



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church
Vol. XVII, No. 4

April 2018

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Out of winter, spring. Out of sleep, awakening. Out of death, new life.

'Tis mud season! We've held pond skims at the base of ski slopes. Snow melts, revealing the dark bare skin of the rising world. As the earth warms and softens, sap runs, seasonal birds sing, tender shoots appear, and dormant critters rouse from long sleep.

As we move through mud season, it's a good time to think about the earth beneath our rain boots and hiking gear. One of my clergy colleagues recently referred to a Wendell Berry essay about topsoil conservation, and its connection to spring and renewal.

Berry says, "It is hard to believe that the land we live on and the lives we live are the gifts of death. Yet that is so and it is the topsoil that makes it so." To live close to the rhythms of nature is to embrace

what is sacred around us.

Berry further observes, "The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life." Topsoil sounds Christ-like, doesn't it?

Makes us think again about the mud under our feet. Berry writes often about the natural world, and connects it to his understanding of the creative force — God, Spirit, and Christ — that defines his understanding of all that is holy in this world. In this essay, Berry is inspired by a Biblical passage from Matthew 6 about the integrity of Creation and our place in it. *"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? . . . but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Berry argues that we should 'seek first' the Kingdom of God — which he believes is here on earth — by prioritizing its wellbeing and recognizing its sacred nature.

In this context, mud season takes on a different meaning. Intrinsically, we know that our world is sacred. After all, the White Mountains offer us a virtual outdoor cathedral. Berry's highlighted passage from the Gospel of Matthew calls us to strive for a righteous relationship — in other words, a holistic and sustainable relationship — with our corner of the earth.

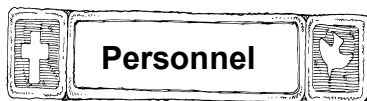
As we walk through mud season, we are also called to embody our responsibility as Creation's stewards and caretakers: starting here at home with the ground under our busy feet. This trust is as ancient as the narratives of Genesis and as current as today's environmental issues. When we support healthy connections to Creation — seeking first a righteous relationship with the Kingdom of God, in the language of Matthew — then its blessings may flow back to us with reciprocity. If we care for the earth, it may continue to sustain us and future generations in turn.

In fact, perhaps such holy motivations, along with practical economics, inspired private citizens to advocate and fund public policy to preserve these mountains over 100 years ago. The national forests were set aside to protect a naked, eroding, fire-devastated landscape. Woodlands had burned, waterways had choked, mountainsides and riverbanks had eroded in our region, largely due to deforestation by industrial enterprises. That trend was reversed when our forebears chose to save the endangered wilderness that had drawn them north and nurtured their souls as well as padded their pocketbooks.

Now we live in a setting that balances well-managed logging with generous recreational access to healthy mountainsides and valleys. We are surrounded by green wilderness, clear streams, thundering waterfalls, and white-capped peaks. The land — when conserved and cherished — can support commercial, agricultural, and recreational uses. Combined stakeholders continue to care about what happens to the mountains, rivers, and forests; we depend on this shared ecosystem for our various livelihoods and pastimes.



Jackson Community Church



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Church Council

The Church Council meets once a month on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00pm. All Church members are welcome to attend. The council is made up of the Moderator, Pastor and all committee representatives. The next council meeting will be held on Wednesday April 17th at 7pm on the second floor.

The mud underfoot, the words of Wendell Berry, and the passage from the Gospel of Matthew remind us to pay attention to the health of our surroundings. For all of us, this landscape offers spiritual sanctuary, above and beyond its contributions to our physical and emotional wellbeing or to the economic vitality of our community.

This April, walking through mud and reflecting on its inherent holiness is a prayerful act. This month, take time to appreciate our corner of Creation. Continue to act on its behalf, as one of its stewards.

The earth has revealed herself, becoming soft, messy, and vulnerable. As Berry says, this soil "... is the healer and restorer and resurrector." This earth, as much as the people on it, represents the body of God, broken and wounded, in need of healing and new life.

May we connect with Creation tenderly, compassionately, and sustainably. Oh, and muddily!
Blessings in this spring season.



Rev. Gail is making pastoral visits to homes and local care-giving institutions. If you're aware of someone who might benefit from a bowl of homemade soup and a visit, please let her know.

