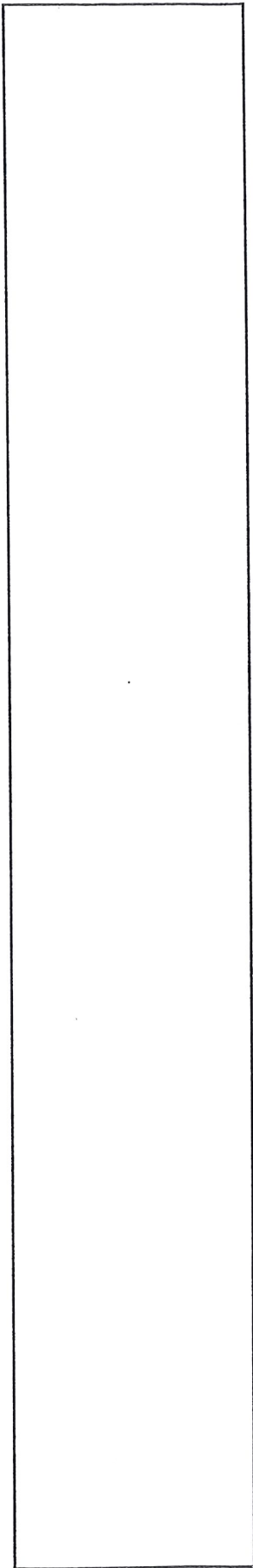
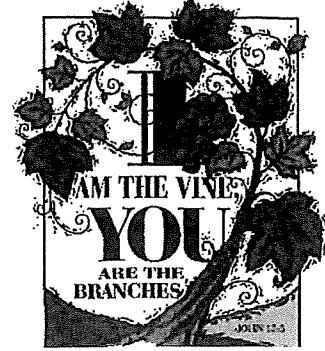


Abiding in

LOVE



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY
APRIL 28, 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 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

Celebration Fanfare
Performed by the Pilgrim Ringers

Jason W. Krug

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, our God, we seek you- our souls thirst for you
Dry are weary, we faint for your presence.
We come to the sanctuary to praise you.
We lift up our hands and call on your name.
Our souls are satisfied in you.
Our mouths praise you as a rich feast.
We meditate on you in the watches of the night.
On our beds we remember your constant help.
In the shadow of your wings we sing for joy.
And our souls cling to the hand of your love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Thirsty, we come to you. Faint, we lean on you. Meditating, we dwell in you. Wing-shadowed, we sing to you. Turn to us in our need with your abundant grace. Gift us as we worship with a fragrant blessing of Spirit. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Waterfall God, God of bright sparkling Spirit—we confess that your word has dried up in our hearts and that we let ourselves become spiritually thirsty. We confess that love and hope and peace do not pour out from us into the lives of friends and strangers. We confess that we withhold blessings from others because they don't fit our definitions. Open the floodgates of your Spirit—wash our lives with your streams of healing. Amen.

(A time for silent confession follows.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (KYRIE) *Lord, Have Mercy*

English Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

The musical notation consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains two phrases of the text. The second system contains a longer phrase with a melisma over the word 'mercy'.


Text: early Greek
Music: Russian Orthodox liturgy

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give
thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

The musical notation is on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps and a 2/2 time signature. The text is written below the notes.

 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

Called to the Light

Jason W. Krug

Performed by the Pilgrim Ringers

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH

Pastor Joe Medlin

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

THE WORD OF GOD

EPISTLE LESSON

PSALM 22:25-31 (*OT PG. 501*)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 15:1-8 (*NT PG. 109*)


The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Joe Medlin

RESPONSE TO GOD

 HYMN OF RESPONSE # 517 *I Need You Every Hour*

NEED

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

Morning Has Broken

arr. A. Clarke

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries in the days ahead that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

✠ CLOSING HYMN #80

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

ELLERS

✠ BENEDICTION

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 Joe Medlin, worship leader;
Slavina Zhelezova, director of music;
The Pilgrim Ringers, directed by Slavina Zhelezova;
Chayse Van Wetering, liturgist;
Gene and Joan Hammerle, greeters;
Gene Hammerle & Marvin Orendain, technicians;
Wayne Placek, Tom Rushforth, Jeff Keehn, ushers;
Don Huggett, Tom Rushforth, Art Caughlan; counters;
The Pilgrim Ringers, Fellowship Time*

Leadership Council is calling a special Congregational Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Congregational Church of River Edge today, **Sunday April 28, 2024** immediately following morning worship service.

