

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 2023

Volume 74 Issue 11

The mystic Meister Eckhart wrote, "If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."

During the month of November, we'll be encouraged to reflect on all of God's blessings in our lives and how we might respond in love. There are many ways that we can give back what has been freely given to us. The Thanksgiving offering envelop reminds us to consider our monetary blessings and how we can contribute to the mission of FCC of River Edge.



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."



Dear Church Family,

Amid all the fear and violence in our wounded world, I offer you these words from Mary Oliver's poem, *The Summer Day*.

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?*

Along with other beautiful themes, Oliver encourages us to pause and embrace the sacredness of our lives. Her urgent message is life-giving, especially when the temptation is to be enthralled by chaos and death. She seems to be saying that despite all circumstances, grace is forever before us, inviting us to take notice.

Mystical theologians consider this the sacrament of the present moment. Leonardo Boff writes, "If God is the Absolute, then everything in existence is a revelation of God. For those who experience God as alive in this way, the immanent world becomes transparent, allowing this divine, transcendent reality to shine through it."

According to the Gospels, Jesus often sought out the sacred among the suffering of humanity. He gravitated toward folks whom society considered the undesirable and unlovable. And they were usually the poorest. As Gerald Straub writes, "Jesus embraced and loved the poor and rejected. For Jesus, the poor are sacraments, because they offer a direct way to encounter God...Jesus makes it abundantly clear that God is to be found in the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned, the homeless, and the downtrodden."

As people of faith, we're invited each day to experience the sacredness of our lives. Instead of surrendering to despair and hopelessness, we are encouraged to embrace and love the living incarnate of God among us. And while we continue to follow the way of Jesus, life will lead us to people and places that deepen our awareness, compassion, and love for all of God's creation. It is here that we'll find strength and encouragement for the journey.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Joe

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.



In Memory of Victor Babington Sr.

Memorial

Bill & Christine Hamilton
Donna & Howard Kapp

In Memory of June Seilheimer

Memorial

Pamela Beard, Ronny Seilheimer & Kyle Seilheimer

In Honor of Anne Cooper

Music & Arts Fund

Gloria & Jon Norton

WORSHIP

WORSHIP
with us

We gather together on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Greet neighbors, friends, and visitors before settling in for an hour of worshiping God in word, prayer, and song. Listen to beautiful music, hear an inspired and thought-provoking message, celebrate our children and youth, sing with vigor, pray with expectation. Experience the Holy Spirit's presence in our beautiful sanctuary.

If you can't join us in person, worship on Zoom! If you are not yet receiving the link in the Thursday email blast, send your request to be put on the list to office@fccriveredge.org.

Links to past recorded services can be found on our website, fccriveredge.org.

Thank you

Every Sunday is special!

Thanks to....

Colombian-born musician
Juan Ospina, who through his
Allegre ("happy") drum of

African origin was the heartbeat of our October 1 World Communion service. He encouraged us to learn about San Basilio de Palenque, founded in 1619 as the first free African town in the Americas, and after the service led a rhythm and drumming class for our youth. "*O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*" Psalm 95:1

The Reverend Joe Medlin, who was honored October 8, Pastor Appreciation Sunday, for guiding us on our journeys of faith. "*Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*" Hebrews 13:7

Soloist **Kate Lento** who on October 8, also Disabilities Awareness Sunday, sang so *joyously* her beautiful rendition of Joy to the World. "Let all their songs employ!"

Lay preacher **Wayne Placek** for inspiring us with his sermon, *A Message*, on Laity Sunday October 15. "The opposite of fear is faith."

"*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*" Psalm 27:14



"Fall back!" Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends **November 5, All Saints Sunday**. What will

you do with your extra weekend hour? Worship with us, of course! at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) as we grieve, remember, and honor the saints who entered their eternal rest in the past year.

All hands on
DECK THE HALLS!

Please join the
Worship and

Education Teams as we adorn the sanctuary with greens, wreaths, and candles following the celebration of the **Reign of Christ on Sunday, November 26**. Get a sneak peak of our new Chrismon tree!

Happy New Year! The liturgical year starts with the **First Sunday of Advent on December 5**.



