

Deep
In Our
Hearts

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 17, 2024 – 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.*

All are invited to join in fellowship and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

COME TO GOD

The chiming of the hour calls us to quiet our distractions during the Prelude ... and to seek God's coming into our hearts and lives.

PRELUDE	<i>There is a Balm in Gilead</i>	A. Hailstork
INTROIT	<i>Lord, Who Through Forty Days</i>	St. Flavian

**Lord Jesus, who through forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

New life rises!

That which rises, must first fall and die.

Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.

Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

And God will raise us up anew. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus.

The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so.

Amen.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in the dark and sin
 My hand will save.
 I have made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send? **Refrain**

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
 I have borne my people's pain.
 I have wept for love of them.
 They turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 Give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them,
 Whom shall I send? **Refrain**

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame.
 I will set a feast for them.
 My hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide
 Till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Refrain:

***Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard You calling in the night.
 I will go Lord, if You lead me.
 I will hold Your people in my heart.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But, our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen.

(A time for silent confession follows.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (KYRIE)

Lord Have Mercy

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a G minor key (one flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "O Lord have mer - cy, Have mer - cy on us. O — Christ have mer - cy, Have mer - cy on us. O Lord have mer - cy, Have mer - cy on — us." The first staff covers the first two phrases, and the second staff covers the remaining two phrases.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him will have the assurance of his presence with them. Trust that you are you are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with you. In the name of Christ, Amen.

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH

Rev. Craig Peterson

Church School Children, youth and teachers may leave to go to their classes.

 PEACE

Peace be within these walls.

Peace be within our hearts.

Peace be within our world.

Peace be our way in the world.

The people offer a sign of peace to one another.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Because He Lives
Joy Jacobs, soprano

William J. Gaither

THE WORD OF GOD

HEBREW LESSON

JEREMIAH 31:31-34 (OT PG. 735)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

HEBREWS 5:5-10 (NT PG. 220)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 12:20-33 (NT PG.106)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Craig Peterson

RESPONSE TO GOD

 HYMN OF RESPONSE # 471

What a Covenant

LEANING

PASTORAL 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

Jesus Paid It All

Marian Forman

✠ DOXOLOGY

Praise God throughout these forty days,
Praise Christ, our Lord whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us
and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so.
Amen.**

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #77 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

SICILIAN MARINERS

✠ BENEDICTION

God's people, go out and nurture this world so that new life will rise. Let go of that which binds you to distraction and isolation. And look towards your days with the hope of a single grain multiplying into the abundance of God's joy and love. Amen.

✠ CHORAL BENEDICTION

Forty Days and Forty Nights

HEINLEIN

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

POSTLUDE

*This is a time for reflection and prayer, and we invite you to
remain seated in silence until the postlude is ended.*

*Assisting God's people in worship this morning are
Rev. Craig Peterson, Associate Conference Minister;
Slavina Zhelezova, director of music; Joy Jacobs, soloist; Linda Stark, liturgist,
Mickee & Art Caughlan, greeters;
Marvin Orendain & Helen Koons, technicians;
Janet Arena, Marvin Orendain, Janet Masiello, ushers,
Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett, Art Caughlan, counters;
Susie Choi & Brian Leddy, Fellowship Time.*

Flowers

*With love and care for all our friends at FCCRE and in memory of my mom, Gert Miller.
From Betty and Dennis*

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 Fellowship Time 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 Fellowship Hall or please contact Russell Van Wetering directly at aprilsky@optonline.net, or 201-261-1795.

Mission

Welcoming all, our mission is to help nurture and grow faith in God through dynamic, creative, relevant worship and to bring God's word and work into our community. Through our action and bold outreach programs, we set an example of love, acceptance, compassion and support that will stand as a testament to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:7 "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Vision

We are a beacon of hope, a place to grow in love toward God and one another. With joy and energy, we share the teachings of Christ in our church, our community and our world.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid."

The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, March 17, 2024

10:00 am	Worship Service/ Rev. Craig Peterson, Guest Minister/ Church School
11:00 am	Fellowship Time
12:00 pm	Giving Church

Monday, March 18, 2024

12:00 pm	Al-Anon
4:00 pm	ATWAS
7:00 pm	Step by Step

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

7:00 pm	Leadership Council
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Wednesday, March 20, 2024

10:30 am	Staff Meeting
12:00 pm	Brown Bag & Bible
7:00 pm	AA

Thursday, March 21, 2024

7:00 pm	Choir
7:00 pm	AC of A

Saturday, March 23, 2024

9:00 am	Seventh Day Adventist
7:00 pm	AA

Sunday, March 24, 2024

10:00 am	Worship Service/ Pastor Joe Medlin/ Church School
11:00 am	Fellowship Time
12:00 pm	Giving Church



On March 24 join the **Palm Sunday** parade celebrating Jesus' ride into Jerusalem!

From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26 in Fellowship Hall, our 36-foot **Labyrinth** will be fully assembled and open to worshipers and seekers alike. Come walk the path of prayer and contemplation.

March 28 at 7 p.m. is our **Maundy Thursday** service commemorating Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples; communion will be served. In the Tenebrae ["Shadows"] tradition we honor his sacrificial journey to the cross.

March 31 is **Easter Sunday!** We joyously celebrate the risen Christ's triumph over sin and death.



Sunday, March 17, 2024

Prayers for Those with Health Needs

Kathleen Motoike, Sara Myers, Jean Babington, Gloria Holm, Bob Owens, Barbara Wieboldt, Tom Rushforth, Jennifer & Marty Leibowitz, Dona Berg, Tom Canzani, Judi Schmitt, Bob Drummond, Willie Jones, Diana Loeffel, Patricia Murphy, Carol & David Kuehne, Richard Smith, Barbara Carr, Hank Schroeder, Anthony Mirabile, Carol and Sue, Janet & Nicholas Post, Phil Ceppaglia, Mary Foley, Jennifer Hall, Marcia Schroeder, Bob Shreckgast.

Those in Recovery, Homebound, Assisted Living Residences or Nursing homes.

Jean Babington, Doris & Chet Price, Evelyn Waytowich, Phyllis Malley, Bob Owens, William Spencer, 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

email -office@fccriveredge.org Website - www.fccriveredge.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday, 8:45 am – 2:45 pm

Rev. Joe Medlin Pastor	revjmedlin@aol.com 808-785-4822
Slavina Zhelezova Director of Music	szhelezova@fccriveredge.org
Nicole Babington Minister for Faith Formation	nbabington@fccriveredge.org 201-956-3435
Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712
Linda Stark Financial Secretary	financeoffice@fccriveredge.org

LILIES AND HYDRANGEA FOR EASTER



To enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, March 31**, the First Congregational Church of River Edge is offering members and friends, the opportunity to order Easter plants to help complete the décor. Your purchase will commemorate or honor loved ones.

Each contributor may purchase a plant to be picked up after the Easter worship service. If you do not wish to purchase Easter Flowers, you can make a donation for the Flower Fund. The names of donors, and those in memory or honor of the flowers are given will be listed in the Church bulletin.

Checks should be payable to First Congregational Church of River Edge and designated for "Easter flowers," in the memo section of the check. Checks must be received by the Church Office no later than **Friday, March 22**. Please fill in the order form below, and return it with your check to:

First Congregational Church of River Edge
109 Continental Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661



I am ordering:  # _____ **Double Lilies - \$22.00**  # _____ **Hydrangea - \$25.00**

DONOR'S NAME _____ PHONE # _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

INDICATE CHOICE: _____ Take home after the Easter Service
_____ No flowers but please accept my donation to the Flower Fund.

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 22.



**Annual Easter Egg Hunt
At FCC**

Sunday March 24

11:30-1:00

FREE

Games

Treats

Crafts



Easter Bunny visit
Register at fccriveredge.org



First Congregational Church
109 Continental Avenue in River Edge

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWS Kits

Filled with Hope. Packed with Love.

In 1966, Church World Service created a hands-on opportunity for congregations, service groups, businesses and others to come together and love their neighbors in a tangible way. We have been participating in this effort for almost 30 years. CWS Kits are bags of supplies shared with neighbors in need. These small packages which cost \$15.00 or less to purchase are filled with hope and packed with love by volunteers like you.

Here's what is needed. Bring your donations to church and we'll package them up for pick up by CWS in mid-April.

Hygiene Kits:

- One (1) gallon Ziplock® bag
- One hand towel 15"x28" to 16"x32"
- One washcloth
- One wide tooth comb-removed from package & at least 6" of teeth
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from package
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band Aids®



All items must fit inside the Ziplock® bag. Remove excess air from the bag and seal.

