



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church

Vol. XIX, No.5

August/September 2020

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Friends—

The first chilly nights of September bring a cold splash after the heat, storms, and winds of August. Gardens flower, overrun with tomatoes and other abundance. Berries have come and gone. Now apples ripen to fullness, zucchini thrives, and corn grows golden beneath its green husk and tawny silk.

Who eats these crops flourishing on branch and vine — bears, birds, or people — depends on who gets to the garden and orchard first. Fresh in the palm, baked into something scrumptious, explored in a new recipe, or preserved for later ... these crops carry sunlight and hope in their ample presence. Some remnants fall to the ground: bruised, over-ripe, trampled, rotten ... offering themselves to the renewal of the earth.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

Change flourishes. Our community church balances adapting to social distance and remote worship, while now exploring safe ways to cautiously reopen and gather again. Communally, we seek to live with common values and concerns, though so much social and cultural stress promotes division. We remind each other that we can thrive in the midst of disagreement, because our differences give us greater strength and depth, and our diversity becomes the fertile ground for our greatest growth and possibility.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

Every story from the Acts of the Apostles, which we studied throughout late in summer, reminds us that the holy tent — the church, the community of faith, and God's world filled with people and creatures and interconnected ecosystems — only gets larger with every interaction. We are liberated, just as we become tethered to others, creating community with people from different perspectives, ethnicities, races, gender identities, social positions, economic resources, and belief systems. Just when we have it figured out, everything shifts. Our knowledge and experience, our assumptions and systems, are routinely challenged, reinvented, and overturned. The Holy Spirit moves beyond and outside our categories, language, and frameworks of understanding. Yes, God is bigger than our words and ideas, and God's love is more complete and comprehensive and filled with grace than we could dream. The refrain in this letter comes from the stories of the early church, as recounted in Acts, and the recurring themes we find in them. We will find these themes echoed again in the letters mailed by Paul to different early Christian communities scattered around the 'ends of the world'.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

Around us, the world remains chaotic, yet filled with potential. Lives have been irrevocably changed by global pandemic, social shifts, political uncertainties, and economic upheavals. Individual circumstances have also been both catastrophic and creative. In our own communities and across the nation, we witness measurable forms of social and systemic transformation. Our environment signals resilience as worldwide traffic and pollution declines and life returns to waterways and winds, then reminds us by fire, flood, and storm, that we will suffer or thrive in direct correlation to the earth's wellbeing.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

Has church even been cancelled during this time? Never. Has holy love failed to flow into the world as a vital, living presence? Never.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

The front doors to the sanctuary have remained open 24/7. The offices have been workplaces throughout the past several months. Meanwhile, our church started virtual worship, choir and educational programming, connecting children and adults from several states. We've developed new study groups. We've deepened civic partnerships as we address social justice issues: food insecurity, homelessness, and racial awareness, for instance. We continue to reach out to International partners, supporting other communities, too. Virtually, we form bonds that defy geography and time zones: linking states and nations in common experiences of worship and learning. Locally, we call each other, go for walks, drop off care packages.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

The church has become creative. Walls, roof, and building don't define us. We express our faith beyond these walls. Virtually. Hands-on. Every day. Every week. Peace flags. Ringing bells. Hopeful messages. Sign boards. Honest public prayers. Conversations. Study. Games. Phone calls. Care packages. Rides. Relationships. Meals. Songs. Cards. Letters. Stockings. Blankets. Masks. Flowers. Gardens. Hikes. Walks. Smiles. Connections.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

Yet we yearn to gather in person. By this month, we're finding ways to keep company — adults and youth — in small groups and more formal settings. We continue to modify how to gather, in person, as responsibly as possible. We meet outdoors at the pavilion and indoors in our own sanctuary to talk, pray, and worship together. We walk hiking trails and local sidewalks. We sit down in green outdoor spaces to socialize with care for safety. For the foreseeable future, we also continue to meet on Zoom, as a sustainable choice for those who cannot risk gathering in person. People continue to volunteer, every week, in areas where we have committed to specific mission such as food pantries, meal deliveries, and work with our homeless population at the Way Station. We also care and connect to each other in new ways: becoming more vital and vibrant in our bonds to each other, in response to the lapse of pre-Covid rhythms, routines, and connections.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

As much as we may meet some needs, we also disappoint each other. Often we get it right. Other times we get it wrong. Despite our best efforts or intentions, we fall short. We reveal our humanity.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

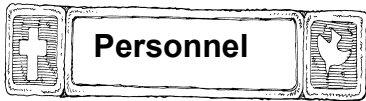
So the challenge and opportunity of these times is to love each other, being grateful when we get it right. Also to offer compassion and patience, knowing we will sometimes disappoint each other. We serve God's holy love with our hands, feet, hearts, minds, and voices, yet we are mortal vessels. Thus we are also messy and imperfect in our understanding, engagement, and implementation. Bound to make mistakes along the way. Let us also cultivate the courage and vision to fail, then get up, and try again.

We need each other. We belong to each other.

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**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 fourth Wednesday, September 23rd at 7pm. .

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the fall newsletter will be Tuesday, September 29th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Let us be blessings to each other. For now, carry this blessing with you.

Benediction (adapted) — R. Sugrue

2020 is half over
When it began we welcomed a new decade
With hopes of new vision and 2020 insight
We prayed that it be a significant year
2020 is half over
It has been more significant
Than any of us could have possibly imagined
A year that is shattering lives and livelihoods
All over the world in an unprecedented way
Yet there has been unprecedented global cooperation
People have had to pause and reconsider priorities
We give thanks for the year 2020 ...
We will continue looking for new insights
And commit to serving the bringer of light.

- With hope for healing and resilience, Rev Gail

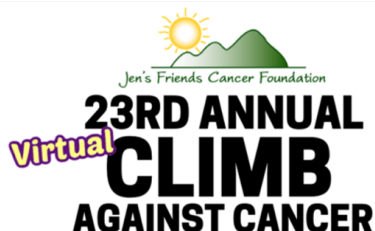


Rev. Gail continues to make pastoral visits to homes through physical distancing, phone call or by remote video. If you're aware of someone who might benefit from a bowl of home-made soup and a visit, please let her know.

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.



The Climb Against Cancer has gone virtual

Same Event, Same Mission with a few innovative changes

Being able to adapt with the ever changing landscape amidst CoVid-19 we are determined to celebrate this event with a virtual climb event July 19– September 19, 2020 and an exciting half day of live stream celebration on September 19th.

The Jackson Community Church is an Act of Kindness sponsor of the Climb.

There are even more ways to participate this year: Climb, Walk, Run, Bike, Crawl or Dance... it's your Choice! Participate from California to Maine, ANYTIME and ANYWHERE from the safety of your own home or neighborhood between July 19th and September 19th. Then on September 19th, join Jen's Friends online for a kick-off performance and a few hours of livestream events, interviews, live silent auction and awards ceremony!



A message from Joyce and Mike Scott

Hello Everyone!

Mike and I have been frantically working on the Dolphin (RV) so that we can stay in the field till early Dec. The work is out there to do, both in Iowa where we are headed first and down in Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Laura! !

We are so very sad that the pandemic has not made maintaining connection with all of you easier, but you are ALL in our thoughts and prayers! We hope that when we come home in Dec, we can visit your congregations and worship with you!!! God bless each and every one of you!!!

Shalom, Joyce and Mike

To see what Joyce and Mike have been up to click on their [newsletter](#).



Jackson Community Church joins the Alzheimer's Walk

Wednesday September 9th from 9:30-11:30

JCC friends and members met at Whitaker Woods, North Conway for the walk to end Alzheimer's. All locals were welcome to join us to walk about 3 miles. Alzheimer's disease is relentless. So are we. This is the fourth year team Eagle's Rest is participating in an Alzheimer's Walk. Thanks to the many supporters and walkers we continue to focus attention on finding a cure. You can donate to an individual to help that person meet their fund raising goal. All individual member's funds will go toward meeting the team goal.

