

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

February 2019

www.HollisChurch.org

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The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)

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“While [Jesus] was at Bethany . . . as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, ‘Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.’ And they scolded her.” (Mark 14:3-5)

Dear Friends,

A few people have asked about our capital campaign, “Why are we planning to spend \$2 million dollars on ourselves when there are desperate people and organizations like the Nashua Soup Kitchen, or Marguerite’s Place who could benefit more from our contributions?” It’s a question that deserves an answer.

In short, our campaign is about an investment in God’s future and a faithful response to Jesus’ command that we constantly nurture new disciples. If we don’t draw new people into our community—which will only happen if they find the place appealing, welcoming, and up-to-date (even with an historic feel)—then our church will go the way that so many others have.

Vibrant, thriving churches embrace God’s constant call to transformation. Those resisting change inevitably plateau and decline: the average age of the congregation steadily rises as the surrounding community perceives a declining relevance of the church. The facilities may feel welcoming to those with memories attached to every square inch of the space. But what newcomers see is a tired place that’s only intended to welcome and serve those who’ve been there for years.



I know this is true: Early in my ministry, I was appointed to shepherd a church through the process of closing its doors. For at least a couple decades, they had resisted changing their beloved spaces. Dismissed doing things differently. They didn’t want to spend money to enhance their space or dramatically alter their program. “Because,” they explained, “it feels like a self-indulgence.

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From the Faith Formation Office

Pre-Confirmation

Two different experiences are planned for the 7th and 8th grade class this month. On February 3, pre-confirmation students will meet for class in the Parkhurst Room after the Introduction to the Theme, ending their time together by joining the congregation for communion in the sanctuary. This begins a new monthly tradition of participating in communion.

Sunday, February 10, 7th and 8th graders will experience worship at the Crossways Church in Nashua. Drivers and chaperones are needed. Please contact preconfirmation@hollischurch.org to sign up.

Confirmation

The Confirmation Class begins this month with a field trip to Temple Beth Abraham on Friday, February 1. Gather at the Hollis church by 6:30pm. Carpool leaves at 6:35 sharp and will return at 9:30pm. Drivers are needed. Contact confirmation@hollischurch.org.

Confirmation students gather for class on Sunday, February 17. Meet in Emerson Chapel at 10:30am to hear about other faith traditions, including that of the Quakers.



HCC Basketball!

Congratulations to coach Kerry Santerre and her husband Jake on the birth of their daughter, Sloane, born January 13! Thank you to coach Tom Kuchta and new coach Alex Kutschke for holding the reins in Kerry's absence without missing a beat. Here

are the dates to turn out and support your team:

Saturday, February 2 at 12:45pm

Saturday, February 9 at 12:45pm

Saturday, March 2 at 2:05pm

Games are free and fun for all ages. See you there! Check out the Congregational Church of Hollis Facebook page for action photos of the team. All games are played at the Nashua Y on West Hollis St.

February Sunday School update

PreK-Grade 6 will be learning about Bible Heroes this month. A couple exciting and meaningful service projects are planned, including making comfort fleeces for a local hospital, and putting together health kits for Church World Service.

There will be no Sunday School classes on February 24 (beginning of school vacation week).



Christian Education Help Wanted

It sure does take a village to raise a child, and there are many opportunities to connect

with the children of the church! To find out more, please contact Kim and Kim at ce@hollischurch.org.

- **Teacher** - teach pre-planned lessons during Sunday School at the 10:30 service. All training and supplies are provided!
- **Teacher assistant** - Although open to all ages, this is a wonderful opportunity for teens. Children of all ages admire and develop connections with teens who teach!
- **Floater** - assist the Sunday School Superintendents with various duties before and during class time, such as making copies, shuttling supplies, and even helping in the kitchen when classes cook!
- **Provide refreshments** - teachers and children alike always love treats! Snacks and baked goods are needed for 10:00 on Sundays as teachers gather before class, and for various children's events throughout the year.

Meals Matter

Students at Nashua High South, seeing the plight of their fellow students, have organized a program to provide free lunches through the school. Checks can be made out to Nashua High South and left in the "gift card" pouch attached to the M&A shopping cart in the hallway by the CE office. Other ways to help are with Market Basket gift cards, snack foods and easy one-package dinners such as Hormel Compleats, Chef Boy-Ar-Dee and Kraft macaroni and cheese. Hunger is an on-going issue for these families and your help is greatly appreciated.

Summer Camp...already?



Yes, it is time to mark your calendars for summer camp at the UCC's Horton Center on Pine Mountain. There are family camps, adventure camps, arts camps, and much, much more. There is something for everyone! Go to www.HortonCenter.org to check out their camp schedule and see why YOU should be putting church camp on your calendar this year.

Mental Health Seminar:

The February session of our Mental Health Awareness meeting series will be held on **Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m. in Emerson Chapel**. Monthly topics will dive more deeply into depression, anxiety, addiction, and other mental health conditions. February's topic: Holistic Health.

Women's Fellowship

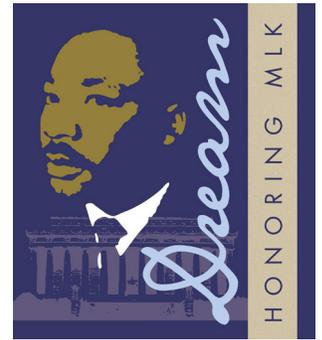
The Women's Fellowship will meet at the church on February 17, 2019 at 2pm. The theme is LOVE STORIES. Dot Pitman will share the history of St. Valentine Day. Members will share stories about why a particular item "says" LOVE to them. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. For further information call Dot Pitman at 456-7672.

From the Church Office

A heartfelt Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Karen Marino, and Deb Shipman for collating, folding, and labeling your January *Chimes* in preparation for mailing.

Special MLK Service Coming on Feb 17!

Due to the inclement weather we experienced on January 19-20, we **postponed our MLK-themed joint service with the Brookline Community Church until Sunday, Feb. 17th at 10:30 a.m.** We will hold the same order of service as was planned for January — the New Beginnings Praise Band will perform, and Melanie Levesque will offer the reflection. Please join us as we welcome our Christian sisters and brothers from Brookline on Feb. 17th!



Prepared to Serve

What IS Prepared to Serve?

It's a day-long event for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference, UCC (that's us!) with fellowship, inspiring worship, and educational, faith-building workshops on a variety of topics, including stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian education.

Where and When?

Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH
Saturday, February 23, 2019
Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Workshops until 3:30 p.m.

For a full listing and description of the workshops, see the *Prepared to Serve* brochure posted on the bulletin board or check www.nhcucc.org and click on *Prepared to Serve* to view the brochure or register online.



Celebrate Mardi Gras!

Save the Date!

Fellowship & Hospitality is reminding everyone to "Save the Date" for our annual **Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast on**

Sunday, March 3rd. Once again we will be

serving between the two services from 9:15 to 10:30, so people from both can "mix and mingle." We will have gluten-free pancakes and sausage available, too. So get out your beads and your masks and plan to be there! If you would like to come and help decorate for this event, or if you can stay to help clean up afterward, please contact a member of the F&H Committee or e-mail us at F&H@hollischurch.org.

February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Annual Meeting</p> <p>All members are urged to attend our Annual Meeting Sunday, February 10 at 11:45 am (snow date February 17) See the Warrant on page 6 of the February Chimes</p>					6:30 pm carpool – Confirmands attend Temple Beth Abraham	12:45 pm – HCC Basketball vs. NY at Nashua Y
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Teacher meeting	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 7 pm – CE Board meeting	7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting		7 pm - Choir	Our church volun- teers provide din- ner at Ash St. Shelter	12:45 pm – HCC Basketball vs. St Pat’s at Nashua Y
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Annual Meeting (Snow date Sunday, February 17) 2 pm – Mental Health seminar 7pm – Community Prayers 7pm – Mission Trip meeting	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 7 pm – Deacons meeting	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 7:30 pm – Music Board meeting	10 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities meeting	7 pm - Choir	March <i>Chimes</i> deadline	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School Martin Luther King, Jr themed worship with Brookline Community Church & <i>New Beginnings Praise Band</i> 2 pm – Women’s Fellowship	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 7 pm – Trustees meeting	7 pm – Church Council meeting		6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meet- ing		Prepared to Serve Workshops offered by NHC UCC Pembroke Academy 8 am – 3:30 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am –Worship / NO Sunday School	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast			7 pm - Choir	<i>Mission Items of the Month</i> * Tissues * Dish Detergent * Canned Hash * Canned Stew * Manwich for Corpus Christi Food Pantry	
24	25	26	27	28		



