

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

February 2022

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LX, No. 2

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

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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 pre-
ceding publication.

*“All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.”*

(1931 Hymn: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*, vs. 3)

Dear Friends,

First, a warm congratulations and welcome to our newest members—
some of whom have participated in our community for years but offi-
cially join (or re-join!) on January 30th (see p. 3 for names). It is al-
ways a joy to welcome new members into our community, but for-
mally committing to the covenant of nurturing faith in community is
especially precious and inspiring in this moment when churches eve-
rywhere are seeing participation decline. Blessings and welcome!

I also want to express (again) our congregation's appreciation to Eric
and Cindy Ryherd, Roger Saunders, and Charlie Seddon, who de-
signed and hand-crafted the new Audio-Visual console that's been in-
stalled at the back of the Meetinghouse. It will allow us safely and se-
curely to store the expensive equipment required to continue making
our hybrid worship services possible. We enjoyed a video presenta-
tion (by Eric) detailing its creation, and then offered a prayer of grate-
ful blessing and dedication of it on January 23rd. Thank you all!

In January worship, our Epiphany themes related to “seeing” who we
are in renewed (or, maybe, altogether new!) ways. The world is
changing so fast, it sets minds reeling and confusion is rife; left and
right, people seem to be losing sight of who they are, forgetting from
whence they've come. Through it all, however, God's faithfulness re-
mains constant. The lectionary texts have invited us to ponder our
identity; to consider how our most fundamental, divinely ordained
identity — as Beloved Children of God, and then disciples of Jesus
Christ — shapes and informs our sense of self and others, and our
commitments as we relate to the additional communities with which,
or in which, we claim our self-
hood. We're going to continue
that exploration into February,
as our lectionary passages lead
us into the season of Lent
(which starts in March).

(continued on page 3)



From the Faith Formation Office

Journey to Confirmation

Confirmands will meet for class twice in February:

- Sunday, Feb 13 at 9:30am — Core Class: Prayer
- Wednesday, Feb 23 at 4:30pm — Community Life Lesson



Youth Group will meet on Friday, February 11, for a **game of Family Feud**, followed by putting together a special **Valentine's Day surprise....** Details will be emailed to Youth Group students.

Adult Education Coordinator Needed!

Would you like to see more *informal bible study or prayer groups* offered? Maybe a *faith-based book or podcast discussion group*?

Here is your chance to make a difference: The CE board is currently transitioning from its traditional makeup to ministry-based positions, and there is a vacancy for everything “Adult Faith Formation”-related.

In this position, you would be coordinating, maybe inspiring, all groups in our congregation that meet informally, either at church or in private homes. You would neither be required to regularly attend board meetings nor to lead or teach classes - unless you want to, of course. But if you are passionate about sharing your faith with others and would want to start a group with like-minded people and feel you might know just who to encourage to do the same, you are the perfect person to join our new CE ministry team.

Contact Gudrun Pfeiffer at gphpfeiffer@gmx.de to learn more.

February Flock News:

The Flock will be having fun learning about Communion and all things LOVE in February.

- NO CLASS on 2/27 for February Vacation week -



Blessing Bag Collection

The Flock is taking donations to assemble *Blessing Bags* for the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter; deadline is February 13. Creativity is welcome for items, but some ideas for what is needed most include:

- toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hair brush
- healthy snack items: granola bars, trail mix, tuna pouch
- socks, hair ties
- band-aids, Tylenol, etc...

Children will be assembling these bags in February during class time. Thank you!



Summer Camp at Horton Center

Check out all the different experiences offered this summer at the UCC's Horton Center on Pine Mountain. There is something for everyone! Go to www.HortonCenter.org for their camp schedule and see why YOU should sign up now.

Summer Camp Registration is LIVE!

Sign up yourself and a friend for camp today!

<https://hortoncenter.org/summer-camp-sessions/>

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

You may recall that I said in my January letter that, in the coming year(s), I hope to encourage and empower more and more of you to share stories of your own journey in faith. On January 23rd, I shared part of my personal faith journey story as it relates to my sense of who I am, and how I've experienced and known God across my fifty-some years in this world.

I'm grateful that a few our staff members have volunteered to participate by way of moving us forward and deeper. It's not an easy thing to do—but it's always a rewarding and faith-strengthening exercise both for the individual who shares, and for our entire community as we all feel more meaningfully connected through the experiences we hold in common. **So on February 20th, I hope you'll support Kim Verrecchia** (one of our two fabulous Faith Formation/Christian Education Superintendents) **as she shares some of her story at our worship service.**

And, if you feel the Spirit nudging you to consider sharing your own story (or some pieces of it), please let me know! I'd be very happy to talk with you about how that can happen, especially if you have no idea where or how to begin.

