



# Inside Out:

*The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church*  
Vol. XIX, No.7

Winter 2020

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

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



Friends —

This December is filled with anxiety, anticipation and reflection. The past few months, we've provided daily meditations to help light your way in these times. As we approach Christmas, and look beyond it, let us pause. Catch our breath. Consider where we find ourselves as a community.

What if we reconsider what holiday means? Holi-days are holy days.

What if every day of this year has been a holy day? And every day we continue to wake up to breathe, live, work, worship, play, and learn together, becomes one more holy day? What if holy days were more than Sundays, Easter, and Christmas? What if we accept every day as holy? As sacred? As a gift?

If you think about the past year in this way, our faith community — and all those connected to us — have made every day holy. Though we are a small church, we are strong. Sustainable. Shining bright. This village church has been, with its share of bumps and bruises along the way, a faith community that has grown and thrived for the past twelve months.

We kept our doors open and unlocked, so that people could find a sanctuary. Developed ways to interact with the wider community. Strengthened civic partnerships for cultural and social justice initiatives such as concerts and Courageous Conversations. Put hopeful messages on sign boards. Established a lending library in the front of the church, so people could read and discuss books on current issues. Created ways for people to interact throughout the seasons: butterflies on the cross, prayers on the fence, painted pumpkins in the autumn, and most recently with Advent Christmas trees outside plus ornaments and Advent candle kits for families at home. Met for outdoor educational, social, and spiritual gatherings. Gathered virtually and in-person: creatively and safely. Made music as we learned new ways to sing together. Developed new study groups and supported other small-group gatherings who found homes on zoom or in the church.

This little church has marked life moments along the way. We continue to marry people. Memorialize people who have died. Waved good-bye to beloved friends who moved away. Prayed through personal and world crises. Welcomed new neighbors to the valley and also many people from different parts of the nation and world to join us virtually — via zoom — for conversation, learning, and worship.

We served others. Volunteered throughout the pandemic, working on several issues, such as homelessness, food insecurity, and racial justice. Tended to each other: carried meals and messages, care packages and cards. Worked at the polls. Conducted cautious visits and planned compassionate walks. Provided rides for medical appointments and errands. Offered grocery and newspaper drop-offs. Called each other to conduct wellness check-ins. Collaborated with other faith communities, nonprofit, and civic partners in the valley — and other parts of the world — on causes ranging from emergency food ministries to social justice concerns and shared religious observances.

Yes, we are changed. Yet we are here. And we didn't wait for Christmas to become a tenacious form of hope and healing for each other. We've done it every holy day of this difficult year.

Together we pause and imagine a different kind of Christmas. We have traditions and people that are out of reach this year. Plans that must change. Perhaps we can agree that many of us are exhausted and wrung-out. And yet, can we also say that we are feeling hopeful? Connected? Inspired?

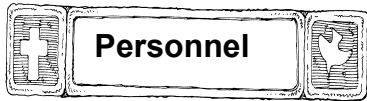
Receive the gifts of this season. We have each other. And we are bound together by a Holy and transformative Love that will not be deterred by pandemic, disease, death, or our human imperfections. This Love is born again, into the world, and into our lives, in times like these.

We embody that Love for each other.

Let's stop and consider this realization. *We embody Holy Love for each other.* We've proven it in the past year! Look at the paragraphs above, and how this little church tells part of a larger sacred story. Love is tenacious and resilient, and finds a way to support and change us.



## Jackson Community Church



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Co-Moderator/Treasurer

Linda Gray 356-5683  
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Joanne Turner 383-6187  
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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 16th at 7pm. .

### **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the January newsletter will be Tuesday, December 29th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: [jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org](mailto:jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org)

The same truth resides in the Nativity story. God has worked through flawed people throughout the centuries. That includes the tales of the people chosen to prepare a way for Christ, the all-too-human parents and family and community who helped welcome and raise the child Jesus, and those who followed him in his adult life and ministry. Scripture tells us that these were human people filled with doubt, mistakes, and mischief, as well as creativity and courage.

It's still true! In our own time, Holy Love shows up, because we are the beloved and messy, mortal, and imperfect children of God. Yet our Creator loves us and acts through us. Chooses us: again and again and again. Makes a difference through us.

During Advent, we take time to prepare. And Holy Love is reborn into the world through our hearts, hands, minds, and lives. It balances us, fills us to overflowing, and connects us to something greater than ourselves.

With the grace of this sacred gift, this stubborn Love, may we continue to sustain each other through the tough times. Find and reach out to the loneliest among us, and connect each other, so we all have a sense of belonging. And celebrate every moment we recognize as sacred: both the most mundane and simple times as well as the mountaintop, holiday-scaled ones.

