

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

April 2023

www.HollisChurch.org

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Congregational Church of Hollis**  
**www.hollischurch.org**

Lead Pastor

**Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen**

Sabbatical Pastor

**Rev. Robert Fellows**

RevFellows@comcast.net

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

**Kim Burton**

CE@HollisChurch.org

Minister of Christian Music:

**Julie Oliver**

Church Office

**Eileen Widner**

ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org

**Cindy Ryherd**

**Lynn Goldberg**

admin@HollisChurch.org

**Contact us:**

Office: 603-465-7797 or 465-7099

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published for the summer months.  
All submissions for the newsletter  
are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month pre-  
ceding publication.

Dear Friends,

When churches select scripture readings for worship, many draw from the Revised Common Lectionary, a list of recommended readings that fit the church calendar. I do that, and I always try to include at least a Gospel reading and a reading from Hebrew scripture. The Hebrew scriptures are often called the "Old Testament," but that has an evaluative quality to it. (Which is "better," old or new?)



Our Hebrew scripture readings from now through Easter will always include a reading from the book of Psalms. The Psalms are full of human emotion. There are songs. The Greek word "psalmos" means "the plucking of strings." That could include strings of a harp, and the strings of emotion on our hearts.

There are psalms of praise, thanksgiving, lament, complaint, and supplication. One of the forms of prayer is to express to God what is on our hearts. "Please help me!" is an example of this kind of prayer. So is, "God, we pray that you DRIVE the cancer out of this person!" It doesn't mean that we are going to judge God on God's ability to heal each individual on our time schedule. But it's important to give expression to our emotions.

There are psalms that tell the story of everything going wrong and doom assured, followed by reconciliation and God's salvific intervention. The psalms are honest, full of life, and yet always hopeful.

If you want to read something before coming to church on Sunday mornings, or before participating in the service remotely, you might begin with the reading from Psalms. My sermon will be based on that reading and the Gospel reading for that Sunday. See the selected lectionary readings on the next page.

Prayerfully,

*Rev. Robert Fellows*

*(Lectionary Readings on page 2)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## CE Book Read

This month the CE Board invites you to read “*the good book*”! Rev. Fellows suggests the Scripture Readings from the lectionary for April and May.

4/2 Palm Sunday ~ Liturgy of the Palms  
and Communion Sunday  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Gospel Reading: Mathew 21:1-11

4/9 Easter  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Reading From Psalms: Psalm 118:14-18  
Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:1-4  
Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

4/16 Second Sunday of Easter  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 16  
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

4/23 Third Sunday of Easter  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

4/30 Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 23  
Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

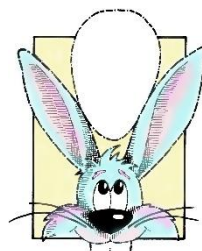
5/7 Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ Communion Sunday  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

5/14 Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ Mother’s Day  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 66:8-20  
Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22  
Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

5/18 Ascension Day  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 93  
Reading From Acts: Acts 1:1-11  
Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

5/21 Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
Reading From Acts: Acts 1:6-14  
Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11

## News from *The Flock...*



On April 2nd, the Flock will go on an **Egg Hunt** led by our Senior Youth Group! This will take place towards the end of class. **Please let me know if your child/ren plan to attend** so I can get an estimate for how many eggs will be needed. I will be sure to have extra in case your schedule changes and you are able to attend - even if last minute 😊.

### ★ Birthday Box donations needed! ★

Would you like to help a local child have a very Happy Birthday?!

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

Donations can be dropped off in the CE office downstairs in the Flagg room on Sunday mornings, or in the outdoor CE bin anytime. **All donations are due by April 30th.**

Thank you! ~Kim and the Flock

### No Classes or Nursery on:

April 9 - Happy Easter

April 23 - Spring Vacation Week

*More CE News on page 3!*



## Flock Adventure Day

*No school? No problem!*

Join in the fun on

**Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** 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 form is due by April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please email Kim for the registration form at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org).



**Registration is now open...  
Volunteers\* are needed!**

Join us for *Christmas in July* on July 17-20 from 9-11:30am. VBS will be a fun filled week of adventure, scavenger hunts, lessons, crafts, STEM, games, snacks & MORE! Don't miss out! Spots are limited.

- Ages 4 years - Grade 6
- Must be able to attend all 4 days
- Registration closes June 14
- \$5 per child
- Need a registration form?

Contact Kim at [CE@hollischurch.org](mailto:CE@hollischurch.org) or stop at the church office. You can mail the form to the church, drop off or bring to a Flock class.

