

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 2021

Volume 72, Issue 9



Words of welcome

Welcome to worship this Labor Day weekend! The Lord gives a wide array of talents and knowledge to us all so we may serve one another through both paid and unpaid work. Thanks be to God!

“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. ... The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart” (Psalm 19:7-8, NIV). Welcome to worship, where the Word of God refreshes us.

Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship. We gather as beloved children of God, members of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

As our Creator designed green leaves to turn fiery yellow, orange and red, may today's worship rekindle your faith with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Welcome.

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

Pastor Dennis TeBeest
Robert and Evelyn Fialko
Minda King

IN HONOR OF

Betty Hogan
Robert and Evelyn Fialko

IN MEMORY OF

William Brewer
Robert and Evelyn Fialko

IN MEMORY OF Barbara Christiansen

Arrol Sheehan
Hilma Albrecht
Robert and Evelyn Fialko

IN MEMORY OF Barbara Schmidli

Robert and Evelyn Fialko
Minda King

MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF Barbara Schmidli

Russell and Noreen Van Wetering

WORSHIP



The CDC and the Central Atlantic Conference have requested that you wear a face covering.

For everyone's safety, we are requesting that you wear a face covering when you are in our church facility.

Please follow the safety notices on the doors in our church.



As we gather to worship together and to accept the blessings that God sends to us, we see familiar faces and meet newcomers. Join us Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the Sanctuary or by Zoom, as we listen, sing, pray and praise God and God's son, Jesus.

As the cool evenings and autumnal colors will soon usher in a new season, the Worship Team continues to schedule the supply pastors and organists who lead and support our Sunday morning worship service. Thank you for your support as we move through this time of transition.

MEMBERSHIP

It is my hope that this issue of The Congregator finds everyone well and all had an enjoyable, restful summer.

Here at First Congregational we have had a busy summer.

Two farewell parties were held as we sent Gloria (June 6) and Pastor Dennis (July 11) off to enjoy their respective and well-earned retirements.

Thank you to the Mission Team, Nicole Babington and the Education Team, for planning and hosting Gloria's party.

Thank you to Janet Arena, Nicole Babington, Pat Canzani, Anne Cooper, Claudia Drummond, Diane Lento and Nadia Orendain for planning and hosting Pastor Dennis' farewell.

Thank you to anyone who helped with these two special occasions (setting up, decorating, breaking down, etc.) but more importantly thank you to everyone for giving Gloria and Dennis such warm, loving and generous send offs.

We were blessed to have Gloria and Dennis as part of our First Congregational family and we sent them off with our love and gratitude; we will miss them dearly.

Congratulations and blessings to Betty and Dennis on their July 17 nuptials!

The Interim Director of Music Search Team (Pam Weiler-leader, Anabelle Babington, Joy Jacobs, Richard Metz, Marvin Orendain, Alice Rushforth) and the Interim Pastor Search Team (Diane Lento-leader, Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth, Beth Shuler) have commenced their work and are actively reviewing letters of interest, Curriculum Vitae and profiles for the respective positions.

Special thanks to Janet Arena for her committed and diligent work in obtaining pulpit supply (Pastors) and organ supply (Organists) for meaningful worship each and every Sunday while our Search Teams perform their vital work.

Thank you to member Wayne Placek for leading a wonderful worship service, to David Pomeroy, a special friend of our congregation and to all the Pastors and organists who have graced us with their presence.

Hvala (thank you in Croatian) to our Administrative Assistant, Anne Cooper for her work and friendly, professional presence in our Church office while we are in transition.

You are very much appreciated!

Respectfully,
Russell Van Wetering

Save The Date!



New Jersey Devils vs New York Islanders hockey
game at

The Rock

Sunday, April 3, 2022

4:00 pm Face-off

Prudential Center

Section 109

Row 6

Seats 3-12

For tickets/further information please contact Russell
Van Wetering at 201-261-1795 or
aprilsky@optonline.net



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

(Weather permitting)



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.

CAN YOU HELP?



Greeters and hosts are needed for upcoming weeks and months.

Hosts are needed for Fellowship Time tentatively commencing Sunday, September 26.

Please contact Russell Van Wetering at 201-261-1795 or email aprilsky@optonline.net.



CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the October issue of the Congregator is Tuesday, September 21.

