



Rev. Steve Miller, October 17th worship service

First Church in Jaffrey Weathervane

November 2021

First Church Calls Rev. Steve Miller as Pastor

On Sunday, October 17, the congregation of First Church voted unanimously to call Rev. Steve Miller as its settled pastor. Steve attended high school and college in Massachusetts, began seminary at the Yale Divinity School but transferred to the Pacific School of Religion and graduated with a Masters in Divinity in 1987. He was ordained that year with full standing in the UCC. Steve served churches in Bethlehem, CT and Gilman, IO before becoming lead paster at the UCC Congregational in Vermillion, SD where he and his wife Jill Tyler have lived with their family for the past 26 years. Dr. Tyler is the chair of the Communications Department at the University of South Dakota; she will retire in the spring and join Steve in New Hampshire.

The First Church Search Circle first met Steve via Zoom in August 2021, and was immediately excited about the talents and energy he could bring to First Church. For the second interview, the group asked Steve to conduct a short “bible study” session; he opened with a spiritual exercise, talked about the text, and then gave a “sermonette.” It was amazing, and search circle responded by saying that our “heads and hearts think you are the right person for First Church.”

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 The logo for First Church in Jaffrey is enclosed in a blue border. It features a central illustration of a church steeple with a cross on top. The steeple is flanked by two circular motifs containing rays of light. Above the steeple, the text "FAITHFUL SERVICE TO" is on the left and "GOD & COMMUNITY" is on the right. Below the steeple, the words "FIRST CHURCH" are written in a large, bold, serif font. Underneath that, "in Jaffrey" is written in a smaller, cursive font. At the bottom, a banner contains the phrase "A LIVING LEGACY".

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Rev. Steve Miller (continued)

Steve and Jill arrived in Boston on Friday, October 15 and began the weekend's whirlwind of activities with tours of Jaffrey and the surrounding area and meeting people in small gatherings, lunches, and dinners. After a warm welcome from Interim Minister David Felton on Sunday October 17, Steve conducted the worship service and gave an inspiring meditation titled "Monadnock Vista" enhanced by special music selected by Minister of Music Gene Faxon. Many, many people contributed to the weekend's success, from the Search Circle members and church leaders to the individuals who enthusiastically provided food, transportation, and lodging.

A special congregational meeting held after the service confirmed the excitement and hope experienced among all present by voting to call Steve Miller as the new settled pastor. We expect him to arrive in Jaffrey 2022 and live in the parsonage. The exact date will be announced in the December Weathervane. Rev. Miller, however, welcomes comments and questions via e-mail until he is with us in person. His address is: stevemiller@firstchurchinjaffrey.org



Top Left : Introducing Rev. Steve Miller and Dr. Jill Tyler
Top Right: Our Clerk, Sylvia Hamilton, welcomes Steve
Bottom Left: Steve, Linda Giragosian and Sam Greene
Bottom Right: It's official!

Transitions

As you know, the task of the interim minister is to prepare the congregation for the coming of a new pastor. I think that together we have done that well. You have called the Rev. Steve Miller as your new pastor. The transition will happen early in the new year. I believe you have made a wise choice. I will keep this congregation and Steve in my prayers that your ministry together may be faithful and fruitful.

I've enjoyed my time with you so much that instead of retiring I decided to do one more interim. Hancock Congregational UCC has invited me to serve as their interim.

I'm taking a vacation Thanksgiving weekend which is also the first Sunday in Advent. I will spend that weekend in Indianapolis with my daughter and her family. Laura's birthday is that weekend. From there I will go on to the Mayo Clinic.

I am pleased to announce that on that Sunday Nov. 28 our guest minister will be the Rev. Cassius Webb! Thank you, Cassius, for your willingness to do this.

David

GRATITUDE



“It takes a congregation to make a church.” I poach on a rather familiar saying.

But, yes, it DOES take people...caring, thinking, contributing people to make First Church what it is. There isn't a 'congregation' if spaces called "the First Church in Jaffrey" sit empty.

To all of you who come to worship in place (and during our times by video), to those of you who contribute time, talents and ideas, to those of you living in this community for decades and those who have become one of us in such recent times –

THANK YOU for being who you are and that you share yourself and your gifts with us.

Carol B. Hess, Moderator



TRUSTEES LAUNCH STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Trustee Circle has started work on the 2022 budget, which is shaped by the financial commitment of members, associate members, and friends. This stewardship effort begins this week with a letter and pledge card mailed to our congregation and friends. Here's an excerpt from that letter.

“We often think about the Stewardship Campaign as our ‘annual pledge campaign’. But this interpretation may diminish the meaning of the act. Stewardship is about taking care of something worth caring for and preserving.

We at First Church have a powerful opportunity going forward. We have called Rev. Steve Miller to be our settled pastor. We have been so fortunate to have Interim Minister David Felton with us during these troubled times. His wisdom, experience, good counsel, warmth and guidance have brought us through.

We can look forward to our future – a renewal. As a congregation, we have among us the individual resources to empower that future.”

Please read the full letter carefully and then respond as generously as you are able! Let us take good care of the church and others, especially in these stressful COVID times.



‘Tis the Season

On Saturday, November 27, volunteers will gather at 10:30 to decorate the church for the Advent season and Christmas. Under the direction of Annie St. Cyr, the sanctuary will be readied for the holidays with poinsettias, wreaths, greens, and window candles. If you can help, please contact Annie at sparrowann1970@gmail.com or call 508-667-8615.

The Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society (VIS) will put up the Christmas Tree on the Meetinghouse Common again this year. It will be decorated on Sunday afternoon, November 28th, and caroling will take place on Sunday, December 5 at 4:00. This is a Jaffrey Center Community event – VIS, FCiJ, neighbors, and anyone who loves this annual event are welcome

OTHER NEWS

November AND December issues of the Weathervane this year!

We're publishing a November and a December newsletter this year instead of a combined issue. COVID and the rising rates dictate short-term planning and flexibility. In addition, we will be saying goodbye to our interim pastor and welcoming a new settled pastor in January, and holding an annual meeting!



“Social Hour” in the sanctuary

Since it is too chilly to have coffee hour outside, until Thanksgiving we invite you to stay in the sanctuary if you wish, for a “social hour;” a time to visit with each other.

For everyone’s safety, please continue to wear your mask.

- David



Thank you to our contributors:

MaryJo Marvin, Carol Hess,
David Felton, Suze & Ken
Campbell, Janet Grant



Decking Our "Halls"

With Pots of Poinsettias!

Each season our Sanctuary is beautifully adorned with poinsettias and greenery. We invite you to sponsor a poinsettia to decorate our "Halls" this Advent season! Each poinsettia is \$19 and the plants can be taken home after Dec. 25.

The deadline for sponsorships is **November 25th**.

Yes, I would like to sponsor a Poinsettia!

Please fill out below and leave in the "Admin" mail slot or mail to the PO Box below with payment.

Your Name(s): _____
(if a non-member, please provide contact info)

In honor of/memory of:



Please include a check made payable to:
The Treasurer, First Church in Jaffrey, P.O. Box 673, Jaffrey, NH 03452
Include "poinsettia" on the memo line, please.