

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)
3 Monument Square Hollis, NH 03049

April 2018

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LVI, No. 4



**The
Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)**

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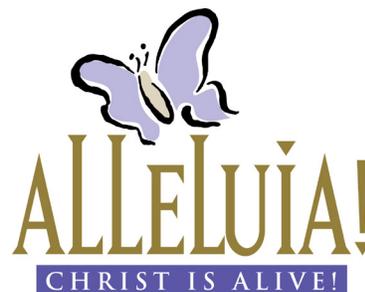
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The Chimes is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

*'Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die!'*
(Brian Wren)



Dear Friends,

In the winter, when things go brown and dead-looking, when all the energy retreats to the depths of the earth (or gets buried beneath fresh mounds of snow well into March!), it can be hard to imagine — or at least, to wait for — the bursts of color, and birdsong, and sunshine we feel ready for. But I have been moved and inspired by the growing enthusiasm, participation, fresh ideas, and new energy coursing through our community. Christ *is* alive — and is revealing that irrepressible, abundant life among us!

The Building Our Vision team held several very valuable “Listening Sessions” (more to come!) with solid participation and has received additional feedback via the “Listening Wall” opposite the elevator. Various groups and representatives of our church have been meeting with architect Dennis Mires, who is drafting conceptual drawings based on the verbal pictures we’ve been gathering, which will help us dream and vision more concretely. These all represent pieces of our on-going discernment about God’s vision for our community, and how we’re being both called and equipped to deepen our faith as we flesh out our Strategic Plan. Please stay alert and engaged in the months to come — God’s vision will unfold more clearly with your participation!

Across the season of Lent, we saw Sunday School participation continue to rise. Our youth basketball team was a smashing success (proving that winning’s not what matters most, but rather the experience of positive, supportive community). We had two vibrant adult groups discussing a Lenten devotional book that wasn’t everyone’s cup of tea, but still sparked rich conversation and nurtured spiritual growth: I was inspired by those who persisted, even if they didn’t fully enjoy the material. New members on most of our Boards, Committees, and Ministry Teams have jumped in with gusto, and wheels are turning.

(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation (Christian Education) Office

Pre-Confirmation (for 7th / 8th graders)

After an impressive Bible review in the form of a *Family Feud* face-off, followed by a rousing game of *Minute to Win It*, the Pre-Confirmation class doesn't know what to expect when it gathers in Emerson Chapel on Sundays, April 8 and 15 at 10:30 am.

Confirmation for 9th Graders

March was a busy month for the Confirmation class, including a field trip to worship at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashua, preparing lasagna for residents of the Anne Marie House in Hudson, designing banners, attending the Maundy Thursday service and planning the Easter Sunrise service.

April begins bright and early for this hard-working group as they lead the Easter Sunrise Service at Triple Knoll Farm on April 1. Confirmands need to be on the hill at 6 am. The service begins at 6:15 am. A continental breakfast will be served on-site.

Regular Confirmation class meets in the Emerson Chapel on Sunday, April 29, 10:30-11:30 am. Note that this comes at the end of the school vacation week.

Children's Day is May 20

The children of the Sunday School, including those in Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation, will lead the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 20. The service will include singing, chimes, dance, readings and drama centered around the theme of **Peace**. Rehearsals take place this month and next during Sunday School. Parents are asked to make attendance a priority. Contact Kim and Kim at ce@hollischurch.org with any questions.



THE FRUIT of the SPIRIT

Vacation Bible School!

The Fruits of the Spirit will be the theme for Vacation Bible School 2018. VBS takes place Monday-Thursday, July 23-26, 9:00-11:30am. Children age 4 through grade 6, as well as adult and youth volunteers, will have fun with music, crafts, outdoor games, drama, snacks and stories while learning and acting to help others. New this year: science and nature projects! Contact CE@hollischurch.org to volunteer.



