



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

Freedom Rings

May/June
2020



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A New Way of Living

It's often been said that life is a series of 'adjustments'. From the time that we're born, a person is subjected to changes. Think of life as a baby, from being nursed to graduating to solid food, from sleeping in a crib to transitioning to a bed, from making baby noises to verbalizing words. These changes continue through life - some happen naturally without much thought while others involve complicated decisions and much anxiety. There are even indexes which measure the effect of various changes - the death of a loved one, moving to a new job, getting married or divorced, having an accident

or getting sick, winning the lottery or losing in the stock-market. I wonder where the latest event figures in all of this - the onset of Covid19?

In the month and a half that we've known it, our life has been altered in several ways. Not only the simple handshakes and hugs we've grown used to, but travel plans and work schedules that are second nature to our society have been changed. We've already cancelled 2 trips to visit our children, and several worship services, even the high holy days of Lent and Easter. We've grown accustomed to hearing of tornadoes and fires in other parts of our country, but now our anxiety levels have risen as we hear the death tolls from New York City and Boston. And when we hear that we're in the main target group of the disease (60 year olds and above), it gains our attention even more.

Well, I'm sure your experience has been similar. Life is a series of adjustments and changes, some good, others not so good. As we reflect on our faith and this time of year, we are reminded of the life and death, and new life that Jesus went through. We also remember the followers of Christ, how their lives were upset by the crucifixion and resurrection. Many bad and upsetting things resulted, but there were many more constructive actions, including the foundations of the Christian Church that came through this period. Might there be some

positive behaviors and deeds going on in the midst of this crisis? I know of extra donations to the church and food pantry. People are calling lonely neighbors and offering help to needy victims of job loss. Some are making face masks and aiding with extra trips to the post office or grocery store. We don't know how or why this plague has come upon the world, but we do know that God works through people 'to redeem' the evil that seems so troublesome. May we all focus on God's mercy and compassion, especially when things seem dark and uncertain.

It looks like worship will be suspended another month, but we're hopeful that maybe June will bring us back together again. Meanwhile, stay healthy and keep praying! God bless. Pastor Larry



HOPE! We hope for a quick end to the covid-19 virus. It is amazing how we are all effected by the covid-19. Gas prices are down and we can't go anywhere, people are out of work, grocery store shelves are empty and long unemployment lines. I drive past our church and see the sign that says No Services thru April and wonder when this will end. Let's hope we can open in early May for our Sunday services and we can be together with our church family again.

We have a lot to be thankful for; Pastor Larry's Easter Message, our families, our homes and our friends. We can talk on the phone and Skype with our families to keep in touch.

Judy and I came home from Florida the second week of April with our trailer and traveled through 13 states without any problems. All rest stops were open and truck plazas to get food and gasoline. The campgrounds were open that we needed to stop at, although not many people using them. I might add that there

wasn't much traffic on the highways. Either people left early or stayed put.

I was pleased to see the newly renovated cushions in the church and can't wait until we can all be together again.

Hoping everyone stays well.

Dean Robertson



**50th Anniversary of Earth Day,
April 22, 2020
He's Got the Whole World in His
Hands!**



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.

If you need to reach Pastor Larry, his phone number is 860-573-4552.

PRAYER LIST

Let us pray for all the Covid-19 victims, the essential workers and all our country's military personnel and their families.



One of our members sent in this quote: "No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind."

MEMBERSHIP

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

I hope this short update finds you all well and safe. We have been in the process of checking in with as many church members as possible to see if anyone was in need of help with food, doctor appointments, etc. Many people have stepped up to offer help where needed, please feel free to call me if you need any assistance (Sandy Boyle, 539 7791).

Hopefully, as the summer months approach, we will be able to plan a fellowship gathering, even if we must still follow safe distancing protocols; only time will tell. Until we get further notice from our Governor on how to proceed in the coming weeks, please stay safe and take care of each other until we can be together again. Remember we are never alone.

Sandy Boyle - Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT



Treasurer Report

Church Financial Activity

Church expenses exceeded income through April 20, 2020 by \$5,400. The loss is a little higher than usual at this time of year due to suspension of Sunday services and all the family disruptions arising from Covid-19. Giving is \$3,000 lower this year than last year.

The church was approved for a \$13,100 SBA PPP loan to help during this crisis. The portion of the loan that is used for payroll and utilities is not required to be paid back. The program covers the 8 week period following closing on the loan which has not yet been scheduled. I

expect the closing in the next week or two which would cover us until the end of June. We all expect things to be better by then and hope Sunday services, church office hours and regular church meetings to resume.

The Anderson rainy day fund paid out \$3,630 this year to cover the remaining balance of church pew cushions and a new central vacuum system for the church.

Five 2019-2020 George Davidson Scholarship recipients received their awards this year totaling \$5,500.

Investments

As all of you know, the stock market was hit hard in March as uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a 35% drop in the stock market from their February highs. The corona virus caused our governmental leaders to close down non-essential services making the medical crisis a financial crisis.

