

January 6, 2026

## Fodder for Our Future

I simply wanted to thank everyone who helped with the service on Sunday. I've learned of late that the grand Sunday play starts at least a week before. Music, hymns, readings, lead actors, backstage personnel all build Sunday's set-up, service and aftermath. People need to talk with each other (or frankly sometimes need to figure out who they need to talk to).

This was our first service without Gene, *and* with a guest minister, *and* celebrating Epiphany, *and* offering communion, *and* holding a "Who We Are" workshop. The scripture and scripture reference was wrong, 5 people got up to do the body of Christ work of 4, the snowplow arrived a little later than it could have. But the Christmas pageant went off and was good. The sermon "Pick Him Up!" picked us up and carried us to the Parish House for a good reflection of ourselves. Secret: Wonder what Linda Hirst's take was on our exercise? *"There is so much enthusiasm and love for your church. Lots of hope as well. And much of that comes from the leadership (well done) and of course...we thank God for all of it!"* Secret: This goes beyond leadership.

I want to gratefully thank Linda Hirst for braving sloppy weather and leading us in worship and visioning, Nancy Elder-Wilfrid for keeping the service glitter and glue together, and Carol Hamilton and Ron Levy and the choir for their music. Behind the stage this particular day were Dan, Sharon, Carol, Lee, Charlotte, Anne, Weltha, Jim R and Jim R, Susan, Karen B, Karen S-D, Cynthia, and Ben. But the biggest thank you goes to everyone who attended and voiced their opinions at the workshop. Trite, but it's a village.

To close, I want to mention an exciting opportunity we have to participate in a training and coaching "cohort" that supports churches on their journey toward vitality. This is being offered by Rev. Paul Nickerson (sponsored by NHCUCC) who has worked with churches across the country. The workshop will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10-3 in Concord and will introduce five areas of church vitality. Church "teams" (clergy and at least three lay members) will choose an area of focus and receive six months of group coaching, including Zoom calls, unlimited email coaching and a weekly newsletter. Focus areas include: Reaching new people, engaging in vision/discernment, funding your church's growth, developing an effective church structure, and creating a discipleship program. We are interested in hearing from anyone that would like to participate in this program. I'm particularly interested in Paul's idea that Linda Hirst mentioned on Sunday: Bringing ourselves to the community rather than trying to bring people to our church.

Again, thank you. Sam Greene- Moderator