NOVEMBER COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, November 5, 2023

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS – ☒ Janet Arena, Michelle Heinzinger
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan
GREETER(S) – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Jayne Wieboldt
ALTAR GUILD – Barbara Walcott
FELLOWSHIP TIME- Volunteers needed

Sunday, November 12, 2023

USHERS – ☒ Richard Metz, Inge Reist, Noreen Van Wetering
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan
GREETER(S) – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Nadia Orendain
ALTAR GUILD – Barbara Walcott
FELLOWSHIP TIME- Orendain Family

Sunday, November 19, 2023

USHERS - ☒ Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett, Diane Lento
COUNTERS – Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan
GREETER(S) – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Anabelle Babington
ALTAR GUILD – Barbara Walcott
FELLOWSHIP TIME- Stewardship Team

Sunday, November 26, 2023

USHERS - ☒ Janet Arena, Marvin Orendain, Janet Masiello
COUNTERS - Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan
GREETER(S) – Volunteers needed
LAY READER – Chayse Van Wetering
ALTAR GUILD – Barbara Walcott
FELLOWSHIP TIME- Volunteers needed

☒ Team Leader

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



Altar Flowers

Celebrating a special occasion or honoring a friend or loved one? Share altar flowers for one of our worship services! Contact the church office at 201-261-1712 or email office@fccriveredge.org to check on available dates. The cost is \$25, and the deadline for ordering is the Sunday prior to their being placed on the altar.

Joys/Concerns

Each Sunday, on the table to the right of the double doors to the Sanctuary, there is a place for you to write any prayer requests that you might want included during the service.

MEMBERSHIP



As we find our way back from Pumpkin Patch to FCC River Edge, please consider **Greeting** on Sunday morning or hosting **Fellowship Time** after worship service.

All one needs to **Greet** is a friendly smile and a warm welcome.

Hosting Fellowship Time is wonderful time of fellowship with our members, friends and visitors. Please consider hosting as an individual, with friends/other members or as a family!

Hosting is a fun and rewarding experience.

Russell Van Wetering



Montréal Canadiens vs New Jersey Devils



NIGHT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEVILS



SAT | FEB 24 | 12:30 PM

GROUP PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- \$79 per ticket in 100 Level Attack
- Block Seating
- All Under 18 Receives Devils Drawstring Bag
- Group Recognition on Scoreboard

Date: Saturday February 24, 2024

Time: 12:30pm

Location: The Rock – Prudential Center, Newark, NJ

10 Tickets at \$79 per are available

Section 107

Row 12

Seats 1-10

An afternoon of fellowship, hockey, fun and laughs are guaranteed!

Hockey tickets make excellent Christmas gifts (stocking stuffers too) or Valentine’s gifts!

Please contact Russell Van Wetering at 201-960-1075 or aprilsky@optonline.net for volunteering opportunities and/or hockey tickets.

Thank You!

Russell



celebration of life

*In Loving Memory of
Pastor Bernd Weishaupt*



Saturday, November 18, 2023

11:00 am

Trinity UCC

Mt. Bethel, PA

2023

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

 **November**



				<p>1 All Saints Day 12:00 Brown Bags & Bible 7:00 AA</p>	<p>2 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Cantata Choir 8:15 Pilgrim Ringers</p>	<p>3 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum</p>	<p>4 8:30 KWIS 9:00 Seventh Day Adventist 7:00 AA</p>
<p>5 10:00 Worship Service/Communion/ Pastor Joe Medlin/ Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>6 <u>Church Office Closed</u> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 4:00 All The World's A Stage 7:00 Step by Step NA 7:00 Worship Team</p>	<p>7 Election Day 7:00 Education Team</p>	<p>8 9:30 Funds Advisory 12:00 Brown Bags & Bible 7:00 AA</p>	<p>9 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Cantata Choir 7:30 RE Swim Club</p>	<p>10 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum</p>	<p>11 8:30 KWIS 9:00 Seventh Day Adventist 11:00 Celebration of Life for Pastor Bernie, Trinity UCC in Mt. Bethel, PA 7:00 AA</p>	
<p>12 10:00 Worship Service/ Pastor Joe Medlin/ Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>13 <u>Church Office Closed</u> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 4:00 All The World's A Stage 7:00 Step by Step NA</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 12:00 Brown Bags & Bible 7:00 AA</p>	<p>16 CONGREGATOR DEADLINE 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Cantata Choir 8:15 Pilgrim Ringers</p>	<p>17 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum</p>	<p>18 8:30 KWIS 9:00 Seventh Day Adventist 7:00 AA</p>	
<p>19 10:00 Worship Service/ Pastor Joe Medlin/ Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>20 <u>Church Office Closed</u> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 4:00 All The World's A Stage 7:30 Step by Step NA</p>	<p>21 7:00 Leadership Council</p>	<p>22 12:00 Brown Bags & Bible 7:00 AA</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>24 <u>Church Office Closed</u> 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum</p>	<p>25 8:30 KWIS 9:00 Seventh Day Adventist 7:00 AA</p>	
<p>26 Reign of Christ 10:00 Worship Service/ Pastor Joe Medlin/ Church School 11:00 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>27 <u>Church Office Closed</u> 12:00 Noon Al-Anon 4:00 All The World's A Stage 7:30 Step by Step NA</p>	<p>28 7:00 Mission Team</p>	<p>29 12:00 Brown Bags & Bible 7:00 AA</p>	<p>30 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Cantata Choir</p>			