MUSIC

The Interim Director of Music Ministry Search Team has met weekly since July 28. The job has been posted, and the search team is in the process of reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates. We look forward to updating you soon.

Music Search Team members:

Anabelle Babington
Joy Jacobs
Richard Metz
Marvin Orendain
Alice Rushforth
Pam Weiler

Dennis and Betty's FCC River Edge Journal



Members and friends have been writing their remembrances, wedding wishes and farewell messages to our newlyweds since their party on July 11. If you have not taken a moment to add to this journal, then please find it in the church office Mon-Fri and, on the round table in The Commons on Sunday. You can also email your message to the church office at office@fccriveredge.org. If you have any photos you would like included, please share.



Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for your well-wishes on our move to Fairfax, Virginia. They worked! James and I have taken two months to settle in and have had lots of heartwarming times with our two sons and their families. Sadly, the pandemic kept us from saying good-bye to you in person, but we've since zoomed a lot of FCCRE church services, hoping to see the faces of our good friends there. You're all such remarkable people and great stewards of the church and its congregation! We still want to be part of that as much as possible. If you come through northern VA, give us a call or email. We'd love to see you. Stay safe, everyone!

James and Janice Hildreth



EDUCATION

Church School Registration

The Education team is excited to welcome the children back to Church School for the 21-22 year! We have the same COVID guidelines in place and plan on using them as needed. Children will continue to meet in Pilgrim Hall as a group while sitting in family pods. Masks will be required indoors and temperature checks for unvaccinated only. Registration packets will be emailed to all families the first week of September. Please return them to Nicole ASAP in order for the teachers to plan accordingly.

Church School Curriculum 21-22

Both teachers and children really enjoyed the new curriculum from last year due to its flexibility and opportunity for engagement. All children ages 3-12 will continue to use One Room Sunday School by Cokesbury. It contains resources and activities tailored to pre-school, younger and older elementary grades. These activities will lead them to a deeper understanding of each Bible story. We will continue to encourage buddy activities in a safe manner. The materials will also allow our teachers to mold the lessons based on the ages of our group. The Pre-Confirmation class will continue to use the **Colaborate** Bible Study by Spark. It contains activities and poses questions that allow the youth to engage with each other and the Bible. We will be studying the New Testament this year.

Welcome Sunday-September 26th

We will be welcoming all church school families and teachers back on Sunday September 26! Our teachers will be commissioned in the sanctuary then all children will be escorted to Pilgrim Hall for some fun activities. Please join us as our children are joyfully welcomed back into the sanctuary!

Childcare & Children's Message Volunteers

It has not been decided whether these two ministries will be back this Church School year.

~Nicole

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



september



			1 7:00 AA	2	3	4 11:30 Memorial Service – Barbara Schmidli 7:00 AA
5 10:00 Worship Service/Communion 11:00 Lemonade on the lawn	6 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 7:00 Education Team 7:00 Step by Step NA	7	8 7:00 AA	9 1:00 Shawl Ministry	10 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	11  7:00 AA
12 Grandparents Day 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Lemonade on the lawn	13 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 4:00 All The World's A Stage 7:00 Step by Step NA	14 10:00 Funds Advisory	15 7:00 AA	16	17 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal 6:45 Boy Scouts 184	18 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
19 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Lemonade on the lawn	20 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 4:00 All The World's A Stage 7:30 Step by Step NA	21 CONGREGATOR DEADLINE 7:00 Leadership Council	22 Autumn Begins 7:00 AA	23	24 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	25 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
26 Welcome Sunday 10:00 Worship Service/ Church School/Child Care 11:00 Lemonade on the lawn	27 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 4:00 All The World's A Stage 7:00 Step by Step NA	28 7:00 Mission Team	29 7:00 AA	30		

GIFT OF THE HEART KITS INFO

*From Michelle L. Heinzinger
President, Women's Fellowship*

It is back to school shopping time and many items needed to complete the *Gift of the Heart School/Health* kits are on sale. Please consider reviewing the lists below and making a purchase for completing a kit or supplies to make one. Donations can be dropped off in the basket in the Church Narthex.

Your generosity will make a world of difference to a school age child or someone who has been affected by devastation in the area where they live. Women's Fellowship thanks you for your support!

To assemble a School Kit, you will need:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages
- **(no loose-leaf or filler paper)**
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

To assemble a Health Kit, you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®
- Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure; remove excess air from bag and seal. Please do not add toothpaste – Church World Service will add this item just prior to shipment.

**Any donations can be dropped off at the church or can be picked up by calling
Michelle at 551-265-2372.**



The Pumpkins are Coming!

Your Help Much Needed!

Many (volunteer) positions available! What is *your* talent?

Help **set up** the tent, help with the procurement of the ingredients for the bakers, help with **publicity**, help **placing the pumpkins**, help **staffing the Patch**, bake, knit,

The Arrival (we hope) – Friday, October 8th

Pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on **Friday, October 8th** (only one delivery). ALL pumpkins will be in bins, like last year's delivery. These bins will be taken off the truck by forklift. (Thank you, Chuck, Keehn Landscaping!)

Oct. 8th Morning - *We will need a few people only to help with the bin unloading*

Oct. 8th Afternoon - After the bins are off the truck, we will need help to take the pumpkins out of the bins and **place** them in rows on the lawn. (working with the volunteer young folk)

Staffing the Patch - Daily From Saturday, Oct. 9th through Sunday, October 31st.

PLEASE PLAN TO GIVE THE CHURCH SOME OF YOUR TIME AT THE PATCH

THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP MOST

Sign-ups online or at the church will be available when we get closer to the date

Questions? Contact Helen Koons helenknkk@aol.com or 201-261-4824



August 19, 2021

First Congregational Church
Russell Van Wetering, Moderator
109 Continental Ave.
River Edge, NJ 07661

Dear Folks of First Congregational Church,

You have given me a great gift of affirmation and encouragement that will not be forgotten!

July, 2021, was one of the most momentous of my life. Marriage was a joy. Moving has been a challenging, but hope-filled undertaking. But your celebration of our shared ministry of the past six years was certainly the greatest surprise and assurance.

Worship on July 11 was very moving and significant for me. You showed great love to me, and to Betty, in your witness there. Then, following worship, the celebration luncheon was an overwhelming surprise. If I sometimes do not realize that I have had some hopeful effect on the lives of others, your feast and feting loudly told me otherwise. You showed me great love and hospitality, and convinced me that we have worked together to advance the Gospel. And then to have it all catered by Casual Habana....you know me so well!

Your gifting was so gracious. The significant cash gift has found its way into a special savings account, awaiting decisions for its best use. Will it go to a major housing project? Or maybe to my Covid-delayed Camino de Santiago pilgrimage? Stay tuned. The long list of contributors to the gift represents such a broad range of a wonderful congregation. And the shadow box of a stone from the old church wall has found its proud place on our den wall.

You have blessed my life these past years...and these past days. Thank you. I will stay in prayer that God's best future continues to unfold for this congregation I love, and in each of your lives. Retirement offers a promising next chapter in our lives (if we can just get this house into shape!), but we miss you!

Godspeed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis TeBeest". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest

SEPTEMBER COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, September 5, 2021

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS – Wayne Placek, Alice Rushforth, Frank Meeks
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Cindy Fordham
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Barbara Walcott

Sunday, September 12, 2021

USHERS - ☒ Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett, Diane Lento
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Richard Metz
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

Sunday, September 19, 2021

USHERS - ☒ Janet Arena, Marvin Orendain, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS - Don Huggett, Jane Silane, Jeff Bernard
GREETER – Russell Van Wetering
LAY READER – Jane Silane
ALTAR GUILD – Carole Meeks
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – Volunteers needed

Sunday, September 26, 2021

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

☒ **Team Leader**



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.



Prayers for Those with Health Needs

Judi Schmitt, Dona Berg, Bob Wieboldt, Joe Corona, Alec Cameron, Jr., Adamarie Kendall, Arlene Rudd, Richard Smith, Diane Pra, June Seilheimer, Joan Sullivan, Judy Macht, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hachfeld, Edwina Arena, Barbara Carr, Peter Armstrong, Nelly Novarro, Bob DiBenedetto, Claire Dewhurst, Carol, and Sue.

Those Homebound, in Assisted Living Residences or in Nursing Homes

Jean & Victor Babington Sr., Doris & Chet Price, Chris Egner, Hilma Albrecht, Phyllis Malley, William Spencer, Mildred Alderdice, Joan Sullivan.

Serving in the Military

Michael Shuler, Bob Bailey

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Office is **closed**. Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 – 4:30 pm.

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

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

Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

CHURCH STAFF

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