

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

April 2020

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LVIII, No. 4

A Note from Your Council Leadership about Church Operations in a Time of Social Distancing:

Dear Friends,

It hardly needs to be said, but despite our best planning efforts we cannot predict how things will play out. At present, we do not anticipate being able to meet in-person for worship before May at the earliest. However, we remain open to the possibility and live in hope – and if our deepest hopes become real possibility, then we will certainly ensure the message is enthusiastically broadcast! (And, to be sure, our re-gathering church service will be an Easter celebration!!)

In the meantime, and so long as social distancing remains best practice, **we will be holding all meetings and worship services via Zoom.** If you'd like for your board, committee, or ministry team to meet, please email to schedule a "Zoom meeting room" at

zoommeetingrequest
@hollischurch.org.

We are working out wrinkles in real time, so we ask that everyone remains patient and gracious as we all learn these new ways of being together in community.



Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

~by Charles Wesley, from the hymn
"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Dear Friends,

What does Easter look like, feel, smell, and sound like, without the pews stuffed with joyous worshipers dressed in vibrant colors and bright smiles? Absent trumpet song? Without dozens of Easter lilies and tulips making some eyes water and noses itch? I guess we're about to find out. A month ago – much less, two weeks ago – very few of us could have imagined this. Wuhan, China was very far away, and while we may have been praying for their plight, most of us were oblivious (I was, at least!) to the idea that our turn was coming.

It's amazing what a difference a few short days can make, isn't it, in terms of our understanding of the world? This is the lesson we re-enact each year between Palm and Easter Sundays each year. We enter on a note of triumph as we sing, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (which means, "Lord, save us!") waving palms and remembering how the adoring throngs welcomed the donkey-escorted Messiah. Within days, we're replaying the events surrounding the Last Supper. First, Jesus washed the disciples' feet, saying he has a new commandment for us: We should love one another, as he has loved us. We hear Peter (who fancied himself leader of the pack, though others also competed for the role) tell Jesus that the Messiah would never wash his feet, then quickly change his tune when Jesus says, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me" (John 13:6). We all need to be touched and cleansed by the grace of God if we have any hope of becoming servant-leaders ourselves.

Next, we're sitting at table with them, remembering the Exodus story and the Passover meal back in Egypt, when we were all slaves. Remember, Moses had been trying to negotiate with Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go, and there had been a series of plagues.

(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation Office

Below is what we had hoped to offer in April ~
Please check our web site for updates about resumption of Sunday School!

Journey to Confirmation Update

Confirmands will be busy this month! In addition to a class about Holy Week, they will attend the Maundy Thursday service and the Easter service. The triple Knoll Family Graders will be making Easter food at Brookdale Farm on April 17. The month will close out with another lively lesson and discussion with their mentors at the final mentor meal on April 19 (now a brunch rather than lunch as it will be following the one and only 9:30am service).



Sunday School plans for April:

****Parents, please note, Sunday School classes will take place during the 9:30am service beginning on April 19, for the remainder of the Sunday School year.**

- April 5 - Easter lesson and activity
- April 12 - **SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY**
- April 19 - Friendship lesson
- April 26 - Beginning of April vacation - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY**



April Memory Verse Video Challenge!

Students who would like to memorize this month's Memory Verse can send a video of themselves reciting the verse to Mrs. V and Mrs. B. (CE@HollisChurch.org). Then watch for a special prize in the mail!



April's Bible Memory Verse is:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

VBS 2020

Kim and Kim regret to inform that VBS 2020 won't be taking place. Because of the church renovations, there isn't enough guaranteed open space to hold VBS. A couple local venues were considered but are not possibilities. **BUT, the good news is we will be holding some "VBS theme activity days" on some Sundays this summer.** It's VBS-style Sunday School — not to be missed! Dates and theme will be announced soon!



