



Inside Out:

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

May 2024

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



Brothers & Sisters, Friends & Members, Children of God — Greetings as May brings to us the softened earth, migrating birds, welcome rain, and tender greening foliage. For gardeners, the work of turning the earth and cultivating new life is at hand.

Of course, some of our church families have welcomed new life in other ways. We're sharing prayers of hope for the arrival and births of children and grandchildren, and the ongoing wellbeing of those we already cherish. Other households playfully include new pets. Some folks are celebrating upcoming covenants and commitments such as weddings and engagements. Other life milestones abound. Many families are nurturing the dreams and plans of this year's graduates!

Last month, the church savored a sneak preview of the leadership of Rev Walt Hampton, who will be officially ordained at the beginning of May, and has been called as fulltime pastor to First Church, UCC, in North Conway. On communion Sunday this month, May 5, we enjoyed the message and leadership of one of the valley's longest-serving ministers, Sue Davidson. Then on Mother's Day, May 12, Jackson's own Erica Corbett Klein joins us in the role of guest speaker. Erica and her children, who just visited with her husband Christian's family in Brazil, will help shape that day's recognition of the women in our lives, so watch for twins Vivian and George! That day's service will also be facilitated by Meg Phillips. Pentecost arrives on May 19, so please wear red for that 'birthday of the church' gathering, and look for Rev Gail's return from sabbatical.

For gardeners of all kinds, please share the gleanings from your gardens, seedlings, seeds, houseplants, and other green and wonderful abundance with the church! The Mission team's plant sale occurs on Saturday, May 18th, 9am-Noon this year. Proceeds from the sale support International Humanitarian Relief. This event truly marks the fullness of spring as we imagine our growing gardens, yards, and indoor spaces alive with creation's goodness. The complete invitation and guidance for how to drop off donated plants are included in this newsletter.

Additionally, gardens will be the theme of our studies this summer. How many gardens can you recall in the Hebrew Scriptures and Gospel? Do you imagine them as idyllic landscapes, like paradise, or as messy growing places run amok? How do our safe, domesticated gardens connect to the imagery of exuberant, dangerous wilderness? In what ways do our faith traditions use and share the imagery of garden and gardener, and helpfully deepen our connection to the holiness of both our Creator and creation?

A Purification by Wendell Berry

At the start of spring I open a trench
in the ground. I put into it
the winter's accumulation of paper,
pages I do not want to read
again, useless words, fragments,
errors. And I put into it
the contents of the outhouse:
light of the sun, growth of the ground,
finished with one of their journeys.
To the sky, to the wind, then,
and to the faithful trees, I confess

my sins: that I have not been happy
enough, considering my good luck;
have listened to too much noise;
have been inattentive to wonders;
have lusted after praise.
And then upon the gathered refuse
of mind and body, I close the trench,
folding shut again the dark,
the deathless earth. Beneath that seal
the old escapes into the new.

Along the way, as a spiritual practice, we're invited to relinquish the obstacles that discourage and drive us. Contemplating Berry's poem, and as a gardener of your own soul, in practical or spiritual ways, what do you return to the earth, giving back to its origins the remainder of what has been used, rotted, fermented, decayed and/or dying in your life? When you give back such waste, leftovers, and detritus to the earth, you permit them to feed and contribute something more and different.

Then Wendell Berry offers a brief poem about what comes when there's space for new growth, which has been cleared by the composting and purifying he describes above.

For The Future by *Wendell Berry*

Planting trees early in spring,
we make a place for birds to sing
in time to come. How do we know?
They are singing here now.
There is no other guarantee
that singing will ever be.

After a purification or purging, when you choose to clean and clear away clutter from your heart, mind, and life, you create nutrient-rich, enriched open space. You invite new seeds, new life. As you cultivate this potential ground and garden, what new discovery, experience, or learning do you welcome? What revitalized love takes root? And how do we, as a community of faith, also compost, repurpose, and upcycle—spiritually—so that we create a cradle to grow more deeply together?

