

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

February 2023

www.HollisChurch.org

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## *In this issue*

- **Annual Meeting** – page 8
- Pastor Tanya’s Sabbatical – pp 1, 3
- Flock Adventure Day – page 2
- Changes in the Church Office – page 6
- Goodbye, AmazonSmile – page 6
- *Prepared to Serve* – page 7

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

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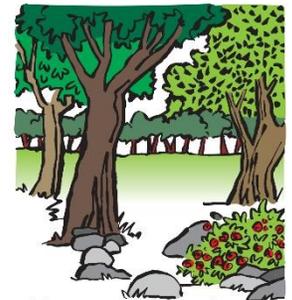
*The Chimes* is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

*Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God... (Exodus 20:8-10)*

*The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the LORD...” (Leviticus 25:1-4a)*

Dear Friends,

In some ways, it seems hard to believe I’ve been your pastor for seven and a half years. But it’s true! The overarching theme for our 2022-2023 program year is “Deepening Our Vision.” This came from an application we made to the Lilly Foundation for a Clergy Renewal Grant that we hoped would fund my sabbatical period. Sadly, the grant was not awarded. But the thinking we did for the application was enormously helpful in shaping what I trust will be a meaningful experience **while I’m on sabbatical, from February 20—June 30.**



*Rev. Tanya's*  
**SABBATICAL**

During the worship service on February 19<sup>th</sup>, I will hand over the mantle of leadership to the **Rev. Robert Fellows**. He will work closely with the **Sabbatical Pastor Support Team (Cindy Ryherd, Gudrun Pfeiffer, Jessica Marchant, Karen Marino, Paul Edmunds, and Thom Davies)**, who conducted the search that identified and called him last autumn.

Rev. Fellows is a semi-retired UCC minister—he retired from his full-time pastorate in Greenland, NH, in 2019. Now, he serves as a bridge/interim/sabbatical pastor, as well as serving on various wider-church committees. He’s a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, with an additional certificate from United Theological Seminary in MN. With his wife Melody and their dog Scout, he lives in Peterborough, NH, and Minnetonka, MN.

*(continued on page 3)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## CE Book Read

### Water from an Ancient Well: Celtic Spirituality for Modern Life

by **Kenneth McIntosh, M.Div.**

Reviewed by Rev'd. Tanya

Although we lived in the UK for nearly a decade prior to moving to NH, I never took the time to really dive specifically into the Celtic spirituality. I mean, it was everywhere—it's shaped the culture, and the architecture, and liturgy of the churches and spaces we inhabited, and I'd periodically hear names of the Celtic saints. (One of the churches I attended and served was called St. Columba's.) So, in a sense I was steeped in it. But Celtic Christian spirituality was never a subject of focused attention for me.

During my sabbatical I want to draw wisdom from the well of my personal experience, and from our shared experience, *and* the experience of the ancients. So, as I planned to return to the U.K. for a few months, I decided to do some reading about Celtic Christianity—which has a depth and wisdom that I've glimpsed but not previously appreciated so well as I do now. This book (by a UCC colleague in Arizona) was highly recommended by complete strangers as being very readable, moving, and informative—all of which it is.

There are 15 chapters, plus an Introduction and an Appendix, each drawing in stories of Celtic history, wisdom, and the lives of Celtic Christian saints, as McIntosh engagingly helps us see God in and through all things. You'll find stories about "furred and feathered creatures", "signs and wonders", "angels and demons", and "circles of strength" (community), among others.

Each of the chapters is really an essay, so you can dip in and out of what captivates you; no need to read it in order from start to finish. Each chapter/essay also includes suggestions for how to incorporate very simple practices that can help to transform one's own experience and awareness of God in the everyday.

I think the recommendation from Leonard Sweet (a best-selling author himself) says it better than I can: "If you want to run away to paradise for a couple of days, and drink 'living water' from a source unlike any other, read Kenneth McIntosh's deeply satisfying book."

## News from *The Flock...*

### Flock Adventure Day:

No school? No problem!

Join in the fun on the first day of February vacation – **Monday, February 27 from 9am-12pm**

This winter-themed Adventure Day will be like a mini-VBS: We will start with a lesson and music, followed by outdoor fun (please bring snow gear if we have snow!!), activities, crafts, and snack. For PreK-Grade 6.

