

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

December 2019

www.HollisChurch.org

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- BOV Update... and more!

**The Chimes is a publication of the Congregational Church of Hollis UCC**  
www.hollischurch.org

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**From the Church Office...** Grateful

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

*“In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. ... And with this Word, God created all things. ... Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out.”*

(John 1:1, 3, 4-5, CEV)



Dear Friends,

In a world that so often seems swaddled in gloomy darkness, we have Good News to share: The Light of the World has come to us, and dwells with us—and even the deepest darkness cannot extinguish it! This is the message that Advent invites us both to wait for eagerly, and also to embrace as we simultaneously search for and celebrate the Word and the Light John poetically proclaims in the first chapter of his gospel.

Those verses from John, giving an account of Christ’s arrival and presence in this world, are profoundly moving in their mystical lyrics. But who doesn’t also love the birth narratives of Matthew and Luke? The cherished stories of angelic appearances to a young virgin who accepts the mystery of her chosen-ness, overwhelmed shepherds in night-time fields, a conflicted fiancé who sets aside qualms to do the right and holy thing, wisemen arriving from exotic places bearing gifts . . . these are stories of hope and memory, potential and fulfillment, stories of God’s faithfulness and our invitation to believe and live by the Light which has come to us, as one of us. This is the same Light that declares in Matthew 5:14, “*You are the light of the world.*” The Light of the world expects *us* to be light as well, or at the very least to bear witness to the eternal light and life we’ve graciously been given.

This Advent, I’d like to invite you all to read Amy-Jill Levine’s book, *Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent*, with me.\* In four engaging chapters, Dr. Levine (professor of Jewish Studies and New Testament at Vanderbilt University) helps to illuminate the mastery and meaning of these familiar narratives with rich context and interpretation from her knowledge of Judaism and early Christianity.

*(continued on page 3)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## Advent season excitement in Sunday School!

Students will participate in numerous exciting activities for this fun-filled time of year, all while learning about the true meaning of Christmas.

- **Sunday, December 1** -Advent (Love) lesson and craft
- **Sunday, December 8** - Pageant Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, December 11** - Pageant Rehearsal at 5pm
- **Sunday, December 15** - Christmas Pageant at 10:30 service

December's Bible memory verse will be:

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11



## 2019 Pageant Information:

Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be on **December 15th** at the 10:30 service. This is sure to be a heart-warming performance! This year's Pageant is filled with traditional carols for all to sing!

Rehearsals will take place on **December 8** during Sunday School and on **Wednesday, December 11** at 6:00pm. Children must attend at least one rehearsal to take part in the Pageant.

## Christmas Break dates:

There will be no Sunday School, Confirmation classes, or nursery services on December 22nd or December 29<sup>th</sup>. All classes/nursery will resume for the New Year on Sunday, January 5th. Stay tuned for more information on exciting plans for 2020!

## Birthday Box Bonanza!

Kim and Kim would like to thank everyone for all the generous donations given towards the Sunday School birthday box service project. Many kids at the Nashua Soup Kitchen will now have festive decorations, toys, and yummy cakes to celebrate their birthdays!

## Journey to Confirmation

In November, students in Grades 7-9 were busy serving the community. 7th Graders baked 40 pumpkin pies to contribute to the Thanksgiving food boxes packed by 8th/9th Graders at Brookdale Farm. In addition, 7th Graders performed a couple skits for Sunday Schoolers, and all students continued their learning in classrooms. 8th/9th Graders also continued to deepen their relationships with their mentors while having their 2nd Confirmation/Mentor luncheon.

## For our whole church family...

## All-Church Advent Celebration

Friday, December 6  
6pm-8pm



You're invited to welcome the joyful Christmas season by spending a bit of time with family and friends in fellowship and service. We'll share a light supper (with dessert), have fun & games, create special gifts for others, and wrap-up with a traditional carol sing-along. All ages and friends are welcome! Donations of small toiletries and men's heavy white cotton socks for the *Homeless Socks* project are appreciated and may be placed in the M&A shopping cart at the top of the stairs.

## ...and another family-friendly event

## All-Church & Community Chili & Cornbread Supper Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>



Come to town common for the tree lighting, carol sing, and see the Luminaria. Then stay for a Chili & Cornbread Supper in Hardy Hall. **Serving 4:45-6:15 pm.** Volunteers still needed to help at this event. Contact Carol Birch at 465-7622.

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

The nativity stories will feel even more precious and powerful to you after reading this book, I promise—and, I think, your Advent experience this year will be enriched by it!

There will be three opportunities to discuss the reading in a group:

- Sundays (Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22) from 12-1 pm
- Mondays (Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23) at 10 am
- Wednesdays (Dec. 4, 11, 18) from 7-8 pm

On Sunday, Dec. 8, the Boy Scouts will be helping us to share in an international event, when they share with us the Peace Light — a flame shared with Scouts who travel each year to the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was purported to be born, and then transport that light to receiving countries throughout Europe and North America with a message of Peace and unity. There is more to the story, which I invite you to come and hear about at the 10:30 a.m. service that Sunday.



**At 2 p.m. that same afternoon (on Dec. 8),** the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof will be leading a **Labyrinth workshop** in Hardy Hall. She will bring a 32' x 32' canvas labyrinth, and will invite anyone who cares to

participate in the ancient sacred practice to experience the journey. Those who were present for the service when we experimented with finger labyrinths may have had a foretaste of the potential power of such an exercise.

I hope you'll join us for at least one of these opportunities! And, I hope your Advent journey will be one that draws you ever-closer to the fullness and heart of God, that you (re-)discover the Light of the World. And, that we all demonstrate to the world around us the ways that "the light keeps shining in the dark, and the darkness has never put it out."

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

\*(I have 15 copies of *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*. Alternatively, you can order paperbacks for \$12.99 at [Cokeksbury.com](http://Cokeksbury.com), or e-books for ~\$10 at Amazon or Barnes and Noble.)

## COUNTDOWN TO BREAKING GROUND



weeks to go!



### **BOV UPDATE**

BoV continues to meet weekly to improve planning, tighten costs and work on financing. Many task forces are now in full swing including the Exterior Task Force which is reviewing detailed design plans for the patio and selecting materials. Our weekly minutes are always posted on the board and the team will be holding an **INFORMATION SESSION in January** to share:

- Cost Estimates
- Construction Schedule
- Project Options
- Permitting Status and Accessibility Alternatives
- Bridge Financing during construction

Watch for a specific date in the next few weeks!

### **BOV Community Outreach**

Did you see the sign on the lawn for our new Community Patio? This is just one of our many community outreach efforts. We have had tables at all the town festivals, the Boy Scouts Spaghetti dinner and the Church Fair. We have also had meetings with individual donors and have begun our social media presence. This month we will start presentations to local community groups such as the Seniors, Rotary and Woman's club. Be sure to visit our table at the Luminary and Town Band Concert on December 14. Help us spread the word!



### **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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p><b>First Sunday of Advent ~ Hope</b></p> <p>9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 12-1 pm – Advent Study discussion #1/4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Advent Study discussion #1/4 7 pm – CE Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>7 pm – Advent Study discussion #1+2 of 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>7 pm - Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>6 pm - All-Church Advent Celebration</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	
<p><b>Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace Giving Tree gifts due at church</b></p> <p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 12-1 pm – Advent Study discussion #2/4 2 pm – Labyrinth Workshop</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Advent Study discussion #2/4 7 pm – Deacons meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>7 pm – Mission &amp; Action Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p><i>Poinsettia orders due</i> <b>6 pm – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</b> 5 pm – Facilities meeting 7 pm – Advent Study discussion #3/4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>7 pm - Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>4pm – Town Center tree lighting &amp; luminaria 4:45 pm – Fellowship Chili Supper in Hardy Hall</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b> 7:00 pm at Hollis Brookline High School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	
<p><b>Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy Sunday School Christmas Pageant</b> The UCC Christmas Fund offering taken</p> <p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 12-1 pm – Christmas Food Basket packing at Brookdale 12-1 pm – Advent Study discussion #3/4 January 2020 <i>Chimes</i> deadline</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Advent Study discussion #3/4 7 pm – Trustees meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>7 pm – Church Council meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>7 pm – Advent Study discussion #4/ 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm – Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	
<p><b>Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love Music Sunday ~ Poinsettia Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship (No Sunday School) 12-1 pm – Advent Study discussion #4/4 1 pm – Women’s Fellowship Potluck Luncheon at Ginny Brooks’ home</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Advent Study discussion #4/4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p>4:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service 7:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons &amp; Carols 9:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons &amp; Carols</p> <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>		<p><b>Christmas Day</b></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>Saturday</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>
<p><i>One Morning Service at 9:30 am</i> Worship /NO Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	<p><i>No Mission Items of the Month</i> -- Please support <b>The Giving Tree and The Christmas Fund offering</b></p>				

## Christmas Fair Thanks

### Many, many thanks for the success of the 2019 Christmas Fair!

As always, the Fair could not happen without numerous people donating their time, talent, and treasure. Thank you to all who donated items for the Raffle Baskets, Angel Loft, New-to-You table, handmade crafts, Fashion Boutique, Kids Crafts, book sale, soups, baked goods, and Silent Auction. There was a wonderful collection of items that now have new homes and will bring their owners much joy! Not to mention the joy of eating the delicious treats and foods as well! Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to organize and lead a room at the fair, and to all those who helped run the stations the day of. Also, thank you to the numerous “elves” doing the behind-the-scenes work of organizing, sorting, decorating, marketing, and setting-up/taking-down for the fair! It was a wonderful way to get into the spirit of the Christmas season. Thank you!



### Our Church Records

#### Baptism ~ November 10, 2019

Trevor Alan Mann, son of Jason and Jennifer Mann and brother of Avery Mann

#### New Members ~ November 10, 2019

Jennifer Lindsay Mann and Jason Alan Mann

#### Weddings ~ October 18, 2019

Candace Rose Lindeberg and Paul Joseph Horton in Charlotte, NC

#### Memorial Gifts

*In loving memory of Richard Barton Pease by:*

Karen and Michael Gorton  
Judie and Barry Hass  
The Lanciault family  
Brad and Lydia Bates

*In loving memory of Nancy Wall by:*

Bette and William Siegel  
Carolyn and Louis Gargas



Work  
Camp

## Mission Trip News!

We had our Mission Trip service on October 27<sup>th</sup>, where we shared our stories, God sightings, and the transformative experience we had in Dexter, Maine.

### Looking forward to Summer 2020!

We are planning to travel to **Reading, PA**, for the week of **July 12<sup>th</sup> – July 18<sup>th</sup>** for next summer’s week-long Mission Trip. We will again be working with Group Mission Trips to provide our youth (currently in grade 8 and older) and adult chaperones with a week of faith building, friendship forming and serving God by helping those in need.

**Planning to join us in Reading?** Complete a reservation form below and send in your \$75 non-refundable deposit. You can drop it off in the mission trip mailbox in the church office or mail it to the church office.

**Our first organizational meeting is at 7 pm on Sunday, January 12, 2020 in Hardy Hall.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2020 Mission Trip July 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Reading, PA

Your \$75.00 non-refundable deposit (payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis) will secure a place for you at this camp.

#### Contact Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Camper Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Camper Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email

You will be contacted throughout the year for fund-raising events, monthly planning and preparation meetings.

**Please complete a separate form for each attending camper.**

# Mission & Action News

## **December Item of the Month: The 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 8**.



Remember to *wrap all gifts individually* so the children have multiple gifts to open on Christmas morning. Put the wrapped gifts in a 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

## **Please consider donating diapers (size 4, 5 or 6).**

This is a constant need for many organizations in our community. Help out our littlest ones by grabbing an extra bag of diapers on your next shopping trip and leaving them in the cart at the top of the stairs. A big thank you in advance!



## **THE CHRISTMAS FUND** for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

### **Offering taken on December 15**

For over 100 years, the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross** and the Emergency Fund has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for faithful servants of our church who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need. Look for the **special offering envelope in your Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday bulletin**. And on behalf of the hundreds of clergy and lay employees and their families whose lives will be touched by your support of this important collection on December 15, *thank you!*

## **Food and Heat Assistance**

Snow is in the air! We have heating oil certificates, and also funds for kerosene, electricity 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 Karen Marino at 603-475-3073 or [kmarino360@gmail.com](mailto:kmarino360@gmail.com). Oil is generously donated by our partnering oil supplier, and we purchase additional heating with our Christmas Eve offering.

**In November**, Mission & Action packaged up all of the goodies you donated and mailed them to our freshmen college students. They were VERY appreciative!

## **Coming in January... Item of the Month**

will be to help the kids at Nashua Children's Home with:

- **New standard size pillows**
- **New Bath towels and facecloths**
- **New bathmats**

The Nashua Children's Home provides care and stability to boys and girls unable to remain with their families, special education services for students who have not been successful in public school settings, and supportive housing for youth that have "aged-out" of care. You can help support their kids by donating these much-needed items.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Women's Fellowship**

You are invited to the Women's Fellowship on Sunday, December 22nd at 1 p.m. for a Potluck Christmas Luncheon and a *From-your-House* Yankee Swap at the home of Ginny Brooks. Join us for great food and warm fellowship!

We also invite you to participate in our two December activities.

- Bake cookies or other goodies for our Shut-ins and for the Dec 14 Christmas Concert (see page 8 for more info)
- Donate to the Women's Prison booklets with no wires, e.g. crossword puzzles, word search, adult coloring books, etc.

Those items maybe dropped at the Church office by December 13th. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Dot Pitman at 465-7672.



## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

To place Christmas poinsettia plants in the church on December 22<sup>nd</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)**

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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 22, 2019.

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

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS — WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

*The holiday season is quickly approaching and the Hollis Woman's Club, Hollis Agricultural Commission, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts 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 Scouts, 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.

- 12 – 6:30 pm Gingerbread house display & contest at Lawrence Barn
- 3:30 pm Luminaria Stroll Story time for children at Library
- 4:00 pm Candles will be lit and Meetinghouse will be open to warm visitors  
Special holiday music will be offered by members of the choir
- 4:15 pm Girl Scouts will have a Carol Sing-Along
- 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 Chili & Cornbread Supper in Hardy Hall - serving until 6:15  
Santa arrives at Lawrence Barn to greet his young friends until 6:30  
Display of tractors at Nichols Field sponsored by Brookdale Farms
- 7:00 pm Annual Hollis Town Band & Community Chorus Holiday Concert at Hollis Brookline High School Auditorium

The fee for admittance to the concert is a donation of canned food goods. The Women's Fellowship & friends bake and sell holiday goodies; money raised helps offset the costs of the Deacons' Christmas food baskets that the Deacons and 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 KimberHarmon106@gmail.com



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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*The Hollis Town Band  
 and Community Chorus*

invite you to our...

# *Holiday Concert*

**Saturday, December 14, 2019 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. 13.

### ***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.