Before February 20th, though, we'll have an opportunity to think about how our commitments as members of this church both contributes to, and helps us to live out, who we are individually and communally; at a minimum, we have shared experiences through our joint ministry! On February 13th, we will hold our Annual Church Meeting at 11 a.m. (Snow date: Feb. 20th.) We'll receive reports about the work we've accomplished together with God's help and give thanks for all that's been learned and lived in a second consecutive year of profound unpredictability. And, we'll consider the work and ministry we feel called to support across the rest of this year. I do hope you'll participate!

Finally, as we've heard from Gudrun Pfeiffer on behalf of the CE Board, and will hear again at our Annual Meeting, there are opportunities for you to get involved if you aren't already; opportunities to strengthen your experience as a member of the Beloved Community. We'd love to hear from you:

ce@hollischurch.org, or pastor@hollischurch.org, or churchoffice@hollischurch.org.

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Our Church Records

New Members joining on Jan 30, 2022

Charles (Charlie) Leonard Howe

Francine L. Howe

Nicole Andrea Poirier

Philip Daniel Poirier

Emilee Eve Sattler

David Hartwell Webber

Baptism on January 30

Paisley Nicole Poirier, daughter of
Philip and Nicole Poirier

Memorial Gifts

*In loving memory of
Burnham Haven Baker by:
Caroline Taber Kiessling*



**...from
Florence Baker and
Susan Adams**

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls and presence. We feel your love and care around us. Thank you from all our family on the passing of our husband and Dad, Burnham Baker.

Florence, Brent, Bruce and Shreya, Brian and Christine



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the outpouring of support and sympathy that I have received on the passing of my mother. I can't tell you how much it has meant to me. Thank you and blessings to all.

Sue

February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mission Items of the Month for Brookline Food Pantry:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonperishable foods • Pharmacy needs • Personal hygiene items 		10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 1	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 2	7 pm - Choir 3	4	5
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock 6	7 pm – CE Board meeting 7	1 pm – Staff meet- ing 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 7 pm – WOV meeting (zoom) 8	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Commit- tee meeting 9	7 pm - Choir 10	Youth Group Family Feud + Valentine fun Our volunteers pro- vide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 11	12
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock / Confirmation Deadline for <i>Blessing Bag</i> donations 10:45 am – Annual Meeting 13	7 pm – Deacons meeting 14	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting March 2022 <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 16	7 pm – Choir 17	18	19
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock Snow date – 10:45 am – Annual Meeting 20	7 pm – Trustees meeting 21	22	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 4:30pm – Confirmation Life Lesson 7 pm – Church Council meeting 23	24	25	26
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) NO Sunday School 27	7pm – Steward- ship Board meeting 28	<div> <p>All members are urged to attend our Annual Meeting</p> <p>Sunday, February 13 at 10:45 am</p> <p>(snow date February 20)</p>  </div>				

From the Widening our Vision (WoV) Team...



“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”

Gracie Allen, half of the husband-and-wife comedy team of Burns and Allen, wrote these words in a letter she left for her husband, George Burns, upon her death. They provided the gentle nudge George needed to keep going, and he continued to act (check out the 1977 movie *Oh, God* in which George plays the title character!) and share his humor until his death at age 100.

Gracie’s words also served as the inspiration for the new identity campaign launched by the United Church of Christ (UCC ~ that’s us!) in 2004. The quote was accompanied by the tagline **“God is still speaking”** and its logo was a large, black comma. Why a comma? Think about what you may have learned in English class (if you’re of a certain age) about punctuation marks:

A period says, “Stop. The end. That’s it. All done.”

A comma says, “Pause, take a breath, and go on – because there’s more!”

The UCC Still Speaking comma is an acknowledgement that God is still at work, still creating new things, still revealing new truths. The period at the end of the book of Revelation in the bible is not the end! God is still speaking – we have but to listen.

In conjunction with the God is Still Speaking campaign, the UCC released several television ads which were deemed too controversial to air in some locales. These ads are playful, engaging and downright brilliant ~ well worth watching!

In [“The Bouncer”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOz8hMPIOxs) ad, burly men dressed in black and wearing earpieces stand in front of a church. A red velvet rope blocks entry until the bouncers admit those worshippers deemed acceptable. Undesirables are refused entry. Words appear on the tv screen: “Jesus didn’t turn people away. Neither do we.” and the voiceover says, “The United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOz8hMPIOxs>

A similarly themed advertisement, the [“Ejector Seat”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRcv9u9x3z8) ad, shows a wide variety of worshippers (black, white, gay, straight, elderly, homeless, moms with crying babies) entering church and sitting in the pews. The camera moves to show a hand pressing a large red button, activating ejector seats under each worshipper deemed ‘un-acceptable.’ Words appear on the tv screen: “God doesn’t reject people. Neither do we.” and the voiceover says, “The United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRcv9u9x3z8>

God is Still Speaking, a God that is all-loving and inclusive. We strive to be a church that welcomes and accepts everyone as they are. You may see members of the WOV team wearing rainbow comma lapel pins ... and now you understand their meaning:

A comma, because Gracie Allen left George Burns a note when she died, saying, “George, never place a period where God has placed a comma.”

