



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

# Freedom Rings

## Fall Newsletter 2021



### PASTOR'S PONDERING

Holy Creator,  
 give us patience to trust in Your slow and  
 constant  
 creative power.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything  
 to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way  
 to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress  
 that new creation is made by passing through  
 some stages of instability?  
 and that it may take a very long time.

Help us to be patient  
 and understand Your ideas mature gradually  
 within us.

Enable us to let them grow,  
 let them shape themselves, without undue  
 haste.

Help us not to force the future  
 as though we could be today  
 what time, grace, and circumstances  
 will make of us tomorrow.

Only You can say what this new spirit,  
 Gradually forming within us, will be.  
 We give to You, Loving Creator, our faith  
 and trust that the benefit of our believing  
 is a deeper realization

that Your hand is leading us  
 when we accept the anxiety of felling ourselves  
 in suspense and incomplete,  
 waiting for Your plan to unfold in its own  
 time,

We trust in Your creative power,  
 Source of all that is and all that will ever be.

- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.

As you may have noticed, I always like to begin  
 my writing time with a poem, a prayer, a psalm,  
 or some other collection of words penned by  
 one more wise than I. You know, some sort of  
 prompt ... Well, as I prepared to write to you all  
 this month, I thought I had found the perfect  
 prayer and was all set to begin, when I chanced  
 to look back at what I had written last year at

this time and - lo and behold - I had used the very same prayer. Ha!

And yet things have changed. A year ago we were still mostly hunkered down in our houses, wearing masks wherever we went. No vaccine yet available, restaurants were closed for the most part and churches were all meeting on some digital plane or not at all - Zoom, FaceBook, YouTube, Vimeo.

Since then we have seen glimmers of hope. Here in Carroll County our vaccination rate is now approaching seventy-two per cent, and though our risk level is still considered very high, I do believe there is light at the end of the tunnel. We continue to meet in the sanctuary on Sundays with some fits and starts around singing, masks, etc. Only time will tell what the Winter months will bring. God willing, the virus will calm down so that we can do the same!

Pastorally, I continue to visit with folks at church and in private homes as desired. I make phone calls or send email messages to people who cannot get out or whom I haven't seen for awhile. Please do let me know if anyone is falling through the cracks.

On site, Patty and I hold down the fort on Mondays and Wednesdays, and I occasionally come in on Thursdays (briefly), as well. Remember, I am always available by appointment if anyone needs a visit during other times.

Finally, as we enter our second year together, I want you to know that I am still feeling very blessed to be here with and among you. Over the past twelve months, we have slowly come to know each other a little bit. It is a more gradual process than we might have experienced or preferred pre-pandemic. No coffee hours or church suppers, those cherished times when we gather and linger and chat about our families and life events. Never the less, we have found ways to reach out to one another, to stay in touch and to hold each other in prayer.

I find comfort in these words from Zephaniah 3:17 and I share them with you here, that you

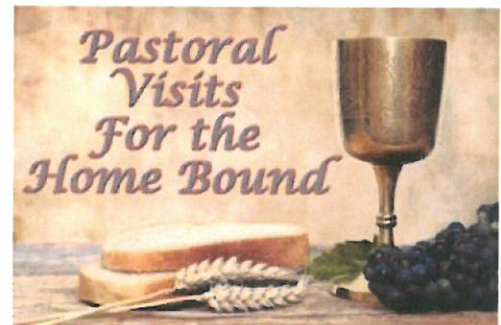
may be comforted and encouraged as well (I especially like the idea of God's loud singing!).

The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

Be well. Be kind. Be loving. Be safe and keep the faith.

God is Good!

*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.**



The Church Council met in the sanctuary on September 22 for our regular monthly meeting. Almost all members were present. The treasurer discussed the financials and our expenses are about 24K more than our income at this time. We assume that giving is down due to covid and the fact that some are reluctant to come to church and gather inside. Paul mentioned that oil prices are up for next year.



At present we are gathering outside on Sunday morning for a couple of hymns and then going into the sanctuary with masks on for the service. I think that this is working. Pastor Mary is doing great job conducting the weekly services and trying to visit church members as needed. We are thankful for her service. Please come and support her.

The Council voted to have the Annual Church Meeting in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of December as provided in the bylaws. The meeting will be after our regular service. We need people to step up the fill some vacancies. Most of the committees will be the same as before covid for the time being. The office of President, Vice President and Church Financial Secretary need to be filled. I hope you will consider helping out the Church.

I hope everyone is enjoying this great fall weather. See you in Church.  
Dean Robertson, President

## Church DEACONS

Deacons met in July at the church just to touch base and discuss calling members and sending cards to those on the prayer list. Things are fairly quiet at this time. We met again on September 2<sup>nd</sup> to try and keep connected.

We are on a new safety precaution with the surge of Covid cases. We can't really plan much as we all need to be safe and take care of ourselves and others. Amen

Gail Bizer, Chair Person

## This newsletter features Velma Hormell



Velma was born and raised right here in Freedom, NH on the farm on Burnham Road. She went to Freedom Elementary School then to Kennett High School.

She is not a stranger to hard work and dedication to any job she takes on. She has always been a member of our First Christian Church serving in many roles, starting with Sunday School and moving on to other roles as time went on.

Velma moved from Freedom to Center Ossipee when she married her husband, Gordon Fall. While raising their family, she worked at the Indian Head Bank. When her husband passed away leaving her a widow with three young children, she moved back to Freedom and eventually met and married Glenn, and has been here ever since.

At First Christian Church, she became involved in the Membership Committee. You could always find her organizing a special meal for events, such as Old Home Week breakfast, and helping serve many others.

Velma has always thought of ways to raise money for the church; in fact, she continues to raise money by holding fund raisers selling knives and other cooking items from RADA at different church events.

She has served as Treasurer, Vice-President and President of The First Christian Church of Freedom. Her dedication to all her roles was outstanding, including the many years she sang in the choir.



Velma was recently honored and awarded the Boston Cane from the town of Freedom for being the oldest person in Freedom. You will find her sitting in the third pew on the Choir side of Church, always with a warm and friendly smile.

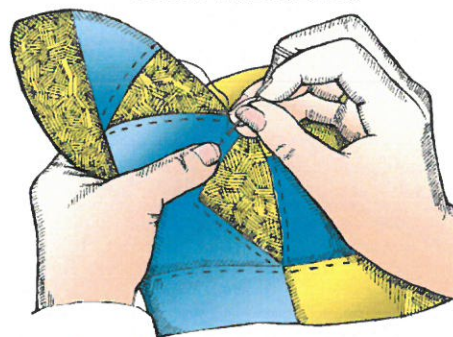
It is our pleasure to have such a dedicated lady as an outstanding member of our church.

  
**PRAYER LIST**  


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

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Kathy Avery          | Jeff & Kathy MacLeod |
| Fran Babcock         | Bill McIntire, Jr.   |
| Gerry Barnicle       | Carol Melvidas       |
| Gail Bizer           | David Meserve        |
| Charlie Bojus        | Judy Michaels        |
| Sylvia Bouve'        | Gay Mocerì           |
| Neal Boyle           | Cindy Nason          |
| Sue & Clyde Brown    | Pat & Roger Olson    |
| Connie Dockham       | Barbara Piccolo      |
| Kate Elliott         | DeMott Post          |
| Stefanie Emond       | Dan and Alice Spear  |
| Betsey Haren         | Kara Street          |
| David Hummel         | Debbie Trail         |
| Dale Johnson         | Jim Tracey           |
| Pamela Keith         | Audra Wilson         |
| Elmer Killam         | Larry Wogman         |
| Fred & Becky Kistler | Nancy Wogman         |

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



**QUILTING GROUP**  
**Ladies Guild**

The Ladies' Guild has been meeting regularly on Wednesdays. Usually about 5 come (our numbers are down since so many have moved away). We certainly welcome ANYONE to join us. No sewing experience is necessary....just a willingness to learn. We share a time for bag lunches and chat around noon. We meet from 9 am til 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peg Nichols, President



**Treasurer Report**

**Church Financial Activity**

All Church expenses received are paid. As of September 28, 2021, Church expenses exceed income by \$24,100 which is \$11,600 worse than 2 months ago. Annual insurance payments accounted for almost half of the spending. Giving is weak and is actually less than 2020 levels when the church was closed due to Covid-19. Financial assistance from the Parsonage Fund, the Perpetual Fund and



Round 2 of the SBA Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) will cover the majority of the \$24,000 but will likely be a deficit year without a pick-up in giving between now and the end of the year.

### Investments

The Church pooled investment portfolio continues to perform well in 2021. 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 my financial matters of the Church, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul J. Olzerowicz, Treasurer



### Scholarship Committee

I will be working on a draft of the application for the George Davidson Scholarship this fall. The committee has had many issues/problems with the online application from Kennett, and the format doesn't really address what we would like to know about the student. I will share this with the rest of the committee or input/ideas. We will have lots of time to tweak it before making it available.

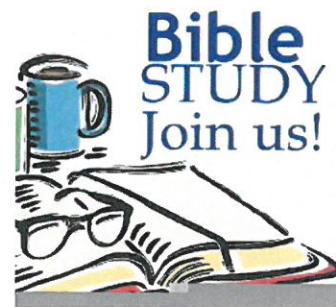
Jane Hartnett, Chair



The number of people served by our food pantry continues to rise. In August we served 36 families (a total of 98 people) with food for 2058 meals.

September figures have not been totaled yet. We wish to thank Totem Pole's store and residents for the ongoing support of our food pantry. Also thanks to Camp Huckins for sharing the remainder of food in their kitchen when they shut down earlier than planned. All donations are welcomed, especially monetary donations. Purchasing food from the NH Food Bank is still the most cost effective way to stock our pantry. We sincerely thank ALL our volunteers who serve so faithfully!

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



The weekly Bible Study is back. Come join us on the porch of the Lakeside Dining Hall at Camp Calumet on Tuesdays at 10 am. Bring a chair and a bible. Contact Carolyn Olzerowicz 569-5711 if you have questions.

Carolyn Olzerowicz



If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world.

If you have money in the bank, your wallet and some spare change, you are among 8% of the world's wealthy.

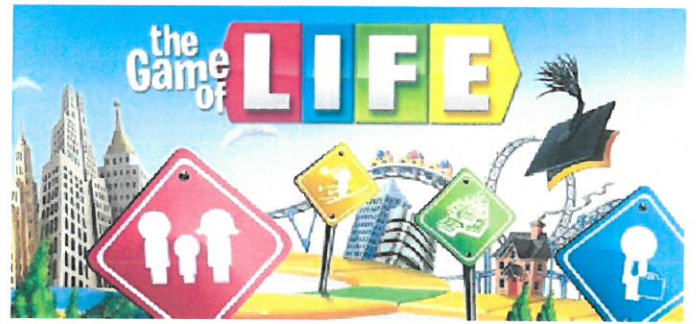
If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture, or the horrible pangs of starvation, you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering.

If you can read this message, you are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read at all



Next Newsletter Deadline is  
**October 25th!**



## SOME OF LIFE'S LITTLE INSTRUCTIONS

- \*Commit yourself to constant improvement\***
- \*Carry jumper cables in your trunk\***
- \*Have a firm handshake\***
- \*Send lots of Valentine cards. Sign them, "Someone who thinks you're terrific"\***
- \*Look people in the eye\***



© Can Stock Photo

Fall.....  
**Pumpkins, Apples and Hayrides, Oh My!!**

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.

Patty Dumas, Administrative Assistant



## THE HERE AFTER



shutterstock.com · 1705695451

Each

Wednesday I visit with Mrs. Evans, an elderly lady who cannot make to Sunday services.

She blesses me, and I often mention her in my sermons. On this particular Wednesday I wanted to get her thoughts on heaven for the Sunday message. After our normal greetings and having some tea I asked her if she thinks about the hereafter. She replied "Oh yes Pastor, I think of it quite often." Considering her age

I was not taken aback by her response but asked her if she thought about it more upon waking up in the morning or at night before retiring? She responded "Neither, I think about it throughout the day, but usually in the hallway leading to the bedroom. I stop halfway down the hall and wonder, what am

I here after?"

I know, it's a little corny.....

# October, 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 And Worship Service			Ladies Guild 9 am			10 am Food Pantry
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service			Ladies Guild 9 am			10 am Food Pantry
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service			Ladies Guild 9 am 7 pm Council Meeting			10 am Food Pantry
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service			Ladies Guild 9 am			10 am Food Pantry
31						
10 am Bell Ringing And Worship Service						

**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)  
 Like us on Facebook!  
**Pastor Mary G. Edes, 603-367-9420**