



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

Freedom Rings

Newsletter
January/February



Pastors Ramblings!

UNWRAPPING THE GIFT, OR EPIPHANY

The season of Epiphany begins on the twelfth day of Christmas (Jan. 6), and continues until Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), the beginning of Lent. During these weeks we are gradually exposed to the ministry of Jesus.

The first Sunday focuses on the Baptism of Jesus, then the calling of the disciples, his healings and preaching, and concluding with the Transfiguration. The word 'Epiphany' means "a sudden realization of the nature or meaning of something." In the case of the Christian, it is meant as an understanding or consciousness of who Jesus is. The Bible readings give an interpretation of Jesus as the Son of God who has come to reveal God's will to us. It establishes his authority and his methods. We hear of Jesus being baptized, gathering followers, and reaching out with acts of mercy. As we get into the next season of Lent, we become aware of the unrest and controversy this created, but for the present we are enlightened as to his identity and power.

This is a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the depth and wideness of God's love. It reaches deep within our soul, and reaches to all the world. We are called to be disciples and followers of God's Word (the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth). We are also called to share this same Word with all the world (as Jesus went out throughout Galilee proclaiming the message).

So, are we doing it, are we unwrapping and sharing 'the gift'? Our little church provides a guide and source of inspiration for just that purpose. The Bible readings, the prayers, the music, the fellowship, are all based on the

message. I think we sometimes don't appreciate the function of the church, or we get caught up in the personalities, or we get overwhelmed by our own problems. If we can only concentrate on God, Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit – maybe, just maybe, we'll get beyond ourselves and see God's greater purpose for us. Jesus did this, and shows us the way. God's blessings as we again celebrate the season of Epiphany! See you in church. Pastor Larry

WINTER CLOSINGS



The season is here when we have the possibilities of calling off worship. We're a little more susceptible in Freedom because of our parking situation and also the age of our congregation. If it's a blizzard that continues into Sunday morning, you can be sure that we'll not have worship. If it's icy and looks bad, don't take a chance. If snow ends during the night, and the plows have cleaned the roads, chances are that we'll meet. The pastor and music director have to travel several miles, so if they can make it, we will have our service. The determination is usually made by 7 or 8 o'clock on Sunday morning. Our Council president, Dean Robertson, would have the final word. It will also be publicized on WMUR in Manchester.



President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope everyone had a great Christmas, we sure did at my house.

Thank you to Sandy Boyle for serving as Council President for the past three years and to Nancy Wogman for serving as Council Secretary. She could produce the minutes from a meeting before the meeting was even over. Great job. Carol Porter served as Financial Secretary for three years and we're very fortunate to have her giving her time. A big applause to them and to all who give their time to serve on all of our committees. The church couldn't work without all your help. I almost forgot, many thanks to our church Treasurer Paul Olzerowicz for all the time he puts in to produce the monthly financial reports and the church investments in the stock market.

Last fall the Council decided to have our church Secretary, Patty Dumas, assist with the counting of the weekly offering and to make the deposits to the bank. The reason was to help the Financial Secretary and free up some of her time to do these tasks. Thank you to Patty for all your help.

We welcome LuAnn Rollins as Council Secretary and Barbara Buffery as Financial Secretary. Gale Morris will be the new Vice President, thank you for stepping up to help.

The next council meeting is January 17, 2018. I remind all committees to meet as soon as possible to organize and select which committee member will be at council that month. Maybe past committee chairman could help with the organizing of the new

committees. Also, when committees have meetings, they should take minutes and send them to the office for safe keeping. We have never done this in the past, but we are doing this going forward.

The fund raising committee did a great job this summer to raise money for the Capitol Fund. The Trustees are meeting and planning where to best put the monies for our necessary improvements.

See you in church, Dean Robertson, Council President



A YEAR OF TIME

As we look to a new year – 2018 – we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak – every man, woman, and child has the same 24 hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If

yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it, we can worry over it, we can spend it on ourselves or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God. The new year is full of time. "As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?" (Written by Steven B. Cloud in a Pulpit Helps, new letter).

Let me add to that a suggestion that we take our Christian faith more seriously by committing ourselves to being more loving, considerate, tolerable, polite, understanding, compassionate, gracious, patient, kind, cheerful, and any other positive adjectives you can think of. If all else fails, look to Christ, the very embodiment of God, whose life, and death, reflected such behavior!



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.

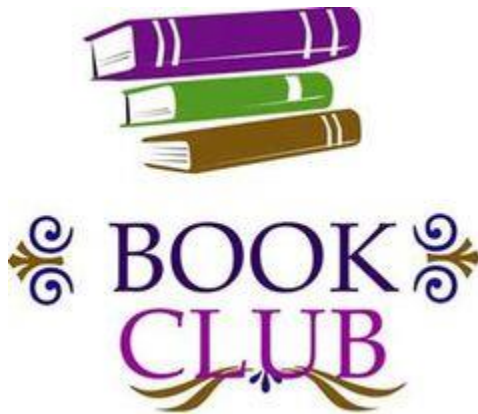
"B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!"

