



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

# Freedom Rings

January/**February**  
2021



## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**

*3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*3:2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

*3:3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*3:4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*3:5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*3:6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*

*3:7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*3:8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.*

And so we begin a new year. Who knows what 2021 holds in store for us as a community of faith - as a people? Only time will tell.

As I write this, the old year is not yet past and the wrapping paper from yesterday's small gift giving awaits my attention there on the family room floor. All in good time, I think. For everything there is a season - even tidying up!

It has been a rich and poignant holiday season. More relaxing in some ways, but not without sadness for the missing of traditional family gatherings.

I dare say, we have never experienced a Christmas Eve quite like this one. The sanctuary, all but empty, save the few of us participating in the recorded service, was never the less full of the light of Christ and we were blessed by that unnamable Presence. Then, love and light having filled our hearts to overflowing, spilled out into the dark, damp village street where friends and neighbors stood side by side in wonder for the retelling of Christ's coming. God bless the bell ringers and the candle holders, the readers and the watchers who came to this brief gathering on that long blessed night.

If the prevalent spirit of these recent days is any indication of what is to come, I am hopeful indeed. Even the wind and rain appeared to be blowing and washing away the troublesome old year and clearing way for the new.

I continue to settle in here at First Christian Church and in the village. Your names are becoming familiar, as are the top halves of your faces!

Just a reminder, that I am usually at the church on Mondays from about 9:00 - 2:00, and available for a walk or phone chat almost any other time, by appointment. I am always glad to hear from you whether by mail, email, phone, Facebook - even text messages.

Soon, I pray, we will be able to see each other face to face over a cuppa something, for worship, singing, fellowship and leisurely, unmasked visits. In the meantime, we remember that for everything there is a season, and our season of caring for each other by keeping safe distance and wearing face coverings in each other's presence continues.

Thank you everyone for being a part of this wonderful community. Already you have touched my heart and enriched my life and ministry by your presence.

Happy New Year and God bless you all!

With love,  
Pastor Mary



### PASTORAL VISITS

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

If you need to reach Pastor Mary, her phone number is 367-9420 (H) or 515-6220.



## Presidents Message

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a safe Christmas. Judy and I stayed home and had a zoom session with our families, different, but at least everyone is still healthy. Pastor Mary continues to have her weekly service on face book each week with more of our members participating. The weekly zoom coffee meetings are fun to be involved in.

Each Sunday Mark rings the bell at 10 am and 15 to 20 people continue to show up to hear Pastor Mary do a reading and lead us in the Lord's Prayer. Some people ask for concerns. It's so nice to see our members and local town folks come out to enjoy this new offering.

Please remember to keep up your pledges and send them in. We are doing ok, but the church continues to need your support.

I am sending best wishes for a Happy New Year and let's hope the vaccine works!

Dean Robertson, President



### Starting the New Year

We are re-doing the Prayer List in order to keep it up to date. If you have a prayer request, please send it to Patty at [fccf1858@gmail.com](mailto:fccf1858@gmail.com) or call 603-539-6484 or drop it off at the office. Thank you.

**In the meantime, please pray for Pastor Mary's cousin, Dottie Forehand, who is on a ventilator with Covid-19; and 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 are paid. As of November 13, 2020, Church expenses exceed income by \$30,500 which is about \$1,100 worse than last month due to the timing of expense payments. Giving for the first 11.5 months of 2020 is \$23,900 behind 2019 giving levels which is just about the same as last month. The Treasurer sent out a "status" letter to all church members letting them know where they are with their 2020 giving. Giving is expected to "catch-up" the majority of the shortfall by the end of the year. SBA PPP loan forgiveness and Parsonage/Perpetual Fund distributions are expected to offset the majority of the overall shortfall but 2020 giving needs to pick up by the end of the year to avoid a deficit for 2020. As the Covid-19 pandemic prevents us from gathering we will not have our usual December 2020 Annual Meeting. Accordingly, the church officers are recommending the 2021 Budget remain the same as the 2020 Budget. 2021 Pledge letters were sent out this past week to get a clearer picture of giving for 2021.

### **Investments**

The last few weeks have showed promise toward a vaccine for the Covid-19 virus. The stock market responded well to this news. Yet a better stock market does not help those who are in pain and suffering due to the pandemic. So as we enter this holiday season, be kind to everyone as we cannot know the depth of the loss Covid-19 has done to many of our neighbors. The Church investment portfolio is diversified with a strong cash position. The Church pooled investment account is held by discount brokerage custodians Vanguard and TD Ameritrade. The Food Pantry investment account is held by Fidelity with Thrivent as their investment advisor. 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

**THIS NEWSLETTER FEATURES A  
LONG STANDING MEMBER OF THE  
CHURCH, DAVID MESERVE  
(Revised)**





Dave is a native to Freedom – born and raised right here on the family farm on Scarboro Road. He went to school at the town offices; downstairs from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, then moved upstairs from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He then went on to Kennett High School in Conway, graduating in 1956. After high school he joined the Air Force, for 4 years.

When he returned home, he went to The 5 Chimneys at Province Lake where he met Linda. They courted and fell in love and in 1960 they had a garden wedding at Moose Pond in Denmark, Maine. He went on to have a wonderful family life raising their children. He and Linda celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2012. Linda passed away two months later.

Dave was the Post Master in Center Ossipee, retired from there in 1977 then purchased the Freedom Post Office. He contracted his brother to build an apartment under the post office, where he lives to this day. He attended services faithfully at the First Christian Church of Freedom and became a member in 1996. George Davidson was the pastor at the time.

Dave was a Mason then went on to be a Shriner for 20 years where he claimed his true profession – a Shriner Clown!!

He retired in 1997, still living in the same apartment under the post office, still sitting in the same pew and, upon occasion, will be a lay reader putting his spirit into the reading.

He is enjoying his life with his children, grandchildren and many new great grand-children. He has been seen taking up 2 whole pews when they all come to visit – so full of pride. He loves taking them all out for ice cream (nearly has to take out a loan!) He enjoys relaxing, going out to eat, playing golf and loving his retirement life!

This was a wonderful experience, learning about such a fine man with such zest for life.

Thank you Dave!

Gail Bizer



## LADIES GUILD

The Ladies' Guild is sad to see several members move away. Jane has gone to Tennessee, Roberta is moving to the Chelmsford, MA area, Nancy Wogman will be moving to Connecticut sometime around March and Isabella Pomerleau has moved to Epsom. Our snowbirds have flown too. Those of us remaining continue to put together the quilts for Memorial Hospital's birthing center. This is done in parts at our homes and passed on to someone else for the next step in the process. When we can meet again in the church, we will welcome anyone who wants to learn to quilt, knows how to quilt, or just needs the socialization

Respectfully submitted,  
Peg Nichols



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We can all agree this past year is one we will never forget. The New Year is just around the corner and hopefully, it will bring a time when we can, once again, enjoy an activity or two altogether!! In the meantime stay well and

follow the guidelines, and maybe by early summer we will see a return to some sense of normalcy.

We will be in touch from time to time with many of you thru out the winter, but if anyone has a particular need, please feel free to let Patty know and it will promptly be addressed.

We wish you all a VERY HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Sandy Boyle...chair

Pat Bojus

Karen Olzewski

Dianna Thurston

Claire Tracy



The need continues at the pantry! Our client numbers have risen each week in November & December. In November, we provided our clients with food so that they were able to prepare meals as shown below:

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Clients</u>	<u>Total Meals</u>
Ctr. Ossipee	35	735
Effingham	57	1,197
Freedom	44	924
Ossipee	27	567
West Ossipee	4	84
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>3,507</b>

### Thanksgiving Meal Distribution:

Effingham	13 meals	+	21 turkeys
Freedom	11 meals	+	18 turkeys
Ctr. Ossipee	8 meals	+	12 turkeys
Ossipee	4 meals	+	7 turkeys
<u>West Ossipee</u>	<u>1 meal</u>	+	<u>1 turkey</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>37 meals</b>	+	<b>59 turkeys</b>

### The age distribution of our clients in November was:

0-18	30.5%
19-59	47.3%
60+	22.2%

With our snowbirds gone and people quarantining due to Covid-19 exposure, the number of volunteer workers has decreased. If you are willing to work one Saturday a month from 9 until noon, please stop by and talk with us.

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

### OCC JANUARY LUNCH MENU

#### Ossipee Concerned Citizens Inc.

3 Dore Street P.O. Box 426 Center Ossipee, NH 03814 (603) 539-6851

Ossipee: Monday - Friday >Call Ahead and Your Meal Will Be Ready

No Curbside Meals in Tamworth - January and February

### stay warm JANUARY 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 				
4 Spaghetti and Meat Balls Spinach Boiled Egg Garlic Bread	5 Chicken Parmesan Rice Pilaf Squash, Biscuit Cranberry Sauce	6 Mac & Cheese Franks Spinach Bread	7 Pot Roast Mashed Potatoes Gravy, Carrots Apple Sauce	8 Seafood Chowder Tuna Roll Cole Slaw Crackers
11 Fish Square Tater Tots Peas, Cole Slaw Tartar Sauce	12 Chicken Broccoli Bake Rice, Squash Cranberry Sauce Corn Bread	13 Meatball Sub. Turkey Soup Cole Slaw	14 Roast Pork Mashed Potatoes Gravy, Stuffing Carrots	15 Corn Chowder Egg Salad Crackers
18 Baked Beans Franks Beets Potato Salad Hot Biscuit	19 Salisbury Steak Baked Potato Gravy Broccoli with Cheese Sauce Hot Biscuit	20 Chop Suey Green Beans Boiled Egg Cole Slaw	21 Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes Gravy Stuffing, Squash Cranberry Sauce	22 Chili Ham and Cheese Sub Veggie Egg Rolls Crackers
25 Baked Meat Loaf Stewed Tomatoes Green Beans Apple Sauce	26 Chicken Fingers Broasted Potatoes Squash	27 Shepherd's Pie Stewed Tomatoes Boiled Egg Hot Biscuit	28 Baked Haddock Mashed Potatoes Peas, Stuffing Lobster Cream Sauce	29 Beef Stew Ham Salad Cole Slaw Crackers



Next Newsletter Deadline is **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

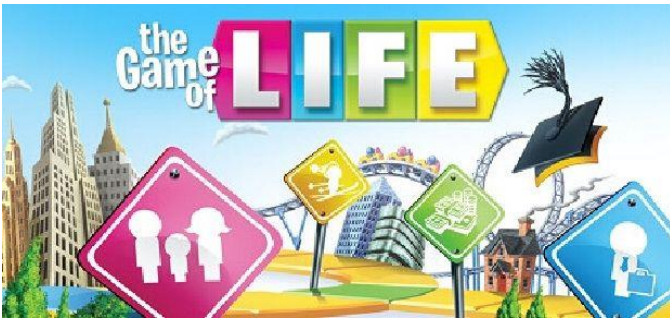


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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Let's all pray that 2021 will bring us good health, peace and joy.

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. Have a wonderful day!!!

Patty Dumas, Secretary



### SOME OF LIFE'S LITTLE INSTRUCTIONS

- \*Strive for excellence, not perfection\*
- \*Plant a tree on your birthday\*
- \*Learn three clean jokes\*
- \*Return borrowed vehicles with the gas tank full\*
- \*Compliment three people every day\*

### Just for Laughs



Designed and illustrated by Richard Gunther

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, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						10 am Food Pantry
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 am Bell Ringing  11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation						10 am Food Pantry
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 am Bell Ringing  11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation						10 am Food Pantry
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Bell Ringing  11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation			7 pm Council Meeting			10 am Food Pantry
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am Bell Ringing  11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation						10 am Food Pantry
31						
10 am Bell Ringing  11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation						



# February, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
						10 am Food Pantry
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
10 am Bell Ringing 11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation						10 am Food Pantry
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
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<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
10 am Bell Ringing 11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation						10 am Food Pantry
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
10 am Bell Ringing 11:30 FCCF Zoom Coffee & Conversation						10 am Food Pantry

## The First Christian Church of Freedom

12 Elm Street, Freedom, NH 03836

603-539-6484

Email: [fccf1858@gmail.com](mailto:fccf1858@gmail.com)

[www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org](http://www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org)

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