



# *Inside Out:*

*The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church*

Vol. XVIII, No.2

February 2019

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

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



More snow! More shoveling, more plowing! More skiing! More winter.

What do our sacred texts say about snow? If you're tired of digging out, maybe this will resonate with you. Job cries out, "If I am condemned, why then do I labor in vain? If I wash myself with snow water, and cleanse my hands with soap, yet You will plunge me into the pit, and my own clothes will abhor me." Yikes! Some of us feel this way after another twelve inches of snow drifts and accumulates.

If you don't want to explore a few literary passages about snow with me, skip to the end of this letter, and just read the questions posed to you. It's still about snow ... and something more.

Usually snow within our sacred texts comes as a sign from heaven. Its nature, color, and temperature are extreme and ephemeral: everything that it touches is altered. It can be life-threatening; it can be invigorating. Its arrival comes as harbinger of transformation. It can be the agent of limited light, extended darkness, and even death. Yet it might also be the wintry womb within which deep sleep, hibernation, serenity and respite occur, preparing the land and all living things for a cycle of new growth. Below are a few affirming mentions of snow in our Hebrew and Gospel texts.

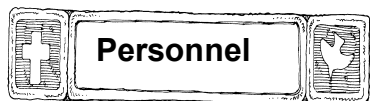
In Psalm 51, King David writes a song of confession. He tried to hide misdeeds from himself and others, until a prophet called him to take responsibility. In fact, he misused his royal power to cause the death of another person. In this stanza, he bares his soul to his God and surrenders himself to the power of justice tempered by love. His soul and selfhood is renewed by the practice of self-examination that leads to contrition and renewed connection to a merciful and healing God. "Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." We might offer up this prayer for our local, regional, national, and global leaders. May our leaders, too, listen to prophets who challenge and support them to become self-aware, to examine their own lives and to consider how they hold the lives of others in their power.

It's a theme that also arises in Isaiah, as a practice for all people to cultivate the daily practice of leading ethical and holy lives. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." This imagery of souls, hearts, and minds that have passed through challenge and trial, that have been examined and transformed and renewed, is often tied with images of snow as the blinding, radiant, new-fallen hue of holy restoration. We are all offered the chance to know ourselves, become vulnerable in the presence of holy and just love, and be changed by it.

The Hebrew text of Proverbs extols those who speak out for ethical means and outcomes. "A word fitly spoken ... a wise rebuke to an obedient ear ... Like the cold of snow in time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters." Honest communications strike a chord and inspire a response in the listener. Have you heard someone express what you, too, were feeling or thinking, but couldn't say aloud? Or have you sometimes been the one to speak up or act out in a way that called attention and awareness to an issue?



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

### **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the March 2019 newsletter will be Monday, February 25th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Alternatively, can you name a time when someone changed your understanding, opinion, or position on an issue? The text of Isaiah affirms the life-giving qualities of being receptive to messages and messengers who alter our insight and perspective, who help us toward holy ways of living. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,"<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.<sup>12</sup> "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace: the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." When a person or event shifts your understanding of an issue, what has been your response? Surprised? Resistant? Joyful? Exultant? Afraid? Disoriented? Hopeful? What changed in your decisions and actions afterward? Did it feel like snow falling across the messy, mucky landscape, outlining everything with a sudden simplicity or newness that brought clarity, too? And did it have a sharp, chill, bracing impact when it touched you? So that you sucked in your breath, and drew back your hand, aching and excited at once?

In the Gospel of Mark, one of the rare mentions of snow is also metaphor. During the transfiguration of Christ among his companions on the mountaintop, "He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them." Again we read an allusion to the constant newness and purity of Christ's being, the change of his state and closeness to God, revealed in that moment to his close friends and followers. For the ones who try to share this experience, it is almost blinding to behold, and hard to put into words. If we are fortunate, we can identify times when we have been bodily in the presence of what we experience as awe-inspiring, holy and sacred ... and isn't it like that? Difficult to describe afterward? An experience that changes us from the inside out?

Notice how often snow shows up in community and relationships within our sacred text. It arrives as an elemental force sent from Godself.

What, then, does snow say to you? Mean to you? How does its wintry presence change your life, your heart, your mind, your soul? In what ways is it oppressive and dangerous, and in what ways is it liberating and restorative?

Now substitute the word *love* for *snow*, and answer the same questions. Why might *love* be risky? And how may *love* be renewing? What change does *love* offer for you?

Blessings in this wintry season! — Rev Gail

# Church Family News and Prayers



Feb. 5: Donovan Spaulding  
Feb. 9: Talia Hutchings  
Feb. 11: Caleb White  
Feb. 25: Esmae Doucette

*If you would like a special anniversary or birthday mentioned in the newsletter please let us know by sending an email to the office. 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.