Raising Our Faith + Building Our Future

Sometimes it's good to look at how far you've come before continuing forward. At last year's Annual Meeting (2018), the Building Our Vision (BOV) course was set: "The aim of the BOV team is to chart a course between what we know we have to do, and our hopes and aspirations, as framed by our strategic plan."

Members of the BOV team spoke at the Annual Meeting last February, saying that faith and hope are necessary for the journey ahead, quoting St. Paul, "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:24-25) And Paul also assures us, "The one who has called you will be faithful to bring it to completion." (1 Thessalonians 5:24) Just one year later, we have made remarkable progress on Building Our Vision (BOV) and Funding Our Vision (FOV).



We now have a recommended project that addresses life safety issues without needing sprinklers — and the cistern and well improvements necessary to support the sprinklers also go away. The improved traffic flow on our lower level and the on-grade exits from Hardy Hall to the new patio do more than provide for our safety needs. These work with the kitchen updates to expand our interface with the community and provide new, improved ways to minister to our community.

We have also widened our welcome to the community by providing new lobby and library space, and a re-focused entry that provides for drop-off and access options. Our Christian Education classrooms are being revamped. Worship space will be enhanced by providing additional natural light, opening windows on the north side of the church and re-opening windows on the west side to the new sky-lit lobby.

While work on BOV is continuing, especially for gaining town approvals, focus has shifted for the next three months to the FOV, our capital campaign. Our *Joy of Generosity* capital campaign kicked off in December. The campaign is off to a strong start, and the FOV team is working hard to keep up our early momentum all the way to Commitment Sunday, April 14th, Palm/Passion Sunday.



The April 14th date was selected as Commitment Sunday not only because of the theological call to commit to following Christ Jesus come what may at the beginning of Holy week, but also to honor a milestone date in rounding out our 275th year: It was on April 20th 1743 that this church installed our first called pastor, Rev. Daniel Emerson (see the silver platter mounted on the wall outside Emerson Chapel). As we forge ahead with faith and hope on Palm/Passion Sunday, we continue to aspire to a future as fulsome as the past we have embodied, framed by our Strategic Plan, with hope and faith that the vision God has given us will be brought to completion.

Your BOV and FOV Teams

Ed Wigfield - Campaign Chair, Ed@HollisChurch.org

BOV@HollisChurch.org

FOV@HollisChurch.org



From the Pastor

(cont. from p. 1)

We think it's good enough just like it is. Why the need for extravagance?" What they didn't understand is that it wasn't about indulging themselves—it was about attracting and retaining new disciples who simply didn't see the tired, worn-out spaces with the same rosy memory-filled filters all of them could!

Shortly before Jesus was arrested, one of his female disciples anointed him with costly ointment. Others were incensed and demanded to know why she'd wasted money on perfumed salve, when it could have been spent on the poor. It seemed a selfish indulgence. Jesus responded, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? *She has performed a good service for me.* For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me."(Mark 14:7) Jesus said it had prepared his body for what was coming, though none of them understood his meaning at the time. Hers was an act of faithfulness and service for the future of Christ's mission and purpose, even if she had no idea or control over what that might bring.

At several critical moments across the past 275 years, our forebears gave given extravagantly, sacrificially, so that you and I could be welcomed, and worship in our Meetinghouse; so that we could learn to serve and sacrifice as Jesus did, and thereby experience the truly abundant life. We're aiming to continue in that faithful tradition, to honor and grow the life of Christ in our community, so that it will be here for generations still to come.

