



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church

Vol. XVIII, No.1

January 2019

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



At the turning of the year, we consider beginnings. We approach the new year as both a continuation of time and as a fresh, blank page in the book of life.

Let us also consider a different starting point: the spiritual beginning of humanity and selfhood. All around the world, people tell origin stories about how human beings came into existence. People have been fashioned out of clay and breath and all sorts of organic, natural elements combined with divine creativity.

Too often we have been taught, especially by our own religion, that our human origins are rooted in brokenness, sin, separation, and downfall. Of course, I'm not going to claim that we aren't messy, mistake-making, vulnerable beings. Yes, we are often hurt, disconnected, and off center. Yet as humans, though we are imperfect, we are also curious, creative, compassionate and resilient. Or as one wisdom saying goes, "perfect is the enemy of the good."

Happily, many theologians understand that humanity's condition begins with goodness: it's our starting point, our baseline, our template. Although Judaism, Christianity and Islam share similar origin stories, they don't all interpret the story — such as the events in the Garden of Eden — the same way. Some teachings within Christianity have burdened us with that idea that we start out sinful, evil, bad and broken. Yet listen to the language of Genesis ... at every step in the cycle of creation, "God saw that it was good." As a species, we come from origins that are inherently good!

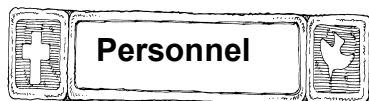
Likewise, our individual inception, development and growth is positive. One of my favorite passages highlights our value in the eyes of God. Here is an excerpt from Psalm 139. ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me... ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."

And here's one more reminder of our human potential. In the gospel of John, and other parts of the Bible, we are urged to become "children of light."

As we enter 2019, let us recall the promise that we revisited during Advent just days ago. Our basic design is one filled with goodness. In God's eyes, we are inherently wonderful. And through the lens of the story of Emmanuel — God with Us — we are also embraced as heirs to the light: we are children of light.



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.

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

It's especially important to hold onto this promise, when it's so easy to see only the broken, raw, hurtful parts of our social condition and political landscape. We could slide into despair and get lost, believing that messiness and meanness, division and conflict, is how we started out, who we are now, and the limit of whom we'll become.

Yet we re-tell sacred stories, filled with people who make mistakes and get things wrong again and again, simply to remind ourselves that through God all things are possible. God chooses the most surprising people to make a difference. In fact, God chooses us, too!

As 2019 unfolds, we are reminded that we are each bearers of goodness, wonder, creativity, and light! Of course, we also have personal and communal challenges to overcome. All the more reason to carry these gifts into the new year, and raise them up in times that seem dark to us. May we look at each other, remembering that we are each different and delightful in the eyes of our Creator. Along the way, may we honor the holy spark of possibility that is sown in each soul.

Blessings!

Rev Gail



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.

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

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

Church Family News and Prayers



Jan. 4: Mona Chisholm
Jan. 5: David Gotjen
Jan. 8: Margaret Miller
Jan 16: Lee Phillips
Jan. 19: Dave Lamb

Jan. 1: John and Jan Chernick

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!



Memorial Service

Longtime church member and friend, Carl Fuller, 86, passed away peacefully at home, with his family by his side on Dec. 6, 2018. A memorial service will be held at the Jackson Community Church on Saturday January 5th, 2019 at noon followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Annual Meeting

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

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



Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes will be available in
Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday January
6th. If you envelopes left from 2018 please
feel free to use them or take another box.

Why use an envelope?

It is best to use an envelope so any cash
contributions to the church will be credited to
you for tax purposes.

Those who contribute by check will be
automatically credited.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally

Music and Memory Program



Do you have an iPod that you don't use anymore? A group of young volunteers is collecting gently used iPods and other MP3 players for the 45 residents at the Merriman House in North Conway. Merriman House will use them with their MUSIC & MEMORY® program, which brings personalized music into the lives of their residents. The program helps those with dementia (or other illness) to unlock memories and reconnect with the world. According to Dan Cohen, the Executive Director of MUSIC & MEMORY®, "Connecting people with their favorite music improves the quality of their life. Moods brighten, fewer antipsychotic drugs are needed, and bonds are renewed, joy ensues."

The iPod drive will run until every resident has his or her own player and playlist. Merriman House will gratefully accept new and gently used devices, iTunes gift cards, iPods, MP3 players or gently used phones, with or without chargers. The only criterion is that the equipment works. For hygiene reasons, used headphones are not accepted. Therefore headphones donated will need to be brand new. If you prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to "Merriman House" and mailed to Merriman House, Memorial Hospital, 3073 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH 03860. Please put "Music & Memory" in the memo section of the check.

To learn more about Music & Memory, visit [music and memory.org](http://musicandmemory.org).

For more information about this local project, please call Terese at 356-5461 x 2530.

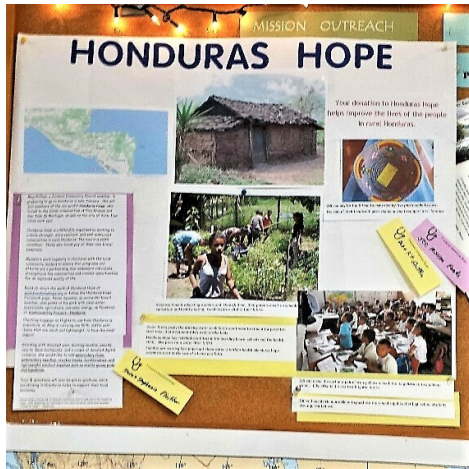
Successful Church Collections

The Mission Committee held a successful Alternative Christmas Sale after church services in the beginning of December selling Heifer and Zimbabwe cards. They also changed things up a bit this year and held a collective UCC's 5 for 5 fundraiser in November.

- ◇ \$65 was sent to support Ukama programs in Zimbabwe including Hunger, Education, Scholarships, Water, Construction and Aids.
- ◇ \$325 was sent to purchase animals through Heiffer International to help lift families out of poverty and become self sustaining.
- ◇ \$360 was sent to help aid with the California fires.
- ◇ \$337 was sent in to the UCC Collection One Great Hour of Sharing.
- ◇ \$237 was sent in to the UCC Collection Strengthen the Church.
- ◇ \$300 was sent in to the UCC Collection Christmas Fund.
- ◇ \$267 was sent in to the UCC Collection Neighbors in Need.

Thank you to all who participated in these projects and collections.

Honduras Hope



Meg Phillips, a Jackson Community Church member, is preparing to go to Honduras in late January. She will join members of the non-profit **Honduras Hope**, who travel to the sister communities of Plan Grande and San Jose de Machigua, as well as the city of Yoro, four times each year.

Honduras Hope is a 501(c)(3) organization working to create stronger, more resilient, and self-sufficient communities in rural Honduras. The board is 100% volunteer. Those who travel pay all their own travel expenses.

Members work regularly in Honduras with the local community leaders to ensure that programs and efforts are a partnership

that empowers individuals, strengthens the communities and creates opportunities for an improved quality of life.

Read all about the work of Honduras Hope at www.hondurashope.org or follow the Honduras Hope Facebook page. Peter Swanson, an active HH board member, also posts of his work with clean water, sustainable agriculture, and solar energy, on Facebook at [Sustainability Project - Honduras](#).

Checking baggage on flights to and from Honduras is expensive, so Meg is carrying one 50 lb. duffel with items that are small and lightweight, to have the most impact.

Starting with donated yarn, knitting needles, pencils, new LL Bean backpacks, and a couple of donated digital cameras, she would like to add embroidery floss, embroidery needles, crochet hooks, toothbrushes, and lightweight medical supplies such as sterile gauze pads and bandaids.

Your \$ donations will also be put to good use, since purchasing in Honduras helps to support their local economy.

The school year begins at the end of January, so on this trip we will take the high school students shopping for their uniforms, shoes and school supplies they will need for the year. Shoes can cost up to \$40 a pair. They have to be sturdy for the long walks on dirt roads to and from school. Uniforms are required, this year HH will outfit about 75 children at a cost of \$175-\$200 apiece.

Please consider helping this worthy cause. You can make a check out to Jackson Community Church and note it for Honduras Hope. Cash donations are welcome in the collection plate; mark your envelope "Honduras Hope". Thank you.





Care Packages

At the October Women's Group meeting friends and members helped to assemble care packages to send out to students and military family members who are away from their families during their studies. We received a few thank you notes of appreciation....

Dear members of the Jackson Community Church,

Thank you so much for the lovely care package! It was wonderful to come home to such thoughtful gifts. I thought that I would take opportunity to update you all on what I've been up to at Brandeis.

I have met some wonderful, interesting people here among students, staff, and visitors. It is such an inspiring environment to be in! I'm almost done with my classes for this semester, and I'm so excited to spend some time home in the valley after finals. This semester I took Intro to International and Global Studies, Fundamentals of Environmental Challenges, a Hispanic Studies and Spanish course, and a course called A View From the Margins about inequality in the U.S. I still have not decided on a major, but I'm learning a lot and I'm really enjoying myself.

Outside of classes, I've become involved with a few different things. I'm an editorial assistant at our student newspaper, the Justice, which is a really exciting place to work. Once a week, I travel with a few other members of an environmental club called Symbiosis to an after-school

center in a low-income community of Waltham. We teach them environmental lessons about things like recycling, endangered species, and food waste. I also volunteer for an organization called TRII (The Right to Immigration Institute). I'm being trained to represent people navigating the immigration process, and will eventually be able to apply for accreditation from the Department of Justice.

All in all, I'm having a fantastic and rewarding time thanks to your generosity, and I thank you all again! I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Warmly,
River Hayes

Jackson Community Church Members,

I received your wonderful church care package and it could not be more wonderful. Thanks for thinking of me and I look forward to meeting you all in person.

Many Blessings!
Cerek Noel

Ongoing...

- ♦ **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.

Weatherize Mount Washington Valley



The Tin Mountain Energy Team is teaming up with NH Saves and local home energy contractors to help you save money and stay warm by weatherizing your home. They are hosting an information day on January 19th, 2019 from 9:30-11:00 at the Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Albany. Visit www.tinmountain.org/program-descriptions/energyteam/ or call 603-447-6991 for more information.

New Hampshire State Plan on Aging

The NH Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, and the NH state Plan on Aging Planning Committee are developing the State's Plan on Aging. As part of the process, they are asking for your input through the State Plan on Aging Survey.

This survey is part of a statewide outreach effort to improve our understanding of the needs of people who are aging in NH. By completing the below survey, you will help guide the development of NH's State Plan on Aging.

Please take the survey and share it with others. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHSPoASurvey>
For more information, call 1-800-852-3345 x9215. The Survey will close on January 15, 2019.

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 January 30th. All women are invited.

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 January 12th.

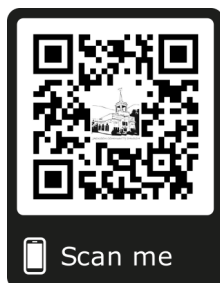
CHOIR WORKSHOP

For those who participate or are interested in the Jackson Community Church Choir: With the choir meeting only a few hours a week and sometimes only twice per month, you might feel that you would like additional training and practice.

THE CHOIRSHOP, in a one day session will provide you with a consistent methodology on which to build. It is a vocal lesson for up to 40 participants. The program spends time on range extension, sight reading, tone production, breathing, blend, diction and individual problems in a consistent approach. This valuable approach can be utilized throughout the year during your rehearsals.

The next Choirshop class will be held on Saturday January 26, 2019 from 9am to 4pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Ayer, Mass.

For more information or to reserve a spot call Vianna Pilkington 978-337-4352



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.

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:30 Music Lesson	2 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ JTown Deil 9:30am Fitness class	3 6:30p AA	4 9-5 Avalanche Course (BWL) 9-11 Pastors hours (office 2 nd floor)	5 Noon: Carl Fuller Memorial Service
6 8:00 Interfaith Worship 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	7	8	9 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ JTown Deil 9:30am Fitness class 3:30 Wedding	10 9am Women's Yoga 6:30p AA	11 9-5 Avalanche Course (BWL)	12 Boy Scout Troop overnight
13 8:00 Interfaith Worship 10:30 Worship Service	14	15 2:30 Music Lesson	16 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ JTown Deil 9:30am Fitness class	17 9am Women's Yoga 6:30p AA	18	19
20 8:00 Interfaith Worship 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	21	22	23 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ JTown Deil 9:30am Fitness class 6pm Annual Mtg	24 9am Women's Yoga 6:30p AA	25	26
27 8:00 Interfaith Worship 10:30 Worship Service	28	29 2:30 Music Lesson	30 7-8:30 Pastor hours @ JTown Deil 9:30am Fitness class	31 9am Women's Yoga 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

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ telephone: _____

Thoughts/Prayers: _____

