



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church
Vol. XXI, No.6

June 2022

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Friends — As the summer wraps around our world, calling forth heat, light, and life, we also grapple with local and world headlines. So did the people of ancient times, our spiritual ancestors, including the One who showed us the Way of holy love.

After grappling with difficult news recently, a member of our congregation reminded me: we often cannot control what happens in the world. *The only thing we can control is our response.* It's a lesson I have learned and re-learned in my life. Yet we all need reminders about such practical wisdom. So I'm passing it along.

Stated another way, "If you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans." Despite our best intentions, preparations, strategizing, and goal-setting, life will often throw us curve balls and surprises we couldn't have anticipated. Some will be personal. Others will be societal. Much of what happens in life remains beyond our control.

So what can we control? Our response.

Of course, we ought to take responsibility for our lives. We must be partners in our unfolding lives, by being accountable for choices or actions we take. Thus, while we may not choose the circumstances we encounter in life, we can choose what we do in each event's aftermath.

Each day, we face such decisions. We confront them individually and communally. What will we do in response to whatever is happening? As well know, there's always a lot happening!

Please understand, this doesn't mean that the challenges, trials, and suffering we experience in life are caused by Godself. We aren't being set some divine test or supernatural final exam. God isn't the cause of our sorrows and pain. *God shows up in the ways we find resources and relationships to support our responses to the challenges in our lives.*

God shows up alongside us. God is with us. We aren't alone.

Again, what can we control? Our response. As people rooted in faith communities, our ability to respond with resilience, hope, and compassion — even in tough times — can be shaped by the love and the Way that Jesus models. Jesus offered healing. Jesus offered connection. Jesus offered blessings.

Many of Jesus' responses met basic needs. Some reached deeper to address core spiritual issues. All are guided by the two great commandments: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

If you find that this is the scripture most repeated, even in these messages, it's because they are the heart of our faith. They guide how we ought to live. They shape how we respond.

In his lifetime, Jesus moved whole-heartedly through a world filled with imbalance and injustice. When possible, he provided — by story or example — ways to tip the scales. His own experiences, and the stories he told, offered tangible lessons that embodied the two great commandments, yet provided practical application.

What responses do you choose? Here are plenty of practical examples of how Jesus — and the people in his stories and lessons — embodied love that honors God, one's self, others, and creation. Pray first. Carry only what you need. Share the overflow; there's enough for everyone. Nurture relationships with friends and kindred. Expand the definition of family. Share resources. Choose good traveling companions. Meet basic needs first. Feed the hungry. Visit those in prison. Quench your own and others' thirst. Tend the ill. Comfort the grieving. Support others toward independence. Pray some more. Pause to connect yourself with the holy. Offer help. Accept help. Set aside time between moments of stress and service. Re-connect people who are outcast or isolated. Include the voices of folks who often go unheard. Critique existing systems. Say yes to invitations. Eat together. Savor good food. Show up. Be present, even if you cannot change anything. Take care of others. Let people take care of you. Pray. Say what you need. Spend time on the water. Linger in gardens. Sit under trees. Climb mountains. Retreat to a quiet place or a high place for perspective. Relax among children. Go fishing. Take naps. Express gratitude. Pray again. Cry openly. Walk if you have the choice. Travel. Cross borders. Throw parties. Pray some more. Build what you can. Plant seeds. Grow what is possible. Speak out publicly. Get angry, then let it go. Make breakfast for someone else. Introduce yourself to a stranger. Touch others. Let people touch you. Celebrate holidays. Sing. Go to the city. Learn people's names. Start where you are. Make pilgrimages to holy places. Read. Know your history. Tell stories. Practice peace. Make people uncomfortable. Remain honest. Communicate. Honor silence. Pray some more. Breathe. Inhale. Exhale. Welcome open dialogues with your critics. Ask questions. Listen. Talk out loud to Godself. Love.

You can add to the list above. *What are some of your potential responses to events in your life or situations in the world?*

In the beatitudes and parables Jesus told, many of the main characters were foolish. They made mistakes. As a result, some of them learned. Others never took risks and thus didn't grow.

In the parables, common, ordinary people became protagonists who took steps toward holistic and holy ways of living. Fictional heroes and historic figures, as we have recently learned by studying the imperfect examples of Jesus' close friends and followers, express doubt and misunderstanding, exhibit social awkwardness, and take creative risks. Through trial and error, by opening themselves to the discomfort of transformation, they cultivate whole hearts and minds. Over time, they uphold the dignity and worth of other human beings, recognize and respond to others' suffering, and steward the integrity of creation.

Often, these people don't have choices about their circumstances. Some heroes and heroines endure trauma and pain, yet Jesus focuses on how they react in the face of such experiences. Other admirable characters in his stories have an abundance of wisdom, resources, and influence, and choose to put these gifts to the service of others. *His teachings — sermons, beatitudes, parables, and other stories — highlight people who use whatever they have — emotionally, psychologically, physically, materially — to respond ethically to the realities around them.*

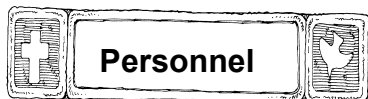
In his teaching, Jesus doesn't promise lack of suffering. He doesn't guarantee miraculous outcomes for every person: riches, health, power, and un-ending happiness. He doesn't predict that the world will suddenly become a panacea of social and economic equity, ecological stability, and eternal bliss.

Instead, Jesus wades into the midst of the world's gritty, tangible messiness: both personally and through his stories. He connects with individuals. Inspires communities. Shows up. Loves people and the world, not in spite of its messiness, but in recognition of its vulnerability and potential.

Given our times, which often feel as complex as events in Jesus' era, we need such reminders. The lesson? God's love doesn't promise some immediate end to all of our challenges, crises, and emergencies. *Rather God's love shows up, alongside us and sometimes through us, to meet people and creation in the depths of our hurt and loss.* God's love shows up to restore our capacity for hope, creativity, and tenacity.



Jackson Community Church



Rev. Gail Pomeroy Doktor
doktalk@gmail.com
978-273-0308

Joanne Turner 383-6187
Administrative 986-5018

Rob Weinstein IT/Tech

Maisie Brown Music

Valarie Willman Custodial

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, June 10th at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the July/Aug newsletter will be Mon June 29th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Through all times, in all places, during all circumstances, God stays with us and offers a path to rise up, take the next breath, and the next step. God's stays with us, and offers a Way to live with purpose. ***God offers a Way to control the one thing within our power: our response to whatever may be happening, by embracing resilience, compassion, and integrity.***

Below is a blessing penned by Jan Richardson for tough times. May it speak to us of how we respond to both the positive events and challenging moments of our lives and our times.

The Blessing You Should Not Tell Me

— Jan Richardson

Do not tell me
There will be a blessing
In the breaking,
That it will ever
Be a grace
To wake into this life
So altered,
This world
So without.
Do not tell me
Of the blessing
That will come
In the absence.
Do not tell me
That what does not
Kill me
Will make me strong
Or that God will not
Send me more than I
Can bear.
Do not tell me
This will make me more compassionate,
More loving,
More holy.
Do not tell me
This will make me
More grateful for what
I had.
Do not tell me
I was lucky.
Do not even tell me
There will be a blessing.
Give me instead
The blessing
Of breathing with me.
Give me instead
The blessing
Of sitting with me
When you cannot think
Of what to say.

In our times, may we respond with love in practical ways. Blessings!
— Rev Gail

Church Family News and Prayers



June 7: Lynn Lockard
June 16: Ellory Kearns
June 17: Emma McLeavey-Weeder
June 20: Daniel Weeder
Janice Brodil
June 27: Hannah Benson

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.



We would like to thank the Flower Team for many years of beautifying the church each and every Sunday. If you would like to donate an arrangement in honor or memory of a loved one

Thank you

Thank you to all those who attended the Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 5th.

The motion to approve to spend up to \$7,000 for the painting of the "newer" part of the church building at the same time as when we will be painting the historical section was passed unanimously.



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



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.



THE WAY STATION NEEDS FOOD ITEMS (See list below) and WARM BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, and TENTS:

- Hearty soups, stews, canned spaghetti, canned tuna/chicken. (Pop tops please)
- Energy bars, fruit drink boxes, fruit cups, peanut butter, shelf stable milk
Wrapped crackers and small raisin boxes.

For monetary 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 NEEDS:

- Condiments (ketchup and mayo).
- Coffee, snack bars and tomato sauce.
- Cake, cookie and brownie mixes and jello and pudding mix.
- Paper products and detergent (dishes & clothes).
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes.

THE FOOD PANTRY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILIES NEEDING FOOD:

A pantry volunteer is trained to work in pairs and covers 2 hour Saturday shifts at least once every 2 months (12 hours annually). For more details contact Birdy Ellsmore at bells-more4@roadrunner.com or 603-996-1659.

Do you know a Bartlett/Jackson family or shut-in who is in need of food or goods? They can arrange for a family member to pick up at the food pantry. Pick up is at the side door of the Glen Community Church between 10 and 12 on the first or third Saturday of the month? Please contact Brenda Mederios at 603-383-9246.

Do they require delivery? Please contact Birdy Ellsmore (603-996-1659).

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



The Mission Committee's 7th Annual Plant Sale was a HUGE success! We couldn't have done it without YOU though!

Many thanks to those of you who donated beautiful plants, seedlings, pots or who volunteered time to water, set up / take down the sale, or who helped find good homes for the plants, etc.

Many thanks also go out to those of you who are giving homes to these plants. May they bring you much beauty, satisfaction, yummy-ness, or all three!

The sale raised \$1823—we beat last years record!!!. The recipients of the funds are White Mountain Community Health Center, Legado and aid to Ukraine.

Locally: White Mountain Community Health Center

White Mountain Community Health Center provides comprehensive, high-quality primary care services and health education on a sustainable basis to women, men and children in the Mount Washington Valley community regardless of ability to pay.

They serve more than 3,000 patients of all ages and income levels in Northern Carroll County and Western Maine. They take a broad approach to health care and are committed to meeting a wide range of health needs for the individual and family by providing basic primary and preventive care, connecting patients with supportive resources both inside and outside of the health center and ensuring that patients have access to health care regardless of financial situation

Internationally: Legado

Legado is dedicated to developing, sustaining and growing authentic, long-term partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities who have deep relationships with places that are rich in biodiversity. Their main focus is in Mozambique and Kenya, however they are expanding into Latin America as well.

They currently focus on healthcare, education and the environment. Healthcare: They strive to increase access to healthcare while respecting the local culture and medical practices. Education: By improving community schools and growing support from parents and leaders they are making it possible for children to stay in school longer and become vital community members and leaders. Environment: The goal is to help maintain biodiverse areas to provide healthy forests and water sources.

Internationally: Aid for Ukraine

The UCC, through Global H.O.P.E. and Global Ministries, will be collaborating with ACT Alliance and the Reformed Church of Hungary (RCH), along with its agency Hungarian Reformed Church Aid to bring aid to Ukraine.

The Hungarian Reformed Church Aid has been offering humanitarian assistance in the war torn country of Ukraine. It is working with elderly and other vulnerable communities inside the country who have not been able to leave, including immigrants and migrant populations who are experiencing difficulties crossing into other European countries. HRCA is also working with refugees who are leaving the country.



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 The Christmas Fund.



Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

The Christmas Fund is distributed through the UCC Pension Boards. In 2021 proceeds from the Fund were distributed as follows:

- A total of \$254,000 was sent to 509 retired clergy/lay persons as Thank You gift checks. These checks are issued to retirees with limited financial resources as a way to say thank you for years of service to the United Church of Christ.
- A total of \$1,104,479 in pension supplements were provided to 231 retirees with limited financial resources in the form of monthly payments to bring their household income up to a minimum level so that they can afford basic needs such as food, utilities or medical expenses.
- A total of \$177,600 was provided to 231 retirees with limited financial resources to receive assistance to pay their UCC Medicare Supplement Plan premiums.
- A total of \$150,338 was provided to 53 individuals and families as emergency grants to help with unforeseen circumstances that create financial needs.

The Mission Team hopes that you support the four offerings in the fall, including The Christmas Fund (formally known as Veterans of the Cross). Your donations along with others make a difference.



90 Day Summer Challenge

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 – Wednesday, August 31, 2022 – Statewide

The Granite State 90 Day Summer Challenge begins June 1st. The challenge is to be physically active for 30 minutes or more every day in the months of June, July and August. Hike, bike, swim, jump-rope, walk, dance or garden – move however you like for 30 minutes.

Keeping Track

Click on the months below to print out the Activity Calendars and check-off each day you exercise for at least 30 minutes. This calendar is for your own personal fitness tracking.



Naturalist Led Hikes in Jackson Thursdays 10am-12pm in July & August

Join Tin Mountain Conservation Center for weekly hikes at the Jackson Field Station property. Highlights include the summit of Tin Mountain, a tin mine on the property, and historic homestead, and a mountain pond. Tin Mountain's naturalist will explain the historic use of the property, help identify plant species, and point out animal signs. These hikes are a great way to explore the lesser trod trails of the White Mountains and avoid the crowds.

Participants of all ages are welcome. Reservations required. Call 447-6991 or [Click here](https://www.tinmountain.org) to register online (www.tinmountain.org) or call 603-447-6991. Cost: \$15/person or \$25/household for non-members; Members: Free.

Steeple Light

The Jackson Community Church Steeple is lit this month in memory of Stanley Emerson and Jim Hastings Sr.

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



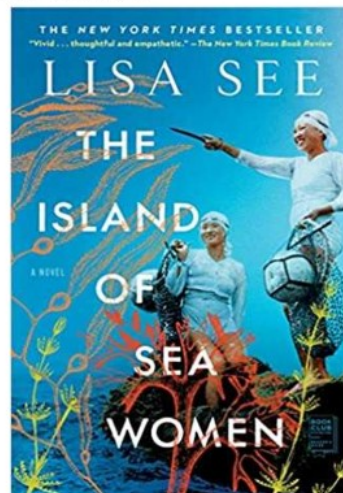
THE ISLAND OF SEA WOMEN

Bartlett Public Library

June 14, 2022 @ 7:00 PM

"A mesmerizing new historical novel" from Lisa See, about female friendship and devastating family secrets on a small Korean island.

Kristin Hannah's critique: "I loved *The Island of Sea Women* from the very first page. Lisa See has created an enthralling, compelling portrait of a unique culture and a turbulent time in history, but what's really remarkable about this novel is the characters—two women whose lifelong friendship is tested during impossibly difficult times. **Compelling, heart-wrenching, and beautifully written,** *The Island of Sea Women* will plunge you into a world and a story you've never read before and remind you how powerful women can and must be to survive."



Maureen Hanlon will facilitate this amazing book.

Please let Kathy or Elizabeth know if you'd prefer to join via Zoom.
Call 603-374-2755 and the link will be sent to you.

Copies now available in the library