Team Eagle's Rest has almost reached their goal. You can join our team or sponsor our walkers. All welcome! Link: Link to join or sponsor a walking team! Link: https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2020/ME-Maine?team_id=611420&pg=team&fr_id=13510

Organizer for this walk: Jeanette Heidmann, Eagle's Rest Team

Zimbabwe and Honduras Hope



Chikanga Church Update: After sending funds to assist with the continuation of building their church we received this reply from Liberty Maadza, the minister.

"Greetings dear friends. Thank you so much for the money you sent us for building, we received it and have already started to buy some building materials for work to commence this week possibly Monday or Tuesday. We will continue to share with you pictures of progress. May Jackson church be blessed in abundance. We love you and we are with you in prayer also"

Honduras Hope Update: Meg Philips has been our 'ambassador' to the Honduras for multiple trips now. Gail interviewed Meg and put a short clip together of her travels to give us a glimpse into the community engagement of the Honduras Hope mission. Watch the clip [here](https://vimeo.com/448832508) or <https://vimeo.com/448832508>



Donations for those with food insecurities

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

The Food Pantry continues to seek donations of non perishable food staples such as peanut butter, canned tuna, or canned soups, as well as toiletries including toilet paper, toothpaste/toothbrushes ect. They will always accept and appreciate grocery store gift cards. Please do not donate expired foods as they can not be distributed.

They are also accepting fresh garden produce. If you have an abundance please deliver it directly to the food pantry on Saturday mornings when they are open—from 10-12.

Church Family News and Prayers



September:

1st: Jim Hastings
18th: Sue Carrigan
22nd: Gregory Miller
30th: Tom Pizor

September:

9th: Ben and Martha Miller
10th: Linda Gray and David Gotjen
11th: John and Wendy McVey
28th: Peter and Emily Benson

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!

Historic Triangle Blessing Service Sunday September 13th 8am

Please join us for worship and prayer at the annual blessing of the "Historic Triangle" site, home of Jackson's first church which was formed in 1803 as a Free Will Baptist Congregation, and now marked by the plaque and commemorative park at the junction of Black Mountain and Wilson Roads. This will be a brief outdoor gathering. Please bring masks and your own chairs if you wish to attend. Please observe social distancing guidelines.

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: _____



APPROACHING THE NEW NORMAL: WORSHIPPING DURING COVID-19

We have begun an abbreviated church service on Sundays at 9:15 am. The following guidelines will be enforced for the health and safety of all who join us in person:

- Masks will be required for everyone entering the church and are to be worn at all times. Worship leaders may remove masks when speaking to the congregation.
- We will use only designated open pews. Please note that 2 out of 3 pews are roped off for safe distancing.
- Only families or attendees in a joint quarantine bubble who have already been in close proximity may sit together.
- We will ask you to refrain from any physical contact including passing of peace, handshaking, hugs, or standing within 6 feet of others. This is for everyone's safety.
- We ask that you use hand sanitizer when entering the building. There is also hand sanitizer in the pews as needed.
- Worship will be streamlined with scripture, prayer and live music by Alan Labrie (if he is able to arrive while worship is still in session).
- There will be no congregational singing.
- When worship ends, participants are asked to leave the church with social distance between each group; we will immediately be preparing for the next zoom-based 10:30am worship service.
- If you have any signs of illness such as fever, cough, congestion, stomach upset, you are courteously asked to remain home and take care of yourself.

We will continue to offer our Zoom-based Worship at 10:30am. This worship will be broadcast live via the Jackson Community Church Facebook page as well as on the website.

Racial Justice Initiatives

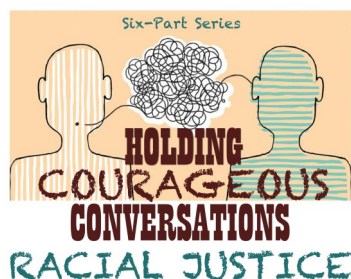


Racial Justice Action & Learning Group

Sunday September 13th 7pm

Program held via Zoom or call from a touch tone phone:
929-436-2866 meeting ID 836 4099 8864 use passcode: 722476

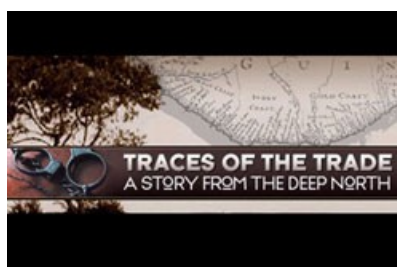
This will be the first in a monthly series.