First quarter 2020 losses for the church portfolio amounted to 10.8% pretty much giving back all of 2019's gains. Since March 31st, the portfolio has recovered 3.8%, although many believe it will take years to fully recover. The portfolio is diversified with a very strong cash position able to weather this financial storm. Church investments are held at discount brokerage custodians, Vanguard and TD Ameritrade.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Paul J. Olzerowicz
Treasurer

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



This is the time that we hear from our 2019 scholarship recipients. It seems they are flourishing academically at their schools. Among them are: Ithaca College, UNH, Simmons University, St. Michael's and Southern NH University. Many have made the Dean's List. It is gratifying to know our church has played a small part in helping these students achieve their goals. We wish them continued success as they continue on their academic journey.

This is also the time we begin to ready ourselves for the next group of applicants. What a difficult task it is, too, with so many worthy students. The committee works very hard, soldiering through much information and always wishing they could do more. They do an amazing job and bring much to the process. I am grateful for their dedication.

Jane Hartnett
Scholarship Committee Chair



LADIES GUILD

The Ladies' Guild has not met since the beginning of March. However, several members have been taking kits home to sew and last week we took 17 quilts to Memorial Hospital's birthing center. We, as well as everyone we know, are anxiously waiting the lifting of distancing and staying at home. At least the nicer weather lets us go outside comfortably.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Nichols



The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our method of providing food to our clients. We now meet clients in the driveway to fill out their forms. The clients return to their cars to wait for their food delivery. Many food pantries are pre-making the bags of food their clients receive. Our clients may still choose what foods they want.

We would like to express our **huge** appreciation to Hannaford for the meat donations we are again receiving.

During the month of March, our pantry distributed food for our clients to prepare the number of meals listed below:

	<u>Meals</u>
Center Ossipee	273
Effingham	336
Freedom	630
Ossipee	<u>252</u>
Total	1,491

During this pandemic, support for our pantry has grown. Not only have we received food donations, but, most importantly, financial donations. With that money, we are able to buy food from the New Hampshire Food Bank for pennies on the dollar! **THANK YOU to those individuals who continue to support our pantry.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Peg Nichols, Co-Director
Doris Sirois, Co-Director

Green Mountain Conservation Group and the GotSneakers Campaign



Most people have extra sneakers in their closets they would like to donate rather than throw away. By doing so, we can help raise money for the 2020 Watershed Challenge, help the environment, and have the chance to help individuals and families in developing countries who are in desperate need of economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone!

Green Mountain Conservation Group, GMCG.org is holding an athletic shoe drive fundraiser in 2020 to raise money for our 2020 Watershed Challenge. GMCG will earn funds based on the total quantity of pairs of gently worn, used and new sneakers collected. [GotSneakers](#), a social enterprise, will issue funds in compensation for the collected sneakers. Those funds will be matched in 2020 by a challenge grant of \$45,000. **Anyone can help by simply donating gently worn, used and new sneakers.**

[GotSneakers](#) is a unique fundraising initiative that asks communities to reach into their closets, not their pockets! All donated sneakers are redistributed throughout the [GotSneakers'](#) network of small business partners throughout Haiti, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Ukraine. [GotSneakers](#) works with micro-entrepreneurs helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Learn more about [GotSneakers](#) by visiting their website at www.gotsneakers.com.

So ask your friends, relatives and bag them up and **drop them off in the church foyer and we'll give them to GMCG.** It's something we can do while at home during the pandemic. .

About Green Mountain Conservation Group is a non-profit 501(c)3, charitable organization established in 1997 and dedicated to the preservation of the natural resources in the Ossipee Watershed. The towns of Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth make up the boundaries of the Ossipee Watershed.

Contact: Green Mountain Conservation Group
PO Box 95, 236 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham, NH 03882, 603/539-1859, www.gmcg.org, info@gmcg.org



Next Newsletter Deadline is **June 22nd**



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Here is hoping that we can all gather together again very soon! Stay safe.

In case you need to call the church for any reason, I am here at the office on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm.

Sincerely,

Patty Dumas

Just for Laughs!

SAVE
water
DRINK
WINE

A trooper pulls over a priest and immediately smells alcohol on his breath. The next thing he notices is an empty wine bottle lying on the passenger seat. "Have you been drinking?" the officer asks. "Just water," says the priest. "Then why do I smell wine?" The priest looks at the bottle and shouts, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

Just for Fun!

The answer to the Riddle in the
March/April Newsletter is:

PETER

NEW RIDDLE: Bible Acrostic

**The first letter of each answer forms
the name of one of the greatest Jewish
holidays**

1. That which we are to do without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
2. The man God knew would command his household after him (Genesis 18:19)
3. A bird God notices as it falls to the ground (Matthew 10:29)
4. A church mentioned in Revelation (Revelation 3:1)
5. The number of times Christ offered up Himself for sin (Hebrews 7:27)
6. That which Jesus calls Himself in John 15:1; "the true _____".
7. A man who kissed his brother who had wronged him (Genesis 33:4)
8. The last book in the New Testament.

**GOOD LUCK WITH
THIS ONE!!!!!!**

June, 2020

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

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman, 860-573-4552