



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

Freedom Rings

March/April
2021



**"Sometimes I need
only to stand
wherever I am
to be blessed." ~ Mary Oliver**

As I write this, we are coming up on a full year since the church doors were closed to in person worship. Can you believe it? A year since we were warned to limit physical contact, to not share physical space with anyone outside our "pod." Since the day you welcomed me as your pastor we have witnessed the changing seasons - Autumn to Winter, and soon, Winter to Spring - and still we wait.

I sometimes stand in the quiet, empty sanctuary or walk through the fellowship hall and try to imagine us all there together - hearing your voices in prayer, in song, in conversation and laughter. It will come again. I have faith.

In the meantime, we have found ways to stay in touch, to remember each other in prayer and sometimes in person. Since November 1st, many of us have gamely donned our masks and trundled to the front of the church on Sunday mornings to greet and be greeted. Some have gathered on Zoom for our weekly, virtual coffee hour. I have enjoyed a few in person visits at the church when I am there, as well as many phone calls, emails, and walks out of doors. Slowly, slowly I am coming to know you as a congregation in this strange new world. I am grateful for all who are helping me find my way into the loop of your lives and keeping me there, by letting me know what is happening in the community.

It has been a joy to work with Carolyn as we prepare and record our worship services each week. We share a love of singing and in this time of No Group Singing Allowed, it has been a special gift. I confess, I long to sing together as a congregation - and to join the choir!

As for what's next, the most recent prediction I have seen, vis-a-vis safely gathering for indoor worship, is mid-fall 2021, after most of us will

have been vaccinated. Until then, I wonder, how is it for you? Do the recorded services, along with the written texts fill the present need until we can safely meet again? Are you wanting to try something else, as in, Face Book live-streaming, or Zoom church? The advantage to either would be the opportunity to be “together” in time, if not in space. The possible drawback, the need for a technical assistant on Sunday mornings. Please know, I am fine with whatever works best for most of you.

As we journey through Lent, listening to the familiar scripture passages of the season in conversation with the contemporary poetry of Mary Oliver (The Poetry of Lent) we are reminded that the reach of God’s presence is not confined to a building, be it church or any other, even as we love finding and feeling it there. Rather we are called to experience God all around us and within every creature and thing, to pay attention to the moment at hand, to not rush headlong into whatever comes next, for there is much to savor in each step, each breath, each hour, each day.

And now (just now) a late February wind is howling outside my window - a harbinger of March. But the sky is blue and the days are growing longer. The late winter sun will not set until 5:30 today, and a full moon tonight.

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. (Psalm 19:1-6)

We are a resurrection people. Easter is on the horizon. The sun rises and sets and rises again.

The Son rises and sets and rises again. Thanks be to God!

As Mary Oliver say: “Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell others.”

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.



Spring is coming, I can’t believe that daylight saving is in two weeks. It’s nice that so many people show up for the bell ringing at church on Sunday mornings. Then there are the zoom coffee meetings at 11:30 am with Pastor Mary and Steve. It’s nice to see our neighbors and hear what they have been doing.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the send-off for Pastor Larry and Nancy as they head off to their new life adventure. We wish them good luck.

I hope everyone is able to get their Covid shots in a timely manner. Judy and I are scheduled for shots when we return in

April. We got a call from CDC to ask if we wanted to come to Walgreens last week for a shot in North Conway.

Everyone please stay safe and pray we get over this Covid soon.

Dean and Judy from sunny Florida.



If you have a prayer request, please send it to Patty at fccf1858@gmail.com or call 603-539-6484 or drop it off at the office. Thank you.

In the meantime, please pray for all the Covid-19 victims, the essential workers and all our country's military personnel and their families



The Deacons have not had an official meeting since last summer. We do care and check in with everyone as much as possible, sending cards to those on the prayer list and some home bound.

Pastor Mary, Carolyn & Barbara McEvoy got together and made cards for Ash Wednesday to start the beginning of Lent. The cards were wonderful. Since it was just before Ash Wednesday, Lucy and Gail delivered them to as many parishioners as possible. Unfortunately

there were some that did not get delivered so we mailed them to most.

Since we, the Deacons, have not seen each other since last summer, delivering the cards was great as we got to see each other to say "Hello". It feels great coming into a new season. Soon longer days and warmer weather is good for us all.

We have a monthly meeting planned for Thursday, April 8th at the church at 10 AM. Masks will be worn and we will sit 6 feet apart. The only problem is that we will have our first meeting since Covid and it will be after Easter. But, I am hoping some will be able to help with an Easter Service. We will be in touch when we know more.

Happy Easter, Happy Spring....Happy Everything!!!

Gail Bizer, Chairperson



Treasurer Report

Church Financial Activity

All Church expenses received are paid. As of February 26, 2021, Church expenses exceed income by \$3,800 which is due entirely to a reduction in Pledge income. **Prayerfully consider keeping your Pledge current.** The Church has received \$14,200 from the SBA, Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) Round 2 which will help. Distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine has been slow and we encourage all of our members and loved ones to continue using masks

and practicing effective hygiene to keep us all safe until we are able to safely congregate once again. Investments 2021 has been good for stock investments so far. Recent weeks has seen interest rates rise on the expectation that inflation will begin to rise from the Covid-19 Relief Bill currently in Congress. Individual families and small businesses should benefit from the bill. Later an infrastructure spending bill will likely continue to put upward pressure on inflation. The stock market has been repositioning getting out of securities that benefit from Covid-19 and moving to those stocks that perform well during an economic recovery. 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, First Christian Church of Freedom



Trustees are all set keeping the driveway cleared and the sidewalks clear. Due to the mess in Texas there is a delay in installing the generator because some of the parts come from Texas. They are talking sometime in May. Let's hope that will be the date.

Lucy Kendall, Chairperson

HOLY WEEK



Hosanna!

Palm Sunday: 10:00 AM outside



Maundy Thursday: "Love one another as I have loved you."



Good Friday: Quiet vigil 7:00 PM outside

He is
RISEN

Easter Sunday: 10:00 AM outside

More **details** will be available soon.



The Freedom Food Pantry serves those residents in need from Freedom, Effingham and the Ossipees. In January, the figures were:

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Clients</u>	<u>Total Meals</u>
Ctr. Ossipee	14	294
Effingham	34	714
Freedom	41	861
Ossipee	9	189
West Ossipee	4	84
TOTALS	102	2,142

The age distribution of our clients in January was:

0-18 17.6%
 19-59 40.2%
 60+ 42.2%

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



Rachel Fall of Ossipee Chalmers Insurance Group is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on April 7 from 11-4:30pm at the Center Ossipee Town Hall gym. You can sign up right on the redcrossblood.org website and pick a time and note too if you are a first time donor. The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in and around our communities. Nationwide, someone needs blood every 203 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime. Contact Rachel at (603) 733-7151 to learn more and thank you for supporting the American Red Cross blood program. Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App on the App Store, Google Play or text BLOODAOO to 90999. Schedule appointments, view your blood type and results of your mini-physical, and track donations.

OCC MARCH LUNCH MENU

Ossipee Concerned Citizens Inc

3 Dore Street P.O. Box 426 Center Ossipee, NH 03814 (603) 539-68

To-Go Meals - Ossipee Monday - Friday - Call Ahead

To-Go Meals - Tamworth Meal - Mondays - Call Ahead 323-752



MARCH 2021



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Ahhhh - Spring
A beautiful time of year!

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Haddock Square Potato Puffs Peas Coleslaw Tartar Sauce	2 Baked Chicken Rice Pilaf Butternut Squash Cranberry Sauce	3 Spaghetti and Meat Balls Brussels Sprouts Garlic Bread	4 Baked Ham Mashed Potatoes Carrots Pineapple Sauce Corn Bread	5 Tuna Sandwich Corn Chow Cottage Cheese Boiled Eggs Coleslaw
8 Chicken Cordon Bleu Stuffing, Gravy Green Beans Cranberry Sauce	9 Chicken Gravy Over Homemade Biscuits Cranberry Sauce Squash, Peas	10 Homemade Macaroni & Cheese Italian Sausage Stewed Tomato Tossed Salad	11 Roast Pork Mashed Potatoes Applesauce Carrots Peas	12 Egg Salad Sandwich Pea Soup Olives, Pickles Crackers Tossed Salad
15 Pulled Pork Sandwich Coleslaw Buttered Corn Applesauce	16 Shepherd's Pie Mixed Vegetable Garlic Bread Cranberry Sauce	17 - Happy St. Pat's Day Lasagna Sautéed Spinach Cottage Cheese Garlic Twists	18 Boiled Dinner (Cabbage, Potato Carrot and Turnip) Corn Bread Applesauce	19 Seafood Chow Chicken Sandwich Pickled Beets Boiled Eggs Crackers
22 Red Flannel Hash Cornbread Peas Applesauce	23 Baked Beans Beef Franks Homemade Biscuit Broccoli and Cheese Sauce	24 Chicken Parmesan Spaghetti Steamed Spinach Garlic Bread Tossed Salad	25 Pot Roast Mashed Potatoes Carrots Green Beans Applesauce	26 Ham Sandwich Beef Stew Olives, Pickles Crackers Tossed Salad
29 Salisbury Steak Mushroom Gravy Scalloped Potato Stewed Tomato Cranberry Sauce	30 Chicken Stir Fry Fried Rice Asian Veggies Egg Roll Fortune Cookie	31 AMERICAN Chop Suey Garlic Bread Broccoli with Cheese Sauce Applesauce	Weekend Meals Available	Bread Dessert Serve Daily



SOME OF LIFE'S LITTLE INSTRUCTIONS

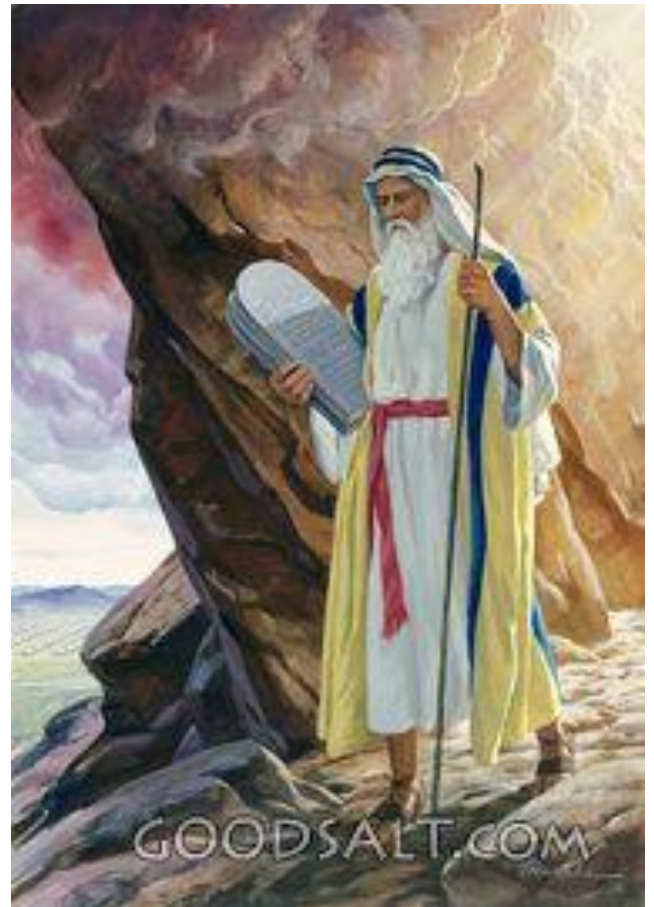
- *Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them*
- *Leave everything a little better than you found it*
- *Keep it simple*
- Think big thoughts, but relish small pleasures*
- *Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know*

Next Newsletter Deadline is **April 26th**

JUST FOR LAUGHS!



Moses was the first person with a tablet downloading data from the cloud



March, 2021

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

April, 2021

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

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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603-539-6484

Email: fccf1858@gmail.com

www.FirstChristianChurchofFreedom.org

Like us on Facebook!

Pastor Mary G. Edes, 603-367-9420

