

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

April 2021

[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)

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ceding publication.

*“Why do you look for the living  
among the dead? He is not here,  
but has risen.”* (Luke 24:5b)

Dear Friends,

When we proclaim on Easter morning (and any other time) “Christ is risen—risen, indeed!”, what does that mean to you?

It’s a declaration of death-defying hope, at the very least. An affirmation of confidence in the power of Divine Love to overcome even the worst things we can imagine, experience, or inflict—transforming all things, bringing life even from the most appalling death.

Where, in 2021, do you see a need for the Good News that “Christ is risen, risen indeed!” to be made visible?

In “normal years” (whatever that used to mean), we received a special offering in March for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. OGHS is an ecumenical initiative administered by Church World Service (CWS), and supported by eight Christian denominations including the UCC. It was started in 1949 to help people rebuild after World War II, but since then they’ve continued to address the needs of people suffering the effects of conflict, disaster, and severe economic hardship in more than 100 countries, including the USA and Canada.

Although projects have varied in the past seven decades, OGHS currently addresses three major areas of global need: 1) Development of clean water sources and sanitation facilities, including education to help tackle disease. 2) Combating hunger caused by natural disaster, displacement, and drought, by short-term food provision as well as seeds and instruction to help people grow their own crops. 3) Provision of essential financial funds that help to empower and educate people. This has included, e.g., provision of ‘cleanup buckets’ to hurricane survivors in Houston, and instruction to Cambodians on how to raise chickens and establish a community rice bank.

*(continued on page 3)*



# From the Faith Formation Office



It's hard to believe but the year is wrapping up for Confirmands, with only a few classes left! In April, they will have another Life Lesson on Bravery, and also learn the ins-and-outs of becoming a member of the church.

## April's Bible Memory Verse is:

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is the gift of God.  
Ephesians 2:8



## News from *The Flock*

April is *Superhero* month! Classes will be all about Superheroes of the Bible, and some very fun activities are planned!

\*The Flock will NOT meet on April 27 during school vacation week\*

### Donations needed for Birthday Boxes!

Starting in April, we will be collecting donations for the Birthday Room at Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. This is where kids can go and select items to make their birthday a special day of celebration that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Items being collected are birthday decorations, box cake mixes, frosting, candles, balloons, small toys, and themed supplies. Items can be left in the new large drop-box outside the center (handicap) church entrance marked "Christian Education Collections and Drop-offs."

**Deadline for drop-offs is April 20.**



## Volunteers Needed for Dragonfly Project

*"A message of hope for those who are grieving"*

I'm very excited to announce that I've set up a partnership with the Dragonfly Project; an organization based in Minneapolis, MN. This organization consists of volunteers who send condolence cards carrying a message of hope to people who are grieving. In church school, we teach children the story "*Waterbugs and Dragonflies*" by Doris Stickney as a way to explain death. After losing my son Adam this year, this story has become especially influential to me and my family and brings us peace. In December, the Dragonfly Project sent me a card with a dragonfly keychain in it and I was astounded- "How could they know how special dragonflies are to me?" I was amazed to receive yet another connection to dragonflies from halfway across the country!

Dragonfly Project volunteers look up names in obituaries, then put together and mail packets out; usually 3 to 6 months after the death has occurred. Each packet contains a condolence card, a copy of the dragonfly story printed on the inside cover and a dragonfly keychain. In early April, I will be receiving supplies to make 575 packets consisting of dragonfly keychains, cards, and envelopes. There's 3 ways you can help be part of this amazing project!



1. Assemble dragonfly keychains (this requires use of small pliers and metal jewelry pieces)
2. Take the finished keychains and assemble them into the cards, and put the card into an envelope
3. Become an "Adopt-A-State" volunteer. Volunteers are needed to find card recipients in Connecticut and Vermont at this time. This job would entail looking at obituaries online in these states to identify recipients of the dragonfly cards. They ask for a 2-year commitment for this job.