**Registration form is due by  
February 19.**

Please email Kim at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org)  
for the registration form

\*\*\*\*\*

**NO Flock class on Sunday,  
February 26 - Winter Vacation**

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### Blessing Bag Collection

The Flock's collection of items for Blessing Bags for Nashua Soup Kitchen continues **through February 12**. We are collecting **travel sizes items: shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.** All items can be left in the CE Bin outside the front doors of the church or dropped off in Flagg Room on Sundays.

The children love this project and are looking forward to putting them together again.

*(From the Pastor – cont'd from p. 1)*

Prior to becoming ordained, his professional career included work as an Educational Consultant in health, wellness, group dynamics, and communication—and professional magic! He also enjoys playing the guitar, and drums, and landscape painting... the list goes on! I really think you're going to enjoy him and what you'll learn from each other.

Some of you might wonder what a sabbatical is. I've heard some (inaccurately) characterize it as an extended paid vacation, or a period when the pastor looks for a new job. Both of these are misunderstandings of the proper use of a sabbatical period—and certainly don't represent my intentions! (I'm looking forward to returning, and have no intentions of looking elsewhere.)

In a document published by the UCC entitled *A Sure Foundation: Resources for the Relationship between Pastors and Congregations*, it says:

*Sabbath is a gift from God, because rest is as important as work for the health of all creation. The seventh day was consecrated as a day of rest, and God ordered all of creation to cease from work on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). God commanded the people to let the land lie fallow every seven years and replenish itself (Leviticus 25:1-5). Jesus frequently left his followers and his disciples to pray by himself, spending time reflecting on his call, listening to God's voice, and receiving strength and direction for his ongoing ministry.*

*Rooted in these Biblical commands for Sabbath, a sabbatical is a significant time of rest, renewal, and refreshment for pastors. For pastors, the sabbatical time is time to nourish their relationship with God, recommit to their call, and provide renewed vision and focus for ministry. A sabbatical is not a vacation, but it does provide time away from the daily work of ministry. Sabbatical leave may include study or a project, but its first goal is reconnecting with one's sense of vocation through rest, reflection, and prayer.*

I will be doing exactly those things: resting, reflecting, and praying—all with the intention of renewing my understanding of my vocation to serve as Pastor and Teacher of this congregation. And Rev. Bob, with support from the SPST, will guide you—the congregation—in your own period of rest and play, reflection, prayer, and renewal. If we all make the most of this sabbatical period, we will discover a deepened vision of the work we've accomplished together with God thus far. And, a renewed sense of what we might set out to do together in our next chapter (because I believe we still have much fruitful work to do together)!

Oh, one last thing: While I'm away, I will be making a clean break from all of my interactive social media. I will not be checking my email, or text messages, or Facebook—so even if you do reach out, I won't be responding. Please don't take it personally; I fully expect to miss you all and occasionally expect to have the urge to reach out as well. But let's look forward to exchanging stories and reflections when I return!

For the first weeks of February, we're going to be continuing with our Epiphany worship theme, "Let There Be Light!" And we'll conclude that theme on Transfiguration Sunday, with the (temporary) passing of the torch from me to Rev. Bob on the 19<sup>th</sup>—it's going to be a very special and enjoyable service that I hope you won't want to miss. From there, you'll begin the journey into Lent together!

We'll have another special service on July 2<sup>nd</sup> when I receive the torch back from Rev. Bob . . . but there is much living, learning, and laughing; resting, reflecting, and restoration; playing, praying, and planning; much Deepening Our Vision to do between now and then. May we each sense God's presence with us all the way!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

