

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 2021

Volume 72, Issue 5



Look ahead

"The spirit of complaint is born out of an unwillingness to trust God with today," says Priscilla Shirer. "Like the Israelites, it means you are spending your time looking back toward Egypt or wishing for the future, all the while missing what God is doing right now."

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Monday, Office is **closed**.

Tuesday through Friday, **9:00 – 4:00 pm**.

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

Phone (201) 261-1712 Website – www.fccriveredge.org

Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

Please like and follow us on the First Congregational Church of River Edge

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Pastor	dtebeest@fccriveredge.org 201-390-5548
Gloria Norton, S.M.M., Minister of Music	glorinor@aol.com
Nicole Babington Minister for Faith Formation	nbabington@fccriveredge.org 201-956-3435
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FIRST THINGS

Chronos and Kairos

If you are saying, “It’s Greek to Me,” you are absolutely right! Chronos and Kairos are both ancient Greek words for time...but distinctly different *types* of time. **Chronos** is *quantitative* time—dates and schedules.

Kairos is all about the *quality* of time—opportune moments or seasons, full of favor and God’s grace. When 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, “now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!”, Paul is talking Kairos time...not a date on the calendar.

As we press further into this Easter season at First Congregational Church, my awareness keeps growing of all the significant chronos and Kairos times that we will step through in the next couple months (*chronos*), and transitions (*Kairos*)!

Please mark June 6—it is such a meaning-*full* date for us. Gloria Norton has announced that this is the last Sunday that she will be with us as our Minister of Music. This Children’s Sunday will be the culmination of 30 years of countless Kairos moments that Gloria has brought to us: direction of wonderful choirs (and formation of wonderful choir fellowship); skilled and evocative leadership at organ and piano (what can Easter Sunday be without Gloria playing Widor’s Toccata?); children’s music education; Bells and Whistles...

Gloria has and hones all the gifts—musical skill, knowledge, creativity, dedication and ceaseless practice (she *certainly* knows how to get to Carnegie Hall!). But what makes Gloria’s presence a true Kairos gift is that she leads with such love—love of the art, and deep love of the people and purpose of FCC. It has been such a joy and privilege for me to be able to share many of these years with Gloria.

Please be sure to use these limited chronos weeks ahead to share in Kairos celebration of Gloria! May she be blessed in her new times with Jon in Schenectady. (Oh, and speaking of Norton times, Jon will be preaching at FCC one

more time on May 10!)

I pray that the coming months can also be celebrating and incorporating Kairos times for you and me. My last Sunday with FCC, prior to my retirement, will be July 11. Although Covid-19 makes our coming together so much more difficult, I long for each opportunity for shared worship and conversation. It has been a gift to be with you.

All of our six years together have been marked by the challenging times of building projects and pandemic restrictions (shut-down began the week after we dedicated our renewed facilities!). These are huge times that we have walked through. But I hope that our time will be more deeply marked by our ministry ventures and a deepening desire to make space for God. I pray that the changes that have come in our time together will strengthen your renewed vibrancy and mission out of this world-changing pandemic time.

Oh--there are some other Kairos moments of grace in my life that I also want to celebrate with you:

- You may be aware that Betty Hogan recently gave me the great gift of accepting my proposal of marriage. I am a very happy person! It is our current hope that will celebrate our wedding short days after my mid-July retirement.
- This also means that it is time (*chronos and Kairos*) for a new home. Betty and I will soon be securing a home in Haddam, Connecticut, near the banks of the Connecticut River. I will take a couple weeks of vacation in June to prepare the house. And we anticipate that moving day will be days after our wedding. Eager and anxious times; I will miss the blessing and rich memories of these years in the parsonage.

These life transitions bring some anxiety, but I pray the Holy Spirit to fill Christ’s Church—FCC (you and me) with opportunity. Let’s take advantage of every moment!

Godspeed,
Pastor Dennis

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM

Emersyn "Emmy" Keehn
April 25, 2021

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.

CARE MINISTRY FUND

In Memory of

Charles "Charlie" Keehn
from Russell and Noreen VanWetering

BUILDING RENOVATION FUND

In Memory of

Charles "Charlie" Keehn
from Robert and Evelyn Fialko

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of

Charles "Charlie" Keehn
from Robert and Audrey Nelson

MEMBERSHIP

Time to say Goodbye...

We are looking for volunteers for a short-term task force to organize a farewell send off for our beloved Minister of Music for over 30 years, Gloria Norton, on June 6th. Please contact Russell Van Wetering at aprilsky@optonline.net or 201 261-1795 if you would like to be part of making this day special for her.

Parting is such sweet sorrow...