A comma, because we believe God’s truth is always being revealed and God is Still Speaking.

A comma, because the period at the end of the Bible is not the end of God’s revelation.

A comma, because our faith may be 2,000 years old but our thinking is not.

A rainbow comma, because God’s love is fully inclusive and we try to live that inclusive love.

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

WOV@hollischurch.org

Mission & Action News

February Items of the Month:

Donations for the Brookline Food Pantry

The Brookline Food Pantry is a source for those in need not just in Brookline, but also Hollis, Milford, Mason, Jaffrey and Townsend. They help with refilling the pantries that our community desperately need.

- Non-perishable foods (coffee, olive oil, cake mixes and frosting, juice boxes, pet food – or \$10 giftcards to purchase meat products)
- Personal Hygiene Items (adult diapers, deodorant, toothpaste, etc)
- Pharmacy Needs (vitamins, pain relievers, first aid supplies)

They would also like frozen or refrigerated items, but please call ahead when dropping those items off. The pantry is located in the bottom floor of the Brookline Town Hall at 1 Main St, call 603-673-8855 ext. 300; brooklinenh.us/public-welfare or look them up on Facebook.

Ash St Shelter Dinner Chefs Needed



We are looking for Dinner Makers for March April. Please sign up on the bulletin board. 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 de-

livering. For more information or ideas of what to cook contact Lee Harper at blharper@tds.net or (603) 465-5118

Food & Fuel Assistance

Thank you for contributing to the Food and Fuel Fund on Christmas Eve. Your donations are always appreciated to help those in need in our community. We steadily give away vouchers and cards throughout the winter months.

If you know anyone needing assistance in paying for heat this winter, please ask them to contact Lee Harper at blharper@tds.net.



From the Nominating Committee:

Please consider applying your talents and time serving on one of the following boards or committees. Positions are available on:

- † Deacons
- † Trustees
- † Music
- † Christian Education (adult ed)
- † Nominating
- † Stewardship
- † Conference Delegates

Feel free to contact the nominating committee with any questions you may have at: nominating@hollischurch.org. Thank you!

Just for Kids ...

Puzzle!

First, write the opposite of each listed word. Then transfer letters to the correct numbered blanks to discover Jesus' messages about love.

cool	1 2 3 4	soft	20 21 22 23
under	5 6 7 8	old	24 25 26 27 28
out	9 10	after	29 30 31 32 33 34
large	11 12 13 14 15	false	35 36 37 38
quiet	16 17 18 19		

13 11 24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31

21 27 23 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33

2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 16 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23

1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20

1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19

1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23

14 5 6 7 35 20 7 15 17 36 23 24 5 18 8 28 17 23

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." Luke 10:27, NIV

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

by Cindy Ryherd

This month, the "Room Names" series continues with the Flagg Room.

The Flagg Room



The Flagg Room (*pictured*) was named and dedicated as part of the 1965 west wing addition (the same time the Parkhurst Room was named and dedicated). Named after Etta Proctor Flagg (1868-1962), Miss Flagg bequeathed nearly half of her estate to the church, with the other half being left to the [Conference Center at Pembroke, NH](#). The funds of her estate sale in 1963 which went to the church, helped pay for the 1965 addition.

The Flagg Room is located on the bottom floor, directly across from the door that enters the lower level from the West entrance stairs. The room has always been used for Christian Education for children.

BOV Renovation Changes to the Flagg Room:

- The Christian Education office was built within the larger room for the CE Superintendents and teachers to be located in the learning space.
- The "doghouse" emergency exit that exited into driveway traffic on the west wall was removed and a new window was added in its place. This resulted in one additional window in the room, adding more natural light.
- One of two south wall windows was replaced with a window emergency exit.
- The walls were painted with bright-colored paint, and a children-inspired wall stencil was added.
- All new furniture and decor were purchased as part of the "housewarming" fundraising.



