February 2021 www.HollisChurch.org Volume LIX, No. 2

In this issue

- Open Mic Night page 10
- Annual Meeting page 3
- Our Church History page 5
- "The new name for Sunday School is..." – page 2
- Communications team p 8
- Mission Items of the Month -p 7

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

Lead Pastor

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia

CE@HollisChurch.org

Director of Christian Music:

Julie Oliver

Church Office

Eileen Widner

ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org

Susan Adams

Sue@HollisChurch.org

Contact us:

Office: 603-465-7797 or 465-7099

The Chimes is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

"You who have done great things, O God, who is like you? You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again;

from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. You will increase my honor, and comfort me once again."

(Psalm 71:19-21)

Dear Friends,

We have spent the past month focusing on the *Holy Habit of Shar*ing Resources. Not only time and treasure, but the possessions of our personal experiences; our thoughts; our deeper selves. We'll finish up working on this theme on Valentine's Day (also Annual Meeting Sunday this year—please Zoom in!) as we look at sharing the most powerful resource we each possess: Love. This is one resource we all have access to an infinite supply of; but, as with the other resources we're entrusted by God to manage, how we direct it (i.e., whether we share it lavishly or guard it warily) plays a crucial role in how joyful, satisfied, and blessed we ourselves feel.



Then already, we're in Lent! On Wednesday, February 17th, I will offer two different Ash Wednesday observations/services. In previous years, I've invited congregants to write down on a small piece of paper something you'd like to renounce, surrender, or "give up" for Lent; it could be something in your mind or spirit you'd

like to lift up to God for change or healing, or something you'd like to focus on appealing to God's grace to help you change about your behaviors or attitude in the coming 40 days. We've then taken those slips of paper and reduced them to ash as participants have come forward and ignited the paper with the light from the Christ candle. All of the "prayers" become commingled as the ash accumulates—a powerful reminder that our individual brokenness interacts with the brokenness of others; we all need healing, restoration.

Then, I take a bit of fragrant oil—a biblical symbol of healing and anointing, and an ancient symbol that God has chosen the recipient for holy things—and mix it with the ash. The oil acts as a binding agent, as well as a perfume to remind us that the grace of God is (continued on page 3) sweet.

From the Faith Formation Office



Confirmands are busy learning this month about Wor-

ship/Spiritual Life as well as a Life Lesson on Bravery. These kids are all amazingly dedicated to the Confirmation program as all of their recent classes have been via Zoom. It's not easy creating community and building relationships with one another this way, but these kids are showing great perseverance! The Christian Education team is so proud of this wonderful group of kids!

Amazingly, the Deacons Home Ministry team is able to hold an extra box packing event on February 14th (in addition to the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter boxes) because of the incredible surplus of food that was donated this year! (More on this below) Confirmands are gladly stepping up to the task to pack these boxes for local families in need.

February's Memory Bible Verse:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

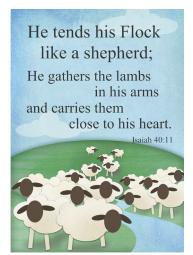
Romans 15:13:

Exciting Announcement from Sunday School/Church School!

Drumroll please......Sunday School has a NEW name...

The Flock!

Kids in PreK-Grade 6 will consider themselves part of *The Flock* as they are led by Jesus to discover God's word in weekly lessons, games, crafts, and activities. Classes continue to take place on Tuesdays at 4:30 via Zoom during the pandemic. Stay tuned for the unveiling of a custom logo for *The Flock*!



February Plans

In February, a new 3-part unit about the **Holy Spirit** will be introduced. Students will also have a special lesson for Valentine's Day, and will be making Valentines for others to enjoy.

Please note: There will be **NO class on February 23 as it is school vacation week.

© Kids! Check out the puzzle on page 9! ©

Deacons' 2021 Home Ministries

With the overwhelming support of our congregation and community, the Deacons' Home Ministries program was able to increase our annual food basket distributions in 2020, from 120 baskets to 150 baskets! In addition to the food baskets themselves, we all added wonderful personal touches to each of the families' baskets, such as homemade pies, homemade baked goods and handmade greeting cards.



In an attempt to bridge the gap between the Christmas 2020 and Easter 2021 basket events, for so many families in need right now, the Deacons have considered the abundance of food that we are storing at Brookdale's Packing Plant and have decided to hold a "Special" food basket event in February!

Deacons will be purchasing "Complete Meal" items from Hannaford's on February 13th. A small group of Deacon, Confirmand and parent basket packers will meet at Brookdale's Packing Plant on Sunday, February 14th between 1:00-2:30 (after the Annual Meeting) to pack another 50 baskets! Deacons will then deliver the food baskets on Monday, February 15th.

The Board of Deacons would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued encouragement, assistance and support!

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

Those who wish to, come forward again and receive the symbolic anointing ash and oil in the shape of a cross on their forehead, with a reminder that they are a beloved child of God, a disciple of Christ, along with encouragement to turn from that which is harmful and toward the sacred Love that's pursuing them.

Weather permitting, I'll offer an abbreviated form of this service on the Squires Patio at 5:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th. (Watch your email and/or Facebook for updates.) Then, at 7 p.m., I'll lead a Zoom service that will introduce



us to our Lenten theme, Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain.
Inspired by A Sanctified Art, the theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much remains unclear. Though we're still worshiping apart, we come to God

again & again with our prayers, dreams, hopes, and doubts. Even though we remain "distanced", we can only continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by *choosing* each other again & again. We try again & again to love God and one another with the same persistence and faithfulness with which God chooses and claims us.

The sub-theme, *A Lenten Refrain*, is a bit of a play on words: it speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. And, "refrain" also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms or habits as we intentionally seek to deepen our relationship with God and each other.

In this time when the whole world is changing faster than we can keep up with, rituals—both old and new—help us to remember and be transformed. I hope that, as we remember again Jesus' 40-day sojourn in the wilderness, and as we ourselves continue in our own wilderness experience, we will discover ways that God is renewing our world as we re-commit ourselves, again & again, to the spiritual practices and principles that give our lives meaning and purpose.

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

BOV UPDATE: Construction

& Transition

By the time this newsletter reaches you, our renovation undertaken



with Milestone Engineering should be complete with the exception of punch list items. The patio has already been used multiple times for services, including Christmas Eve, and, in January, the revitalized Hardy Hall was used for a Red Cross blood drive, serving as a test case for identifying protocols and procedures as we transition to wider use during Covid-19.

To aid in the transition back to fuller use of our updated/renovated facility, BOV's work will continue for a short time. BoV will assist in facilitating the logistics of moving back into our spaces (let us know if you can help!) and navigating the use of the new spaces to ensure we fulfill the tenets of the strategic plan. We'll also continue with fundraising and, of course, celebrate with a grand opening. The entire BoV team is looking forward to the end of the pandemic so that everyone can share in the joy of our renovated building. Watch church news for updates.

WARRANT

(for the February 2021 Annual 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 via the Church Zoom link, which will be provided in place of meeting live in said Hollis, New Hampshire due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on **Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 10:45am** to consider the following articles:

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

<u>Article 2:</u> To elect all officers, board members, and committee members necessary for the upcoming year.

<u>Article 3:</u> To see if the Church will accept and adopt the budget as recommended by the Trustees and Church Council.

<u>Article 4:</u> To consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

Dot Hyde, Church Council Chair

February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Satur- day
All members are urged to attend Annual Meeting via zoom Sunday, Feb 14 at 10:45 am See the Warrant on page 3	7 pm – CE Board meeting	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour	7pm - Choir	5	6
9:30 am – Communion Worship on zoom	7 pm – Deacons meeting	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour	7pm - Choir	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 10:45 am – Annual Meeting on zoom 1 pm – Deacons' Food Basket packing at Brookdale 2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group	7 pm – Trustees meeting March <i>Chimes</i> deadline	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 7 pm – Church Council meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour Ash Wednesday 5:30 pm – Outdoor worship on Squires Patio 7 pm – Ash Wednesday worship on zoom	7pm - Choir	19	20
9:30 am – Worship on zoom		NO Church School	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour	7pm - Choir		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

9:30 am - Worship on zoom

Zoom Sunday worship services and fellowship continue on Sunday mornings at 9:30.

Annual Meeting via Zoom – Following worship on February 14th. Church boards meet via Zoom.