Finally for May, listen to the text of prophet Isaiah, anticipating the renewal of God's people after exile. Let these words come to you as a blessing for the month. From Isaiah 51, "*The LORD will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.*" After darkness, dormancy, and long sleep, from gestation within the world's womb, life returns. Spring is assuredly upon us. May we embrace its potential!

Blessings for this season!

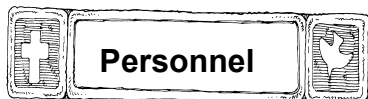
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gail".

Rev Gail Pomeroy Doktor, mother and grandmother (Oma)!

Church Family News and Prayers



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, May 8th at 7pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting news and articles for the June newsletter will be Tuesday May 28th. Items can be mailed to PO Box 381, Jackson, NH 03846 or emailed to: jjchurch@jacksoncommunitychurch.org



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!



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.

No classes on Tues May 7th and Fri May 10th

All are welcome to participate.

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.



**Jackson Community Church's
9th Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, May 18th
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 International Humanitarian Relief.

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.

Please be aware (from the University Cooperative Extension): There is a new threat to our soil health and successful gardening has emerged on the scene: the jumping worm (*Amyntas* spp.), also commonly known as the crazy worm and snake worm.

These worms are invasive and cause harm to the soil, unlike other common earthworm species. Jumping worms feed voraciously on the soil organic matter and excrete material that appears grainy, like coffee grounds, which changes the soil chemistry and decreases nutrient availability. This may at times create soil conditions that favor invasive plant species over native plants.

For more information on how to identify the jumping worm and protect your gardens and others please visit: <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/plant-sales-and-jumping-worms>






**Starting Point's
12th Annual Boots N' Bling
June 6th 5pm
Fairbanks Lodge, Cranmore**



We would like to invite women of the church to come as a ladies night out. If you would like to join, each person is responsible for purchasing her own ticket.

The event sells out each year, so reserve ticket SOON through Boots n Bling ticket reservation [portal](#). When you reserve you can use the option to reserve as a 'company' and type in Jackson Community Church. You will still be able to purchase one ticket, but ideally we'll be grouped as a table because we have an identifying 'company' that aggregates everyone with their single tickets.

This is always a fun evening of dinner, dancing, live music (Jonathan Sarty Band) and an auction.

Jen's Friends Hill Climb
September 14th—Cranmore

Alzheimer's Walk
September 18th—Great Glen

The Jackson Community Church will have a team at each of these events.

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.



Help Chef Carrigan Fill Her Lunchbox for The Way Station!

It's The Valley Food Fight!

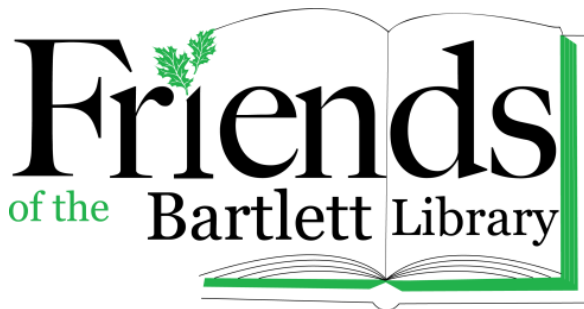
Mount Washington Valley Promotions presents to you,
Valley Food Fight – Season 3! 8 chefs will represent 8 Valley
Promotions Member Organizations, hoping to win a \$500 prize!

The theme for this season will be "School Lunchbox Meal". Come
support Sue as she raises funds and awareness for Way Station!

Donations appreciated: <https://www.waystationnh.org/>

Spectators are always welcome!

For more information: Ask Sue Carrigan or visit waystation.org



Upcoming activities:

Book Club: Tuesday May 14th at 7pm

*The Other Side and Back: A Psychic's Guide to our
World and Beyond* by Sylvia Browne.

This book was chosen in preparation for the special
program featuring Sara Moore of Enlightened Horizons
on May 28th at 7pm.

The author, Sylvia, is a world-famous psychic and New York Times bestselling author. Copies of
the book are available in the library. This promises to be an other worldly book discussion.

For more information on either event please contact the library at 603-374-2755 or
bartlettpubliclibrary@roadrunner.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: _____
