



Inside Out:

The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church
Vol. XXI, No.2

February 2024

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



Brothers, Sisters and Friends —

The winter has settled around us. It offers many facets of experience: white and cold, icy and slick, deep and crusty, beautiful and dangerous. If you love outdoor recreation, whether it's skiing or snow-shoeing, ice-climbing or skating, sledding or tubing, the month of February beckons. If you prefer to

settle into cozy layers with a flickering fire and glowing light, belly full and thirst quenched, then winter offers a different kind of charm.

As the month begins, we offer you this poem about winter, written by Mary Oliver. Holiness speaks in the world, and prophets around us see these revelations, and echo them back to us. God's fingerprints are present in individuals, communities, and the natural world. Embrace the winter in however you are able to do so: travel, play, study, work and live as fully as possible in this season. Consider all that makes your life possible. Reflect on those who struggle and need any such comforts and pleasures.

First Snow by Mary Oliver

The snow
began here
this morning and all day
continued, its white
rhetoric everywhere
calling us back to *why, how,*
whence such beauty and *what*
the meaning; such
an oracular fever! flowing
past windows, an energy it seemed
would never ebb, never settle
less than lovely! and only now,
deep into night,
it has finally ended.
The silence
is immense,
and the heavens still hold
a million candles, nowhere
the familiar things:
stars, the moon,
the darkness we expect
and nightly turn from. Trees
glitter like castles

of ribbons, the broad fields
smolder with light, a passing
creekbed lies
heaped with shining hills;
and though the questions
that have assailed us all day
remain — not a single
answer has been found —
walking out now
into the silence and the light
under the trees,
and through the fields,
feels like one.

Indeed, if you have enjoyed moving your body in the chilly weather or savored the warmth of home, then pause to offer gratitude for those blessings: mobility, wellbeing, time, safety, and sufficient resources. Give thanks. And if you, or someone you know, or people you serve, need access to such abundance, then you have a different story to share with our community.

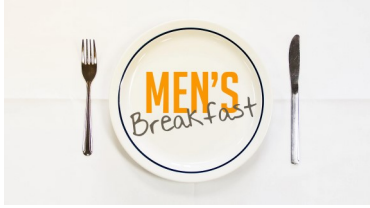
2,000 years ago, the Gospel of Mark recounted the lives of people much like all of us. Some people had all the essentials — plus the comforts — they required. Some needed the basics: health, food, income, education, security, family, and other benefits of social capital. Yet all were seen — deeply and wholly — by the One we follow. Some challenged and debated him, some strategized against him. Others left behind familiar lifestyles to walk with him, or put their resources to work for the Way he created. Some shared their experiences, others gathered up those narratives, and wrote them down. These are the stories we are reading now.

Christ's ministry, as shared by the author of Mark, shines a light on all sorts of folks. None of them are perfect or saintly. All of them are messy. Each one of them, like each of us, is filled with potential. We continue to explore these stories as the church enters the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14th (yes, it's also Valentine's Day).

May we — contemporary folks just as messy and wondrous, as imperfect and as filled with possibility as our spiritual ancestors — recognize ourselves in these ancient stories. May we connect our own lives to the enduring narrative of Love, alive and present in the world even now. Blessings to all of you, as our faith community — and congregations all around the world — move from the church's 'ordinary' time into the holy and reflective season of Lent, which leads to Easter at the end of March.

With respect and affection (under many warm and fuzzy layers),
Rev Gail Pomeroy Doktor

Church Life Activities



Chef Chris Doktor will be cooking up a delicious breakfast....

Participants will join in some great conversations....

Men's Breakfast is open to friends and members.

Saturday February 3rd 7:30am



Game Day!

Please join us for some afternoon fun—Game Day returns to JCC.
All are welcome!!

Sunday February 4th 3-5pm

Sunday February 25th 3-5pm



Thursday, February 8th 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Join us for live music by the DelleValla Trio and Louisiana cuisine by Chef Sue Carrigan. Wear your Mardi Gras masks and bling - come and have fun! We will have a photo area set up with lots of props for that great photo! As always this is free to the public with donations welcome.



Create a Vision Board for 2024

Facilitated by Clare Long Wednesday February 21st 6-8pm

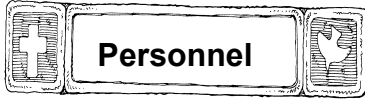
Come create a new direction for 2024 by developing your own Vision Board. A vision board is a visualization tool which refers to a board of any sort used to build a collage of words and pictures that represent your goals and dreams. This collage of visual im-

ages or words represents the things you want to do, be, have and the life you want to live. Bring magazines, pictures, sayings, photos or other images, and an open and creative mind. Plan to share and swap magazines to clip images. We will provide scissors, poster board, tape, glue plus a few snacks and Clare's leadership.

****RSVP the church for additional instructions.** Free and open to the community.**



Jackson Community Church



Personnel

Rev. Gail Pomeroy Doktor
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978-273-0308

Joanne Turner
Administrative 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, February 7th at 7pm. (Note the day change due to Ash Wednesday)

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the March newsletter will be Tuesday February 27th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

Church Family News and Prayers



Feb. 5: Donovan Spaulding
Feb. 9: Talia Hutchings
Feb 10: Chris Doktor
Feb. 11: Caleb White

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!



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.



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, Claire Mallette Sue Carrigan and Gloria Hutchings.



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, 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.

Ongoing Mission Support

- Jen's Friends
- White Mountain Community Health Center
- Jackson/Bartlett Food Pantry
- Way Station
- Gibson Center
- MWV Supports Recovery
- 68 Hours of Hunger
- Northern Human Services
- Starting Point
- Alzheimer's Association
- The Horton Center
- Star Island
- Honduras Hope
- Chikanga Church, Zimbabwe
- Angels and Elves
- Ukraine

Church Organization Help Needed



We are looking to schedule an organization party to tidy up the seasonal items that are stored at the church. If you would like to help please let us know.

NEEDED: Do you have storage totes that you are not using and would like to donate to the church? We would love to put them to use to help store and organize the church's programming materials. Small bins, big bins, clear bins, colored bins—all can be put to good use (include appropriate lids please).

Let's Talk About the Church Refrigerator



Lately there has been a lot of food being left in the church fridge that is being wasted—having to be tossed out because of expiration or spoilage.

Please help us...

- If you have an event at the church please take home food items that are left over.
- If you are going to leave food items in the fridge please mark them with the date and when they are expected to be used again—or even a note that says “help yourself”.
- There is a little space in the freezer where items can be left but again, please label what function the food is for or “help yourself”.
- Leftovers from Fellowship Hour on Sunday should not be kept in the fridge as shelf life of perishable items is usually less than a week. Lots of fruit and vegetables have been spoiling and it is wasteful.

We are a small church and do not have a lot of functions midweek that will use up leftovers—especially when they are not labeled. In addition, please do your best to help keep the kitchen clean by wiping down counters and washing / drying / putting away dishes that are used.

Your help is appreciated!!

~~ Thank you ~~

Trustees update from 2023 Annual Meeting

In response to Tony's question at the annual meeting which asked how we compare to the S & P 500 in relation to ownership of the so-called “magnificent seven” (or seven companies such as Google, Tesla, etc.)

I checked with F L Putnam and compared to the S & P 500, we are underweight in magnificent seven stocks by a little over 4%. Of the seven companies, we are overweight in only Google and Microsoft and underweight in the rest..

Any questions, please let me know. Jim Hastings



Registration is open!!
What and Where is Star Island?

Star Island is withing the waters of N'dakinna, the traditional lands and waterways of the Abenaki, Pennacook and other related Wabanaki Peoples past and present.

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 is a non-profit retreat.

The Jackson Church group traditionally attends the Mid-Week conference from September 2nd to the 6th, but there are many other interesting conferences to attend. To view the programs or to sign up [Register Here](#). Note: They are currently offering a discount to those who have not attended Star Island in the last 5 years.

If you want to learn more from a veteran Star Island attendee contact Linda Hastings 603-383-9375.



New: Essential Non-Food Pantry for those 60 and older

*A partnership between Vaughan Community Service
and Town of Conway's Local Welfare Office*

The purpose of the Essential Non-Food Pantry is to encourage healthy hygiene, minimize infections and increase quality of life while providing outreach material, information and screenings to ensure that needs are met and safety is maximized.

**The Essential Non-Food Pantry is open the
2nd Wednesday of the month from
9am to 11am beginning February 14th
Vaughan Community Center**

Items available at the pantry include cleaning and paper products, hygiene products, first aid, Memory care items, gift cards, as well as, safety and emergency items. This day is separate from the regular food pantry and open to those 60 and over.

More information contact Jennifer Perkins 603-602-1801 or BJ Parker 603-447-3811 ext 214

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: _____

