



# Inside Out:

*The Newsletter of the Jackson Community Church*  
Vol. XXI, No.3

March 2024

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



March 2024

*Friends & Neighbors, Brothers & Sisters, Children of God* — This month, we take a Lenten journey together. On the first day of March, we explored with Rev. John Heropoulos the development of Christian iconography as a Byzantine art form through its transformation in the Renaissance era. On the final day of March, we

celebrate Easter Sunday.

Each week this month, we follow the Gospel of Mark, through the life and ministry of Jesus, toward the story of Christ's death and resurrection. In the final chapter of Mark, we will join the grieving followers of Jesus, who come to the tomb to find his body. They are startled by the presence of a messenger of heaven. The angel tells them, *"He has been raised; he is not here."*

This month, we seek to bring alive the Easter story in many ways. What does this narrative, that includes spiritual growth, extreme risk, deep love, profound healing, true service, strained friendship, utter betrayal, miserable mistakes, painful trauma, prolonged death, keen grief, and astonishing hope, mean for us? In what ways do we live, individually and communally, in the shadow of death? What risks and challenges and trials do we endure for love? How do we deeply embrace and live into our ethics and/or our faith? How might we grow spiritually? Where are we holding onto hurt, anger, trauma, and in need of guidance through the process of forgiveness, which is truly a journey of emotional and psychological healing? What parts of ourselves, our relationships, or our community, need to be renewed or restored, that we might experience a kind of resurrection? How do we find ourselves in this holy story of enduring, stubborn, life-affirming, death-defying love?

This month, we explore the holy story from many perspectives through many experiences.

For instance, the Way of the Cross — also called *Via Crucis* or Stations of the Cross — will be addressed with changing installations for the next several weeks. The windows of the church have become the sites of storytelling.

- At the end of February, we welcomed the art of Brian Healy, FAIA, who painted a series of images of our church's steeple, depicting the sun's movement and the sky's moods. The steeple stood, for this artist, as a daily protagonist who endures through events and experiences that might challenge its presence. In these paintings, the steeple persists, stalwart and resilient, regardless of what might come.
- Now during the first weekend of this month, we transitioned from Healy's contemporary paintings of the church to an installation of icons that depict variations on the story of the Way of the Cross, presented in different styles. One series is painted by Janet McKenzie, an artist who includes people of different colors and genders as her models, so that a variety of people may see and find themselves in the story of the cross. Another series is created by classically trained iconographer Kreg Yingst who made woodcut images. A third series, which will be added to the collection once available, will offer miniature icons in the Byzantine tradition.
- Later in March, we will exchange the icons for an installation of crosses from around the world, depicting how people see themselves in the story of the cross. The crosses are made of wood, clay, reeds, metal and other materials. They are carved, painted, and used as canvases to share human encounters with the divine. Some show nature, others show people, and some are bare. Some come from different traditions, from Coptic and Orthodox to Catholic and Celtic.

All of these images of the Way of the Cross are accompanied by guide books. The guide books provide different lenses and perspectives to help people journey with the icons and crosses of the *Via Crucis*. They have been written by popes, immigrants, educators, recovered alcoholics, people healing from trauma, leaders of different vocational movements, and authors who represent different populations. We include guides for families, seniors, children, women, and folks who identify with specific experiences and identities. Guide books help acknowledge and focus on scenarios ranging from sobriety, healing from trauma, recovery from abuse, struggling with betrayal or hurt by the church as an institution, living with mental health differences, and aging to socio-cultural identities such as immigrants, LGBTQ+, race and color, and others aspects of human experience. A few guides also tackle global, political, or environmental issues. Some guides offer coloring pages so people can contemplatively travel through the different parts of the Way of the Cross.

Since Lent began, some people have been reading *Wild Hope* by Gayle Boss, the nature-focused Lenten devotional that is available from the church's library. It is a companion volume to the Advent devotional so many people loved at Christmas. More copies are available for your use. Other study guides, devotionals, and resources are also available: from poetry collections to daily meditations. Some can be downloaded from the church's collection while others are available as hard copies to be borrowed from the church's library in the front entrance (doors open 24/7).

March offers a range of in-person events. Some are social, creative, educational, or recreational. Others are worship-focused. We start with the Byzantine Art lecture at the Whitney Community Center. We follow up with a collaborative Ski, Soup & Vespers evening (an optimistic plan since the snow is melting away as the month begins) hosted at JCC and led by Nativity Lutheran. We're offering a workshop to make felted Easter Eggs. Late in the month, we enter the richness of Holy Week. We begin with the festivity of Palm Sunday, attend a shared Maundy Thursday soup supper and worship experience hosted by Bartlett Congregational Church, offer a Holy Friday vigil in Jackson and participate in an ecumenical Holy Friday service at Nativity Lutheran which will be led by several local clergy. The month culminates with the choice of Jackson's own outdoor Easter sunrise service or our exuberant 10:30am Easter service that offers special instrumental music, choir songs, and flowering of the cross.

Many people report that they are viewing some favorite movies. People love films such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Godspell*, or even Monty Python's tongue-in-cheek *Life of Brian*. Also, the recent television series *The Chosen* brings the messy, all-too-human experience of Jesus, his followers, and his foes into relatable, poignant focus.

What sort of storytelling speaks to you? Is it poetry? Art? Film or television? Games? Books? Movement or contemplative practices?

Above we have outlined some ways to dive deeper into this season of spiritual growth. Each of us can take this journey quietly and privately, or actively and publicly. Find one way that makes a difference in your life. Join us, reach out to us, or tell us what will support your spiritual journey. May you recognize a character in these stories who reflects your experience, and thus find your connection, along the way, to this story that defines our faith. Together we travel in the shadow of the death, through the challenges and trials of Christ's ministry, to his final days. The stories lead us to the great promise that Love returns, Love rises, and Love restores life even beyond death itself.

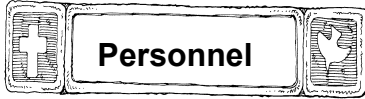
Blessings in this holiest of seasons!



— Rev. Gail Pomeroy Doktor



## 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, April 10th at 7pm.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the April newsletter will be Thursday-March 28th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org

## Church Family News and Prayers



March 5: Emily Benson  
March 8: Noah McLeavey-Weeder  
March 10: Steve Allbee  
March 14: Bill Botsford  
March 28: PJ Benson



March 8th:  
Mona and Barry Chisholm

*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.



## Holy Week

### **WAY of the CROSS**—Every day in March

Self-guided Stations of the Cross. Come when your time allows as the Sanctuary is open 24/7. The crosses used in this personal pilgrimage come from around the world

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**—Thursday March 28th 6pm

Soup Supper & Worship—All welcome.  
Maundy Thursday Foot Washing  
Hosted by The Bartlett Congregational Church

### **HOLY FRIDAY**— Friday March 29th

12-3pm Vigil and Scripture Readings (Noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm)  
All Day Via Crucis at Jackson Community Church  
6:30pm Service of Shadows  
Ecumenical Worship at Nativity Lutheran, North Conway

### **EASTER SUNDAY**—Sunday March 30th

- 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



# 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 8am 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.**





The Flower Committee will be collecting donations for lilies to be placed at the altar on Easter. Lilies will be \$10 each.

If you would like a lily to be placed in honor/memory of a loved one— please email the information to the office [jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org](mailto:jcchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org) prior to Monday, March 25th. Please include who the lily will be in honor/ memory of. All names will be included in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

Payment envelopes can be found in the front of the church or mail to: JCC, PO Box 381, Jackson NH 03846



**The Palm Crosses** that are available during the Lent and Easter season are handmade in East Africa throughout the year in seven mud villages in Tanzania, often involving whole families in the process. Tanzanian workers who make the crosses are paid generous wages for their labor. After the crosses are imported all of the net proceeds then are returned to East Africa in the form of non denominational grants. It's a win - win for all involved.



## Spring Volunteering on Star Island

The 2024 Spring Volunteer applications are now available on the [Star Island website](#). The deadline to fill out the application is April 15th.

Do you have a skill that would help Star Island get ready for their summer conferences? Positions include: Housekeeping & Cleaning; Landscaping and Gardening; Food Service, Moving and Hauling and Specialty Tasks (painting, carpentry ect.)

Also, a reminder about Star Island conferences: 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.

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

The Mountain Garden Club presents

## *Ciao Italia!*

### A Morning with Mary Ann Esposito

Monday April 15, The Majestic Theater, Conway

Doors open at 10<sup>AM</sup> / Presentation at 11<sup>AM</sup>



Mary Ann Esposito is the creator and host of the nationally televised PBS series, *Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito*, and the author of 14 cookbooks including her most recent, *Ciao Italia: Plant. Harvest. Cook!*

Through *Ciao Italia* and appearances on *The Today Show*, the Food Network, Discovery Channel, Fox, RAI International, *The Victory Garden*, and many others, she has been able to share traditional Italian cooking, history and culture with audiences around the world. Mary Ann has received numerous awards for her efforts to preserve the traditions surrounding Italian regional food and culture. For more, visit [ciaoitalia.com](http://ciaoitalia.com).

\$35 (admission + *Plant. Harvest. Cook!* cookbook\*, a \$40 value)

\$55 (2 admissions + 1 cookbook\*)

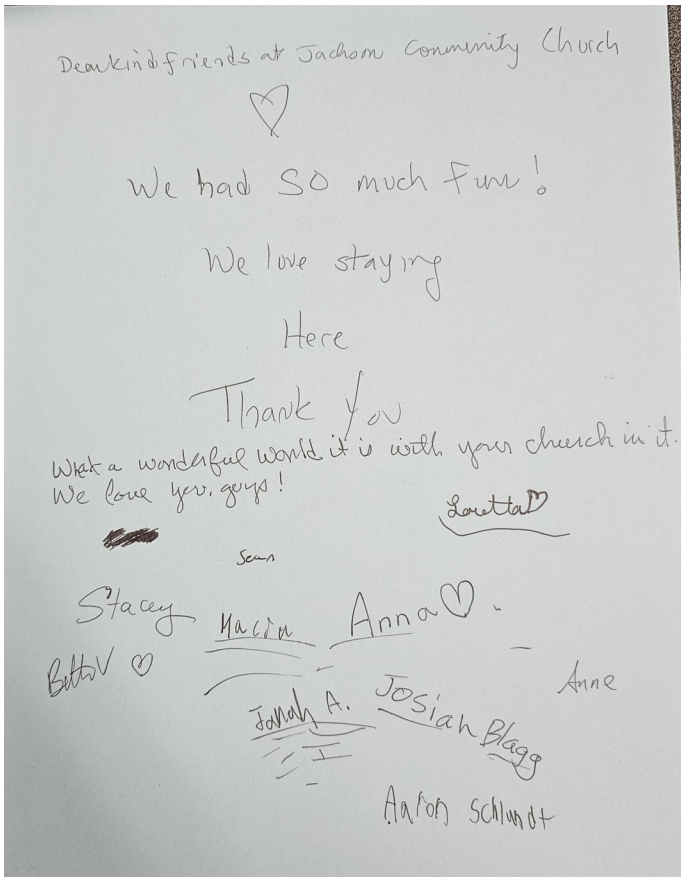
\*To receive a book in addition to admission, you must purchase your ticket by **Monday March 25**

To purchase tickets visit [conwaymajestic.com](http://conwaymajestic.com) or scan



THE MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION





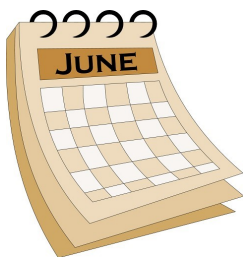
The Ipswich Youth Group recently stayed at the Jackson Community Church. During their visit they helped with many community service projects in and around the church. They sent along this thank you to the church.

## Angels & Elves Thanks You!!

Dear Linda and friends at Jackson Community Church,

Thank you so much for sponsoring three children through our Angels and Elves program this year! We are so thankful for the kindness and generosity of so many wonderful people like you! With your help, we were able to make Christmas special for **473** needy children in the Mt Washington Valley this year. We are truly grateful for your help! We wish you all a new year full of many blessings.

Sincerely, Angels and Elves



The Mission Team would like to remind you that it is not too late to donate any extra 2024 calendars you have. Donated calendars are distributed to Mineral Springs and the Gibson Centerr.



## 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*

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### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_