MISSION TEAM

All Wrapped Up – Adopt-a-Family November~December Outreach

We will once again be ‘adopting’ some of our struggling Bergen County neighbors for Christmas. Their gift ‘wish lists’ (needs lists) should be available by early November, with gifts due back to the church by the first Sunday in December.

In the past, we have adopted many single moms and their children, as well as grandparents, often with health issues themselves, working to raise their grandchildren. So please be prepared to select a child, or parent/grandparent and give them a little extra.

Let’s work together to make Christmas joyous for these struggling families.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Nuts On The Way!



The H.M. Thames Pecan Company of Georgia has advised us the mammoth pecans will be picked soon. They should arrive in mid-November, just in time for holiday baking. Once you have tried them, you will agree that these golden, crunchy pecans are the best you have ever tasted.

We will also offer the gourmet mix of pecan halves, cashews, brazil and hazel nuts and large almonds. As we have a limited number, please call me at 201-265-9057 to reserve your order. Delivery arrangements can be made if necessary.

Happy baking and snacking,

Michelle Heinzinger



“If you have enough, build a bigger table.....”

On Tuesday, November 21st FCCRE will be teaming up with Jennifer Anderson, manager of Metropolitan Farm in Closter, NJ to provide 100 Thanksgiving dinners to people in need. To enable her to double her outreach, we’ve invited Jen into our kitchen and will provide her with food preparation volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to this worthwhile cause, please contact the church office at 201-261-1712. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Phillips at 201-696-8403. Donations may be dropped off or by Venmo.

Jennifer Anderson
@farmgirlthanksgiving



venmo

If you know someone in need who would appreciate receiving a meal, please contact the church office.

Thank you for helping to build a bigger table!

SHAWL MINISTRY



The next meeting of the Shawl Ministry will take place on **Thursday, November 9, at 1:30 pm.**

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us in making shawls...or bring your current yarn project and spend a relaxing afternoon in the Commons with us. Everyone is welcome.

FCCRE November 2023 MUSIC MINISTRY



Dear FCCRE family,

We had a wonderful October full of music! The newly refurbished bells made their comeback and y'all got to hear them last Sunday!

On World Communion Sunday we welcomed a special guest, Juan Ospina, who introduced us to the meaningful drumming tradition of Colombia. Juan did a drumming circle workshop with the children (and some adults!) - check out some pictures below!

On disability awareness Sunday, you heard music by Maurice Ravel, who suffered by a fast-progressing brain disease and yet produced some of his most powerful work during those last years, including the Concerto in G, a movement of which you heard in the service. We heard music by George Handel who went blind towards the end of his life, by Schumann, who suffered by mental illness all his life. We also heard music by John Rutter, who struggled from a debilitating post-viral syndrome, but managed to compose and accept commissions. His condition has finally started to get more attention and awareness, partially thanks to the pandemic.

We were also blessed by the touching performance of our own Kate Lento (photo below!). Bringing awareness and acceptance to individuals with disabilities and using music as a unifying force to include communities that have been excluded and underrepresented, has been a vital part of the FCC music ministry.

With peace and love,
Slavina

Important announcement!

River Crossing Concerts' Nov 5th event has been postponed. Expect a 2024 programming update soon.

