

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

December 2021

www.HollisChurch.org

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In this issue

- **Ugly Christmas Sweater Pageant** – page 2
- **Christmas Eve Worship** – page 3
- **Widening Our Vision** – page 8
- **GIVING TREE** – page 6
- Poinsettia order form – page 9
- Chili Supper – page 7
- **Holiday Concert** – page 10
- Holiday Luminaria Stroll – page 9

**The Chimes is a publication of the
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www.hollischurch.org

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“God’s home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever.”

(Revelation 21:3-4, CEV)

Dear Friends,

When something affects us deeply, we say it hits “close to home.” Each year during Advent, we hear Scriptures and perform rituals that, across our life, have become richly textured: tender, laced with emotion, open, powerful. We find ourselves choked up, weeping during the singing of a particular hymn or carol, or at the hearing of powerful truths expressed in particular passages of Scripture, because we’re overwhelmed with gratitude for the presence of precious ones around us yet again, or we’re missing those who are not with us—or are, but in a different way...it hits close to home, at the very heart of life.

This Advent, as we continue to navigate life in a world that is both familiar and altogether strange, in the continued unfolding wake of COVID-19 and the ways it has unmoored so many of our ways of being, we will be working with the theme “*Close to Home*.” We will name and feel the raw truth of our deep longing for God to come close to us, to make a home with us, and for us to re-discover our home in God. I hope you’ll settle into a practice across the month that takes you deeper into your heart’s spaces, into the places where you feel simultaneously vulnerable and strengthened, more deeply connected to the One who gives you life and who beckons you to a deeper joy as you discover new things about yourself: your longings, your foundations, your experiences of safety/sanctuary, and your understanding of “home” in a more enduring, eternal way.

As usual, I will facilitate an **Advent devotional discussion group** on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. We’ll attempt a hybrid gathering (in-person in Parkhurst Room, and a Zoom link will be provided). We’ll be talking about “The Poetry of Advent: An Advent Companion to Mary Oliver’s *Devotions*”. In this Advent devotional, biblical texts and accessible practices interact with Oliver’s poems to create a four-week journey to Christmas morning. *(cont’d on page 3)*



From the Faith Formation Office

Journey to Confirmation

December's *Journey to Confirmation* includes a Core class, a service project, and a Life Lesson:

12/5 – Core Class: Life of Jesus

12/19 (time TBD) - Christmas food box packing at Brookdale

12/22 - Life Lesson at 4:30pm in Hardy Hall: Slow Down 4 and Mailman service project

✠Christian Symbol✠



Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

For our whole church family...

Ugly Christmas Sweater Pageant



This year, **ALL** are welcome to take part in the **Ugly Christmas Sweater Pageant**, taking place on **December 19th** during the service.

It's an interactive pageant where **EVERYONE** can take part! Please feel free to gather as many of these items as you wish, and attend the service in-person, or via YouTube Live:



Here's a quick checklist of things you'll want to gather (think of it as a scavenger hunt - grab as many as you can!) before the pageant begins:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER (OR OTHER CHRISTMASSEY ATTIRE!)</p> | <p>CUP OF HOT COCOA</p> | <p>A HOMEMADE PAGEANT COSTUME OF YOUR CHOICE</p> |
| <p>A CANDLE (ONE PER PERSON, OR PER FAMILY)</p> | <p>SOMETHING IN THE SHAPE OF A STAR (A PAPER STAR, OR JEWELRY, OR A T-SHIRT WITH A STAR ON IT)</p> | <p>SOMETHING BLUE (A TOWEL, SOME JEANS, A CRAYON - ANYTHING WORKS!)</p> |
| <p>A TEA TOWEL OR BATH TOWEL</p> | <p>A PAPER CROWN (OR SOME OTHER FANCY HAT!)</p> | <p>A FAVORITE (STUFFED ANIMAL, BOOK, PIECE OF ART - YOU PICK IT!)</p> |
| <p>A PICTURE FOR TWO OR THREE OF SOMEONE YOU ARE MISSING THIS CHRISTMAS</p> | | |

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

All you'll need is your favorite Bible and Oliver's *Devotions* (all the poems can also be found online). Week by week, we'll walk through the woods and along the seashore, with Mary Oliver as our guide. If you'd like an electronic copy, just email churchoffice@hollischurch.org or pick up a copy from the print resources display outside the Church Office.

I also strongly recommend listening to the "Strange New World: Understanding Christmas" podcast. It came out last year during Advent, but is powerful enough to listen to time and again. You can find it at <https://www.saltproject.org/podcast-strange-new-world>. (Scroll to the bottom; it's the first of a growing number of exceptional podcasts.)

This year, we will celebrate our *Music Sunday* on the third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 12th) and our annual pageant, highlighting the Christmas story for and with our children, will happen on the 19th. We're going to reprise the playful but powerful "**Ugly Christmas Sweater Pageant**" so many enjoyed last year — only this year, we'll bring our scavenger-hunt objects in-person!

For those of you who regularly join us remotely, as of December 5, we will be **transitioning from the Zoom platform to YouTube Live**. In most respects, it shouldn't feel much different; you will still just click on a link that will be emailed out prior to each Sunday's service. We expect the biggest differences to be: 1) A significant improvement in the quality of music conveyance (Zoom regularly suppresses music as "background noise", which is why we've had ongoing issues with it; YouTube is designed to convey music). And, 2) "Unmuting" will no longer be possible. You'll have to type any comments, prayer requests, etc., into an instant message. Please continue to be patient, and communicate with us about your experience (both what's improved, and what still might benefit from some attention, if we're able)!



Blue Christmas

On Tuesday, Dec. 21st, we will hold our second annual **Longest Night / Blue Christmas service** at 6 p.m. This year, we will hold it in Hardy Hall. We'll have a laptop set up for remote participants, though I expect it will be more intimate and personal if you're able to participate in-person.

On Tuesday, Dec. 21st, we will hold our second annual **Longest Night / Blue Christmas service** at 6 p.m. This

We will have **two Christmas Eve services**

this year: the first — a 30-minute family candlelight service at **4 p.m.** on the Squires Community Patio (weather permitting; if inclement, it will be in the Meetinghouse). And our more traditional candlelight service will take place in the Meetinghouse at **8 p.m.** The later service will be hybrid for those who wish to join remotely, so watch your email for a link. (Masks will be required for any/all indoor services.)



Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

On the Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 26, we will have a very informal service where we will sing carols, and share stories about the highlights of our Advent and Christmas experience; we'll remember what was, for us, close to home. In a previous church I served, we held worship services on Christmas morning—and some would come dressed in their "pyjamas." Someone recently asked whether this year, might we come in *our* pajamas? And I say, "Why not?" If that's how you manage to get to church on the day after Christmas, God will find equal delight in you and in our collective worship. So, on Dec. 19th wear your ugly Christmas sweater (and watch your email for other fun items to bring). And on Dec. 26th feel free to come decked out in your favorite flannel pj's (or whatever tasteful loungewear you might don for Christmas morning with family), a favorite Christmas present ("show and tell") if you like. And most important, bring stories to share! This year, we're keeping it Close to Home.

The blessings of Christmas — divine hope, peace, joy, and love—to you all!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

HOPE
PEACE
Love Joy

OPEN PAID POSITION AVAILABLE!

We need an adult (over 18) to snow blow the church walkways after each storm. We have a new snow blower to use - just need the willing able body! If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Paul Widner at pjwidner@aol.com or 603-465-9054 for the details and salary.



From the Nominating Committee...

The Nominating Committee would like to spotlight positions on the following Boards/Committees:

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer receive and disburse all current moneys of the church and keep these accounts distinct from all other accounts. At the church's annual meeting, the Treasurer presents a financial report for the preceding fiscal year. The Assistant Treasurer assists the Treasurer in the duties and is charged with the same responsibilities and authority as vested in the Treasurer.

The Treasurer position is extremely important and would be an immense contribution in the life of the church. This position affords the individual the opportunity to train alongside the current Treasurer for a year before assuming the role.

Board of Deacons, along with the Pastor, directs the ministry of the church and promotes the spiritual life of the church through its worship, faith, and outreach. Deacons visit homes of new families in the community, the elderly, the sick, and the bereaved. The board expresses the concern of the church for those who are shut-in or hospitalized, either through correspondence, flowers, or personal calls.

The Music Board supervises the music programs of the church. The Board is responsible for purchasing music and recommending a budget for music to the Trustees. And the board recruits choir members.

The Board of Christian Stewardship confers with the Board of Trustees (and the Church Council) to ascertain the financial needs of the church and prepares and conducts a Christian Stewardship drive on an annual basis.

Board of Trustees manages the financial affairs of the church. It is in charge of all property, reserve funds and current moneys of the church. The board works in cooperation and in an advisory capacity with organizations which assume financial obligations with respect to the church's real estate. They have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without the specific vote of the church. This board prepares a budget for the ensuing fiscal year based on requests submitted by the church-sponsored organizations, boards and committees. The Trustees present a complete church budget at the annual meeting.

We hope you will consider serving! Please contact committee members by emailing: nominating@hollischurch.org or calling the church office (465-7797) and a committee member will gladly get in touch.

Christmas Fair Thanks

Many, many thanks
for the success of
our Christmas Fair!



As always, the Fair could not happen without numerous people donating their time, talent, and treasure. 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, cleaned up (or did multiple jobs!), we could not have done this without the support of all of you!

Carol Sing
Sunday,
December 5th
after worship
on the Squires Patio!

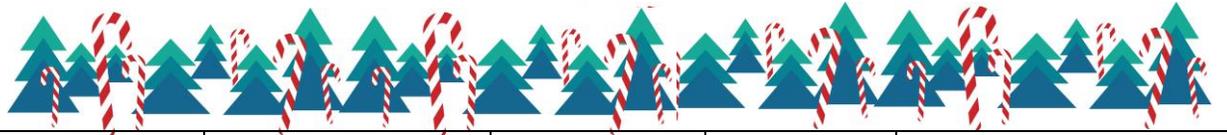


Join us for carol sing on the Squires Patio immediately following the service. We'll provide the keyboard and some lyric sheets - you'll be able to sing, without a mask, as loudly as you'd like! The fun will only last for 20 - 30 minutes. Hope to see you there!

From the Church Office

My deep gratitude goes to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, and Deb Shipman for folding, sealing, and addressing the November *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox!

December 2021



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|--|--|
|  GIVING TREE ~ All gifts (wrapped and tagged) are due back at church by December 12 Deadline for Giving Tree monetary donations is also December 12 | | | 10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Advent Study discussion #1 of 4 1 | 7 pm - Choir 2 | 2:30 - 4pm – Youth Group & Confirmation service project 3 | 4 |
| Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace 9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock and Confirmation 10:30 am – <i>Carol Sing</i> on the Squires patio, weather permitting 5 | 7 pm – CE Board meeting 6 | 10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7 | 10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 7 pm – Advent Study discussion #2 of 4 <i>Poinsettia orders due</i> 8 | 7 pm - Choir 9 | Our volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 10 | Holiday Luminaria Stroll Festivities begin at 3:30 Tree lighting ~ Luminaria 4:45 pm – Fellowship Chili Supper – Squires patio and Hardy Hall Community Christmas Concert 7:00 pm at Hollis Brookline High School 11 |
| Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy <i>Music Sunday</i> The UCC Christmas Fund offering taken 9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock <i>Deadline for Giving Tree gifts and monetary donations</i> 12 | 7 pm – Deacons meeting 13 | 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 14 | 10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Advent Study discussion #3 of 4 January 2022 <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15 | 7 pm - Choir 16 | 17 | 10am – 12 noon - Baking Get-Together with post-Confirmation teens 18 |
| Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love <i>Pageant Sunday ~ Poinsettia Sunday</i> <i>Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater!</i> 9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock 12-1 pm – Christmas Food Basket packing at Brookdale 19 | 7 pm – Trustees meeting 20 | 10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6 pm – Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service 7 pm – Church Council meeting 21 | 10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Advent Study discussion #4 of 4 22 | 7 pm - Choir 23 | <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service on Squires Patio 8:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 24 | <i>Christmas Day</i>  25 |
| 9:30 am – Informal Worship (In Person / YouTube) <i>You're welcome to come in pajamas!</i> NO Sunday School 26 | 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 27 | 28 | 10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 29 | 30 | 31 |  |

Mission & Action News

Thank you to everyone who took a tag from our giving tree and to those who have donated.

If you chose a tag, please follow these instructions:



- * Check off all items that you purchase from the tag.
- * Add any other items to the tag that you may purchase
- * **Wrap each gift individually and put a name tag on each gift.**
- * Place all gifts into a trash bag and use the tag to tie it off.

Gifts are due DECEMBER 12, 2021.

If you have any questions, please call Karen Marino at 603.465.2463.



THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Offering taken on December 12

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.

Please consider making a donation to the UCC Christmas Fund at worship on December 12 (checks payable to the church with *UCC Christmas Fund* on the memo line) *or online at our Donations page.* 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 12, **thank you!**

Christmas Eve Fuel and Food Fund

The Christmas Eve offering (other than pledge payments) is dedicated to our Food & Fuel Fund which offers assistance to those in need throughout the year. You may donate to the Food & Fuel Fund at *any time this month.*

Please make checks payable to the church with "Food & Fuel" on the memo line. The fund provides fuel (oil, propane, wood pellets, electricity) certificates and grocery gift cards for local families needing heating fuel or food assistance.

If you know of anyone needing this assistance, please contact Karen Marino at 603-475-3073 or kmarino360@gmail.com.



Home Heating Help



This month is all about

GIVING and we have several organizations that we are collecting for...

- ♥ Diapers (large and extra-large) collection for Nashua Soup Kitchen
- ♥ Used cell phones for *Bridges*
- ♥ Eyeglasses
- ♥ Travel-size Toiletries
- ♥ Items for Brookline Food Pantry

The Brookline Food Pantry located on the lower level of the Brookline Town Hall. Their Pantry is generally open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10am-Noon and Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm.

They are collecting...

Refrigerated Items: milk, eggs, cheese, juice, butter or spread, long lasting produce, cottage cheese, yogurt, lunch meat in packages, cream cheese, and pudding snacks

Frozen items: frozen vegetables and meats

Non-perishable foods: instant potatoes, rice, rice-a-roni, ground coffee, cereal, pasta sauce, spam, juice and juice boxes, canned carrots, any pasta except spaghetti

Personal hygiene items, toilet paper, paper towels, pet food, detergent

30 Days of Giving Challenge

Practice giving this holiday season! Every day for 30 days, take an item from the list below and place it in a box. Once your box is full with all 30 items, drop it off at the Nashua Soup Kitchen, 2 Quincy St. Nashua NH. Items received will go towards their December Holiday baskets or restock their Pantry shelves for the new year.

1. Instant Oatmeal Packets
2. Peanut Butter (any type)
3. Pasta (any type)
4. Boxed Mac & Cheese
5. Canned Corn or Mixed Vegetables
6. Canned Carrots, Peas or Combo
7. Canned Tuna or Chicken
8. Gravy (canned or envelope)
9. Cranberry Sauce
10. Broth
11. Rice
12. Dry Beans (Black, Red, or Pinto preferred)
13. Canned Beans (Black, Red, and Pinto preferred)
14. Box of Instant Potatoes (Popular Item)
15. Stuffing Mix (bagged or boxed) enough for a 14lb. turkey
16. Spices (suggestions: Salt, Pepper, Cinnamon, Garlic or Onion powder, etc. Mild spices are preferred)
17. Canned Fruit (Pineapple and Peaches are most popular)
18. Miniature Marshmallows
19. Small Bag of Sugar
20. Small Bag of Flour
21. Small Bag of Light or Dark Brown Sugar
22. Hot Chocolate Mix
23. Bottle of Dishwashing Liquid
24. Bar of Soap or Body wash
25. Package of Shaving Razors
26. Deodorant or Shaving Cream
27. Family Size Bottle of Shampoo (popular item)
28. Family Size Bottle of Conditioner (popular item)
29. Box of Tissues
30. \$10 Grocery Gift Card for dessert & other needed ingredients



All-Church & Community Chili & Cornbread Supper

Saturday, December 11th

Come to town common for the tree lighting festivities, Tractor Parade, and Luminaria. Then head to the church for a Chili & Cornbread Supper. **Serving 4:45-6:15pm** at the Church (Hardy Hall & Squires Community Patio) with Take-Out also available.

- Traditional Beef & Bean Chili
- White Chicken Chili
- Vegetarian Bean Chili (gluten-free)
- Cornbread (including gluten-free option)

First come, first served as long as the chili lasts.

Pre-orders available, though not required. Send email with order to chilisupper@HollisLuminaria.org with quantity and chili choice(s). Please include name and cell phone number.

All proceeds and donations gratefully accepted to support the Church's Holiday Food boxes to local needy families and the new Squires Community Patio and renovated Community Gathering Spaces.

Volunteers still needed to help at this event. Contact Carol Birch at 465-7622.

Introducing...

Widening our Vision (WoV)

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Galatians 3:28



Hello! The purpose of this communication is to share information about an initiative for our church to deepen and expand our welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions by formally adopting a statement of welcome and declaring our church an **Open and Affirming** community.

Our congregation voted to permit same gender marriage ceremonies in the church in 2010, but that is not the same thing as being an Open and Affirming Church. The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has been *“Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves Open and Affirming”* since 1985.

Our Church Council voted to sanction the formation of an *Open and Affirming Ministry Team* in March 2021. In the past 20 years in New Hampshire, more than 50 UCC-affiliated churches have elected to declare themselves Open and Affirming.

What, Exactly, is Open and Affirming?

Open and Affirming (often abbreviated as “ONA”) is a specific designation of the United Church of Christ for congregations that have made a public covenant, and declaration of welcome into their full life and ministry, to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. The ONA designation reflects [a history of faithful witness for LGBTQ rights](#) within the UCC, including the Open and Affirming action of the General Synod in 1985, and the Transgender action of the General Synod in 2003. **It reflects a spirit of hospitality, a commitment to full inclusion and human rights, and a willingness to live out that welcome in meaningful ways. It is consistent with the Welcome pillar of our strategic plan.**

We hope in the future that the Congregation will vote to adopt a Welcoming Statement and declare our Church as Open and Affirming and in the long term, we hope that our church will maintain ongoing education and relationship-building as we continue to learn and discover what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Our church’s Open and Affirming ministry team believes that we can all benefit from widening our vision to include as many of God’s children as possible. We believe in that so strongly that we now go by the name Widening our Vision (WOV).

The WOV team asks you to please pray on this and look to future Chimes for question-and-answer articles on this subject. If you would like to reach out to us directly, please do! WOV@hollischurch.org

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in the Emerson Chapel on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your coffee and join us! Everyone is welcome! Any questions, email Irene at rinorian@comcast.net or Patricia at patricia.cordell27@gmail.com

Our Church Records

Deaths ~ November 11, 2021
Burnham Haven Baker

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of
Burnham Haven Baker by:
Addie and Roger Saunders
Sandra Thorndyke
Carol Downing



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](https://www.amazon.com), just designate the Congregational Church of Hollis as your charitable organization** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

To place Christmas poinsettia plants in the church on December 19th 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 _____ (\$8.00 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 service on Sunday, December 19, 2021.

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

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS — WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

Hollis Holiday Luminaria Stroll

Saturday, December 11



We are very excited to continue this tradition in the Historic Village where the sidewalks will be all aglow with candles. The lit Tractor Parade will wind its way around the square, carrying

Santa to his much-anticipated visit with his young friends at the Lawrence Barn. Come and enjoy the afternoon festivities and have a meal at the chili supper in Hardy Hall. Finish the evening at the HB High School with the Annual Hollis Town Band Holiday Concert (where the only admission is a donation of canned 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. *See you at the tree lighting ceremony!!*

Schedule of Events

The Historic District Front Door Contest

- 1 – 6:30 pm Gingerbread house display & contest at Lawrence Barn
- 2:30 pm Placing bags and lighting candles in the village
- 3:30 pm Story time for children at Library
- 4:15 pm NC Studio Flute Ensemble; Squires Patio
- 4:15 pm Tree lighting in Square
- 4:30 pm Lit Tractor Parade with Santa Claus
- 4:45-6:15 pm Chili & Cornbread Supper in Hardy Hall – Eat in or Take-away
- 4:45-6:30 pm Visit with Santa at Lawrence Barn
- 7:00 pm Annual Holiday Concert presented by the Hollis Town Band & Community Chorus at Hollis Brookline High School Auditorium

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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 Hollis, NH 03049

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*The Hollis Town Band
 and Community Chorus*

invite you to our...

***Holiday
 Concert***

Saturday, December 11, 2021 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. 10.

Won't You Help?

- **Bake** and donate a few goodies.
Please wrap in individual serving size!
- **Volunteer** to help at the bake sale
- ***Come to the concert!*** Bring your non-perishable food items to donate and buy some sweets at intermission.

...And the Rest is History: *Our Church's History Highlights* Room Names, Part IV

by Cindy Ryherd



This month, the “Room Names” series continues with the Parkhurst Room.

The Parkhurst Room



The Parkhurst Room was named/dedicated as part of the 1965 renovation which added the west wing to the church. At the time, it was named in “honor” of Nelson and Hazel Parkhurst as they were both living and active members of the church. Nelson Parkhurst passed in 1984 and his wife, Hazel, passed in 1986, so it is now named in “memory” of them both.

The Parkhurst Room is located at the far west end of the building with windows that face the library and Monument Square. It is a multi-function room, with the north half of the room used for meetings and the south half used as the music space. Pre-Covid, the meeting room half was used regularly for board and committee meetings, and the music room half was where the full choir would gather to get ready for Sunday worship services. This room has also been used for the Christmas Fair Angel Loft for many years.

BOV Renovations Changes to Parkhurst:

- The door that went from Parkhurst into the admin offices (not the Pastor’s office) has been removed.
- The meeting room section now has a large TV/monitor, as well as a large white board (where the built-in bookshelves had been), and the tables and chairs are all on wheels so easily moved around as needed.
- The music room section now has floor-to-ceiling built-in cabinets for the choir to store robes and music folders, and the floor file cabinets have been replaced with wall-mounted, hanging music file systems.
- Nelson Parkhurst’s framed picture now hangs on the wall with a placard underneath providing information about the naming of the room.



About Nelson and Hazel Parkhurst:

Nelson Parkhurst was born in Hyde Park, MA, and made his way to Hollis, NH in the 1910s to buy land to farm. He met Hazel (a Hollis native) as part of the Hollis Grange and they married in 1917. Together they raised four sons and over the years, were active in many town activities and organizations besides the church, including the town fire department, the Hollis Historical Society, the Hollis Grange, and the schools.

In 1940, as the U.S. was preparing for WWII, Nelson joined the Carpenters Union and went to work at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. Not long after, Nelson started his role as church treasurer and stayed in that role for well over 30 years. In addition, upon retirement in 1962 from the Navy Yard, Nelson became very interested in the preservation of the church grounds and building. He became the church sexton/custodian at that time and served as such for 16 years, retiring from those positions in 1978.

During his time as custodian, the church added the west wing in 1965 doubling his custodial workload. Also, while serving as custodian, he discovered the old collection pouches (c. 1800s) in rough condition in the church attic. They had been saved from the church that burned down in 1923 and subsequently stored (and forgotten) in the attic of the current church. He, and a couple of other church members, restored them to their original beauty, and they have been displayed since then (1976) in a case in the Narthex.



Hazel Parkhurst was born and raised in Hollis, NH, graduating from Hollis High class of 1914 and marrying Nelson in 1917. She was a member of the church choir for 68 years, a cook for the Hollis school system, and belonged to the Hollis Historical Society and the Hollis Grange. Her grandchildren nicknamed her “Hot Rod Hazel” – apparently, she drove with a lead foot! She was known to make donuts on Saturdays and kids from the neighborhood would sneak them when she wasn’t looking. She was an avid reader and at one point had read every book in the Hollis Library, so the librarians would get books from the State Library for her each week. Hazel also often assisted Nelson with his various church responsibilities.

For the 1965 room-naming dedication ceremony, the following was written:

It would be difficult, indeed, to number all of the reasons we are convinced that they [Nelson and Hazel Parkhurst] should be honored in this way. As a matter of fact, it would be impossible to number them, for many of the acts of kindness and generosity are known only to them.

Mr. Parkhurst has served as treasurer of this church for nearly 20 years [in 1965] and has done so with remarkable devotion to duty. He handles many thousands of dollars for us each year, but if at the end of the year he happened to be fifty cents off, great would be the distress thereof! His careful work and interest in this office are greatly appreciated.

Mr. Parkhurst also serves as our sexton which means that he does just about everything that needs doing here at the church from washing windows to directing traffic and from rearranging chairs to watering new grass. Certainly, we would be lost without him but, in fact, we are rarely without him. If he isn’t at home, it is almost certain you will find him at the church.

It is unquestionably appropriate to honor Mrs. Parkhurst also. She has not only been a great assistance to her husband in his many endeavors but also has expressed her own clear devotion to the church. Her faithfulness and deep interest in the church should not be allowed to escape notice. We are honored to name a room in honor of Nelson and Hazel.

Nelson and Hazel Parkhurst are buried in the East Cemetery of Hollis. Karen Marino and Nancy Bell (sisters) are Nelson and Hazel’s grandchildren through their son, Winston, as is Jessica Marchant (Karen’s daughter). It is so wonderful to have the family church connection continue through the generations!