



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church
Vol. XX, No.9

October 2021

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Friends, Brothers & Sisters — “Best year for apples in five decades,” reported orchard owners. It made local headlines and offered a cheerful message in these times.

‘Tis the season for harvest appreciation! One way or another, apples and other harvest fare connect us to the world’s seasons. Life ripens and comes into our hands, becomes food for our bodies, nourishing us. Autumn’s castoffs fall to the earth and also become part of the cycle of decay, dormancy, and renewal of life that feeds the earth and its inhabitants.

Humans, like all beings, are tied to patterns of birth, growth, death, and rebirth that are almost eternal in their constancy. We need such reminders, perhaps, that the earth—and God’s holy love—are more ancient and enduring than our contemporary challenges and tensions. At the same time, 23 new species were listed as extinct by US Fish & Wildlife Service this month. Their absence from the world also calls us to remain attentive—and to act and advocate—for the wellbeing of creation!

Daily rituals may help us reinforce personal acts of stewardship for our own bodies and also the earth’s body. ***During October, we offer you this challenge. Take part in a daily, sacred act: pay attention to what you welcome into your body. Consider how it affects the world’s body.***

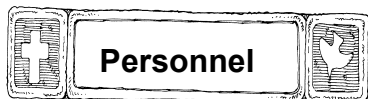
Develop your own form of spiritual practice in relationship to preparing and/or enjoying autumn’s bounty. Let this become a season to begin or renew such a practice. It’s a simple, daily form of gratitude and mindfulness, when we pause to say a blessing and give thanks in some way, that slows us down and builds a habit of attentiveness: prayerfulness.

Here are some ideas for ways to engage in a daily ritual of prayer, blessing, and/or mindfulness before or during a meal. Choose one or more, and try them:

- Before you eat, say your favorite ‘grace’ or prayer over the meal.
- Alternately, sing a song at the table. That’s how we bless food at Horton Center on Pine Mountain, and sometimes at home together.
- Take time to look at and think about your meal and be mindful: imagine where your food began, how it was harvested or gathered, how it traveled to your table, by whose hands it was handled and prepared, and what goodness it will offer to you now.
- Notice your meal’s colors, textures, fragrance, flavor, and appearance. Give thought and thanks for how it engages your senses.
- Sit down, as often as you’re able, for a slow meal rather than a rushed grab ‘n go form of eating.
- Turn off distractions such as television, phones, computers so you can focus on your meal.
- Light a candle and make it a time set apart from the remainder of the day.



Jackson Community Church



Rev. Gail Pomeroy Doktor
doktalk@gmail.com
978-273-0308

Joanne Turner 383-6187
Administrative 986-5018

Alan Labrie Organist

William Carleton Choir

Valarie Willman Custodial

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, October 20th at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

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

- Dine in the company of others, if possible.
- Ask your friends and/or family, if you have the privilege of sharing a meal, to each name one good thing that happened during the day, or to share one thing for which he/she is grateful.
- Pause and breathe deeply, becoming aware of the combined blessing of food, focus, and thankfulness.

Alternately, try one of these actions at the end of a meal:

- Wash the dishes and take time to enjoy caring for your surroundings.
- Sing a song while you clean up.
- What was your favorite part of the meal? What recipe would you try again or recommend to someone else?
- Notice what remains after you're done eating. Can it be saved, recycled, or composted?
- Imagine which items from the meal will return to the earth in a nourishing way?

Let one or more of these practices help you slow down, appreciate your meal, and gain spiritual nourishment from it, as well as bodily wellness. If you are aware that you have been blessed, find a way to share your bounty with others during this month. Be social over a meal, make a food donation, or make and share goodies with neighbors. Contrarily, if you are concerned about lack of wellbeing and abundance in your own life or someone else's life, please alert those who may offer care and support, including a confidential email to jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org to organize some private, practical assistance for yourself or a neighbor.

This month, may your life grow richer and deeper as you cultivate daily spiritual practices. May the fruits of the season and the abundance of community and creation overflow in your life, when you pause to give attention and appreciation to the simple gifts of October.

Blessings! — Rev Gail

Church Family News and Prayers



October 3rd: Patti Dunn

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 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.



