



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

Freedom Rings

July/August 2020



PASTOR'S COMMENTS

We continue to sit in our semi-quarantine state, waiting to be freed from Covid-19 and an important race issue. We are fortunate in that we're not physically suffering, at least those of us who are healthy and secure (retired or working). We do miss our weekly worship and coffee hours, as well as Bible and Book studies, committee and Council meetings, and daily contact with friends and neighbors. Who would have prophesied such circumstances? I guess there are a few who have warned against

such trials, but it would have been a stretch to predict the extent of it. All the more reason to turn to our faith to make any sense of it all!

The pandemic is a natural disaster, seemingly beyond our control. The 'bat' with the virus evidently transferred it to a 'human', and away it went. Some have suggested that a foreign government conspired to cause the epidemic, but that probably doesn't make sense since it has affected the whole world. We've had 'plagues' before, and this will not be the last. We are learning how to live with it, uncomfortable as that may be, and at a great cost in lives, but hope is on the horizon and some good things have resulted. Has God entered into this crisis? Is God providing relief and answers to our un-ease? As people of faith and observers of the world around us, I would answer a grateful 'yes'. We have measures to protect ourselves, we have people who have sacrificed to help and assist the victims, we have experts working on vaccines and medications to overcome the effects of the virus, and we have our faith to know that God cares for each of us. So, we can pray and help and support and practice all those things which will lead to overcoming this obstacle.

The race issue may be a little harder to deal with, but there, too, God is involved and so are we! Injustice has been with us since the beginning of time. It is the result of hate and ignorance, and the inability to treat everyone equally. To understand the fear and inequality

that Black Americans, and other minorities feel, is beyond our comprehension, but is still an issue for most of us. It's further inflamed when we see rioting and killing resulting from the marches and demonstrations. But, we can't take our eyes off the discrimination that occurs. Why is it that Black American men are disproportionately stopped and questioned, why do we immediately suspect a Black American of a crime, and why are Black Americans more likely to live in poverty? I'm sure we can come up with sociological reasons, but it isn't right. We need to change, just like for the pandemic. Engage in conversation, read about the history - the real history, look at each person through the eyes of Christ, seek the Spirit of God to help in understanding, respect the views of others, and pray for God to change hearts. It's frustrating that the race issue has not been resolved after all these years, but, I suspect, it will be with us for years to come.

So, there are a couple things to occupy your minds during these long summer days. On the subject of services, the Council is continuing to keep the ban on congregational worship until at least August, and probably beyond. It's just too risky to expose ourselves to the virus by gathering together. Most churches are following that course. I've been writing 'comments' on the lessons, but we're thinking about a way to videotape the service and putting it 'on line'. Most of our members should have access to a computer, and those that don't might have family or friends that would bring them the service. We're hoping to do that the next few weeks, so we'll try to let everyone know when we do that. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email. I'm also usually in the office Monday and Wednesday, but call before coming as the door is locked. Other than that, continue to pray and seek to share God's love with each other. God bless and keep you safe!

Pastor Larry

The Church Council met in June for the first time since February. We met in the sanctuary with masks on and distancing as required. I was pleased that almost all the council members were present. Most members had short reports as we haven't had church for almost four months. We had a scholarship report, Trustees report, Christian Ed report, Music and Worship report, Deacons report, Food Pantry report, Membership Committee report, Finance report, Audit report and Treasurers report.

We decided to talk about opening the church for Sunday services at the next Council meeting on July 15. Most members felt it was too early to think about having services with people getting too close.

Paul Olzerowicz gave a very complete treasurers report and explained how he was able to get money from government sources that won't have to be paid back. These funds carried payroll and some bills for April and May. Paul has been working hard to find free money during these hard times. Many thanks.

We also want to thank Pastor Larry for his weekly sermons and being in the office two days a week. Thank you to our Church secretary, Patty, for being at church two days a week, answering the phone, and keeping the church office operating. Lastly, I want to thank Mark McKinley for checking the church and keeping it clean after Food Pantry meets, also for mowing the lawn when needed. Mark continues to ring the church bell each Sunday at 10 am. We are blessed to have dedicated employees.

I hope we can all meet together for services very soon. In the meantime please stay healthy and safe.

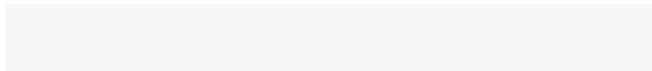
Dean Robertson, President



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.



Rachel Peters



I have missed you! Of course the church is not the building but the people and we can still do our daily devotions in our own homes or special outdoor places. We have been following the Lord's command by looking out for one another and our neighbor. We are still the First Christian Church of Freedom. Yet it's just not the same when we cannot go to church on Sunday for worship and fellowship.

The hymn that comes to mind for me in these times is *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*. It was written by the Rev. John Fawcett in 1872 on the occasion of his parting from the poor, rural church he had ministered to in England. Since there was no parsonage, the Reverend's family of 6 had to board in the homes of congregation members. They were regularly moved from one house to another. Much of the pastor's salary was paid in wool and potatoes. When

an opportunity came for Rev. Fawcett to serve a more prosperous congregation in London he took it.

The hymn was sung on what was to be his last Sunday there. The story goes that as the family was leaving, John's wife, Mary, turned and looked back. She said, "I can't stand it John! I know not how to go." John responded, "Lord help me Mary, nor can I stand it! We will unload the wagon. We have changed our minds! We are going to stay!" The people received them back with joy. Rev Fawcett was to serve that church for a further 45 years.

We too will be reunited. For now our connection must be at a physical distance but the tie that binds us, the love of Jesus Christ, will not fade. God be with you till we meet again!

Carolyn

1. *Blessed be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.*
2. *Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one
Our comforts and our cares.*
3. *We share each other's woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.*
4. *When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.*
5. *This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way;
While each in expectation lives,
And longs to see the day.*
6. *From sorrow, toil and pain,
And sin, we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.*

PRAYER LIST

Kathy Avery	Dick & Wanda Fields	Carol Melvidas
Tarryn Balch	Jane Garnsey	Judy Michaels
Gerry Barnicle	The Family of Dick Gauley	Gay Mocerri
Suzie Bogart	Michael Gilroy	Diana Mozzoni
Charlie Bojus	Cynthia Granahan	Cindy Nason
Chris, Harold, Kevin & Robert Boynton	Tony Hampton	Billy Norton
Steve Bracci	Lynn Hinchee	Pat & Roger Olson
Harold Brown, Jr.	John Hogan	Paul Olzerowicz
Christie Catino	Karen Hopkins	DeMott Post
Eric Chamberlain	Glenn Hormell	Jeannie Rogers
Carolyn Clancy	Rob Hyam	Kim Rose
Celia Costa	Dale Johnson	Peter Scully
Greg Dayton	Elmer Killam	Marci Sharp
Lorelei DeNisco	Fred Kistler	Kevin Stark
Connie Dockiham	Nancy Koza	Ellie Stokes
David Eldridge	Bernice MacLeod	Laureen Strauch
Delores Ellis	Jeff & Kathy MacLeod	Jim Tracey
Kate Elliott	Christopher Malloy	Debbie Trail
Bonnie Engroff	Debbie McGivney	Deanna Vallely
John Ferralasco, Jr.	Bill McIntire, Jr.	John White

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



Treasurer Report

Church Financial Activity

All Church expenses received have been paid. There may be a few at the Church office that are yet to be processed but they should be small. As of June 15, 2020, Church expenses exceed income by \$11,300 all of which will be offset by the SBA PPP loan which I am currently working on getting forgiven.

The 2018 Church Auditors report was received this past week and I am reviewing its recommendations.

Financial information for the 2019 Audit was prepared April 29, 2020 and is awaiting review delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Investments

The stock market has recovered most of their losses incurred through March 23, 2020 and the Church investment portfolio is down only 3.5% for 2020 through June 15, 2020. The unprecedented effects of the Covid-19 pandemic is why markets are down. As virus treatments, and ultimately a vaccine, are discovered, stock markets will rebound further, but the process will take time. The Church 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 any 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 has been a challenging year on all fronts. The scholarship applications from Kennett High School came via email.

There was much difficulty opening/forwarding/reading them. Reading that many on a small screen is daunting, to say the least! The committee rose to the occasion, read, and ranked the applications and forwarded them to the chair for averaging, and the following students were chosen as this year's recipients:

- Brianna Desharnais
- Rachel Hanson
- Meredith Paulding
- Jackson Ogren

Because of Covid-19, graduation plans are in flux until a late date. The Kennett staff presented the awards this year. The students were sent a letter from the church as well.

Congratulations go to these scholars and to the committee for performing with patience and professionalism. This year's members were Gail Bizer, Velma Hormell, Paul Olzerowicz, Dean Robertson, Steve Thurston, and Pastor Larry.

Jane Hartnett
Scholarship Committee Chair



Whenever I pass a church, I stop to pay a visit. So when I'm carried in, the Lord won't ask "Who is it?"



LADIES GUILD

The Ladies Guild has not met as a group since around the beginning of March due to the corona virus pandemic. However, members are making quilts at home, sewing tops, assembling and tying.

No sales were held all summer. It is hoped that when "Freedom Rings in the Holidays" we will be able to participate and everything will be back to normal.

Respectfully submitted,
Myrtle MacLeod
Guild Secretary



THE AMAZING TONY HAMPTON

Food insecurity in the Mount Washington Valley continues. All organizations (NH Food Bank, USDA and our pantry) have stepped up to meet this challenge. At this time our numbers of clients has remained level. We expect this to trend upward after July 26 when the \$600 Federal PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) ends.

The pantry extends our thank you to the three towns, individuals, organizations, and foundations who have supported us financially during these trying times. We wish to thank our volunteers who work each Saturday. We also thank our "Food Pantry Angel" who provides our pantry with 2 cases of paper towels and 1 case of toilet paper each week. It has been a challenge to keep the pantry stocked during the store shortages, but, so far, we have succeeded.

It is our intention to continue working outside with our pantry clients into the fall.

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



Tony and her husband Levis came here to Freedom every summer since 1958. She had an early association within this area as she came as a child on vacation with her family. They were guests of the owners of Roof Tree Farm. They loved the beauty and serenity surrounding them so much that they eventually purchased the place.

She and Levis were professors of English Lit at Endicott College. Tony also taught speech. They first lived in Wellesley, MA then later in 1965, moved to Hamilton to be closer to the college.

They were members of the First Christian Church of Freedom; Tony being involved with all things that had to do with the children, drama and, of course, the Christmas plays; and Levis being the organist and singing in the choir.

She would also fill in at the pulpit if needed. Levis was the organist at the Moultonville Methodist Church in Center Ossipee and Tony would also preach there if needed. She was in demand at many of the local churches to serve as an interim minister for vacationing clergy. She performed weddings, baptisms and the renewal of vows.

Tony was very active in the West Eaton Meeting House doing services, planning & executing many functions; she did programs and bus tours for Purity Spring Resort; she had black yard birds that were her prize winning

Next Newsletter Deadline is **August 24th**

fancy chickens and last, but I'm sure not least, she had fashion shows with her very own vintage clothing that she designed!

I'm not sure how to close this bio on such an amazing story except to say that Tony was a very special woman with an amazing, active, vivacious life filled with spirit, love, compassion and talent and who is still admired by all.

Gail Bizer



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I miss seeing all of you. 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!



A mother was teaching her three-year-old The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, the child repeated it after the mother. Then one night the child was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride to the carefully enunciated words, right up to the end. 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some e-mail'

Just for Fun!

The answers to the Riddle in the May/June Newsletter are:

1. Pray
2. Abraham
3. Sparrow
4. Sardis
5. Once
6. Vine
7. Esau
8. Revelation

NEW RIDDLE:

You are to hunt for ten words of five letters each and all beginning with the letters RO. Each word is described or defined to help you guess it, and you may check your answer by looking for the word in the Bible verse given.

1. Large Stones (Jeremiah 4:29)
2. Parts of a House (Matthew 23:6)
3. Man of a certain nationality (Acts 22:29)
4. Garments (Luke 20:46)
5. A way to cook meat (1 Samuel 2:15)
6. Parts of a tree (Mark 11:20)
7. To waken (Genesis 49:9)
8. The opposite of smooth (Isaiah 40:4)
9. Kingly (Esther 5:1)
10. Large twisted cords (Acts 27:32)

THERE IS NO CALENDAR IN THIS NEWSLETTER BECAUSE, FOR THE TIME BEING, THERE ARE NO CHURCH SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES (except for the food pantry on Saturday mornings). LET US HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE DOORS WILL OPEN AND WE WILL BE TOGETHER VERY SOON.

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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Like us on Facebook!

Pastor Lawrence N. Wogman, 860-573-4552