We currently devote a minimum of \$17,000 to our Mission & Action budget, which gets distributed to organizations that minister to the vulnerable—and many of us would like to see that number grow. Our church needs to thrive into the future precisely in order that growing numbers will support such places as the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Marguerite's Place. What we're doing is not about serving ourselves; it's about preparing for and nurturing Christ's disciples of the future in Hollis—so they, too, will discover the joy of service and sacrifice here and share that abundance with the wider world.

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

"And the day came when the risk to remain the same was greater than the risk to change ...

It is, after all, the only hope for the cocoon to become the butterfly."

WARRANT

(for the February 2019 meeting)

To the members of the Congregational Church of Hollis, New Hampshire, (United Church of Christ) qualified to vote in Church affairs:



You are hereby notified to meet in the Church in said Hollis, New Hampshire, on Sunday, **February 10, 2019**, (snow date of Sunday, February 17, 2019) at 11:45 a.m. to consider the following articles:

Article 1: To consider the reports of the elected officers, boards, committees, and organizations connected with the Church.

Article 2: State of the Church – to update the congregation on the status of the FOV/BOV teams' work as we move toward Commitment Sunday (April 14, 2019).

Article 3: To see if the church will adopt the following changes to the bylaws (new text is in **bold**):

Article VIII Boards, Committees, and Fellowships Section 2: Board of Trustees (e) All business of the Board shall be conducted at scheduled meetings with a quorum of at least ~~five members present~~ **half the members present, or between meetings via email for urgent matters that cannot wait, with any motion by email approved by at least half the members and recorded in the minutes of the subsequent meeting.**

Article 4: To elect all officers, board members, and committee members necessary for the upcoming year.

Article 5: To see if the Church will adopt the revised and updated Safe Church policy as printed in the annual report.

Article 6: To see if the Church will accept and adopt the budget as recommended by the Trustees and Church Council.

Article 7: To consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

Dot Hyde, Church Council Chair

Mission & Action News

February Items of the Month:

Help fill Corpus Christi Food Pantry

Our items of the month in February are non-perishable, protein-rich foods and health items for Corpus Christi Food Pantry. Their wish list includes:



Canned Stew
Canned Hash
Manwich Sloppy Joe Sauce
Dish Detergent and Tissues

Thank you in advance for your donations!



Additional needs in our community

(leave all donations in the shopping cart)

- **Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6):** There is a constant need for diapers. We learned that Marguerite's Place uses 100 diapers per day and the Nashua Soup Kitchen gave out 27,911 diapers in 2018 (6 at a time, every other day, to families in need). Whenever you can pick up extra diapers in your shopping, leave them at the shopping cart and we will distribute them to organizations supporting these families.
- **Grocery Gift Cards (Market Basket, Walmart, etc):** Teens at Nashua High South continue to go hungry. They have no access to protein and fresh foods, only the packaged food donated by generous givers. Please consider picking up a grocery gift card when you do your shopping and leave it in the envelope in the shopping cart. Even \$10 will make a big difference!
- **Bedding and towels:** Bridges needs new or gently used towels, facecloths and twin bedding (sheets, blankets, comforters) for use in their living communities, assisting victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Food and Heat Assistance

The Christmas Eve offering is used each year for local fuel and food assistance. This money will purchase local grocery store gift cards and heating oil certificates, as well as kerosene and propane, for those in need, especially during these cold winter months. If you know of anyone needing this assistance, please contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or cbrady27@comcast.net.

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

Once a month, someone from our church prepares and delivers dinner to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua. It could be you! We need someone (or a group or family) to make dinner for the month of March. Please check the sign-up sheet on the Mission & Action bulletin board if you are interested in participating in March or another month in 2019. We can give you some ideas for meals and also a gift certificate to help pay for the meal.



Make a Meal!

Music Notes



Special music needed for our 9:00 worship services throughout the year. Share your musical gifts with us by contacting the Music Board at Music@hollischurch.org, or sign up on the 9:00 service sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.



Coming in March...

Open Mike Acoustic Café

6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturday, March 16
Hardy Hall

Come and share your music, poetry, stories ... whatever your talent!

For more info or to reserve a time slot, contact Music@hollischurch.org.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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- Save the dates ...

Mardi Gras Breakfast – March 3
Open Mic Acoustic Café – March 16