



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church
Vol. XXII, No.5

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

May 2023



Friends & Neighbors —

Spring unfolds around us, awakening dormant plants and animals, renewing life through bud and birth! The Bible, too, is full of origin stories: the world's beginning, Christian movement's early formation, and many other starting points.

The most obvious place to find such a startup story is — *surprise!* — in the first book, Genesis, of the Hebrew Bible's Pentateuch, a collection of five books traditionally ascribed to Moses (scholars dispute Moses as author). Is Genesis the first book, because it is the oldest book in the Bible? No, not if we assign its age based on when it was written down, as a formal recording of earlier oral traditions. Instead, Genesis is given that placement, because it represents humanity's sacred narratives about our encounters with Godself, starting with the formation of the cosmos and all created beings, including people.

Also, to be clear, our church understands that Genesis' creation stories, compared with scientific and evolutionary accounts of the universe's beginnings or humanity's evolution, are different forms of writing that serve different purposes. Genesis' accounts and scientific theories are not incompatible or antithetical; they're totally different genres of thinking and writing.

Besides, even in Genesis, we find contradictions and variations. Did you know, that in the 1st and 2nd chapters of Genesis, we find TWO poetic stories about the creation of the earth? The first chapter of Genesis begins, *"When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters."* In the second chapter, the additional version of the creation story starts, *"In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens..."*

Both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament include many other origin stories. Some songs and wisdom sayings re-tell God's creative works in the foundations of the world. Some passages describe the birth of Wisdom and goes on to describe her role as co-creator. *"The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth."* In the first few paragraphs of the Gospel of John, we hear another story about the creation of the world, including the presence of Jesus Christ as the Word, present at the world's beginning, along with Godself. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* The Bible is full of beginnings. Even the Book of Revelation includes Genesis-like stories of new creation.

Our personal origin stories, our earliest primary relationships, influence our understanding of Godself. This may involve parents, grandparents, other adult family figures, guardians, and/or other primary caregivers present in our lives: crucial relationships from our earliest days on earth. For many people, such connections may be loving and healthy, and for others such formative memories may be frightening or harmful. Such experience usually translate into how we first perceive Godself: as kind and caring or distant and demanding, for instance. Ideally, difficult early relationships have also been offset by early healing ones. Not always. One way or another, the people who cared for and shaped our early environment and sense of self, from infancy to early toddler years, shape our original understanding of Godself.

The good news is that our connection to God may deepen, grow, and mature over time, even if it begins with the seeds of those first relationships as part of our first, primal conception of Godself. Our own work on self-awareness and personal development can change how we connect to Godself. Take time to explore your connection to the adults in your earliest lived experience, your childhood memories; you will likely find a reflection of how you first viewed and related to Godself. Has it changed over time? Each of us may discover a different, complex image of God. Do you find specific traits that also remind you of significant relationships in your past? Is Godself calm and contemplative and/or busy and active, disciplinarian and/or nurturer, remote and/or highly-involved, punitive and/or compassionate, authoritarian and/or intimate, boundaried and/or unconditional, supportive and/or demanding?

Recently, reading theologian Jan Richardson, I found an autobiographical poem she'd written. She says, "...*inspired by the baptizer [John] and by an Appalachian poet, I've been thinking about where I'm from, and what direction my roots are turning me toward.*" Her poem is based on the original teaching model found in the poem "Where I'm From" by George Ella Lyon (Richardson's Appalachian poet). Its cues help people write memoir-style poems. The resulting work, especially when rooted in vivid sensory images and family-based vernacular, shares glimpses into a person's family and childhood. Even into early, quotidian encounters with God. If you try this exercise, you'll find it deeply moving and challenging. To see examples and learn more about this form of autobiographical, poetic format, visit: <https://iamfromproject.com>. If you want to try this exercise, you may use this online guide to work on your own "Where I'm From" poem: <https://freeology.com/worksheet-creator/poetry/i-am-from-poem>. As you do, what do you discover about Godself in your family stories?

Over the next several weeks, leading up to the birthday of the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th, we'll explore different origin and creation stories in the Bible. We'll continue to tell stories about our spiritual, faith, and birth-adoptive-chosen families. For instance, we host guest speakers on Mother's and Father's Days in May and June, respectively, reflecting on their roles in personal and communal contexts.

