



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

Freedom Rings

Newsletter
March/April
2019

Welcome
Spring

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Pastor's Pondering

Unless you love lots and lots of snow, and freezing, cold temperatures, along with windy days and icy walks and driveways, you are looking forward to an early Spring, or, at least, some warmer weather. The 'bad news' is that the forecasts don't look encouraging. The 'good news' is that Lent is here (depending on when you read this). And if Lent is here, can Easter be far behind? You all remember the formula – Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox. Well, the Spring equinox is about March 21st (when day and

night are of equal length), and the next full moon is April 19th, so that makes Easter on April 21, the latest it can possibly be. So, hopefully, we'll have warm weather and maybe even some early flowers for our celebration.

Lent was named for the 'lengthening of days', and we'll really notice that on March 10th when daylight savings time begins. Actually, the days have been lengthening since December 21st, but the one or two minutes per day make it imperceptible. Lent has little to do with the weather, however. It is a period of the church year when we remember what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 6th), we mark a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays since they are always celebration days of worship), and we use that time to meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. Jesus intentionally went "to the cross" for us. He died that we might live, he became the perfect offering for our sin that we might be saved to eternal life. For carrying out that mission, for suffering and dying on our behalf, God raised him up as a first-fruits of God's promise of salvation to all who believe. That in brief is the crux of our faith, maybe better put in John 3:16.

So, in the next several weeks, as the light of our days increase, we are encouraged to deepen our spiritual lives. We certainly encourage regular worship. Daily devotions and prayer are worthy enterprises. If you don't attend our Bible study on Tuesdays or the Book study on

Thursdays, those would be excellent pursuits. There are certainly programs on TV or online that would lead in good directions. How about reading a good Biblical novel that would widen your horizons, or study a religious concept that has always intrigued you. Lent is a wonderful period to seek answers to our deepest questions about life and faith, and as we observe Holy Week and Easter, we are rewarded with the answer that God reveals – a burst of energy that empowers us to live triumphantly and boldly in the days ahead.

May God bless you and keep you as we experience the next few weeks!

See you in Church! Pastor Larry



ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 6TH AT 4:30 PM

The beginning of Lent begins with a service with the imposition of ashes. As in the past, we have had a conflict with the 'community club' in terms of timing. Because of town elections, they have held a 'candidate night' on the Wednesday before voting. This causes a problem with parking if we were to have our service at the traditional time of 7 p.m. So, we are moving our service up to 4:30 pm. This will enable people to go to both, and not have to make 2 trips. The added advantage will be daylight, at least in coming to the service.

The season of Lent developed gradually in the church. From what historians can tell, one of the earliest pre-Easter traditions was fasting for the 40 hours between Good Friday and Easter morning. Folks understood that Christ was in the tomb for 40 hours, so a period of fasting and remembering the sacrifice of Christ became part of the observance. Over time, the

fasting was extended to all of Holy Week. By the year 400, the Church decided on a season of Lent lasting 40 days, not counting Sundays which were considered mini- Easters. Why the ashes? This is an ancient custom signifying grief and mourning. In the early Church, Christians who had committed grave faults were obliged to do public penance. On Ash Wednesday the Bishop blessed the uncomfortable hairshirts which they were to wear during the 40 days, and sprinkled them with ashes. Then, while the faithful recited psalms, the penitents were turned out of the holy place because of their sins, just as Adam and Eve had been turned out of the Garden because of their disobedience. They could not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after performing some act of penance and receiving absolution. As years went by, and as the truth of the Scripture sank in about 'all having sinned and falling short of the glory of God', all began to come to receive ashes.

So on Ash Wednesday, we offer the imposition of ashes to those who come forward, recognizing that we are sinners and in need of God's forgiveness.



A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The first weeks of 2019 have been busy ones at FCCOF. As we turn the seasonal corner towards Spring, our church building has taken on a fresh look inside, even if the snows of Winter persist outdoors. Thanks to good planning and hard work by Lucy Kendall, all the Trustees, our Secretary, and a band of volunteers. Rooms from the side entrance hall

back were emptied of furniture and equipment so that new floor coverings could be installed. Then the rooms were put back in order so the many people who use those spaces could resume work without too much interruption. The Choir's closet has been painted and soon more painting will occur in the Sanctuary itself. There will be new carpeting laid in there as well. Each week more and more daylight falls through our windows, reminding us that softer weather will come to us eventually. And the interior of our building will be looking its best! We are grateful for this updating work on the physical church, but we also labor as a congregation on the spiritual progression of this Body of Christ.

