



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church

Vol. XXI, No.10

December 2022

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



December 2022

Friends & Neighbors — We enter the Advent season as a time of anticipation, preparation, and waiting. It might sound like a passive way to participate in the holy year, and yet it is actually a time for getting ready.

How will you mark this season? Will you read a devotional? Light candles each evening? Keep a journal? Mark off days on an Advent calendar? Undertake specific mindful acts of kindness and conservation as a form of giving? Make donations? Shop? Sing? Decorate? Cook? Gather with other people?

At this end of this holy season, we celebrate the story about how Love arrives in our lives. Meanwhile, we enter a time for developing or renewing practices that support the many gifts we expect as we light the Advent candles each week: hope, peace, joy, and love.

How do we claim and cultivate our Advent gifts: : hope, peace, joy, and love? What do they truly offer to us?

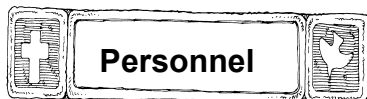
Hope, of course, might sound intangible or fairytale-esque. One famous motto states that hope is not a plan.

Actually, hope is based on plans and strategies. Research shows that hope is the human capacity to take a realistic inventory of the circumstances in which one finds oneself. By naming the existing situation, one can then make a step by step, actionable plan to change whatever might shift one's perspective, and perhaps one's situation. Sometimes we have sufficient agency and power to change our circumstances. Sometimes we bear witness, and resist, yet cannot change what is going on. Not alone, anyway. Hope may require a long-term, even generational view, to measure change and impact. Yet hope begins when we accept our starting point, then visualize, set objectives, and find achievable steps, in whatever ways we're able, to alter our situation. Through hope, we find ways to adapt. We claim resilience. Doing so, we strive to sustain our own and each others' wellbeing

Peace is not simply the absence of conflict or war, as we might assume, but is actually much more. Rather peace is an ongoing process as defined by Norwegian researcher Johan Galtung. Peace resists and overcomes, at its best, the violence in our world. Violence, contested by peace, is the opposing factor that operates on our lives and in our world.

Galtung's definition of lasting peace is built on individual, structural, and cultural aspects of peace. Individual peace seeks to preserve life itself and promote human and planetary flourishing. Structural peace represents the systematic ways that all groups have equal access to opportunities, goods, and services that enable the fulfillment of basic human needs. Cultural peace signifies the existence of prevailing, persistent social norms that make the hallmarks of individual and structural peace seem 'natural', 'right', or 'good'. In our own faith community's connection to Zimbabwe, we might also use the Shona word *ukama* which implies an interrelated connection among people bound through kinship, affinity, and reciprocal bonds affirming our common worth, dignity, and wellbeing.

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, December 14 at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Joy is that deep, enduring state of being fed by compassion, gratitude, and perspective, even in difficult times. Rather than occurring as a fleeting feeling, which comes and goes based on external stimuli, joy rises from an inner wellspring of capacity for resilience and wellbeing. As people of faith, we believe that such strength and capacity for joy comes from connection to what is holy and bigger than ourselves. It is that bond to divine presence that sustains our full humanity and wellbeing.

How do we access joy? In part, through practices which we began in November, focusing on thankfulness to hone focus and perspective. Gratitude contributes to our ability to touch joy. When we remain attentive, appreciative, and mindful, we can find joy even in the midst of dark times and troubles places. It occurs in both exquisite, extraordinary moments as well as major milestones.

Love, of course, has many aspects. Love is both a noun and a verb. It is an action. Love, too, continues as an open-ended process. It requires tending and maintenance, care and growth. It flourishes through intimacy of mind, heart, and body in varied ways.

With the spectrum of love, the most aspirational and largest version of love is *agape*, which is the holy love of Godself for humanity and humanity's reciprocal love for Godself, which also extends to peoples' love for the rest of humanity. In Christian tradition, this is embodied by the two great commandments to love God with all one's heart, and mind, and strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself. Covenant language often implies the *agape* relationship. Other forms of love include *eros* as passionate, romantic love between two people and *philia* as deep love between friends. Humans are designed for connection and made stronger by our capacity to love.

How might we pay attention to these four gifts, and ready ourselves to receive them and to offer them? May the prayer below, from Jan Richardson, open us to the presence of Holy Love's homecoming in our heart and lives. May we dream and strive for all that we might accomplish — claiming these four gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love — as individuals and as a community in this season of Advent.

Blessings!

— Rev Gail

Prayer — Jan Richardson

Guardian of the seasons,
keeper of every time,
tune us so to your rhythms
that we may know
the occasion for stillness
and the moment for action.

May we be so prepared
so aware
so awakened
in our waiting
that when you prompt us
into motion,
our hands may be your hands
and our purposes
your own.

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

December 17:
Judy and 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!



On Sunday, December 11th the Jackson Church will be going out into the community and spreading Christmas cheer from 12:30pm-3pm.

If you know of anyone in Jackson, Glen, Bartlett area who would enjoy a visit and singing from church members and friends please let us know.



Rev. Gail continues to help members of the church and community with pastoral visits through physical distancing, phone call or by remote video. If you're aware of someone who might benefit from a



Free Fitness Classes on Tuesdays and Fridays

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

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally



Mission Group—November 9th 3:30

Are you passionate about a cause that is either international or local? Bring your ideas and positive energy to the Mission Team.

The Mission Group is always excited when new members and friends are interested in seeing what they are accomplishing. The Mission team will be meeting on November 9th at 3:30 at the church and all are encouraged to attend, there is no commitment involved.

Current members are Linda Hastings, Jeanette Heidmann, Kit Griffin, Meg Phillips, Jean Melczarek, and Gloria Hutchings.



2023 Calendars for the Mission Team

The Mission Team is collecting 2023 calendars to be distributed through the Gibson Center's Meals on Wheels program and to the Mineral Springs Nursing Home. If you receive any calendars that you will not be using they can be left in the box in the Narthex.

The Mission Team is pleased to pass on that the JCC has received sincere thank you notes from :

Jen's Friends - They help people in the area dealing with a cancer diagnosis with everyday living expenses such as groceries and transportation.

The Gibson Center - Our donation helps them provide services to seniors such as meals, classes, vaccinations and transportation.

The Way Station- Supports homeless and housing insecure with food, laundry and showers and give assistance into safe shelter.

Star Island - Our donation helps make Star Island accessible to more people and provides accessibility, sustainability and stewardship on Star.



The Mission Committee will not display Heifer or Zimbabwe cards this year. Please contact a member of the mission committee if you are interested in donating and receiving a card.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Way Station, the day resource center supported by the Jackson Church and located in North Conway at 15 Grove Street, needs volunteers.

The center is open on **Mondays** and could use help any time between **10 and 2**. The work would involve digitally allocating phone cards to clients, processing incoming donated items, and helping with whatever pops up while you are there. The center is also open on **Thursdays**, which is when a large part of the distribution of items to their clients takes place. The need is between **2 and 6PM** and involves moving bags of groceries into the center, marking them for the recipient, and then putting them into the car delivering the bags. Once that is done, you would help prepare any other items distributed to walk-in clients and re-stock the shelves. The greatest need is between **2 and 4PM**. Also looking for drivers at **3PM** who would distribute the bagged groceries to local families, primarily in the Conway area.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Dan Lavigne, the Way Station part time employee, at 603-452-7113. If you have additional questions, contact Jeanette Heidmann at 603-733-7733.



THE BARTLETT/JACKSON FOOD PANTRY :

The Bartlett/Jackson Food Pantry is located at 9 Dundee Road, Intervale (off Route 16A—former location of Faith Bible Church). The pantry is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00am to 12 noon.

For more information contact a Mission Team member or Brenda Mederios (bartlettjacksonfoodpantry@gmail.com or 603-383-9246)

The pantry accepts all donations of unexpired food as well as paper products. They are currently in need of: Salad dressings, jelly, coffee, cereal, toilet paper and mayonnaise.

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE JCC FOYER ANYTIME IN THE DESIGNATED

Thank you

A big thank you from the Mission Committee to all those who assisted with the Angels and Elves family this year!



Christmas Worship and Celebrations



ADVENT

Come celebrate the four Sundays of Advent with services to include special readings and the lighting of the Advent wreath each week by different members of our church family.

- There are Advent candles available free for your household in the Narthex.
- The Advent Devotional with daily entries can be downloaded [here](#) and found in the Narthex.
- There will be a 3 week study group "The Redemption of Scrooge" on Wednesdays at 5pm via Zoom (Dec 8th, Dec 15 and Dec 22nd). Details can be found on jacksoncommunitychurch.org



Nov 27	First Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Dec. 4	Second Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Peace
Dec. 11	Third Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Joy
Dec. 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Lighting of the Candle of Love

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Sunday December 11th 12:30-3:00

Please join us as we spread some Christmas Cheer throughout the communities of Jackson and Bartlett to those housebound or in need of a home visit. Please let us know if you are planning to come along so that we can assign the routes. Also, let us know if you know of someone who would benefit from a visit from seasonal carolers. —All are welcome!!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT Sunday December 18th

Join Dennis and Davey in the sanctuary for a Peace Concert 3pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Saturday December 24th

5pm Outdoor Services of Scripture, Songs & Candlelight (non-zoom). Walk the stations of the nativity, sing favorite carols, listen to scripture, share candlelight. Bring home a memento.

7:30 & 10pm Carols, Lessons and Candlelight.

CHRISTMAS MORNING - PAJAMAS & STORYTELLING

Christmas morning 10:30am, wear comfortable clothing, even come in your festive PJs. Bring a sleigh bell or come ready to ring one. We will share a favorite children's Christmas story, sing a few songs, and "ring in" the holiday together.

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!



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

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

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ telephone: _____

Thoughts/Prayers: _____

