



First Christian Church of Freedom
THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE / ESTABLISHED IN 1858

Freedom Rings

Newsletter November/December



security. And out of our gratefulness, we have hopefully responded with generosity and prayers for other's recovery. This is what our Christian faith leads us to do. Our congregation did respond with a donation to one of our community friends to help with Puerto Rican fuel costs, but if we can respond in other meaningful ways, we are open to such requests.

Two of our most observed holidays are coming up. Thanksgiving is more of a patriotic observance, however, it is at the heart of our Christian faith. We are always to give thanks for the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Even though we no longer live in an agrarian setting, we are still mindful of the great harvest we benefit from. Our supermarkets attest to the many food choices we have, and our restaurants are filled with happy patrons every day of the year. And most of our tables will be heaped with a bounty of food on Thanksgiving Day. Will we take a minute or two 'to give thanks' to God for what we have?

Pastors Ramblings!

As natural disasters – Houston, Mexico City, Puerto Rico, California, etc. – have rocked our part of the world (the Western Hemisphere), we've enjoyed a relatively quiet summer and fall. We have truly been blessed in this regard, and we should 'thank God' for our peace and



Christmas, of course, is a religious (Christian) observance and is a major festival of our faith. It marks not only the birth of the Christ child, but reminds us that God is active in creation and in our life. God cared so much for you and me that God intervened and became 'one with us'. No other religion comes close to making such a claim, and Jesus comes not as a privileged one, but as a servant and a sacrifice. Will we take some time on Christmas Eve or Day to worship God for caring so much in providing a savior?

These 'holidays' are begging to be observed. In church and in our homes, we can take moments to acknowledge their themes. We also have opportunities to give – to our food pantry, to our OCC Christmas gift tree, to a relief fund, or just to those we see in need around us.

May all of us have a wonderful holiday season! Pastor Larry

Holiday Observances

We'll observe **Thanksgiving** this year with the service on Sunday, Nov. 19th, at 10 A.M. Though the Food Pantry will be giving our 'food baskets' to those who use this service, we'll not be having a Thanksgiving dinner this year. The Council had determined that it wasn't serving those who truly had a need, and it was becoming a burden on those who served. So, we'll see if it's missed and decide about its continuance next year.

Our **Christmas Eve** service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 24th, at 7 P.M. On that day, Sunday, we'll not have our regular morning service. In this case, the Council decided it would be the same people in the morning that would come to the later service, and the one service would serve both. This occurrence happens every 6 or 7 years, so we hope everyone will make the effort to be at the later service.



President's Message

I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful fall weather as much as I am...maybe the Farmers Almanac will be right this year...they predict a MILD winter...we can only hope!!

We will be in the throes of a full and busy holiday season over the next couple of months, Thanksgiving, Ring in the Holidays, etc., culminating in the birth of Christ. I'd like to thank all who help to make this a truly special season for all the community to partake in and enjoy. It is my wish that you all will have a wonderful Christmas.

I know I've said this a few times over these past 3 years, but reminders never hurt and if any of you are like me, you may find them helpful. This time of year is, for many without family or close ones near, a lonely and depressing season. We get so wrapped up in our own plans, we may not always SEE those around us who may be quieter and less involved than usual. It may help to remember we are all brothers and sisters and "no gesture,

however small, is ever wasted" and may make all the difference in their world. Compassion and Love, and treating others as we would like to be treated is all HE asks of us....we CAN do this!

I am coming to the end of my 3 year term as President of Church Council, and as I reflect back over these years, I am filled with pride in all the Council has accomplished, especially regarding the fundraising of several thousands of dollars for the Capital Improvement Fund. We will soon be seeing much needed improvements in the months ahead. The church community, as well as, the Freedom community are owed a great deal of thanks for all the support they provided.

I came in as president to help fill a void and with very little expertise on running meetings, etc. My VP (Dean Robertson) and council members have been very patient with me as I struggled to become knowledgeable regarding "Robert's Rules" and other protocols. I thank them for their support and I learned a great deal during these past 3 years.

I am honored to have served as President of Church Council and look forward to remaining active within our church as well as our Freedom community in the coming years.

Please give serious thought as to how YOU may help our church by stepping up and volunteering in any way you are able...join a committee, or the choir if you've always wanted to sing, coffee hour, etc. Help keep our church a strong and vital part of the community for years to come.

