

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



***Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

Knute Ogren, Pastor

October 18, 2026

Prelude

Centering

“Start with what is right rather than what is acceptable.”

— Franz Kafka

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship

96: 10-13

Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.”

**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;**

Let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord,

**for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness and the
peoples with his truth.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray: Gracious God,
**You supply your people with fortitude and honesty.
When evil presents itself and discord arises, you
equip your people to speak the truth. Empower us
so that we can be confident. Strengthen us so that
we can be bold. Gift us with grace so that we can
love our neighbor as you want us to love. With
grateful hearts and in a spirit of truth, we pray.
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:** All People That On Earth Do Dwell #18

Reading: Isaiah: 45: 5-7
Read by Jim Osborne

I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

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

Reading: First Thessalonians 1: 1-4
Read by Martha B.

To Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you.

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

Special Music: Lead Me, Guide Me¹

Gospel:

Matthew 22: 15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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 Healing of the Nations³

#668

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: BINGO at the Town Hall!

The altar flowers are given by Mark McKinley, in thanks for all God's Blessings.

This Week in Church

Tuesday	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Wednesday	Ladies Guild	9 AM - 2 PM
Saturday	Food Pantry	10 AM
Sunday	Worship Service	10 AM

Coming Up

OCT 25 — “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!

OCT 30 — Pumpkin Carving at church from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (come for a shorter or longer period of time that works for your schedule). 🎃

OCT 31 — Trick or Treating 🎃 We’ll be hosting some trick or treat stations! We can use your help on one or both days as we show the greater Freedom community that we are an active and engaged church!

All Saints Sunday — November 1, we will have a time of remembering the saints who have gone on to be with God. Each one present will have the opportunity to process forward and light one candle in memory of one or many people they wish to remember on that day. Some will include a person who may have died a long time ago and some will include a person who died recently. It's good to remember — and we'll be doing that remembering together.

Prayer List

Family of Kathy Avery	Chuck Morrison
Ellie Bossdorf	Kelley O'Connell
Nancy Bossi	Wendell Packard
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	Meg Taylor
Grace Kull	Jim Tracey
Family of Melissa Maas	Robin Tyner
Family of Jean Marshall	Family of Caitlin Veglia
Bob McKenny	Barbara Veglia
David Meserve	Renee Wheaton
Matthew Meserve	Libby Wilcox
John Mocerì	Marjorie Works
Gale Morris	<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.

Church Contact Information

Knute Ogren, Pastor, 860-573-6783

pastorknute@freedomchurchnh.org,

Carolyn Olzerowicz, Music Director, 603-569-5711,

colzerowicz@gmail.com

Evelyn Lamprey, Administrative Director, 603-539-6484,

fccf1858@gmail.com, evelyn@freedomchurchnh.org

Office Hours: 12 Elm St., Wed 9 am –1 pm, Thu 9 am –1 pm

Office Number: 603-539-6484

Mailing Address: PO Box 502, Freedom, NH 03836-0502

Church Email: fccf1858@gmail.com

Church Website: freedomchurchnh.org

Food Pantry

Vicki McVitty, Director, 603-539-2602

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

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Peanut Butter Fingers by Velma Hormell

½ c. butter
½ c. white sugar
½ c. brown sugar
1 unbeaten egg
1 /3 c. peanut butter
½ tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. vanilla
1 c. flour
1 c. quick cooking rolled oats
1 c. chocolate chips
¼ c. sifted powdered sugar
1 /8 cup peanut butter or 1-2 T. cream

Cream together first three ingredients.
Blend in next 5 ingredients (through vanilla).
Stir in flour and rolled oats.
Spread in greased 13 x 9 pan.
Bake for 20 minutes at 400°.
Sprinkle with chocolate chips.

Let stand for 5 minutes, pour spread (recipe below) over top:

Peanut Butter Spread: Combine sifted powdered sugar, peanut butter (or cream). Mix well. Drizzle over top. Cool. Cut into bars.

*A fall treat reproduced from the **Fat Sunday** cookbook, available as a free pdf download at freedomchurchnh.org*