



## First Church in Jaffrey Weatherwane January - February 2024

First Church welcomed six new members on Sunday December 10, 2023. Left to right: Steve Brackett, Paulne Brackett, Lisa Giragosian, Martha Gilroy, Susan Denley, John Denley.

### ***ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4, 2024***

To All Members and Friends of the First Church in Jaffrey (UCC):

The 2024 Annual Meeting of The First Church in Jaffrey will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 4, 2024, immediately following the morning worship service.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Receive and vote on reports for the year 2023;

- Vote on the proposed 2024 Budget;

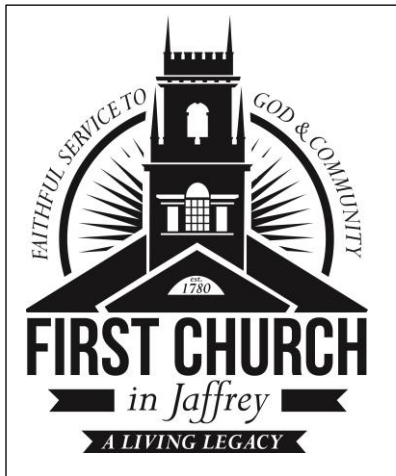
- Vote on the election of officers;

- Undertake such other actions that may legally come before the meeting.

All members and friends are invited to attend. However, only members and associate members may vote.

Nancy Elder-Wilfrid, Clerk

*This meeting will be available via Zoom for those wishing to attend from home.*

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We want to share gratitude to all who planned, organized, supported, and attended all of our wonderful holy day gatherings from our 'hanging of the greens' decorating party, through our Christmas Eve candlelight service through to our Epiphany Sunday worship. Special thanks to our minister of music Gene Faxon, our quartet and choir for the wonderful music. May the spirit of Christmas live all year!

*Steve*

**Inside First Church – Special Services and Classes*****Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Jan. 14-15***

There are several opportunities this year to learn about, celebrate and work toward the vision of justice found in the legacy and teaching of Martin Luther King Jr.

At our Sunday morning service on January 14, Steve and Nancy Elder-Wilfrid will lead a worship that will include a sermon preached by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta GA, November 5, 1967. We will also sing several of our favorite peace and justice hymns.

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*Inside First Church (cont'd)*

On Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Pines, distinguished legal historian Michael Klarman will deliver the keynote address for Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. 2024. In recognizing the 60-year anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Professor Klarman will speak on “Brown v. Board, the Civil Rights Movement, and Where We Are Today on Race.”

On Monday, January 15, at 5:00 pm, the Park Theatre will host a celebration with the theme “America the Dream” featuring new music created by local folk musician, Steve Schuch. Dr. Cyndy Jean, Conant 2003, will be the featured speaker. Gene Faxon and some of our First Church singers will be a part of the program.

***Ash Wednesday Service with United Church on February 14***

Once again, this year, we will honor the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday (2/14), at a joint service with our friends from the United Church of Jaffrey. The service will be held in the sanctuary of First Church at 5:00 pm and will feature songs, prayers, reflections, and the imposition of ashes. We hope you will join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

***Lenten Study Series: Jesus Before Christianity***

Steve will be leading a study series for five weeks on Wednesday afternoons during Lent. These educational gatherings will be held at 4:00 pm in the Parish House beginning on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. The theme of the series is “Jesus Before Christianity.” The session will explore the history, theology and spirit of the Jesus movement and examine how it became the religion we now call Christianity. If there is interest, the series will also be available on Zoom with links emailed out via eblast each week.

**Thank you for your contributions to the January-February  
Weathervane!**

**MaryJo Marvin, Nancy Elder-Wilfrid, Steve Miller, Annie Gordon,  
Ilona Kwiecien, Sam Greene, Carol Hess**

## 2024 January/February Worship at First Church

Meditation text in bold; Call to Worship text in plain font

January 7, 2024

“Guide Us to Thy Perfect Light”

**Matthew 2:1-12**

Isaiah 60:1-4

February 4, 2024

“Strength Renewed”

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

Psalm 147

*Communion*

*Annual Meeting*

January 14, 2024 - ML King Day

“But if Not”

*A sermon preached by the  
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta GA,  
November 5, 1967*

**Daniel 3:1-18**

John 2:1-11

February 11, 2024 – Transfiguration Sunday

“I Will do my Best to do my Duty”

**Mark 9:2-9**

Scout Oath and Law

*Boy Scout Sunday*

January 21, 2024

“The Urgency of Being”

**Mark 1:14-20**

Psalm 62

February 14, 2024

5:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service  
(with United Church of Jaffrey)

January 28, 2024

“A Changed Nature”

**Mark 1:21-28**

Psalm 111

February 18, 2024 – Lent I

“Let Yourself Be Swept Along”

**Mark 1:9-15**

Psalm 25

February 25, 2024 - Lent II

“Mindset”

**Mark 8:3-38**

Psalm 32



## ***2023 Sets Record for First Church Donations to Monadnock Community***

The expanded Benevolence Circle met in November and December to allocate funds raised by the Summer Fair and the Pie Sales. Thanks to the hard work of church members and volunteers from the larger community, these two fundraising events were extremely successful. We were able to expand our benevolences into new areas and increase donations to organizations we have helped for many years.

On behalf of First Church, the Benevolence Circle:

### ***Created two camp scholarships for young people:***

Horton Center: 1 week \$575

Scout Camp, for one Scout from Jaffrey's Troop 33: 1 week \$590

### ***Continued support for established community service that target housing, homelessness, hunger, abuse, early childhood education, mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, medical care, elder care***

Home Health Care Hospice and Community Services \$500

Meals on Wheels \$500

Monadnock Area Psychotherapy and Spiritual Services (MAPS) \$300

Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention \$400

Monadnock Community Early Learning Center \$400

Monadnock Family Services \$600

Monadnock Adult Day Care Center \$300

Shelter from the Storm \$600

Reality Check \$500

Got Lunch \$600 (plus a \$500 anonymous donation from a church member)

JR Memorial Ambulance Service \$300

Jaffrey Food Pantry \$500

***Added two new beneficiaries:***

Project Home: New nonprofit based in Keene that funds refugee housing and English as a second language (ESOL) classes \$500

Southwestern Community Services: provides heating/fuel assistance to Monadnock region \$500

These donations totaled \$7,665. We kept \$2,000 in reserve for scholarships to Conant grads to be awarded in May 2024.

***First Church Christmas Fund***

The offering taken at the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve 2023 will be given to the Jaffrey Town Emergency Assistance Fund, which provides financial help with housing (rent, shelter, mortgages) – a primary need in Jaffrey. First Church has contributed to this agency for many years; we are the only church in town to do so, and our help is greatly appreciated.

***From a UCC Perspective...***

First Church is a 5 for 5 UCC church. This means that our generous congregation contributes to four special offerings\* throughout the year as well as budgeting financial support for the NH and national UCC through Our Church's Greater Mission (OCWM) program.

\*One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund

*Benevolence Circle:* Weltha Barker, Marcia Breckenridge, Mary Jo Marvin, Kathy McCloy-Raleigh, and Steve Miller

## Flowers, Please?



We've enjoyed poinsettias and Christmas decorations on the altar and throughout the sanctuary for a month, but it's time to move into a new season!

Please consider donating altar flowers to brighten our winter Sundays. The Worship Circle has placed a sign-up sheet in the Parish House to schedule donations. Donors will be recognized in the Sunday bulletin, along with the person's name or occasion you wish to honor.

You can purchase an arrangement from a florist – we have two in Jaffrey who are excellent designers and know our sanctuary. Colls Garden Center and Daffodils are happy to work with individuals, and they deliver to the church. Another winter option is to bring a beautiful plant from your house or create a dried arrangement. Your flowers should arrive at the church on Saturday afternoon or early Sunday morning, at least 30 minutes before the service.

If you have any questions, contact the Worship Circle by emailing [admin@firstchurchinjaffrey.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchinjaffrey.org) or talking to Annie Gordon after the service.





## Community Center for Ukrainian Refugees in Zamosc

Ilona Kwiecien (third from left) visited the Poland-Ukraine border in October. Stephanie (second from left) and her volunteers continue to run the Ukrainian community center in Zamosc, offering programs, food packages, and clothing. They also support organizations in Ukraine, including orphanages and a home for internal refugees which offers psychiatric assistance and sends supplies to the front.

First Church quickly answered an emergency call for help with a Christmas “Wish list” from 29 children in the Dom Matki center in Warsaw by sending letters and money to purchase their “dream gifts.”

In late November at the coffee time following worship, individuals gave money and wrote personal notes to the children. Done in one hour!



Moderator Sam Greene finishes his Christmas letter to a Ukrainian refugee child.