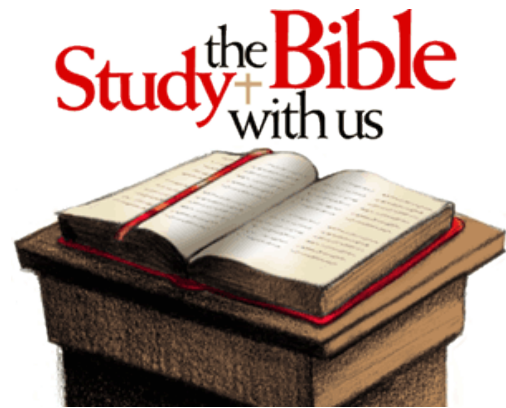
As I close my final newsletter, I'd like to share one of my special quotes:

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

Mark Twain

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

Be seeing you in church and around town,
Sandy Boyle



All are invited to Camp Calumet each week on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for a group discussion of the scripture lessons for the coming week and how the lessons relate to daily living. **Bible Study** is held in the Camp Calumet Conference Center on the right as you go west on Lake Ossipee Road. Please see Pastor Larry if interested.

"B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!"

Anonymous



PASTORAL VISITS

Should anyone wish to have a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Larry, a deacon, or Patty in the church office.



A NOTE FROM THE USHERS

We are in need of ushers. If you are interested, or if you are currently an usher and no longer wish to serve for your specified month, either because of health issues or other concerns, please call Mark McKinley at 539-6577 or Henry Granahan at 539-5295. Please know that your faithful service continues to be deeply appreciated and does much to reinforce the welcoming attitude of First Christian Church. If you have not participated, and would like to consider becoming an usher on Sunday mornings, please contact Mark. Thank you.



Choir singers wanted. There is always room for more singers. No audition required. Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights at 7. Come join us!

14 Health Benefits of Singing



1. Reduces stress
2. Improves mood
3. Lowers blood pressure
4. Improves breathing
5. Reduces perceived pain
6. Boosts immune system
7. Improves sense of rhythm
8. Promotes learning in children
9. Forges comforting memories
10. Promotes communal bonding
11. Provides comfort
12. Motivates
13. Empowers people
14. Promotes well-being

"The science is in. Singing is really, really good for you and the most recent research suggests that group singing is the most exhilarating and transformative of all."

Cassandra Sheppard on upliftconnect.com



You are welcome to join the choir. Come, try it out on Tuesdays at 7 pm. We are rehearsing now for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. You can contact choir director, Carolyn Olzerowicz, at colzerowicz@gmail.com for more information.



Calling angels and shepherds of all ages!

You are needed for the Children's Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at the 7 PM service. The one and only rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 23rd at 10 AM. Please contact Carolyn Olzerowicz at colzerowicz@gmail.com or through the church office at (603) 539-6484 if you know of someone who is interested in participating.



HARVEST HOME: November 19th will be the Sunday before most of us celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends. Most of us will share meals of good foods, with all the trimmings. Some of us may struggle to provide traditional dishes for loved ones.

The Music and Worship Committee members ask that, if you are able, you bring offerings to our "church table" at the Service on Sunday morning, the 19th. Donations of non-perishable, non-expired, unopened foods (cans, **boxes, sealed bags**) will be placed on the floor around our altar table. These items will be for

our Food Pantry's holiday baskets or main shelves.

On Monday, November 20th, the baskets for Thanksgiving meals will be packed for people who depend on our Pantry for help. If you wish to donate potatoes, carrots or squash, please do bring these to the "table" as well. When the collection of holiday foods are picked up on Tuesday, November 21st, folks will be offered these fresh vegetables too.

In the upcoming season of celebrations, may we gather together to give thanks for the Lord's harvest of blessings. And may we share the bounty with others in our community, in thought, word, and deed.



Louise Anderson, Nathaniel & Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Avery, Tarryn Balch, Gerry Barnicle, Phil Beckwith, Gail Bizer, Jim Blake, Charlie Bojus, Harold Boynton, Kevin Boynton, Harold Brown Jr., Kathy Brownrigg, Virginia Casey, Eric Chamberlain, Carolyn Clancy, Celia Costa, Rebecca Crawford & Family, Greg, Dayton, Connie Dockham, Sally Downey, David Eldridge, Robert Elliott, Delores Ellis, Joanne Fuller, Robyn Gallagher, Jane Garnsey, Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Cynthia Granahan, Karen Hopkins, Glenn Hormell, Velma Hormell, Rob Hyam, Elmer Killam, Pauline Leclerc, Jean Marshall, Mary Mayhew, Theresa Maura, Donald McCauley, Carol Melvidas, Judy Michaels, Peter Nichols, Pat & Roger Olson, Emily Plunges, DeMott Post, Jeannie Rogers, Kim Rose, Marci Sharp, Kathleen Sherin, Mike Sudak, Cheryl Vitum,

Joy Anna Winslow, Eli Workman and all our country's military personnel and their families.