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Thursdays

- 7-8- pm Chancel Choir
- 8:15-9:15pm Pilgrim Ringers (every other Thursday)

Sundays

- 9:15-9:45am Chancel Choir
- 11:15-11:45am Carol Choir
- 11:45-12:15 Nowell Choir

Upcoming dates

Thursday, November 2

- Cantata Choir begins rehearsal

Sunday, November 19

- Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, December 17

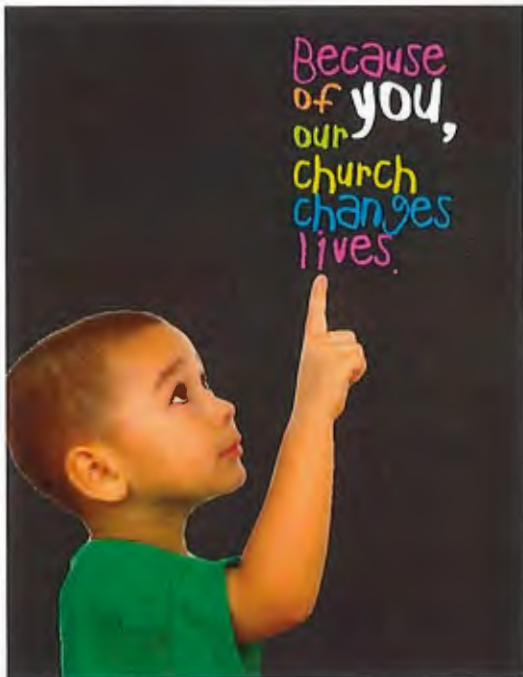
- Choral Cantata

Sunday, December 24, 4PM

- Christmas Eve Service



Because of **You** our church changes lives.



The next few weeks we will hear testimonials during worship service as moving reminders of the many ways in which our church changes lives.

The work of our church can happen because of the generous financial and volunteer support of our community.

Because of you, our congregation changes lives!

Our gifts to our congregation grow from our appreciation of the lives we touch. Generosity in all its forms comes as our expression of gratitude for this community. We hope you will join us in making a commitment to give this coming year.

We ask everyone to think in a particular and prayerful way this coming month

about the choices we make with our money in support of our church – the First Congregational Church of River Edge. The time of reflection will culminate on **Stewardship Sunday - November 19!** As part of our celebration, we hope you will join us for service and fellowship time afterwards.

With Gratitude,

Your Stewardship Team



For **CHURCH RECORDS** Envelope # _____ (for office use)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I plan to give \$ _____ each week month beginning _____

for an annual total of \$ _____ (date and year)

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church officer.

I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

For **YOUR RECORDS**

Date: _____

With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

I plan to give \$ _____ beginning _____ (date and year)

Each week month

Annual Total \$ _____

Because of **You** our church changes lives.

November Food & Supplies Drive



A food drive is planned from October 29 through November 15 just in time for Thanksgiving. All Congregation Members and Friends are invited to drop off non-perishable food items in the Entryway. Children can bring their donations to church school. This could be a physical reminder to all of us of how very fortunate we are and our need to share our good fortune with others. It is so important that we show support to our neighbors in need and spread God's light and love. Thank you in advance!

Donations will be delivered to the CFA in Englewood. Urgently needed items are:

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Tomato Sauce

Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)

Canned Fruits, Vegetables & tomatoes

Macaroni & Cheese

Diapers (size 4,5,6) & wipes

Dried beans

Instant Formula/Baby Food

Canned pasta, stews, chili and hearty Soup

Dental Hygiene Products

Pasta/instant potatoes/rice

100% Juice

Powdered milk and/or boxed milk (Parmalat)

Bar & bottled soap/shampoo/body wash

Cold cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix

Canned cat & dog food

Toilet paper/paper towels

Low sodium/low sugar foods

And remember, **no glass containers** and please check the **expiration dates**. I would like to thank everyone in advance for their generous donations.



~Nicole

EDUCATION

Blessing of the Animals at River Edge Day

FCC took this opportunity to share what we have to offer to the families in town. Pastor Joe gladly blessed at least 25 family pets and had a chance to speak to our neighbors. I'm sorry I missed it but am very grateful for Pastor Joe, Claudia Drummond, Mackenzie Drummond, the Van Wetering family and Diane Lento for helping out and representing FCC! Special thanks to Helen Koon and Pam Weiler for generously donating to our raffle baskets.