As you probably know, July 11, will be Pastor Dennis' last day in the pulpit at First Congregational Church of River Edge. We have been blessed with his spiritual guidance, wisdom, and compassion for close to 6 years. We are looking to put together a short term task force to plan a fitting farewell celebration (late June) to send Dennis and Betty off with our love and appreciation on the next leg of their life's journey.

Please contact Russell Van Wetering at aprilsky@optonline.net or 201 261-1795 if you would like to be part of making this day special for them.



The Care Ministry Team has been an active and vital ministry since its inception in 2018.

The Team stays connected with our members and friends in their care via calls, cards and outdoor open-air visits when the weather permits.

Along with spiritual care and companionship, Care Ministry has provided hot meals for those who have needed short-term assistance as well as plants and or floral arrangements.

A new Care Ministry account has been established and seeded with donations from Care Ministry Team members.

It is hoped that this account will grow with future donations from our congregation so that Care Ministry can best take care of our members and friends with hot meals, shop rite gift cards or a plant to brighten their day.

If any member or friend would like to join this wonderful ministry, please contact me directly.

Thank you,
Russell Van Wetering

MUSIC

*All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
Delight in God whose praise you tell,
Whose presence calls you to rejoice.*



If you've been present in worship, either live or via internet, you know that there has been *plenty good singing* in our church lately. Even though congregational singing has been discouraged for some time, we have been inspired by the musical offerings of Nadia, Bert, Joy, Kathleen, Vic and Anabelle, and we are most grateful to them for their continued participation in our services of worship. We also thank the Chancel Choir for their beautiful recorded offertories, and the Pilgrim Ringers for their joyful ringing. It is a gift and a privilege for us to be able to *make* music, as well as *hear* it. And we look forward to a time when we can again lift our hearts and voices in song.



WORSHIPTEAM

MAY – a month of things great and wonderful.

The Worship Team invites you to share in the many church activities and ways to celebrate our gifts.

May 2 – we celebrate God's love for us with the sharing of Communion and we support the Family Promise Hike for Hope as we walk the town of River Edge together to aid others

May 9 – we celebrate Mother's Day with the women in our lives whom we love and who love us.

May 16 – we celebrate the warmth that comes from God's love for us, the weather softening, the colors of the gardens and the voices we hear both inside and outside

May 23 – we celebrate the new Confirmands as they celebrate with their families and friends

May 30 – we celebrate the heroes of our country who fought for freedoms for all.

The Worship Team celebrates and is thankful for our Pastor, the Reverend Dennis TeBeest and Gloria Norton, Minister of Music.

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.

MAY



- 1 Andrew Keehn
Nicole Babington
3 Jillian Mars
5 Jenna Agerup
6 Kathy Caughlan
7 Cynthia Hamilton
8 Lauren Chormanski O'Connell
Kim Johnson
11 Diane Lento
13 Mia Stawecki
14 Megan Rushforth
15 Thomas John Gervasio
Michelle Heinzinger
16 Hugo Tschudin
19 Jacqueline Lubin
22 Lynn Lanni
24 Stuart Heinzinger
26 Mackenzie Drummond
John Stark
28 Kimberly Thomas

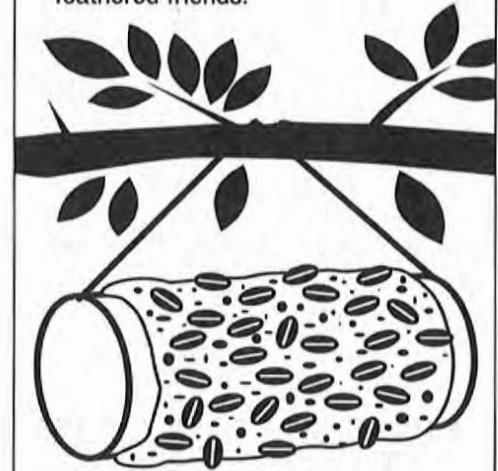
MAY



- 1 Charles & Maryanne Keehn
9 Talli & Bob Sutherland
10 Carole & Frank Meeks
17 Nadia & Marvin Orendain

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

EDUCATION

Church School Happenings

With the new Spring schedules of our children, we have amended class times to include as many children as possible. The last unit of the year will be focusing on the church and the Book of Acts. The children will be learning about how the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and carried Jesus' work to different places. They will hear about how the church began and the importance of serving God. Thanks to the parents for allowing us to share the bible with your children.