To ensure your prayer request is added to the list, please write the information down and place it in the offering plate, Patty's mail slot or on her desk. Thank you.

Ellie Stokes would like to share her new address and phone number: 149 East Side Dr. 127, Concord, NH 03301, 603-715-5348. No voice mail yet. She would love to hear from you!!!



Freedom Rings in the Holidays Quilt Sale

The Ladies Guild of First Christian Church will be holding their Quilt Sale on Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18 at the church. Quilts and a variety of other handmade items will be on sale on Friday from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m -3 p.m. Tickets for the annual raffle quilt will be on sale. It will be the last chance to get them for 2017- the drawing is after church service on Sunday, Nov 19.

If you have questions, contact NancyWogman@aol.com



Freedom Rings in the Holidays Luncheon

As part of the community Freedom Rings in the Holidays, there will be a luncheon at the Town Hall next to the church on Saturday, November 18. Delicious homemade soups and sandwiches and desserts will be on sale from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. The proceeds from the luncheon will be used for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund that assists those in need in our community.

So, as you travel around Freedom visiting the various venues, stop by and enjoy lunch and fellowship!

If you have questions, contact NancyWogman@aol.com.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR FAMILY AND BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER?

When you're a member of a church, it means you've made a commitment to your faith. You have said "I'm a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of a Christian community." It also helps from the church's point of view to know who can be counted on to continue the church.

First Christian Church has 2 categories of members. One is as a full member – those who consider First Christian Church of Freedom their primary church. We also have a second category of people who may belong to another congregation. It's called 'associate membership'. It may be that a person is a lifetime member of a church in another state, and really wants to retain their membership there. Or, it may be, as is the case with me and many others, that for other benefits, one wants to maintain membership in a church of a particular denomination, or where one's family has always been a member, and it is necessary or desirable that one retain membership in a denominational church. In this case, one can become an associate member here and have all the privileges of a full member – vote, pastoral care, involvement in various ministries, serving in leadership, etc.

We want to invite those who are not, to become full or associate members. Being on this 'list' does not make anyone better or more Christian than anyone else, but it does help us get 'a handle' on who we are as a congregation, and maybe how we need to shape our mission and ministries.

Please let us know about joining (it's free!), or if you're not sure, speak to Pastor Larry or call the church office 539-6484.



Good Morning Call! Several of us participate in this program offered by the Carroll County Sheriff's office. It is simple.....you make a call and talk to a real person.....if they do not hear from you, the Freedom Police stop by. It is reassuring that, during an emergency, either

personal or weather related, someone knows where you are. Any questions.....call the Sheriff directly at 539-2284.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Church expenses are \$7,400 higher than income through October 23, 2017. While we remain hopeful year-end giving will close the gap completely there may be a small \$2,000 deficit for 2017. We continue to work on the 2018 budget. We have identified various ways to raise revenue to close the initial \$8,000 deficit and will discuss them at the November 2017 council meeting. The final 2018 budget recommendation is presented to the congregation at the December 2017 annual meeting. I'd like to welcome Don Harris to the church Finance Committee. We look forward to working with him. The Finance Committee is looking for one additional member that can attend their quarterly meetings. Finance uses email as a way to communicate outside of the quarterly meetings. Please let Ellie Bossdorf, chair of the Finance Committee, or myself know if you would be interested to lend us a hand, even if it is only for periodic special project work. Church investments continue to do well and are secure at the custodians. If you have any questions about any financial matters of the Church, please do not hesitate to speak with me, any Church officer or member of the Finance Committee. Respectfully submitted, Paul J. Olzerowicz Treasurer, First Christian Church of Freedom



OFFERING COUNTERS

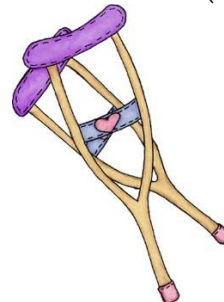
REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

As of October 15, 2017, we have collected \$50,434 in pledge and regular contributions. This is about \$1600 less than the same time period last year. However, loose plate offerings are up from last year for the same time period. We have collected \$5380, whereas we only had \$4348 last year during the same time period. The capital fund is doing well due to the function held in August this summer. We have collected \$29,385. It represents all donations made in memory of loved ones, as well as direct donation to the capital fund, and the money collected for the Modernistics concert. Overall revenues this year are approximately \$27,683 higher than the same time period last year. Carol Porter



Preparation will soon begin for the names to be included in the **Honor Roll** listing for our Christmas Eve Service. If you have a family member serving in the US Military and wish to have the person included, please submit: Rank,

