



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church

Vol. XV, No. 11

December 2016

Serving Our Church
Members & Friends
In Jackson, NH
And beyond!

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Greetings – We're in the midst of Advent as you receive this newsletter. We're thinking about the imminent arrival of Emmanuel, which means "God with Us," into our lives.

Of course, God was with us before we started counting down to Christmas, and will be with us the day afterward, too. The promise of this season is that God loves us enough to be born into our messy world and to meet us where we are. That covenant continues into our everyday lives, even when the carols hush and the candles are blown out.

Yet this season is a time set aside: a time of waiting and anticipating. Not a passive sort of waiting, but an intentional, engaged and active preparation. During this time, we're expected to wake up, to focus, to pay attention. We're getting ready!

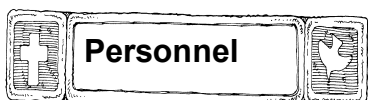
- We are invited to take care of ourselves with renewed compassion: make time for wellbeing in body, mind and spirit.
- We are asked to take stock of our intimate relationships and tend to them by letting go when necessary, renewing those in need of care, or simply being present to the ones we often overlook and take for granted.
- We are called to act as ethical partners both locally and globally: advocates and witnesses, healers and workers for social justice for all people. Maybe we cannot change the whole world, but we can choose one corner of it, and make a difference.
- We are charged with nurturing the sustainability of creation itself by seeking environmental justice. As above, find sustainable ways to enter into this care for our home, our planet.
- We are claimed as God's people: this is a time to kindle spiritual practices that allow space for our connection with Godself.

Through such preparation, we make ready ourselves, our relationships, and our world for the presence of God.

Admittedly, in an era marked by tension, conflict, violence, hunger, poverty, disease, war, and environmental emergencies, we pause to ask ... where IS God in all of this? In that question, and its answer, we circle back to the Advent story. It turns out that every year, we are reminded where God is: born among us into the mucky, messy reality of poverty and oppression. After all, we are shaped in God's image: and Godself remains among us and within us, loving us, loving all living creatures, loving this world.



Jackson Community Church



Rev. Gail Pomeroy Doktor
978-273-0308

Lynn Lockard 383-8011
Moderator

Judy Herrick 356-9158
Choir Director
Organist/Accompanist

Jeanette Heidmann 383-5959
Treasurer

Joanne Turner 383-6187
986-5018
Administrative Asst.

Eileen McDonald
617-449-8504
Deacon Chairperson

Church Council

The Church Council meets once a month on the third Wednesday at 7:30pm. All Church members are welcome to attend. The council is made up of the Moderator, Pastor and all committee chairpersons. Due to being close to Christmas the next council meeting will be held a week early on Wednesday December 14th.

From the Pastor.... Continued

In his mortal lifetime, Christ journeyed mostly on foot and met the world up close. He encountered humanity's diversity and potential through each child, man and woman he met along the way, touching and being touched by the gritty reality of his people. He ate in the homes of marginalized, poor, outcast and exiled people. He found respite among folks living on the edges of their communities. He healed those no one else would touch. He spoke with and for those that others didn't acknowledge. He empowered the least likely individuals. He connected people to each other. He resisted oppression and overturned social norms. He was killed by an unjust government. He returned to us, beyond death, bringing reconciliation, grace and hope.

Ultimately, to do all of this, Christ broke himself open. Thousands of years later, we – the church -- are the living, breathing body of God. So in this season, we do the work of breaking ourselves open, too, in preparation for Christ's arrival within our hearts and minds, and in our relationships to each other and the world. When the songs grow quiet, the dark gathers, and the winter cold draws closer, God will still be here. The Spirit is present in every creative response, every courageous act, every compassionate outreach that moves us toward healing and resilience. And Emmanuel – God with Us -- is present in every breath and heartbeat: in our being and becoming.

May the gifts of Advent be yours: hope, peace, joy and love. And may the ultimate gift, the grace of Godself moving in and among us in this world, be yours, too. Blessings!

– Rev. Gail

Find Us

Jacksoncommunitychurch.org



Jackson Community Church NH

facebook



Church Family News and Prayers



Deacons

Dec 3: Mary Anne Taylor
Dec 9: Kate Taylor
Dec 12: Isabella Hutchings
Dec 13: Arden Schoen
Doug Taylor
Dec 15: Maeve Weeder

Dec 21: Barry Chisholm
Dec 21: Anna Mays
Dec 21: David Mays
Dec 23: Mathew Synnott
Dec 30: William Synnott

Colleen Allbee
383-0990

Eilleen McDonald
617-449-8504

If you would like a special anniversary or birthday mentioned in the newsletter please let us know by signing the sheet on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board or call, write, or email the editor. In order to protect your privacy, we do NOT use the church records for these announcements and will only include them if you send it in!

JCC Women's Group

The Women's Group would like to extend an open invitation to all women of the church and their friends to come for coffee and discussion. This group is open to all and it is not necessary to be part of the church, bring a friend!