Although the overall theme of this project seems sad, I can say from my experience that receiving one of these cards truly was an uplifting experience and brightened my outlook. Please consider helping to brighten the day of a grieving person! Interested volunteers can email me at [kimberlysu@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberlysu@hotmail.com) or call 978-501-7510.

Gratefully, Kim Verrecchia

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

This year, the **OGHS theme is “Let Love Flow”** with a focus on the ways that providing clean water and sanitation can transform a community, because it literally touches every area of life. Examples of the work CWS and OGHS makes possible are powerful. Here are a few: Having clean water nearby means that women in Nicaragua don’t have to spend their entire day walking to the next-best source—which opens opportunities for learning or vocational development. In Kenya, children are freed up from carrying heavy buckets and can go to school instead. Families are able to spend more time together. With a nearby well, crops are able to thrive in Vietnam, translating into food security and improved nutrition across the entire community. Improved sanitation slows the spread of disease and illness. People of all ages, worldwide, are enabled to provide for their families today even as they pave the way for the future of their communities.



The announcement that “Christ is risen—risen, indeed!” is not merely an assurance that life goes on after death, as if the afterlife is God’s (or our) main concern. It’s a proclamation recognizing that God graciously gives us a taste of resurrection life in *this* world, here and now, when we choose to serve others by sharing the resources entrusted to us. Life can and does spring from places of death, when faithful people respond to opportunities to bless and support others. After all, we all *are* connected.

**Please consider supporting our OGHS offering this year, on April 18** (or any time before then; just send your donation to the church office; checks payable to The Congregational Church of Hollis with OGHS on the memo line), and help people to experience divine love, actual salvation, in concrete ways—now, not just in the afterlife. I’d love to raise more than \$500 from our congregation! If you’re interested in learning more about Church World Service of OGHS, you can check out their videos at: <https://cwsglobal.org> and [https://www.ucc.org/oghs\\_trashed/oghs\\_oghs-videos/](https://www.ucc.org/oghs_trashed/oghs_oghs-videos/).

And, I invite you to join us as we embrace our newest Holy Habit starting on April 11, the Sunday after Easter. We’ll be diving into the Holy Habit of Service (one that is already near and dear to many hearts in our community, so this should be fun)!

Happy Easter, dear friends ... Christ is risen—risen, indeed!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

## Our Church Records

### Deaths

February 22, 2021

Frank Whittemore

### Memorial Gifts

*In memory of Adam Verrecchia by:*

Rose Silveria

*In memory of Pat Petrusek by:*

Robbin and Duane Dunn

*In memory of Frank Whittemore by:*

Gail Harrison

Karen Marino

\*\*\*\*\*

“I want to thank all who sent me cards on my 96<sup>th</sup> birthday – only four more years to 100!

Thanks, Dot Pitman



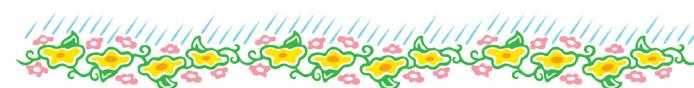
**Our church custodian John Balfour** and his wife Helen, who are both deaf, were recently featured in the *Thrive* magazine (a publication of St Joseph Hospital) article *Navigating Healthcare in Silence* about the use of ASL interpreters for effective communication. Check out the article at <https://www.stjosephhospital.com/about-us/thrive>




### Spring Yard Clean-Up Help

**Troop 465** is a new and active opportunity for girls in the Hollis area. For our start-up fundraising, we are **providing a yard clean-up team** to help you get a jump on your backyard oasis. A small team of scouts and adults will come and help with light yardwork such as picking up winter debris, mulching or like. We are available on **weekends of April 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**. You can sign up for one of our planned slots at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0549ADAA2B0-troop> or contact Tanya Tenkarian at 465-7888 or email [hollistroop465@gmail.com](mailto:hollistroop465@gmail.com).



# April 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Zoom Sunday worship services and fellowship on <u>Sunday mornings at 9:30.</u></b> Church boards meet via Zoom.  <b>April Items of the Month: Paper Products and Cleaning Supplies</b> like... ♦ Toilet paper ♦ Paper towels ♦ Napkins ♦ Dishwashing liquid ♦ All-purpose cleaners ♦ Sanitizing wipes ...and, always, ...♦ DIAPERS for Marguerite's Place				<b>Maundy Thursday</b>  7:30 pm – Tenebrae Service on zoom  1	<b>Good Friday</b>  2	3
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:15 am – Easter Sunrise Service at Triple Knoll Farm 9:30 am – Communion Worship on zoom 11:00 am – In-Person Worship on Squires Patio (weather permitting/sign up required)  4	7 pm – CE Board meeting  5	4:30 pm – The Flock meets on zoom 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting  6	10 am – Coffee Hour on Zoom 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting  7	7pm - Choir  8	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter  9	Deadline for re-servicing space at the Church Yard Sale  10
9:30 am – Worship on zoom  11	7 pm – Deacons meeting  12	4:30 pm – The Flock meets in <b>Hardy Hall</b> 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting  13	10 am – Coffee Hour on Zoom  14	7pm - Choir  May Chimes deadline  15	16	Church & Community <b>Yard Sale</b>  *9am – 12:30 pm In the church parking lot  17
9:30 am – Worship on zoom <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> Special Offering taken 2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group  18	7 pm – Trustees meeting  19	4:30 pm – The Flock meets in <b>Hardy Hall</b> 7 pm – Church Council meeting  20	10 am – Coffee Hour on Zoom  21	7pm - Choir  22	23	Yard Sale Rain Date Same time & place!   24
9:30 am – Worship on zoom  25	26	27	10 am – Coffee Hour on Zoom  28	7pm - Choir  29	30	





☆ **Saturday, April 17** ☆

**(Rain date Saturday, April 24)**

☆ **9:00 am - 12:30 pm** ☆

☆ **Hollis Church & Library Parking Lot** ☆

☆ **Rent a space for \$25 to sell your own items**

- Bring your own table or rent one for an additional \$10
- Renter is responsible for setting-up, selling, and hauling away all their unsold items

☆ **Volunteers needed!**

- Hosts/greeters, sale assistants, bake sale, set-up & clean-up, traffic/parking attendants, vehicle loaders and drivers/haulers

☆ **Email [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org) to secure your spot or volunteer!** (or call the church office at 603-465-7797)

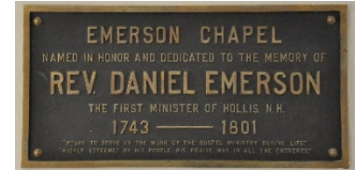
☆ ***Deadline to secure a space is April 10*** ☆



## ...And the Rest is History

### Rev. Daniel Emerson, Part I

By Cindy Ryherd



This is the first of a multi-part series about Rev. Daniel Emerson, the first pastor of what is now the Congregational Church of Hollis. Emerson Chapel, part of the current church building, is named in honor and memory of him. The chapel was built and dedicated in 1925 as part of the construction of the current Meetinghouse (the previous one burning

down in 1923). Pictured are the inside of Emerson Chapel in 1925 and what it looks like today.

April is a fitting month to begin this series, as it was on April 20, 1743 (278 years ago) that Rev. Daniel Emerson was ordained in the one-room Meetinghouse that existed at the time. Born on May 20, 1716 in Reading, MA, he was just 26 years old (turning turn 27 a month later) when he was ordained and he remained the sole pastor for 50 years. At 77 years old, he gave up half of his salary to make way for a co-pastor, Reverend Eli Smith (Rev. Emerson's grand-daughter's husband). He continued to serve as co-pastor until his death on September 30, 1801 at 85 years old, fulfilling the language he added to the 1743 contract with the town: "*I as freely and willingly accept of the call and freely subscribe myself yours to serve in the work of the Gospel Ministry **During Life.***" (in other words, he felt himself bound to the contract for life).

**Let's start by setting the scene of life back in colonial New England because it is in this context that one can more fully appreciate the true significance of Rev. Daniel Emerson: both what he meant to the town and what his decision to come here might have entailed.**

In 1743, it had been only 13 years since Peter Powers ventured into what was then the West Dunstable Territory of Massachusetts. In 1741, West Dunstable Territory of MA was divided into West Dunstable, MA and West Dunstable, NH when King George settled a border dispute between MA and NH resulting in the border moving south to where it is today. **Side note:** Unlike today where NH residents have been known to scorn those from MA, the townspeople at that time were not thrilled at being told they were now part of NH. They considered themselves people of MA, but they moved forward because what choice did they have? The King had spoken! The area that was West Dunstable, NH, over time, was divided into several current cities and towns, including all of Hollis and parts of Brookline, Milford, Amherst, Merrimack and Nashua. On April 3, 1746 about one-half of West Dunstable, NH was incorporated and named Holles (later changed to Hollis). **All of this is to say that pretty much everything was in a state of flux and changing rapidly!**

Also, in 1743, we were colonies of England under the rule of King George II, still 3+ decades until the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War, 4+ decades until the ratification of the United States Constitution, and 5 decades until the ratification of the Bill of Rights with the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment guaranteeing, among other things "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*". **The key takeaway here is that in 1743, there was NO separation of Church and State and the West Dunstable Congregational Church, like all churches at that time, was supported by town taxes.**

**So intertwined were religion and government in colonial New England that in order to petition for a town charter, it was required to have a church (aka Meetinghouse), and having a settled pastor was also an important consideration.** Being chartered was important as it established the town as a real entity with privileges, and it was much more likely that their concerns, disputes, and legal issues would be heard and resolved (with all the change, disputes were very common at that time). For that reason alone, it would have been VERY important to the early settlers of West Dunstable, NH to hire a settled pastor to ensure approval of a request for charter. Plus, this was the time of The Great Awakening, a religious revival that swept the English

colonies during the 1730s and 1740s resulting in a renewed dedication toward religion. Settlers of West Dunstable would have been well-aware of and caught up in the movement. NOT having a settled pastor would be unacceptable.

By 1741 West Dunstable, NH had its 1-room Meetinghouse and in January 1742, 43 townsmen unanimously voted to extend Rev. Emerson an offer to become the settled pastor. The offer included a settlement fee in local currency, his salary a fixed amount of Bills of Credit equivalent to local currency, and 30 cords of wood delivered yearly. Emerson took over a year pondering his decision before he responded and in March 1743, they received and considered his response.

Being of good, shrewd Yankee blood, Emerson counter-offered asking for his settlement fee to include **Forty Acres of Good Land, near and convenient to the Meetinghouse**, having his **salary paid in Bills of Credit equal to 150 ounces of coined Silver** (a much more reliable currency than local currencies at the time), **30 cords of wood delivered yearly**, and **a stipulation for salary increases as the number of families reached 100, and again when they reached 150**. (NOTE: By 1760, the number of families had risen to over 105 so he was wise to incorporate the “growth raise” into his contract!)

The townsmen accepted Rev. Emerson’s counter-offer and on April 20, 1743, he was ordained as the first pastor of the West Parish of Dunstable. The pewter communion platter from his ordination ceremony hangs on display at the church today, presented to the church by Mrs. Lulu Bancroft of Pepperrell in 1970, tracing back to Jonathan Lovejoy (buried in the church cemetery) who came to Hollis on April 20, 1743, the day of Rev. Emerson’s ordination.



