



# First Church in Jaffrey Weathervane

March - April

2022

## The Journey Towards Wholeness

It had been 26 years since Jill and I had made a major move when you called me to come to Jaffrey and be your pastor. Once we accepted your gracious invitation, we decided our journey would come in two parts. I would move from South Dakota out to New Hampshire with Leah and her family in January; then in May I would go back for Jill once she retired, and we would make the trip again.

Our January adventure featured two trucks, two grandchildren, two dogs and four adults. We traveled nearly 1,500 miles in 5 days. On this first trip, I learned a lot about how to drive the big U-Haul truck, the best kind of places to stop for food and rest, what roads to avoid, where to find important weather information, etc. etc.! Here is the good news about the next time I travel those same roads: when I make the trip again, I will be so much more aware and so much more prepared!

And so it is with our Lenten journey that begins this week. This is not a new road for us. We have seen many Lents. Every year this beautiful season of reflection and awareness comes around again just as it did the year before. But each time we make the journey, we are more aware and more prepared. This gracious history and experience of the road opens new possibilities: surprising ideas, deeper learning, richer experience, greater connection, more complete wholeness.

*(continued on page 2)*



### **News in this Issue:**

***The Journey Towards Wholeness – Page 1***

***Lenten Worship Dates – Page 2***

***Spring Awakenings – Page 3***

***Prayers for David Felton – Page 3***

***Church in the World – Page 4 - 5***

***OGHS***

***Afghan Family Resettlement  
Got Lunch***

***Spotlight on the Parsonage – Page 6***

*(The Journey Towards Wholeness, continued)*

The beautiful text from Luke 9:51 reminds us that “Jesus steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,” and then he clearly invited all his disciples to come and follow. This invitation is our invitation. And so again this Lent, I humbly invite you to join me on our journey towards wholeness.

*Steve Miller*

## 2022 Lenten Worship at First Church

### *Journey Toward Wholeness*

March 2	ASH WEDNESDAY (5:00 pm) <i>At United Church of Jaffrey</i>	April 3	LENT V “I Offer Up My Everything” <b>John 12:1-8</b> Psalm 141
March 6	LENT I “Beneath Your Feet” <b>Luke 4:1-13</b> Psalm 91	April 10	PALM SUNDAY “Let the Whole Creation Cry” <b>Luke 19:28-40</b> Psalm 118
March 13	LENT II “The God of the Belly” <b>Philippians 3:17-4:1</b> Psalm 27	April 14	MAUNDY THURSDAY (5:00 pm) <i>At First Church in Jaffrey</i>
March 20	LENT III “One More Year” <b>Luke 13:1-9</b> Isaiah 55:1-9	April 15	GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL (12:00 noon – 3:00 pm) <i>In the church sanctuary</i>
March 27	LENT IV “Remember Who You Are” <b>Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</b> Psalm 32	April 17	EASTER SUNRISE (6:00 am) <i>Cathedral of the Pines</i>
		April 17	EASTER SUNDAY “Ready Or Not” <b>Luke 24:1-12</b> The Easter Proclamation-

## Spring Awakenings at First Church



*Feb 27 service flowers – Carol Hess*

### ***Stories of Faith – Lenten Study Series on Wednesdays 4:00-5:15 pm***

On six *Wednesdays* in Lent starting on **March 9<sup>th</sup>**, you are invited to join Steve in the Parish House for an exploration and conversation about our faith. Using an examination of our scripture texts, our wider church and local history, relevant literature, and our own personal stories of experience, we shall seek our spiritual place in the unfolding story of our church family and our world.

### ***Let's Talk About Worship – Sunday, March 20 at 11:30***

This spring, thanks to COVID vaccines and more knowledge about the virus's transmission, Sunday worship at First Church continues to blossom and reopen.

Steve and Gene would like to hear from all of you about the possibilities of your worship experience. On Sunday morning **March 20<sup>th</sup>**, following our morning service, please stick around with our church leadership as we share a conversation about the renewal of our worship. This gathering will be held in the church sanctuary at **11:30 am**.

## Prayers for David Felton

As our church family continues to pray for and support our dear David Felton as he walks through his most recent diagnosis and pending surgery and recovery, we invite you to follow his progress on Caring Bridge. Here is that link:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidfelton>

*Note: The Caring Bridge website is a personal health journal, rallying friends and family during any type of health journey. Laura Sellars, David's daughter set up his site and posts updates. Use the link, and if you have any problems look for the Search icon and type in David Felton.*

*Caring Bridge appreciates donations to help maintain its website; it does not fund-raise for individuals who are listed on the site.*

## The Church in the World

### One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. When you give to OGHS, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When human-made or natural disasters strike, love responds – not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to OGHS, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how terrible the situation, love remains.

At First Church, we will receive the OGHS offering on Sunday, March 27 but donations can also be made online at <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

*Thanks for all who have supported First Church and the UCC Special Offerings in the past year. You can make donations electronically through the home page of our website, [firstchurchinjaffrey.org](http://firstchurchinjaffrey.org). By clicking on the Donate Button you can give through the secure online payment process via PayPal or credit cards. If you donate by check, please note the recipient in the memo line, e.g. OGHS.*

### **Afghan Family Resettlement**

On the heels of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, many of us are wondering, "How can I make a difference?" Several Cheshire County residents have formed a Neighborhood Support Team (NST) to care for incoming Afghan families. In cooperation with Ascentria Care Alliance, they will be hosting families and/or individuals.



Here are two actions you can take today to help: make a financial donation at <https://www.ascentria.org> or join one of our working committees. Any type of contribution is invaluable to these families seeking freedom from fear and a secure future in the Monadnock community. *Please speak with Steve if you are interested in learning more.*



Serving children in the  
Rindge and Jaffrey Communities

## “Got Lunch” Needs Volunteers

**GOT LUNCH** delivers a grocery bag of food for weeklong and summer vacation periods when school kids don't have access to free lunches. Rindge UCC started the school vacation food program for Jaffrey/Rindge elementary students ten years ago, but it now has broad community support and help. First Church's Benevolence Circle sends financial support annually, based on the Fair proceeds. It also sends volunteers, like snow birds Dee and Ed Poole and year-round members like Roy Lake and Marcia Breckenridge.

During the February 2022 winter vacation **GOT LUNCH** provided meals for 59 kids in Jaffrey and Rindge. Volunteers are always needed. They can drive, pack grocery bags, or donate food and money.

Contact: GOT LUNCH at [gotlunch@rindgechurch.org](mailto:gotlunch@rindgechurch.org) to help. Thanks!

*Marcia Breckenridge, Chair, Benevolence Circle*



**Thank you to our contributors!**

**MaryJo Marvin  
Rev. Steve Miller  
Carol Hess  
Marcia Breckenridge**

## A Spotlight on the Parsonage

*“As nouns the difference between manse and parsonage is that manse is a house inhabited by the minister of a parish while parsonage is a house provided by the church for a parson, vicar or rector.”*



*Parsonage, barn, and church circa 1900*

The original Jaffrey town grant set aside acreage for its first pastor, a common practice in New England. As an “encouragement,” the young minister, Rev. Laban Ainsworth (ordained in 1782) was given land located at the eastern corner of Route 124 (the New Hampshire Turnpike in those days) and Gilmore Pond Road, as well as a house. The house burned shortly after Ainsworth and his new wife moved in. The town and its citizens responded by building a new structure thanks to donations of money and materials. The result was “the dignified and substantial Ainsworth Manse.” It still stands today and is owned by the Ainsworth descendants, used in the summer by family members and well maintained as a historic house.

Ainsworth had a very long career as the pastor of First Church living in the manse. He died in 1858, but it wasn’t until 1877 that Dr. John Fox donated land and helped finance the construction of a parsonage next to the red brick church. The first person to live in this house was Reverend William W. Livingston who came to Jaffrey as an acting pastor in 1878 and remained for 28 years. The church charged him \$150 per year in rent. An adjacent barn provided shelter for a horse and carriage.

When Livingston retired in 1910, the Rev. Ralph Danforth became the new pastor. The Danforth family had a house in Jaffrey, so the parsonage was rented out. Rev. Danforth resigned in 1917, and Rev. David Torrey moved into the parsonage in 1918. Rev. Torrey led First Church until his death in 1932, living in the parsonage and using the barn to garage an automobile. A history of the church says that “he had given much to Jaffrey, but the most lasting gift was his two sons, both of whom married direct descendants of Laban Ainsworth and remained in town....”

The parsonage was home to many pastors and their families from the Depression and World War II into the prosperous years of the 1950s and 1960s. With the increase in church membership and activities, a social space was needed. The old barn was cleaned out, its loft made into an attic, and the main space converted into a meeting room in 1954. The connecting space between the barn and the parsonage was turned into a small

*(continued on page 7)*

*(Spotlight on the Parsonage, continued)*

kitchen. During the next decade, this space was enlarged but became inadequate for church gatherings. The church voted to start a \$40,000 campaign in 1969 for a major renovation of the “barn.” This resulted in the two-level building between the parsonage and the church with connecting passageways. It encompasses the Parish House, a kitchen, accessible bathrooms, lower-level rooms for offices and Sunday school, many closets for storage, and an entrance from Blackberry Lane.

Almost all pastors in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries have chosen to live in the Parsonage, which is considered part of their salary. In early times, firewood was part of the pastor’s compensation. That obligation continues, although it translates into utilities, plowing, and landscaping. The parsonage is an integral part of the Historic District of Jaffrey Center, facing the Meetinghouse, the common, and Mount Monadnock. The descendants of Laban Ainsworth (and Rev. David Torrey) are still part of the church community.

Sources:

*First Church Jaffrey 1780-1980*, Updated edition 1995, by Emily Wright  
*History of Jaffrey, Vol. 1* by Albert Annett and Alice E.E. Lehtinen, 1937

- Mary Jo Marvin, *Church Historian*



*Winter sunset at the Meeting House and in contrast, looking forward to summer flowers at the Parsonage. Thanks to our resident photographer, Carol Hess.*