



Scouts salute the flag ... and Mt. Monadnock.

First Church in Jaffrey Weathervane May - June 2024

An Invitation from Our Scouts...

Dear First Church members and friends,

A Court of Honor is a ceremony held by Scouts to formally recognize and honor those who have achieved specific ranks or earned awards, like Merit Badges. Troop 33 holds two Courts of Honor annually, one in May and another in October. It is a formal event that includes Scouts, their families, friends of the Troop and leaders from the organization.

The Court of Honor usually begins with an opening ceremony, such as the Pledge of Allegiance with the Scout Oath and Law. Then, Scouts who have earned awards or advanced in rank are called forward to be recognized and honored for their achievements. This may include presenting badges, pins, or other insignia to the Scouts. There are also announcements and reports from Troop leaders, including updates on Troop activities and upcoming events. The ceremony also recognizes the contributions of parents, leaders, and other volunteers who have supported or made significant contributions to Troop 33.

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Scout Invitation (cont'd)

The Court of Honor is an important tradition in Scouting, providing an opportunity to recognize and honor the achievements of individual Scouts and the contributions of parents and leaders. These ceremonies help to build a sense of community and pride within the Troop, and to motivate and inspire other Scouts to strive for excellence to achieve their own goals in Scouting.

On Monday, May 20th at 7:00 pm, Jaffrey Troop 33 will hold the next Court of Honor in the sanctuary at First Church (our forever home!) You are a part of our community, and we would like to invite you to join us on that night.

Respectfully,

Joshua S. Levesque
Scoutmaster Troop 33
Jaffrey, New Hampshire

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND...

An audio recording of Steve's recent Sunday Reflections, the worship schedule, upcoming events, photos, and more.

Make sure you click the website icon (usually a globe). Google "crawls" through websites and gathers information, but often does not remove outdated posts. We, and many others, are working to solve this problem.

firstchurchinjaffrey.org



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2024 May/June Worship at First Church

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

May 5, 2024

“The Sound of the Wind”
John 3:1-17
Psalm 98
Communion

May 12, 2024 - Mother's Day

“My Heart's Quiet Home”
Isaiah 32:16-20
Deuteronomy 32

May 19, 2024 - Pentecost

“Bold New Decisions”
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104
Strengthen the Church
Special Offering
Interact Presentation

May 26, 2024 - Memorial Day

“Higher Love”
John 15:9-17
Isaiah 6:1-8



June 2, 2024

Guest preacher
Nancy Elder-Wilfrid
Communion

June 9, 2024

“Some Things are Forever”
II Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Psalm 138

June 16, 2024 – Father's Day

“The Great Cloud of Unknowing”
Mark 4:26-34
Psalm 92
New Members

June 23, 2024

“Asleep in the Storm”
Mark 4:35-41
Psalm 107:23-32

June 30, 2024

“Silent Suffering”
Mark 5:21-43
Lamentations 3

*Steve baptized Claire Patricia Berry,
daughter of Gordon and Katherine Berry, at
First Church on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.
Congratulations to this new family!*

Inside First Church

Summer Study Series: The Spirit of Creation

This summer, Steve will be sharing a 6-week study series around the theme, “The Spirit of Creation.” These gatherings will explore the sacredness of nature from a variety of perspectives.

We will explore the theological tension present in our Christian history – is creation a good sacred home for us or is the material world inherently wild and flawed and an enemy in need of our submission? We will examine indigenous and other earth-based spiritualities – can their ancient wisdom help us better find an understanding of our relationship to our universe. And finally, we will enlist the aid of modern science to discover our most recent learnings to root all our reflections in our best and most up-to-date thinking. It will be a fruitful study!!

New Schedule for Classes

We will try a new pattern for our classes this summer. Although we will still meet at 4:00 pm on Wednesdays in the Parish House, we will spread our gatherings out over the months of May, June, and July, meeting the last two weeks of each month (May 22, 29, June 19, 26, July 24, 31).

As always, the course will be available on Zoom. That link will be created and shared the week before our first meeting in May. Please let Steve know if you have any questions.

Interested in Joining First Church?

Early this summer we will create a time of welcome for anyone interested in becoming members or associate members of First Church. On Sunday morning, June 9, 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. Then on Sunday morning, June 16, a ceremony during morning worship will welcome folks into the life of our church.

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

Prayer and Care Circle

This month First Church will be reviving a long-standing tradition, that of a Prayer and Care Circle. This circle is a small group of members and friends who set aside regular time to pray for others and offer compassionate care to any who need a little extra support.

We will hold an organizational meeting of this circle on *Saturday, May 18* at 9:00 am in the Parish House. If you have any questions about this work, please talk with Steve or Lisa Bostnar Jackson.

First Church in the Community

Conant Students Share Trip Experience

Through the generosity of our Woods Fund, established in memory of Davida and Francis Woods, First Church was able to support the most recent Conant High School Interact Club student trip to the Dominican Republic. On Sunday morning May 19, immediately following worship, some members of this group will be present with us in the Parish House to share stories and pictures of their life-changing adventure. Plan to join us and hear about their journey.

Volunteers Needed for Community Meal

On the fourth Thursday of each month the United Church of Jaffrey hosts a free community supper at the Mildred Cutter Parish Hall. All are welcome, with families especially invited. *On May 23*, First Church has volunteered to prepare and serve a traditional New England ham and bean supper.

Here is how you could help:

Sign up to prepare, serve or clean

Come and enjoy the meal and meet some new friends in the community

Donate to the cost of our meal. (Any extra funds will be donated to the Jaffrey Food Pantry.)

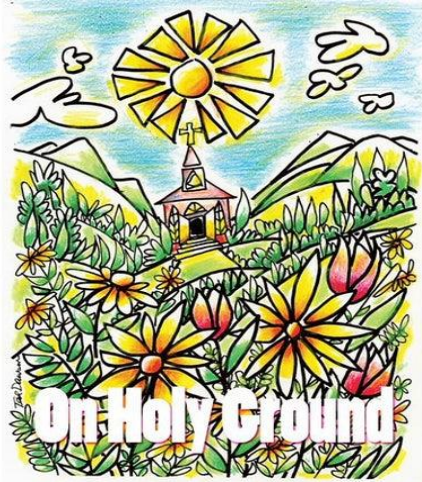
Steve Miller and Tim Gordon are heading up our team, talk to either if you would like more information.

Join a Spring Walk in Our Labyrinth



Come walk our labyrinth behind the sanctuary on Saturday morning, May 18 at 8:30 am. This meditative journey can provide profound insights into one's life, foster self-reflection, and cultivate peace.

Steve will share a brief teaching that morning and then folks are welcome to walk.



Strengthen the Church Offering on May 19

God calls us into an inclusive, expansive, welcoming community. One where "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome." Our UCC General Minister & President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson calls this a "big tent" community.

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the United Church of Christ's "big tent" vision. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. Your conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of our churches, large and small.

Through this offering, we further our commitment to being a multi-racial/multi-cultural church that is accessible to all. Please join with people across the UCC in the Strengthen the Church Offering on May 19, 2024. Donations in any amount are welcomed. Special envelopes will be included in the Sunday bulletin. If donating by check, make the check payable to First Church in Jaffrey, with Strengthen the Church in the memo line. You can find more information online by entering Strengthen the Church in your internet browser.



**Thank you for your contributions to the
May – June Weathervane!**

**Steve Miller, MaryJo Marvin, Carol Hess, Linda
Grant, Dan Wilfrid, Josh Levesque, Judy Lessard**

Looking Ahead to Summer!

Pie Days!

SUMMER PIES are just around the May corner!



Our first day of sales will be *Friday, June 28 from 2-4* at First Church. We'll be very grateful for pies to sell and financial donations to offset the price of ingredients, especially fruits.

Fruit pies are the most popular, but many folks love tortierres or chicken pies for a delicious and easy dinner. We'll be taking a limited number of pie orders each week. Watch the church bulletin and eblasts for the "Pie Hotline" phone number.

Pam Hill
philloncapecod@gmail.com or 508-280-0771



Save the Date – August 7 is Fair Day

Since the annual Summer Fair is always on the first Wednesday of the August, this year it is the latest it can possibly be - on August 7th. The goals are the same: comradery, goodwill, and fundraising. We will have most of our usual venues and expect most leaders and worker bees to return. One major shift is the decision to not sell tools and electronics. Like our shift away from books a couple years ago, we found that tools and electronics did not sell very well and we were tasked with disposing of much of the merchandise. We appreciate the many years of service of Gene Faxon and Chris Adams in this venue.

Bruce Hill, Pam Hill, and Janet Grant will continue as Fair Chairs and will be assisted by "intern" Pauline Brackett. She has demonstrated superb leadership abilities, and we look forward to working with her throughout the year.

Watch for collection dates, meetings, and other important information in the next Weathervane and in the church bulletin.