## Superbowl Brunch Church

Sunday, February 3rd



Wear your favorite Superbowl attire and bring your favorite dish to the Brunch Church

All fans are welcome!! Dishes should arrive around 10:15am – we will meet in the Sanctuary prior to the Brunch.

New Hampshire Conference UCC  
Prepared to Serve  
February 23rd, 2019



Members and friends are invited to attend a day of workshops sponsored by the NH Conference UCC. This fun day includes up to 4 workshops and an included lunch. A group from the JCC will be carpooling if you would like to join. Discounted registration (covered by JCC) deadline is February 13, 2019. contact Rev. Gail or the office if you are interested.

For more information:  
<http://nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve>

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally

## Locally... The Way Station

The Way Station is a day resource center for homeless or housing insecure residents of the Mt Washington Valley. It offers such supportive services as on-site laundry, showers, post office box, internet access, kitchen access, lockers, referrals to social services, and proximity to other existing wrap-around services in the area, as well as emotional and spiritual support from volunteers. The Way Station serves three vulnerable populations: teens, families, and adults. It operates through private donations and volunteer staffing, using the Nativity Lutheran Church's campus in North Conway, NH.

The Way Station Resource Center is well under way to getting their 501C3 non profit status, currently it operates under the Vaughan Center's umbrella. They recently had volunteers help painting to spruce up their kitchen and folks have already been utilizing it. The current needs, given the weather, are for new or gently used hats, socks, and gloves. Feel free to drop items off in the Parish Hall labeled for the Way Station.

## 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.



**The Mission Committee supports efforts near and far.  
Thank you notes were recently received from all of the following  
organizations and friends:**

**The Gibson Center.** "Thank you so much for brightening our seniors with the caroling and the poinsettias. It was so generous of you to take the time to spend with our folks during the busy holiday season. Also thank you for faithfully collecting the beautiful calendars for our Meals on Wheels folks. They so appreciate being remembered. God Bless-".

**Honduras Hope.** "Thank you for your contribution of \$300 to Honduras Hope. Thanks also for sending our own missionary, Meg Philips, to Honduras in January. Blessings Always..

**Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry.** "Many thanks to the members of the Jackson Community Church for supporting the Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry in 2018. Your generous support continues to go a long way to keeping the food pantry well-stocked and serving those in our community. Thoughtful, caring people such as the members of the Jackson Community Church make our community a very special place!"

**MWV Supports Recovery and Heifer International** thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, check them out when you get a chance.

## Internationally...

### Zimbabwe



As always, but especially lately, please keep our Zimbabwe friends in mind as yet again, things have gotten worse. The Government has double the price of fuel creating many difficulties, as you can imagine, and they have limited social media communication abilities. Continued support and prayers are always welcome.

### Honduras Hope

Just a few photos from Meg Phillips (via facebook), who took a mission trip with the group Honduras Hope. With the support of members and friends of the Jackson Community Church the group is able to help many in the local area that are in need.



The mattresses at the Honduras Hope boarding house for students from San Jose were old and tired. Before the students arrive on Friday for the new school year, we purchased 16 new ones for them. These foam mattresses are only 4" thick and cost about \$18 dollars each. Tomorrow, we'll have to buy sets of sheets, too. Your contributions to Honduras Hope go to basic needs like these.



A fun time this morning buying fabric for the girls' school uniform skirts. Rosa and members of the women's cooperative will sew 33 pleated skirts in the next few weeks. This gives much-needed employment to the women of Plan Grande. The Jackson Community Church contributed the money for these skirts. Thank you!



The old stove used to cook for 12-25 students each day has finally ended its useful life. Thanks to generous contributions from friends at the Jackson Community Church, a new stove will be installed in the student boarding house this week, in time for the start of school. Honduras Hope funds the entire operation of this home for students from San Jose so that they can attend high school in Yoro. The mountain village of San Jose is about a four hour walk away and it is inaccessible during much of the rainy season and after roads have washed out.



CASA of New Hampshire trains concerned citizens to advocate for abuse and neglected children in the courts. There are children waiting for someone to speak on their behalf. Your common sense, commitment to children, and a contribution of 10 - 15 hours a month will help ensure a child grows up in a safe, permanent home. To become a CASA/GAL volunteer and help the children in your community, please call 800-626-0622, or apply at [www.casanh.org/onlineapplication](http://www.casanh.org/onlineapplication)

The next scheduled training in the Berlin area will be:

Wednesday, May 8 9am – 5 pm  
Friday, May 17 12 – 8 pm  
Saturday, May 18 9am – 5 pm  
Saturday, May 21 9am – 5 pm  
Tuesday, May 22 9am – 5 pm

Please call Lucie at the Berlin office 603-752-9670 or email [Ireillard@casanh.org](mailto:Ireillard@casanh.org)

Also, DCYF - the NH Division of Children, Youth and Families - is always looking for families able to provide foster care, and even adoption. The TV Station WMUR, with NH Chronicle, provides a fascinating series:

### **"Home At Last" Segment on WMUR-TV's NH Chronicle**

Most children entering foster care as a result of abuse and neglect in their home are able to successfully reunify with their family thanks to the hard work and commitment of their parents, their foster parents and the support from professionals. However, when children and youth cannot safely return home, Adoption is the preferred alternative. The State is continually recruiting for families who are ready and able to commit to a child or youth waiting for adoption. This task may have become a bit easier thanks to an amazing partnership with NH Chronicle and WMUR TV. Watch "[Home At Last](#)" on NH Chronicle and meet some of our youth waiting to find a family to call their own.

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## **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.

The Women's Group will be meeting will be held on Wednesday February 27th. All women are invited. In case of inclement weather the meeting will be canceled.

## **Men's Group**

You are invited to the monthly breakfast with the men of Jackson Community Church held next door at the Wentworth Inn. Come for hot coffee and a great breakfast and enjoy friendly conversation with members and friends of JCC.

The Wentworth Hotel provides a buffet of fruit, breads & cereal, plus beverage for \$12. For a few dollars more, you can order a hot breakfast in addition to the buffet. The Men's Group meets early so you can get onto your Saturday chores, hiking, or golf.

Meetings held every second Saturday at 7:30am. Next meeting is February 9th.



## TIN MOUNTAIN'S FIRST SEASON AUCTION AND DINNER

Saturday March 9th, 2019  
5:00 Silent Auction    7:00 Dinner  
Ada Cram Wadsworth Arena  
Fryeburg Academy



The Tin Mountain's First Season Auction and Dinner is a fun event that supports Tin Mountain Educational programs. The evening begins at 5pm with a silent auction and appetizers followed by a catered dinner featuring prime rib, turkey, vegan eggplant towers, mashed potato, salads and much more.

Please RSVP to Lori Kinsey ([likinsey@tinmountain.org](mailto:likinsey@tinmountain.org)) , Linda Hastings ([jimlindahastings@roadrunner.com](mailto:jimlindahastings@roadrunner.com)), or Leslie Schomaker ([leslie@middlemtn.com](mailto:leslie@middlemtn.com)) or directly to Tin Mountain. Full payment of \$75 per person is due with reservations, please. We can organize tables so you sit with friends, but you need to include one of the above names on the check if you pay Tin Mountain directly.

Tin Mountain  
1245 Bald Hill Road  
Albany, NH 03818  
603 447-6991 ext. 12  
[Info@tinmountain.org](mailto:Info@tinmountain.org)



The Bartlett Recreation Department will be providing transportation to the Boston Flower Show at the Seaport World Trade Center on Friday March 15th 2019. Cost for residents of Bartlett, Glen, Intervale & Jackson is \$50 (\$55 non residence). Ticket includes luxurious coach bus, show ticket, homemade snacks and prizes. They will stop for dinner at Olive Garden in Newington (not included in ticket price) on the return trip.

Pick up locations will be at StoryLand 6:30am, Settlers Green 7am and Madison Church 7:15am. Approximate return time is 6:30pm. Call 374-1952 to register.



### 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.

## February 2019

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday                  | Wednesday                                      | Thursday                           | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
|  |        |                          |  |                                    | 1<br>6-8pm Scouts arrive<br>For weekend       | 2<br>Scout ski weekend                                    |
| 3<br>8:00 Interfaith Worship<br>9:00 Scouts leave<br>10:30 Worship Service<br>Brunch Service | 4      | 5<br>8-5 Avalanche Class | 6<br>9:30am Fitness class                      | 7<br>9am Women's Yoga<br>6:30p AA  | 8<br>8-5 Avalanche Class<br>9pm Scouts arrive | 9<br>7:30a Mens Group<br>@ wentworth<br>Scout ski weekend |
| 10<br>8:00 Interfaith Worship<br>9:00 Scouts leave<br>10:30 Worship Service                  | 11     | 12                       | 13<br>9:30am Fitness class                     | 14<br>9am Women's Yoga<br>6:30p AA | 15  | 16<br>8-5 Avalanche Class                                 |
| 17<br>8:00 Interfaith Worship<br>9:15 Blessing skis<br>10:30 Worship Service                 | 18     | 19                       | 20<br>9:30am Fitness class                     | 21<br>9am Women's Yoga<br>6:30p AA | 22  | 23<br>8-5 Avalanche Class                                 |
| 24<br>8:00 Interfaith Worship<br>9:15 Blessing Skis<br>10:30 Worship Service                 | 25     | 26                       | 27<br>9:30am Fitness class<br>10:30 Womens Grp | 28<br>9am Women's Yoga<br>6:30p AA |   |   |



## 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.

## 2019 Sign Up Board is Ready



**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.



## 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](mailto:jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thoughts/Prayers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_