



Quick To Listen: A Conversation

Sam Greene, moderator

I love the sentiment from James 1:19 that Steve cited during his sermon of July 31st. “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” Hearing another person speak, after all, is perhaps the purest form of human mindfulness there is. BUT... the more we think we know about something, the more likely we are to talk first and listen less.

We could now get into a conversation about how this affects our everyday lives in the face of social and other media talking at us from respective positions and sides. Or proselytize (talking-telling) by political, religious or cultural groups about what we should believe.

But let’s hear a more hopeful story, told recently at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse.

I recently attended an Amos Fortune Forum which was on contra (and square) dancing and its roots in the Monadnock Region. During the lecture, Steve Zakon-Anderson discussed his observations of “calling” (teaching/leading) dancing over the past 30 years. Contra dancing is wholly dependent on listening and not talking. He made numerous connections between the dancers, who are expected

(continued on page 2)

First Church in Jaffrey

Weathervane

September - October

2022



News in this Issue:

Quick to Listen – Page 1

Installation Service – Page 3

Community Connections – Page 3

Sept. - Oct. Worship – Page 5

Summer Fair Review – Page 6

Ukraine Update – Page 8

NIN Offering – Page 10

Covid Protocols – Page 10

Friday Pies of 2022 – Page 11

Quick to Listen (cont'd)

to listen to the dance move instruction, to follow the rhythm of the music and to generally “be” where they are supposed to “end up” after each movement. It was noted that little “talking” occurs during a dance and that dancers listen, smile, make eye contact and are “in this together.” A strong sense of community quickly results in an environment where strangers “progress” to and away from each other continuously.

I conclude with the proposition that our church and a contra dance are each reliant on listening to each other and to a “caller” who will guide us through a dance. Our community could be a kinder, less noisy place to live as a result of listening more and talking less.

Run with this, Steve...

Sam

Steve Miller, pastor

Excellent Sam, you zeroed right in on a central tenet of strengthening our family of faith – the art of listening. This is something that is, at once, so important yet so very hard. We spend so much of our time thinking about *what we will say next* that it is nearly impossible to actually hear and comprehend the words and ideas of others. But if we are to grow more deeply as a community, we must practice this art in many different ways. Sam, I so appreciate that you chose to reflect on such a positive example of listening from the Amos Fortune Forum – perhaps we should do more dancing in the church!

Let me add one more scripture to the mix: “Oh that today we could learn how to listen, listen for the voice of the Holy One in our midst.” (Psalm 95:7)

Not only is it important that we improve our ability to listen to each other, it is important to learn how to pause from everyday sounds of a noisy world to create spaces of silence so that we may listen for the voice of God and/or the voice of truth. There is a transcendent consciousness that can only be accessed as we open heart and mind to the holy. You may have noticed that we are leaving more space for silence each week in worship.

Listening is an active skill that will require our intention and our attention! And we are off to a great start.

Thanks for listening Sam...

Steve

The members and friends of
The First Church in Jaffrey
are pleased to invite you to the
SERVICE OF INSTALLATION
for
the Reverend Stephen G. Miller
as our newly settled pastor
Sunday, September 11, 2022
at 3:00 pm
in the Jaffrey Meetinghouse
15 Laban Ainsworth Way
Jaffrey, New Hampshire
Reception to follow on the Common

Community Connections at First Church

The Membership Connection

This fall we will create a time of welcome for anyone interested in becoming members or associate members of First Church. **On Sunday morning, September 25, 2022, immediately following worship, we will host a membership orientation** to answer questions, offer possibilities, explore rights and responsibilities, and explain the different categories of connection (member, associate member, friend). Then on Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2022, we will have a ceremony during our morning worship to welcome folks into the life of our church.

If you are interested in membership in any category or have questions about the process, please talk with Steve or our moderator Sam Greene, or simply join us at the membership orientation.

(continued on page 4)

Community Connections (cont'd)

Theological Connections: Fall Study Series on the Lord's Prayer

Should we pray? Why do we pray? To whom do we pray? How do we pray?

These questions have always been a part of human wondering. The disciples asked Jesus these questions and in response, he gave them the words of the Lord's Prayer. (See Luke 11:1-4) This fall Steve will lead a study series on the questions of prayer by focusing on the Lord's Prayer, most especially its origins in the Aramaic language and its development within the myriad of languages within the church.

These educational gatherings will be held in-person on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall beginning on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022**. If there is interest, they will also be shared via zoom. We hope you will join us.

The UCC Connection - Report from UCC Church Camp

Steve spent a week this summer at Horton Center with the middle school high adventure camp! The Horton Center is our UCC church camp located on Pine Mountain in Gorham, New Hampshire. Besides hiking and swimming, sleeping in a cabin, eating lots of camp food, singing camp songs, and doing vespers on Chapel Rock, Steve's favorite part was watching the moon rise with 30 campers as they slept out on Square Ledge in Pinkham Notch (elevation: 2350 ft.) They have invited him back for next summer!