Female Chaperone Still Needed for Mission Trip



This year, our young people are traveling to Reading, PA from July 12-18 for their annual mission trip/work camp experience. **We are urgently looking for one more woman chaperone** to participate in this experience, which is often perspective-changing for our young people and always rewarding for the adults who join in the fun! If you're interested or know someone whose gifts might be a good match for this opportunity, please contact Holly Babcock (hdeurloo23@gmail.com) or Pastor Tanya (pastor@hollischurch.org).

BoV Time Capsule

Congregant “My thoughts, concerns, hopes, and prayers” Input Wanted...

As part of the BoV renovations, a sub-committee was formed to coordinate the creation of a time capsule. The time capsule box



will be made from the wood of the east lawn maple tree and will be displayed inside the church (as a locked box) rather than buried. A variety of items will be placed inside the box, including pre-printed cards/paper for congregants to fill out sharing their thoughts, concerns, hopes and prayers at this 2020 moment in time. We sincerely hope everyone will partake in this activity so in 2043, when the time capsule is intended to be opened, congregants at that time (including some of us, our children and grandchildren) can get a wonderful sense of how we were feeling at this time. **All input will remain unread** – the time capsule team recognizes and respects that these documented thoughts are for the eyes of our future selves, as well as for congregants unknown at this time. Things are changing at lightning speed, so it's quite certain that in 2043 things will be very different and those reading the cards will very much enjoy hearing about our thoughts today!

Time Line:

- **April Chimes** – ½ page of mailed Chimes can be cut out and filled in (*see page 7*)
- **Between March – May** – Sunday School kids, pre-confirmants and confirmants create their own cards/papers as part of a classroom/meeting activity. Adults return their cards/papers.
- **May 17th Children's Sunday/Church Picnic (or sooner)** – Deadline for cards/papers returned to time capsule team
- **September 13th Homecoming Sunday** – Time Capsule dedication and sealing/locking
- **April 2043** – Time capsule opened (300th anniversary of the first pastor being ordained)

How to Submit your Time Capsule Input:

Two boxes will be available to put your input in on Sundays: one in the narthex and one by the door by the chancel (see pictures). Other than Sundays, those boxes will be located in the church office. Here are the ways you can submit your input:

1. **Fill out one of the 3 options below put it in the box:**
 - Index card provided
 - Cut and fill out the time capsule input section on the back page of this April Chimes
 - Print and fill out the email Chimes linked document for the time capsule input
2. **MAIL one of the 3 options above to 3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049 Attn: Time Capsule Input**
3. **EMAIL your input (ideally as an attachment)** to timecapsuleinput@hollischurch.org and it will be printed and put in the box by the time capsule team.

Trustees' Quiz Question:
How many alpacas could you buy with the church's total annual budget? (answer on p. 5)



Worship Schedule Change

When the day arrives that we are able to resume in-person Sunday worship, we will offer a single service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. This new schedule will enable all members of our congregation to grow together into one body in Christ, facilitating opportunities for greater fellowship, as well as address issues surrounding small attendance numbers at the current early service. Our hope is that together we will embrace the sacrifices this change presents and grow into a deeper relationship with Christ and with each other.



(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

The most dramatic was about to unfold: every firstborn son in Egypt would die, from the Pharaoh's to the slaves'. Unless, that is, the household had been prepared; unless they'd obediently sheltered in place, prepared a meal as instructed, and painted their doorframe with the blood of the sacrificial lamb they would share as a family. (Read Exodus, especially Chapters 11 & 12.)

Jesus and his disciples recalled that story – the back-story to our communion celebration – and while they re-lived the Passover, a new drama was unfolding. Judas secretly arranged to betray Jesus. Peter promised he never would. And then they all went out to the garden, where Jesus asked them to watch and pray with him. He knew what was coming, but the disciples were oblivious. They slept while he prayed. Suddenly, the crisis was upon them. Jesus was first kissed by a friend, then arrested. Peter denied knowing him. And they all watched in horror as their beloved teacher, innocent of all charges, underwent the most hideous humiliation, torture, crucifixion.