April Sunday School Happenings*

	PreK-Grade 2 lesson <u>(Worship Center)</u>	Grade 3-6 lesson <u>(Chronicle)</u>	Chronicle <u>activity</u>
April 1	<i>Easter Sunday ~ No Sunday School</i>		
April 8	Jesus Appears to Disciples	Doubting Thomas	<i>I Doubt It</i> game
April 15	Lost Coin	The Great Commission	Church Year bracelets
April 22	<i>School Vacation ~ No Sunday School</i>		
April 29	Liturgy of Light	Pentecost	Banners

*Stay tuned for more information on Children's Day rehearsals during this month!

Help Us Help Others

Nashua High School South students are in continuing need of food, backpacks, and clothing. These English Language Learners move to Nashua after fleeing home countries ravaged by war, hurricanes, famine and water shortages. Many arrive with the clothes on their backs and the flipflops on their feet. Most needed items include:

- Backpacks
- Gently used teen clothing and shoes in good condition
- New underwear and socks
- Gift cards to Target and Walmart
- Food: Kraft macaroni & cheese, Hormel Compleats, kid-friendly cereal, crackers with peanut butter, granola bars, etc.

Donations may be left in the box in Emerson Chapel or at the home of Pat and Tom Harris, 1 Broad St. Contact patharris.hollis@gmail.com.

Bible 101

A lively, entertaining and informative romp through the Bible!

Thursday evenings, April 5 and April 12

7-8:30 pm in the Parkhurst Room
Facilitated by Pat Harris, these sessions give an overview of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation with a focus on how God has interacted and continues to interact with people of faith. If you cannot attend both sessions, come to the one that works for you. Bring your own Bible or borrow one from the church library (also located in Parkhurst Room). Contact Pat@hollischurch.org if you have questions.

Mission Trip News

Spaghetti Supper Thanks!

Thank you to all who came and supported our Mission Trip at our annual Spaghetti Supper on March 11th! We had a great turnout and so enjoyed seeing many friendly faces willing to spend their Sunday evening with us. We hope you all had a wonderful time.

And the Winner is...

The winning ticket for the lovely handmade Mission Trip Quilt was drawn at the close of the Spaghetti Supper. The lucky winner pictured here is Stephanie Hall. Stephanie purchased her ticket while visiting our Christmas Fair in November. Congratulations, Stephanie!



Spring Yardwork & Clean-up

All time slots on all dates (April 7 & 21, May 5, 11, 12 & 19) are filled! If you would like to be on a waiting list of small jobs for the work crew to do if they finish early on a given date, contact Julie Kopser at (603) 325-5745 or julie@kopser.net.



Join us at our next fundraiser
Sunday, April 8th
at Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse
Details on page 8

Knitters' Challenge!

42 shawls by the 4th of July!

Again this year, we're hoping to send a prayer shawl along with each of our workcampers on their Mission Trip to Wallingford, CT in July. Each year, the people our workcampers serve on their Mission Trip have been deeply touched by our workcampers' gifts, and we've received several letters of grateful thanks from the recipients of the shawls. ***So, knitters, get your needles***



ready! The directions for the easy-to-make shawls are posted on the bulletin board outside Rev. Tanya's office. Deliver finished shawls to the church office, and we'll keep you updated as we work toward the magic number of 42!



April 2018



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Alive!

 <p>Easter Sunday 6:15 am – Sunrise Service at Triple Knoll Farm 9:00 am – Easter Communion Service 10:30 am – Easter Communion Service (family worship – NO Sunday School)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 7 pm – CE Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>		<p>7 pm – Bible 101 (class #1 of 2) 7 pm – Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>		<p>Bell Practice Mission Trip Yardwork Day (all slots full)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>
<p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 12:00 noon – Mission Trip meeting 7 pm – Community Prayers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eat at Shorty’s Mission Trip Fundraiser</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>11 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities Committee 7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (session #1 of 8)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>6 pm – Music Board meeting 7 pm – Bible 101 (class #2 of 2) 7 pm – Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>Our volunteers provide Ash St. Shelter dinner</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>Bell Practice</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – Women’s Fellowship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May Chimes deadline</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 7 pm – Trustees meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>7 pm – Church Council meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (#2 of 8)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm – Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>		<p>Bell Practice Mission Trip Yardwork Day (all slots full)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>
<p>9:00 am – Worship 10 am – Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am – Worship / NO Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>		<p>7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (#3 of 8)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>			<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>
<p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>Mission Items of the Month: Hygiene Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * gallon zip-loc bags * bars of <u>non-scented</u> soap * toothbrushes * travel-size toothpaste *shampoo *facial tissues *disposable razors *shaving cream *disposable diapers & wipes *<u>non-scented</u> deodorant <p style="text-align: right;">for the 2018 Mission Trip to Wallingford, CT</p>				



From the Pastor (cont. from p. 1)

And there were several opportunities for just plain fun and fellowship: Mardi Gras breakfast, Family Bingo, Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper, pot-luck luncheon. It's been energizing, but all of these things required individuals and groups to reach out beyond the comfortable familiar, and try something new. They've also called upon the rest of us to stretch and grow, too. And that can be hard work.

In more ways than one, we're being drawn out of our comfort zones. Along your faith journey through Lent, and now embracing the power of Easter, I hope you're discovering how inner, spiritual places that may have felt barren and dull were, in fact, harboring unseen hope and life! How reaching out in faith and hope pays dividends of deeper meaning and joy. If it didn't happen in the past month or two, don't worry — there's still time, and God is still working!

As our onward journey continues, and as life presents us with situations that make us wonder how we'll come to grips with the latest challenge, I hope and pray that a brief reflection on the past few months of the Spirit's liveliness in our community will provide reassurance that Easter hope, Resurrection, New Life is real — and worth being confident about. Death (whether of loved ones, or visions, dreams, or expectations) will not be victorious for us. Christ is Risen! Hallelujah — Happy Easter!

With faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

BoV Update

The Building Our Vision (BoV) team has been hard at work. In addition to our initial survey and conversations with all the boards, we have now gathered input from the congregation through brainstorming and discussions at several listening sessions, as well as sessions with smaller groups like teachers and youth. We have also set up a **BoV Brainstorming Wall** in the hall near the elevator. Please stop by and add your input!

In addition, we have selected architect Dennis Mires to assist us with concept development. We will plan to share his ideas with you and get reaction at an upcoming Listening Session. Please watch for details in Sunday bulletins and online.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at BoV@hollischurch.org.

You are invited to ...

Unwrapping Our Gifts a Laity Empowerment Project

Discover

Explore

Learn

Share

Minister



We will **discover** and **explore** the unwrapped talents that God has given us.

Learn to join your faith with your daily life.

Share personal ways of **ministering** in your workplace, home, relationships, and to the world.

All you need is a sense of adventure, desire and commitment to attend 8 weekly sessions. Some brief homework is required.

Leaders:

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen,
pastor@hollischurch.org

Kimber Harmon
KimberHarmon106@gmail.com

Keith Hamer
Hamer20@gmail.com

Starting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 (8 weekly sessions through May 30)

Meet in the Flagg Room (lower level classroom)

From the Church Office

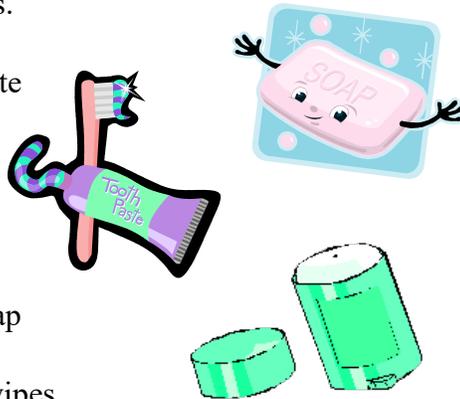
Many Thanks go to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Marsha Joyce, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Debbe Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your March *Chimes* for mailing.

Mission & Action News

April Items of the Month: Hygiene Items for the 2018 Mission Trip to Wallingford, CT

Please support our annual Mission Trip and work campers by donating the following items to make hygiene kits for folks who are displaced from their homes. These kits will be delivered to the community of Wallingford, CT. All items can be left in the shopping cart at the top of the stairs.

- Gallon zip-lock bags
- travel sizes of toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- shampoo
- facial tissue
- shaving cream
- disposable razors
- bars of non-scented soap
- non-scented deodorant
- disposable diapers & wipes



Fuel and Food Assistance

As you can see by the snow piles, winter is still with us. We have funding available for oil, propane and kerosene fuel for heating and hot water. If you know of anyone needing this assistance, please contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or cbrady27@comcast.net.

Donations by Mission and Action

- * The 5th/6th Grade Lenten Project - money to purchase items for the My Stuff Bags Foundation
- * Funds to purchase yarn for Mission Trip prayer shawls



Volunteer to

Cook a Meal!

to feed 15-20 people. Cook in your own home or at the church then deliver the meal to the shelter in disposable containers. You do not serve the meal or clean up. Sign up any time on the Mission & Action bulletin board in the hallway outside the church office.

Ash St. Shelter Dinners

The Ash Street Shelter is a support center offering basic needs to people in the great Nashua area. Once a month, the church provides a dinner for those staying in this shelter. Volunteers are needed for the months of July, August and September. You will be given \$75 in grocery gift cards to buy fixings

Meals for Kids

The Nashua Soup Kitchen is working to end childhood hunger by providing three meals a day to children who would otherwise go hungry. If you are interested in helping prepare a meal in April (date TBD) to be distributed to children who otherwise would not have dinner contact either: Lee Harper (603)465-5118 or Joyce Toli (603)882-7028

Our Church Records

Deaths March 11, 2018

James Andrew Kirby



Women's Fellowship

Our Women's Fellowship will be meeting in the Emerson Chapel at 2 pm on Sunday afternoon, April 15. Presenter Coleen Brady will discuss her work at the NH Women's Prison. Please join us for dessert and an informative program.

NH UCC Women's Spring Gathering

NH UCC Women will be gathering in Deerfield on Saturday, April 28 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Our theme is *The World at the Table* and a report by a recent visitor to Haiti. The cost is \$12 which includes lunch. For more information and for transportation, call Dot Pitman at 465-7672.

Easter Worship Services

Sunday, April 1

6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service led by the Pre-Confirmation class at Triple Knoll Farm, on the hill to the south of the house (0.1 mi. south of Ridge Road at 11 Pepperell Road/Rte. 122 in Hollis).

9:00 and 10:30 Family Worship Services in the meetinghouse with the Senior Choir singing at both services (No Sunday School ~ Families are invited to worship together)



Music Notes

Last Chances to Ring This Season!



Chimes

We are practicing in Sunday School. Please come to Sunday School and play with us April 8, 15, 29 and May 6, 13.

Chimes play May 13 (Music Sunday) and May 20 (Children's Day).

Bells

All ages/all capabilities — If you always wanted to try, please come and join us!

Two sets left:

<u>Play:</u>	<u>Practice on:</u>
April 29	April 7, 14, 21, 28
May 27	May 5, 12, 19, 26

All rehearsals in the Parkhurst Room. Practice times can vary to fit everyone's schedule. Please contact Janet for exact practice times and dates.

JanetSterritt@gmail.com

There's Still Time to Donate a Hymnal!

The Music Board invites you to donate a hymnal ~ in honor or in memory of a loved one or just because you love music! Use the form below *today*. Our newly re-printed hymnals should arrive soon!



Hymnal Donation Form

Yes, I would like to give _____ hymnals to the church (please indicate quantity)

I am enclosing a check in the amount of _____ (\$25.00 per hymnal)

In loving memory of _____

by _____

or

In honor of _____

by _____

Your name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

If you would like the church to notify someone of this gift, please give the name and address below:

Please enclose a check (\$25 for each hymnal) payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis with "*Hymnal*" on the memo line and send to:

Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square
Hollis, NH 03049



The Congregational Church of Hollis
(United Church of Christ)
3 Monument Square
Hollis NH 03049

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
Hollis, NH 03049

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Trip 2018 is Raising FUNds with Shorty's Fair Share Program

Join Us at Shorty's on Sunday, April 8!

★ **Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse** ★

at the Nashua Mall (Route 3, exit 6)

Sunday, April 8, 2018

ALL DAY! Lunch, Dinner, or Take-Out!

Please be sure to tell your server that you're there on our behalf, and **put your itemized receipt in the basket at the hostess stand.** We will receive 15% of the total food sales.

