



Inside Out:

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

April 2024

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



April 2024

Friends — April arrives. *Out of winter, spring. Out of sleep, awakening. Out of death, new life.*

As we enter spring, its coming may be experienced as a form of recurring resurrection. The earth warms and softens, trees grow green, seasonal birds sing, tender shoots appear, and dormant critters rouse from long sleep.

Wendell Berry wrote an essay about topsoil conservation, and its connection to spring and renewal. Berry states, “It is hard to believe that the land we live on and the lives we live are the gifts of death. Yet that is so and it is the topsoil that makes it so.” To live close to the rhythms of nature is to embrace what is sacred around us. Berry further observes, “The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.” *Topsoil sounds Christ-like, doesn't it? Even the earth becomes an extension of the body of Christ, of the presence of the Creator.*

Consider the softening earth beneath your feet. Berry writes often about the natural world, and connects it to his understanding of the creative force — God, Spirit, and Christ — that defines his understanding of all that is holy in this world. Intrinsicly, we know that our world is sacred. After all, the White Mountains serve as an outdoor cathedral. We often experience sacred moments in connection to the natural world.

The poet Mary Oliver also focuses on the wild world and brings its inhabitants to our attention. Think of birds and other creatures as heaven's messengers, calling us to notice the world we inhabit.

Spring — Mary Oliver

In the north country now it is spring and there
Is a certain celebration. The thrush
Has come home. He is shy and likes the
Evening best, also the hour just before
Morning; in that blue and gritty light he
Climbs to his branch, or smoothly
Sails there. It is okay to know only
One song if it is this one. Hear it
Rise and fall; the very elements of you should
Shiver nicely. What would spring be
Without it? Mostly frogs. But don't worry, he

Arrives, year after year, humble and obedient
And gorgeous. You listen and you know
You could live a better life than you do, be
Softer, kinder. And maybe this year you will
Be able to do it. Hear how his voice
Rises and falls. There is no way to be
Sufficiently grateful for the gifts we are
Given, no way to speak the Lord's name
Often enough, though we do try, and

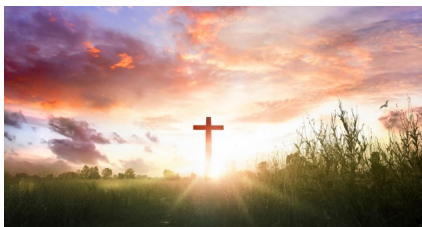
Especially now, as that dappled breast
Breathes in the pines and heaven's
Windows in the north country,
Now spring has come,
Are opened wide.

This April, moving through a tender and transforming world, be appreciative and aware of your corner of creation. Such mindfulness becomes a prayerful act. The earth has revealed herself, becoming soft, messy, and vulnerable. As Berry says, this soil "is the healer and restorer and resur-rector." And as Oliver suggests, may our lives, like our windows, open wide to connect with the awakening, quickening world. This earth, as much as the people on it, represents the body of God, broken and wounded, in need of healing and new life. *In the wake of Easter, may we grow as faithful followers of the Way, tending to the people and the world around us.*

Blessings in this spring season.



Rev. Gail

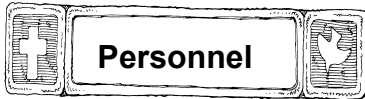


EASTER SUNDAY—Sunday March 31st

- 6:15am Sunrise Service at the Presidential Drive Cul-de-Sac, Jackson NH
In person only, scripture and singing
- 10:30am Easter Worship with Flowering of the Cross
Special music by Dominique Dodge, Gia Osborne, & The Lenten Choir
Directed by Sharon Novak
- 11:30am Hospitality Hour - hosted by the Deacons
- 11am-2 Community Easter Egg Hunt
Eggs will be hidden around the Jackson Community Church and Village



Jackson Community Church



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

Joanne Turner
Administrative 603-986-5018

Rob Weinstein IT/Tech

Sharon Novak 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, April 10th at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

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

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!

Rev. Gail will be taking the second part of her Sabbatical from April 11th through May 18th. During this time we will have guest preachers: Pastor Walt will be filling in May 14, 21 and 28th, please read about Pastor Walt on the next page. Rev. Sue Davidson will be covering May 5th.

Emergencies will be covered by the Deacons.



The Flower Team would like to welcome anyone interested in joining their group to contact Gloria Hutchings 603-986-4604.

What do the team members do? If you are a team member, you will be assigned to one or two months and ensure that there are flowers (either fresh, a flowering plant or another arrangement) for the altar on Sundays.

If you would like to sponsor flowers for a particular Sunday or donate money for flowers let the church office know.

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.



About Pastor Walt

I am thrilled to have the privilege of serving you while Pastor Gail is away on her much deserved sabbatical.

Ministry has been at the heart of everything I have done for decades. My core belief is that “everything is ministry.”

I did my MDiv theological work at Hartford Seminary, in Hartford, Connecticut; and my seminary training at The Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley, California.

I hold a law degree from the Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York.

I have served as a Director of Religious Education creating, teaching and administering programs for children from preschool age through high school; and have done many years of bible study and adult education.

My first book, *Journeys on the Edge: Living A Life That Matters*, was an Amazon bestseller and a two time recipient of the North American Book Awards.

I research, write and teach at the intersection of law, ethics, and religion. My passion is working in interfaith, honoring the sacred connection in all.

Having worked for years as an executive coach and leadership trainer, I have a deep bench in organizational management and administration.

I am a grief ritual leader and grief counselor. Grief is a mirror of love. And although we tend to be a grief phobic culture, when we learn to hold and walk with both grief and joy, life is richer and fuller.

I first came to the Valley with my dad when I was 10 years old to learn to climb mountains. I have since climbed and adventured all around the world and have stood on four of the Seven Summits (so far). But, the White Mountains have always been my “home” mountains.

Two years ago, my wife Ann and I moved to the Valley. Our home is in Intervale. Ann is an amazing writer and is the Publisher at Summit Press Publishing, an independent publisher of non-fiction expert positioning books. (I encourage you to tweak her by asking her why she chose to do her writing degree at Harvard rather than Cornell.)

Ann is my climbing partner, running partner, adventure partner, and best friend. We have fun all the time.

Ann has two children; I have four. They are all out in the world doing great things. We are blessed to have four grandchildren. (There are rumors of more.)

When I moved to the Valley, I became a member of the Eastern Slopes Clergy Association. We are blessed to have so many faith partners here. And it was through that association that I received the gift of meeting your amazing Pastor Gail.

I am so looking forward to our time together.

Peace to you.

+Walt

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, Claire Mallette Sue Carrigan and Gloria Hutchings.



Save the date!!!... the 9th annual Mission Plant Sale will be on Saturday May 18th from 9am 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.



THE BARTLETT/JACKSON FOOD PANTRY :



Feeding the Community

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, as well as gift cards. Monetary donations for the Food Pantry can be sent to: BJFP, PO BOX 279, GLEN NH 03838

THE WAY STATION is accepting:

- Gift Cards to Market Basket (\$10-\$40)
- 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

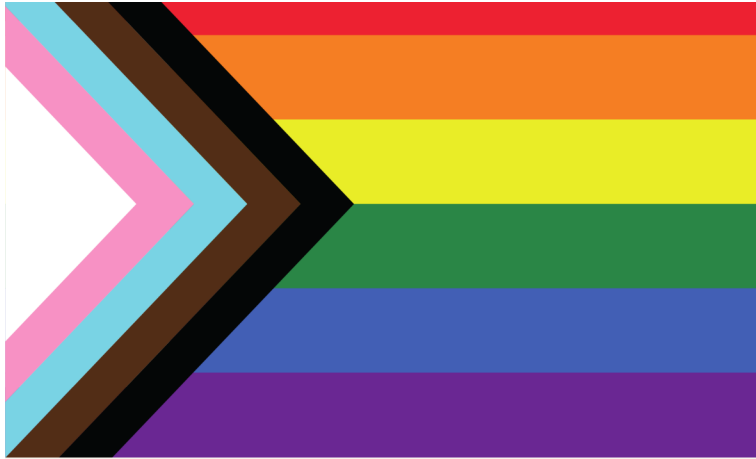
Monetary donations for the Way Station can be sent to: PO Box 1888, North Conway 03860.

FOOD DONATIONS FOR BOTH THE FOOD PANTRY AND THE WAY STATION CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE JCC FOYER ANYTIME IN THE DESIGNATED BOX.

Open and Affirming Journey Workshop

All are welcome to attend this workshop.

During the workshop we will explore the ongoing journey that the Jackson Community Church will take to be an open and affirming congregation and how members of a faith community can foster an environment that is safe and affirming for individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+



LGBTQIA+ Allyship & the ONA Journey

A participatory workshop to explore how we foster a safe and welcoming faith community for individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+



Sunday, April 7, 2024
following the
10:30am service



Jackson Community
Church
Jackson, NH

Facilitated by Dr. Tracy Morin

tracymorinconsulting.com | tracy@tracymorinconsulting.com



Steeple Light

The Jackson Community Church Steeple will be lit in the month of April in memory of Mary Claire Ballou from Jim & Linda Hastings.

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: _____

