



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church

Vol. XX, No.10

November/December 2021

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



November/December 2021

Friends & Neighbors, Brothers & Sisters — We deeply appreciate how each of you creates part of our beloved community in this corner of the world. In this holiday newsletter that encompasses Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year's, let Love's blessings flow.

For instance, during the week of Thanksgiving, remember the ancient tradition of the empty chair, the additional cup, or the extra place-setting at the table. In this extreme example of holiday hospitality, practiced in many traditions, celebrants leave space for strangers. The idea is that we might, unknowingly, entertain angels or prophets, or hang out with the Messiah himself, though we do not realize it.

Isn't it a wonderful notion to treat all other people as potential messengers from heaven? How would you approach someone, if you truly anticipated such a holy identity?

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' followers asked, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" He replied, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

During this annual holiday, we retell the stories about how Jesus arrives bundled in swaddling clothes, and wrapped up in need. He comes into the world: tiny, infant, mortal, hungry, messy, helpless. Born in such a way, he immediately establishes love and intimacy with those who meet him, because he is vulnerable, too.

Jesus is also known, from the beginning, as *Emmanuel: God Among Us*. Indeed, his journey of embodied Love is quite human. Ultimately, his mortal journey models for us how Holy Love, which arrives as a child, grows up to serve humanity and honor creation. His life becomes a revolutionary Way of immersing ourselves in this messed-up and amazing world.

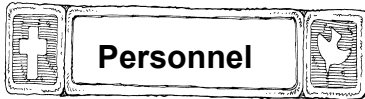
Friends, find the Christ-light in someone else this season. Meanwhile, let others discover that light in you! During Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and into the New Year, this faith community and other organizations offer you chances to celebrate, study, sing, and serve together. They include so many ideas! Carole for our community. Attend the church's peace concert. Decorate the church for the holiday. Listen to stories about the arrival of Love. Experience Scrooge in a new way. Notice the people who help you when you run errands or do chores. Give to a cause you care about. Tackle food insecurity. Support a local family. Send notes and letters, photos and messages. Call someone. Pass the light!

What would rekindle your inner light? We also suggest ways for you to receive and be renewed by the gifts of the season. Light Advent candles. Explore the daily devotional. Read light-hearted books. Seek out good news. Sing Christmas songs. Write poems or journal entries. Open Christmas cards. Gather with friends. Pray in a new way. Renew your mindfulness practices. Worship with your community. Wonder aloud. Walk in the twinkling winter evenings. Wish for snow. Rest when you can. Sip cider. Smile.

With love from Jackson Community Church, we offer you the following reflection about light as a final thought to carry through the holy dark and winter-wonder days ahead. Blessings as we journey together from the season of gratitude to the dawning of grace! — *Rev Gail*



**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, December 15th at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the Nov newsletter will be Monday Nov 22nd. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

For Light — John O'Donohue

*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 word.*

Church Family News and Prayers



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!



Dec 12: Isabella Hutchings
Dec 12: Jim Hill
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

December 17:
Judy and Bill Botsford



Thank you for keeping your doors open at Jackson Community Church. When we are in town we have enjoyed the chance to sit, pray and be at peace. Please accept this as a token of our appreciation.

God Bless, Robin and Sue



On Sunday, December 12th the Jackson Church will be going out into the community and spreading Christmas cheer from 1pm-3pm.

If you know of anyone in Jackson, Glen, Bartlett area who would enjoy a visit and singing from church members and friends please let us know.



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 homemade soup and a visit, please let her know.



Free Fitness Classes on Wednesdays

Laurie McAleer offers a free weekly exercise classes at the church. Classes are held on Wednesday mornings at 9am.

All are welcome to participate, please remember your masks.

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, Jean Melczarek and Gloria Hutchings.

Thank You

Just a few more letters of Thanks to the Mission Group and the members and friends of the Jackson Community Church

Thank you so much for your donation to MWV Supports Recovery. We are so grateful for your support and the support of our community. With your donation we are able to offer support meetings to the people in need.

Sincerely Janice Spinney

Thank you for your charitable donation to Northern Human Services to support the work where it is needed most. Your generous gift will help to ensure that our programs and the towns we serve stay strong and healthy.

Your charitable gift truly does change the lives of those we serve.

