



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

Freedom Rings

**July/August
2021**



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

When peace like a river attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say

It is well, it is well with my soul...

Summertime and the living is - well - complicated! Although not as strange as last summer, we are still finding our way back to something that seems more like "normal." The sanctuary is reopened for in person worship and it feels like we are slowly coming back to

life. We have had a few guests and summer residents returning. The choir members are rediscovering their voices after more than a year of no singing, and it is a joy to hear them.

The church is buzzing with activity during the week with Food Pantry volunteers and Ladies' Guild quilters, Council meetings, Deacons meetings and stop-by visitors when Patty and I are there on Mondays and Wednesdays.

That said, I must admit, there is a tentative (sometimes testy, sometimes tender) quality to this time of emerging. I know many people, myself among them, who ricochet back and forth between delight and apprehension when attending a gathering of more than a very few people. Is it really safe? Is the vaccination going to protect us from the whatever COVID variants are out there?

The truth is, we can only know so much, can only see so far. The best we can do is trust the science and pray for patience and healing. I know this much, we are held in an inescapable and interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part. Call it God's love, and take refuge in it. I encourage you all to move at your own pace. We will be glad to welcome you back to church when you are ready to be there and we will understand if you are not there yet.

As I type these words, Dana Cunningham's recording of the old hymn "When Peace Like a

River" is playing in the background. Wordless, the notes spill out into the room like the gentle rain that is falling just outside my window and I remember that it is indeed well with my soul.

May it be so with you during these blessed, too brief summer months!

With love,

Pastor Mary

P.S. August will be upon us in no time. Unfortunately, I scheduled our annual lake vacation long before I knew about Freedom Old Home Week (Trust me, it's already on my calendar for next summer!) We will still have the Blessing of the Animals, only will take place on Saturday the 31st instead of Sunday.



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.



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

Kathy Avery
Fran Babcock
Gerry Barnicle
Byran Bizer
Charlie Bojus
Ellie Bossdorf
Sylvia Bouve'
Neal Boyle
Sue & Clyde Brown
Kate Elliott
Janet Gallagher
The Family of Cindy Granahan
The Graves Family
Karen Hopkins
David Hummel
Dale Johnson

Elmer Killam
Jeff & Kathy MacLeod
Bill McIntire, Jr.
Carol Melvidas
Judy Michaels
Gay Mocerì
Cindy Nason
Pat & Roger Olson
Barbara Piccolo
DeMott Post
Kara Street

Debbie Trail
Audra Wilson
Larry Wogman
Nancy Wogman

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



Church Financial Activity

All Church expenses received are paid. As of June 14, 2021, Church expenses exceed income by \$14,700 due to continued reduced amounts of Pledge income received. A large portion of the shortfall will be covered by the Parsonage Fund, the Perpetual Fund and Round 2 of the SBA Payroll Protection Plan (PPP). But, at this point, it appears 2021 will be another deficit year for the Church unless giving increases between now and the end of the year.

The \$13,100 SBA PPP loan received in April 2020 was forgiven on March 2, 2021. The \$14,200 SBA PPP Round 2 loan is expected to be forgiven in due course, hopefully later this year.

Investments

The Church pooled investment portfolio continues to perform well in 2021. Low interest rates and the expectation of a large infrastructure bill continue to support stock valuations. 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.

Scholarship Committee



Scholarship Committee

The Committee met in May to review the applications received, and as usual, it was a difficult task to choose the recipients. It was a sterling group, and now I will fill you in on the students selected:

Brianna Boynton of Tamworth is the daughter of Kevin and Cassandra Boynton and granddaughter of Chris Boynton. This recent Kennett graduate garnered many honors there, both in athletics and academics. She played 3 sports and was captain of the volleyball team. She also received the Award of Excellence from the Congress of Future Medical Leaders and was a member of both the National Technical Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

She is looking towards a career in medicine, either as a doctor or scientist. She has not chosen a school as yet, but is considering schools in New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire at this time.

Milarepa Dorji is the son of Gretchen Jane Davidson and the great-grandson of our former pastor George Davidson. He has his eye on a career in the music business. He is already accomplished in that field, having recently recorded an album. He plays many

instruments, drums, piano and guitar among them. He is also a songwriter and has performed with the Kennett Jazz Band in Montreal. The University of Maine is vying for him to join their student body and has awarded him the Presidential Scholarship, based on academic achievement, leadership, and other criteria. He is well on his way to realizing his dream of being a professional musician. His great grandfather would be so proud of all he has accomplished thus far.

Gus Ford of Falmouth, Maine is no stranger to FCCF - he was baptized here! He has also attended summer services. He is the son of Stacey Huntley Ford and grandson of Pat and Charlie Bojus. This young man has been immersed in sports at Falmouth High School and was captain of the varsity Soccer Team this past year. He has been involved in volunteerism, working with younger students and those students with disabilities. His former teachers note his growth mindset and his natural ability to lead-these 2 qualities will take him far. He plans to attend St. Joseph's College, major undecided but leaning toward psychology!

Meredith Paulding is the daughter of Dan and Heidi Paulding of Parsonsfield, Maine. She has continued her studies at St. Michael's College. Her area of study is ESOL-English as a 2nd or Other Language. She has already been mastering 5 other languages, and studied abroad in Japan for a semester. She also volunteered there at an "English Camp" for high school students.

This young lady is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and was a dean's list student for 4 years running. Ultimately, she will become an ESOL teacher, working in Japan. We always look forward to seeing Meredith when she is back home.

The members of this year's Scholarship Committee were: Rev. Mary Edes, Gail Bizer, Velma Hormell, Paul Olzerowicz, Dean Robertson, and Steve Thurston. I refer to them

as "The Dream Team"-they worked so hard on this project and it was not an easy task. I am also grateful to Patty Dumas for her role in the process, with follow-up and notifications to the students.

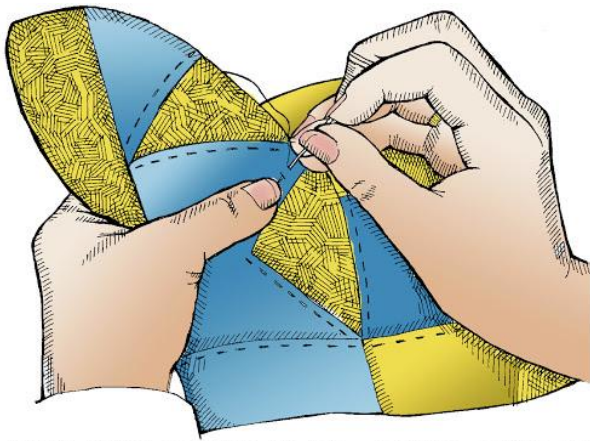
Jane Hartnett, Chair



The pantry continues to serve many people. Unfortunately, we have lost several of our volunteers due to moving away, death, or inability to work. Therefore, we are sending out **AN URGENT PLEA** for new volunteers. We ask you to designate **ONE** Saturday morning (from 9-12) **A MONTH**. If you are a snowbird or plan to be away for a while, we can use your help too! Please remember that the food pantry is a mission of this church!

Between April 24, 2021 and June 26, 2021, we provided food necessary to prepare 4221 meals. We served 100 clients, affecting 201 people. 24 people were 0-19 years, 72 people were 19-59 years, and 105 were over 59 years. Clearly we are reaching some of our seniors!

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Nichols Co-director
Doris Sirois Co- director



QUILTING GROUP

Ladies Guild

On June 9 (Wednesday) we were able to gather again in the church. Whoopee! All the ladies were thrilled to be able to be back together.

Note that our meeting day has changed from Monday to WEDNESDAY from 9 to 2.

We welcome anyone who would like to join whether they know how to quilt or not. There are many jobs involved with making our quilts and we would love to share them with you.

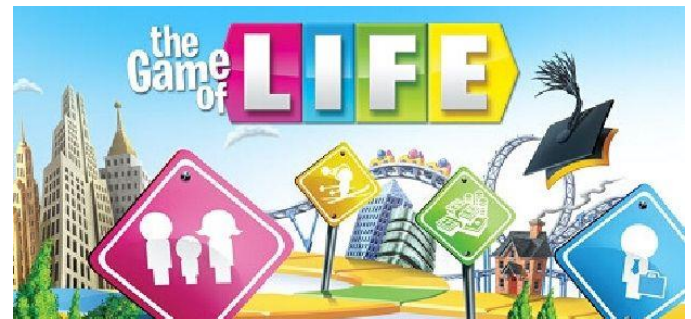
The final tally for quilts sent to the hospital (from July 2020 to June 2021) was 72. This number is far short of the 187 we send in 2018-2019 and the 238 we sent in 2019-2020 since we were not meeting as a group. The birthing Center was most appreciative of these and we hope to send many more this year.

We are looking forward to the Craft Sale at the school on Aug 5 and Ring in the Holidays in November.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Nichols, President.

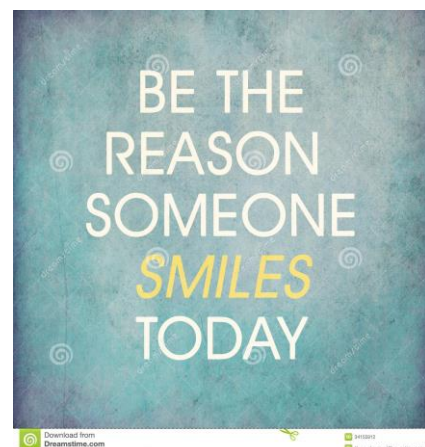


Next Newsletter Deadline is
August 23rd!



SOME OF LIFE'S LITTLE INSTRUCTIONS

- *Avoid negative people***
- *Buy whatever kids are selling on card tables in their front yards***
- *Wear polished shoes***
- *Remember other peoples birthdays***
- *Ask for a raise when you feel you've earned it***



THE INNOCENCE OF A CHILD

**I asked a wise man,
"tell me sir, in which field
could I make a great career?"**



**He said with a smile, "be a good
human being. There is a lot of
opportunity in this area and
very little competition."**

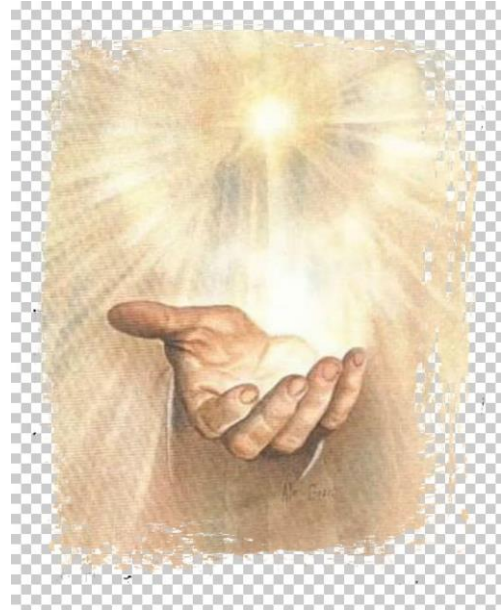


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**Summer is here. Time to get out those
bathing suits...or not!**

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

Patty Dumas, Administrative Assistant



THE KINDERGARTENER

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was. The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!" "But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "Well, they certainly will in a minute!"

July, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				10 am Deacons Meeting		10 am Food Pantry
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service			Ladies Guild 9 am			10 am Food Pantry
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service			Ladies Guild 9 am			10 am Food Pantry
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service			Ladies Guild 9 am 7 pm Council Meeting			10 am Food Pantry
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service		Memorial Service for Cynthia Granahan 11 am	Ladies Guild 9 am			10 am Food Pantry Blessing of the Animals 11 am

August, 2021

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

The First Christian Church of Freedom

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Pastor Mary G. Edes, 603-367-9420