

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



***Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

Knute Ogren, Pastor

September 13, 2026

Prelude

Centering

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."
— Maya Angelou

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship

Psalm 103: 1-7

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.**

The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Gracious God,

C: We gather this morning with thankful hearts, grateful for your faithfulness to us. You love us and bless us abundantly. You give us the gift of mercy and forgiveness. Help us to live differently. Lead us to decision-making that reflects mercy and forgiveness toward our neighbor. Create in us clean hearts so that people see your goodness in our words and actions. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

Announcements

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

Reading:

Genesis: 50: 15-21

Read by Bev Perry

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Reading:

Romans 14: 1-12

Read by Mark McKinley

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to

pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

Special Music: When We Are Living¹

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel:

Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this

reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Wondering

Sermon

***Hymn:** Forgive Our Sins²

Insert

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.**

***Hymn:** All Creatures of Our God and King

#22

Benediction

Traditional Irish Blessing³

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.

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: Linda Habib and Lauren Stoddard

The altar flowers are given by Judy Blake in thanks for all of God's Blessings.

This Week in Church

Tuesday	Council Meeting	4 PM
Tuesday	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Wednesday	Ladies Guild	9 AM - 2 PM
Wednesday	Personal Care Kits Assembly	9:30 – 11:30 AM
Saturday	Food Pantry	10 AM
Sunday	Worship Service	10 AM

Prayer List

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

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 16 — Assembly of Personal Care Kits — The Faith Formation team is excited about inviting 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 the audiobook). 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: Enjoy a mesmerizing feast put together by Glenn Kemper as a fundraiser for the church. There is a fixed ticket price, but we have some tickets set aside for those who will pay what they can. The most important thing is everyone sharing in a great meal together.

OCT 11 — “Here and Now” campaign response: This year's response goal (for support of the church in 2027) is 100 units. If we hear from 100 people/couples/families by OCT 11, we will reach our goal. In the coming weeks, you will hear about campaign details and will learn how to participate. Be thinking about how you can help in 2027 ... \$2 per week, \$18 per week, \$51 per week, \$112 per week — there's an amount that works for everyone. Be on the lookout!

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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Church Email: fccf1858@gmail.com

Church Website: freedomchurchnh.org

Food Pantry

Vicki McVitty, Director, 603-539-2602

Doris Sirois, Co-Director, 603-539-1339

Dan Spear, Volunteer Coordinator, 603-539-1687

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

EVENINGS *on* ELM

A SEPTEMBER SAUNTER

THURSDAY SEPT. 24 AT 6:30 PM

SOL Y CANTO

5 PM OPEN HOUSE AT
THE FREEDOM GALLERY

8 PM REFRESHMENTS AT
FREEDOM VILLAGE STORE

CONCESSIONS BY THE
EATON VILLAGE STORE

FREEDOM
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
BENEFIT

"Sublime ambassadors
of the Pan-Latin tradition."
-Boston Globe



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