Confirmation Class Retreat weekend

Vic and I had the pleasure of spending a weekend in PA with our Confirmation youth. We made a stop at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia to visit the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel. She was a philanthropist and educator who founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, a religious order serving black and indigenous Americans in 1891. St. Drexel was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. The class visited the many altars surrounding the sanctuary as well as the beautiful confessional booths. We had cheese steaks before heading to Bensalem, PA. We attended a worship service at the Christian Life Center then a concert from Christian singer Anne Wilson. Our Confirmands learned about difference worship styles as well as different religious practices. This was a faith building experience for all of us!

Sight and Sound Theater Matinee: Noah

We hosted "Noah", the first in a series of theatrical performances, on Sunday 10/22 in The Commons. All 12 attendees enjoyed the amazing production of the story of Noah with live animals and an unbelievable ark right on stage! Movie theater refreshments were served. Keep an eye out for the next in the series of Sight and Sound productions coming soon!

Sanctuary Decorating

In preparation for the upcoming Advent season, the Worship and Education teams will be decorating the sanctuary after worship on Sunday November 26. This is in an effort to get our worship space "in the spirit" before the first Sunday of Advent on December 3. Please stick around after worship to help *hang the greens*. Any help is appreciated and there will be a job for everyone!

Chrismon Service 2023

Please join the Education Team at our 51st Chrismon service on Sunday, December 10th during our 10am worship service. I'm very excited to be able to share this tradition with our new families, so don't miss it! As always, we will be placing ornaments on the sanctuary tree as well as collecting unwrapped gifts of clothing and toys for children in need.

Chrismons 2023

Chrismon ornaments are Christian symbols that remind us of Christ's glory. These symbols are important to FCC's tradition of celebrating the holiday season. This year, the Education team has chosen the star which reminds us of the Holy Light that led the Magi to the manger and still leads people to Christ today. We will begin selling mid-November during Fellowship Time and in the Entryway.

Church School Volunteers

The Education Team is in need of a few church school volunteers to fill in when a teacher is not available on Sunday morning. When the youth reach a certain age, it is important to separate them from the younger youth in order to give them a more focused lesson and time to engage with each other. It's difficult to do that when we have to bring the whole group together due to the absence of a teacher. I will have some Confirmation commitments that bring me away from our church on Sunday mornings, so my Jr. Youth class will need a substitute. We have our curriculum in advance, so volunteers have time to plan if a teacher is scheduled to be off. Please consider getting involved in the faith development of our children.

Childcare 2023-24

If FCC wants to accommodate young families, we have to begin to offer childcare on Sunday mornings once again. This is a great opportunity to get to know our littlest members and to hopefully accommodate some new families. This invaluable ministry gives parents the opportunity to worship while their young children are being properly supervised. This is a very small commitment that could be the deciding factor as to whether a young family attends church or not. These little moments with our children are a blessing and could be a great impact on their faith development. Remember that supporting young families will help us grow!



- 1 John Kuharetz
- 2 Jillian Keates Lee
- 4 Don Huggett
- 5 Alex Reist
- 6 Chuck Keehn
Ruth Tschudin
Dylan Shirk
- 7 Hannah Rose Garcia
- 8 Delaney Morgan
- 12 Ashley Herrick
Elijah Orendain
- 14 Chet Price
Jean Babington
Michael Shuler
Giovanna Lisette Ferrentino
- 17 Marvin Orendain
- 18 Nicholas Heinzinger
- 20 Dylan Michael Shirk
- 21 Kristen Ricciardelli
- 22 Kate Arena
- 24 Blair Griffin
- 25 Olivia Bertuzzi
Charles Bertuzzi
- 26 Jason Keehn
Connie Doerner
- 29 John Braden
Susie Choi



- 6 - Willard & Joann Wilson
- 10 - Ruth & Hugo Tschudin
- 13 - Barbara & Rob Parks
- 24 - Christine & William Hamilton
- 28 - Janet & Barry Arena

Special dates

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2023*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 5, 2023*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2023*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 23, 2023*

The deadline for the December Congregator is Thursday, November 16th.

Puzzle!