The next meeting will be a Nov/Dec meeting on Wednesday December 14th at 11:00am at Nancy Lundquist's home. This will be a pot luck luncheon.

Please RSVP to Linda Hastings at 383-9375 or jimlindahastings@roadrunner.com and let her know what you will be bringing. If anyone would like to host future meetings either at their home or the church, please contact the church to get on the schedule.

JCC Men's Group

The Men's group has been meeting next door at The Wentworth for the Continental Breakfast on the second Saturday of each month at 7:30am.

The next meeting will be Saturday December 10th at 7:30am - Please join us! You would be welcome and it is a great group. We always have a wonderful meal along with some very interesting discussions, with a wide variety of topics.

There is always something for everyone!

Inside-Out— January 2017 issue
Deadline: December 28th, 2016

The deadline for submitting news and articles to be included in the January issue is Wednesday December 28th.

Please send information to:
jccchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Annual Meeting

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the
Jackson Community Church
will be held on Wednesday January 18, 2017.
Please mark this on your calendar as it is a
Very important meeting for all to attend.

Pot Luck Dinner: 6PM
Roll Call and Meeting: 7PM

Committee Chairpersons:

Just a reminder that your submission for the
Annual Report is due before Christmas. When
completed please send it into the office.

The Annual report will be available the two
Sundays prior to the Annual Meeting in January.

Thank you.



Your Help is Needed!!! Sign Up Today!!!!

Please sign up to Host Fellowship Hour and/or
be a Greeter. They are both quick and simple
tasks and are a part of your ministry to the
church. Pick a Sunday—Sign up in Fellowship
Hall near the kitchen.

Jump right in and give it a try.



greeters

Seeking Moderator in Training

The Church Council is actively seeking a church member who is interested in working with the current Moderator to “learn the ropes” and fill the position for 2017. The Moderators term is a 1 year commitment but you can volunteer each year up to 4 years. The main duty of the Moderator is to chair the council meetings each month making sure we cover all the items on the agenda.

We have had success in the past using either Co-Moderators or a Moderator and Vice Moderator. If you would like more information on the Moderator’s position please contact current Moderator Lynn Lockard at 383-8011.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AND CELEBRATIONS



ADVENT WORSHIP SUNDAYS

Come celebrate the four Sundays of Advent with services to include special readings and the lighting of the Advent wreath each week by different members of our church family.

Nov 27	First Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Dec. 4	Second Sunday in Advent & Holy Communion	Lighting of the Candle of Peace
Dec. 11	Third Sunday in Advent & Christmas Pageant	Lighting of the Candle of Joy
Dec. 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Love

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT– Sunday December 18th

Join us for a youth narrated re-telling of the Christmas Story during our regular worship service. If you are interested in participating please see Tish Hanlon, Kayleigh Kearns or Martha Miller. Practices will begin soon.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - Sunday December 18th

Come caroling! After church and fellowship we will be caroling for Jackson individuals/families, and possibly residents of local rehab/residential facilities. If you know someone who might enjoy a few seasonal songs, please share their name and address so that we may add them to our singing route. Meet at the gazebo at 12:30pm.



BLUE CHRISTMAS - Tuesday December 20th 6:30pm

A mid-week candle-lighting and prayer service that creates a space to acknowledge the grief and loss that sometimes makes the holiday season complicated.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Saturday December 24th



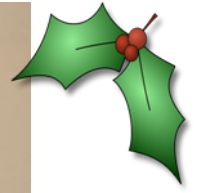
5pm
10pm

Family Service, Candlelight, Lessons and Carols
Evening Service, Candlelight, Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS MORNING - PAJAMAS & BELLS

Sunday morning 10:30am, wear comfortable clothing, even come in your festive PJs. Bring a sleigh bell or come ready to ring one. We will share a favorite children's Christmas story, sing a few songs, and "ring in" the holiday together.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally



On November 13th our congregation celebrated Ukama Sunday and our Zimbabwe partnership with guest Reverend Matuvhunye.



Meg Philips recently returned from her trip to the Honduras with **Honduras Hope**. This is what she had to say about her trip.

"The money donated by our church helped me to purchase a new Singer sewing machine and steam iron that will be used to make all the girls' uniform skirts for school. You can see the 32 yards of fabric in front! Bringing a heavy sewing machine from the U.S. would have been impossible, and there were a couple of stores in Yoro where I could purchase one new.

Students attending middle and high school are required to have a specific uniform. Honduras Hope takes the children shopping for uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and other school supplies. This year, instead of just purchasing the uniforms, the decision was made to purchase the material for skirts instead, then pay the sewing cooperative to make them. Buying fabric and paying the women to sew the skirts, the cooperative has a money-making project and the total cost is the same.

All the work Honduras Hope does is discussed and decided upon by the villagers, this time the Education Committee.

I'll try to have a small presentation ready to show in January.. Meanwhile, thanks again for supporting me in this mission. "

If you are looking for a destination 'with purpose' this Christmas season, you may want to check this out..
Heifer Farm Holiday Open House
Heifer International, 216 Wachusett Street, Rutland, MA
December 3, 4, 10 & 11, 2016 | 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day



Creating memories, giving thoughtful gifts and enjoying good food are all part of our holiday seasons. Heifer Farm invites you to a special event with a **Living Gift Market** so you can honor family and friends with a purchase of an animal gift that will share joy. Take home a special gift card and your photo with a goat! Warm yourself with hot chestnuts at the bonfire; take a hayride; enjoy delicious homemade soup, baked goods and hot cocoa. Enjoy free admission with a canned good donation which will be given to the Worcester County Food Bank. For more information, call 508-886-5000 or email heifer.farm@heifer.org.

If you can not make it to the open house and would like to purchase Heifer and/or Zimbabwe cards from the Mission Committee please contact Meg Philips or Linda Hastings.

Christmas Stocking Project



The Mission Committee sponsored 2 children from the Christmas Stocking Project. Wish list tags were located in Fellowship Hall and we are pleased that all the tags have been taken.

If you took a name/tag on the giving tree, please return the wrapped gift to the church by Dec. 11. If you have any questions see Catherine Kyle.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thank you for your support.



SAVE THE DATE:

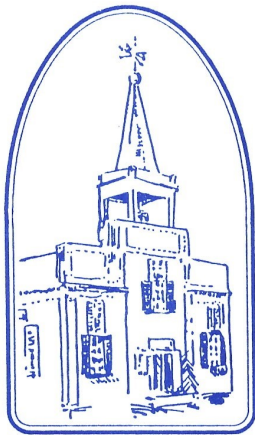
Please join us for the 40th Anniversary of
Race To Beat Cancer (Hope on the Slopes)
to benefit the American Cancer Society,
on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at
Mt. Cranmore. The 2017 Theme is *Love on the Slopes*.
More details to follow.



Pledge Cards

Did you receive your pledge card in the mail? The Finance Committee is working on the 2017 budget and needs your help. You can print the pledge card below or pick one up at church—A pledge lets us know your intended annual giving so that we can budget for items you may not notice when you come on Sundays such as heat, electricity and maintenance. It also helps us plan and be able to continue programs such as music, fellowship, Mission and educational events.

Please return at your earliest convenience. Thank you!!



Envelope Number
(for office use)

FOR CHURCH RECORDS

Date:

Name

Address

Post Office

State

Zip Code

■ In response to God's gift of love through Christ and because I desire to support the church's ministries,

I plan to give beginning _____ \$ _____ each ☐ week ☐ month

■ For an annual total of\$ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

Jackson Community Church

FOR YOUR RECORDS

Date:

■ In response to God's gift of love through Christ and because I desire to support the church's ministries, I plan to give for the year beginning _____:

\$ _____ each ☐ week ☐ month

■ For an annual total of \$ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

Name:

Inside Out Address Changes, News Updates, Thoughts and Prayers

We strive to keep our church family, near and far, connected through this newsletter. We would love to hear from you!! Please send us information about yourself or other members of our church community, thoughts and prayers, and notices of pertinent community events. Please also let us know if your address has changed, or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list. Send any correspondence or changes to Jackson Community Church, Attn. Newsletter Editor, PO Box 381, 127 Main St. Jackson, NH 03846 or email to jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Name: _____

Street address: _____

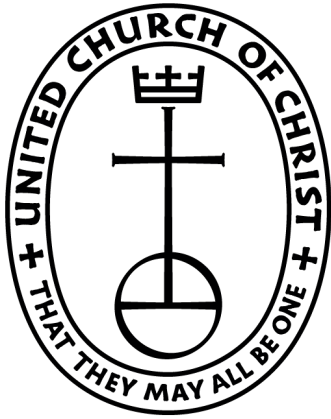
Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ telephone: _____

Thoughts/Prayers: _____

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30p AA Group	2 6pm Wedding Rehearsal	3 3p Hawkes/Wall Wedding
4 9am Choir Practice 10:30a Worship	5 5p Deacons Mtg	6	7	8 6:30p AA Group	9	10 7:30am Men's Group
11 9am Choir Practice 10:30a Worship	12	13	14 11a Women's Group Potluck Luncheon 7:30p Council Meeting	15 6:30p AA Group	16	17
18 9am Choir Practice 10:30a Children's Pageant 12:30p Caroling	19	20 6:30p Blue Christmas	21	22 6:30p AA Group	23	24 5p Family Service 10p Evening Service Candlelight, Carols
25 10:30p Pajama's & Bells Worship Service Christmas	26	27	28	29 6:30p AA Group	30	31



Steeple Light

If you would like the steeple lit in memory or in honor of a loved one, family member, friend or organization, please mail your request to:

Jackson Community Church
Attn: Steeple Lighting
PO Box 381
Jackson NH 03846

A suggested donation of \$30.00 is appreciated.

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM
Child Care Provided
Church 383-6187



Church
127 Main Street
PO Box 381
Jackson, NH 03846

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