

December 30, 2025
Chaos- A beautiful accident

If you feel a little overwhelmed, about what is happening here at First Church, join the club. Just reading an eblast can be a little daunting... BUT DON'T STOP! There are calendars, schedules, sign-ups, church officer openings, circle meetings, messages, and even "happenings". Dates to remember go clear out to February, and soon mud season! Then there are things for us to DO: Pick up poinsettias and nativity scenes, attend "Who Are We" workshops, listen to sermons given by people we've never heard of, be reminded of when the mics are not working or the driveways need salting, attend an annual meeting on conference championship day. And, if you think you might be on an aspiring new member prospect list, you could block calls from 603-533-5152, or call me first.

Please do not despair, though, as there are ordinary people like you doing extraordinary work (Thank you for that April 27th 2025 line, Steve Miller).

As you know the Transition Circle is working hard to bring you the most normal feeling church experience we can. I have adopted a management question that was introduced to me recently by a pewmate. "Are we running a professional organization, or are we running a clown show?" I hope you feel as at home and at ease when you come to church on Sundays as you did at this time last year. No burst pipes, no hot mic newsreels, no critical errors. (We've dropped a couple of balls in the past couple of months, but hopefully they have not ruined your day). It is important to remember that the Transition Circle works with the Trustees, Communications Circle, Pastoral Relations Circle, Worship Circle, Benevolence Circle, Prayer Circle, Minister of Music, minister, and church administrator. Many quiet individuals from all these circles have been working particularly hard learning the ropes of church work. As my friend Rev. Nancy says, "Welcome to the underside of church and a small piece of what goes on to make Sunday mornings look seamless".

The Search Circle is sponsoring a forum this Sunday immediately following our service with Linda Hirst of the NH Conference of the UCC. I urge you to stick around for an hour and be part of a visioning process which will assist the circle in completing our "Local Search Profile", a preparatory step in seeking a settled pastor. Be thinking about this question: Who are we as a congregation and where may God be leading us? Heady stuff and certainly not something you want to start thinking about at 11:30 Sunday. The circle hopes to have the search profile done by the end of February.

As always, please treat everyone with kindness and respect and reach out to me if you have complaints or concerns.

Fondest wishes for a beautiful New Year,
Sam Greene- Moderator