



First Congregational Church of River Edge

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The Rev. Dennis TeBeest, Pastor

August 2020

Dear Church School Families,

I hope that you are having a terrific summer despite the turmoil behind us and the uncertainty that lies ahead. September is almost here and it is time to get ready for the upcoming Church School year. Just like most things these days, it will look a bit different this year. Although we will be using a new curriculum and gathering in a different space, our teachers continue to be committed to providing your children with a comprehensive, fun and nurturing religious education. I am looking forward to a year filled with friends, faith, fellowship and lots of learning in our new environment!

FCC will be welcoming the children back on **Sunday September 20, 2020**. Our teachers will be Commissioned on our first Family Worship service (date TBD.) Please see the attached *In-Person Church School Guidelines* to see our new drop off and pick up procedures.

Our Church School teaches the main tenets of the Christian faith. This includes the appreciation and understanding of our worship, scriptures, rituals, seasons and prayers. It teaches us to follow in the kind footsteps of Jesus. We emphasize caring for and service to others. I am very excited to introduce our new curriculum to the children and hope that it will ignite their curiosity through bible stories and activities.

Our children's choir program has been postponed until it is safe to sing together again. Our Minister of Music will be offering the children an opportunity to make music with the Journey Ringers. Unlike in the past, this will be a **twice a month rehearsal commitment** in order to prepare to perform during our new Family Worship services. Please see the enclosed flyer to pre-register for the Journey Ringers.

Our congregation is committed to creating a church space where everyone feels safe, loved and respected. We follow a "*Safe Church*" policy to prevent abuse or harassment. Those wishing to know more about this policy may obtain a copy of the congregation's "*Trust With Care*" booklet through the church office.

Please be sure to complete the attached Church School Registration form and the Journey Ringers registration form, if necessary, for each child. The Approval of Church School Guidelines form can be filled out one per family. All documents can be filled out, saved then submitted to nbabington@fccriveredge.org. Please be sure to read all the information provided in these attachments.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday, September 20. If you wish to contact me prior to the beginning of Church School, you may email me at nbabington@fccriveredge.org or call 201-261-1712.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Nicole Babington
Minister for Faith Formation