

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



***Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

Knute Ogren, Pastor

September 6, 2026

Prelude

Centering

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

— Coretta Scott King

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship

Psalm 119: 33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; be gracious to me according to your word.

Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Gracious God:

C: You give us the gift of each other so that we can work together, listen to each other, and serve one another.

We gather to learn from you, O God, and remember who we are. Let us yoke ourselves to each other so that all of us — your holy community here and now — can be healthy, happy, and whole. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

Announcements

***Hymn:** When Morning Gilds the Skies

#100

Reading:

Ezekiel: 33: 7-11

Read by Marty Perreault

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reading:

Romans 13: 8-10
Read by Jim Osborne

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: The Gift of Love¹**Gospel:**

Matthew 18: 15-20

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Wondering

Sermon

***Hymn:** Help Us Accept Each Other²

#487

Prayers of the People

L: Lord in your mercy

C: hear our prayer

Offering

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Holy Communion

(Please stand)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O God. You created the heavens and the earth. You bring snow and rain to a thirsty world. You give sunlight and time to land so that your creation can

eat. Harvests are plenty. Your people are fed. You nourish our bodies so that we can nourish the world with your mercy, justice, peace, and love. Your Spirit enters all spaces and places, equipping people with courage and strength. Your awesome power humbles the whole of creation, yet you meet us where we are with delicate tenderness. With all the saints who have come before, we praise you.

On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, broke it, gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In this meal, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

This is a holy feast for all people. If you wish to participate, you are invited! This is the Lord's Table. All are welcome.

The congregation comes forward to receive the gifts.

At First Christian, we have bread and we have gluten free crackers. In the cups, we have grape juice.

For those not wishing to receive communion today, an invitation of a blessing is offered. To the pastor, say, "Blessing." Adults accompanying children forward can assist the pastor with direction so that all are included in the manner in which each one wishes.

Come forward using the main aisle. Receive the bread (or blessing) from the pastor and eat it. Continuing to the deacon, receive the grape juice and drink it. Return to your seat using the side aisle, placing your cup in the basket on the front pew.

Communion Music: Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether³ #392

Post-Communion Prayer:

Let us pray,

You fill us with gifts of love. You offer forgiveness. You give grace and goodness. You grant your mercy and compassion. Send us forth from this place with hearts for service and care. May people in this community be shaped by our desire to love and to serve. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

Benediction

Traditional Irish Blessing⁴

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rains fall softly on your fields, and until we meet again,

May you keep safe in the gentle, loving arms of God.

Postlude

***Please stand, as you are able.**

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Visitors

We welcome your presence with us for worship this morning. Please sign the guestbook at the back of the church, and join us for coffee after the service in the Davidson Room.

Pastoral Visits

Should you want a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Knute or one of the deacons. Also, if you notice that someone hasn't been in church for several weeks, please mention it to a deacon or the Pastor.

Deacons

Judy Blake, Ellie Bossdorf, Carol McIntire, Jim Osborne, Dianne Park, Marty Perreault, David Wilcox and Libby Wilcox, Martha Blaser, Eve Klotz and Bev Perry

Today in Church

Head Usher: Mark McKinley

Coffee Hour: Alice Spear and Bobbie McCracken

The altar flowers are given by Marcia Santner in memory of Jean Marshall.

This Week in Church

Tuesday	Executive Committee Meeting	4 PM
Wednesday	Ladies Guild	9 AM - 2 PM
Thursday	Deacons Meeting	10 AM
Saturday	Food Pantry	10 AM
Sunday	Worship Service, (Noisy Offering)	10 AM

Prayer List

Family of Kathy Avery	Gale Morris
Ellie Bossdorf	Chuck Morrison
Nancy Bossi	Kelley O'Connell
John Bourque	Wendell Packard
Family of Sandy Boyle	Barb, Rick & Ed Pelton
Susan Brown	Marc Perreault
Family of Dorothy Brooks	Bob Phinney
Cecilia Costa	Henry Rodriguez
Family of Bill Elliott	Nancy Sarden
Nancy Essex	Alan Scales
Anna Hlushuk	Family of Bob Smart
Susan Jancetic	Dan Spear
Grace Kull	Ellie Stokes
Melissa Maas	Jim Tracey
Family of Jean Marshall	Robin Tyner
Bob McKenny	Family of Caitlin Veglia
Matthew Meserve	Barbara Veglia
John Mocerì	Libby Wilcox
Lee and Meg	Family of Grandville Wilkins
<i>My Grandchild</i>	Marjorie Works

Our country's military personnel and their families, first responders and all those who serve the public good.

To ensure your prayer request is added to the list, please write down the information and place it in the offering plate or on the administrative assistant's desk. Also, please let us know if you wish to have a name removed from the list.

Coming Up

SEPT 13 — Noisy Offering in support of the Personal Care Kits!

SEPT 16 — Assembly of Personal Care Kits — The Faith Formation team is excited about invited everyone at church to share in the journey of creating personal care kits that will end up in some part of the world where people are surviving an earthquake or a flood or other disaster.

SEPT 21/22 — Let's Read & Zoom: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Anyone who wishes to participate can buy the book at a local bookshop (or snag the audiobook). Read it at your leisure. Zoom in for a wider discussion including people of faith from around New England. Dates are Monday the 21st from 6:30 – 7:45 PM or Tuesday the 22nd from 9:30 – 10:45 AM. To register for the Zoom event and get the link, visit: letsreadandzoom.org.

SEPT 24 — Evenings on Elm presents a **September Saunter**. It'll be an Evenings on Elm feel as we saunter our way into the Fall Season! We'll welcome Pan-Latin ensemble **Sol y Canto**, enjoy time at the Freedom Gallery, partner with the Freedom Village Store and the Eaton Village Store. The partner beneficiary for the night: The Freedom Historical Society!

OCT 8 —Italian Dinner 2.0: Last year, over 100 people enjoyed a mesmerizing feast put together by Glenn Kemper as a fundraiser for the church. There is a fixed ticket price ... but as with everything at church we have some tickets set quietly aside for those who will pay what they can. The most important thing is everyone sharing in a great meal together. Thanks, Glenn!

Thanks for letting me know that you can help with the dinner. We're building our three teams of workers — 8 people on the set-up team, 8 people on the serving team, and 8 people on the cleanup team. Can you help? Do you know someone who would be a great helper?

Weekly Email Newsletter

If you are getting the E-News each Wednesday -- great! Reading the E-News is essential for ensuring everyone is on the same page with all that is happening at First Christian. If you aren't yet receiving the weekly E-News, you can:

1. Scan this code with your smart phone and fill out the subscription form or:
2. Share your email with the church office using the visitor card in your (or neighboring) pew.



If you go with the second option -- please print carefully so that we get the email right. Thanks!"

Church Contact Information

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Food Pantry

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Visit freedomchurch.org to read today's Bulletin online.