The purpose of this meeting will be the election of Michelle Heinzinger and Richard Metz to Leadership Council.

If applicable, the Task Force charged with the review and revisions of our by-laws will present the proposed by-law changes for membership to vote on.

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, April 28, 2024

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

Monday, April 29, 2024

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

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

12:00 pm	Brown Bags & Bible
1:00 pm	Worship Team
7:00 pm	AA

Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00 pm	Choir
7:00 pm	AC of A
7:30 pm	RE Swim Club
8:00 pm	Bells

Friday, May 3, 2024

7:00 pm	Tri-County Bag Pipers
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Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:30 am	KWIS
9:00 am	Seventh Day Adventist
7:00 pm	AA

Sunday, May 5, 2024

10:00 am	Worship Service/ Rev. Cheryl Daniel/Communion Church School
11:00 am	Fellowship Time
11:30 am	Hike For Hope Registration Begins
12:00 pm	Giving Church
12:30 pm	Hike For Hope



Sunday, April 28, 2024

Prayers for Those with Health Needs

Kathleen Motoike, Jean Babington, 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, Maria Meeks.

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

PASTOR JOE OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 1:00pm

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
Keri Lampey Office Manager	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712
Linda Stark Financial Secretary	financeoffice@fccriveredge.org

Family Promise Hike for Hope Let's Walk to Keep Helen's Legacy Alive

This year's Family Promise of Bergen County "Hike for Hope" will be held on **Sunday, May 5th** at Van Neste Square Ridgewood. Registration begins at 11:30 am and the walk starts at 12:30 pm. The cost for registration is \$30.00 for ages 12-up, \$15.00 for children 6-11 and children 5 and under are free.


You can join our team, **First Congregational Flyers** or give a donation towards our fundraising efforts at Sunday worship fellowship time through May 5th. If you would like to participate or donate towards the team but unable to attend worship services you can go to our church team link <https://p2p.onecause.com/hikeforhope24/team/first-congregational-flyers-4> and either click on the Tab "Join Team" or "Donate" and follow the instructions. You can also send a check made out "First Congregational Church of River Edge" and indicate in the menu line "Hike for Hope" and mail/drop off to the church office. All proceeds from the Hike for Hope benefit Family Promise's vital programs for working families with children facing homelessness and hunger in Bergen County.

On behalf of the Mission Team of FCC of River Edge and the Team members of First Congregational Flyers, we thank you for your support and for honoring Helen Koons legacy.





20th Annual

JERSEY 
JUBILATION
Handbell Choir

Ring in the Spring!

SUNDAY MAY 5TH | 4 PM

FRIDAY MAY 17TH | 8 PM



Ridgewood United Methodist Church
100 Dayton Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

FREEWILL OFFERING
SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

WWW.JERSEYJUBILATION.ORG
201-447-2751

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
TO BE SERVED



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come; al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-mega be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

I Need You Every Hour

Annie S. Hawks, 1872; alt.
Refrain added by Robert Lowry, 1872; alt.

1 I need you ev - ery hour, O God of grace;
2 I need you ev - ery hour, in faith or fear;
3 I need you ev - ery hour, in joy or pain;
4 I need you ev - ery hour; teach me your will,

the peace your voice af - fords, I now em - brace.
temp - ta - tions lose their power when you are near.
come quick - ly and a - bide or life is vain.
and your rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.

Refrain

I need you, how I need you! Ev - ery hour I need you;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior; I come to you.

First sung at a convention of the National Baptist Sunday School Association, this hymn was used by Dwight Moody and Ira Sankey in both England and the United States. Annie S. Hawks, a Baptist, was the author of some 400 hymns.

Tune: NEED 6.4.6.4. with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1872

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

*Ps. 141:3-4a; 139:11-12; John 14:27**John Ellerton, 1866; alt.*

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name . we raise
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home-ward way;
 3 Grant us your peace, as day turns in - to night;
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;
 stay with us till the com - ing of the light;
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

We join to bless you ere our wor - ship cease,
 Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
 Keep safe all those who call up - on your name,
 Then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, in the si - lence, wait your word of peace.
 that in this house have called up - on your name.
 for dark and light to you are both the same.
 call us, O God, to your e - ter - nal peace.

John Ellerton, a priest of the Church of England, wrote this hymn for a choral association festival. The final stanza was sung at his funeral. Ellerton edited and contributed to numerous hymnals.

Tune: ELLERS 10.10.10.10.
 Edward J. Hopkins, 1869

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

John 15:1-8

"Abiding in Love"

"We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates." –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:

We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

*<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/>



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

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