**\*Adult and teen volunteers are needed!** Anyone entering Grade 7 and up is welcome to help! Please contact Kim at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org) if interested.

## And the Rest is History...

*By Cindy Ryherd*

This month, April 2023 marks the **280<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the ordination of Rev. Daniel Emerson as the first settled pastor of our church! It happened on **April 20, 1743**, which is the date used by the church as the anniversary date of our church's beginning.

The church has changed dramatically in its 280-year history in every sense. Physically, our Meetinghouse is the 4<sup>th</sup> church building to stand on its site. **However, there is one artifact in the church that matches the age of the church's beginning: the 280+ years old communion platter used as part of Rev. Daniel Emerson's ordination on display in the Narthex.** Given that the church burned down in 1923 with few items surviving that fire, we are fortunate that at the time of the fire, the platter was in the possession of the Lovejoy/Bancroft family.

Mrs. Lulu Bancroft of Pepperell generously gifted the pewter communion platter to the church. Mrs. Bancroft's ancestry traces back to Jonathan Lovejoy who was born in Andover, Massachusetts in 1719. He came to Hollis in 1743, on the day Rev. Emerson was ordained. Jonathan Lovejoy was one of the earliest families to settle in Hollis and is buried in the Hollis Church Cemetery.




The fourth generation of Jonathan Lovejoy's family left the communion platter to their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1847 and who married John Smith. Sarah was the mother of Mrs. Lulu Smith Bancroft. The platter had been in Mrs. Bancroft's family for over 200 years until her donation. Go to [https://hollischurch.org/wp-content/church\\_uploads/CommunionPlatterArticle.pdf](https://hollischurch.org/wp-content/church_uploads/CommunionPlatterArticle.pdf) to read the newspaper article regarding the platter donation by Mrs. Bancroft.

In celebration of our 280<sup>th</sup> anniversary, take a moment to check out the beautiful communion platter on display in the Narthex and reflect on the significance the piece holds in our church history!

# April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Mission Items of the Month: ▪ <i>New Face Cloths and Bath Towels</i> ▪ Paper Towels ▪ Toilet Paper ▪ Kleenex ▪ Diapers for <i>Bridges "Wipe Away Their Troubles"</i> campaign						Easter Cross erected on the lawn 1
<b><i>Palm / Passion Sunday</i></b> 9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person / Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> 2	7:30 pm – CE Board meeting 3	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 4	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5	<b><i>Maundy Thursday</i></b> 7:00 pm – worship in Hardy Hall 6	<b><i>Good Friday</i></b> Services at Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua 7	<b><i>Holy Saturday</i></b> 1:00pm – Funeral Service for Gabriel Clark 8
<b><i>Easter Sunday</i></b> 6:00 am – Sunrise Service on the hill at Triple Knoll Farm, 11 Pepperell Rd 9:30 am –Worship (In Person/Livestream) NO Sunday School 9	7 pm – Deacons meeting 10	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 11	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 12	6 pm – Caring Connections 7 pm – Choir 13	7 pm – <i>Brush &amp; Biscotti</i> Paint Night with Rev Fellows Our volunteers provide dinner at Spring St. Shelter 14	May Chimes deadline 15
9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock 11 am – <i>Brush &amp; Biscotti</i> Paint Event with Rev Fellows Flock Adventure Day registration deadline 16	5:30 pm – Trustees meeting 17	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 18	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting 19	7 pm - Choir 20	7 pm – <i>Brush &amp; Biscotti</i> Paint Night with Rev Fellows 21	<i>Reimagine Church</i> workshop – Lessons from Theatre Improv at East Derry First Parish Church 22
9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream) NO Sunday School 11 am – Sabbatical Support Team meeting 23	24	25	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Church Council meeting 26	<b>Flock Adventure Day</b> 9am – 12pm 27	28	29
9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock <i>Birthday Box</i> donation deadline 30	<b>Birthday Box</b> donations: ▪ Boxed cake mix/frosting ▪ plates/napkins ▪ sprinkles/candles ▪ foil cake pan ▪ <i>Happy Birthday</i> banner ▪ small toys ▪ all items in a birthday gift bag for the Flock’s project to support <i>Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter’s Birthday Room</i>					

# Mission & Action News

## April Items of the Month:

### Donations to *Bridges*' "Wipe Away Their Troubles" campaign.

*Bridges* helps those who are suffering from domestic and sexual violence. It offers support and options to individuals who need to talk, need information, or feel alone, afraid, or hopeless. *Bridges* offers crisis intervention, support, court advocacy, shelter, education and child advocacy programs.

*Bridges* has requested donation of items for their *Wipe Away Their Troubles* campaign.

- New Bath Towels
- New Face Cloths
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex
- Diapers – any size

Place your Items in the collection box outside the side front doors or order online through Amazon and deliver it directly to *Bridges*.

## Spring St Shelter Needed

Our church volunteers to provide dinner for the Spring Street (formerly Ash Street) Shelter on the second Friday of every month. You just cook the meal and deliver; we provide you with a gift card to pay for the food. **Volunteer Chefs are needed for July, November and December.**



*Please consider signing up* on the bulletin board outside the church office or by contacting Lee Harper at [missionandaction@hollischurch.org](mailto:missionandaction@hollischurch.org).

## Blood Drive Update

Our blood drives held on January 30<sup>th</sup> and March 11 collected over 60 units of blood! Thank you to those who donated so generously!

## M&A Donations - Your Pledge \$\$ at Work

- We assisted NH State Conference UCC with repairs to their offices that were deluged with water from broken water pipes.
- Donation to scholarship fund at Andover Newton Theological Seminary at Yale School of Divinity.
- We are assisted Church World Service by purchasing Emergency Kits.
- Over 2,500 pairs of Bomba Socks were distributed to: Nashua Soup Kitchen, Nashua Children's Home, Ukraine Families, Manchester Veteran's Home, Tilton Veteran's Home, Family Promise, Brookline Food Pantry, Nashua School District homeless community, Meals Matter, and Spring Street Shelter.
- Earthquake relief in Syria and Turkey
- Gas and food gift cards to a family in crisis



## Our Church Records

### Memorial Gifts

*In loving memory of Jim Squires by:*  
Karen and Warren Coulter

*In loving memory of Martha Davis by:*  
Karen and Warren Coulter

## From the Church Office

**OFFICE HOURS**

The church office is open 8am – 1pm, Tuesday through Friday (closed Mondays).

### *Chimes* Thanks...

A BIG Thank You goes to Sue Burton, Patricia Cordell, Brenda Gibson, Deb Shipman and her granddaughter Olivia for their assistance in preparing your March *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.

# Sabbatical Support Team News

After meeting with Rev. Fellows on February 26<sup>th</sup>, we are happy to offer several special events during the sabbatical period. There is **at least one special event per month (MARK YOUR CALENDARS!)**:

## April

Reverend Bob will offer **three “Brush and Biscotti”** spiritually-oriented social paint events in which we will paint a piece of art on canvas to take home. Anyone can do it; no experience is necessary! Held in **Hardy Hall**.

- **Friday, April 14, 7-9pm** – Fully booked
- **Sunday, April 16, 11am – 1pm** – Fully booked
- **Friday, April 21, 7-9pm** (added due to popular demand) – Slots still available

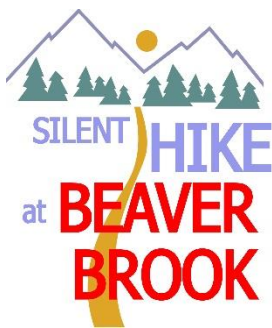


**Signup is required. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4baea82d6-brush#/>.**

## May:

- **Saturday, May 13, 10:30am** - Reverend Bob will present an **all-ages Magic Show** on the **Squires Community Patio**. This will take place simultaneous with the church-hosted Community Yard and Bake sale, Library Book Sale, and Colonial Garden Club Plant. Rev. Bob was a professional stage magician, so we will no doubt be awed at this event which is open to the public.

## June:



- **Saturday, June 3 (time TBD; rain date June 10) - Silent hike at Beaver Brook followed by a bonfire discussion.** We will lead two hiking groups, one for relaxed hikers with a shorter route and a longer one for the more energetic among us, but both will be silent to allow us to come to inner peace and mental rest while we drink in the beauty of God’s creation surrounding us.
- **Sunday, June 4 after worship - “And the Rest is History” presentation on Henry Opukahaia** presented by Cindy Ryherd. Henry Opukahaia is the man credited with starting Hawaii’s conversion to Christianity, and he has a very important tie to the Congregational Church of Hollis.

During the Sabbatical period, we invite the congregation to reflect on where we are and how far we’ve come over the last few unusual years (for us as a congregation in Living, Building and Expanding our vision with the renovation of our buildings, and for the entire world emerging from the Covid years with changed habits – not least in how we attend church). **We encourage everybody to contemplate how you would like to go forward in the years to come.** At various events and classes, we’ll provide opportunities to put these thoughts in writing, to be collected, summarized and presented to the congregation after Rev. Tanya returns.

**We also invite you to consider the current Sunday worship hour of 9:30. Would you like it to remain at that time? Begin at 10:00 or at 10:30?** We will remain with one service per Sunday year-round but are reviewing what time is most preferred by most of the congregation.

**The Sabbatical Support Team is open for any input on these and all other matters and can be reached at [SabbaticalST@hollischurch.org](mailto:SabbaticalST@hollischurch.org).** We hope you find these events enlightening and enjoyable!

## Blessings from your Sabbatical Support Team

*Thom Davies, Paul Edmunds, Jessica Marchant, Karen Marino, Gudrun Pfeiffer, Cindy Ryherd*

## Upcoming Events...

### Behold, I am Doing a New Thing

Isaiah is reminding people that God is working in unexpected ways among us, and that is the focus of **A New Thing Task Force**. We are looking for new ways to partner with God.

This leads the task force to ask, "What does improv have to do with today's church?" Join us for the final two of three discussions of what improv offers our congregations. We will explore, experience, and practice skills from Improv Theatre and Comedy, and Improv Reuse of Materials, not just in worship, but in all parts of church life. Is it possible "there are no mistakes"? Can we use a "yes, and" approach to change? What can the holy spirit do with reused materials?

Bring a team and leave each session with a plan for how to approach today's challenges and joys in worship, meetings, social gatherings, and/or mission.

**Church Ministry through Lessons from Theatre Improv**  
Saturday, **April 22**, from 9am to 2pm  
*Story drives our mission and improv adds spice and creativity to our stories!*

First Parish Congregational Church, East Derry  
Led by Rev. Maren Tirabassi and Mr. Don Tirabassi

**Church Ministry through Lessons from Improv Recovery of Materials**

Saturday, **May 20**, from 9am to 2pm  
*Reuse and recycle what you've got to improvise a new church!*

First Congregational Church of Littleton, UCC  
Led by Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Mae Magill (Liz)

**Fee:** \$20/person/session \$50/church/session  
FREE for 6 or more members of a church

Registration and Questions: Please contact [ANewThingTaskForce@gmail.com](mailto:ANewThingTaskForce@gmail.com) for questions and registration. Payment will be at the door.



### Reimagine Church Lessons from Improv



**The Community Yard Sale and Church Bake Sale are back!**  
Saturday, May 13, 9am - 12pm  
Hollis Church & Library Parking Lot

### Lots of ways to participate:

- **Volunteers needed!** (before, during, after)
- **Donate baked goods** for bake sale
- **Rent a space** and sell your spring cleaning items
- **Come out and buy!**
- **Questions or Willing to Help?** Contact Carol at [FandH@hollischurch.org](mailto:FandH@hollischurch.org) or 603-860-2178

*More details to follow. Look for email blast in early April.*



**SAVE THE DATE!**



## BOB FELLOWS MAGIC SHOW

Saturday, May 13 at 10:30 am

Squires Community Patio

*(Same morning as the Community Yard Sale)*

Free! All are welcome! Invite friends and family!

Bob Fellows is a master magician seen on national TV!



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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Hollis, NH 03049

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## *Easter Flowering Cross*

### **Your Help Needed!**

**The Easter Flowering Cross is popular not only with the congregation, but town-wide ... but help is needed to make it possible. Volunteers are needed:**

**Saturday, Apr. 1** – Set up the empty cross. This work includes digging a hole and lifting the fairly heavy iron cross so strength is needed. Someone with a pickup truck to move the cross from the shed to the front lawn of the church is also needed.

**Thursday, Apr. 6** (Maundy Thursday) – Add black cloth and thorn of crowns to cross at dusk (involves being on a ladder and using zip ties to secure the adornments)

**Saturday, Apr. 8** – At dusk/after dark, remove the black cloth and thorn of crowns, add silk flowers to the upper portions of the cross (involves being on a ladder).

**Saturday, Apr. 15** (or sometime soon after) – Take the cross down and store in shed. Remove silk flowers and store in shed. This work includes filling the hole and lifting the fairly heavy iron cross so strength is needed. Someone with a pickup truck to move the cross from the front lawn of the church to the shed is also needed.