

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

December 2018

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LVI, No. 10



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Church of Hollis  
(UCC)**

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

*“... those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”*  
(Isaiah 40:31)

Dear Friends,

**What are you waiting for?** Just take a moment and ponder that thought. And don't necessarily let the first answer that comes to mind be your final answer; go a little deeper, and consider how the things you're waiting for in life might be connected. Are they tied to a larger longing?

Advent is the first “season” in our Christian year: we turn our liturgical calendar back to the beginning on the First Sunday in Advent (this year, December 2<sup>nd</sup>). Our liturgy — the pattern of themes and Scripture texts we pay attention to year-in and year-out — helps us to ground ourselves more deeply in our ancient faith story. Stories, both ancient and contemporary, help us to understand life better. Especially when they're well told and interpreted, they are powerful tools for helping us to live more satisfying, integrated lives.

So, every year, we start back at the beginning of the human faith story. And there at the beginning, is the experience of waiting. Longing. But that reality implies a recognition that something is missing, that something's not yet present in one's life — or at least, it's not yet fully present in the way we hope for it to be.

For four weeks, we practice paying attention to the dull ache alerting us to that missing something. We read ancient Bible passages reminding us that human beings have always experienced this — it's part of our human condition. And we feel more deeply connected to the distant past, as well as to others in our present, as we ponder the themes together.



*(continued on page 5)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## Pre-Confirmation

Pre-Confirmation meets in the Parkhurst Room on Sundays, December 2 and 9, following the introduction to the theme. Pageant rehearsal for readers will take place at 10am on December 9 and 5:30pm on Wednesday, December 12. Following the Christmas Pageant at the 10:30 service on Dec. 16, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will gather at Brookdale Farm to help pack Christmas baskets with the Deacons.

## Confirmation

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class meets on Sunday, December 2 and 9, at 10:30am in the Emerson Chapel.

## Stocking up for Winter

The Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation outreach to needy students at Nashua High South continues and your help is greatly appreciated.



Especially needed are **clothes for colder weather and athletic clothing,**

including sneakers. As you prepare your closets for winter, please look for any gently used items your family no longer needs and drop your donations by the CE office or at the home of Tom and Pat Harris, 1 Broad St. As you shop please consider picking up **some new socks or underwear** for these teens.

The school **food pantry is always in need of kid-friendly cereals, hygiene items** (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and brushes, feminine products), Kraft Macaroni and Cheese Boxed and Individual Servings; Hormel “Compleats”; Knorr Side Dishes (Spanish Rice, Broccoli and Cheddar, etc.); Pasta Sauces; Chef Boy-Ar-Dee Individuals

## Sunday School

In December, Sunday School classes will be celebrating the season of Advent, and learning the stories of Mary and Joseph, the Birth of Jesus, the Wise Men Visiting, and about King Herod. Students will also be filling stockings to give to 4 local children through the “Shepherd’s Fund”.

## Christmas Pageant ~ December 16! The Shepherds’ Story

On Sunday, December 16, students from pre-school through grade eight will collaborate to present *The Shepherds’ Story*, a retelling of the events of the night Christ was born. Join the shepherds watching their flocks of sheep in the fields outside Bethlehem as the Angel appears to announce the miraculous birth. Follow them to the lowly stable where they are the first to greet Mary and Joseph and their newborn son. Journey with the Magi as they leave their homes, guided by a star to the manger filled with hay where Jesus lay. Through music, storytelling and costumes, the beloved ancient story comes alive during the 10:30 worship service.



## Basketball Season Begins!

Join the Hollis Church Basketball Team as it launches its second season on Saturday, December 8 at the Nashua Y. (Time TBA; watch the church website, Facebook page and weekly bulletin.) Coaches Kerry Santerre and Tom Kuchta have been working with players and are ready to take the floor. There is room for more teens on the roster. Young women and men must be between 13 and 18 years old and in grades 7-12. Non-church members are welcome. Contact basketball@hollischurch.org or coach Kerry Santerre for more information: kerrysanterre@gmail.com. Practice is held at the Hollis Upper Elementary School on Fridays, 4:30-6pm.

Let’s show our team spirit and support these young men and women. See you at the game!

## For Adults...

### ***Come, Lord Jesus*** **2018 Advent Devotional**

Advent Devotional Study Groups:

**Monday mornings, 10-11 am starting Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>**

OR

**Wednesday evenings, 7-8 pm starting Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

The longing of Advent is echoed in the plea of Revelation 22:20: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

If you long for a world that is illuminated by God's love, join us in praying this Advent, "Come, Lord Jesus." If you can long for the renewal of humanity and the end of violence, join us in praying this Advent, "Come, Lord Jesus."

*Come, Lord Jesus: 2018 Advent Devotional* is a unique collection of devotions that includes Scripture and prayer for each day of Advent. Our classes will meet on Mondays from 10-11 a.m. or Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the Parkhurst Room to reflect together on the devotions we've done on our own across the week.

### **Mental Health Seminar:**



#### **SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder)? Depressed?**

Most of us have heard of these mental health conditions, and they are very common. What's not necessarily so common is how to understand and deal with them -- whether we suffer with the condition personally, or someone we love does. On **Sunday, Dec. 2nd from 2 - 3:30 p.m. in Emerson**

**Chapel**, we will be sharing information and understanding. We will explore aspects of the clinical/biological, spiritual, and personal/experiential facets of Seasonal Affective Disorder -- as well as the broader category of depression, of which SAD is one form. This represents the first in a series of monthly mental health awareness raising gatherings to be hosted. Future topics will dive more deeply into depression, anxiety, addiction, and other mental health conditions.

## **Music Notes**

### ***What's Your Contemporary Favorite?***

Do you have a favorite contemporary Christian song or other contemporary music appropriate for our church services?

Do you feel energized by the songs shared during our mission trip?

Well, here is your chance to share some of your favorite contemporary songs for an upcoming special music ministry in early 2019! We are planning a trial contemporary music Sunday where we will replace our usual hymns with some contemporary music during one of our 10:30 services. This will be done on a Sunday that the choir is not scheduled to sing and will not impact the Introit or Anthem performances.

If you have some songs you have heard or sung and would like to hear them as part of this type of service, please send us the name of the song, the composer and arranger. Send to [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net) with "Attention: Contemporary Music" in the subject line, or drop a note in the Music Board mail box in the church office. We will be posting more details about this special service when they are finalized.



### ***Coming in January...***

#### ***Ring in the New Year!***

Group Ring for all ages and capabilities

Practice: January 6, 13, 20

Play January 27 -- both services

Come Celebrate the New Year and New Beginnings with us!

Stagecoach Women's Chorus invites you to a

#### ***Holiday Concert***



The Stagecoach Women's Chorus will have their annual Christmas/Holiday concert on Sunday evening, December 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The music

will consist of many well-known Christmas songs, with new twists on old favorites, and will feature women's voices in 2-, 3-, and 4-part harmony. Come enjoy a relaxing hour of beautiful music to kick off the holiday season! This is a free concert; however, we will have a goodwill offering to benefit the church.

# December 2018



No Mission Items of the Month --  
Please support **The Giving Tree**  
and **The Christmas Fund offering**



5:30 pm -  
All-Church  
Advent  
Celebration  
Nov 30

December 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p><b>First Sunday of Advent ~ Hope</b> 9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – Mental Health Seminar 7 pm – Stagecoach Women’s Chorus Holiday Concert 2</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 10 am – Adult Advent Study (class #1 of 3) 7 pm – CE Board meeting 7pm – BOV Chancel Task Force 3</p>	<p>7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 4</p>	<p>7 pm – Adult Advent Study (class #1 of 3) 5</p>	<p>7 pm - Choir 6</p>	<p>By 12 noon – Deliver goodies for Christmas concert 7</p>	<p>4pm – Town Center tree lighting &amp; luminaria 4:45 pm – Fellowship Chili Supper in Hardy Hall <b>CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b> 7:00 pm at Hollis Brookline High School 8</p>	
<p><b>Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace Giving Tree gifts due at church</b> 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 12:00 – Senior Youth Group – <i>Shop &amp; Wrap</i> event 2 pm – Women’s Fellowship 7pm – Community Prayers 9</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 10 am – Adult Advent Study (class #2 of 3) 7 pm – Deacons meeting 10</p>	<p>10:30 am – BOV Kitchen Task Force 7 pm – Mission &amp; Action Board meeting 7:30 pm – Music Board meeting 11</p>	<p><b>Poinsettia orders due</b> 10 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities mtg 5:30 pm – Personnel Committee mtg 5:30 pm – Christmas Pageant rehearsal 7 pm – Adult Advent Study (class #2 of 3) 12</p>	<p>7 pm - Choir 13</p>	<p>Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 14</p>	<p>January <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15</p>	
<p><b>Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy Sunday School Christmas Pageant</b> 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School Pageant <i>The Shepherd’s Story</i> 11:45 am – Christmas Food Basket packing at Brookdale 16</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 10 am – Adult Advent Study (class #3 of 3) 7 pm – Trustees meeting 17</p>	<p>7 pm – Church Council meeting 18</p>	<p>7 pm – Adult Advent Study (class #3 of 3) 19</p>	<p>6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm - Choir 20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	
<p><b>Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love Music Sunday ~ Poinsettia Sunday</b> The UCC Christmas Fund offering taken 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship / <b>NO</b> Sunday School 23</p>	<p><b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service 7:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons &amp; Carols 9:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons &amp; Carols 24</p>		<p><b>Christmas Day</b>  25</p>	<p>Wednesday 26</p>	<p>Thursday 27</p>	<p>Friday 28</p>	<p>Saturday 29</p>
<p><i>One Morning Service at 9:30 am</i> Worship /NO Sunday School 30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Annual Reports from Boards and other church groups due Tuesday, January 2, 2018</p>					

## Preparations for a Faith Raising Capital Campaign



The warrant for beginning a \$2M capital campaign was strongly endorsed by the congregation on October 21st. With solid support for this challenging goal, the **Funding our Vision (FoV) team** is preparing to launch the capital campaign under the direction of Rev. William 'Bill' VanderWyden of VanderWyden Capital Development Consultants.

Working in close coordination with Rev. VanderWyden, the initial members of the team have been reviewing his capital campaign manual, *The Joy of Generosity*, which lays out the plan for a joyous and successful campaign. Part of this plan is identifying and recruiting staff for the seven committees comprising the FoV team. **If you are interested in sharing your gifts on one of the committees, please reach out to the team at [FoV@hollischurch.org](mailto:FoV@hollischurch.org).**

Our hope is that this campaign will not only further increase enthusiasm for the project with pledges of support, but also allow us as a congregation to embrace this opportunity to grow in our faith and deepen our relationship with God and one another. After the New Year, the team will be rolling out a program including hosting coffee hours, meetings, house gatherings, and similar events. We hope that these events will encourage people to begin to imagine how our new space can best be put to use to give life to God's vision for us and the four pillars of our strategic plan: welcome, worship, learn, and serve.

While the FoV team is getting ready to launch our capital campaign, the BoV team continues to work on permitting and refining plans for our renovation.

Both the BoV and FoV teams wish everyone a Merry Christmas and are grateful for your continued support.

Please contact us at [FoV@hollischurch.org](mailto:FoV@hollischurch.org) with any questions about the capital campaign or at [BoV@hollischurch.org](mailto:BoV@hollischurch.org) with any questions about the building project.

## *From the Pastor* (cont. from p. 1)

And as our attention and awareness gets focused, as our connection with the stories of people past and present strengthens, the spiritual light within us also grows. We symbolize this week by week as we light one, then two, then three, and four candles on the Advent Wreath — until finally, on Christmas Eve, we illuminate the large white candle at the center: the Christ candle. This symbolizes the arrival and prominent place of Emmanuel, God-with-us, our fulfillment. This is what every human heart is ultimately waiting for. We have a long, long history of filling the void with things our hearts are not ultimately anticipating. But the Good News of this Season is that, in spite of the myriad distractions we amuse ourselves with, the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of God (what we're *really* waiting for) keeps presenting itself. Year after year, Christ the Lord keeps coming to us—and keeps patiently waiting. Waiting for us to prepare Him room.

Praying for Advent blessings, Christmas Joy, and New Year epiphanies for each and all of us!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Women's Fellowship**

The Woman's Fellowship will meet at the Church on Sunday, December 9th at 2 pm.

Join us in preparing our baked cookies for shut-ins and assembling gifts for the new Chapel at the Women's prison. We will have refreshments and a Yankee Swap (an item from your home).

All are welcome to join us. For questions please call Dot Pitman at 465 7672."

## **CHRISTMAS FAIR THANK YOU!**

The Christmas Fair Committee would like to say thank you to everyone who helped make this year's fair another success. Whether you donated items, made crafts, helped with decorating or setting up, worked the day of the fair, baked pies, made soup, baked, performed music, cleaned up (or did multiple jobs!), we could not have done this without the support of all of you! We will communicate a final number on proceeds as soon as we have it. Blessings to all!

## Mission & Action News



### **December Item of the Month: Giving Tree**

Thank you to everyone who took a tag off of our Giving Tree to help families in our area celebrate Christmas. All gifts need to be returned to the church **by December 9**. Remember to *wrap all gifts individually* so the children have multiple gifts to open on Christmas morning. Put the wrapped gifts in a large bag and attach the tag containing the gift information to your bag.

*If you were not able to get a Giving Tree tag this year*, a monetary donation to Nashua Children's Home is another way to bring joy to a child in need this Christmas. Send donations to:

Nashua Children's Home  
125 Amherst St, Nashua, NH 03064-9905

**Coming in January...** Items of the Month to help local kids:  
Hats, Mittens, Gloves, New Socks & Snacks

### **The Christmas Fund offering**

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world for over 115 years. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in kindheartedness to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and who now find themselves facing worrisome financial needs.

The Pension Boards, on behalf of the whole church, passes on this direct support so that real needs may be met and support may be felt. Through your gifts to the Christmas Fund, you can help ensure that ***The Light Is Surely Coming*** and pass on God's love.

Please watch for the **special envelopes inserted in your bulletin on Sunday, December 16th** and consider making a contribution to the Christmas Fund.

### **Food and Heat Assistance**

Snow is in the air! We have heating oil certificates, and also funds for kerosene and propane, available for those needing help with paying for heat in this cold weather. If you know of anyone needing this assistance, please contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or [cbrady27@comcast.net](mailto:cbrady27@comcast.net). Oil is generously donated by our partnering oil supplier, and we purchase additional oil with our Christmas Eve offering.

**In November**, Mission & Action donated to The United Church of Christ Emergency USA Fund to specifically help those devastated by the fires in California.

### **Holiday Shopping on Amazon?**

Turn your online purchases – all year long -- into dollars for the church *without costing you a penny* at **AmazonSmile!**



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to **support our church** every time you shop, at no cost to you. **On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)**, just designate the **Congregational Church of Hollis as your charitable organization** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Since our church joined the AmazonSmile program in January 2014, the total given to the church is \$826.10.

***Help us grow!***

### **Our Church Records New Members**

November 18, 2018

By Reaffirmation of Faith

Brandie Langfield

Brian Stelmack

By Letter of Transfer

Rev. Edward Koonz

### **From the Church Office**

Grateful Thanks to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Marsha Joyce, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your November *Chimes* for mailing.



## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

To place Christmas poinsettia plants in the church on December 23<sup>rd</sup> as a memorial to a loved one or in honor of a special person or occasion, please fill out the form below.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias (please show quantity) to be placed in the church.

I am enclosing cash/check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$7.50 per plant).

Checks made payable to: **The Congregational Church of Hollis**

This plant is given \_\_\_\_\_ **in loving memory of**

**OR \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of:**

**(PLEASE PRINT NAMES AS THEY SHOULD BE LISTED)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
**( PRINT YOUR NAME(S) EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR)**

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 second service on Sunday, December 23, 2018.

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

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS — WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

*The holiday season is quickly approaching and the Hollis Woman's Club, Hollis Brookline Rotary Club, Hollis Agricultural Commission and NorEasters are sponsoring a holiday tradition.*



## *Hollis Holiday Luminaria Stroll*



This is an event that will prelude the Hollis Town Band's Concert that benefits the Deacons Fund. The HWC, Hollis Agricultural Commission, Interact Club, Boy Scout, Girl Scouts and Hollis town people will volunteer placing the luminaria bags around the square at 1:00p.m. Come, help and prepare for the excitement.

- 10am - 5pm Gingerbread house display & contest at Town Hall
- 1pm-4pm Handmade wreaths sold by Hollis Colonial Garden Club
- 2:30-3:30pm Luminaria Stroll Story time for children at Library
- 4:00 pm Candles will be lit and Meetinghouse will be open to warm visitors
- Our own church chimes will begin ringing with Christmas music
- 4:15 pm Middle School Choir members will sing carols
- 4:30 pm Tree lighting in Square
- Announcement of winners for decorated door contest and Gingerbread House
- Lit Tractor Parade with Santa Claus
- 4:45 pm Sing along with Carolers in Square
- Chili and Cornbread Supper in Hardy Hall
- Santa arrives at Lawrence Barn to greet his young friends until 6:30
- Hay Rides at Nichols Field sponsored by Brookdale Farms
- 7:00 pm Annual Holiday Hollis Town Band Concert at Hollis Brookline High School Auditorium

The fee for admittance to the concert is a donation of canned food goods. The Woman's Fellowship & friends will bake holiday goodies, and money raised will help offset the costs of the Deacon's Christmas food baskets that the Deacons and Pre Confirmation Class prepare and distribute.

Enjoy and admire our twinkling village as our town prepares for the season and listen to festive music with a holiday sing along. For more information contact Kimber Harmon at 465-2742 or KimberHarmon106@gmail.com



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

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 Permit No. 1  
 Hollis, NH 03049

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*The Hollis Town Band  
 and Community Chorus*

invite you to our...

# *Holiday Concert*

Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Hollis Brookline High School auditorium

Co-sponsored by our Women's Fellowship and the Hollis Town Band

**Admission: non-perishable food items**

All food items will help **fill our church's Christmas food baskets.**

*Join us for an evening of music and fellowship*

## **Your Help Is Needed for the Christmas Concert**

Our Women's Fellowship will sell finger desserts at the Christmas concert to raise money to help pay for the perishable food for our church's Christmas baskets. The more sweets we have to sell, the more funds we raise, the more food can be purchased! Your special goodies may be brought when you come to the concert or drop them at the church office on the morning of Friday, Dec. 7.

### ***Won't You Help?***

- **Bake** and donate a few goodies.
- ***Come to the concert!*** Bring your non-perishable food items to donate and buy some sweets at intermission.