School Kits:

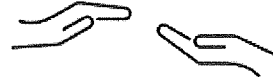
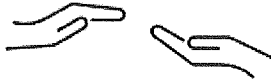
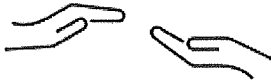
- One pair of blunt scissors – rounded top only and removed from packaging
- Three 70 count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages.
- One 30 centimeter 12" ruler
- One hand held pencil sharpener removed from packaging
- One large eraser
- Six new unsharpened pencils with erasers. Use a rubber band to hold pencils together.
- Crayons – 24 pack
- One 12x14 to 14x17 finished cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles. We will have some available – you bring us the supplies.



If your heart aches for homes brothers and sisters, *you are called* into this moment. If your spirit worries over children who want nothing more than to learn, *you are called* into this moment. If your prayer surround those who have lost everything, *you are called* into this moment.

Thank you for faithfully caring for your neighbors facing difficult times. Your generous gifts will be accepted through April 7.

Gratefully,
Michelle Heinzinger



“Second Sunday” Program Revived/Reimagined!

Friday, April 12 6:00 PM

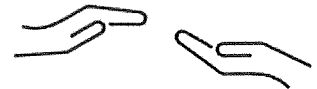
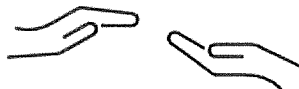
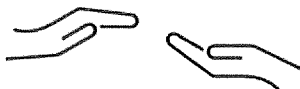
Our long-running dinner program for developmentally challenged adults, halted by the Pandemic, is being revived and reimagined! (*You might have noticed that it moved from Sunday to Friday...*)

Pastor Joe has been in touch with our former attendees. Jayne Wieboldt will oversee the program, based on the “April in Paris” theme.

But we need your help on Friday, April 12th afternoon (**beginning around 4:00 pm**) and evening to:

- Set up decorations and tables.
- Cook the *French-style* string beans and provide desserts. (Main chicken dish is being catered)
- Welcome and serve our guests.
- Assist Jayne and our guests and with the program.
- Help with the cleanup.

Please sign up during Fellowship time or on SignupGenius link to help with this wonderful community outreach.



Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Wainsgate, England, for fifty-four years. Yielding to the persuasion of his parishioners, he declined invitations to move elsewhere. He wrote more than 160 hymns.

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Sicilian melody, 18th century
 The European Magazine and Review, 1792

March 17, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Deep In Our Hearts"

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Jeremiah 31:32

One of the distinct features of many United Church of Christ conferences, associations and congregations compared to other faith communities is their commitment to become Open and Affirming (O&A). O&A is a stance of radical welcome to LGBTQIA+ people. Because church communities have historically been places of hurt and exclusion, it is even more imperative that churches who are Open and Affirming take a strong and public stance.

A little over a year ago, the ONA Coalition welcomed a new executive director, The Rev. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh. According to a UCC news story that came out at the time,* She is the first Black woman to head the coalition. "I am honored and excited for this opportunity," she said. "I realize how important my selection is, and I recognize the magnitude of what this opportunity will mean for the LGBTQIA+ community. I accept this challenge because the coalition has laid the sturdy groundwork to make its next steps forward in reimaging and revisioning, with regeneration as a goal."

Roseboro-Marsh has more than 16 years of experience as a clinician. Her particular focus has been working with clients who identify as LGBTQIA+, as well as those who also identify as African American with an active religious and/or spiritual practice.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Katrina to our team because of her unique voice, energy and experience," said search committee chair and Coalition Leadership Team member the Rev. Derek Terry. "With the current attack on queerness in schools and communities across the country, we feel an obligation to protect and ensure the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Terry added that "while some work to erase the experiences of BIPOC people from the pages of history books," Roseboro-Marsh will "increase our advocacy work through an intentionally more intersectional approach."

Roseboro-Marsh is ordained clergy and holds ministerial standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. She is married to the Rev. Tana Roseboro-Marsh; they reside on the east coast with their Morkie, Xola Darling Roseboro-Marsh.

*<https://www.ucc.org/new-ona-director-global-ministries-exec-among-recent-hires/>



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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