Anonymous



New Year's Eve at Camp Calumet

If you haven't been before, join us as it's a great night and a great meal. The cost is \$20/person which includes appetizers, a delicious meal, dessert and team trivia. And best of all, the ball drops at 9 pm. If you are going, call Alice or Julie at Camp Calumet by Dec. 29. The phone number is 539-4773. There is always quite a group from Freedom that attend.



THURSDAY STUDY GROUP

Our next book will be "Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters-and How to Talk About it" by Krista Tippett.

Krista Tippett, widely becoming known as the Bill Moyers of radio, is one of the country's most intelligent and insightful commentators on religion, ethics and the human spirit. With this book, she draws on her own life story and her intimate conversations with both ordinary and famous figures including Elie Wiesel,

Karen Armstrong and Thich Nhat Hanh, to explore complex subjects like science, love, virtue and violence within the context of spirituality and everyday life. Her way of speaking about the mysteries of life and of listening with care to those who endeavor to understand those mysteries is nothing short of revolutionary.

We will be starting this book in the middle of January 2018. Between now and then we will be meeting and looking at a variety of relevant topics. Come and join us at 10 AM on Thursdays in the Church meeting room.



PASTORAL VISITS

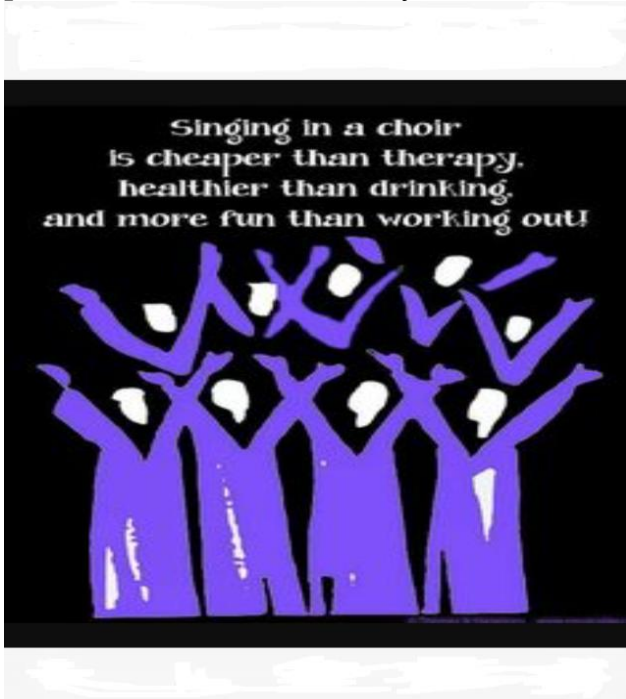
Should anyone wish to have a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Larry, a deacon, or Patty in the church office.



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.



Thank you choir members, each and every one of you! You make my heart glad every time I hear you sing and I'm sure that most congregation members feel that way too. You put such spirit into singing that you make it look easy. I know better though. I know that you have been faithful in attending 2 rehearsals almost every week. Although we have some fun along the way, I know that we work hard to learn the music. Praise the Lord! We will continue to rehearse every Tuesday, (except December 30th) so long as weather permits. Check your email for cancellations. New choir members are always welcome. There's no audition. You don't need to be proficient at reading music. Come, join us!

Carolyn Olzerowicz



Nathaniel & Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Avery, Tarryn Balch, Gerry Barnicle, Phil Beckwith, Jim Blake, Charlie Bojus, Ed Boyer, Harold Boynton, Kevin Boynton, Harold Brown Jr., Kathy Brownrigg, Virginia Casey, Eric Chamberlain, Carolyn Clancy, Celia Costa, Rebecca Crawford & Family, Greg, Dayton, Lorelei DeNisco, Connie Dockham, Sally Downey, David Eldridge, William Elliott, Delores Ellis, Joanne Fuller, John Gallagher, Jane Garnsey, Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Cynthia Granahan, John Hogan, Karen Hopkins, Glenn Hormell, Velma Hormell, Rob Hyam, Elmer Killam, Fred Kistler, Pauline Leclerc, Condolences to the Family of Tom Luke, Jean Marshall, Mary Mayhew, Theresa Maura, Carol Melvidas, Judy Michaels, Peg Nichols, Peter Nichols, Pat & Roger Olson, Emily Plunges, DeMott Post, Jeannie Rogers, Kim Rose, Marci Sharp, Kathleen Sherin, Ruth Smart, Mike Sudak, Steve Tanis, Masayo Uchiyama, Cheryl Vitum, Joy Anna Winslow, 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.



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.



After the Sunday Service on December 10th, with the village looking appropriately seasonal from snowfall, Velma Hormell spoke about the history of our Christmas Eve Service. 1966 was the first year for this special celebration of the Nativity. Members of the church worked together then and over ensuing years to create the traditions we cherish to this day, over half a century later.

