

The *Chimes*

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

April 2026

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

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[www.hollischurch.org](http://www.hollischurch.org)***

Lead Pastor:

**Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen**  
Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

**Kim Burton**  
CE@HollisChurch.org

Minister of Christian Music:

**Julie Oliver**

Church Office:

**Carli Ford - Communications**  
Admin@HollisChurch.org

**Eileen Widner - Bookkeeper/Office Mgmt.**

ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org  
Contact us: 603-465-7797 or 465-7099

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*My people will abide in a peaceful  
habitation, in secure dwellings, and  
in quiet resting places. (Isaiah 32:18)*

**Dear Friends,**

Happy Easter, Christ is Risen!



The header verse for this month's newsletter article comes from a bit of Isaiah's prophecy that sings a song of resurrection, as God promises the people—devastated and humiliated by the destruction and death they have experienced—will once again see and know life abundantly, in a home that is a place of sanctuary: peaceful, secure, and providing rest.

Where in this world do you find your truest sense of “home”, your true abiding place, of deep belonging, secure dwelling, peaceful habitation?

Having lived in more than twenty homes in my lifetime, spread across seven different U.S. states and three different countries, with citizenship in two of them, it's an interesting—and complex—question for me to ponder. Where have I felt the deepest sense of belonging? Where have I loved being most—and is it the same place where I felt/feel safest, most secure?

I have been blessed with a life with opportunities that have allowed me to experience multiple diverse places. I sometimes wonder how different my perspective and experience of life might be had I not been gifted with—and acted upon—those

*(From the Pastor- continued on p. 2)*

*(From the Pastor - continued from p. 1)*

opportunities? Occasionally, those opportunities felt (in the moment, at least) like compulsions.

Necessary. My life is not unique in that respect.

In March, we heard a couple of testimonies about how fellow members' ancestors found "home" here in the U.S.A. We'll hear from a few more in April. And, we're going to welcome Becky Field, a photographer and publisher of two books detailing the stories of recent NH immigrants: their challenges, their hopes, their faith, and what led to their decisions to leave a former homeland in order to find (or, perhaps, make) home here. Becky's roving "Finding Home" exhibit was recently featured for several months at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, and we are privileged to be able to share it with our broader community for the season of Eastertide, through the end of May. It seems a fitting (even Spirit-led!) accompaniment to our Eastertide worship theme: "Draw the Circle Wide".

Our Immigrant & Refugee Support Ministry Team (who have been sharing their ancestral stories) has been working hard in anticipation to promote this powerful exhibit. Although the photos will arrive in time for Easter on April 5th, there will be a launching Community Presentation on Saturday, April 18th featuring Becky Field, BJ Lates (a member of the New Hampshire Conference UCC's Immigrant & Refugee Support Group), and a young artist whose family fled the Democratic Republic of Congo and has resettled here in NH.

Before that presentation, Becky will be guest preaching on Sunday, April 12th, with support from our Immigrant and Refugee Support Ministry Team. I hope you'll come and hear some of her

stories that Sunday, and have a chance to meet her after worship. (I regret I'll miss it: I'll be at my niece's wedding in WI—a place I once called home—that weekend.)

After a long, bitter winter, I know I am not alone in my eager welcome of Springtime—the Earth's annual proclamation of resurrection life—to make itself at home here this month! I look forward to celebrating with you, at any of our upcoming services and activities amidst the blooming and blossoming all around us.

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

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## **Mission Trip Update**

### *Come Travel with us...*

The Mission Trip Ministry Team is busy preparing for our trip to Hazlet, NJ this July—and there's still time to join us! We currently have four spaces available for teens, college students, or adults. Our group is coming together nicely, with five teens, three adults, and two adult "redshirt" volunteers already signed up. As part of our preparation, we are organizing tools and transportation, as well as designing t-shirts, themed prayers, and group activities.

If you're interested in joining or would like more information, please call the church to connect with our team. A \$100 deposit is required, and the sign-up deadline is May 1.

We're excited to continue this meaningful tradition, building upon the success of our mission trips from 2001 through 2019.

Thank you, Tonda Davis & Amy Zapp

# FAITH FORMATION

## Flock Adventure Day Wed, April 29, 9:00 - 1:00 pm Grades PreK - Grade 5

No school? No problem!

Join in the fun on Wednesday, April 29 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

This nature-themed Adventure Day will be like a mini-VBC! We will start with a lesson, followed by outdoor fun, activities, crafts, snack and lunch. Please bring a lunch & water bottle (snacks included).

**Turn in your registration form and fee (\$10/child) by April 19.** Please email Kim at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org) with questions.

## Flock Family Pizza Night Thurs, April 16, 5:15 pm



Thursday, April 16 from 5:15-6:30pm will be our final pizza night of the school year. A Signup genius will be emailed to families as it gets closer to the event. Hope you can join in the fun!

## Important Dates to Remember

April 5 - Easter Sunday / No Flock

April 26 - Spring Vacation Weekend / No Flock

May 17 - Children's Day

June 14 - Confirmation Sunday



Kids will explore lessons around strength, love, peace and goodness. Our activities, crafts, and snacks will have carnival themes. And of course - there will be games!

### *VBC Volunteers wanted!*

In order to make camp run smoothly and divide into age groups, we are always in need of volunteers. Volunteers are welcome to join in the fun as their schedules allow... One day, two days, every day, a couple hours, etc! Any and all help is always appreciated!

- Group Leaders for Craft Station, Game Station, STEM/Service Project Station
- Baking snacks
- Set up (Sunday), clean up (Thursday afternoon),
- Floater

**When: July 13-16, 9-1pm**

**Who: Ages 4 - Grade 5**

**Where: Congregational Church of Hollis**

Cost for Members/Sunday school students: \$10

Cost for HB Community: \$20

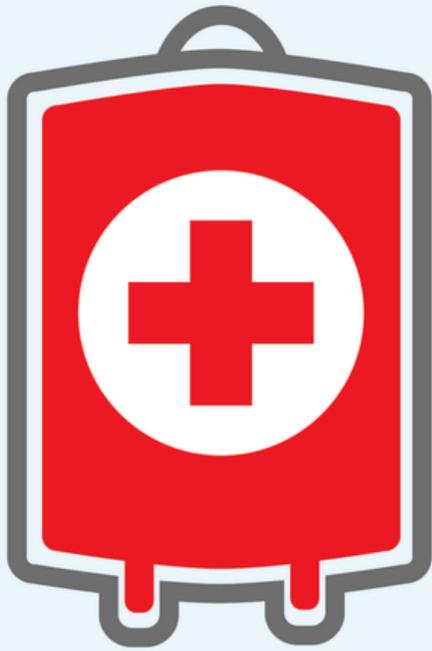
Registration Closes June 14, 2025

Snacks and t-shirt will be included.

Please bring a lunch and water bottle!

See the sign up board in Hardy Hall for more info!

Email Kim at [ce@hollischuch.org](mailto:ce@hollischuch.org) if you have any questions



**Give blood.**

*Help save lives.*



**American  
Red Cross**

## Hollis Congregational Church Blood Drive

Saturday, May 2nd

9:30 – 2:00

Hollis Congregational Church – Basement  
3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049

Be a HERO and make your appointment today at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) with sponsor code **HOLLISNH** or by scanning the **QR code**



# VOLUNTEER



**COMMUNITY**  
**YARD SALE**  
**Bake Sale** **Rent a Space**  
**Hollis Library & Church Parking Lot**  
**SAT. MAY 9 • 9:00 – NOON**

## 6th Annual Community Yard & Craft Sale with Church Bake Sale!

Help make this event possible!

- Volunteers needed! (before, during, and after)
- Rent a space to sell your own crafts, spring cleaning items, or gently used merchandise
- Contribute homemade baked goods
- Come out and buy!

Contact Carol at [YardSale@hollischurch.org](mailto:YardSale@hollischurch.org) to volunteer!



## Join the Planning Committee for Hollis' 250th Celebration Week (July 4–11)

In 2026, our nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States — a milestone that invites reflection, gratitude, and a renewed sense of community. As a church with deep roots in Hollis and a long tradition of service, we have a meaningful role to play in marking this historic year.

To help guide our participation, we are forming a **Semiquincentennial Celebration Committee**. This group will explore ways our congregation can honor the past, celebrate the present, and look with hope toward the future by:

- Creating a church-wide event or gathering on July 5th for all residents.
- Highlighting the history of our church and its place in Hollis during the founding era
- Offering educational or reflective programs tied to faith, freedom, and community
- Collaborating with town groups and local celebrations
- Finding simple, joyful ways for all ages to participate!

Anyone with an interest can join — history lovers, creative thinkers, planners, bakers, chefs, or simply those who feel called to help the church mark this national moment. No special experience needed.

Please contact Kimber Harmon at [KimberHarmon106@gmail.com](mailto:KimberHarmon106@gmail.com). We hope to gather on April 12 after church at 11:00 for our first meeting.

Together, let's honor 250 years of courage, community, and hope — and celebrate the blessings we continue to share.

## Strawberry Festival Sunday, June 28

Volunteer as a “Friend of the Strawberry Festival”!

Help keep this beloved annual tradition thriving by lending a hand in one (or more!) of the following ways:

- Gather festival sponsorship from local businesses and supporters (to be included in advertising)
- Publicity assistance (social media, writing articles, posting flyers) - now through June
- Friday, June 26, 9 AM – 12 PM: Hulling Party at CCH
- Saturday, June 27, 9 AM – 12 PM: Shortcake Baking team at CCH
- Sunday, June 28, 2 – 4 PM: Strawberry Festival on the Town Common (and CCH)
- Volunteers needed 11 AM – 5 PM for setup, event support, and cleanup day of event
- There are many opportunities to help throughout the day!

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, your help makes this event possible. Join us and be part of something special!

Email [StrawberryFestival@hollischurch.org](mailto:StrawberryFestival@hollischurch.org) or call the Church Office (Eileen), Carol Birch or Kimber Harmon to volunteer!



## **Finding Home - Exploring Our Roots** *Submitted by Audrey Hertenstein* *Perez, Immigrant & Refugee Support* *Ministry Team Member*

While the topic of immigration may feel more recent each time we watch the news, it has been a lived human experience ever since Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden. Noah built an arc to take refuge from the flood. Jacob moved his family to Egypt to escape famine and reunite with his brother. Moses led his people from Egypt after they experienced repression. Countless times throughout history, we have seen how people undertake the journey of “Finding Home”. We will be exploring this theme of “Finding Home” in the coming weeks as we prepare to welcome an exciting art exhibit in Hardy Hall.

This month, our church will be hosting the exhibit “Finding Home: Portraits and Memories of Immigrants”. The exhibit will open on Easter Sunday, April 5th, 2026 in Hardy Hall and will remain on display through May 24th. This exhibit, from award-winning photographer Becky Field, celebrates people from other countries who have resettled in New Hampshire. Becky tells their stories through her photographs which highlight both the memories of these incredible journeys as well as the vitality of cultural diversity in our communities here in New Hampshire.

Throughout the coming weeks, we will also be hearing the immigration stories of members of our own congregation. Looking at our own family histories, virtually each member of our congregation has a unique immigration story. Maybe you know only the general area of the world your ancestors came from or the name of your ancestor who first came to live in the United States. Or maybe your memory is more recent and either you, your parents, or your grandparents were the first to “find home” in this country. Maybe you or your family, like many of the people interviewed and photographed by Becky, came here as a refugee to “find home”.

Of the approximately 288,000 refugees resettled in the United States since 2018, over 1,200 are “Finding Home” here in New Hampshire. As refugees, these members of our community have been forced to leave their homes due to extreme violence or persecution. Due to these well-founded fears, they have been granted permission to seek protection in our country. As we know, many of those protections are now being reexamined, causing confusion, fear, and family separation. As Christians, we often find ourselves in the space between the laws and actions of the world around us and Jesus’s teachings. Whether refugee or asylum seeker, documented or undocumented immigrant, each of us has a story to tell. While we listen to the immigration stories told by Becky and by our congregation, I hope that we can bridge this space through remembering God’s love and finding charity, respect, and solidarity with our neighbors.

To keep this conversation going, there will be a special worship service led by the Immigrant & Refugee Support Ministry Team alongside guest preacher Becky Field on Sunday, April 12th. There will be a free reception open to the public with an introduction by photographer Becky Field on April 18th from 2-4pm in Hardy Hall. Multicultural refreshments will be served. You can also view the exhibit in Hardy Hall during Church Office Open Hours (T, W, Th 8am-12pm and 3:30-5:30pm), after worship on Sundays, and from 10am-2pm on Saturdays April 25th, and May 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

### **With Gratitude!**

A BIG Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Debbe Shipman, and Joyce Toli for preparing your March *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.



# APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Thank you to our Nominating Committee for hosting Sunday Fellowship this month!</b>  <b>Church Office Hours are Tues - Thurs, 8:00am—12:00   3:30—5:30</b>            Please remember that hours are subject to change to accommodate inclement weather, holidays, vacations, and staffing fluctuations. Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).</p>						
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> 6:15am Sunrise Service @ Triple Knoll Farm 9:30am Easter Service & Communion Worship No Flock	<b>6</b> 5:30pm Stewardship	<b>7</b> 10:00am  Knitting Ministry 4:00pm Mission & Action 6:00pm Music Board	<b>1</b> 4:30pm  Caring Connections	<b>2</b> Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Meeting House) 7:00pm Choir	<b>3</b> Good Friday	<b>4</b> Holy Saturday
<b>12</b> Second Sunday of Easter 9:30am Worship 9:30am Flock	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Deacons	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Chimes Deadline	<b>16</b> 5:15pm Flock pizza night  7:00pm Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Third Sunday of Easter 9:30am Worship 9:30am Flock	<b>20</b> 5:30pm Trustees	<b>21</b>  10:00am Knitting Ministry 6:30pm Council	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:30am Worship No Flock	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Choir		

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

# ART EXHIBIT

ADDITIONAL VIEWING  
HOURS ARE SATURDAYS  
(APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 23)  
FROM 10-2.

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOLLIS HOSTS AWARD- WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER, BECKY FIELD

Join us for a special exhibition that showcases photographs of immigrants and their stories of resettling in New Hampshire. This special exhibit helps us to live out our belief that we are all children of God and all are welcome- no matter their life story. This is an accessible venue and all are welcome!



APRIL 18 THE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

DIVERSE CULTURES ● REFRESHMENTS ● FREE-WILL DONATIONS



3 MONUMENT SQUARE  
HOLLIS, NH

find more information and  
additional viewing hours:

HOLLISCHURCH.ORG  
603-465-7797