



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church
Vol. XXI, No.4

April 2022

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Friends —

The sap is running. Dripping. Flowing. The earth knows more than we do, sooner, and tells us so, as the trees awaken. Life persists. Love is walking in the world.

In some tender places, the first bright blossoms have broken through soft earth. Though the bird feeders should be taken down by now, some are not, and the spring-winged pairs come to eat. To preen. To call. To build. To create new generations.

Already, as snow melts away, paw prints write a muddy poem on the land. We'll find, if we pay attention, signs that reveal restless creatures, hungry and lank, eager to replenish depleted energy.

Life is stirring all around us. Rising green. Rising hungry. Rising.

Annie Dillard says in one of her poems:

God empties himself
into the earth like a cloud.
God takes the substance, contours
of a man, and keeps them,
dying, rising, walking,
and still walking
wherever there is motion.
— *Annie Dillard*

Motion. Yes, the world is stretching herself. Reaching up. Reaching out. Reaching. Beings, tame and wild, prowl. Migrate. Fly. Amble. Hunt. Feed. Argue. Nest. Blink. Dance. Give birth. Sing. Seek.

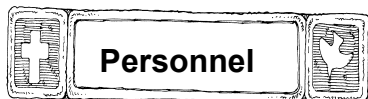
This activity includes us, the human ones who are also feeling the change of seasons, here in the north country of New Hampshire and in so many other places. We're bringing in bird feeders. Planning our gardens. Clearing the muck and mess as winter recedes. Shedding layers. Standing, eyes upturned, to watch the scudding clouds, frisky wind, playful birds, and budding world.

One prophet, imagining exiled people returning to their homeland, wrote in Isaiah 39, "*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.*"

Of course, the world may be singing around us. Yet it is also groaning. Pain and sorrow are part of this season, too. Grief. Violence. Hunger. Death. They are part of the headlines in our times. And they are also part of the holy story we study at this time of year.



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, April 20th at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the May newsletter will be Wed April 27th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Yet in this season of rebirth, we are called toward hope. Let the stories we tell each year, as we follow the Way of the Messiah, lead us from Palm Sunday's celebration through moments of betrayal and oppression, to acts of kindness and justice, pausing with death, grief, and absence, then waking to Easter's resurrection.

May our focus on the full spectrum of human experiences shared during Passion Week restore resilience and renewal within us. There's even one story about Mary Magdalene who goes to the borrowed tomb, and finds it empty. Distraught, confused, she weeps. Then she realizes she's not alone. Someone else is with her. She mistakes the risen Messiah for a gardener.

Imagine meeting the Messiah in your spring garden? Leaving muddy footprints in your just-bare earth? Startling you and the creatures around you, so the birds flit away, their songs interrupted? Surprising you? A person whose shape, whose face, ought to be familiar, but remains beyond recognition? Someone you couldn't have expected to find so close to you? Almost within reach? Utterly transformed?

Love comes back to us in this season. Walks through the garden of the world. Names us. Returns to us.

May this deep, abiding, death-overturning Love at the heart of our faith make itself known to you. May it rise, may it flow. May the voice of God's world sing your name in a new way, so that you are known to yourself all over again. Beloved. Child of God. Chosen.

May you share that song with others.

May you and I be changed by the Holy Week story. May it find its way into our beings.

May each of us hum the song of Life that persists, taste the sweetness of Love that rises, and reach. Reach for each other. Reach toward the waking world. Touch each other's hearts tenderly, and touch this world intentionally: bearers of Easter's hope.

Blessings! — Rev Gail



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.

PS: Below is one of Jan Richardson's Easter poems for you:

The Magdalene's Blessing: *For Easter Day*

—*Jan Richardson*

You hardly imagined standing here,
everything you ever loved
suddenly returned to you,
looking you in the eye
and calling your name.
And now you do not know
how to abide this hole
in the center of your chest,
where a door slams shut
and swings open at the same time,
turning on the hinge
of your aching and hopeful heart.
I tell you, this is not a banishment
from the garden.
This is an invitation,
a choice, a threshold, a gate.
This is your life calling to you
from a place you could never have dreamed,
but now that you have glimpsed its edge,
you cannot imagine choosing any other way.
So let the tears come
as anointing, as consecration,
and then let them go.
Let this blessing
gather itself around you.
Let it give you what you will need
for this journey.
You will not remember the words—
they do not matter.
All you need to remember
is how it sounded
when you stood
in the place of death
and heard the living
call your name.

Church Family News and Prayers



April 11: Rev. Gail Doktor
April 11: Shirley Gravink



April 25: Colleen and Steve Allbee

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!



Women's Group Tea Party

The Ellis River Inn in Jackson is hosting tea parties in their charming dining room. The Women's Group has booked Tuesday, April 19 at 1:00 for the group and friends to have a luncheon tea.

The menu includes tea in individual pots, a 3 tiered plate of sandwiches, followed by scones and little desserts. It is all well done with China teacups and all the trimmings. If you do not drink tea, you can have coffee. For an additional charge you may order a glass of wine.

The cost is \$25.00 plus tax and tip. You can charge your lunch, but you may have to pay the tip in cash.

You must make a reservation and you need to call as soon as possible if you have to cancel.

It will be a fun celebration of spring.

Call Linda Hastings at 603 383-9375 or email at jimlindahastings@roadrunner.com to make a reservation by April 15 and note any allergies or food issues when you reserve. If you find at the



Free Fitness Classes on Wednesdays and Fridays

Laurie McAleer offers a free weekly exercise classes at the church. Classes are held on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:30am.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally



Zimbabwe

Our partner church in Zimbabwe is nearing the last stages of completing the roof on the church they are building.

It will cost about \$26,000 for the last truss, the roofing materials and supplies and the machinery to erect and complete the roof. The Mission Committee has \$4,600.00 that can be sent to them to help complete the roof.

As a Lenten project, we would like to involve the congregation in helping to raise funds to help Raise the Roof. People who choose to participate may:

- Set aside \$1 per day (or the cost of a cup of coffee) during lent
- Choose another daily amount to set aside each day
- Donate a specific amount toward the Raise the Roof project.

This money would be added to the funds provided by the Mission Committee and make a big difference to our friends in Zimbabwe.

If you are interested in participating, please track your savings during Lent or simply make your one-time donation. Donations can either be mailed to the JCC, PO Box 381, Jackson NH 03846 (please note Raise the Roof Fund on your check), dropped off in the little white church in the narthex (again mark your envelope Roof Fund) or by donating online via the paypal link on our website noting the funds should go to Raising the Roof.

Bartlett Jackson Food Pantry



Feeding the Community

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.

The Bartlett/Jackson Food Pantry is in need of:

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



Plant Sale

Save the date!!!... the 7th annual Mission Plant Sale will be on Saturday May 21st from 8am to noon. This is a perfect time to pick up some plants to beautify your garden.

However.. They can not do it without you. If you are fortunate enough to have an abundance of plants; perennials that need dividing, extra seedlings, or a healthy houseplant looking for a new home...please consider donating to our sale! Look around when you do your spring cleanup—you might have extra to share. If you need pots, there will be plenty under the stairwell at the church in the beginning of May.

Please identify all plants dropped off.



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 months 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 Strengthen the Church.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

The Mission Team hopes that you support the four offerings in the fall, including Strengthening the Church. Your donations along with others make a difference.

Holy Week

Sunday, April 10th



10:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service: With Palm Processional and worship with themes of Holy Week.

Thursday April 18th



6pm Soup Supper & Table Worship: Gather with members and friends for a traditional Maundy Thursday Soup and table worship.

Friday April 19th Holy Friday



**GOOD
FRIDAY**

Noon-3pm Stations of the Cross: Join us for a journey through the 'stations of the cross.' Walk the stations in the Jackson Community Church Sanctuary.

6:00pm Holy Friday Service: Ecumenical Service organized by the Clergy of the Eastern Slope and hosted at the First Church of Christ, North Conway.

Sunday April 21st



5:45am Sunrise Service: Presidential Road (left at the top of Tin Mine).

10:30am: Easter worship with choral music, harp and the flowering of the cross.

Easter Lilies



The Flower Committee will be collecting donations for lilies to be placed at the altar during Lent and Easter. Lilies will be \$10 each.

Please include who the lily will be in honor/ memory of. All names will be included in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

Envelopes can be found in the front of the church or mail your information to: JCC, PO Box 381, Jackson NH 03846



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!

Steeple Light

This year the Protestant Chapel Association will be celebrating its 175 Year in Jackson, Along with this The Jackson Community Church will shine its light monthly. This month the Steeple is lit in memory Randy from his sister.

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

