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Congregational Church of Hollis**
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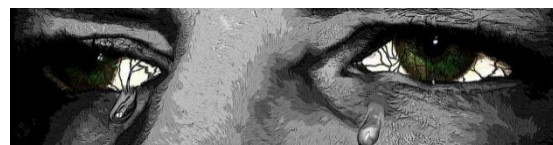
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“Jesus wept.”

(John 11:35, KJV)



Dear Friends,

In John’s gospel, in a story foreshadowing his own death and resurrection, Jesus receives the news from Martha and Mary that their brother and Jesus’ dear friend, Lazarus, is very ill. But Jesus wasn’t able to go immediately, and Lazarus dies. As John describes it, we see Jesus approaching Bethany where his friends lived, and hearing the anguished stories of those who had hoped he’d be there before Lazarus passed. And, we read, he was deeply moved by the stories. Finally, just before he calls a resurrected Lazarus forth from the tomb, we read in John 11:35, “Jesus wept.” (It’s been celebrated by some as the shortest verse in the Bible, at least in the KJV.) In a demonstration of empathy and love, Jesus sheds tears. For Lazarus? Or for his sisters? Maybe for all of them, and for the complicated situation it represented? We’re not told precisely. But his response was profound; **one of love’s truest and most healing and transformational expressions is empathy.**

Later in John’s gospel, Jesus once again demonstrates empathy — on the occasion of his own resurrection. He greets a bereaved Mary Magdalene in the garden near his tomb. He honors her, and her pain, as he invites her to share her story: “Woman, why are you weeping?” (John 20:15) That empathetic curiosity is healing, and allows Mary herself to see the world differently—and, in turn, to share life-changing Good News with her community.

The *Widening Our Vision* team is inviting us to practice Christ-like empathy as we welcome the testimonies and stories of LGBTQ+ people in upcoming weeks. The process of becoming an official Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation is one that requires empathetic, open hearts and open minds, not least because there are many false assumptions and misconceptions about what that might mean.

(continued on page 3)

From the Faith Formation Office

April's Confirmation schedule includes a Core class, a Life Lesson, and food box packing service project:



- Sunday, April 3 - Church Membership core class at 9:30am
- Sunday, April 10- Easter food box packing at Brookdale, time TBD
- Wednesday, April 20- Community Life Lesson at 4:30pm

Post Confirmands – Cooking Opportunity

We will be meeting again to cook a meal to deliver to the residents of the Ash Street Shelter.

Dates: Friday, April 8th, 2022

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

Place: Church Kitchen

RSVP: emilee.sattler@gmail.com

Please let me know if you can help out!

★ Birthday Box donations needed!



Please consider donating some goods to allow a local child in need to have a very Happy Birthday!

Kim and Kim will be accepting donations for Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter's Birthday room for the month

of April. This is where children can go to pick out supplies to make their birthday special and fun. Donate a whole kit or any supplies you wish!

Each kit we deliver will have:

- boxed cake mix and frosting
- foil cake pan
- sprinkles and candles
- plates/napkins
- birthday banner
- small toys
- all of the above in a birthday gift bag

Donations can be dropped off in the CE office downstairs in Flagg room on Sunday mornings, or in the outdoor CE bin anytime. Thank you!

News from the Flock

During the first two weeks in April, Flock classes will be busy learning about Easter and making cards to pack with Easter food boxes....and that's not all!

On April 3rd, the Flock will go on an **egg hunt** led by the confirmands. More information will be sent to parents regarding the egg hunt.



★ **NO FLOCK CLASS** or nursery services on:

- April 17 (Easter)
- April 24 (1st weekend of April vacation)

★~Introducing an **ALL-NEW** program which will be offered sporadically throughout the year...

Flock Adventure Days!

No school? No problem! Join in the fun on the first day of April vacation – **Monday, April 25 from 9am-12pm**

This **nature-themed Adventure Day** will be like a mini-VBS: We will start with a lesson and music, followed by outdoor fun, activities, crafts, and snack.

For PreK-Grade 6.

Registration details coming soon.



(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

I've heard fearful expressions of concern about "becoming a queer church" (which has different meanings to different people), some claiming that becoming ONA will be "dangerous" for our church, and others who have wondered, "Why do we need to make a public statement about this particular minority of people when we already say we're welcoming to all people?"

I've also heard expressions of impatience for those who, for whatever reason, still aren't comfortable with the idea that God welcomes LGBTQ+ people in our churches, or "don't believe that God approves of their 'lifestyle'" (where 'lifestyle' is a loaded term).

In some ways, this feels to me like a Mary-Martha-Lazarus story. We in the Church have been hearing for a while that our LGBTQ+ siblings have been suffering—but we've been preoccupied with other things. We've not shown up for them with healing power in the ways we could have done. And now, we may be arriving in ways that feel to some like it's too little, too late.

But if we are to follow Jesus' example, we will take in the stories. We will listen with compassion, with empathy, with open hearts and open minds. We may even weep. After all, it's complicated, and the stories are often filled with anguish. Then finally, even though it's daunting, if we're allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to move in us and through us, we will discover the power and courage to participate in God's resurrection work together. I do hope you'll attend the information and sharing sessions in April and May (see p. 5 for details), and that you'll be praying for God's loving, life-giving work and will to be accomplished in this ONA discernment process.

I also hope you'll join us for our Holy Week and Easter morning services (see p. 8 for details), and invite a friend to come, too! As we gather to celebrate the glorious hope and promise entrusted to us, may you experience the profound joy and freedom of living in the light of resurrection. Christ is risen, Hallelujah!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Coming in May...

New Member Inquirer's Classes

Interested in learning a little more about our church—our history, our current activities, and our future? Want to know what's involved with becoming a full member of our faith family? Come along to our New Member Inquirers Classes on Wednesdays, **May 4th and 11th at 7 p.m.!** Please send Pastor Tanya an email pastor@hollischurch.org if you're interested—and if Wednesday evenings aren't a workable time for you (we know some of you have children who go to bed around that time!), let her know when a preferable time might be.

Join us for a...



Thursday, May 12th, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Hardy Hall & Squires Patio

All are Welcome!

RSVPs appreciated to: FandH@hollischurch.org



Saturday, May 7, 9 am-12:30 pm

Hollis Church & Library Parking Lot


Volunteers needed! (before, during, after)

Merchandise donations accepted May 1st – 6th

Questions: FandH@hollischurch.org or 603-860-2178

April 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Widening Our Vision Sunday Speaker Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 3 ~ Stacy Esposito, Clinical Mental Health Counselor April 24 ~ Leaf Seligman, author and restorative justice practitioner May 15 ~ Gerri Cannon, NH House of Representatives; transgender woman 			Mission Items of the Month: • Diapers, Diapers, Diapers! 		1	2
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock / Confirmation 10:45 am – <i>Widening Our Vision</i> speaker event: Stacy Esposito, Clinical Mental Health Counselor 3	7 pm – CE Board meeting 4	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 1 pm – Staff meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 5	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Lenten Study #5/6 Easter flower order deadline 6	7 pm - Choir 7	3-5pm - Our post-Confirmation youth provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 8	9
<i>Palm / Passion Sunday</i> 9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) <i>Church World Service Blanket Sunday</i> 9:30 am – The Flock Time TBD - Confirmants pack Easter food baskets 10	7 pm – Deacons meeting 11	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 12	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 7 pm – Lenten Study #6/6 13	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:30 pm - worship 14	May 2022 <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15	16
<i>Easter Sunday</i> 5:45 am – Sunrise Service on the hill at Triple Knoll Farm, 11 Pepperell Rd 9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) NO Sunday School 17	7 pm – Trustees meeting 18	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 19	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 4:30pm – Confirmation Life Lesson 7 pm – Council meeting 20	21	22	23
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) NO Sunday School <i>Widening Our Vision</i> speaker event: Leaf Seligman, author and restorative justice practitioner 24	9am-12pm – Flock Adventure Day! 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 25	26	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 27	7 pm – Choir 28	29	30

From the Widening Our Vision (WOV) Team...



Mr. Rogers and our Open and Affirming Journey

Beloved children's television show host Fred Rogers donned his trademark sweater and sneakers at the start of each episode and asked, "Won't you be my neighbor?" He had much to teach generations of children about acceptance, caring, inclusion, being 'helpers' — lessons that are valuable for both young and old.

He shared his wisdom at Dartmouth College's 2002 commencement ceremony,* and although his words were aimed at the graduation class, they also speak to our Open and Affirming journey, as we seek to widen our vision and extend a welcome to all, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

Our world hangs like a magnificent jewel in the vastness of space. Every one of us is a part of that jewel, a facet of that jewel, and in the perspective of infinity, our differences are infinitesimal. We are intimately related. May we never even pretend that we are not. ... Deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too, even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then. ...

[Roman philosopher] Boethius wrote this sentence: "Oh happy race of mortals if your hearts are ruled, as is the universe, by love." ... [There is a] deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive: love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed. So in all that you do, in all of your life, I wish you the strength and the grace to make those choices which will allow you — and your neighbor — to become the best of whoever you are.

—Fred McFeely Rogers, 2002

Please mark your calendars and join us for our...

Widening Our Vision Speaker Series Come, listen, learn, share, discuss, ask questions!

Sunday, April 3 ~ Stacy Esposito

Please join the Widening our Vision team in Hardy Hall after worship on Sunday, April 3. Stacy Esposito, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor and owner of Healing Roots LLC, will lead an activity and discussion about how we can support the LGBTQ+ community. Special focus on the topic of transgender folks, as people have asked how to be better allies to this group. Come with questions and an open heart!

Sunday, April 24 ~ Leaf Seligman

Leaf Seligman will preach on April 24th, followed by an open "Circle session" in Hardy Hall for anyone interested in participating. Leaf will share from her personal experience in the LGBTQ+ community, as a teacher, and from her wisdom and expertise in leading Restorative Circles, the aim of which is fostering deeper peace and mutual understanding. "One of the most important contributions of Circles is the strengthened web of relationships among a group of people. ... As people sit together, talk about values, share personal stories, and work through disagreements in an atmosphere of respect and caring, they weave strong cords of connection among themselves."* <http://leafseligman.com/restorative-circle-services/>

Sunday, May 15 ~ Gerri Cannon

Gerri Cannon will speak to us on Sunday, May 15, about her personal experience and journey as a transgender woman. A fellow member of the UCC, Gerri is a member of the NH House of Representatives (2018-present); a member of the Somersworth School Board; has held a wide variety of hardware, software, marketing, education and consulting positions across the past three decades; and as a master carpenter, is owner and founder of Cannon's Carpenter on Call.

Email WOV@hollischurch.org with questions or comments

*Read the entire text of Mr. Rogers' 2002 Dartmouth commencement speech [here](#).

Mission & Action News

April Items of the Month: Diapers, Diapers, Diapers!

Diapers (especially in larger sizes) are always on the *Most Wanted* list of many of the organizations we support. Pick up a box when you're out shopping, or order through smile.amazon.com where you can purchase and have them sent directly to a specified organization, while the church receives a percentage back!



Blanket Sunday is April 10th



Blanket the World with Love
When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference! That's why the Church World Service, CWS Blanket program was created – to give a

kind, loving, tangible response to someone in need, reminding them that they are not alone.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way! Please support the CWS Blanket program on Sunday, April 10, with a generous monetary donation. We will have collection envelopes during the service, but we are encouraging you to give throughout the month to this organization.

Ways to give to CWS Blanket program:

- Checks made out to Congregational Church of Hollis with *CWS Blankets* in the memo line, can be included in the worship offering on April 10 or mailed to the church any time during April
- Donate to this offering on our church's online giving page <https://hollischurch.org/donations/>
- Donate directly to Church World Service at <https://cwsglobal.org/donate/>
- Mail a donation to *Church World Service, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515*

Let your response be one of love, by giving to our neighbors in their time of need!

Your donated dollars at work:

- Gift Cards for food were provided from our Fuel and Food Assistance that is collected on Christmas Eve. If you know of someone in need, please contact Lee Harper at BLHarper@tds.net
- Donation made to Save the Children in grant matching program.
- Donation made to the UCC to help with Ukraine Relief.

Cook a Meal for Ash St Shelter



Ash Street Shelters are still in need of volunteers to prepare and cook dinners. We need to fill the calendar from August until the end of the year. Mark your calendar and help the church out in this monthly commitment. Cook a meal for 20- to 25 people and deliver it on the 2nd Friday of the month. You will receive a gift card for expenses from Lee Harper, please contact him at BLHarper@tds.net if you would like to plan and prepare a meal.

We are supporting the 3rd Annual

Step-Up 5K Run-Walk

to support Meals on Wheels

Saturday, May 28, at Mine Falls Park
7 Stadium Dr, Nashua (Stellos Stadium Entrance)

Check-In: 8:30 AM- 9:15 AM

Run-Walk: 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Entrance Fee: \$25 Early Bird by May 5th
\$30 after May 5

Children 12 & under: \$5 discount
Register before April 27th / receive a 2022 T-shirt

Registration for 2022 Step-Up is Open! Join us for the 3rd Annual 5K Run-Walk for Meals on Wheels!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/NH/Nashua/HCMOW5k>



Easter Flowers

New this year ... Dahlias! You may place dahlias in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones. Complete the form below to place your order.

I would like to order _____ **Dahlias** (please indicate quantity) to be placed in church on Easter Sunday.

_____ Total cash/check enclosed at **\$12.50 per plant** Checks should be made payable to: **The Congregational Church of Hollis** with *Easter flowers* on the memo line.

This plant is given _____ **in loving memory** OR _____ **in honor** of:
(PRINT NAMES AS THEY SHOULD BE LISTED IN DEDICATION)

Your
Name: _____
(PRINT YOUR NAME EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR IN DEDICATION)

Telephone: _____

_____ I wish my plant **TO BE DELIVERED** to friends or members of our church family in hospitals or nursing homes.

_____ **I WILL PICK UP** my plant(s) *after the service* on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022.

Please return form to: The Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: Wednesday, April 6, 2022

...And the Rest is History: Our Church's History Highlights

This popular series of articles was completed last month, although we do expect one final article about our Adam Verrecchia Memorial Community Garden to appear in the summer edition of *The Chimes*. Taking its place will be occasional **Church History Spotlight** pieces about individual historical items or photographs displayed in our church.

April's *Church History Spotlight* is on the tall **silver vase** on display in the narthex. The vase was donated by Kate Cutter Gage in 1924 and was prominently displayed in the middle of the communion table for the 1925 opening of the current church building.

Kate Cutter Gage (1845–1928) married Charles M. Gage on September 17, 1868 in the Hollis Congregational Church. The vase was a gift to the church in appreciation of her memory of being wed in the church that burned down in 1923, and in honor of her paternal family history with the church.



Kate was the granddaughter of Dr. Benoni Cutter and Phebe Jewett Tenney (both buried in the church cemetery), and the daughter of John H. Cutter and Susan Fletcher Poole (both buried in south cemetery). Dr. Benoni Cutter was a deacon and strong pillar of the church for many years under the second pastor, Reverend Eli Smith. Her father, John H. Cutter, was born in Hollis but moved to Louisville, KY where Kate was born, returning to Hollis and the church for the last few years of his life. Having lost so many items in the fire of 1923, we are grateful for the many items donated for the opening of the new church, including this beautiful silver vase.

Our Church Records

Deaths ~ February 21, 2022 Robert (Bob) D.W. Burns

Memorial Gifts ~ *In memory of Bob Burns* by Dee and Bill Wagner

From the Church Office...

A BIG Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Freddi Olson and Deb Shipman for preparing your March *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.



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

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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Palm/Passion Sunday ~ April 10 at 9:30 a.m.

A “Good Enough” service (continuing our Lenten theme) with special music, to include a children’s Procession of Palms and a dramatic reading of the Passion Account.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Our traditional Maundy Thursday service, including Holy Communion and Tenebrae. The community cross will be draped in black through Holy Saturday.

Easter Services ~ April 17

5:45 a.m. Sunrise Service at Triple Knoll Farm, 11 Pepperell Road, Hollis.

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship with special music including guest organist and fellowship to follow on Squires Community Patio (weather permitting).