



Our “Pies-a-Plenty” production & sales crew

First Church in Jaffrey Weathervane

September - October

2021

From the Pastor...

October 3 is one of my favorite Sundays of the year. It is World Wide Communion Sunday, the one Sunday in the year when all Christians throughout the world break bread together. I always envision one large table encircling the world and all of God's children sitting together in harmony. Our differences are small compared to what we have in common. It is my prayer this year and every year for peace, understanding, and compassion.

In the United Church of Christ on World Wide Communion Sunday we receive an offering for Neighbors in Need which supports the mission work of the church throughout the United States. (Our Lenten offering One Great Hour of Sharing in the spring helps fund our worldwide ministries.)

A significant portion of this NIN offering goes to support our 13 Lakota churches in the South Dakota Conference. As most of you know I worked with those churches for the last nine years before coming to Jaffrey. They are extraordinary people working under difficult situations. They are close to my heart, and they deserve our love and support.

David



News in this issue:

From the Pastor – Page 1
 Going With The Flow – Page 2
 The Act of Giving – Page 3
 Pies-a-Plenty – Page 4
 The Fair Returns – Page 6
 Covid Cleaning – Page 8
 Still Searching – Page 9

GOING WITH THE FLOW

Yesterday I found myself saying about a matter totally unrelated to First Church: “We’ll just have to ‘go with the flow.’” When I reflected what Moderator’s thoughts I would share in this space, I realized “Going with the Flow” is what First Church has been doing since COVID 19 required us to be flexible, creative, and persevering!

David Felton was willing to stand in front of a camera and speak to us all through a medium he’d not used before. Thus began our series of videos for weekend spiritual nourishment in March 2020. Minister of Music Gene Faxon reached out to folks who had offered their music talents to the congregation, Betsy Feiker and Janet Grant, who then drew in Joan Epro, now a meaningful partner in the duets, trios, and quartets that enrich our worship.

It is Fall 2021. We have resumed worship, albeit distanced and masked, INSIDE our sanctuary. What a joy!

Comes the question: Should we...Can we...continue to provide online spiritual support?

The matter is not simple. We’ve experimented with stationary camera use during worship services. That doesn’t work. We’ve tried recording a service and that has its own problems involving time and production issues.

To continue producing online videos, we would need a dedicated and probably paid professional to record the service; this could involve using multiple cameras and delicate edits to preserve privacy. The matter is not being ignored. But we are a small church with limited resources in personnel and dollars. We must balance what we might wish to do with what is feasible. For the time being, we offer blessings and thanks to those who have shared in our visual ministries over these many months. If circumstances call for us to return to a world where video sharing is the **only option**, we will be there going with the flow once again.

In the meantime, please be with us in spirit – and we urge you to join us in person when you feel comfortable doing so.

Carol B. Hess, Moderator



David, Gene, Janet, Betsy and Joan recording the weekly meditations videos

The Act of Giving



Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering that supports works of justice and compassion in the United States and abroad. In 2021, the Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on giving financial assistance to organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

Most churches collect the offering on October 3, 2021 as part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time.

For more extensive information about Neighbors In Need or the NIN grant process, visit the NIN homepage ([Neighbors in Need - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](https://ucc.org/neighbors-in-need)) or email nin@ucc.org. Check out the NIN Facebook page for individual projects.

Thanks to all who have supported First Church during COVID through donations and pledges. You can make donations electronically through the home page of our website, [firstchurchinjaffrey.org](https://www.firstchurchinjaffrey.org). By clicking on the Donate Button you can give through the secure online payment process by making your donations via PayPal or credit cards. Please note “NIN” in the “additional information” space for donations to Neighbors in Need.

Pies-a-Plenty: “Summer Sweet - Summer Savory”

A group of women had a successful summer selling pies every Friday from the church Narthex; inside was, after all, a little cooler than the outside temperatures which always seemed at their peak on Fridays. For our first pie sale on June 25, we had 17 donated pies and made \$340. Pie sales were from 2-4, but on that first day we sold out *before* 2pm! From then on, we knew not to open the doors until 2, although people who had pre-ordered a pie could come in early to pick up.



A very generous benefactor presented us with a check with which to buy supplies. I bought 50 lbs. of flour, 20 lbs. sugar, 20 lbs. pounds of butter to begin with, but those specific ingredients were purchased many times again.

Each week we had a number of pre-ordered pies; Bruce had found a very economical way to have a “Pie Hotline” phone number for people to place orders. I could see there was a message with a pie request and I easily added it to my list.

From that first week, pie baker numbers grew and so did the number of pies we had available to sell. For some ladies pie baking was a new art form, but after success with one pie, their confidence was bolstered and they made that pie again and again.

I realize there are some reading this article who could not come to see us at the sale. For that reason, I will briefly list some of the pies we made: strawberry rhubarb, blueberry, peach, cherry and all kinds of mixed berry pies, tourtieres (meat pies) grasshopper pies, chocolate chip and pumpkin pies, pecan, Key lime and ice cream pies, the list goes on and on. We were good girls though and never ‘snuck a taste,’ no matter how tempting.

One week was slow, I don’t remember if it was one of the several stormy Fridays or if an abundance of pies had been brought in. At 4 o’clock we had a few unsold pies. We called the Jaffrey Police Department and a policeman in his cruiser happily drove away with five free pies.

Throughout the summer we made and sold anywhere from 23 to 30 pies/week. For the last Friday we hoped to meet the pie sale goal of \$5,000 for the summer. Well, the pie bakers went all out, we had 46 pies to sell and we sold them all for a total of \$920!! We surpassed our goal!

(Continued on page 5)

(Pies, cont'd)

It was a great community event. Besides church members, we had many women from the community donating a pie or two each week. The proceeds will go to the church and nonprofits in Jaffrey and the Monadnock region. Many thanks to all those women who baked, if we do it again next year, MEN, be ready to put your aprons on!

Yours in pies, Pam Hill

P.S. Due to Dorrie's ankle injury, Don Upton made a pumpkin pie for the last Friday sale. He set a good example and I may ask him to be in charge of men's pies next year.



Dorrie and Don Upton hosted an Ice Cream Social for all Friday Pie Sale Bakers on Tuesday, August 30. Sheltered from the sun by tents, the sundaes were served from a decorated table by Nancy Clapp and Tiffany Smith. We topped it off with a picture of all wearing pastry chef hats (see cover picture). It was a wonderful get together to thank the many people who baked summer pies.



Pam Hill, our Pie Queen



A wide variety of pies for sale

Pies were put in boxes with our own "Pies-a-Plenty" label on the top, designed by Linda Grant.



The Fair Returns!!



The 104th Summer Fair in Jaffrey Center held on August 4 was a big success in so many ways! While COVID distancing and masks were encouraged, everyone seemed happy to be outside, meeting friends for the first time in several months, and returning to a beloved tradition.

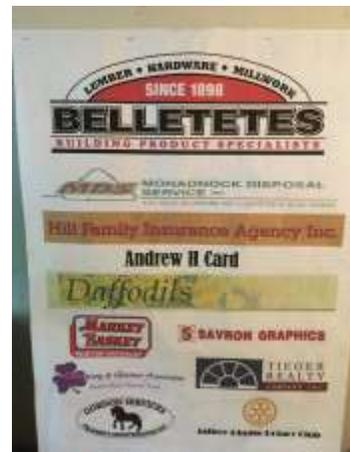
Financially, preliminary figures show about \$9,000 revenue from the sales, food, and children's amusements. These will be equally shared between the First Church in Jaffrey and local social service nonprofits.

From a people perspective, nearly 75 volunteers from the church and the community worked together to set up and staff the Fair venues. In addition, 12 businesses and individuals donated cash or services to cover expenses. Countless contributors brought us their housewares, baked goods, antiques, artwork, plants, and garden treasures to sell.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to the many volunteers and donors who worked so hard on the Fair. From publicity to set up to selling, and finally packing up, it's a team effort that demonstrates a strong sense of humanity, good citizenship, and goodwill. **We are grateful for everyone's cooperation, good humor, and enthusiasm in carrying on this long Jaffrey tradition.**

Bruce and Pam Hill
Fair Chairs

An Update! Several high-value items were held out of the Fair on August 4th, as we thought a wider demographic might appreciate their worth. We were right. A Bennington jug, a wood framed textile fireplace screen, and a glass dish sold online for a total of \$500! These sales and late donations help bring our net income over \$10,000 to be shared between the First Church and the community.



Fair Day 2021

Church Receives COVID Cleaning



First Church received a thorough disinfecting and COVID cleaning on Monday, Aug. 30 at no cost to FCIJ. The cost was paid by the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society in return for the JCVIS using the sanctuary (*31 people masked and socially distanced*) for its 2021 annual meeting on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 29. The cleaning was more extensive than originally planned. The total cost was \$600, discounted to \$450.

The work was done by Kevin Hampsey and Mike Grenier, who disinfected and cleaned the First Church Narthex, the Sanctuary, three bathrooms, the Parish House and the kitchen.

Suze Campbell, JCVIS president, reported that Kevin and Mike hand cleaned and sanitized door knobs, light switches, and countertops. They washed and waxed floors in all bathrooms, the kitchen and the rampway between the Sanctuary and the Parish House, and vacuumed the carpets in the Narthex, the Sanctuary and the Parish House. They hydroelectric-fogged pew cushions, the Parish House couch, chairs and sprayed anything that anyone could touch.

They donated their time to install a beige carpet in the “living room” area of the Parish House, to roll up the pink carpet, to carry the sheet pan trolley to the Parish House attic, and to touch up and spray paint all outside black railings and a grate kick. Kevin helpfully reported that the faucets in the Narthex bathroom leak. The runner in the hallway ramp disintegrated when vacuumed, was beyond repair, and was trashed. Kevin collected the church trash and took to the dump.

The First Church Trustees thank Suze and the Village Improvement Society very much for arranging this significant Fall Cleaning, particularly in view of the recent increases in COVID cases in Jaffrey, the region and the state.



Still Searching ...

We are the COVID search circle. We have not met in person or interviewed candidates in person. We are children of the ZOOM!

Our Local Church Profile (completed via e-mail and Zoom) received final approval on February 19, 2021 and was posted on the national UCC website. In the spring we received three Ministerial Profiles and conducted interviews with two candidates. We developed questions for first and second interviews and worked to create a civil and welcoming virtual environment. The discussions with two candidates were very good, but after much soul-searching, we decided that neither quite matched our aspirations for a settled minister at First Church.

As in the overall job market, the late spring and early summer showed little evidence of interest or movement in pastoral jobs. The situation improved during August, and now we are again interviewing by Zoom and watching services via YouTube. We're better at all this now, and it's working well. The traditional UCC search process, however, doesn't always work amid the restrictions imposed by COVID. With the help of our interim pastor David Felton and Gordon Rankin (director of the NH UCC Conference) we are exploring creative ways to evaluate pastors and introduce them to the congregation.

Confidentiality is a paramount issue for the Search Circle. We can't talk about candidates to protect their privacy, but be assured we are doing our very best to call a pastor who can help First Church recover from the Pandemic and move forward.

Search Committee: David Bliss, Nancy Elder-Wilfrid, Sam Greene, Pam Hill, Mary Jo Marvin (Facilitator), Ed Poole, Carol Hess, ex-officio as Moderator

Thank you to our contributors:



MaryJo Marvin, Carol Hess, David Felton, Suze & Ken Campbell, Bruce & Pam Hill

Special thanks to Suze, Carol and Bruce for Pie Sale and Fair photos.