God has spent this year — and every day of every year of our lifetimes — cultivating the rebirth of Holy Love within us and among us. May every day be a holy day for each of us.

Now let us listen to the poet below as she helps us grow prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, God With Us. Blessings in this holy-day season.

— Rev Gail

**Prepare: A Blessing for Advent** —Jan Richardson

Strange how one word  
will so hollow you out.  
But this word  
has been in the wilderness  
for months.  
Years.

This word is what remained  
after everything else  
was worn away  
by sand and stone.  
It is what withstood  
the glaring of sun by day,  
the weeping loneliness of  
the moon at night.

Now it comes to you  
racing out of the wild,  
eyes blazing  
and waving its arms,  
its voice ragged with desert  
but piercing and loud  
as it speaks itself  
again and again:

*Prepare, prepare.*

It may feel like  
the word is leveling you,  
emptying you  
as it asks you  
to give up  
what you have known.

It is impolite  
and hardly tame,  
but when it falls  
upon your lips  
you will wonder  
at the sweetness,

like honey  
that finds its way  
into the hunger  
you had not known  
was there.

# Church Family News and Prayers



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

Dec 17: Judith & Bill Botsford

*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.

## Messages of Thanks

**Many thanks to our Jackson Community Church friends for all your care, cards, concerns, and prayers. My husband Richard continues to improve after having two strokes. He has finished his rehab at Spaulding Rehabilitation facility here in Sandwich, MA and is working hard on his own to continue his recovery. We are so grateful for all your prayers and especially for the encouraging messages over the past months. We take life day by day with this new challenge, and are thankful for the small things in life.**

**Joyce and Richard Augustine**

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Yesterday Linda dropped in bringing enough food for several days. . . a beautiful poinsettia and a wonderful chat. It's so good to see folks these days with the pandemic raging, but we tried to stay socially separated and stay safe.

Arden was the first from JCC to reach out to us during Thanksgiving and what a wonderful assortment of tasty treats she provided, even had small bottles of wine. the thoughtfulness that went into her "gift" amazed us. Veggies, soup, stuffing, desserts (included after-dinner mints!), but the best aspect was a neighbor helping a neighbor.

Then the phone call from Linda asking what we would prefer for dinner - and her arrival with a basket full of goodies overwhelmed John and I. Thinking of everything including soup from Kit, cards, poinsettia. . .

Gail, we continue to be in awe of you and what you and the member of JCC have done for the community and each other. Heartfelt thanks to each of you - don't ever change - you're too valuable to the church and community 🙏 *John & Judy*



**The church sanctuary is open Christmas week.  
Come see the beautiful nativity scenes & creche display while  
listening to joyful Christmas music.**

**Things to do Christmas week:**

- Pick up Christmas eve candles for 5pm in person and/or 9pm Candlelight service, available in the front of the church.
- Add an Advent ornament to the tree with your hopes and wishes. Ornaments can be found under the trees outside, as well as inside the front door.
- Contact the church office if you need a Zoom link to any event.

## **Christmas Eve**

### **5pm Outdoor Candlelight Walk**

Join us for a stroll on the Jackson Community Church grounds. This will be an in person, socially distanced gathering with a mandatory mask requirement. Gather outside for a firelit journey with carols and the Christmas story shared in a walk between a few “stations” around the church grounds, ending in front of the Christmas trees with candlelight.

The outdoor Candlelight Walk will happen if it is snowing—please dress accordingly. We will cancel if it is raining.

### **9pm Christmas Eve with Carols and Lessons by Candlelight**

This will be a virtual event held via Zoom and broadcast live on Facebook. The Christmas story will be shared in brief readings to narrate the lighting of each Advent candle leading up to the Christ candle. There will be special music prepared by the Jackson Church Choir and live music from the Sanctuary. This will NOT be an in person service.

## **Christmas Day**

### **10:30am Christmas Storytelling and Carol-Sing**

A perfect way to spend Christmas morning. Stay in your PJ's and join us via Zoom for storytelling and carols. Sue Titus Reid will be playing the piano. Take out your bells and join the fun.

# 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.

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In November Honduras was hit hard with two back to back hurricanes. Hurricane Eta and Hurricane Iota have devastated the areas of Plan Grande and San Jose, where Honduras Hope has been working to empower communities through health, education and self-sufficiency.

If you read the Honduras Hope winter [newsletter](#) you will see various testimonials on how the local people of this area were surviving during the Covid pandemic and how Honduras Hope was making a difference. After the back to back hurricanes many houses were destroyed, the water system is no longer functional, roads can not be crossed.... You can read about the hurricane updates [here](#).



The Jackson Community Church has been a supporter of Honduras Hope for years. Meg Phillips has traveled to this area many times and knows the program well. In years past we were able to offer hand made baskets for sale at Christmas time to benefit this program, hopefully we can again in the future. In the meantime if you would like to donate you may send a tax deductible donation to:

Honduras Hope  
PO Box 60  
Franconia, NH 03580

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The NH UCC Conference recently conducted a mass appeal to address food insecurities in Zimbabwe. They were able to raise \$8,000 NH wide and have sent half of those funds so far. They have received many photos of jubilant people expressing joy and dancing around bags of mealie-meal.

The Ukama Mission Group wishes to thank everyone for their generosity and will continue to send funds to help with food insecurities.



## Mission Card Sale



The Mission Committee is doing things a little bit different this year when it comes to creative gift giving, they have a table set up in the Narthex with Heifer cards and order sheets, as well as cards to benefit Zimbabwe. These make great gifts with a purpose for those who have everything they need, while helping others. When ordering you can fill out the sheet and place your donation in the wooden church box, use a card to show a gift was purchased in their honor.

These are both non profits that help families in need, or help provide services that help sustain communities. Please consider giving family and friends a gift that keeps on giving.

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## 2021 Calendars



The Gibson Center is collecting any 2021 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.

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## Joyce and Mike Scott Working on Houses, Talking 'bout Jesus

A message from Joyce Scott: *Hello Everyone! We are home and SOOO looking forward to celebrating Christmas with our family! We believe we will be called out again in late January God willing! He is GOOD all the time!!! :)*

Shalom, Joyce

You can find the latest newsletter from Joyce regarding her families mission with Samaritans Purse [Here](#).

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## Donations for those with food insecurities

**The Food Pantry** continues to seek donations of non perishable food staples such as peanut butter, canned tuna, or canned soups. They are currently looking for items like laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels. They will always accept and appreciate grocery store gift cards.

**The Way Station** distributes hearty meals in a can and individual ready to eat food and snacks.

**The Gibson Center** has requested pasta sauces and canned vegetables.

## Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the  
**Jackson Community Church**  
will be held on  
Wednesday January 20, 2021.

Please mark this on your calendar as it is an important meeting for all to attend.

This years Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom. The link will be sent out as we get closer.

The Annual Reports will be sent via PDF the beginning of January, with hard copies being available in the front of the church. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you please contact the church office at [jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org](mailto:jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org)

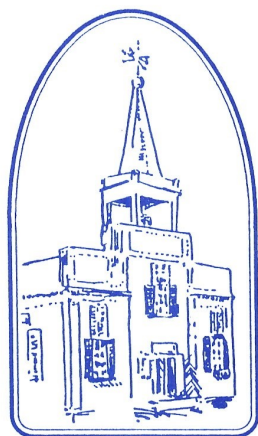
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## Pledge Cards

Members and friends of the Jackson Community Church the church treasurer and members of the church council are hard at work putting together the 2021 budget but we need your help. While we are meeting more remotely than in person at this time, the church is still active and alive. Last month you may have received a letter that included a 2021 pledge card. For those who have returned their card with their 2021 financial commitment—we thank you. It helps us plan how we can serve members, friends and the community in the upcoming year as well as keep the lights on and the building secure and heated.

If you did not receive a pledge card or it got misplaced there is still time. You can print and use the pledge card below or even jot down a note and send it to the church office: PO Box 381, Jackson

Thank you!!!



Envelope Number  
(for office use)

### FOR CHURCH RECORDS

Date:

Name

Address

Post Office

State

Zip Code

☐ In response to God's gift of love through Christ and because I desire to support the church's ministries,

I plan to give beginning \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each ☐ week ☐ month

☐ For an annual total of .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

Jackson Community Church

### FOR YOUR RECORDS

Date:

☐ In response to God's gift of love through Christ and because I desire to support the church's ministries, I plan to give for the year beginning \_\_\_\_\_:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ each ☐ week ☐ month

☐ For an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

Name:

You will see this sign  
at all entrances as a  
friendly reminder.  
We Thank You!!



# Mask Required In This Location

**Appropriate facial coverings (covering the nose and mouth) are required at the Jackson Community Church in all public spaces and bathrooms.**

**This helps keep you and our staff safe. Those who do not adhere to our guidelines will be asked not to use the space. (we do have safety cameras clearly marked)**

**For small groups meeting with permission at the church: there will be no serving of food and beverages on property, for example no potluck or serve yourself food. It is ok to bring your own individual beverages and individually wrapped food items.**

**Email: [jchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org](mailto:jchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org) for questions regarding this policy.**

**Thank you for your cooperation!  
#StopTheSpread #StayHealthy**



## 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.

OR

Donations can be sent to Jackson Community Church  
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](mailto:jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org)*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thoughts/Prayers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **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