We heard about The Freedom Prayer written by a member of the congregation that we say in unison each December 24th. For many years the Vietnam War was a heavy presence in the lives of the congregation. The Roll of Honor was then and is now read to keep in hearts and minds dedicated, brave men and women from our families who were/are serving in the military at home and abroad. The Peace Candles, the Scripture of Jesus' Nativity, the children's pageants, the carols sung, and the closing of the Service with candles held in the darkened church as all sing "Silent Night" have been highlights of Christmas Eve. Some years there were many children participating, and other times adults assumed different roles in the Service. Numbers may vary but the Holy Spirit stays strong. The church has been blessed by those who have led us in Christmas worship through the Word and sacred music. The decorations of greens, the tree, wreaths, and flowers, candles in the windows, the wonderful stable scene on the front lawn are all important parts of our Christmas celebration that have evolved over the years.

We were pleased to hear the history from Velma. We were glad to listen to her wise observation that the time and talents of all our members through the decades were/are necessary to keep our church vital. The efforts of so many have brought us to yet another Christmas Eve and another new year in the life of this Body of Christ. Thanks be to God!

A DVD of the program may be borrowed from the Church. Gratitude to Dana Lee for recording the talk, and thanks, of course, to Velma Hormell for sharing HER time and HER talent.



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.



MUSIC & WORSHIP

Money from the Flower Fund was used this year to buy the Christmas flowers. Linda Iselborn generously donated poinsettias for the

altar at Christmas and coordinated the purchase of the beautiful altar arrangement. Thank you Linda!

We also thank Karen Hatch for donating the two lovely wreaths for the front door.

Everyone enjoyed Velma Hormell's enlightening presentation on December 10 about the Christmas traditions of acknowledging military personnel and reciting the Molly Vestner Freedom Christmas essay. Recalling how these traditions began and continue help us appreciate the history and heritage of our church. Well done, Velma and thanks Gale Morris for arranging.

TRUSTEES



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The trustees have been busy with getting the parsonage in tip-top shape; painting the interior, new kitchen floor, new back door and etc. Our next project is in progress, which will be the furnaces under the sanctuary and under the church parlor, insulating the walls in the cellar of the sanctuary and fixing the leak in the offices.

The trustees have received a generous supply of medical equipment, included was a SLIP proof ramp that will be installed at the side of the church in the spring. We are arranging for the plowing and shoveling. We had a great crew raking leaves around the church, with donuts and coffee to follow. Thank you all.



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY

The First Christian Church of Freedom has medical equipment available. If you have such a need, please contact George Thompson at 539-4601

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

Thank you to the Nason Family for their very generous donation of the following equipment: Slide Board (wheel chair to car)

Step Stool	Transporter Chair
Bed Rails	Bike Pedal on Stand

Air Mattress w/pump

The following exercise equipment was also donated by the Nason Family:

Trapeze and Bike Pedal on Stand

FOOD PANTRY



We continue to serve a large number of meals. In the past three weeks we have seen about 13 families each week, most with multiple people or children in the family. Doris, Paul and the other volunteers continue to do the heavy lifting and I continue the computer work grinding out reports for Dallas to send to the USDA. So far all is well, and we all look forward to the New Year. Happy and Blessed Holidays to all.

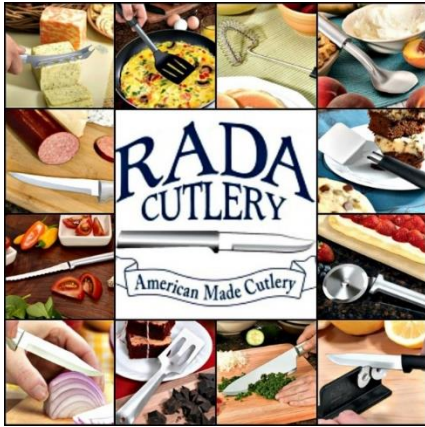
Bob Bossdorf, co-director

ASH WEDNESDAY



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. The service will be held at 7 pm.

"May your Ash Wednesday be a time of reflection and promise."



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



DIRECTORY ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS

3 people passed away: Louise Anderson
Marcus Sims
Tom Luke

Several in winter quarters:
Wendell & Terry Packard
Joseph & Judy Michaels
David Meserve
Donald & Myrtle McLeod
John & Sylvia Manley
Paul & Nancy Essex
Mary Marchand
Chuck & Heloise Depew
Carl Bloomquist

People who moved:
Lee Allison
Frank & Nancy Seabury
Ellie Stokes - 149 East Side Drive #127
Concord, NH 03301

Several will be leaving for extended periods:

Dean & Judy Robertson
John & Maureen Hogan
Carl "Fuzzy" Martin

FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY



I hope everyone has a healthy, safe and happy 2018!

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. Have a safe and happy winter!

Sincerely, Patty Dumas



Kids Say the Funniest Things

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible -- Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd.....and that's all I need to know!"

JANUARY 2018

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

FEBRUARY 2018

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

The First Christian Church of Freedom

12 Elm Street, Freedom, NH 03836

603-539-6484

Email: Fcc1858@yahoo.com

www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

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Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman