



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

Freedom Rings

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020



How's Your God-Sight?

An indication of good vision has always been 20/20, but if you study the meaning of that further, you realize that 20/20 is just normal vision. There are a few who have even better vision, or acuity as the experts refer to it, and most who have far worse. Some are even referred to as legally blind, people who can see shadows or large objects but cannot identify

facial features or see signs that might be required for driving.

As we begin a new year, some of us need to have our vision checked to see if we need glasses or stronger lenses in our glasses. In a similar way we may need to check our God-sight as well. Are we sure that our faith is adequate for our ability to live as God intended? In our new year of 2020, perhaps we need to take stock of how we're doing with our spiritual beliefs. As we age we gain new perspectives on life and what's important in being successful. We come to realize that accumulating more things does not lead to fulfillment, but doing things for others seems to bring satisfaction. Even some billionaires have discovered that sharing their wealth has led to more happiness than being able to buy bigger and better things. The wisdom of the Bible which brings us such sayings as "do unto others as you would have others do unto you" or as Jesus said to the lawyer who wondered what he must do to inherit eternal life, "You shall love the Lord your god with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and your neighbor as yourself." The stories of love and forgiveness and acceptance abound among the Biblical illustration of what God is like toward us and how we are to be toward others. If we continue to harbor fear and revenge in our hearts, we go against the counsel and guidance that is so evident in our faith.

So, we know what it takes to have our “God sight” in tune with our Lord’s hopes. We have the example of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection as our inspiration for daily living. We come to worship in order to be reminded of God’s ongoing direction for our lives. And God pledges the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to be followers of God’s way. May God give you the grace and love to be strong in being followers of The Way in 2020!

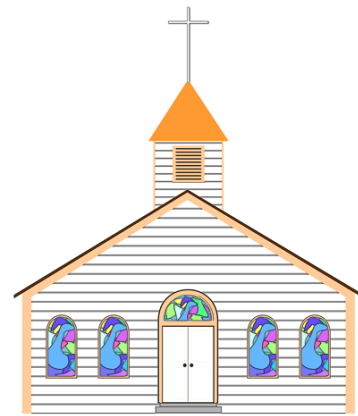
Your Pastor - *Larry*



Epiphany, 2020

The season of Epiphany, which began on Jan. 6, continues until the end of February. It is ‘bookended’ with two feasts – the Baptism of our Lord and the Transfiguration of our Lord. The other Sundays are simply noted as the ‘Sundays after Epiphany’. Epiphany is a Greek word that can be translated ‘manifestation’. The divine word has become visible in the embodiment of Jesus. Light is necessary for anything to be seen, so our understanding is that the Christ or Messiah is now visualized in the person of Jesus. Beginning with the visit of the Magi, Jesus is exposed to the world in his baptism, in being recognized as ‘the Lamb of God’, in the choosing of the disciples, and through his teachings. The idea is to penetrate the darkness and evil of the world with the light and good news of the Gospel.

The color of the season is ‘green’ to represent growth and new life. The hymns often focus on light and gladness as we are led to understand who Jesus is and what his mission was. We are called to grow in faith and share the message with the world. There is often a challenge to reach out in mission and to join with other churches in cooperation. An ‘ecumenical Sunday’ is usually scheduled around January 20th when Christian churches observe a joint service. The last Sunday of Epiphany coincides with the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday), which this year happens on Feb. 26th. (Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring solstice, generally March 21st, and Ash Wed. would be 40 days prior, not counting Sundays).



OUR ONGOING HISTORY: THE CHURCH BUILDING AND BUILDING THE CHURCH

As we launch into another year of life together in our FCCOF, we plan for activities and needs for 2020 while also taking stock of accomplishments and challenges dealt with in 2019. Council closed the past year with positive efforts taken for the care and maintenance of our building. Updates have addressed many physical issues, enhanced the attractiveness of the interior and future needs have been prioritized by the trustees. Each New Year we create more “history” for this place we love, this church building.

We also must see to “the building of the Church”, the ongoing process of keeping our congregation’s life as a community of Faith and Fellowship vital and relevant to each one of us. On January 7th, Velma Watson Fall Hormell celebrated her 95th birthday, becoming the true “Elder” of the FCCOF, one who continues to serve, as she and members of her family have done for decades. Each of us, as families and individuals, is a necessary part of the building of the ongoing history of this Church. Whether we have worshipped here for a lifetime or have come recently, each of us brings life and Faith to our communion together.

On January 19th, the Reverend Doctor Bob Bossdorf died after a long illness. He’d come home to recuperate further, but he suddenly passed on a Sunday afternoon, ending his many years of serving us as Pastor and, after retirement, as a member of the congregation who dedicated time to working with the food pantry until his poor health limited what he could do to help and serve others. Bob’s death, and the deaths of each person in our Church family, are the loss of physical presence among us; but the work of their spiritual offerings to this Church are memories carried in our hearts, part of our shared history.

When we gathered on December 1, 2019 for our annual meeting, we continued the tradition of meeting for the congregation to discuss and vote on the business of the Church for the next year. The council’s executive board was confirmed and new committee members were named. The work of the various parts of council was presented in the annual report, and the projected budget for 2020 was discussed and approved at \$107,500. Our By-Laws were reviewed with proposed amendments/changes and voted into acceptance. Participation in the annual meeting also builds on our history. We

ended with the Service of Remembrance for those Church members and friends who died in 2019. The meeting closed with the bittersweet ritual of sadness and comfort as we sang “Till We Meet Again” We are linked here, generation to generation, in our living and our dying.

Now Dean Robertson, council president, is enjoying sunny Florida as I write this on another “snow day” in the Winter Wonderland of Freedom, miles and seasons apart! But Dean and I both want to thank all committee heads and members of council for the commitments and hard work offered in service to God and for the good of us all in the past year. We thank council’s Treasurer and Secretary as well as the Financial Secretary and Auditors for their dutiful labors. We are grateful for the time and energy offered all year long by members of Church Committees and for Volunteers in general. And we offer thanks to our Pastor and Choir/Music Director for their ministries that keep building the Spiritual Life of our Faith community. Our Admin. Asst./Secretary and Sexton too, give such talented care to the daily functioning of FCCOF. We thank all for working together to help with the church building and “The Building of the Church”.

I am reminded of the little game played with young children where we fold our hands a certain way and say: “Here is the church; here is the steeple; open the doors; see all the people!” Council’s hope for 2020 is that we all join together to care for this place of worship in the heart of Freedom; tend to one another’s needs; share in the labors of Christian love through worship, our meetings and ministries, celebrations and rites, fellowship in joys and sorrows. As we create our parts of the history of this Church, may we be able to “open the doors” and “see all the people” and give thanks to God.

Peace be with you.

Gale Morris, Council Vice-President



Next Newsletter Deadline is **February 19th**

If you need to reach Pastor Larry, he has a new phone number.

860-573-4552

Also, the church has a new email address:

fccf1858@gmail.com



Bible Study



All are invited to Camp Calumet each week on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. in the summer months) 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.

Remember "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.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Kathy Avery | Bonnie Engroff | Bill McIntire, Jr. |
| Tarryn Balch | John Ferralasco, Jr. | Carol Melvidas |
| Gerry Barnicle | Dick & Wanda Fields | Judy Michaels |
| Suzie Bogart | Fred Kistler | Gay Mocerri |
| Charlie Bojus | Jane Garnsey | Diana Mozzoni |
| The Family of Bob Bossdorf | Dick Gauley | Cindy Nason |
| Chris, Harold, Kevin & Robert Boynton | Cynthia Granahan | Peg Nichols |
| | Lynn Hinchee | Billy Norton |
| | | Gail Bizer and the family of Clifford (Kippy) Pomeroy |
| Steve Bracci | John Hogan | Pat & Roger Olson |
| Harold Brown, Jr. | Karen Hopkins | DeMott Post |
| Christie Catino | Glenn Hormell | Jeannie Rogers |
| Terry Chadbourne | Rob Hyam | Kim Rose |
| Eric Chamberlain | Dale Johnson | Peter Scully |
| Carolyn Clancy | Elmer Killam | |
| Celia Costa | Fred Kistler | Kevin Stark |
| Greg Dayton | Nancy Koza | Ellie Stokes |
| Lorelei DeNisco | Harold Libby, Sr. | Laureen Strauch |
| Connie Dockiham | Bernice MacLeod | David Tanis |
| Kenny Dumas | Jeff & Kathy MacLeod | Jim Tracey |
| David Eldridge | Christopher Malloy | Debbie Trail |
| Delores Ellis | Doreen Martin | Deanna Vallely |
| Kate Elliott | Debbie McGivney | John White |

all our country's military personnel and their families.



Handbell Choir, January 26th

You'll want to be sure to attend worship on January 26th when the bell choirs from the Camp Calumet Handbell Retreat come to ring. Invite a few friends to come and hear as well.

Imagine being part of an ensemble where you have 2 to 6 notes that only you are responsible for. As the music happens you must ring your bells at exactly the right time, stop them ringing at the right time, and do so with one of several possible techniques. The other ringers at the table are doing the same. Now imagine the teamwork, skill, and practice it takes to make the ringing of each individual combine with the others to make beautiful music. I think it's fascinating to hear and to watch.

The bells are made of brass. They can be as small as 2 inches or greater than 15 inches in diameter, from 8 oz. in weight to over 18 lbs. Ringers wear gloves to prevent the oil from their hands damaging the brass. The White Chapel brand handbells are manufactured in England. The two American brands, Malmark and Schulmerich are manufactured in Pennsylvania.



P.T. Barnum is credited with bringing this English art form to the U.S. in the 1840s when he hired the "Swiss Bell Ringers" to perform. This is where the misunderstanding that the

bells are of Swiss origin comes from. The ringers Barnum recruited were not Swiss at all but from Lancashire, England.



**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Happy New Year from your Pastoral search committee.

We continue to meet as a committee, and currently have three candidates who have expressed interest in the position. We are setting interviews and will be focused on narrowing down our selection in the coming months.

We again express our appreciation as a committee to Pastor Larry and Nancy for their lengthy notice given and their flexibility in working with us. This is a decision that we want to reach prayerfully for the best of our congregation and the future ministry of our church.

Best,
June Burt
Search Committee Chairperson



**FEBRUARY 26TH AT
7 PM**



Annual Meeting Luncheon

Thanks to a Thrivent Grant of \$250 to cover the cost of sandwiches, desserts and decorations, donations totaled \$234 for our George Davidson Scholarship Fund. Thanks everyone, for your donations on that day.



CHRISTMAS EVE 2019



LADIES GUILD

Ladies Guild continues to meet weekly on Mondays from 9am - 2pm. We work on quilts for babies at Memorial Hospital. Last year, we donated over 250 quilts. If you sew, would like to learn or love to quilt, you are welcome to join us.



**Nominating Committee
Annual Report
2019**

President	Dean Robertson
Vice President	Gale Morris
Secretary	LuAnn Rollins
Treasurer	Paul Olzerowicz
Assistant Treasurer	Bob Smart
Financial Secretary	Barbara Buffery
Assist. Financial Secretary	Claire Tracey
Historian	Bob Smart
Assist. Historian	Gale Morris

Deacons:	Neal Boyle	20
	Clayton Johnson	20
	Norma Johnson	20
	Judy Robertson	20
	Gail Bizer	21
	Carol McIntyre	21
	Nancy Beckwith	21
	Karen Olszewski	22

Trustees:	Mark McKinley	20
	Lucy Kendall	20
	Steve Thurston	20
	Charlie Bojus	20
	Dan Spear	21

Auditors: Richard Burt, Dave Porter, Dean Robertson, Ex-Officio

Finance Committee:	
Treasurer	Paul Olzerowicz
Assistant Treasurer	Bob Smart
Financial Secretary	Barbara Buffery
Assist. Financial Sec.	Claire Tracey
Congregation Rep.	Judy Blake

Membership Committee:

Dianna Thurston	20
Pat Bojus	20
Sandy Boyle	20
Claire Tracey	20
Karen Olszewski	21

We thank all the church members who agreed to be on the different committees.

Sandy Boyle, Lucy Kendall, Karen Olszewski, Carol McIntyre.

Just for Fun!

The answers to the November/December

Newsletter riddle is:

1. Sixty-six
2. Thirty-nine
3. Twenty-seven
4. New Testament
5. Old Testament
6. Four – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
7. Daniel
8. Genesis
9. Revelation
10. Psalm

NEW RIDDLE

How are the following Bible characters related?

1. Cain and Abel (Genesis 4, especially v. 8)
2. Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 21, especially v.3)
3. Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38,39)
4. Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2)
5. Moses and Aaron (Exodus 4:14)
6. Eunice and Lois (2 Timothy 1:5)
7. Peter and Andrew (Matthew 4:18)
8. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)
9. Joseph and Benjamin (Genesis 42:3,4)
10. David and Absalom (2 Samuel 18:33)



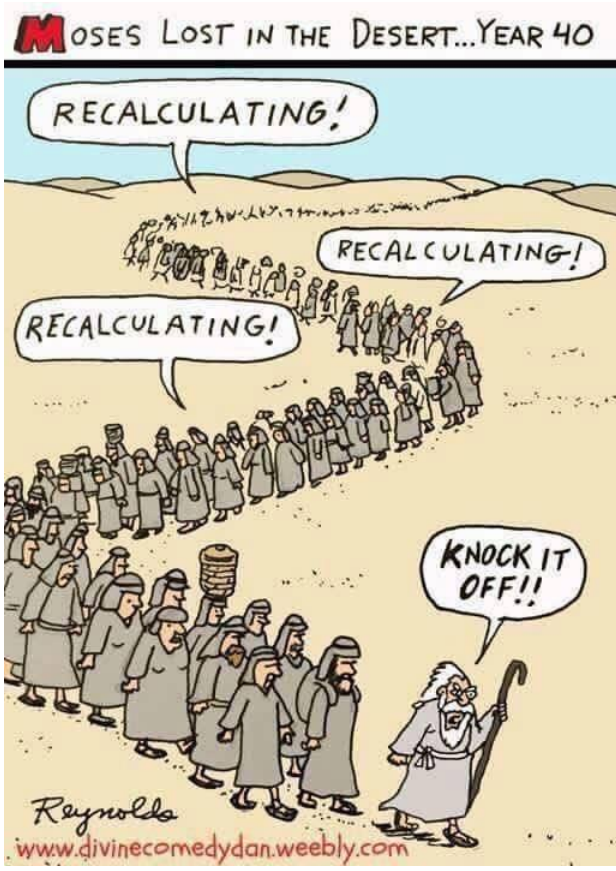
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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

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

JUST FOR LAUGHS!



February, 2020

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

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

Like us on Facebook!

Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman, 860-573-4552