2022 September/October Worship at First Church
Meditation text in bold; Call to Worship text in plain font

September

September 4

“Doing Even More”

Philemon 1:1-21

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Communion

September 11

“One Small Moment”

Luke 15:1-10

Psalm 51

*Steve’s Installation – Sunday,
September 11, 2022 – 3:00 pm*

September 18

“The Grief That Does Not Speak”

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalm 113

September 25

“The Point Is This”

II Corinthians 9:1-15

Psalm 91

Membership Orientation

October

October 2

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Lamentations 3:19-26

Psalm 137

World Communion Sunday

Neighbors in Need

Special Offering

*Blessing the Animals – Sunday,
October 2, 2022 – 2:00 pm at
Cathedral of the Pines*

October 9

“Wopila”

Luke 17:11-19

Psalm 66

Indigenous Peoples Day

October 16

“Lift Up Your Eyes”

Psalm 121

Jeremiah 31:31-34

October 23

“Early Rain”

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 84

October 30

“A Vision Still”

Luke 19:1-10

Habakkuk 2:1-4

New Members

The Summer Fair – 105 Years Strong

The Church Fair is really a big community reunion, as well as an important fundraiser for First Church and the many service agencies it helps support.

Starting on Sunday after worship, people of all ages come to the Meetinghouse and church to work together for good cause. Many return year after year. They move tables and boxes, sort through “stuff,” clean and price thousands of items, and create attractive displays. In local kitchens, individuals are baking and cooking so Fair visitors can buy lunch, snacks, and tempting homemade baked goods. The Horse Sheds gradually transform into the Children’s Fair. By noon on Wednesday, all is ready.

The August 2022 Fair was no exception. Individuals isolated by the last two years of COVID were happy to greet old friends and join the crowds who came to the iconic Jaffrey Common on a Wednesday afternoon to stroll around while shopping for bargains and chatting. As the Fair wound down at 4, its structure began to disappear. Benches went back into the Meetinghouse, table were hoisted into the church attic, trash was collected. By Thursday afternoon, no one would know that hundreds of people had been there 24 hours earlier. The pattern repeats every year.

The Fair also met its fundraising goals, as evidenced in the following sales results by venue:

Antiques & Collectibles	\$1,492.30
Art	\$906.00
Bakery	\$737.00
Children's Tickets	\$566.70
Children's White Elephant	\$75.16
Electric	\$649.00
Garden	\$1,051.00
Jewelry	\$899.50
Linens	\$561.00
Luncheon	\$913.00
Refreshments	\$663.00
Welcome	\$240.00
White Elephant	\$733.65
Contributions	\$2,000.00
Total Cash receipts	\$11,487.31

(continued on page 7)

Summer Fair (cont'd)

There are still outstanding expenses and some anticipated income. We should have final numbers by mid-September. More than half the proceeds of the Fair are donated to social service agencies. Those funds will be distributed in October.

Bruce Hill, our amazing Fair co-chair, summed up the 105th: "Everything came together as planned! The weather, the preparations, the merchandise, the patrons... and especially the tireless leaders and worker bees who expertly managed their venues with good nature and a smile. Can we do it again in 2023, when Jaffrey will be in the midst of a grand 250th anniversary celebration? I think so! Let's make it a festive, productive, memorable event to accompany the Jaffrey Jubilee!"





Updating Ukraine Refugee Relief Efforts

By Ilona Kwiecien

As reported in the last *Weathervane*, the Ukrainian refugee situation is evolving. Many Ukrainians have gone back to their country, some continue to go back and forth, and in Poland people are dealing with higher inflation than in the US and are having to shift their focus from crisis mode to long-term help for those refugees who remain. Also, many agencies are closing operations in Poland and moving more of their support to Ukraine itself. For those refugees who remain in Poland – and there still are a large number – dwindling support has become an overall pattern.

Three Projects

What does this mean for First Church’s continued refugee support initiative? Well, we too are adjusting. Over the next several months we will be funding three “projects” on a monthly basis:

◆ The first is the couple in Zamosc who run the “lapigua” foundation (lapigua.org). They have many connections throughout Europe and are coordinating multiple efforts: helping Ukrainians who have been wounded find treatment, providing water purification systems to Ukraine in places where water has been contaminated, delivering medical and other supplies into Ukraine, and helping individual refugees in Poland. I visited with Stefanie Bogart during both my visits and am impressed at the scope of their work. We are promised periodic reports on how our funds are directed. Stefanie recently told me that our July and August contributions are going to the local refugee support center which distributes basic hygiene products and food. Indeed, First Church has received a thank you on their Facebook page for its support in obtaining duvets, pillows, food and other goods to help Ukrainians.

◆ I was steered to a second organization during my last trip. It is called “Dom Matki” (house for mothers) in Warsaw and is providing shelter for mothers with young children. The project’s original intent was to help unwed Polish mothers, but when the war started, they decided to help Ukrainian refugees. They have a very nice set up which includes psychological counseling. Indeed, there was a group session in progress when I visited.

(continued on page 9)

Ukraine Update (cont'd)

◆ Liliowa 5 in Lublin is our third project community. Marcin (my Lublin driver and “team member”) visited this home which houses about 30 women and children, including a 15-year-old with cognitive issues and an autistic child. In talking with the assistant manager, Marcin learned that their sources of support are drying up and their needs for items such as diapers and groceries have increased.

We will also periodically help Lukasz as he continues to travel between Ukraine and Poland. (He went straight back to Ukraine after recovering from COVID). During a recent conversation, we talked about his work bringing out women who have been raped by Russians to places where they can receive treatment. We will give him funds that go towards helping these victims. He will also keep us posted.

Sponsoring Refugees

Finally, during my last visit to Poland, I was asked to meet with two families who would like to come to the United States under the current 2-year program (Uniting for Ukraine run by USCIS). Also, one of the Kaniwola families has contacted me with a request for sponsorship. I am in the process of trying to build a team to help one of the families. If anyone feels moved to help sponsor, please contact me and I will be happy to share what information I have. Time will tell how needs may change again. I am planning on going back to Poland in late October.

Last but by no means least, a big THANK YOU to Steve Jackson and Lisa Bostnar for arranging a special showing of a classic Ukrainian film, “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors” at the Park Theatre and donating all proceeds to First Church’s refugee support fund. Around \$1,200 was raised. And thank you to all who came, watched, and contributed.

Note: You can reach Ilona at 603-532-6358 for more information.



Thank you to our contributors:

Mary Jo Marvin
Sam Greene
Annie Gordon
Bruce & Pam Hill

Steve Miller
Janet Grant
Ilona Kwiecien
Carol Hess

Neighbors in Need Special Offering



In 2022, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” special offering focuses on an economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, NIN organizers wanted to provide a way to discuss this issue through a faith lens. As in the past, one-third of the offering supports the [Council for American Indian Ministry \(CAIM\)](#). The remaining two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations, as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

You can find out more about specific projects by entering UCC Neighbors in Need in your web browser. The website describes a wide range of projects that received NIN grants in 2121, such as a safe house for LGBTQ college students and sanctuary housing in Mexico for deportees who want to be close to their families in the US (organized by a Phoenix, AZ UCC church). The focus on economic justice is exemplified by a project in Houston that helped 24 high school students from an economically challenged neighborhood learn about activism and participate in a local campaign for a \$15 minimum-wage law.

First Church will collect the NIN offering on **October 2, 2022** as part of World Communion Sunday. Special envelopes will be provided; donations in any amount are welcomed. If you write a check, make it out to First Church in Jaffrey, with NIN in the memo line.

COVID Protocols



First Church’s COVID protocols respond to COVID rates in our area and the nature of the gathering. The Executive Circle examines the status of COVID each month and adjusts church policies as needed.

At the time of this newsletter, the CDC recommendations are as follows: The CDC does not require mask wearing in communities at a low or medium level of virus circulation. Currently Hillsborough and Cheshire counties are at a **LOW level**. Masking is per your personal preference, but is recommended if you are immunocompromised. Your vaccination and boosters are your protection against severe illness and death.

We will continue to hold worship in the spacious sanctuary at 10:30 on Sundays. Masking and distancing are recommended.

Families and groups using the church facilities will determine their own COVID protocols and sign a waiver for First Church.

The “Friday Pies” of 2022

We began our season selling pies on June 24 and continued for 9 weeks, skipping the week of August 1 because of the Annual Church Fair. Exact totals will not be available until mid-September, but *on our last sale day on August 26 we made over \$1,000 selling pies!* On average, each week 30 pies were sold. There were Tourtieres (delicious pork and beef pies) and chicken pies. Both very popular. but expensive to make! People loved the quiches that were donated. Our dessert pies included blueberry pie, apple, peach, pecan, crumble type pies, Boston Cream Pie, Key Lime, Key Lemon, Lemon Chiffon, Strawberry Rhubarb, Cherry, Coconut Cream, Cheesecake pies with fruit topping, Tollhouse pie, Mile High Monadnock Pie – the list goes on and on. The sale ran from 2 to 4, but lines started to form early. Many weeks we sold out by 2:30.

The total sales for the summer were unofficially \$6,000 before expenses. I particularly noticed the increased cost of ingredients: flour, sugar, eggs, butter, fruits of every variety and heavy cream. I believe total costs for ingredients will be close to \$1,600. Making an average of 24 pie shells each week, I went through 50+ pounds of flour. A few generous women donated checks to offset the cost of ingredients. Expenses also included foil pie pans and pie boxes (\$240).

Many women from town and church took part baking and delivering their homemade pies Friday morning. With help from my husband Bruce and Pat Harmon, I baked pies all day Thursday in the church’s kitchen using the two new stoves. It was a profitable weekly event, and we have many women and several men to thank for all they did. We kept to the \$20 price for all pies, except for “dinner” pies. We will probably need to increase prices and recruit more bakers if the sale becomes an annual event.

Dorrie Upton again hosted an Ice Cream Social on the Jaffrey Common for all those who helped with our successful Friday Pie Sales. All who made pies, helped financially to offset expenses, or folded dozens of boxes enjoyed a sweet treat on the Friday afternoon before Labor Day.

Pie Chair- Pam Hill