Inside-Out— May 2018 issue
Deadline: April 26th, 2018

The deadline for submitting news and articles to be included in the May issue is Monday April 26th.
Please send information to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally



Many of you are well aware of, and are regular contributors to, the collection basket for our local Jackson/Bartlett Food Pantry. For those that are not aware, there is a basket in the Narthex where we collect non-perishable items that we bring to the pantry.

We are looking for volunteers that can occasionally bring the gathered supplies to the pantry at the Baptist church in Glen (across from the Red Parka Pub) during their operation hours on Saturday mornings.

If you would like to volunteer or want more information please contact Gloria Hutchings (gloriahutchings@roadrunner.com).

We are always accepting donations and currently these are particulars they are looking for:

- Condiments such as mayo, ketchup and mustard
- Paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels
- Cleaning products such as laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges
- Non perishable food products



Plant Sale Fundraiser

Warmer weather gets many of us plotting and planning and anxiously awaiting the greening of our yards and gardens. As our Mission Committee's 3rd annual Plant Sale Fundraiser draws closer we encourage all green thumbs out there to please keep extra seedlings, cuttings, thinned out perennials and healthy houseplants to donate for the sale.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 26th and come out to see what new plants you can add to your garden. More details will follow as the date gets closer.

Hats for Special Forces

Over 2 dozen knitted hats were dropped off to the Pease Greeters who reported back that some Special Forces personnel received the gift of the hats and were thrilled! They were so appreciative and said they were going to leave the tags on the hats that identified the Jackson Community Church where they were made!

The next Mission Committee meeting will be held on Thursday April 12th at 3:00. All are invited to come and check out what the Mission Committee's upcoming plans are. New members are always welcome.

Church Family News and Prayers



April 11: Shirley Gravink
April 19: Nolan Proulx
April 21: Phil Gravink
April 28: Frank Thompson
April 29: Logan Hagerty

April 25: Colleen & Steve Allbee

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!



Spring Volunteer Days

Spring Cleaning & Work Day — Saturday, April 28

• 9am-Noon Come prepared to work inside or outside, depending on your preference. We're organizing closets, cleaning windows and hard-to-reach areas, touching up spots inside and outside the church, changing lightbulbs, and sprucing up the church grounds. Wear old clothes, sensible shoes, and bring work gloves. We'll add more info about any tools or equipment you should bring from home, such as buckets or rakes or brooms.

Mandala Monday

Join us for contemplative coloring practices. We will provide the colored pencils and patterns. A brief introduction to coloring traditions from different faiths (Buddhist, Native American, others) will be offered.

Mandala Mondays will begin at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Jackson Church. The next Mandala Monday will be April 9th. All welcome!



Volunteer Opportunities



Habitat for Humanity Women's Build 2018 Saturday May 12, 2018

This is a fun and informative way to help out with Habitat for Humanity. This years Women's Build is scheduled for Saturday May 12th (the day before Mother's Day). No construction skills or knowledge are necessary; just your presence and enthusiasm. To register please email cheryleoneill@gmail.com (they even supply a t-shirt)

The Women's build is sponsored through the generosity of Lowes each year. There will be a clinic scheduled for Wednesday April 18th from 5:30pm to 7pm at Lowes in North Conway. The clinic will include proper use of Nail gun, compressor, miter saw, skill saw as well as how to frame a wall, door and window. Lowes provides all the equipment you will need at the clinic as well as snacks and water. The clinic is not required to participate in the build but is a lot of fun.



Starting Point: **Services for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence**

Are you interested in learning more about how domestic violence and sexual assault affects those in our community and what you can do personal to help?

Starting Point: Services for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence is in need of more volunteers to help with the important work that they do. Due to the type of work Starting Point does and the level of confidentiality that the volunteers have, they are required by law to do 30 hours of training (20 hours in the class and 10 hours outside of class).

Next classroom training session schedule is: Thursday April 12th 6-8pm, Saturday April 14th noon-6pm, Tuesday April 17th 6-9pm, Thursday April 19th 6-9pm and Saturday April 21st noon-6pm. Volunteers would need to commit to all of the training sessions.

For more information please contact Lauren Orsini, Direct Service and Outreach Coordinator for Starting Point at 603-447-2494. More volunteer information can be found on their website

Programs: About Your Health

In a follow-up to the **Advanced Care Directives** program we had at the church in the fall — The National Healthcare Decisions Day is 4/16/2018. This movement is to help increase the number of people that are participating in “the conversation” about advance care planning and discussing such topics with their loved ones.