Bird Walk June 5



Join me on a leisurely walk with a Director from the Hackensack Riverkeeper program through DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst on June 5 at 10a.m. The well-maintained walking trails will allow us to explore and observe birds in varying habitats including: open water, saltmarsh, mudflats, and uplands. Some of the birds we can expect to see are herons, egrets, waterfowl, Ospreys, lingering shorebirds and a mix of resident songbirds. For many birders - experienced and novice alike - DeKorte is the best birding hotspot within the entire 32 square-mile Hackensack Meadowlands District. Space is limited, so please contact Nicole if interested by May 15 at nbabington@fccriveredge.org or 201-956-3435.

Church School Sunday, June 6

The Education Team is looking forward to celebrating our children in person this year! A Church School Sunday service will be held on Sunday June 6. This church school year has been a challenge for all, so acknowledging everyone's commitment to faith formation is important to me. Please plan on attending in person or on Zoom to witness the joy children bring to our congregation.



Confirmation Luncheon 5/23



It was a joy to be present when the 2020 Confirmation class reaffirmed their faith and became members of the congregation on 2/7/21. Since we could not do the traditional Confirmation breakfast on Confirmation Sunday, the Education Team will be celebrating these wonderful youth after worship on Sunday May 23. RAIN LOCATION: If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will have to re-locate to Fellowship Hall. Due to capacity limits, especially while eating, we are requiring pre-registration. You may sign up here: <https://rsvp.church/r/ELNkBmwg>. Please know that registration is only required in case of rain. All are welcome to the outdoor celebration.

Childcare & Children's Message Volunteers

Currently, there will be no need for childcare or children's message volunteers. The Education team is looking forward to the time when these two priceless ministries can safely return.

~Nicole

Fed by the Father

God loves his little birds; for all
his tender care he shows;
a single sparrow cannot fall
but its Creator knows. ...

God loves each little bird; but still
more tender is his care
for children who obey his will,
than for the fowls of air.

—Anonymous

MAY 2021 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, May 2, 2021

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS – Wayne Placek, Alice Rushforth, Janet Arena
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Don Huggett
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks

Sunday, May 9, 2021

USHERS - ☩ WaynePlacek, Tom Rushforth, Jeff Keehn
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER– Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Betty Hogan
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks

Sunday, May 16, 2021

USHERS - ☩ Betty Hogan, Frank Meeks, Inge Reist
COUNTERS - Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Erin Smith
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks

Sunday, May 23, 2021

USHERS – ☩ Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett, Diane Lento
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETERS – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Frank Meeks
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks

Sunday, May 30, 2021

USHERS – ☩ Janet Arena, Marvin Orendain, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETERS – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Audry Cho
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks

☩ **Team Leader**



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

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest 10:00 Church School 10:00 Pre-Confirmation Class 11:00 Family Promise Hike for Hope</p>	<p>3</p> <p><u>CHURCH OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u></p> <p>12:00 Noon Al-Anon</p> <p>3:00 Worship Team</p> <p>7:30 Step by Step NA</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p> Cinco de Mayo</p> <p>7:00 Virtual Bingo</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Loaves of Love</p> <p>8:30 KWIS</p> <p>7:00 AA</p>
<p>9</p> <p> Mother's Day</p> <p>10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Jon Norton 10:00 Church School 10:00 Pre-Confirmation Class</p>	<p>10</p> <p><u>CHURCH OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u></p> <p>12:00 Noon Al-Anon</p> <p>7:00 Education Team</p> <p>7:30 Step by Step NA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:30 Funds Advisory</p> <p>7:30 Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 Shawl Ministry</p> <p>7:00 Pilgrim Ringers</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 KWIS</p> <p>7:00 AA</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest 10:00 Church School 10:00 Pre-Confirmation Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>CHURCH OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u></p> <p>12:00 Noon Al-Anon</p> <p>7:30 Step by Step NA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 Leadership Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 Virtual Bingo</p> <p>Congregator Deadline</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 KWIS</p> <p>7:00 AA</p>
<p>23</p> <p> PENTECOST SUNDAY</p> <p>10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest 10:00 Church School 11:30 Confirmation Luncheon</p>	<p>24</p> <p><u>CHURCH OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u></p> <p>12:00 Noon Al-Anon</p> <p>7:30 Step by Step NA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 Mission Team</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest 10:00 Church School 10:00 Pre-Confirmation Class</p>	<p>31</p> <p> MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p><u>CHURCH OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u></p> <p>12:00 Noon Al-Anon</p> <p>7:30 Step by Step NA</p>					



Bird Walk

With Hackensack Riverkeeper
At DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst

Saturday June 5 at 10am
Leisurely pace for all ages

Space is limited

Contact Nicole by May 15 if interested
at:

nbabington@fccriveredge.org or

201-956-3435

