



# Inside Out:

*The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church*  
Vol. XXI, No.2

February 2022

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

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



Friends — Two amazing spiritual leaders have died recently, yet left an enduring mark on their communities and the world. What can we learn from them?

When we look closer to home, who do each of us find to be teachers and advocates? Who shapes our views of the world and our faith practices? Conversely, for whom might we be significant figures who guide and

influence the perspectives and experiences of others?

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, who died in December 2021, was one of the South African leaders who guided his church and his country beyond the suffering, segregation, and violence of apartheid toward forgiveness, justice, peace-making, and nation-building. He was appointed by President Mandela to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which investigated human rights abuses committed by both pro and anti-apartheid groups. He was famously good friends with the Dalai Lama; they co-authored *The Book of Joy* together. As a writer, he published seven books of sermons, and many other titles advocating for healing and reconciliation processes, including *The Book of Forgiveness*. He won the Nobel Peace prize and other awards. Later in his career, he promoted the rights of LGQTQ brothers and sisters within the Anglican church and as citizens in nations where they are marginalized.

According to many sources, his favorite part of scripture was Romans 6-8. One portion of it says, *“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption ... we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit ... testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”* Tutu affirmed and celebrated the plurality of human societies, including the diversity of faith traditions that enriches human communities.

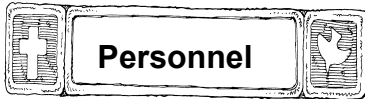
During his life, Tutu implemented the ethics and ideals of his Christian faith as tangible, meaningful initiatives that addressed injustices in his own nation and other societies around the world. Among many enduring words he spoke, Desmond Tutu encouraged people by saying, *“Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.”*

Can you hear the reflection of our community in those words? We are more complex than social issues which have been reduced to absolute, binary extremes; usually our views and experiences are nuanced. As people, we shouldn't be categorized, defined, and dumbed-down into being on the 'right or wrong' position of a debate, the acceptable 'yes or no' of a vote. When we hesitate, caught between polarizing views and issues, resisting glib labels about ourselves or others, we demonstrate that we see each other, and ourselves, as humans.

Sure, we may get mad at each other. Take exception. Disagree. Choose to maintain some distance.



## Jackson Community Church



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### Church Council

The Church Council meets once a month on the 2nd 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, February 9th at 7pm.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the March newsletter will be Wed Feb 23rd. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: [jjchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org](mailto:jjchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org)

Yet we are also quick, in this village and valley, to offer simple and daily gestures of care for both neighbors and strangers. We have patience for visitors who rush and are rude. We return, when possible, their folly with forbearance. We look past the ways we disagree with our neighbors, when it matters most, to respond with compassion and concern to someone else's fear, loss, and pain. Our ordinary acts of love and kindness, as Tutu says, point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.

Thich Nhat Hanh, respectfully called Thay by his followers, was a Vietnamese Buddhist monk, writer, peace activist, and teacher. He was the originator and practitioner of 'Engaged Buddhism' and is also influential in the practice of mindfulness in Western society. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace prize by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Thich Nhat Hanh was originally exiled from Vietnam due to his resistance activities in his homeland. He established a sangha — Buddhist community — called Plum Village in France: other affiliated communities also exist. Only toward the end of his storied 95-year life was he welcomed back to his native country: Vietnam. He finally returned to his temple of origin toward the end of his life, and died there in January 2022. He was the author of 130 titles, including *Living Buddha*, *Living Christ* and many others.

Thich Nhat Hanh was also a proponent of environmental justice. One of his most-cited quotes remains, "*Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet.*"

In a region so blessed with natural beauty and resources, it is a pleasure to hold his recommendation in mind. To step out the door, when we're fit enough to do so, and explore the woodlands, the shadowed paths, the open fields, the ascending slopes, the bare peaks, the cascading, waterfalls, the winding rocky rivers, and calm lakes. To connect by water or on foot, experience a bluebird day on skis or with a fishing pole in hand, climb up a new rock face or take the next swing on the course. To raise flowers or tap maple trees, to collect honey from the combs or bring in vegetables from the garden.

We are minded, by the dailiness of the majesty around us, to cherish this part of the world, in all of its resilience and abundance. To realize it remains in danger, as does the global environment on a larger scale, if we fail to pay attention and act. To recognize in our hearts and minds, that as we interact with the wild and tame landscapes of our homes, we are called to make choices that will hold such treasures in trust for generations to come. May we walk, and live, as if we are kissing the earth with our feet.

Nhat Hanh coined such phrases as *inter-being*: the principle that all living beings have reciprocal and interconnected existences and relationships with other creatures and people in the world. He illustrated this tenet through the classic - and uncomfortable - poem which follows:

## “Please Call Me by My True Names” — Thich Nhat Hanh

Do not say that I'll depart tomorrow —  
even today I am still arriving.

Look deeply: every second I am arriving  
to be a bud on a Spring branch,  
to be a tiny bird, with still-fragile wings,  
learning to sing in my new nest,  
to be a caterpillar in the heart of a flower,  
to be a jewel hiding itself in a stone.

I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry,  
to fear and to hope,  
the rhythm of my heart is the birth and death  
of all that are alive.

I am the mayfly metamorphosing  
on the surface of the river,  
and I am the bird which, when Spring comes,  
arrives in time to eat the mayfly.

I am the frog swimming happily  
in the clear water of a pond,  
and I am the grass-snake  
that silently feeds itself on the frog.  
I am the child in Uganda, all skin and bones,  
my legs as thin as bamboo sticks.

And I am the arms merchant,  
selling deadly weapons to Uganda.

I am the twelve-year-old girl,  
refugee on a small boat,  
who throws herself into the ocean  
after being raped by a sea pirate.

And I am the pirate,  
my heart not yet capable  
of seeing and loving.

I am a member of the politburo,  
with plenty of power in my hands.  
And I am the man who has to pay his  
“debt of blood” to my people  
dying slowly in a forced labor camp.

My joy is like Spring, so warm  
it makes flowers bloom all over the Earth.

My pain is like a river of tears,  
so vast it fills the four oceans.

Please call me by my true names,  
so I can hear all my cries and laughter at once,  
so I can see that my joy and pain are one.

Please call me by my true names,  
so I can wake up  
and so the door of my heart can be left open,  
the door of compassion.

## Pastor's Letter Continued

May we learn relevant lessons offered by the lives and practices of these two great teachers. May we also be shaped by local spiritual teachers and guides who enter our lives. May the events of the wide world echo in the intimacy of our valley and village: reminding us we belong to each other, we are connected to each other, and we share one home: this planet. May we recognize holiness in each other, as children of God, and realize that we are stewards of the lives and landscapes that enrich our corner of the world.

Blessings during this snowy, chilly month! Be a student: stay curious, continue to learn. And yes, be a teacher through the compassion you offer. Let today be one in which you make a small difference for yourself and others. Then wake up, and do it again. And again. And again. Such days add up. Eventually, you will measure a lifetime of your own holy choices shaped by the loving Way you choose to live. — *Rev Gail Doktor*



### PROTESTANT CHAPEL ASSOCIATION Jackson, NH

#### Annual Meeting Notice

**Annual Meeting of the Protestant Chapel Association** – will take place on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 4:00pm via Zoom. The agenda is as follows:

- Approval of the February 10, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Approval Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers & Directors
- President's Report
- Membership Status – Pew Openings
- LCHIP Church rehabilitation Grant
- New Business
- Old Business

To act upon any other business that may legally come before this meeting

An email will be sent to members with the Zoom link and will include the Treasurer's Report and the minutes of last year's meeting.

Joyce Allan  
PCA President

# Church Family News and Prayers



Feb. 5: Donovan Spaulding  
Feb. 9: Talia Hutchings  
Feb. 11: Caleb White  
Feb. 25: Esmae Doucette

*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.



The Jackson Community Church will be hosting the First Church in Ipswich, UCC Youth Groups on Saturday February 5-6th and Friday February 11-12th for their youth retreats.

They have lots of fun and spiritual things planned and are grateful to be able to use the church space.

The Church Council will meet on the second Wednesday of the month.  
The first half of 2022 schedule is as follows:

Wednesday	February 9th
Wednesday	March 9th
Wednesday	April 13th
Wednesday	May 11th
Wednesday	June 8th



## 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 Group 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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## Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry

The Mission Committee wishes to thank the JCC congregation for their ongoing generous donations to help those with food insecurity in our community.

Donations can be dropped off anytime at the Church foyer in the designated basket.

### The Way Station is in need of:

- Hearty soups, stews, canned spaghetti, canned tuna or chicken. (**Only with pop tops**).
- Energy bars, fruit drink boxes, individual fruit cups, peanut butter.
- Wrapped snack crackers and small raisin boxes.

For non-food donations for the Way Station contact Jeanette Heidmann or send to the Way Station at PO Box 1888, North Conway 03860

### The Bartlett/Jackson Food Pantry is in need of:

- Condiments, canned meat, and jams/jelly.
- Paper towels, toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent.

The food pantry also accepts gift cards, checks and cash donations. Send to Birdy Ellsmore at PO Box 796, Glen NH 03838 or drop off to pantry staff at the side door of the Glen Community Church between 10 and 12 on the first and third Saturdays.

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## The NH Food Bank will be in Conway



**February 3rd from 12:00-2:00 pm**  
**Ham Ice Arena**  
**87 West Main Street, Conway**

The NH Food Bank will bring truckloads of food to distribute to families and individuals. No proof of income is needed and this is a drive-by event. If you know of someone who could benefit from this program, please pass this information along. Come for your own household or pick up for your family, friends or neighbors.

They are also looking for volunteers to load food into peoples vehicles. If you are interested they have many slots to fill and you can sign up [HERE](https://nhfoodbank.volunteerhub.com/) (<https://nhfoodbank.volunteerhub.com/>)



## UCC Mission Collection

The success and sustainability of the national ministries of the United Church of Christ relies on churches contributing to basic operating support and mission. Being 5 for 5 means our church provides support to Our Church's Wider Mission along with the four Special mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund. The Jackson Community Church is proudly a 5 for 5 church.

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. In past years we have asked for donations multiple times per year focusing on specific missions. This year you will see information in each month's newsletter - highlighting a mission - and we will do one BIG collection in the fall. Hopefully you can become familiar with each Special Mission Offering and when the time comes give generously. This month we focus on One Great Hour of Sharing.



One Great Hour of Sharing channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster responses. It is administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Where does your support go?

Water is life. Water is love. Let love flow.

Access to clean fresh water is vital for all of humanity, but for women in particular, water access means the difference between life and death for them and their families. For women and children around the world, it can be a 12 hour walk to the nearest water source to collect water in order to maintain basic needs and crucial hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In 2021 with your support, along with other UCC Churches, 100 families benefited from the Water Well project, sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Mozambique (UCCM). When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the hopeful future of women and children around the world. Children can now attend school rested and ready to learn instead of spending their day collecting water from afar.

This is just one example of where your donations go and help when you contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing through the Jackson Community Church's Mission Group. Every donation counts when matched with all the other UCC Churches—we can make a difference.

Look for the collection in the fall.

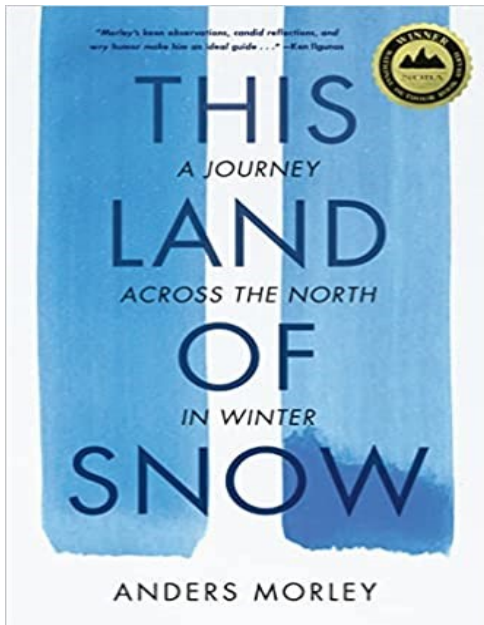
## Steeple Light

The Jackson Community Church Steeple is lit this month in memory of John Pepper from Joan and Paul Palubniak.

The Church Steeple will also be lit in memory of Eileen Pratti from her Star Island Friends.

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



## THIS LAND OF SNOW

By Anders Morley

2021 National Outdoor Book Award Winner

**Author Event @ Bartlett Public Library**

February 8, 2022 @ 7:00 PM

Please join the Bartlett Public Library for a presentation by the author of THIS LAND OF SNOW: A JOURNEY ACROSS THE NORTH IN WINTER. For as long as he could remember, Morley dreamed of taking a very long walk. Just as the snow was starting to fall in 2011 he set off alone to spend the four coldest months of the year traveling on skis across the half-wild country of northwestern Canada. This Land of Snow tells the story of that journey and of a man who must come to terms with the consequences of living

by nostalgia. It is an honest, thoughtful, and sometimes humorous reckoning of an adventure filled with adrenaline and exuberance, as well as mistakes and danger.

“A captivating memoir about backcountry adventures and one man’s journey of self-discovery—and an eloquent ode to the harsh beauty of winter.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

**Copies of the book are now available in the library**