



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church

Vol. XVII, No.10

December 2018

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



This month we experience the longest — but not the darkest — night of the year. Solstice arrives just before Christmas.

It's easy to be drawn to the lights of the world: to revel in both natural and manmade sources of illumination. By day, sunlight glints on falling snow and casts long purple shadows over new-laid ski tracks. By evening, windows are filled with faux candle flames. Hearths and stoves glow with bright, warming fires. Trees glimmer in the dusk. Trees and doorways, gazebos and arches, are traced in white light.

Yet these aren't the only lights we're anticipating. Advent is a season of celebrating holy darkness and sacred light. This time of year prepares us for the coming of sacred light, renewed life and boundless love — the gifts of Emmanuel's birth — into the world at Christmas.

These gifts — life, light, and love — reveal themselves to us in surprising ways. This month is an invitation to meditate on the gifts that bless your life.

When times seem the most oppressive, divisive or chaotic, we're reminded to change our perspective. To look deeper, peer closer, or change the angle. May sacred light help us to see our own worth and the world's potential with compassion and clarity and an expectation of justice and sustainability. May we embrace holy darkness as the birthplace of transformation.

In a season of acquiring and giving gifts, may you be reminded that you are each a gift in this world. *You are valuable — not just for your work and service — but also for your capacity for friendship, curiosity and delight!* Your presence — in this community and this world — is a blessing to those around you.

Do you need help appreciating the life, light, and love that is present to you at Christmas and year-round? Do you need a reminder to relax in the darkness of this wintry season? Let the poetry on the next page help you. Consider this one of your season's gifts from our faith community.

Blessings in this Advent and Christmas season!

— Rev Gail

For Light
by John O'Donohue,
To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings

Light cannot see inside things.
That is what the dark is for:
Minding the interior,
Nurturing the draw of growth
Through places where death
In its own way turns into life.

In the glare of neon times,
Let our eyes not be worn
By surfaces that shine
With hunger made attractive.

That our thoughts may be true light,
Finding their way into words
Which have the weight of shadow
To hold the layers of truth.

That we never place our trust
In minds claimed by empty light,
Where one-sided certainties
Are driven by false desire.

When we look into the heart,
May our eyes have the kindness
And reverence of candlelight.

That the searching of our minds
Be equal to the oblique
Crevices and corners where
The mystery continues to dwell,
Glimmering in fugitive light.

When we are confined inside
The dark house of suffering
That moonlight might find a window.

When we become false and lost
That the severe noon-light
Would cast our shadow clear.

When we love, that dawn-light
Would lighten our feet
Upon the waters.

As we grow old, that twilight
Would illuminate treasure
In the fields of memory.

And when we come to search for God,
Let us first be robed in night,
Put on the mind of morning
To feel the rush of light
Spread slowly inside
The color and stillness
Of a found world.

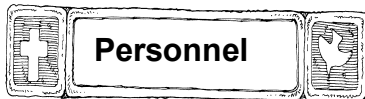
Inside-Out— January 2019 issue
Deadline: December 28th, 2018

The deadline for submitting news and articles to be included in the
January issue is Thursday December 28th.
Please send information to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Church Family News and Prayers



Jackson Community Church



Rev. Gail Pomeroy Doktor
doktalk@gmail.com
978-273-0308

Bob Carper Moderator

Jeanette Heidmann 383-5959
Treasurer

Joanne Turner 383-6187
Administrative 986-5018

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 February 20th at 7:00pm on the second floor.

There will be a Congregational Annual Meeting on Wednesday January 23rd.

BIRTHDAYS!

Dec 12: Isabella Hutchings

Dec 13: Arden Schoen

Dec 15: Maeve Weeder

Dec 20: Lori Kinsey

Dec 21: Barry Chisholm

Dec 23: Mathew Synnott

Dec 30: William Synnott

Dec 30: Meg Phillips

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!



Rev. Gail continues to make 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.



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.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally



Crèche /kreSH/

What is a Crèche? A Crèche is model or tableau representing the scene of Jesus Christ's birth, displayed in homes or public places at Christmas. In the Christian tradition, a **nativity scene** (also known as a **manger scene**, crib, **crèche**, or in Italian presepio or presepe) is the special exhibition, particularly during the Christmas season, of art objects representing the birth of Jesus.

Many of us have various names for it, and probably, just as many various traditions involving the manger scene. Also, many of us have multiple nativity scene's in our households. If you have one that you are willing to share with us, along with the story behind it, we would love to have it on display in the church for the month of December. Please drop it off in the church with, at the very least, your name on it somewhere so we know who to return it to.



The Giving Tree was presented in the Parish Hall bearing tags with items a local 14 year old boy is wishing to receive for Christmas. Through the Christmas Stocking Project local families in need will receive gifts from generous donors in the area.

If you took one of the tags, please have your gift wrapped and returned to the Parish Hall by December 9thand many thanks to you!

Catherine Kyle has been instrumental in this program since its inception. If you have any questions regarding this project, feel free to ask her about it .

Look for Us!!

Heifer and Zimbabwe cards are available!

Mission Committee will have a table set up in Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday December 2 and the 9th to offer sales of Heifer and Zimbabwe cards. These make great "gifts with a purpose" .

Cards will also be available, along with beautiful handmade baskets to benefit Honduras Hope, at the Whitney Center Craft fair on December 15th.





Zimbabwe News



We received this wonderful Thank You from our Zimbabwe friends..