About Etta P. Flagg:

Etta was the youngest daughter of Esq. Timothy Emerson Flagg (1824-1898) and Susan Proctor Flagg (1826-1909). At 18 years old, she survived typhoid fever. She taught school in Hollis and then ventured out to teach in Connecticut and ultimately ended up teaching in the Los Angeles school system for about 20 years in the early 1900s. She eventually become the head of the Home Economics Department for the entire LA school system. Upon her mother's death in 1909, Etta and her sister Abby inherited and sold the family estate, Maple Way Farm, at 103 North Pepperell Road located at the corner of N. Pepperell and Flagg Rd. (Flagg Rd. was named after her great, great grandfather). During her teaching career, Etta wrote two books which were published: [A Handbook Of Home Economics](#) (1912), and [A Handbook of Elementary Sewing](#) (1915).



In the 1930s Etta returned to Hollis for retirement and was very active in Hollis organizations: the [Hollis Woman's Club](#), the [Hollis Garden Club](#), and the [Hollis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution](#). She acted as President of the Hollis Woman's Club in the early 1930s for two years and started the Garden Committee of that organization. She was also very interested in the [Hollis Social Library](#). She and her older sister Abby lived at 38 Main Street (*pictured*, the [Conant House](#), built c. 1800, referred to as the "Little Mansion", one of Hollis' historical homes). The house was considered very elegant and the Flagg sisters maintained their home with style.

Etta's interest in gardening revealed itself in the beautiful gardens on the property. Her estate was worth ~\$65,000 when it was sold in 1963 and divided between the Hollis Congregational Church and the New Hampshire Congregational Christian Conference in Pembroke.

In addition to her own contributions to the church and town, part of what made my research of Etta Flagg so interesting is her long family lineage in Hollis and in our church, dating back to 1732 with her great-great-grandparents, [Eleazer Flagg](#) (1704-1757) and [Hannah Knight Hunt](#) (1706-1800). Eleazer and Hannah were the SECOND European couple to settle in Hollis, long before Hollis was even Hollis (it was still part of Dunstable, MA at the time). They were second only to Peter and Anna Powers who settled here in 1730. Eleazer Flagg was an instrumental part of the committee that chose and hired Rev. Daniel Emerson to become the first settled pastor for the church in 1743 (including housing and entertaining Mr. Emerson for three months in 1741 as part of “wooing” him to Hollis).

The generations between Etta’s great, great grandparents and Etta Flagg include Flaggs who also made significant contributions to the town of Hollis and the Hollis Congregational Church, as well as to our country through military service. See the table below of the Flagg generations in Hollis.

Relation-ship to Etta Flagg	Paternal Lineage	Years	Spouse	Years	Mar-ried	Buried	Comments
Great, great grandparents	Eleazer Flagg	1704-1757	Hannah Knight Hunt	1706-1800	1725	Hollis Church Cemetery	In 1732, the 2nd European couple to settle in Hollis (was Dunstable, MA at the time). Eleazer Flagg was on the committee that chose and contracted Rev. Daniel Emerson to become the first settle pastor of the church.
Great grand-parents	Captain Jonas Flagg	1731-1819	Martha Knight Flagg	1741-1825	1758	Hollis Church Cemetery	Purchased Flagg family pew in Third Meetinghouse (the purchasing of pews being the primary funding of the construction of the Third Meetinghouse)
Grand-parents	Captain Reuben Flagg	1768-1845	Abigail Emerson Flagg	1787-1855	1815	Hollis Church Cemetery	Built Maple Way Farm at 103 N. Pepperell Road in Hollis. The windows of this house were from the 2nd Meetinghouse of the church.
Parents	Timothy Emerson Flagg, Esq.	1824-1898	Susan Proctor Flagg	1826-1909	1860	Hollis South Cemetery	Timothy Flagg Inherits Maple Way Farm from father. Sold in 1910 by Etta and her sister Abigail who inherited the estate upon their mother's death.
Self	Etta Proctor Flagg	1868-1962	None	N/A	N/A	Hollis South Cemetery	1963 - Etta P. Flagg’s estate is sold with half of the proceeds bequeathed to the church, helping to pay for the 1965 addition/renovation.

The 1965 room-naming dedication ceremony of the Flagg room ended with the following remarks:

The memory of Miss Flagg will live long in the minds of those who were privileged to know her and to love her as a friend. Her memory is an inspiration for those who shared a bit of life with her.

Go to <https://hollischurch.org/flagg-room-dedication/> to read the complete remarks during the 1965 dedication.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us for our Annual Meeting on February 13!

WARRANT

(for the February 2022 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, either in person in said Hollis, New Hampshire, or virtually in the Church Zoom link which will be provided, on Sunday, February 13, 2022, (snow date of Sunday, February 20, 2022) at 10:45 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: To elect all officers, board members, and committee members necessary for the upcoming year.

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

Article 4: To consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

Dot Hyde, Church Council Chair