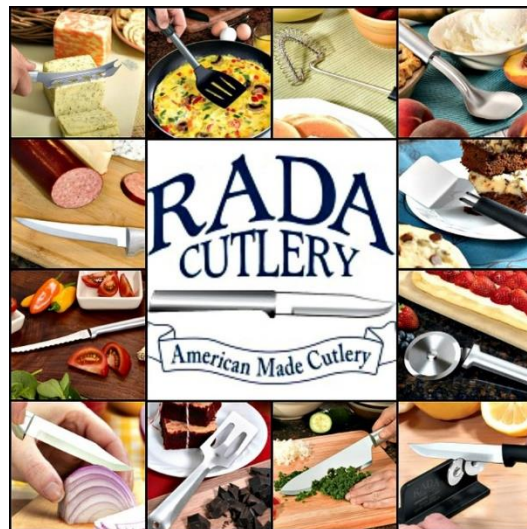
Name, Branch of Service, where stationed and your relationship, to either the Church office (539-6484) or Velma Hormell (539-2079)



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY

The Deacons have custody of medical items available for loan purposes. Currently the following items are stored in the church barn and may be borrowed by contacting George Thompson at 539-4601, or the Church at 539-6484.

Wheel Chairs	Commodes
Crutches	Potty Seats
Canes	Shower Chairs
Walkers	Blow-Up Mattress
Knee Braces	
Shower Transfer Benches	



The Fund Raising Committee is selling "Rada Cutlery" made in the USA as one of our fundraisers. This will not be a door-to-door event but samples will be on display at our events and ongoing. You may contact Judy Robertson, Velma Hormell or Patty Dumas in

the church office if you are interested in checking out the catalog for paring knives, bagel knives, chef's knives, granny forks, pie or cake servers, steak knives, etc. which are available.

We have received the new catalog for 2018. Keep this extremely well-made cutlery in mind for gifts throughout the year and you will be supporting the church at the same time.

Velma Hormel

LADIES GUILD



Ladies Guild meets every Monday from 9am to 2pm, weather permitting. Quilts are being made for RSVP and given to Memorial Hospital's Birthing Center. Since June 30th, 100 quilts have been made and donated. Most of these quilts are of a simple pattern.

Every few months a group of Guild Members goes to Mardens to purchase fabric. Each person selects 3 different coordinating, one yard pieces and the flannel for backing. These 3 one yard pieces will make 3 different quilts because of the method in which they are cut and assembled. Then the process begins after the pattern is cut, sewing, tying and finally, sewing on a label. After Mardens, we have lunch together.

The guild voted to give \$1500 to the General Fund and \$500 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Guild's long time member, Pauline Libbey, who formally lived in Freedom and now

resides in Conway, celebrated her 98th birthday on October 20th. Happy Birthday to Pauli.

Tickets are available for the 2018 raffle quilt and may be purchased by contacting a Guild Member. The raffle will take place on November 19th, the Sunday after Freedom Rings in the Holiday.

Myrtle MacLeod, Ladies Guild Secretary



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Wishing You Joy and Peace during this Holiday Season!

The Annual Meeting will be held on December 3rd after the church service. Please send your reports to me at least one week before the meeting.

If you have any information for the office or for me, please leave it on my desk on Sunday mornings. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm.

Sincerely,

Patty Dumas

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us.

What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal"

Albert Pike

Afraid of the Dark




A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

- Author Unknown

NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9 am Deacons Meeting 10am Book Club	3	4 10 am Food Pantry
5 9 am Choir 10am Sunday Service	6 9 am Ladies Guild	7 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 10 am Book Club	10	11 10 am Food Pantry Veterans Day
12 9 am Choir 10am Sunday Service	13 9 am Ladies Guild	14 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7pm Council Meeting	16 10 am Book Club	17	18 10 am Food Pantry
19 9 am Choir 10am Sunday Service	20 9 am Ladies Guild	21 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 THANKSGIVING 	24	25 Food Pantry CLOSED
26 9 am Choir 10am Sunday Service	27 9 am Ladies Guild	28 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30 10 am Book Club		

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10 am Food Pantry
3 9 am Choir 10 am Sunday Service Annual Meeting	4 9 am Ladies Guild	5 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7 9am Deacons Meeting 10am Book Club	8	9 10 am Food Pantry
10 9 am Choir 10 am Sunday Service Velma Hormell's talk on Christmas Eve Service	11 9 am Ladies Guild	12 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 10 am Book Club	15	16 10 am Food Pantry
17 9 am Choir 10 am Sunday Service	18	19 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 7 pm Council Meeting	21 10 am Book Club	22	23 10 am Food Pantry
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7pm Christmas Eve Service	CHRISTMAS 	10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		10 am Book Club		10 am Food Pantry
31 9 am Choir 10 am Sunday Service						

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

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Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman