

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



***Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

Knute Ogren, Pastor

September 20, 2026

Prelude

Centering

“I do know one thing about me: I don’t measure myself by others’ expectations or let others define my worth.”

— Sonia Sotomayor

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship

Excerpts from Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Gracious God,

**C: You’ve blessed us with a new day. We thank you.
You’ve given gifts of warmth, and safety, and
fellowship. We thank you. Help us, O God, to pay**

attention to the gifts you give to us — gifts we have done nothing to earn. Help us be glad with all you provide. Keep us from being tempted to measure as the world measures. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

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

Announcements

***Hymn:** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

#25

Reading:

Jonah: 3:10 - 4:1-11

Read by Jim Osborne

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is

not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

Reading:

Philippians 1: 21-30

Read by Martha Perreault

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Special Music: We Are Called¹

Gospel:

Matthew 20: 1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Wondering

Sermon

***Hymn:** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending²

#606

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:** For the Fruit of All Creation³

#714

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.**

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: Robin Waters and Jane Hartnett

The altar flowers are given by Bill Carney in memory of Nancy Carney.

This Week in Church

Monday	Read and Zoom	6:30 PM
Monday	Read and Zoom	9:30 AM
Tuesday	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Wednesday	Ladies Guild	9 AM - 2 PM
Wednesday	Pumpkinfest Planning Mtg	4 PM
Thursday	EoE September Saunter	6:30 PM
Saturday	Food Pantry	10 AM
Sunday	Worship Service	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
Family of Melissa Maas	Jim Tracey
Family of Jean Marshall	Robin Tyner
Bob McKenny	Family of Caitlin Veglia
David Meserve	Barbara Veglia
Matthew Meserve	Libby Wilcox
John Moceri	Marjorie Works
	<i>My Grandchild</i>

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.

Name Tags

“What is in a name?

A name enhances social interaction by enabling, identification, fostering respect, and building rapport.”

Coming Up

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!

EVENINGS *on* ELM

A SEPTEMBER SAUNTER

SOL Y CANTO

THURSDAY SEPT. 24 AT 6:30 PM

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



FREEDOMCHURCHNH.ORG
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Church Contact Information

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Food Pantry

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