

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 7, 2022 – 10:00 AM
*The First Congregational Church of River Edge
welcomes you to our worship service this morning!*



✠ *The congregation may stand, if comfortable doing so. **Bold Text** is spoken in unison by the congregation.*

LIGHT YOUR LAMPS

God calls to us, “Be ready for anything!”

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude

Gordon Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

Get ready, for God comes
at unexpected times in unexpected places.

We’ll expect the unexpected!

Dress for action, for God requires
our hands and feet, here and now.

We’ll put on the clothing of compassion!

Light your lamps, for the world needs to see
God’s light and love.

We are the light of the world!



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Mighty God,
you are always dressed for action.
Quick to forgive and ready to respond,
you grace us with your care and compassion
in so many ways.
Strengthen us to be a people
dressed for action and ready to respond. Amen**

✠ HYMN OF ADORATION #423

Great Is Your Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Patient and loving God, heal our impatience.
When we are foolish and impetuous, calm us down.
When we are hesitant and reticent, push us forward.
When we are unprepared or distracted, bring us back into focus.
Center our hearts and minds on you.
Center our actions and priorities on love and service,
that we may be your people and serve your world
with the same love you've shown to us. Amen.**

(A time for silent confession follows.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (KYRIE)

Go-spo-di, Go-spo-di, Po - mi- luj. Go-spo-di, Go-spo-di, Bo - zhe, Po-mi - luj.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God delights in giving us more grace and mercy
than we could ever possibly imagine.
**Forgiven and accepted, we are deeply loved,
and all is well.**

✠ GLORIA #759

Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spir - it,
Three - in - One; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

✠ PEACE

May the peace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The people offer a sign of peace to one another.

THE WORD OF GOD

AN EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NT pg.225)

THE GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Luke 12:32-40 (NT pg.75)

SERMON

If You're Gonna Eat Desert, Eat It First

The Rev. Bernd Weishaupt

RESPONSE TO GOD

✠ HYMN OF RESPONSE #583

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

AUSTIN

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of Grace

Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love

Charles Dupree

 DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

 PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We thank you for the many gifts
of our lives and our world.
May these gifts, we return to you,
shine like a beacon of love and compassion
to a world in need.
Bless us to be a people of faith and faithful giving,
that we are always ready to see and to serve
where needed. Amen**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(Communion Prayer)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power— and might,
Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
san - na in the high - est, — ho - san - na in the high-est.

(The prayer continues, including intercessions.)

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF FAITH

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

THE COMMUNION

All who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people are invited to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Children are welcome to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at the discretion of their parent/guardian.

In-Person worshipers:

Both elements are in a single container.

Gluten-free options are available by signaling an usher.

At-home worshipers:

Have bread, or similar food item, available, as well as grape juice, wine...or a similar fruit juice.

Partake of the elements available to you, or raise your empty hands toward your mouth in a "Communion of Empty Hands," as if you were receiving the bread and the cup.



HYMN OF PARTING

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

**Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?**

Will you leave yourself behind, if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you, and you in me?

**Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?
Will you see the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you, and you in me?**

**Will you love the ‘you’ you hide, if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you, and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.**

 **BENEDICTION**

Let us go forth in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Basse et dessus de trompette

N. Clerambault

*Assisting God’s people in worship this morning are the Rev. Bernd Weishaupt, worship leader;
Nadia Orendain, liturgist; Gene Hammerle, Marvin Orendain & Helen Koons, technicians;
Slavina Zhelezova, director of music; Kathleen Motoike, soloist; Russell Van Wetering, greeter;
Janet Arena, Jane Silane, ushers;
Noreen Van Wetering, lemonade in the Commons.*

WELCOME! If you are a guest or visitor with us this morning, you are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex, or fill out one of the visitor cards found in your pew. Cards can be placed in the Narthex basket, as you depart after the postlude.

GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS ARE NEEDED - Any member or friend who would like to be a greeter or host lemonade in the Commons is encouraged to do so either as an individual, 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.

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.

The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, August 7, 2022

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| 10:00 am | Worship Service Communion Rev. Bernd Weishaupt |
| 12:30 pm | The Well Church |

Monday, August 8, 2022

Church Office Closed

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| 12:00 pm | Al Anon |
| 7:00 pm | Step by Step – NA |

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

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| 7:00 pm | AA |
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Thursday, August 11, 2022

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| 10:30 am | Staff Meeting |
| 12:00 pm | Dream Team Meeting |

Saturday, August 13, 2022

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| 7:00 pm | AA |
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Sunday, August 14, 2022

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| 10:00 am | Worship Service Rev. Bernd Weishaupt |
| 12:30 pm | The Well Church |

Dear members and friends of First Congregational Church of River Edge,

Leadership Council has been laying the groundwork for a Settled Pastor Search Team and a key initial step was taken on Thursday, May 26th.

Under the guidance of Pastor Bernie, a Steering Team or as Pastor Bernie calls it a “Dream Team”, consisting of members Nicole Babington, Art Caughlan, Diane Lento, Inge Reist and myself met for the first time with the purpose of developing a new Church profile.

A new Church profile is vital not only for our Pastor Search but vital for our congregation as well.

There are core questions for us to ask ourselves - “who we are as a Church? who do we want to be? who is our neighbor? who is God calling us to be?”

The Team is looking at in-depth analysis of the demographics surrounding First Congregational Church and our community – demographics of population, age forecasting, household data, education, cohort groups and preferred worship styles.

With the Team taking on the work of developing a new Church profile it will free the Settled Pastor Search Team to focus on their core work, writing a job description including duties and responsibilities, reviewing resumes, listening to sermons of potential candidates, conducting interviews, second interviews and report to Leadership Council and our congregation.

If any member or friend is interested in serving on the Settled Pastor Search Team (ideally a 7-9 member team) please contact Diane Lento or myself directly.

In closing, I would like to thank Pastor Bernie for being a catalyst in the formation of the Dream Team and I leave you with his words. “Let’s encourage one another and find new hope: challenge the challenges, disrupt the disruptions and make room for new community engagements.”

Respectfully,
Russell Van Wetering, Moderator

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Prayer Concerns – August 7, 2022

Prayers for Those with Health Needs

Joan Hammerle, Willie Jones, Diana Loeffel, Judi Schmitt, Carol & David Kuehne, Arlene & Bill Rudd, Rev. Chuck Holm, Beverly Cannizzaro, Sue Becker, Joe Corona, Adamarie Kendall, Richard Smith, June Seilheimer, Bob Shrekgast, Judy Macht, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hachfeld, Barbara Carr, Maria Bellini, Hank Schroeder, Anthony Mirabile, Carol and Sue, Janet & Nicholas Post, Phil Ceppaglia, Chris Armstrong.

Those in Recovery, Homebound, Assisted Living Residences or Nursing Homes

Bob Fialko, Jean & Victor Babington Sr., Doris & Chet Price, Evelyn Waytowich, Hilma Albrecht, Phyllis Malley, Bob Owens, William Spencer, Joan Sullivan, Bill Finch, Bill Lent.

Serving in the Military

Michael Shuler, Bob Bailey, Andrew Pohl, Noah Dahl

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 / (201) 261-1712

office@fccriveredge.org Website – www.fccriveredge.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Office is **closed**. Tuesday – Thursday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Friday, 9:00 am -12:00 noon

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| Bernd Weishaupt Interim Pastor | <u>revpastor@fccriveredge.org</u> cell 908-347-7806 |
| Slavina Zhelezova Director of Music | <u>szhelezova@fccriveredge.org</u> |
| Nicole Babington Minister for Faith Formation | <u>nbabington@fccriveredge.org</u> 201-956-3435 |
| Anne Cooper Administrative Assistant | <u>office@fccriveredge.org</u> 201-261-1712 |
| Jeff Bernard Financial Secretary | <u>financeoffice@fccriveredge.org</u> 201-538-3563 |