Pastor Dennis for his commitment to our children and family ministries. He has allowed us to develop adaptable and productive programs for our entire congregation, especially our youth. Dennis always made himself approachable to them which encouraged engagement in class and other activities. Our church school staff and children will miss him tremendously. On a personal note, Dennis never made me feel as if I worked **for** him but **with** him. Taking on a job that I had absolutely no experience in was very intimidating, and he gave me the confidence to do it my way. My success as the MFF is owed to his support, suggestions and knowledge along with the freedom he gave me to figure it all out and make it work for me. I sincerely thank him for everything and will miss him greatly. I also have to give lots of thanks to Betty for her continued support of my programs over the years. Whenever I was struggling for volunteers, Betty was there. She was always the first to sign up, sometimes the only one to sign up. She is an extremely hard worker and a very caring person that the congregation will miss. Thanks to Dennis and Betty for constantly being there. Blessing to the both of you on your next adventure together. Godspeed...

Nicole

Well wishes to Betty and Rev. Dennis from Financial Advisory Committee.

We Will
Miss You

LEGACY OF FAITH

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

BUILDING RENOVATION FUND

In Honor of
Gloria Norton
From Your Friends

In Memory of Barbara Christensen
From Robert Owens

WORSHIP



The Worship Team welcomes you to Summer Sunday Services each Sunday in July and August. Join us as we worship together, in the comfort of air-conditioning, celebrating our faith and friendships.

Communion will be served on Sunday, July 4th and August 1st at the 10:00 service.

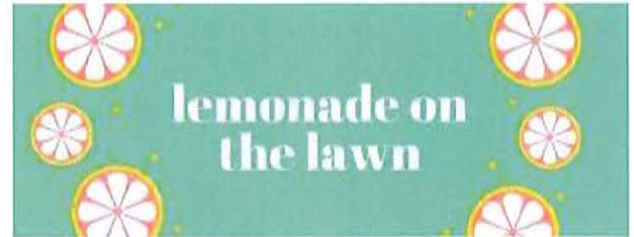
*** Sunday, July 11th will be Pastor Dennis TeBeest's last Sunday leading us in worship before he retires***

In November 2015 we invited and welcomed Pastor Dennis to lead our church as our pastor. Since that day, we have been blessed with his dedication to God, to the First Congregational Church of River Edge and to the people who worship and work at our church and in the larger community.

We thank you, Dennis, for your steadfast leadership, dedication and love for us all. Our best wishes to you and Betty in the next chapter of life.

MEMBERSHIP

Lemonade on the Lawn is back!



Hosts are needed!

Any member or friend who would like to host is encouraged to do so either as an individual host, as a family or with another person.

Sign-up sheets will be available on the table in The Commons or please contact Russell Van Wetering directly at aprilsky@optonline.net, or 201-261-1795.

In case of inclement weather or excessive heat, lemonade will be served in The Commons.

Sincerely,

Russell

CAN YOU HELP?



Greeters are needed for upcoming weeks and months. Please contact Russell Van Wetering at 201-261-1795 or email aprilsky@optonline.net.

JULY



Happy Birthday to:

- 2 Charles Schaechinger
Gustave John Sedeyn IV
- 5 Margaret Hoogstrate
- 6 Evelyn Waytowich
- 7 Anne Cooper
- 9 Robert Wieboldt
- 10 Michele DeVincenzo
- 13 Kyrie Sakai-Chen
- 15 Barbara Wieboldt
Bob Owens
- 17 Signe Myhren
- 19 Cole Richard Hosgood
Eric Banks
- 21 Jennifer Young
- 22 Betty Hogan
- 25 Robert Fialko
Paul Motoike
Susanna Motoike
Eddie Garcia
- 28 Hailey Noelle Carcich
Alyson Herrick
- 30 Steve Carmody
- 31 Dylan Jorgensen
Avery Young

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Erin & Scott Wallace
- 9 Evelyn & Robert Fialko
- 14 Abigail & Michael Boele
- 21 Terrie & Bill Clark
- 29 Michelle & Stuart Heinzinger

AUGUST



Happy Birthday to:

- 1 Alice Rushforth
William T. Finch
- 3 Samantha Froomjian
- 8 Dana Johnson
Ellis Mae Carrera
Eric Shuler
Olivia Nicheski
- 9 Nancy Chiang
- 12 Richard Relph
- 14 Phillip Catchings
- 18 Bill Clark
- 18 Madelynn Lucille Albowicz
Ryan Joseph Albowicz
- 19 Judy Messmer
- 23 Doris Price
- 26 Anabelle Babington
- 30 Howard Motoike
- 31 Matthew Rushforth

Happy Anniversary

- 1 Karen & John Hernandez
- 5 Gloria & Jon Norton
- 20 Sara & Steven Myers
- 25 James and Karen Berrie

MUSIC

FCCRE Swan Song

In January, 1991, having recently moved to Bergen County from Rockland County, I was teaching music in Fort Lee, but didn't have a church job. Out of the blue, there was that call from Ron Patterson, asking me if I might be interested in auditioning for the position here.

So it began –

I have worked with several pastors here, beginning with Ward Keiser, who was serving as interim, an elegant, kindly gentleman, who welcomed me to this church.

Then came John Danner. The operative word here was drama. We did many musical plays, some written by John, some with music by me, and sometimes even by others – I particularly remember a musical called Bible Folk, which was great fun, and I even got to sing a solo. We also did the Dvorak *Biblical Songs*, and Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*. And John Danner wrote the words, and I composed the music for the River Edge Song, to celebrate our town's centennial.

Next came Paul Bryant-Smith. Kimberly joined the choir, and Paul was always ready to try the newest and latest possibilities in church music. And Paul could play the banjo! So, with our Pilgrim Ringers we were able to do a rendition of Dueling Banjos at one of our Bells and Whistles Concerts.

Then there was Chuck Holm, whose calm and careful presence helped to organize and re-structure the boards and committees of our church. Chuck was totally supportive of our church's music program, and his wife, Gloria, also was a valuable member of the choir. Around this time we started doing one or two cantatas per year.

And finally, Pastor Dennis arrived on the scene, awakening in our church a renewed interest in worship. It has been absolutely wonderful working with Dennis these past five years or more; and with the exception of the 11 ½ years I teamed with my husband, Jon, in Spring Valley, Dennis is the best

pastor with whom I've ever had the honor of working. In addition to excellent preaching, his understanding and appreciation of hymn tunes and texts has made worship so meaningful to all of us who are inspired by music and poetry. Thank, you, Dennis!

Some highlights for me, in addition to worship, have been:

Handbells – playing in worship every month, and for special services; and 19 years of Bells and Whistles Concerts presented as a gift to our community.

Chancel Choir – faithful singing, every week, including summers! Always ready for a challenge. We did Cantatas of all kinds, from *I Hear a Prophet Callin'* to the Vivaldi *Gloria*. We even managed to do a Christmas Cantata in the middle of Covid!

Children – several years of Nowell Choir, and then Journey Ringers and Church School Music, where our youngsters learned the great hymns of the faith, ancient and modern. Thank you to Christian Ed/Faith Formation directors Michelle, Kate, and Nicole, for encouraging and supporting the inclusion of music in the Church School Curriculum.

I've so appreciated the support of Janet and the Worship Team, Nicole in Faith Formation, Arlene, Theresa and now Anne in the office; and of course, Pastor Dennis. And, I can't forget Gene and Helen who have kept us zooming throughout the past 15 months. All have helped to make my work a pleasure.

So, it is not easy for me to leave this place, but I take with me wonderful memories of 30 years making music with my friends, to the Glory of God.

Thank you all!



Dear FCCRE Members and Friends,

I was overwhelmed and humbled by the many expressions of love and gratitude that I received from you on my last Sunday as your Minister of Music.

The children, the choirs, the flowers, the music, the food, the kind words--all were a reminder of the many wonderful experiences we've had together, musically, spiritually, and socially.

I am very grateful for your great generosity toward me at the time of my departure. Thank you to Pastor Dennis, Nicole, Linda, and others for their kind words. Thank you to Joy, Nadia, Kathleen, and Linda, for "The Wind beneath My Wings." Thanks to Anne for dealing with multiple bulletin versions, and helping to coordinate all the parts and pieces of the event. Thanks to those who planned and served the magnificent luncheon, and to all who generously contributed to my gifts.