Although the Bible doesn't mention turkey feasts, the gospels do describe a miracle dinner that made thousands of hungry people thankful (see Matthew 14:13-21). Fill in the words to complete a poem about that meal.

Hint: Each pair of line endings should rhyme.



- | | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|------|
| ate | faces | quest | then |
| began | late | ran | ton |
| bunch | lunch | rest | true |
| done | men | spaces | you |

Jesus was tired and went to find _____.
 So away from the crowd he started his _____.
 It came to an end before it _____.
 The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and they _____.
 His boat pulled ashore, and he looked at their _____.
 Five thousand men, plus families, filled all open _____.
 And so Jesus spoke, and he taught until _____.
 The disciples told him it was time they all _____.
 Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____.
 And feeding this crowd is now up to _____."
 Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____.
 What would they do? They'd need a whole _____.
 But then a young boy came and offered his _____.
 Five loaves and two fish to feed this big _____?
 Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____ ...
 it fed all the women, the children and _____.

Answer: rest, quest, bunch, then, men, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men, 'at, ate, late, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you,

If you are interested in signing up for a Sunday or two, please contact me or go to this sign up genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AAEAC22A02-fccchildcare>

Intergenerational Opportunity



In case this has gone unnoticed, I have an admiration for children. I really believe that we are role models to them in every situation, good or bad, fun or stressful. I would love to have members of the congregation share stories or experiences about their faith development or life experiences with our children. I attempted to try this a few years back, but I had no takers. This is the perfect opportunity to engage with our youth. If you think you have a story to tell, please let me know! Keep in mind you will be sharing during church school at 10am on Sunday morning.

NEW-Puzzle Exchange

Jigsaw puzzles are a fun activity for families to do together plus they are great for our mental health! I will be setting up a puzzle exchange (probably in The Commons) where you can take a puzzle home or share a puzzle that you no longer need. I have a bunch to get us started, so join in the fun!



WANTED: VBS 2024 Team

Hosting a VBS is a great opportunity to extend our faith out into the community. We had a successful VBS back in 2019 with 25 children attending, but it wasn't easy. I had a planning team of two (thanks Heather) and a handful of volunteers sprinkled throughout the set up process and the actual 5 day event. It was overwhelming, stressful and very costly since we had a skeleton crew to make it happen. I'd like to give it a try again in 2024, but will need a team of volunteers committed to making it a valuable experience for the children of our community. In addition to a **Co-Director** to assist with planning and leading the VBS, I will also need:

Planning team-At least three volunteers to assist with the planning of this event. Choosing the date, the theme and securing volunteers to lead:

Registration/Promotion

Volunteer recruiting/training

Decorations

We will need **group leaders** for the event, that's 1 volunteer for every 8 children to lead them through the stations. **Station leaders** are needed to run each station, probably 4-6 depending on the VBS we choose. The intention is for these leaders to independently plan for their station with the guidance of me and the Co-Director.

Volunteers for set-up, clean-up, media, photography and snacks are also needed.

My intention is to get a planning team together this Fall to start this huge adventure. Please contact me if you are interested in helping at nbabington@fccriveredge.org.

~Nicole

Blessing of the Animals at River Edge Day

by Claudia Drummond



More than 25 furry friends stopped for a special prayer offered by Pastor Joe during our Blessing of the Animals event held during last month's River Edge Day. In addition, pet-less passersby were also greeted by Joe,

Solomon and some church members who joined the fun.

The festive atmosphere was also a chance for our River Edge neighbors to learn more about our church and our offerings. Gift baskets were raffled off to two lucky winners.

All in all, it was a 5 paw event!





Prayers for Those with Health Needs.

Stuart Heinzinger, Tom Rushforth, Jennifer & Marty Leibowitz, Dona Berg, Tom Canzani, Jean Babington, Judi Schmitt, Bob Drummond, Willie Jones, Diana Loeffel, Patricia Murphy, Carol & David Kuehne, Joe Corona, Richard Smith, Judy Macht, Barbara Carr, Hank Schroeder, Anthony Mirabile, Carol and Sue, Janet & Nicholas Post, Phil Ceppaglia, Mary Foley, Jennifer Hall, Marcia Schroeder.

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, Justin Greenberg, Matthew Agrusti.

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, closed. Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

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