Pastor Larry and Nancy have kept us informed of their plans for full retirement to Connecticut within the next two years. This generous timeframe allows us to plan for and conduct a careful search for our next Pastor. The Search Committee itself will have met three times since early January. The members are June Burt, Chairperson; Judy Blake, Note Taker; Pat Bojus; David Avery; Carol McIntire-Cunio; Sandy Boyle; Dean Robertson, ex officio; Gale Morris, ex officio. They will be consulting the congregation, Pastor Larry, and the Council at various times as they move studiously through this important process. We won't let go of the Wogmans easily, but all of us understand the need to live closer to family and to enjoy a well-deserved retirement!

Ash Wednesday is March 6, which means Easter this year is very late in April. After this challenging Winter, that may be a blessing. Snow may melt at last; the crocuses and daffodils will have a better chance to burst through greening grasses; and our congregation can breathe welcome fresh air as we move towards Holy Week and the joys of Easter Sunday. Let us remember that we are meant to live in unity within this Body of Christ, with each of us using our gifts and graces to help fulfill the purposes for which we have been called, "...making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (From Ephesians 4: 1-6 and 4:15-16 NRSV).

Thank you to every volunteer who steps forward to help maintain all the varied aspects of the life we share at FCCOF. Let us work and worship together in Love; let us care for both the physical structure and the spiritual life that is our church. And may we pray for the safe return to Freedom of all who have been away for the Winter, but who travel home to be here with us in the Spring!

From Vice President Gale Morris, in President Dean Robertson's absence in Florida
(hurry back!).



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.



Pastoral Search Committee

Our committee has met and is in the information gathering stage of our pastoral search. The first step is a church-wide survey, which has been sent via email from the church, is included in this Newsletter, and **it is also available in paper form in the secretary's office.**

We ask that you complete it and return as soon as possible.

We appreciate the lengthy notice that Pastor Larry has given, so this process will be ongoing and not hurried. We ask for continued prayers for our church and our search. If you have questions or comments please speak with any member of the committee. Thank you. June Burt, committee chair.



Treasurer Report

The Church financial situation is stable with no red flags to report. As of February 19, 2019. Church income exceeds expenses by \$2,000. Payroll coming in the next two weeks will eliminate the excess income. It is still very early in the year to make any observations as to how the year will turn out.

2018 W-2's were provided to all employees timely with all payroll taxes paid. The Church Directors' and Officers' insurance policy is about to renew and will be paid timely. Food Pantry account balances continue to increase. The parsonage lease is being renewed for another year.

While 2018 saw the Church's diversified portfolio fall 3.2% for the full year, 2019 has enjoyed a significant recovery. The church maintains adequate liquidity to meet its obligations and short term cash requirements. Investments are held at discount brokerage custodians, Vanguard and TD Ameritrade.

If you have any questions about any financial matters of the Church, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul J. Olzerowicz, Treasurer

Kathy Avery	David Eldridge	Mary Mayhew
Tarryn Balch	Delores Ellis	Bill McIntire, Jr.
Gerry Barnicle	Bonnie Engroff	Carol Melvidas
Lucille Bogart	Dick & Wanda Fields	Judy Michaels
Charlie Bojus	Joanne Fuller	Gay Moceri
Pat Bojus	Judy Fuller	Cindy Nason
Ellie Bossdorf	Jane Garnsey	Peg Nichols
Ed Boyer	Dick Gauley	Billy Norton
Chris, Harold & Kevin Boynton	Cynthia Granahan	Pat & Roger Olson
Steve Bracci	Beverly Grant	Wendell Packard
Harold Brown, Jr.	John Hogan	DeMott Post
Kathy Brownrigg	Karen Hopkins	Jeannie Rogers
Christie Catino	Glenn Hormell	Kim Rose
Eric Chamberlain	Rob Hyam	Ruth Smart
Carolyn Clancy	Dale Johnson	Sally & Bill Stoops
Celia Costa	Elmer Killam	Laureen Strauch
Sarah D'Angelo	Fred Kistler	Mike Sudak
Al Davidson	Nancy Koza	Rosemary Traveis
Greg Dayton	Harold Libby, Sr.	Cheryl Vitum
Eric DeCof	Jeff & Kathy MacLeod	John White
Lorelei DeNisco	Jean Marshall	Joy Anna Winslow
Connie Dockham	Doreen Martin	Donna Wogman

all our country's military personnel and their families.



As one might expect, the numbers served have gone up and down with the federal shutdown affecting us some, and more important the weather. We still have served between 1500-2000 meals in the month and have responded to several emergencies: clothing, etc. The volunteers continue to do a fabulous job. Doris Sirois continues to do the heavy lifting and local buying. Bonnie McCue has been a great help and I continue to struggle with the computer. Dan Spear keeps the volunteers in line and Dallas Fuller does the USDA, Mark and Nancy do a lot too with pickups and other heavy lifting, Nancy also does our check-writing and Paul manages our investment funds. There will be a meeting of the Board in early May of this year. We will announce when and invite you to join us and ask questions. Bob Bossdorf, Co-Director



On March 17, a St. Patrick's Luncheon will be held at First Christian Church of Freedom immediately following the church service. It will be open to church members as well as the public. We will be serving sandwiches and desserts with a suggested donation of \$5/person.

The funds raised will be used to supplement church funds and registration fees collected for the operation of the annual First Christian Church of Freedom Children's Summer Theater Camp. The camp is open to all children and traditionally attracts about 20 children ages 8-high school age. The charge is only \$15/child for the entire week of camp. It will be held from July 29th-August 3. The children will spend the week acting, singing, and dancing. There will also be plenty of time for crafts and play as well. By Friday afternoon they will be ready to perform this year's play. And on Sunday, they will again perform the play for the First Christian Church of Freedom worship service.

This camp is a wonderful way to engage children from the community, many of who have never attended Sunday School or Church.

So join us for food and fellowship!



Women's Retreat, May 4, 2019

Join us on May 4, 2019 from 9 to 3 at the Calumet Conference Center for our annual women's retreat. This year's theme is Women - Water - Wisdom. Bring a small stone. The cost is \$15 for lunch.



Summer fun for children!

The First Christian Church of Freedom Children's Summer Theater Camp will be back for our 13th year! All children, both local

residents and summer visitors, who are at least 7 years of age, are welcome to participate. The camp will run from July 29th through August 2nd from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Freedom Elementary School. This year's play will be "Malice at the Palace". The children will act, sing, and dance the story of the faithful heroine, Esther. They will learn how she selflessly saved her people from destruction.

There will be two public performances of the play. On Friday, August 2nd at 2 pm the community is welcome to attend the dress rehearsal. The main performance will be a part of the Old Home Week Church Service at the school at 10 AM on August 4th. Camp participants should plan to be at both performances.

The cost to participate is \$15 for the week. Scholarships are available. Registration forms and further information are available through the church office or by emailing me, Carolyn Olzerowicz, at colzerowicz@gmail.com.



Scholarship

The 2018 transcripts from last year's recipients are coming in and they are wonderful. These students are continuing to excel in their studies and we wish them continued success.

Next month signals the time for work to begin with our committee in anticipation of this year's round of applications.

Serving on the committee this year will be Charlie Bojus, Velma Hormell, Paul Olzerowicz, Dean Robertson and Rev. Wogman. Jane Hartnett, Chair



Ladies' Guild

Although we met only 3 times during December and January and once in February (so far), we managed to send 17 quilts to the Birthing Center at Memorial Hospital. This, thanks to the ladies who took some kits home, even though we weren't meeting, quilt tops were being created.

Here's hoping that the weather will allow us to meet regularly from now on!

Remember, we always welcome new members. We meet from 9-2 on Mondays and share a time to eat our bag lunches. You don't need to know how to quilt.....we will teach you. There is always some pressing to be done and quilts to be tied. Come join us!



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FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!!

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

Sincerely,

Patty Dumas



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HUH???

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"



A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head, "Yes." "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question. "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"



Preliminary Survey

As Pastor Larry will be leaving in the future, please help the Search Committee by filling out this Preliminary Survey and returning it to the Church Office either by email or US mail.

Please rank the following qualities as you would perceive their importance for our next pastor. Please use numbers 1 to 10 (**1 being the most important quality and 10 being the least important quality**). Your participation in this exercise will greatly assist the Pastor Search Committee in its task.

Quality	Rank
Preaching Ability	
Teaching Ability	
Administrator	
Church Family Minister	
Community Supporter	
Counselor	
Leadership Skills	
Visitor (Outreach)	
Education Level	
Years of Experience	

If you have any comments you would like to add, please use the box provided.

Your response is appreciated by **April 1st.**

Comments

Day Retreat for Home Caregivers

“You Are Not Alone!”

When: **Wednesday, April 3, 2019**
9:30am-3pm

Keynote Presenter: **Pastor Mary Hansen-Joyce,**
Cape Cod Interfaith Hospital Chaplain, Hyannis, MA
Dementia and Caregivers Support Group Facilitator

Where: **Camp Calumet Conference Center**
1090 Ossipee Lake Road, Freedom, NH 03836

Cost: **\$12 fee includes activities, lunch & coffee/tea.**

This one-day retreat will provide family home caregivers an opportunity to take a break from responsibilities while enjoying the company of other family home caregivers. We know your time is precious, so even if you come for ½ a day, that's ok!

Activities include a keynote presentation, “You Are Not Alone,” walks along the beach, basket class, chair massages, tea time, and workshops on “Sandwich Generation Challenges”, and “Navigating social security, retirement benefits, taxes, etc.”, among other topics facing caregivers. The day will also include networking opportunities with other caregivers, follow-up conversation with our speaker, and a delicious lunch buffet.

*Pre-registration is required. **Registration deadline: Friday, March 29.** Please let us know if you have any food allergies. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate professional caregivers at this particular retreat.*

To register for day retreat &/or to inquire about overnight B&B lodging:

Call Alice at 603-539-3223 ext. 220

or email Alice at alice@calumet.org

For program questions: Call Judy at 603-539-3223 ext. 226

or email Judy at judy@calumet.org



HOME CAREGIVER RETREAT SCHEDULE

APRIL 3, 2019 at Camp Calumet, 1090 Ossipee Lake Rd, Freedom, NH

9:30am: Registration & Coffee/Tea

10-10:45am: Key Note Presentation ~ “You Are Not Alone”
with Pastor Mary Hansen-Joyce, Hospital Chaplain,
Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis, MA

11am-noon: Relaxing Watercolors, Nature Walk, Chair Massages

12:15pm: Lunch Buffet

1-3pm:

- Workshops on challenges facing caregivers
- Conversations with our speaker, Mary Hansen-Joyce
- Watercolors, Nature Walk
- Bun Basket Class (2 hour class 1-3pm)
- 15 minute Chair Massages (Sign-up on hall table)
- Tea Time (Assorted teas to try!) and Networking

You are invited to choose activities that interest you.
You are always welcome to use the rocking chairs anytime on the
Conference Center Porch or relax in our Puzzle Room.



*Join other home caregivers for a few hours of
time away for YOU.*

CALUMET LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Dress a Girl Around the World

One Day Retreat

“Every girl deserves at least ONE dress.”

Monday, April 1, 2019

Camp Calumet Conference Center Dining Room

8:30am ~ Set Up & Coffee/Pastries

9am-12noon ~ Devotions,

Sewing & Assembly

12:15pm ~ Lunch in Dining Room (\$12)

1-3pm ~ Optional Sewing & Assembly

*Join others who love to sew for a day of creating dresses
for girls in need around the world.*

According to the Dress a Girl Around the World website:

“By providing a new dress you may well be changing a young girl’s destiny. A new dress tells each precious girl that God loves her and that someone else loves her enough to have made this dress especially for her. Village pastors tell us that a girl wearing a new dress presents an appearance that she is well cared for and may discourage would-be predators. Since we attach the [Dress a Girl label](#) on the outside of each dress, it sends an additional message that each girl is under the care of an organization, giving her added protection from those who would harm her, be it predators or traffickers.”

Read more about Dress A Girl chapters at www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com



Reservations are required. Deadline: Wednesday, March 27. No charge except for lunch. Please bring your sewing machine if possible.

Donations of 100% cotton fabric, double wide bias tape and elastic will be greatly appreciated.



To reserve a seat, please call Alice at 1-603-539-3223 ext. 220 or email her at alice@calumet.org. For those needing overnight accommodations, Alice can help you with Calumet’s Bed & Breakfast rates & reservations.

Visit our website at www.calumet.org

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
				9am Deacon's Meeting 10am Book Study Group		10 am Food Pantry
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 am Choir Sunday Service 10 am	9 am Ladies Guild 7pm Search Committee Meeting	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	10am Book Study Group		10 am Food Pantry
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 am Choir Sunday Service 10 am Daylight Savings	9 am Ladies Guild	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		10am Book Study Group		10 am Food Pantry
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 am Choir Sunday Service 10 am St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	9 am Ladies Guild	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7pm Council Meeting	10am Book Study Group		10 am Food Pantry
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9 am Choir Sunday Service 10 am	9 am Ladies Guild	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		10am Book Study Group		10 am Food Pantry
31						
9 am Choir Sunday Service 10 am						

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9 am Ladies Guild 7pm Search Committee Meeting			9am Deacons Meeting 10am Book Study Group		10 am Food Pantry
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Sunday Service	9 am Ladies Guild	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		10am Book Study Group 7pm Heritage Meeting		10 am Food Pantry
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 am Choir Palm Sunday Service 10 am	9 am Ladies Guild	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7pm Council Meeting	10am Book Study Group Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm	Good Friday Service at Noon	10 am Food Pantry
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter Sunrise Service 7 am Easter Breakfast at 7:30 9 am Choir Easter Sunday Service 10 am	9 am Ladies Guild	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		10am Book Study Group		10 am Food Pantry
28	29	30				
9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Sunday Service	9 am Ladies Guild	10:00am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal				

The First Christian Church of Freedom

12 Elm Street, Freedom, NH 03836

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Email: Fcc1858@yahoo.com

www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

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Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman