



# *Inside Out:*

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

June 2020

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters & Siblings,

As June arrived, my daughter called from an embattled city, where she had just finished a night shift as a nurse working on the frontlines in a hard-hit urban hospital, tending active COVID patients. She phoned to tell us she was safe, in a city alight with protests and demonstrations. She sent images of stores boarded up in her Harlem neighborhood and reported the announcement of a curfew. This came after months of rising death tolls where she lives and works due to the pandemic, the virus disproportionately affecting people among marginalized populations, including subway workers and grocery store workers who made it possible for her to do her job. Not to mention her own colleagues. What happens to her, happens to us. What happens in her neighborhood is only one heartbeat and phone call from our backyard.

We are connected. Affected. Those we love, they live — and sometimes die — in the heart of pandemic, protest, and political upheaval.

We are sending out our first newsletter since the pandemic changed life for all of us. March ended, then April and May passed with a sudden shift to virtual worship and emergency preparedness responses throughout our valley. We've found new ways to connect; to ask for help and offer it as-needed. We now barter with rolls of toilet paper, ounces of sanitizer, square-yardage of masks, and — if you bake — tiny pinches of yeast and cups of flour. We measure the value of life by the ability to breathe. We discovered new ways to 'be church' for each other. Now we're returning to you in this newsletter with hearts that are both broken and hopeful.

Many additional events have overtaken our nation and our community. Personal, communal, and systemic traumas have occurred. Yet throughout all of this, the church has stood as the church. The 'church' lives in *each of you*. When we say to 'be church' we are inviting each other to be 'be love.' Tough, tenacious, tangible love. And yes, you have been love for each other!

How? Working on the frontlines. Supporting first responders. Feeding the hungry. Visiting the imprisoned. Healing the sick. Checking on the lonely. Providing shelter. Reaching across distances and divisions to find connection in creative and simple ways. Educating the next generation, and listening as their dreams inspire us, too. Exploring issues of equity and sustainability. Speaking up. Asking questions. Listening. Seeking reconciliation. Finding hope in the midst of loss and sorrow and confusion. Sending out seeds and roots to bring new life into our corner of the world.

Together and apart, we have been reinventing the world and our lives. Trying to recover from deep wounds, disconnection, and dysfunction. As we imagine next responses, we're called to remember that we're all made in *imago Dei* — *in God's image* — and that our world ought to reflect that vision also.

Our church isn't a building. It's people: you and me. *We are the body of Christ*: our hands, our feet, our hearts, our minds, our voices, our lives. *We belong to each other*.

As the church, we serve all people — all children of God — beautiful and broken and beloved. We work with friends and neighbors and strangers in these times: all of us imperfect and impossible, yet creative and resilient. We strive for sustainable and equitable change for all people.

Does that sound idyllic? Naïve? Impossible? Through God — with love — all things are possible. And this dream, this promise, may not be built up by the end of the summer, or in time for the coming election, or even in some of our lifetimes. Yet it can grow out of humanity's best selves across generations.

Meanwhile, we are simply called to do 'the next right thing'. The prophet Micah asks, "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" And in the gospel of Matthew, Christ says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

What, then, does that tough, tangible, tenacious love look like in our times? It looks like much of what we've done well during the pandemic, and even during local losses and national traumas that have wounded our country and community. We've done so much, so well. And yes, we've fallen short. Or even failed. Yet we keep trying. *And we must continue to turn to each other and remember we belong to each other.*

In the gospel of Matthew we learn, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." In confusion, Christ's followers ask, "When and how did we do that?" And Christ answered, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me." The Way we follow leads us on a path that strives for justice tempered with mercy, and healing balanced by forgiveness, for all people.

Yet while healing, forgiveness and justice name the ideals for which we strive, we must understand them as processes. They aren't destinations with fixed, absolute, permanent outcomes. They are ongoing practices that require work, maintenance and reinterpretation over time. We forgive over time. We heal with time. We 'do justice' over time. And then we start over and do it again. And again. As many times as it takes. All of these processes involve relationships with other people. They require many stages and steps. Some may take more than one lifetime to fully realize.

Yet we are called to believe in the long-term view. I point you to the wisdom of our nation's iconic change-makers. Martin Luther King famously said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Scholar Mychal Denzel tells us this was "King's clever paraphrasing of a portion of a sermon delivered in 1853 by the abolitionist minister Theodore Parker ... Parker said: "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one. My eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by experience of sight. I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends toward justice." These practitioners recommend that we hold onto a long-term vision of what we're striving to achieve on this journey. They also recommend a comprehensive and collaborative approach that engages many stakeholders and perspectives.

Overwhelmed? Remember, Dr. King also said, "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." Likewise, Robert F. Kennedy, working with Dr. King and others, stated, "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others ... he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." In many ways, the list of loving acts that we mentioned earlier is precisely what we've been doing well and must continue to do.

Healing, forgiveness and justice look like how we love and honor each other. Feeding, educating, sheltering, working, speaking out, serving, connecting, and communicating. In our village, the church has put up a prayer fence to invite your thoughts and hopes. We continue to offer worship; we've been open 24/7. We've been vibrant and active — *every day* — of this pandemic. Since our world changed, we've reinvented choir and started a youth music program. Changed worship. Started virtual study groups. Carried food and care packages to people. Gone door to door. Called each other up. Resumed outdoor gatherings. Kept the church open day and night, even when we were all staying home, as a sanctuary in which to pray. Held vigils. Socialized, walked, hiked, and even gardened, and held plant sales together, in small 'quaran-teams' (but safely apart, of course).

We're encouraging learning and dialogue in cooperation with the library. We're planning contemplative and community-building programs in partnership with other local organizations. We're working with different community stakeholders to promote conversation rather than division, so that we can be transformative in resilient ways. We ring the bell daily to remind everyone that we're part of the community with concern for what happens in our backyard and the larger world in which our own community is situated.

Let us choose the 'next right thing' we may do together. I offer you this recent poem by Marren Tirabassi.

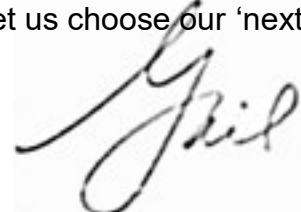
### **SpaceX**

My small grandsons,  
both less than five years old,  
are watching the human space launch  
bright eyes and holding their breath.  
For them, it is an ultimate adventure.  
Wow! and called Dragon, too.  
For us, it symbolizes an escape  
from all the mess that we have made on earth.  
I would not take away  
today's light from their eyes,  
but my eyes shine with tears  
because of racism in my country,  
illness killing so many, devastation  
of this environment.  
Let us watch how they do it,  
returning booster rockets  
to be used again and again and again.  
We will need that.  
Let us launch something into this space  
like change, like hope --  
children are watching.

Among other reasons, I am doing this for my daughter and her fiancée. And their children, as yet unborn. They are, for me, *imago Dei*. As are you.

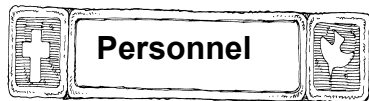
Who becomes the face of God for you? For whom will you engage the long-term practice of 'doing justice' and forgiving and healing? Be inspired by one other child of God. Or a whole community. Or a whole nation. We belong to each other. Together, let us choose our 'next right thing'.

Blessed, blessed are you. — Rev Gail Pomeroy Doktor





## 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 via Zoom on Wednesday June 24th at 7pm. .

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the July newsletter will be Tuesday, June 30th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

## Church Family News and Prayers



June 7: Lynn Lockard  
June 16: Ellory Kearns  
June 17: Emma McLeavey-Weeder  
June 20: Daniel Weeder  
Janice Brodil  
June 27: Hannah Benson



June 13:  
Ray & Arden Schoen

*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!*

### Prayer requests

- Susan May, longtime Jackson resident now living in the Portland area announced that she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer which is terminal. She has decided in favor of months of life rather than go through any painful treatment. She has placed herself in hospice, is feeling well and welcomes calls.
- Prayers of gratitude for Meg Phillips father's long life. He was able to celebrate his 99th birthday on June 1st with family.
- Prayers for church member Jean —may she find comfort in the loving arms of her family and friends.
- Prayers for Dick Devellian's family and friends.
- Prayers for people recovering from stroke: Richard & Paulette.
- Prayers for people living with cancer diagnoses.
- Prayers for people living with mental health challenges.
- Prayers for people serving in the military, first responders and essential workers.
- Prayers for people who have lost loved ones to CoVid-19.
- Prayers for George, Breonna, and Ahmaud.



Rev. Gail continues to make pastoral visits to homes through physical distancing, phone call or by remote video. If you're aware of someone who might benefit from a bowl of home-made soup and a visit, please let her know.

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally



The Mission Committee is always excited when new members are interested in joining. Are you passionate about a cause that is either local or international? Bring your ideas and positive energy to the Mission Committee—everyone is invited. Current members are Linda Hastings, Jeanette Heidmann, Kit Griffin, Meg Phillips, Jean Melczarek and Gloria Hutchings.

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## WOW... WHAT SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE WE HAD



We love this sale! Everyone leaves happy!

Thank you to all who donated plants and seedlings and especially to those who donated their time to plan this year's sale and made it a friendly outdoor social-distanced activity. Thank you to all those who came out and purchased plants and generously donated extra to benefit food insecurity programs. This year the Mission Committee raised \$1738.30. The funds will be distributed between Honduras Hope, The Way Station, and the Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry.



## UCC WIDER MISSION SUPPORT

Back in March, the Mission Committee held a collection for the UCC Wider Missions, although the collection was cut short as a result of the church starting to meet virtually we were able to send the following funds to the NH Conference. These generous donations combined with funds from other churches make a big impact.

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$248.75
Strengthen the church	\$173.75
Neighbors in Need	\$173.75
Christmas Fund	\$273.75

The Mission Committee will hold another collection to support these programs in the fall.



## Zimbabwe and Honduras Hope

**Zimbabwe:** The Mission Committee sent funds to the Chickanga Church in late April to help with the regions food insecurities. The funds were able to supply 93 families with 1 gallon of oil and bags of Mielie Meal (course corn). Families are very thankful as food is scarce right now.

**Honduras:** This is a photo of food being distributed to the people in the mountain village of San Jose. They are most grateful for all the contributions that enable them to eat during this time. Honduras Hope is buying it for them through everyone's donations.



## Star Island CoVid -19 Update

Star Island feels they cannot safely open this year.

Star is going to get through this crisis – will the island and the Star Island Corporation survive? The answer is yes, and this is because of the strength of our community. While the COVID-19 pandemic is dealing a major financial blow, we have held strong for over one hundred years. Through many significant challenges, including the 1918 influenza pandemic, two World Wars, and the island opening late in 2007, we have risen together as a community. We will rise together again.



## Bartlett / Jackson Food Pantry

Donations for the Bartlett / Jackson Food Pantry are **always** welcome. There is a basket in the narthex for items.

If you are able, pick up one or two extra items when you are shopping - All donations are welcome. Their current wish-list includes grocery gift cards, canned/ packaged soup / soup mixes, mayo, diced canned tomatoes, paper towels, baby food and food for toddlers

As an extension to the food items we are also collecting cleaning supplies which can be put in a bucket next to the food donation box.

Monetary donations are also welcome and can be sent to the Jackson Church with a notation or mailed to Brenda Mederios, Selectmans Office, 56 Town Hall Road, Intervale, NH 03845



*The NH United Church of Christ has provided each church in the conference with guidelines on how and when to open safely so we can all worship together again. Please bear in mind that the guidelines are ever changing as new information is presented. Currently*

*they recommend waiting until the end of July before resuming in person worship, however they also recognize that each church has unique situations and should make their own decisions.*

*The Church Council meets once per month via Zoom and discusses the many concerns and limitations of re-opening. We are testing a hybrid in-person/virtual gathering during Sunday's 8am interfaith circle, using safe social-distance guidelines in an outdoor setting, along with a Zoom link. As we consider additional re-opening changes to other worship services, we will share these through weekly emails and online, so please sign up for weekly emails from church if you haven't already done so.*

*Current worship service is live streamed on our facebook page as well as on our website [jacksoncommunitychurch.org](http://jacksoncommunitychurch.org). Please notify the church office if you would like the zoom link to participate.*

**UPCOMING:** *The weekly worship themes in June will be humorous stories/voices from the scripture. Stay tuned because we will welcome Chris Bailey as our guest speaker on Father's Day.*

### ***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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **Family Church-at-home-together Continues!**

**Would you like to know what Rev. Gail is doing with the youth of the church..**

**Here's an update on current plans!**

**Young People's Choir & Band begins Mondays, June 1, 4pm via Zoom.**

Note: Young people's Zoom sessions are only open to young people and their family/guardians (if their adults wish to attend), but is closed to other community members for the safety of the young participants, except by invitation of the choir director or music team. The Zoom link will be circulated in a closed email group for participants and leaders only. [Please RSVP](#) if your family has under-18 members who want to join us, and you haven't already received communication about this group. Please note that Billy Carleton teaches for SAU9, so he is familiar with teaching and working with younger singers as well as adults.

### **Leaders-in-Training (L-I-T) Program Starts in June**

If you are in the 7th grade and older we are continuing last summer's LIT experience. You can help create educational and entertaining challenges that invite younger participants outside in safe and creative ways. Lets create some physical/virtual challenges such as letterboxing kits and scavenger hunts to help get outside and have fun. RSVP if you would like to participate.

### **Puppets and Story-telling:**

By now you should have received your make-your-own puppet kit . We will create skits and stories via Zoom to share with the church. Pick your character and tell a story—do it your way. If your child would like to participate and didn't receive a puppet kit please contact the church.

### **Church-at-home kits:**

We'll deliver church-at-home kits with devotionals and art pages to your families for some quiet, contemplative activity options

### **Prayer flags:**

If you would like to make a prayer flag to display outside of the church or at home we will provide the material, you provide the creativity.

### **Prayer Fence:**

The Prayer Fence has been repainted and is once again set up outside the church. Please stop by and leave a prayer.



### **Community Care cards:**

We would love to include handmade cards or artwork from our young people in care packages that we're continuing to distribute in the community. If you make cards, we'll provide a safe place at church for you to return them, for redistribution to members, friends and neighbors who need your cheer & care. Messaging is your choice, but we suggest cheerful, inspirational and optimistic messages with universal themes (these won't be addressed to specific individuals or specific issues) like "thinking of you", "have a nice day", "smile", "friendship", "peace", "hope", "love" and/or "sending you prayers and good thoughts"

### **Adopt-a-friend:**

As an extension of the Community Care card initiative, we have a small list of vulnerable community members who are lonely or isolated for different reasons. If we have an expression of interest among our younger families, we'd like to match families with some of these neighbors to create some inter-generational communication and relationship-building. Some ways to make a connection include: Occasional phone or zoom calls, although hearing loss and technology challenges can make this a case-by-case option, cards and/or care packages are excellent ways to connect, as well as social distance visits to wave and chat. This is open to adults as well, let Rev. Gail know if you are interested.

### **Youth Day(s) in Worship:**

We will aim for a youth-led worship at least every quarter, every 9-12 weeks with youth-led reflections, readings and music beginning the end of June.

### **Scripture readers:**

We continue to welcome the voices of our young people! Let us know if we can put you on the schedule and get you involved. We would love to have different family member(s) record reading the scripture in anticipation of upcoming Sunday worship (you can decide re. audio-only or video).

### **Graduate Recognition:**

Please RSVP to [jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org](mailto:jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org) if you have a pending graduate! We would love to include bios/photos of your graduates, whether they are finishing high school, college, certification or other educational milestones. We want to include all Jackson-based youth plus any local youth connected as friends or members of our faith community. We will celebrate these young people in July's church newsletter.

### **Music & Art contributions:**

If you are a musician or singer or artist, we continue to want to share your special music! Contributions of several families have made worship and other gatherings a richer, deeper experience, and more such offerings are welcome if and when you're able to share them. Pre-recorded audio only or video performances are best for now and different music selections are welcome.

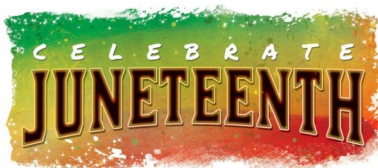


## Holding Courageous Conversations Racial Justice All Welcome

**Courageous Conversations: Racial Justice** is a 6 week dialogue series to be co-facilitated by the Jackson Community Church and the Jackson Public Library. We started the discussion back in February but we were interrupted by the cancelation of in person meetings. We will start from the beginning and meet via Zoom on Wednesdays from June 17th through July 22nd. To accommodate all those who are interested both morning and afternoon sessions will be offered. RSVP to [jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org](mailto:jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org) if you are interested in participating—please let us know which session you would like to attend. Links will be shared as plans progress.

This is a challenging time and Courageous Conversations provide an opportunity to meet the immediate needs our community to examine racism across all levels of society.

To become more informed visit [jacksoncommunitychurch.org](http://jacksoncommunitychurch.org) for a list of books, movies and resources that you might find helpful.



## What is Juneteenth ??

June 19 marks a special celebration for communities around the United States. Celebrated as Juneteenth, — a combination of “June” and “nineteenth” — the holiday recognizes when the United States ended its historic practice of slavery, legally and in the real world. In this sense, Juneteenth is a day for commemorating the “freedom” of *all* people living in the United States.

The Black Heritage Trail of NH is facilitating virtual programs to help celebrate Juneteenth day. Visit the Jackson Community Church events page on facebook for the link to sign up.

June 18th     3pm-6pm     Cooking with Selina: A Soulfood Cooking Show

June 19th     1pm-4pm     Music to Celebrate our Ancestors

June 19th     7pm-10pm     Songs That Feed the Soul: Concert

All programs are held virtually and pre-registration is needed.

# Planned Giving

## Have you considered naming Jackson Community Church in your estate plans?

Everyone has the capacity to leave a legacy – large or small – to the organizations that they care about most. There are many simple ways you can make a lasting gift to the church. JCC can be named as a beneficiary in your will, IRA, or charitable trust. Charitable Gift Annuities are available through the United Church of Christ that will provide you with income for life, a tax deduction, and a substantial gift to the church in the future.

Jackson Community Church is fortunate to have several trust funds that were given by generous church members in the past. We rely on the income from these funds to help balance our budget each year. But we could do much more if we had the resources.

Won't you consider leaving a legacy to JCC for future generations? Please let Pastor Gail know if you would like confidential information about these options.

*"Giving liberates the soul of the giver" – Maya Angelou*



## 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.



## 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.