February Mission Items of the Month: ◆ Paper Towels ◆ Toilet Paper ◆ Clorox Wipes ◆ Kleenex ◆ Diapers for Corpus Christi Food Pantry









28



...And the Rest is History

Our Church's History Highlights

By Cindy Ryherd

This is a new column which will run in the Chimes for the foreseeable future, with the intent of sharing some interesting historical highlights regarding our church. Since February is Black History Month, I thought it appropriate to write about a connection between our church and black history.

This first article is about Reverend Philip Mitchell who served as pastor for the Congregational Church of Hollis from 1962 – 1972. I'm sure you recognize those years as a stressful period in U.S. history with the Civil Rights protests as well as the Viet Nam War taking place. There are definitely some in the church who remember Rev. Mitchell. What is the connection between Rev. Mitchell and black history month, you ask?

Rev. Mitchell, along with four other ministers in the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC, flew to Birmingham, AL to participate in the last day of a 5-day march from Selma to Montgomery, AL. This was the 3rd such march (the first two never making it out of Selma), protesting voter discrimination against people of color that was rampant in the deep south at the time. The 1st march on March 7, 1965 ended on the Edmund Pettus Bridge (named after a Confederate brigadier general, US Senator, and leader of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan) in "Bloody Sunday" where marchers were beat by Alabama state troopers with billy clubs. Among the marchers beaten was the now deceased civil rights activist and Georgia U.S. Congressman, John Lewis.

The 2nd march on March 9, 1965 never made it out of Selma either, because of a restraining order that Martin Luther King, Jr. did not want to break. The order was issued by a judge forbidding further demonstrations until a filed case was heard in court. MLK turned the crowd around at the end of the bridge in compliance with the restraining order (the date is referred to as "Turnaround Tuesday"). However, later that night three white Unitarian Universalist (UU) ministers were beaten with clubs by four KKK members. One of the three ministers, Rev. James Reeb from Boston, died on March 11 from his injuries. The news coverage of the 1st and 2nd marches and Rev. James Reeb's death drew national attention and outrage from Americans in the north, motivating many to join the cause. Rev. Mitchell was among those who felt compelled to follow his conscience and participate in the 3rd march in solidarity and support.

On March 17th, after several days of testimony, a judge ruled in favor of the protesters and the 3rd march was organized. The 3rd march started in Selma on March 21, 1965 with 8,000 protesters. By the time Rev. Mitchell joined on the last day, there were an estimated 25,000 people. In addition to the five pastors representing the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC, spiritual leaders of multiple races, religions, and creeds marched along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, including southern Baptist preachers, a Greek Orthodox Archbishop, a Dutch Catholic priest, at least two Rabbis, and at least one nun. On March 24th, celebrities Harry Belafonte, Tony Bennett, Frankie Laine, Peter, Paul and Mary, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joan Baez, Nina Simone, and The Chad Mitchell Trio all performed at a rally in support of protesters before their final day of the march into Birmingham itself, on March 25, 1965.

Rev. Mitchell wrote/spoke of his experience in a sermon he delivered to The Federated Church of Orleans, UCC on January 19, 2014. It's an awe-inspiring read for the courage he had and commitment he felt towards this cause. As part of the march, he sang "We Shall Overcome" with Dr. King and the thousands of protesters united in their cause. One can only imagine how powerful and moving that would have been to hear. At the end of his sermon, Rev. Mitchell shared the following:

"I was naive enough not to know what the reaction would be in the then small New England town where I was the minister of the only church. The town was stirred up, dust flying everywhere. The Sunday after my return we had the largest congregation I ever saw in that church. We had to set up folding chairs in the aisles.

There were those who were enormously pleased that I'd marched with Dr. King. When I went into the village store, they treated me like Caesar returning to Rome. About ½ of the town was of another mind. "Shouldn't mix politics and religion!" "The church has no business in politics!" Well, personally I absolutely agree with that. The church should not be involved in politics. But, in my view, the question is not political. It is a moral question. It has to do with human behavior and human rights. It has to do with justice, fairness, what is plainly right.

One evening Barb and I were playing canasta in the living room, wondering what was going on in town, when there was a knock on the kitchen door. I opened the door and there was a man who, as it was told to me, had said he would resign from the Board of Deacons and from the church if I marched with Dr. King. He had a letter in his hand. I took it and read it. It was a letter signed by every member of the Board of Deacons, commending me for having followed my conscience, and he wanted to be the one to deliver it.

I am forever grateful for the maturity of that church. They separated personalities from issues. They debated the issues but I have no memory of even once feeling personally rejected."

To read the complete sermon, go to https://hollischurch.org/rev-phil-mitchell-dr-king-sermon/ Sadly, Reverend Mitchell passed away in 2018. His obituary can be found at https://www.capecodtimes.com/obituaries/20180627/rev-dr-philip-herbert-mitchell

I reached out to his daughter, Christi Chapman-Mitchell, to see if she would share anything her father may have told her about his experience at the march in 1965. It was she who gave me the sermon, as well as two photos ~ the one at right of him and the four other NH UCC reverends boarding the plane in Boston on their way to Birmingham, AL. You can see the other photo, a freeze-frame from an NBC News report showing him singing "We Shall Overcome" amongst a crowd of protesters, at https://hollischurch.org/rev-dr-philip-mitchellphotos/: and one. She found these three items, along with some other items her father saved, in a folder he had labeled "things to save". She shared with me that "When my Dad died, his last vocalizations were trying to sing We Shall Overcome, with my husband and I, singing at his bedside, to a video of Joan Baez."



Clearly our church, through Rev. Dr. Philip Mitchell, has a very meaningful connection with an enormously important part of black history, and I for one could not be more moved and prouder of this connection. I wish I had known him. I purchased one of the two books he authored, *Desire to See God*, and will be giving it to the church library should you like to read it.

Next Chimes, the history of the names of various rooms in the church will begin: Emerson Chapel, Hardy (Parish) Hall, Parkhurst Room, Flagg Room, Austin Room, Hayden Room, Brocklebank Room (one room per Chimes issue). I'm guessing many aren't even aware that the Deacon's Kitchen and the old admin offices (now the nursery and Rev. Tanya's office) were once called the Brocklebank and Hayden Rooms respectively (I was not until starting this research!) While there are some members of the church who may know some of the history, few know about ALL of them and there are many who don't know about ANY of them. That will soon change ③!

Mission & Action News

February Items of the Month

Our Item of the Month benefits the **Corpus Christi Food Pantry** in Nashua. They are in need of cleaning supplies like:

+ Paper Towels + Clorox Wipes

+ Kleenex + Diapers

+ Toilet Paper

Thank you so much!







Ongoing Collections

We are collecting continuously for the **Brookline Food Pantry**. Items they could use are:

Adult Diapers Vitamins Pain Relievers Coffee Juice Boxes Olive Oil

Cake Mixes and Frosting Feminine Hygiene Products \$10:00 gift cards to purchase meat products

You can go to their website and see what else they would appreciate receiving: brooklinenh.us/public-welfare

We are also always collecting:

- Eyeglasses
- Used Cell Phones
- Travel size Toiletries
- Greeting Cards and Stationery
- Diapers, Diapers



Food & Fuel Assistance

Thank you for contributing to the Food and Fuel Fund. We steadily give away money through the winter months. Your contributions to this fund continue to help others.

If you know of anyone needing assistance in paying for heat this winter please ask them to contact Karen Marino at 475-3073 or kmarino360@gmail.com.

Ash St Shelter Looking for Dinner Makers

On the 2nd Friday of the month, members of our church make dinners for The Ash Street Shelter. We provide you with a grocery gift card to pay for the ingredients. You do the cooking and delivering. For more information or ideas of what to cook, contact Lee Harper at <u>blharper@tds.net</u> or (603) 465-5118.

Are you eligible for the COVID vaccine in Phase 1B, but unsure of what to do?



To sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine, either:

- Go to https://vaccines.nh.gov and follow the prompts
- If you do not have internet access, call 211, although you should expect long wait times. Phone lines will be open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Our Church Records

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Pat Petrasek by: Judy and Don McCoy

In memory of Adam Verrecchia by:
Jim and Judy Seager
Patricia Cordell
Carol Birch
Brian and Angela Higgins

An Ash Wednesday Prayer

Lord of the winds, I cry to thee, I that am dust, and blown about by every gust I fly to thee.



Lord of the waters, unto thee I call. I that am weed upon the waters borne, and by the waters torn, tossed by the waters, at thy feet I fall.

—Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)

Communications Corner

Submitted by Cindy Ryherd

Church Constant Contact Emails

Since March 2020, when we stopped meeting in the Meeting House due to Covid-19, Constant Contact email has become the primary way to disseminate in-



formation to the congregation, as well as to get Zoom links to everyone so they can participate in worship services. There were just over 200 emails sent in 2020, compared to only 55 in 2019. Some of those emails went to just a small subset of the congregation (for instance, those who signed up for an outdoor service, or those who wish to get emails with the link to worship service recordings), while other emails went to everyone.

As much as we never wanted to flood people with emails, we are grateful that we have email as a way to keep people informed, and we appreciate everyone's tolerance with getting so many emails for the time being. We look forward to reducing emails back to pre-Covid levels once we can meet in person.

Because email is such a vital way for the church to communicate, please be sure to **contact**news@hollischurch.org if your email address changes and/or if you are NOT getting emails and you would like to receive them.



Also, we are looking for another **volunteer to join the Communications team** to help with some of the emails.

This is a fun and creative way to help support the church. Please

contact <u>news@hollischurch.org</u> if you are interested in helping with this.



Church Facebook "Changing of the Guard"!

A sincere "Thank you!" to Keith Hamer for taking over the church Facebook postings, both for the private group and the public page! In the five years since Keith has become a member of our church, he has graciously volunteered to help in many ways, including being a Deacon. Our Facebook group (now 186 members) and Facebook page are both very active. As "the" church social media presence, the public page is an important face of the church to the public.

A reminder to those who participate in the Facebook private group: ANYONE who is a member can post in that group so don't hesitate to create your own posts to share information with church members.

If you are NOT yet a member and would like to become one, go to https://www.facebook.com/groups/hollischurchmembers to request to join the group.

If you haven't already "liked" our public Facebook page



https://www.facebook.com/hollischurch, please take a moment to do so. Facebook "likes" help boost our page up on searches.

New for 2021:

Church "Welcome!" Mailings to New Hollis Residents

New Hollis home owners "Welcome!" mailings started going out quarterly in January 2021. The first mailing in January went to 130 Hollis residents who purchased their home from January through December 2020. The next mailing will be in April 2021 for Hollis residents who purchased their home from January through March 2021, then in July 2021 for April through June 2021, etc. The Communications Committee needs someone to spearhead this once-a-quarter effort. This is a great way to contribute to something very important for the above hour apply happened 4 times/year so the time of



portant for the church, but only happens 4 times/year so the time commitment is low!

The mailings include a church flyer and a letter signed by Rev. Tanya, welcoming them to the town and introducing them to the church (including information about Zoom worship services). At the moment, the letter also provides some explanation about how the church normally runs vs. its pandemic operations, and it includes some information about the nearly-completed renovations. Once we return to normal operations, a new flyer will be designed showcasing our new patio and updated facilities in addition to providing information about our many church activities, events, and community outreach programs. The letter will also be re-written to remove mention of pandemic-related operations (won't that be wonderful!).

With the pandemic-induced isolation and lack of get-togethers, consider how difficult it must be for new home owners in Hollis to feel welcome and connected to the community. We expect these mailings will be well received and appreciated by newcomers in town; anything that provides a connection to others in town is bound to! Mailings are anticipated to continue quarterly at least throughout 2021 (and hopefully beyond) regardless of the status of the pandemic. This, along with Facebook and our website, is an important way to keep the community informed and interested in our church family, fellowship, facilities, and outreach.

Personal recommendations are what people respond to best, so if YOU know of someone new in the community, or even someone who has lived here awhile but seems like they may enjoy being a part of our church family, please invite them to check out our website and Facebook page. You can forward your weekly Zoom worship service email to them so they can just "check it out" some Sunday (they can stay anonymous if they want). In this way, we ALL have the opportunity to be ambassadors for the church and honorary members of the Communication Committee!

Just for Kids...

	33 34	"
First, write the opposite of each listed word. Then transfer letters to the correct numbered blanks to discover Jesus' messages about love	21 22 23 25 26 27 2 30 31 32 36 37 38	1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23
	soft 20 2 20 3 after 29 3 false 35 35	1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19
	15	1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20
	3 4 7 8 7 8 5 13 14 7 18 19	2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 16 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23
	1 2 3 6 7 6 7 9 10 9 10 11 12 16 17 16 17	21 27 23 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33
F T T	cool under out large quiet	<u></u>

Answer: warm, over, in, small, loud, hard, young, before, true; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself" I like 10:27 NIV



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 1 Hollis, NH 03049