The love you've shown to Jon and me will go with us to our new home in Schenectady. This isn't really a final goodbye—it's not that far, and we'll probably be back from time to time to see how you're doing.

May God continue to bless you all!

Love, Gloria



STEWARDSHIP



Congratulations to the Congregation of First Congregational Church of River Edge for weathering the storm of a global pandemic!!!

It could have been devastating financially, but we made it through with everyone's help.

Now it's more important than ever to stay the course. Let's keep our momentum.

Are you current with your pledge?

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Joanne Hernandez and Joan and Gene Hammerle on the birth of their granddaughter Sonoma Jo Hernandez born on June 21.

Sonoma is the daughter of Karen and John Hernandez.

EDUCATION

Church School Sunday

The Education Team and I would like to thank all of the children and families involved in making Church School Sunday a wonderful service for all. This was a very unusual year, and our children didn't miss a beat. I am proud of all of them and looking forward to another great year in the fall. Thanks to Mission Team for upgrading our traditional ice cream social to a fabulous send off to Gloria Norton. It was perfect, and we appreciate all of your hard work to make it happen.

Bird Walk



The bird walk was held on June 5 in DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst. Hugh from Hackensack Riverkeeper was very knowledgeable about local bird species, and we all had a relaxing walk despite the heat. I am looking forward to doing another program with Hugh in the future. Thanks to all 11 who attended

Childcare & Children's Message Volunteers

The chance of these two ministries returning in September is good, so please consider volunteering. These little moments with our children are a blessing and could be a great impact on their faith development. I will be reaching out in the coming months, so when I do, please say YES!

~Nicole

A SWEET TREAT



Make this refreshing treat on a hot summer day.



What you need:

- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola or cereal

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet covered with parchment paper, spread yogurt in a thin layer, about ½-inch thick.
2. Drizzle honey evenly over yogurt. Sprinkle granola (or cereal) on top.
3. Freeze about 30 minutes, or until firm.
4. Crack frozen yogurt into pieces and peel away paper. Enjoy!

JULY COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, July 4, 2021

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS – Wayne Placek, Alice Rushforth, Frank Meeks
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Bert Schmitt
ALTAR GUILD – Joan Hammerle, Barbara Walcott
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Helen Koons

Sunday, July 11, 2021

USHERS - ☒ Janet Arena, Marvin Orendain, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Joy Jacobs
ALTAR GUILD – Joan Hammerle, Barbara Walcott
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

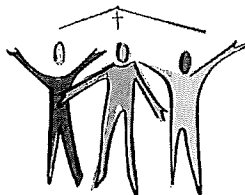
Sunday, July 18, 2021

USHERS - ☒ Wayne Placek, Tom Rushforth, Jeff Keehn
COUNTERS - Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Russell Van Wetering
ALTAR GUILD – Joan Hammerle, Barbara Walcott
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

Sunday, July 25, 2021

USHERS – ☒ Frank Meeks, Inge Reist, Betty Hogan
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Joan Hammerle
ALTAR GUILD – Joan Hammerle, Barbara Walcott
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

☒ **Team Leader**



Welcome!

Greeters and Lemonade on the Lawn volunteers are needed for upcoming weeks and months. Please contact
Russell Van Wetering at 201-261-1795
or email aprilsky@optonline.net.

AUGUST COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, August 1, 2021

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS – Janet Arena, Jane Silane, Frank Meeks
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Kathleen Motoike
ALTAR GUILD – Noreen and Chayse Van Wetering
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Helen Koons

Sunday, August 8, 2021

USHERS - ☒ Wayne Placek, Tom Rushforth, Jeff Keehn
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER– Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Anabelle Babington
ALTAR GUILD – Noreen and Chayse Van Wetering
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

Sunday, August 15, 2021

USHERS - ☒ Frank Meeks, Inge Reist
COUNTERS - Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Frank Meeks
ALTAR GUILD – Noreen and Chayse Van Wetering
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

Sunday, August 22, 2021

USHERS – ☒ Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett, Diane Lento
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Laura Ferrentino
ALTAR GUILD – Noreen and Chayse Van Wetering
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

Sunday, August 29, 2021

USHERS – ☒ Janet Arena, Marvin Orendain, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Jayne Wieboldt
ALTAR GUILD – Noreen and Chayse Van Wetering
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed