The Chimes

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

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

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*O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining;*
*it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.*
*Long lay the world in sin and error pining,*
*'til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.*
*A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices,*
*for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

**Dear Friends,**

One of the cherished traditions at our Christmas Eve services has been to begin our worship with the singing of "O Holy Night" (composed by Adolphe Adam, 1847). This year, the carol will inspire our entire Advent and Christmas season.

Every generation of human culture longs for wholeness: healing, justice, and restoration. Even in the shadows of cruelty and division, we look for hope that is more robust than misery, more stubborn than the impulses and realities that give rise to human suffering. We choose to believe that another world is possible! Into despair's darkness, the faithful have cried out, "How long, O Lord?!" And again and again, God has drawn near; salvation comes. As Christians, we embrace this saving presence most clearly in the life and memory of Jesus.

Jesus showed us what salvation looks like in the flesh—and he didn't stop there. With the Holy Spirit's power, he entrusted the work of love and justice to ordinary people. His first followers did more than preserve his story as a glittering memory; they refused to postpone salvation as a future hope. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they remembered Jesus and became living witnesses to what God had done and was still doing with and all around them. In the midst of fear, uncertainty, and imperial violence, the first followers of Christ Jesus told and retold stories that

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



*Information is subject to change. For the latest updates, visit our online Chimes at https://hollischurch.org/news/chimes/.*

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

animate and strengthen our faith today, so that the work of God's kin(g)dom would remain visible in their communities and through future generations. They proclaimed a salvation that was past, present, and still to come—as we repeat in our Communion liturgy:

> Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. The Messiah *saved* us; the Messiah *is saving* us; the Messiah *will save* us.

Today, *we* are the witnesses. Still today, in a weary and fractured world, people hunger for healing, justice, belonging, and hope that's powerful enough to persevere. And still today, the Messiah meets us in the midst of our own fears, uncertainties, and experiences of wickedness and corruption—in acts of courage and compassion, in communities of resistance and repair, in everyday individuals who refuse to accept cruelty and despair as the final word.

In the season of Advent anticipation, let's invite others to join us as we anticipate the Messiah who will save us; on our path toward Christmas, let us bear witness to a thrill of hope re-invigorating this weary world! Watch for the Savior—not just in ancient stories, but in the teeming world around us. Notice the signs of God's kin(g)dom every time people (yourself included!) choose mercy over cruelty, generosity over greed, and courage over fear. Expect Christ to show up in classrooms, at kitchen tables and hospital bedsides; in protests and prayer gatherings; in shelters, sanctuaries, and neighborhoods longing for peace and community. The miracle of Immanuel (God-with-us) did not end in Bethlehem … the thrill of hope endures!

I hope you'll join us each Sunday morning during Advent, and on Thursday evenings (12/3, 12/10, and 12/17 from 5:30-6:45 p.m.) for Loaves & Lessons, so that we might swap stories of our "Messiah-sightings" and find our hope mutually strengthened. Also make time for joyous celebration of the season by attending (or participating in!) the annual Handel's *Messiah*-Sing, and/or the Luminaria Stroll, Chili Supper, and/or Hollis Holiday Concert. And, invite a friend to come with you to one of our two Christmas Eve services: Family Service at 4 p.m. and Lessons & Carols Service at 8 p.m. I assure you, throughout this sacred season, Messiah's presence will be encountered—what a thrill of hope!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

## Advent Loaves and Lessons

Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle and spend some sacred time enjoying a meal and fellowship on Thursday evenings from 5:30 - 6:45 pm in Hardy Hall. The discussions will be based on our Advent theme "Thrill of Hope". A delicious home-made meal will be served each week. Please sign up for each session you plan to attend using the QR code or by visiting this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849ACAC29A7FF2-67294725-advent#/

Loaves & Lessons Menu & Sponsors:

- December 3 – Chili and Cornbread
  Sponsored by the Faith Formation Team
  Childcare is provided tonight. Please RSVP the number of children in the signup.
- December 10 – Host/Menu Needed
- December 17 – Host/Menu Needed

We hope you can join us to prepare for the sacred season of Christmas!

# FAITH FORMATION

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

No Flock class or nursery on December 27. Flock classes will resume for the spring semester on Sunday, January 3.

## Christmas Pageant Sunday

Please join us as the Flock tell the Christmas story and sing along with traditional carols on Sunday, December 13 at the 9:30 service.

All children should arrive in the Flagg Room between 9:00 - 9:15 am to get into costumes. Parents are welcome to find a seat in the Meetinghouse. This performance is sure to be a wonderful, uplifting conclusion to our fall semester. You won't want to miss it!

## Cookies & PJ's - Dec 20

On December 20 the Flock will be decorating cookies during class in our pj's!!! We will listen to Christmas carols as we decorate too! Come join in the fun!

## Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Pizza Night December 9, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, December 9 at 5:30pm in the Meetinghouse. All Flock children who will be in the pageant are encouraged to attend. We will have our pizza night in Hardy Hall after rehearsal. Please check your emails for the sign up genius/RSVP link. Email Kim at ce@hollischurch.org with any questions.

## With Gratitude

Thank you to all who have volunteered with the Flock, the Nursery and behind the scenes on the CE Board. Your support and help have been greatly appreciated! I look forward to spending more time with you in the spring semester! If you would like to join in the Sunday fun, please reach out to Kim Burton at ce@hollischurch.org for more information.

# MISSION AND ACTION

## Annual Giving Tree Program

The Mission & Action Board sponsors the Christmas Giving Tree for Nashua Children's Home and Marguerite's Place.

Christmas gift tags have already been distributed. Please call or email Shawntel Fugate at **missionandaction@hollischurch.org,** if you have questions about the tags..

Remember to wrap gifts individually with the child's code number on each package. Feel free to use "From: Santa" on the label of each gift. Place all gifts in a large plastic bag. Attach the tag to the bag with the gifts you purchased checked off. Any other items which are not on the tag, please list.

Please return the bags to church as soon as you have them ready to go. **The deadline is Sunday, December 13 to give us time to deliver them.**

Monetary donations toward fulfilling "Christmas wishes" are also gratefully accepted. Checks should be payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis with "Giving Tree" on the memo line, and **are needed by December 1**.

## Mission & Action: Our Outreach in Action

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our church's charitable efforts. Your contributions help us make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors. Over the past year, we have supported a number of charitable organizations, such as:

- Nashua Children's Home
- Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter
- Marguerite's Place
- Bridges
- Horton's Center
- Immigrant & Refugee Support Group
- Nashua CROP Hunger Walk
- Holy Joe's Cafe

We invite all of you to share suggestions for charities or organizations that would benefit from our community's support. If you know of a local nonprofit, community initiative, or charitable cause that you feel is making a meaningful difference and that may be unfamiliar to us, we would welcome your ideas for consideration.

## Special Offering: Christmas Fund Sunday, December 13

On Sunday, December 13, our church will receive a special offering for The Christmas Fund, a mission initiative of the UCC. For more than 100 years, The Christmas Fund has provided vital financial assistance to retired and active clergy, church employees, and their families during times of need. This year's theme, "The Greatest of These…Love" (1 Corinthians 13:13), reminds us that love is at the heart of our faith and our calling to care for one another. We invite you to give generously on December 13 as we join congregations across the UCC in sharing Christ's love with those who have given so much to others.

# Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee would like to spotlight these 3 positions on the following Boards/Committees. Music Board (2) and Kitchen Management Board (1). If you are interested, please reach out to **nominating@hollischurch.org** for a more detailed description.

1. **The Board of Music** shall consist of six members and shall supervise the music program of the church. The organist(s) and choir director(s) shall be directly responsible to the Board. The Board shall be responsible for administering the purchase of music and shall recommend a budget for music to the Trustees each year. The Board shall be responsible for recruiting choir members and recommending organists and choir directors when vacancies shall occur.

2. **The Kitchen Management board** oversees all aspects of the church kitchen and coordinates all organizations, activities, and events involving the use of the kitchen. The Board will oversee all kitchen use by all groups using the kitchen facilities.

# Stewardship Note

## *Continuing Our Journey to Generosity*

The Stewardship Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already submitted their pledge for 2027! Your generosity and commitment help make our church's mission possible and allow us to continue sharing God's love throughout our community and beyond. As we continue our *Journey to Generosity*, we invite those who have not yet made their pledge to take that next step by returning a pledge card or making your pledge electronically using the QR code provided. Every pledge, no matter the amount, is an important part of our journey together. Thank you for being part of our church family and for helping us move forward in faith, generosity, and hope!

The easiest way to pledge is online at **hollischurch.org/annual-pledge** or by scanning the QR code.

JOURNEY to GENEROSITY
The Way of Jesus.

## Our Church Records

**Baptisms**
*November 22, 2026*
Eleanor Jane Hall, daughter of Samuel and Danielle (Roche) Hall

**Weddings**
*October 17, 2026*
Kaytlynne White and Willard Wider

**Deaths**
*October 20, 2026*
Lorna M. Rupert

**Memorial Gifts**
*In loving memory of Laurie Lingley by:*
Nancy Hildreth
Peggy and David Gilmour

## Next Knitting Gathering - December 8 at 10:00 am

Our next Knitting club gathering will be December 8 at 10:00 am. Please join us if you can!

## With Gratitude!

Thank you Freddi Olson, Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Debbe Shipman for preparing the November 2026 Chimes for mailing! We are grateful for your time!

## Thank You for a Successful Fair!

Our 2026 Christmas Fair was another wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and holiday spirit for our church and the wider community! It was such a joy to welcome familiar faces and first-time visitors alike, from the youngest kiddos to our longtime friends and seniors. This special event continues to be a cherished holiday tradition, and we are always grateful for the opportunity to open our church doors and share the warmth of our church family with others.

Upstairs, the Angel Loft, Julie's nature-inspired Kids' Craft, and Santa were once again favorites with the children, while the Book Room—with games and puzzles, too—continues to be a hit with visitors of all ages! Downstairs, shoppers discovered handmade gifts and New-to-You treasures. Hardy Hall was bustling with activity, laughter, and the sounds of the season as visitors enjoyed a delicious luncheon, festive live and recorded holiday music, and the bake sale, while also bidding on Silent Auction items and purchasing tickets for our beautiful raffle baskets.

There are simply too many individuals, families, and local businesses to name, but please know how very much we appreciate each and every one of you! To everyone who donated items, homemade crafts, and food; shared their time and talents; helped with planning and preparation; assisted with setup; worked during the Fair; or helped clean up afterward, thank you! And to all who attended and supported the Fair, we extend our heartfelt thanks as well. Your generosity and dedication make this traditional Country Christmas Fair such a special event year after year!

*The Hollis Town Band and Community Chorus*

invite you to our…

# *Holiday Concert*

**Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

Hollis Brookline High School auditorium

Co-sponsored by our Fellowship & Hospitality team and the Hollis Town Band

**Admission: non-perishable food items**

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

*Join us for an evening of music and fellowship*

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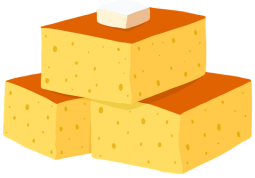
## Help Needed for the Event

Our Fellowship & Hospitality team 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 that can be purchased! Your special goodies may be brought when you come to the concert (or Chili Supper at the church) or drop them at the church office on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 10.

***Will You Help?***

- **Bake** and donate a few goodies. *Please wrap in individual serving size!*
- **Volunteer** to help at the bake sale – contact FandH@hollischurch.org.
- **Come to the concert!** Bring your non-perishable food items to donate, enjoy the festive music, and buy some sweets at intermission



## Community Chili & Cornbread Supper Saturday, Dec 12, 4:45 - 6:15 pm

Come to the town common for the tree lighting festivities, Tractor Parade, and Luminaria. Then head to the church for a Chili & Cornbread Supper at Hardy Hall Serving 4:45-6:15pm.

Saturday, December 12th - First-come, first-served as long as the chili lasts!

- Traditional Beef & Bean Chili
- White Chicken Chili
- Vegetarian Bean Chili
- Cornbread
- Hot Dog / Kids Meal
- Gluten-free options available

All proceeds and donations gratefully accepted to support the Holiday Food Boxes to local needy families.

**Volunteers are needed! Please contact Chillisupper@HollisLuminaria.org.**

## "Un"decorators Needed!

After the holidays, we need volunteers to help take down and put away the outdoor nativity, the sanctuary decorations, including undecorating the Christmas trees, packing up the creches, the Christmas candles, lights, etc.

Please consider helping out! Reach out to Carol at **FandH@hollischurch.org** to coordinate efforts.

12TH ANNUAL HOLLIS HOLIDAY

# LUMINARIA STROLL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Hollis Holiday Luminaria Stroll Returns for its 12th Year! Mark your calendars for the Hollis Holiday Luminaria Stroll on Saturday, December 12, a cherished community tradition that transforms the heart of our village into a glowing celebration of the Christmas season.

Come celebrate the magic of the holiday season at the Hollis Holiday Luminaria Stroll! From the glow of hundreds of luminarias lining our historic village streets to festive music, holiday crafts, the Gingerbread House Contest, visits with Santa, the Lit Tractor Parade, and a community supper, there's something for every member of the family. The day concludes with the always-popular 30th Annual Hollis Town Band Holiday Concert and Bake Sale, a rip-roaring holiday tradition filled with spirited music, seasonal favorites, and community cheer. Gather your family, invite your friends, and join us for one of Hollis's most beloved celebrations of the season.

**For questions or to volunteer, contact Kimber Harmon at info@HollisLuminaria.org.**

**Visit https://hollisluminaria.org/ for a full list of events!**

12TH ANNUAL HOLLIS HOLIDAY

# LUMINARIA STROLL

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

| | |
|---|---|
| **1:00 p.m.** | **Luminaria Construction**<br>Help prepare the luminarias that will light our village.<br>*Brookdale Farm Warehouse, 38 Broad Street* |

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

| | |
|---|---|
| **10:00-11:45 a.m.** | **Holiday Gift Workshop for Kids**<br>(Also offered December 11 from 4:00-5:40 p.m.) Advance registration required.<br>*Hollis Artspace, 30 Ash Street* |
| **11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** | **Gingerbread House Contest Drop-Off**<br>*Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road* |
| **1:00 p.m.** | **Gingerbread House Contest Judging**<br>*Lawrence Barn* |
| **2:00 p.m.** | **Luminaria Placement and Lighting**<br>Volunteers needed to help place and light lanterns throughout the village.<br>*Historic District and Monument Square* |
| **3:00-6:00 p.m.** | **Holiday Craft Sale**<br>Featuring local artists and crafts, sponsored by the Hollis-Brookline Rotary Club.<br>*Hollis Town Hall* |
| **3:30 p.m.** | **Meetinghouse Opens**<br>A warm gathering place for visitors.<br>*Congregational Church* |
| **4:00 p.m.** | **Luminaria Stroll & Tree Lighting**<br>Enjoy the glow of hundreds of luminarias, holiday carols, and the announcement of the Gingerbread House Contest winners.<br>*Monument Square* |
| **4:00-6:00 p.m.** | **Holiday Open House**<br>Enjoy hot apple cider and holiday decorations.<br>*Always Ready Engine House Museum, 26 Main Street* |
| **4:00-6:30 p.m.** | **View Gingerbread House Contest Entries**<br>*Lawrence Barn* |
| **4:30 p.m.** | **Lit Tractor Parade with Santa**<br>Beginning at Brookdale Warehouses, proceeding to Monument Square and then to Lawrence Barn. |
| **4:45-6:15 p.m.** | **Community Chili & Cornbread Supper**<br>Hot dogs available.<br>*Congregational Church Hardy Hall in Basement* |
| **5:00-6:30 p.m.** | **Visit with Santa**<br>Hosted by the Hollis Woman's Club. Donations accepted.<br>*Lawrence Barn* |
| **5:00-6:00 p.m.** | **Refreshments & Cookie Sales**<br>Hosted by the Hollis Woman's Club.<br>*Lawrence Barn* |
| **Throughout the Evening** | **Lit Tractors on Display**<br>*Hardy North Field, 42 Depot Road* |
| **6:30 p.m.** | **Pick Up Gingerbread Houses**<br>*Lawrence Barn* |
| **7:00 p.m.** | **30th Annual Hollis Town Band Holiday Concert & Bake Sale**<br>Please bring a non-perishable food item for admission.<br>*Hollis Brookline High School Auditorium* |

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

| | |
|---|---|
| **8:00 a.m.** | **Community Clean-Up**<br>Volunteers needed.<br>*Monument Square and surrounding streets* |

# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

To place Christmas poinsettia plants in the church on December 20th 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 _____
(**$10.00** 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 worship on Sunday, December 20, 2026.

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

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS — WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026**

# December 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4:00pm Mission & Action 1 | 4:30pm Caring Connections 2 | 5:30pm Loaves & Lessons (Advent) 3<br>7:00pm Choir | 4 | 5 |
| 9:30am Worship & Communion 6<br>9:30am Flock<br>11:00am CE Board<br>*Second Sunday of Advent* | 5:30pm Stewardship 7 | 12:30pm Bylaws 8<br>6:30pm Council<br>10:00am Knitting Ministry | 5:30pm Flock Family Pizza Night & Pageant Rehearsal 9<br>Poinsettia Order Deadline | 5:30pm Loaves & Lessons (Advent) 10<br>7:00pm Choir | 4:00pm Facilities 11 | Hollis Luminaria Stroll 12<br>4:45-6:15pm Chili Supper<br>7:00pm Holiday Concert & Food Collection at HBHS |
| 9:30am Worship<br>Flock Christmas Pageant 13<br>UCC Christmas Fund Offering<br>11:00am Hand in Hand<br>*Third Sunday of Advent* | 7:00pm Deacons 14 | Chimes Submission Deadline 15 | 16 | 5:30pm Loaves & Lessons (Advent) 17<br>7:00pm Choir | 18 | 19 |
| 9:30am Worship & 9:30am Flock 20<br>*Fourth Sunday of Advent* | 6:00pm Trustees 21 | 22 | 23 | 4:00pm Candlelight Family Service 24<br>8:00pm Lessons & Carols Service<br>***Christmas Eve*** | 25<br>***Christmas Day*** | 26 |
| 9:30am Worship & **NO** Flock 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31<br>***New Years Eve*** | | |

**For the most up-to-date information please check our online calendar:**
***https://hollischurch.org/events/month/***

Church Office Hours are Tues & Thurs, 8:00am—12:00 & 3:30—5:30pm

Please remember that hours are subject to change due to inclement weather, holidays, vacations, and staffing fluctuations.
Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).

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

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# CELEBRATE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS!

### Advent Loaves & Lessons
Dec 3, 10, 17, 5:30 pm in Hardy Hall
*Enjoy a meal and conversation based on our Advent theme "Thrill of Hope"*

### Flock Family Pizza Night & Pageant Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 9, 5:30 pm
Hardy Hall

### Community Chili & Cornbread Supper
Saturday, December 12
4:45 - 6:15 pm in Hardy Hall

### Hollis Holiday Luminaria Stroll
Saturday, December 12
10:00 am - 7:00 pm

### Hollis Town Band & Community Chorus Concert
Saturday, December 12, 7:00 pm
Hollis Brookline High School
*Admissions: Non-perishable food items to support our Christmas Food Baskets*

### Flock Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 13, 9:30 am

### Advent Worship Services
Sunday, November 29, 9:30 am
Sunday, December 6, 9:30 am
Sunday, December 13, 9:30 am
Sunday, December 20, 9:30 am
Thursday, December 24, 4:00 pm (Family)
Thursday, December 24, 8:00 pm (Traditional)