**Why did it take a year for Daniel Emerson to accept the offer?** Daniel Emerson’s grandfather, Rev. Joseph Emerson, was a preacher (York, ME), so it seems this would be an easy decision. However, his FATHER, Peter Emerson, was a wealthy farmer (wealth acquired through marriage to Anna Brown), allowing Daniel the privilege of attending Harvard. At Harvard, he was not considered an exemplary student. He liked to dance (wicked!) and he was not inclined to choose the most serious-minded students as companions. Study of divinity was not on his mind. **My interpretation of that information:** He had been a bit of a carefree “bad boy” with no real purpose or direction. During his time at Harvard, he would visit his cousin Rev. Joseph Emerson in Malden, whose daughter, Hannah (Daniel’s 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin), he eventually married. Chances are pretty good that an interest may have sparked during those visits!

After graduation in 1739, he stayed in Cambridge as graduate student and butler. A year after his graduation, he saw the English evangelist Whitefield speak in Cambridge. Whitefield was a prominent preacher of The Great Awakening previously aforementioned and in Emerson’s words he “*Heard the call of the Lord to be henceforth his minister*”. He followed Whitefield from town-to-town, profoundly changing his life and giving it purpose. If that sounds crazy, he was not alone. Whitefield would have audiences of up to 25,000 people during his open-air sermons. With his marvelous voice, his sweeping emotion, and his picturesque delivery, he thrilled and moved his audience when he spoke.

Still, when Daniel received his offer in 1742, despite his relatively new-found religious fervor, there would have been MUCH to consider before deciding to become the pastor (for LIFE) of West Dunstable, NH, which was so isolated compared to the likes of Cambridge, Malden, or even Reading, MA where he was born and raised! Perhaps he was also trying to get offers from other towns; towns closer to “civilization”? West Dunstable was a HUGE area (remember all the towns it was ultimately divided into) with only 30 families in residence – we’re talking REMOTE! Another important consideration was likely Hannah, who lived in Malden. Would she be willing to move so far away if they were to marry? Their love for one another was very real; definitely NOT a relationship of convenience (more about them in a future edition)! It may have taken a year to solidify their relationship enough where he felt sure she would go with him!

Alas, it was clearly meant to be. After a year of consideration, Daniel Emerson accepted the position (under conditions of his counter-offer) and arrived in West Dunstable in April 1743. Once ordained, he wasted no time building a cabin on the 40 acres of land he was given as part of his contract. It promptly burned down! In





1744 he rebuilt what is now referred to as the Emerson House overlooking the town common of Monument Square located on the east side of Main Street across Cleasby Lane from Hollis Town Hall. Only the oldest portion of the house that faces Cleasby Lane was built in 1744 (in preparation for the arrival of his bride). Reverend Daniel Emerson and Hannah Emerson married in the one-room Meetinghouse of West Dunstable, NH on November 11, 1744, a year and a half after his ordination. As Emerson's family grew (13 children total), the house was expanded. It is one of the oldest surviving houses in Hollis and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Tune in next month to learn more about the 58 years of impact that Rev. Daniel Emerson had on Hollis. Teacher, soldier, an original "friends of the library", adoring husband...it goes well beyond his role as town religious leader!**

**No matter who you are,  
no matter where you are on life's journey,  
*you are welcome here.***

We are seeking volunteers to form a committee to look into the process of becoming an "Open and Affirming" church. This committee will research what it means to become Open and Affirming, determine the steps that need to be taken, and encourage an open and safe discussion on the subject for the entire congregation.



- What:** Open and Affirming, or "ONA" for short, is a movement of over 1,500 congregations within the United Church of Christ that openly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) members. By becoming an ONA church, a congregation announces that their church is a safe and welcoming space for all LGBTQ individuals.
- Why:** LGBTQ Christians are often treated unkindly by church communities, and have learned that the phrase "all are welcome" often does not apply to them. Becoming an ONA church and declaring that truly *all* are welcome can be life changing, and even lifesaving, for members of the LGBTQ community. By adopting an ONA covenant, a congregation is taking seriously St. Paul's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" (Romans 15:7, NIV).
- How:** The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ provides many resources for congregations considering the adoption of an ONA covenant. Our hope is to gather a small group of members of the church to review these materials and facilitate discussion among the entire congregation. If the congregation agrees that we should become an Open and Affirming church, then a covenant will be drafted and adopted by a vote. Upon adoption of an ONA covenant, the church will register with the Coalition, which advertises the church's new status and connects us with the ONA community.

If you are interested in learning more or you would like to help get this process moving forward, please e-mail [deaconboard@hollischurch.org](mailto:deaconboard@hollischurch.org).



# Mission & Action News

## April Item of the Month: *Paper Products & Cleaning Supplies* for Marguerite's Place

This month we welcome donations of any **paper products and cleaning supplies** for the families at Marguerite's Place. They cannot use their SNAP benefits for these necessities. Drop your donations in the **\*new collection bin\*** at church or, if you purchase items on Amazon, you can have them delivered straight to Marguerite's Place at 87 Palm Street Nasua 03060.

Suggested items include:

- ◆ Toilet paper    ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Napkins    ◆ DIAPERS
- ◆ Dishwashing liquid
- ◆ All-purpose Cleaners
- ◆ Sanitizing Wipes

Thank you so much!



## Ash St Shelter Dinner Chefs Needed

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, members of our church prepare a meal for the 25-30 people at The Ash Street Shelter. We provide volunteers with a Market Basket gift card to pay for the ingredients. You do the cooking and delivering. **Volunteers needed for June – December!** For more information or ideas of what to cook, contact Lee Harper at [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net) or (603) 465-5118.

## Food & Fuel Assistance

It is still a little chilly outside and there may still be a need for fuel assistance. If you know of someone who needs a little help with fuel or food gift cards, please let Karen Marino know at [kmarino360@gmail.com](mailto:kmarino360@gmail.com).



### **\*New Collection Bin\***

Look for the new M&A drop-off bin outside the center (handicapped entrance) door at church. It's an easy way to make contactless donations any time, any day!

## Ongoing Collections

We are continuously collecting:

- Items for the **Brookline Food Pantry**  
Their needs include: disposable razors, dry cat food, dry dog food, dish soap, Zip-style storage bags, rice, Rice-a-Roni, instant potatoes, ground coffee, kids cereal, pasta sauce
- Eyeglasses
- Used Cell Phones
- Travel size Toiletries
- Greeting Cards and Stationery
- **Toddler-size Diapers**

## Your M&A \$ at Work...

In March, your donations supported:

- Meals on Wheels
- Nashua Soup Kitchen
- Nashua Children's Home
- SAU 41 68 Hours of Hunger
- Marguerite's Place

## Suggestions?

Thank you for your yearly support to the church. Through your generous giving, our church funds many organizations in the local community, state, nation and abroad. The M&A board members decide the organizations to support and their funding on the behalf of the church.

If you have any suggestions for organizations deserving of our church's support, please contact any Mission & Action Board member.

## Calling All Gardeners!

Seeking volunteers for our new **Gardens & Landscaping Ministry Team**. No green thumb necessary! Email

[Trustees@hollischurch.org](mailto:Trustees@hollischurch.org) for more information.





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**

## Holy Week Services

**Palm/Passion Sunday** ~ March 28 9:30 am on Zoom  
Featuring a Dramatic Reading of Mark's Passion and special music

**Maundy Thursday** ~ April 1 7:30 pm on Zoom  
Our traditional Tenebrae service with communion

**Easter Sunday** ~ April 4

**6:15 am Sunrise Service at Triple Knoll Farm**  
(11 Pepperell Rd, Hollis) Although outside, participants please wear masks and remain appropriately distanced. Sadly, because it's not yet safe to share food, there will be no refreshments following the service.

**9:30 am Zoom Service** with Communion and special music, including a new choir performance video!

**11 am Outdoor Communion Service on the Squires Community Patio**, weather permitting. Sign-up is required. Numbers limited to 60, masking and distancing will be expected.