Hello Rev Gail Pomeroy Doktor,

Am very much excited to have received your contacts which you gave to Samuel when he visited Jackson Community Church as part of the delegation from Zimbabwe this last October. We received the gifts that you send us, a beautiful cloth designed by your Sunday school kids, the cards with awesome messages and the \$200.00. We say thank you and may our heavenly Father bless you in abundance.

Really hope to see this partnership growing between Chikanga church in Zimbabwe and Jackson Community Church. Wish to meet you one day.

Greet Jackson Church for me,
Rev. Liberty Maadza
Chikanga UCCZ/2018

Ongoing...

- ♦ **Honduras Hope Project** seeks unwanted cell phones and (working) laptops to refurbish and donate to their students and teachers. Meg will travel to the Honduras with this group in January. She will have room in her luggage for small items such as bandaids, toothpaste, toothbrushes, school supplies such as pencils, etc. If you have items to donate, or have questions, contact Meg Philips for more information; margaret_p@roadrunner.com Honduras Hope's website is full of information about the organization and ways that you can participate. www.HondurasHope.org
- ♦ **Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry** Please consider adding an item to your weekly shopping cart to help our local food pantry. Items that the food pantry currently needs are condiments (jam, jelly, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise.) as well as canned meats and paper products. Drop them off inside the church entry any time. Mission Committee members deliver these to the pantry regularly. The Bartlett-Jackson Food Pantry is located in the basement of the Glen Baptist Church on Route 302 and is open every Saturday from 10-noon.
- ♦ **2019 calendars** are starting to arrive, we would appreciate any extra ones you might have. Also, if you seem to have an abundance of greeting cards, we will take those as well. Items can be left in the parish hall and they will get distributed.



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.



Dec. 2	First Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Dec. 9	Second Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Peace
Dec. 16	Third Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Joy
Dec. 23	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Love

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Sunday December 9th 12:30-2:30



Following Fellowship Hour, please join us as we spread some Christmas Cheer throughout the communities of Jackson and Bartlett to those housebound or in need of a home visit. Please let Kit Griffin know if you are planning to come along or if you know of someone who would benefit from a visit from seasonal carolers. 603-383-7042. Intergenerational—All are welcome!!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Sunday December 16th

Pageant: Sunday December 16th 9am Those participating in the pageant will practice and prepare before the worship service. The Intergenerational Christmas Pageant will be during the worship service.

PEACE & PIZZA Sunday December 16th 4pm JCC Sanctuary

Fun local musicians Dennis O'Neil and Davey Armstrong will put on a spirit-filled musical performance filled with many songs with the theme of Peace. Following the concert guests are invited to head up to the Shannon Door Pub for pizza. (participants are responsible for their own dinner). Donations accepted



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Monday December 24th

5pm	Family Service, Candlelight, Lessons and Carols
10pm	Evening Service, Candlelight, Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS MORNING - PAJAMAS & STORYTELLING

Christmas 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.

Pledge cards and 2019 Budget

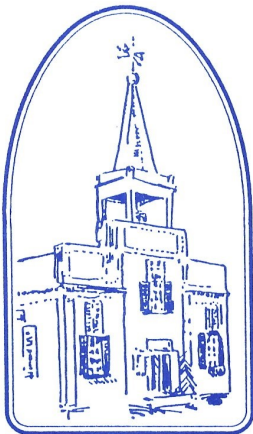
Have you returned your pledge card yet? We are diligently working on the 2019 budget and need your help so that we can present a balanced budget for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Not sure what this is... well 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. A pledge can be amended at any point if your circumstances change.

So far 17 families submitted a pledge for 2019 with a total of \$21,460 that we can rely on for 2019. . Lets put this in perspective in regards to the last few years.....

2018	27 families pledged a total of	\$33,660
2017	33 families pledged a total of	\$35,478
2016	37 families pledged a total of	\$45,146

If you haven't let us know your intended 2019 offerings yet, you can print the pledge card below or pick one up at church—

	Envelope Number (for office use)	FOR CHURCH RECORDS		FOR YOUR RECORDS	
	Name	Date:		Date:	
	Address			■ 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 _____:	
	Post Office			\$ _____ each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month	
	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	<input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month	■ For an annual total of \$ _____
			■ For an annual total of _____ \$ _____		I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.
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Jackson Community Church					



Jackson Community Church Online Giving

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.

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:00 Interfaith Worship 9:00 Advent Workshop 10:30 Worship Service	3	4	5	6 9am Women's Yoga 6:30p AA	7	8 7:30am Men's Group @ Wentworth
9 8:00 Interfaith Worship 9:00 Advent Workshop 10:30 Worship Service 12:30 Carolling	10	11	12 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ Glen Corner Store 9am Fitness class	13 9am Women's Yoga 6:30p AA	14	15
16 8:00 Interfaith Worship 9:00 Pageant Practice 10:30 Worship Service 4pm Peace & Pizza	17	18	19 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ Glen Corner Store 9am Fitness class 5-6 Peace Program 7pm Council Mtg	20 9am Women's Yoga 6:30p AA	21	22
23 8:00 Interfaith Worship 9:00 Advent Workshop 10:30 Worship Service	24 5pm Family Service 10pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas	26 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ Glen Corner Store 9am Fitness class	27 9am Women's Yoga 6:30p AA	28	29
30 8:00 Interfaith Worship 10:30 Worship Service	31 Christmas Eve					



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.

Annual Meeting

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the
Jackson Community Church
will be held on Wednesday January 23,
2019.

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 Representatives:

Just a reminder that your submission for
the Annual Report is due before Christ-
mas. 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.

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: _____