Courageous Conversations: Racial Justice

Starting the week of September 13th

This program is co-sponsored by the Jackson Library and JCC. This is an ongoing conversation using peer-reviewed curriculum. RSVP if interested in attending the Zoom conversation. First in the 6 week series will be Wednesday September 16th at 8am. More sessions will be scheduled to accommodate difference times.



Traces of the Trade Film Screening & Discussion

Tuesday, September 15th 9am-noon & 5-8pm

Friday, September 18th 9am-noon & 5-8pm

RSVP to JCC for Zoom link if interested

Co-sponsored by the Jackson Library and JCC. This New England based documentary screened at the Sundance Film Festival and has been featured on PBS Point of View. It traces a journey by several cousins into the dark past of the slave trade which enriched their white

New England family. Dain Perry, one of the nine cousins, and his wife, Constance, screen the film and facilitate a conversation on race, reconciliation and healing. Traces of the Trade is both a geographical and psychological retracing of the industry of the largest slave traders in American history, the DeWolf family of Bristol, RI, and an exploration into racism in America, a legacy of slavery that continues to negatively impact the country even today. A primary debunked myth is that the North was the center of the abolition movement and had little to do with slavery. The fact is that the North was the center of the US slave trade, and the ownership of slaves in the north was not only common, but it lasted for over two hundred years. Join us for a film and conversation facilitated by the family members who participated in making the documentary.

Upcoming

All Eyes Upon Us: Racial Struggles in the Northeast from Jackie Robinson to Deval Patrick.

Thurs, Oct 8th via Zoom: From Brooklyn to Boston, from World War II to the present, Jason Sokol traces the modern history of race and politics in the Northeast. Why did white fans come out to support Jackie Robinson as he broke baseball's color barrier in 1947 even as Brooklyn's blacks were shunted into segregated neighborhoods? How was African-American politician Ed Brooke of Massachusetts, who won a Senate seat in 1966, undone by the resistance to desegregation busing in Boston?

Church Maintenance



You may have noticed some activity at the church from the Building and Maintenance team, along with some wonderful volunteers.

Completed:

- Our custodian/ cleaning lady Valarie noticed some mildew happening in the small bathroom in Fellowship hall. Church member and plumber, Huntley Allan, came down to inspect the area and noticed that our hot water tank had failed. With a quick email approval from council, Huntley promptly replaced the faulty tank. Thank you Huntley. We still have some sheet rock that will need to be replaced. Any volunteers?
- Volunteer Bob Carper volunteered his time and equipment to power wash the side of the Parish House. It looks great!! Thank you Bob.

To Be Completed:

- The outside stairs to the second floor is in need of repair. The steps are pulling away from the stringers and pose a safety hazard and the railings are not up to code. At the August Council meeting it was approved to have a work day to replace with a composite decking for the treads and bring the hand railing up to code. With a team of volunteers this is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of October 3rd and 4th.
- The Building Team received a quote to install electric heating tape to the part of the roof facing the Wentworth condos that has been causing large ice dams that have caused damage to the inside of the building a couple of years in a row. This was approved at the August Council meeting and will be completed this fall.

Many people contribute to the care and maintenance of this building: caring for flower boxes and plantings, 'dressing up' the doors for the season, tidying the sanctuary and front entrance, maintaining our racial justice lending library, changing the messages on the sign board and so many other details! We thank Huntley, Bob and a dozen other volunteers like Joan & Paul, Joyce, Wendy, Claire and so many others!

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

The Steeple Light will be lit out of concern for precious 3 year old, Emerson, born with a heart defect, who will be having open heart surgery the beginning of September. Cards of prayers can be sent to 1900 Ty Ty Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32308. Thank you... from Sue Titus Reid

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