Susan Wiggin, Northern Human Services

Thank you so much for your donation of \$100 to MWV Habitat for Humanity. Your generosity is especially appreciated during this pandemic when we were unable to hold some of our fundraiser events and the price of building materials has risen sharply.

Our mission of building safe, decent and affordable homes for those families who are not eligible for other programs. To date, we have built 25 homes here in our beautiful valley.

Sincerely, Barbara Reilly

Thank you for your generous contribution for our life-saving work with refugees and immigrants. We appreciate it more than ever in these challenging times.

Your generosity is a step towards building a better world for all our neighbors. We deeply appreciate your support and look forward to our continued partnership in the days and weeks ahead.

May God bless you for your kindness,
Church World Services
Southern Border Crisis

Dear Jackson,



Thinking of you and praying you are all well! Mike and I are serving in Detroit from a flood that started way back in June. It is a city sewage problem though and although they're trying to fix it, it's a long progress and every time it rains, they flood again! Lots of ministry opportunities—one of the most meaningful deployments we've been on!!

Shalom, Joyce and Mike Scott
Samaritans Purse



The Gibson Center is collecting any 2022 calendars to distribute to local seniors through their Meals on Wheels programming. If you have any extra calendars please drop them off in the basket in the Narthex and the Mission Committee will deliver them.

Angels & Elves



The Mission Committee is sponsoring another Angels and Elves family this year. These are families that apply for a little 'extra' help to brighten a child's holiday season by providing needed/wanted items. "Gift Tags" were available in the Narthex to help purchase items for our family. If you picked up a tag from the Narthex please return the purchased items by December 5th.

If you would like to help but didn't get a chance to pick up a tag—donations are being accepted to help cover the cost of the remaining items. Please leave your donation with a notation "Angels and Elves" in the little white church in the Narthex or mail to PO Box 381, Jackson NH 03846.

Lets make this a Christmas to remember for this family!!!

The Way Station

As old man winter bears down on us it seems it is a good reminder as we step into warm houses and huddle around woodstoves that not everyone has this luxury. The number of homeless folks has risen in the Mount Washington Valley over the years. The Way Station was started as a day resource center to serve the homeless population, giving them a place to shower, do laundry, and get some necessary supplies.



If you have an extra tent, sleeping bag, or camp stove it would be put to good use by these folks. They can always use some canned food—particularly those with pop-tops, such as beef stew, spaghettios, etc. and of course, peanut butter is always a great staple. These items can be dropped off in the Narthex of the church and will be transported over to the Way Station.

Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry



**Feeding the
Community**

The Jackson Bartlett Food Pantry has changed their hours and are now open the first and third Saturday of every month from 10-12pm. Most non perishable items will be welcomed with these items in particular demand right now: Ketchup, mayonnaise, baked beans, crackers, spaghetti sauce, tuna fish, snacks, toilet paper and paper towels. These items can be dropped off in the wicker basket in the narthex of the church.

If you are interested in volunteering to help to feed our community, please email bartlettjacksonfoodpantry@gmail.com



Honduras Hope is a New Hampshire based non-profit supporting health, education and entrepreneurship in rural Honduras.

Prior to the pandemic Honduras Hope volunteers travelled to their sister communities of Plan Grande, San Jose de Machigua and Yoro four times per year. Even though the in-person program is temporarily on hold they are working closely together with their in-country coordinator to manage programs and projects. The most current Fall 2021 [Newsletter](#) (click) gives us a overview of the recent progress being made.

The Mission Committee has supported Honduras Hope for many years. Meg Phillips has traveled with them as a volunteer multiple times and has seen first hand the power of working together.



The Pease Greeter program is on hold until we learn more about the future of it. A number of knitted hats and beautiful red, white and blue Christmas stockings that were completed already, were dropped off. Homes will be found for those items, possibly with the local Coast Guard folks.

Dearest JCC Ladies,



What a delight it was to see you at the JCC Ladies November potluck!! We missed those that could not attend; we hope you will be able to attend our next gathering!!!

Jackson Community Church (JCC) Ladies Potluck
Friday, December 3, 2021
11:30 AM

Hostesses: Linda Hastings and Kit Griffin

Location: JCC Fellowship Hall

R.s.v.p. (Yes or No) with your potluck selection to: Linda Hastings

jimlindahastings@roadrunner.com as soon as possible.

If you wish to offer your help in cleaning up after the potluck as a service versus a potluck item, please let Linda know. (3-5 folks depending on the amount of responses are requested). Also, potluck items could be half as we don't want too many leftovers!!

Sign-ups continue for our other groups:

Dinner for 7 (& "Spirits of the Season"): Organizational gathering in January (single/ married are welcome)

JCC Men's Group

Blessings, Ginger Perkins



Christmas Worship and Celebrations



ADVENT

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.

- There are Advent candles available free for your household in the Narthex.
- The Advent Devotional with daily entries can be downloaded [here](#) and found in the Narthex.
- There will be a 3 week study group "The Redemption of Scrooge" on Wednesdays at 5pm via Zoom (Dec 8th, Dec 15 and Dec 22nd). Details can be found on jacksoncommunitychurch.org



Nov 28	First Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Dec. 5	Second Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Peace
Dec. 12	Third Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Joy
Dec. 19	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Love

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Sunday December 12th 1:00-3:00

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 us know if you are planning to come along so that we can assign the routes. Also, let us know if you know of someone who would benefit from a visit from seasonal carolers. —All are welcome!!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Sunday December 12th

Pageant: Sunday December 12h 9am This years Christmas Pageant was written by our own JCC families. Drop in participants are welcome to show up at 9:30am to get a costume and assignment.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Friday December 24th

5pm Outdoor Services of Scripture, Songs & Candlelight (non-zoom). Walk the stations of the nativity, sing favorite carols, listen to scripture, share candlelight. Bring home a memento.

7pm Virtual Service of Scripture & Carols plus Seasonal Debut of Choir Songs (Zoom only)

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 Giving Status

Members and friends of the Jackson Community Church you should have received a letter in regards to your 2021 financial giving and where you stand with your 2021 pledge. Also included with your letter will be your 2022 pledge card. By returning your pledge card promptly you can help us plan next years 2022 budget. Your contributions make the work and life of this church possible.

Thank you!!!

Did you know....



The **Charitable IRA Rollover**, also known as a **Qualified Charitable Disbursement (QCD)** allows Americans age 70 ½ and older to make gifts to one or more nonprofit organizations (such as Jackson Community Church) without federal tax penalty, by simply requesting a transfer of IRA assets from the plan administrator directly to your charities.

Gifts can be made up to \$100,000 annually and count towards the owner's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for individuals age 72 and older. QCDs from pre-tax IRAs are still a tax-savvy giving strategy in 2021 if you are between age 70 ½ and 72, even though RMDs are not required until age 72.

Consult your tax advisor for the best advice. This is a very painless and tax-advantaged way to support JCC and other favorite charities!

Planned Giving



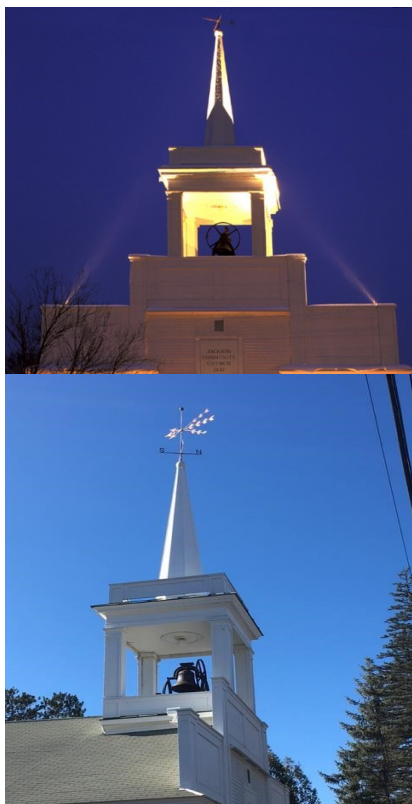
Have you considered naming Jackson Community Church in your estate plans?

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 us know if you would like confidential information about these options.

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



Steeple Light

The Jackson Community Church Steeple is lit in honor and memory of our church member and friend John Pepper.

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 along with a donation to:

Jackson Community Church
Attn: Steeple Lighting
PO Box 381
Jackson NH 03846

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: _____
