

## Church Life 2022

The Church Life team is re-convening social opportunities for relationship-building, fun, friendship and volunteering in connection with Jackson Community Church.

Throughout the year, friends and members of the church attended various events together. Folks gathered at the annual Bridge Dance in Jackson. We attended programs offered by local libraries, the Whitney Community Center, the Historical Society, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Mountain Top Music, and other organizations. Teams from JCC supported local fundraisers such as celebrating at Boots n Bling to address domestic violence with Starting Point, walking to end Alzheimers, and climbing Mt. Cranmore to raise funds to help local families living with cancer through Jen's Friends. We rang the bell during the 9/11 walk through Jackson. The church participated in community events such as Trick or Treat, offering goodies for the children of Jackson.

Toward the beginning of 2022, we hosted the annual pre-Lenten Mardi Gras evening with jazz music and New Orleans cuisine, and in 2023 will again host this event as a pancake (crepe) dinner with live music. Last winter, friends snow-shoed and skied together, sometimes with Jackson Ski Touring, and sometimes independently; we anticipate doing so again. Last spring, women from the church gathered for a festive high tea at a local inn. In warmer weather, we held outdoor gatherings such as a BBQ. In mid-2022, we resumed once-a-month social gatherings following worship, hosted on the first Sunday of the month. At the end of the year, we renewed the annual Peace Concert which featured Dennis O'Neil and Davey Armstrong, well-attended by many community members.

In October, in the home of David and Ginger Perkins, a cross-section of community leaders, friends, neighbors, and church folks gathered to meet new people and brainstorm ideas for social opportunities and programs. As a follow-up in the late autumn, we renewed the 'brunch church' tradition of worshipping at a common table in the Parish Hall of JCC, scheduled before Thanksgiving. On that morning, people signed up for volunteer roles at church, voted on social activities in which they are interested, and turned in their pledges. Some of 2023's offerings will reflect the feedback shared at these two gatherings.

In conjunction with the Gifts of the Nutcracker study group for Advent, attendees also went to a 'Nutcracker Sweets' performance in Fryeburg. Church friends, members, and neighbors caroled in Jackson and Glen to cheer local residents during the Christmas season.

As 2023 begins, some activities will be originated by the JCC community and many more will involve existing programs that we encourage friends and members to attend and support. Already in this new year, we've enjoyed an outing for line dancing. We've also hosted the first in a series of game afternoons in the Parish Hall: it was well-attended and quite competitive, prompting lots of laughter as people played favorite games or learned new ones! In April, we're anticipating a field trip to study art and architecture, and look forward to a mix of additional programs.

If you're interested in helping build relationships, connecting to the community in fun and friendly ways, and enjoying the company of friends and neighbors, feel free to let the church office know you'd like to get involved. Send an email stating that you'd like to learn more about our Church Life team: [jcchurch@jacksconcommunitychurch.org](mailto:jcchurch@jacksconcommunitychurch.org).