Meanwhile, we'll provide invitations for you to explore your own beginnings and connections to Godself. This spring, let us enjoy. Learn. Reflect. Heal. Connect. Share. To start this discovery process, below are two poems. May you find the seeds of discovery and renewal in the sacred and personal stories you explore in the weeks ahead. As ever, know you are blessed and beloved. —



Rev Gail Doktor

BLESSING in the CHAOS — Jan Richardson

To all that is chaotic / in you,
let there come silence.

Let there be / a calming / of the clamoring,
a stilling / of the voices that / have laid their claim / on you,
that have made their / home in you,
that go with you / even to the / holy places
but will not / let you rest,
will not let you / hear your life / with wholeness /
or feel the grace / that fashioned you.

Let what distracts you / cease.
Let what divides you / cease.
Let there come an end / to what diminishes
and demeans, and let depart /
all that keeps you / in its cage.

Let there be / an opening
into the quiet / that lies beneath / the chaos,
where you find / the peace
you did not think / possible
and see what shimmers / within the storm.

BLESSING for a NEW BEGINNING — John O'Donohue

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.



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, May 10th at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the June newsletter will be Thursday May 25th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jccchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Church Family News and Prayers



May 2:	Linda Hastings
May 5:	Sally Swenson
May 5:	Judy Botsford
May 16:	Steve Swenson
May 17:	Cheryl Pizor
May 21:	Antonella Bliss

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!



Thank you to the Flower Team for providing beautiful arrangements in our Sanctuary.

This months flowers are provided by Joyce Allan

If you have a special occasion and would like to supply flowers please let Joyce know.



Rev. Gail continues to help members of the church and community with pastoral visits, phone calls 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.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... locally and internationally



Mission Group

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.

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



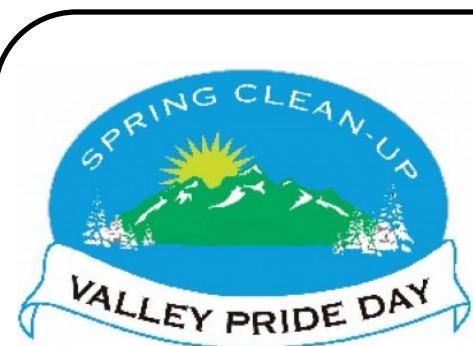
**Jackson Community Church's
8th Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, May 20th
9 – Noon - Rain or Shine
Jackson Community Church Parking Lot**



Come choose from a large selection of locally grown perennials, annuals, seedlings, and houseplants to enhance your home and gardens! **ALL** proceeds from the plant sale will go to support displaced persons needing shelter and assistance in the Mt. Washington Valley and International settings.

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! If you need pots, please help yourself to the ones under the stairwell at the church.

Please identify all plants dropped off.



**Save the date! Take a Walk! Take a Bag!
Saturday May 6, 2023 8:30am to 12pm**

Join in the 23rd Valley Pride Day litter cleanup event. Supplies can be picked up from 8:30-10:30am at the following locations:

Bartlett:	Glen Fire Station
Jackson:	Whitney Center
Conway:	Conway Information Booth
Kearsarge/Intervale:	Route 16 Scenic Vista

Celebration after the cleanup at The Hampton Inn Noon to 2pm



The Mission Team supports the Mount Washington Valley's Habitat for Humanity each year.

Furnishing Sales are an important fundraiser that helps build homes allowing deserving families to purchase affordable homes. Pickups will start Saturday, April 22, 2023. Pickups are done by a 2 person team and a box truck. Volunteers are only asked to do 1 pick up per month.

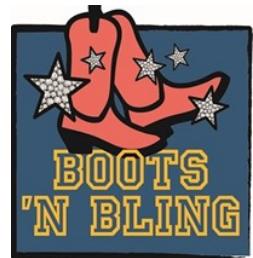
If not you, do you know someone that might be interested? Details:

- One Saturday a month 8:30-1:30pm (meet in Glen)
- Pick ups are from April to October
- Drivers only need a regular drivers license
- Must be 18 or older
- All items to be picked up will be on the 1st floor.

For more information or to volunteer email yardsale@mwv-habitat.org or call 603-356-3832



Starting Point's 11th Annual Boots N' Bling
returns to the Wentworth Inn in Jackson on June 8th
5pm.



Join in Dinner, Dancing, Silent and Live Auctions to benefit the victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Tickets are available at Startingpointnh.org

Registration is now open for summer 2023 on Star Island



Star Island is one of the nine Isles of Shoals located seven miles off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine. All are welcome to explore the island for a day, enjoy a meal, spend the night, or attend a conference.

Star Island was founded on the traditions of Unitarian Universalism and United Church of Christ. A few members of the Jackson Community Church have been attending faithfully for many years. No matter what, there is something for everyone.

Visit Starisland.org to see the many wonderful offerings this year—or click [2023 Programs](#) to learn more. There are many scholarships available for Star Island. The application deadline for September conferences is July 1, with award notifications issued by July 15th. If you have any questions please contact Linda Hastings 603-383-9375.

Ongoing Mission Support



THE WAY STATION is in NEED OF FOOD ITEMS,

- 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.

Items can be left in the pantry box in the church entryway.

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 :

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: coffee, tea, cereal, toilet paper and mayonnaise.

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE JCC FOYER ANYTIME IN THE DESIGNATED BOX. MONETARY DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO BJFP, PO BOX 279, GLEN NH 03838



Working on houses and talkin about Jesus

The journey of Mike and Joyce Scott with Samaritans Purse

Hello Everyone!!! Mike and I are in Wynne AR responding to a tornado. The Holy Spirit is going nuts here too, unifying the churches and relieving racial tensions that have been here for generations!!! We have a LOT of work to do here and we got here late so pray for Wynne too! Mike and I expect to be heading towards home come the end of the month.

Blessings to All of you!!! We are so so grateful for your prayers and support!

The latest newsletter from Mike and Joyce can be read [HERE](#)



There are many causes, near to our hearts which those in our community support. One of them is the fight against Alzheimers. Several of the walkers on our Eagle's Rest team have lost loved ones to this disease which is still working toward its first survivor. That's why we walk – to raise monies for research, for education, and for encouragement to those who are plagued with this disease and for their caregivers hoping for a better future.

Planning ahead: Past participants of this walk have selected Oct 14th for this year's event. Although we are using the Greater Portland Walk site to register and record donations, we will be walking locally at Great Glen and maybe indulging in lunch afterward at the Glen house, depending on the tourist traffic.

We welcome new participants to the event. Join our Eagle's Rest team, walk with us, or donate to one of the registered walkers. Once you register, others can contribute toward your walk goal. Show your support for finding the solution enabling the first survivor of this horrible disease.

To register please go to. [Eagle's Rest Alzheimer's walk](#)

Thanks, and spread the word. It will take more than one of us to stop this disease, but one is a start.

Jeanette Heidmann – Former caregiver to husband Steve, who died in 2018 from Alzheimers.
Feel free to call with questions: 603-733-7733



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.

All are welcome to participate.

Bartlett Public Library

Join the Bartlett Public Library for an informative presentation by The White Mountain Mushroom Company on May 23rd at 7pm.

The event is free and all are welcome. The Bartlett Public Library is located at the front of the Bartlett Elementary School and there is plenty of parking.



The **Olive Z. Godfrey Scholarship** is available to full-time, legal residents of Jackson who have a financial need. Scholarships can be used for continue education in a 2 or 4 year program, as well as trade or certificate programs. Deadline for applying is May 1, 2023.

Applications can be found [HERE](#)



The Bushee Thorn Mountain Trust Fund is available to youth and adults who wish to attend summer camps but due to financial hardships may not be able to. If you know someone who could benefit please pass along this information.

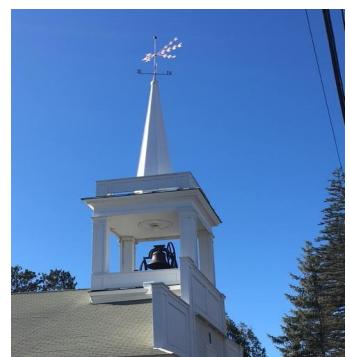
Applications can be found [HERE](#)

Steeple Light



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



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: _____