Food donations for the Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry and the Way Station can be dropped off anytime at the Jackson Community Church foyer in the basket.

Items always needed: condiments (ketchup, mayonnaise, etc), canned meat, veggies, jams/ jellies, paper towels and toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent/ shampoo/conditioner, deodorant/, toothpaste



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.



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

How wonderful of you to donate \$600 to Honduras Hope. The small road to Plan Grande was destroyed after the hurricanes. We are now purchasing large cement culverts to rebuild it. Thank you for giving New Hope to so many.

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$100. It is greatly appreciated and helpful as we continue to support the children and families in our community.

Children Unlimited

Many thanks to the members of the Jackson Community Church for supporting the Bartlett – Jackson Food Pantry over this past summer. Your generous support continues to go a long way to keeping the food pantry well-stocked and serving those in need in our community.

Thoughtful, caring people such as the members of Jackson Community Church make our community a very special place!

On behalf of the board and staff of the nonprofit Star Island Corporation, thank you for supporting Star Island. Your gift truly makes a difference and is deeply appreciated. Gifts like yours make every aspect of the Star Island experience possible, and help us to enact our values of inclusivity, accessibility, sustainability, and stewardship on Star Island.

Thank you for your donation of \$200 to the Conway chapter of "End 68 Hours of Hunger." We are a 100% volunteer organization that provides bags of food to local children suffering from weekend food insecurity, children who don't know where their next meal is coming from between lunch in school on Friday and breakfast in school on Monday.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all of the schools in the MWV and the students who will benefit from your donation.

We would like to sincerely thank you for your recent generous donation of \$300 to the Gibson Center. It is with your donations that we are able to continue our work to help all seniors live independently and actively, with purpose and dignity.

Please visit us in person or online. You are always welcome.

UCC Mission Collection

United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world. Our church has identified four areas where critical human needs exist:

- in places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck;
- within systems of injustice which oppress daily life and opportunity;
- in the lives of church leaders without sufficient resources to live with dignity;
- in the nurture of youth and congregations just beginning their lives of faith.

We believe these Special Mission Offerings collectively serve to lift people closer to the abundance and wholeness to which Jesus Christ has called us to work together to bring about. Typically, in past years we have asked for donations 5 times throughout the year, however we have changed this to where we are now only asking for donations twice a year, in the spring and the fall. **Until we can meet in person again we hope you will carefully consider the options, and generously support the funds you choose by mailing a check to JCC, PO Box 381, Jackson NH 03846 with details on where you would like the donations to be applied. Checks can also be dropped off in the little white church in the Narthex.**



Channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.



Re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. Its also provides support for existing church's new initiatives.



Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries.



Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ



You are invited to join the NH Conference UCC's Annual Meeting on Saturday October 16th. The Conference will be exploring the theme "Building Beloved Community", inspired by the words from Lamentations 3:22-23 (The Inclusive Bible), *"YHWH's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness."*

[Register now](#) for the 220th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference United Church of Christ.

This years programming will be completely virtual and The Jackson Community Church will reimburse the registration fee for all who would like to attend. An introduction and invitation to the Annual Meeting can be [seen here](#) on the Conference Youtube channel.

Locally: North Country Association

The Committee of Church and Ministry of the NHUCC North Country Association has issued an open invitation to those wishing to take an active role in the future of the North country Association. In the United Church of Christ, local congregations typically make up an "association" of churches. The Jackson Community Church belongs to the North Country Association, along with churches in 13 area towns (Bartlett, Chatham, Colebrook, North Conway, Conway, Dalton, Errol, Gorham, Franconia, Lancaster, Littleton and Woodstock).

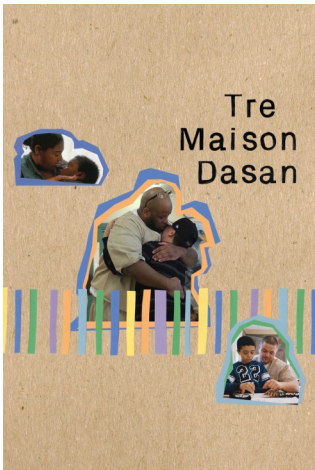
Over the last ten years, the size of the Church and Ministry Committee has shrunk. People have retired, moved out of the Association, or due to personal health concerns have withdrawn from leadership roles. As of now, the Association has no Moderator, no Vice Moderator, no Scribe and no Chair of Church and Ministry. Repeated appeals for volunteers have not borne fruit.

They are looking to identify a new group of volunteers, people who would be willing to take part in the work that keeps an Association strong. They would like to enlist the help of other Association or Conference leaders to train volunteers in the roles they'd be taking on. This would be the ideal situation! However, it may simply be that there are not enough volunteers to do the work needed to be done.

The unfortunate reality is without a new group of volunteers the North Country Association may have to dissolve. This would mean that the Conference would take over some aspects of the Association work, while the churches of the North Country Association would affiliate with other Associations.

If you have input on these issues or you would like to participate in an Association Meeting please contact Gerry Tilton at 603-236-6657 or forestgt33@aol.com.

Christian Education Programs



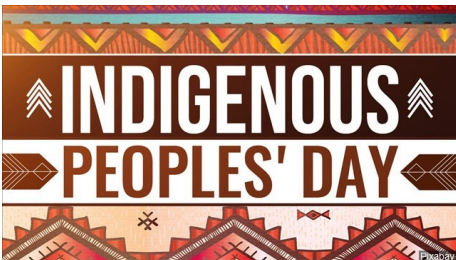
Tres Maison Dasan
Film Screening 6-7:30pm
Discussion 7:30– 8:30pm
Tuesday October 5th 6-7:30 via Zoom

[Click here to register](#)

Tres Maison is a moving portrait of three unforgettable young boys struggling to grow up with a parent in prison.

Told directly through the eyes of the children themselves, the film follows the children as they face the pressure of growing up in a society that often demonizes their parents, offers little support for their families, and assumes “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”. Society writes them off as criminals but in their hearts their children still see them as Mom and Dad.

Laura Knoy, NH public radio journalist will facilitate the discussion. The panel will include Al, a NH student who has had both his mother and father incarcerated in his young life.



Indigenous People’s Day
Ritual, Prayer, Learning and Conversation
Sunday October 10th 4pm via Zoom

[Register here](#)

You are invited to a digital, online celebration and observance of Indigenous People’s Day with the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire.

You can come learn about the rich Native American indigenous history of New Hampshire as well as some of the current struggles against injustice indigenous people face here today. Churches across America are renouncing the legacy and Doctrine of Discovery—renouncing that Europeans had a right to seize and colonize land in North America. Come learn about this important and exciting movement.

This event will feature Paul and Denise Pouliot of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki, Professor Paula Salvio from UNH—Durham and Bishop Rob Hirschfeld of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire.

Pledge Cards and Giving Status

Members and friends of the Jackson Community Church in the next few weeks you should be receiving 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 (QED)** 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



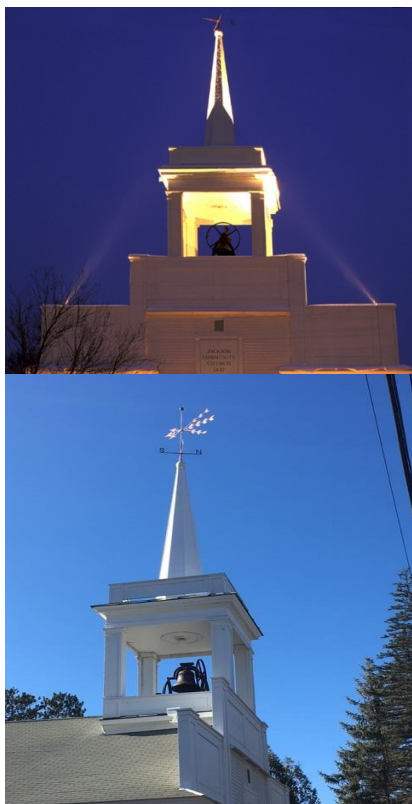
Have you considered naming Jackson Community Church in your estate plans?

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 every evening to shine our love, hope and to remind us of those who hold a special place in our hearts.

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: _____