A few days before Passover, when they greeted him like a war hero, none could have scripted what was about to unfold. Fewer than twenty-four hours before Good Friday, having their feet washed, none of the disciples imagined how profoundly their world was about to get shaken to its very foundations in every possible way. Then again, none of them imagined what was possible on the other side of their horrific experience of Jesus' death. It didn't occur to them that Jesus would do anything except remain holed up in his tomb, end of story.

Except that it wasn't. First Mary saw him, then the others. Death was not, *is not*, the final word! With God, resurrection is a coda; Love powerful enough to overcome even the most hideous death becomes the Hallelujah chorus!

As the disciples began to comprehend what was going on, they realized that this was also the refrain of the Passover story. A successful Exodus did not mean an *easy* life ahead; but it did mean *new*, potentially richer life if they trusted God more deeply. Entering the Promised Land after the hardships of the wilderness did not mean an *easy* life ahead; it did mean a *new*, potentially richer life—again, if they practiced trusting God's guidance and following divine rules for mutual flourishing.

Here's where the life-and-death drama we're re-enacting (our 2020 version) has an advantage: we know about resurrection. Resurrection reality is firmly woven into our faith-and-life understanding in a way that it wasn't, just yet, for Jesus' earliest disciples. What we are going through right now is yet another opportunity for us to acknowledge that life is not easy, but God is with us, providing what we need if we'll but accept, trust, and obey. Who can imagine what's next, except to accept that yes, there will be death; it's always part of our human story. But, remember: The glorious coda is always resurrection – Hallelujah!

Yours in faith, hope, and love, *Tanya*

Come
ZOOM
Worship
with us!



Virtual Sunday Worship Services & Fellowship

Effective Sunday, March 29th, we will have “virtual” Sunday worship services & fellowship at 10:30 am.

If you are interested in participating in our virtual services and don't already receive church emails, please contact news@hollischurch.org to receive emails with the link to join each Sunday. The link to join the service each Sunday will also be posted on the private Facebook group the morning of the service (go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hollischurchmembers/> if you use Facebook.). We look forward to virtually seeing you!



Virtual Sunday Offering?

Unfortunately, that can't be done...but the church's expenses continue while we worship virtually. Please keep your pledge up to date by either mailing in your pledge checks (3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049) or by giving online (click on the GIVING tab at www.hollischurch.org). Thank you!

From the Church Office

My grateful thanks go to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Doris Rafferty, Debbe Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your March *Chimes* for mailing.

Our Church Records

Deaths – March 24, 2020

Austin Marshall Parkhurst

A Note of Thanks from the Cushmans...

To Everyone,

Sarah and I were overwhelmed with the outpouring of love from you with prayers, thoughts, cards and flowers over our loss of our father and husband, Bob.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With so much gratitude and love,
Sibyl and Sarah

**The Chimes is a publication of the
Congregational Church of Hollis**
www.hollischurch.org

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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.



Trustees' Quiz Q&A

Q: How many alpacas could you buy with the church's total annual budget?

A: 80 Alpacas. According to the web, the average price of an alpaca in our area is \$4,500.00. The church's 2020 budget is roughly 80 times that, or \$361,490.10.

Women's Fellowship

Thank you to those of you who supported our *Dress A Girl* sewing project in March. Your donations of materials and sewing are greatly appreciated and helped make this first time project a success.

Although we will be unable to meet in April, **everyone is invited to assemble Hygiene Kits* for UCC Church World Service.** The kits are distributed worldwide where ever there is poverty or disasters.

*Here's a list of the items in one Hygiene Kit. **All church members** are welcome to assemble one (or more!) kits on their own. Here's what to include:

nail clipper	bath-size bar of soap
wash cloth	toothbrush
10 bandaids	wide tooth comb.
hand towel (no kitchen towels or micro-fiber)	

Place all items in a gallon zip-loc bag and leave in the church office by May 1st. Thank you for supporting this project!

Music Notes



Host Homes Needed: On Saturday, June 6, the **Angel Choir** (a teen choir from First Presbyterian Church of Granville, OH) still hopes to come to Hollis to perform a brief evening concert, and they will help lead our worship on Sunday, June 7th (Confirmation Sunday). This choir, led by Joy Hire (a descendant of Hollis' Worcester family), came and performed in June of 2016--and it was a wonderful concert by some very talented young people! **About 28 teens, along with several adults, will need a bed to sleep for the night of June 6-7;** might you be able to spare a couple beds and welcome a couple teens for that evening? (There's a safe-church policy that no teen is allowed to stay alone in a home; they must go at least in pairs.) If you're able to help, please contact Pastor Tanya, thank you!

Mission & Action News

April Items of the Month:

Laundry detergent, dish soap and more...

for Marguerite's Place

- ◆ Diapers (size 3-6) & Pull-ups
- ◆ Diaper wipes
- ◆ Dish detergent
- ◆ HE laundry detergent
- ◆ Bath towels
- ◆ Twin sheet sets
- ◆ Twin comforters
- ◆ Pillows

Marguerite's Place provides physical, emotional, educational and social support services to homeless women with children so they can achieve and sustain self-sufficiency. Please help them this month by placing your items in the shopping cart by the CE office. Thank you for your continued support!

Fuel Assistance:

The worst of the winter may be behind us, but many depend on fuel oil for providing hot water as well as heat. Heating oil certificates are available for those needing help with paying for their fuel. If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Karen Marino at 603-475-3073 or at kmarino360@gmail.com

TWO Red Cross Blood Drives a BIG Success



On Saturday, March 14, the Mission and Action Board hosted a blood drive in Hardy Hall which produced **37 units** of blood for the Red Cross! This drive was a huge success as our goal was 20 pints. Then, in response to the coronavirus emergency and cancellation of many blood drives, we quickly scheduled another drive on March 20 that yielded an amazing total of **30 more pints!** We had a full house (had to turn away some walk-ins) and a record-setting 17 first-time donors. In this time of uncertainty we truly appreciate the tremendous turnout for these drives. **All of our blood donors deserve a HUGE THANK YOU!** Each and every unit of blood can save up to three lives, and it's not that often you can give such a life-changing gift as that!

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

The Ash Street Shelter is a support center offering basic needs to people in the greater Nashua area. Once a month, the church prepares and delivers dinner to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua. We provide a \$75 gift card to cover the cost of the meal and offer suggestions for dinners on our bulletin board. We need volunteers for June 12 and August 14! Please consider participating and sign up through our bulletin board!

One Great Hour of Sharing offering to be rescheduled



It comes as no surprise as we adapt to the rapid changes taking

place related to the coronavirus, that participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering was just one of those things that couldn't happen on the suggested offering date of March 22. We will participate in the offering at a time in the future that works best for our congregation.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) remains a priority because it is one of the major ways the United Church of Christ provides outreach to the world in its response to disaster, violence and chronic poverty. OGHS also invests in communities world-wide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting micro-credit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. Watch for the special envelopes inserted in your bulletin and please provide generous support. Thank you!

Requests from The Stork Project

Do you have winter jackets and boots that your children are not going to fit into next year? Kathi Lewis from the Stork Project is collecting **children's winter coats and boots** (newborn up to age 12), to save for next year. Instead of packing them away, please drop them off in the cart at the top of the stairs at the side entrance. Please mark them for the Stork Project. Thank you.

Just for Kids...



Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took , gave  and  it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my  given for you; do this in  _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This  is the new  in my blood, which is  out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured

Egg-stra Easter facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!



Easter around the world

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!



The Congregational Church of Hollis
 (United Church of Christ)
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Congregational
 Church of Hollis
 UCC

Name _____

Age _____

2020 Time Capsule

Share your thoughts, hopes, prayers, a drawing or doodle, or whatever else you would like people to know about you at this 2020-momen-in-time when the time capsule is opened and this is read in 2043.

*****SEE TIME CAPSULE INPUT INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE*****