Did you know that 71% of Americans have thought about their end-of-life treatment preferences, 95% have heard about a living will, but only 29% have actually completed an advance directive. April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day and it's an opportunity to join Americans across the country to talk to your friends and family about your future healthcare decisions and complete your advance directive and living will. Make your wishes known and select someone who will speak for you. In the event of an accident or sudden illness and you are unable to speak for yourself, will your family know what you want? Completing these documents is a gift to your family as it relieves them of the burden of having to make difficult decisions during a time of stress. Let's start the conversation today. For more information and FREE help in completing an advance directive, contact the Visiting Nurse Home Care and Hospice office at 603-356-7006.

Ashlee Chaine, ACP Liaison

Darn You Dementia: Life as a Caregiver

Wednesday April 11th 6pm

Bartlett Congregational Church, UCC

Michelle O'Donnell, known as The Dementia Dame, will discuss life as a caregiver to her husband and offer tips on surviving caregiving.

The talk will be followed by a question and answer session. This program is free and open to the public.



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.

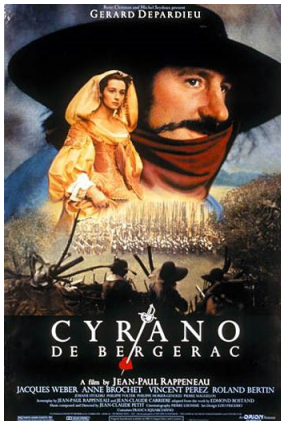
Jump right in and give it a try.



Youth, Family and Christian Education

Please mark your calendars and join us for our April Youth and Family programs.

- ◇ Sunday, April 8th 9:00am Family & Youth: Road to Emmaus Activity and Walk
- ◇ Sunday, April 15th 9:00am Family & Youth: Activity and Walk
- ◇ Sunday, April 22nd 10:30am Worship Service
- ◇ Lauren Orsini and Starting Point
- ◇ 12:00pm Earth Day Hike
- ◇ Friday, April 27th 5:30-7:30p Pizza and Fun Night
- ◇ Sunday, April 29th 10:30am Worship Service with Traditional Sunday School



Christian Education Programming
Cyrano De Bergerac film showing
Sunday April 29th 3-6pm

Join us at the Jackson Community Church, Fellowship Hall for a showing of the movie Cyrano De Bergerac. Following the movie there will be commentary and discussion led by Anthony DeLuca. Anthony holds a PhD in History from Stanford

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!

Meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of the month and are hosted by various members.

On April 25th the Women's Group will meet at the Clipper Merchant Tea House in Bridgton. Reservations are needed. Call Linda Hastings 603-383-9375.

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 April 14th 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. Something for everyone!



Online Giving to Jackson Community Church

The Jackson Community Church now offers the convenience of online giving. Just scan the QR Code and it will link you to our giving page.

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: _____

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:30am Sunrise Svc 10:30am Worship Svc Easter	2 6-7 Cub Scout Mtg	3	4 9am Fitness with Laurie McAleer	5 9am Yoga 3:30 Yoga FH 4:45 Meditation 6:30p AA	6	7
8 8:00am Interfaith Worship @ Gazebo 9:00 Choir Practice 10:30aWorship	9 7pm Mandala Monday	10	11 9am Fitness with Laurie McAleer	12 9am Yoga 3pm Mission Mtg 3:30 Yoga FH 4:45 Meditation 6:30p AA	13	14 7:30am Men's Group @ Wentworth
15 8:00am Interfaith Worship @ Gazebo 9:00 Choir Practice 10:30aWorship	16 6-7 Cub Scout Mtg	17	18 9am Fitness with Laurie McAleer 7pm Council Mtg	19 9am Yoga 3:30 Yoga FH 4:45 Meditation 6:30p AA	20	21
22 8:00am Interfaith Worship @ Gazebo 9:00 Choir Practice 10:30aWorship	23	24	25 10am Fitness with Laurie McAleer Women's Group @ Clipper Tea House	26 9am Yoga 3:30 Yoga FH 4:45 Meditation 6:30p AA	27	28 9-12 Workday Church Clean-up
29 8:00am Interfaith Worship @ Gazebo 9:00 Choir Practice 10:30aWorship 3-6 Movie	30 6-7 Cub Scout Mtg					

Steeple Light



The Steeple Light will be lit in the month of April in memory of Joyce Miglietta from Wendy and John McVey.

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

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