

A Message from the Moderator

Head and Heart Work 12-9-25

A guy named Steve said to me before his retirement that it was important to remind the congregation regularly about our head and heart church work. Nancy preached this past Sunday about our being “the shiners of light” for God. Both got me thinking that I wanted to bear witness to many wonderful changes that I’ve seen over the past few weeks.

There has been a renewed hands-on leadership and involvement at First Church, both within our “circles” and by those who are “jumping into the boots” on any day of the week. The Worship Circle spearheaded a colorful Advent theme, Trustee and set-up volunteers are making sure the doors are open and candles are lit, our administrative staff are packing bulletins with inserts and cranking out eblasts, Gene and guest preachers are scheming to provided lively music and song through the season.

The Transition Circle has been especially busy working with the Worship and Trustee Circles in a developing a pulpit and pastoral supply schedule for the first quarter of 2026. We have recently made progress in contacting several pulpit supply ministers who will be ministering to us over the coming months. This week we also will be working on the formal Request for Pastoral Leadership for our Time of Transition. (RfPLfoToT?) I know it is a mouthful, but it paves the way to notice the NH UCC Conference that we are anxiously hunting for an (only the best!) interim minister. Happily, Linda Hirst of the NH UCC Conference will also be ministering to us on Epiphany and will afterwards lead the congregation in a workshop to help us identify ourselves and our needs going forward. Whether you are a member or friend of First Church, please, please put January 4th on your calendars for this important talking and listening session.

Our newest circle has been formed and has met once. The Search Circle is made up of Dan Isaacs, Anne Gordon, Lee Debelle, Susan Peterson, Ben Wheeler, Karen Shea-Dufresne, and Cynthia Rouvalis. I have been gratified at how much interest there was surrounding the formation of this circle over the past two months. Easily 20 individuals approached me or other members of the Transition Circle expressing interest in the search process- or suggesting candidates they thought would best represent the congregation. Honestly, I am jealous to not be part of the process this time

around, but I wish the circle members all our gratitude for taking on this awesome responsibility. I promise, you will find it rewarding.

You ALL are the best. Once again, I say, we need to show up for each other and for our community in order to accomplishing the change that we envision.

Fondest Wishes, Sam Greene- Moderator