***Rest Reflection Prayer Restoration***



# February 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>Our Annual Meeting is</b>  <b>Sunday, February 5 at 10:45 am</b>            (snow date February 12)</p>			10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour	7 pm - Choir		
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock <b>10:45 am – Annual Meeting</b>	7:30 pm – CE Board	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Commit- tee meeting	1 pm – Staff meeting 6 pm – Caring Connections 7 pm - Choir	Our church vol- unteers provide dinner at Spring St. Shelter	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock 10:45 am – Annual Meeting (Snow date)	7 pm – Deacons meeting	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting March <i>Chimes</i> deadline	7 pm – Choir		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream) Rev. Bob Fellows begins as our Sabbatical Pastor 9:30 am – The Flock Deadline for <i>Flock Adventure Day</i> registra- tion forms	Rev. Tanya’s Sabbatical begins 5:30 pm – Trus- tees meeting	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Church Council meeting			NH Conference <i>Prepared to Serve</i> workshop event
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream) No Flock class (Sunday School)	<b>FLOCK Adventure Day</b> 9am – 12 noon			Mission Items of the Month: ■ Hygiene Products   ■ Toiletries ■ Diapers, Diapers, Diapers!		
26	27	28				

# Mission & Action News

## February Items of the Month

Our February Items of the Month collection benefits *all* of our partner organizations:

- \* Brookline Food Pantry
- \* Family Promise of Southern NH
- \* Spring St. (formerly Ash St) Shelter
- \* Nashua Children's Home
- \* Corpus Christi food pantry
- \* Marguerite's Place
- \* Bridges



### Everyone has requested:



- Toiletries
- Hygiene Products
- Diapers, Diapers, Diapers

Please place your items in the bins outside the front door. Or you may directly shop on Amazon and have them deliver it straight to their door.

## M&A Food & Fuel Fund

Thanks to all for contributing to the **Food and Fuel Fund** during December and on Christmas Eve.

Your donations are always appreciated to help those in



need in our community.

**We steadily give away fuel vouchers and grocery cards throughout the winter months.**

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Lee Harper at

[missionandaction@hollischurch.org](mailto:missionandaction@hollischurch.org)



## Ash St Shelter is now Spring St Shelter!

The Ash Street Shelter has moved to 35 Spring Street in Nashua across the street from the Nashua post office ~ and changed its name to the Spring St Shelter! The new location has undergone a renovation and is many times larger than the Ash Street facility.



### Dinner Chefs Needed

Mission and Action sponsors a dinner delivery the second Friday of each month and provides a \$100 Market Basket gift card for the purchase of ingredients. We provide ideas for what to cook, instructions, and directions to the shelter. The meal can be prepared by an individual, family or group at home or the church kitchen( the kitchen needs to be reserved in advance).

**Please consider signing up** on the bulletin board outside the church office or by contacting Lee Harper at [missionandaction@hollischurch.org](mailto:missionandaction@hollischurch.org).

The meal is always very much appreciated by the shelter residents and staff! Thank you!



## Our Church Records

### Deaths

*December 28, 2022 ~ Judith Goetzman Roman*

### Memorial Gifts

*In loving memory of Jim Squires by:*

- ♦ Ann Siglin
- ♦ Mark LeDoux family

*In loving memory of Pat Coughlin by Meg Ward*

## A Note of Thanks

Dear friends,  
I would like to express our thanks to so many people who kept us in their prayers while we were in the hospital and at home recuperating. We are so grateful for all the cards, notes, and meals that were sent to us. Thank you all so much for all your kindness.

Sincerely,  
Dee and Bill Wagner



## Church Office Staff Changes



It is with both sadness and hope that we share the news that Sue Adams, one of our two fabulous part-time Church Office administrators, has tendered her resignation and will finish her work on January 30, 2023. For nearly eight years, our community has been incredibly blessed by the range of gifts, experience, and deep dedication Sue has brought to her post.

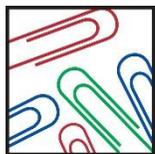
While we are truly sorry for the loss this represents to our congregation's administrative functions, we are excited for the new opportunities Sue is choosing to pursue as she responds to God's call to move in new directions. We offer her our blessing. (A reception and celebration to honor her contributions was held after the worship service on January 29th.)

Her departure also represents an opportunity for the Personnel Committee and Trustees to undertake a detailed assessment of our church's staffing needs. As this is taking place, we are happy to announce that Cindy Ryherd and Lynn Goldberg – both of whom have significant knowledge of our church office operations – will be working with Eileen in the interim, so that the essential work gets done. Our intention is to complete the needs assessment across the next 4-5 months, and present a proposal to Church Council in the late summer, after Rev. Tanya returns from her sabbatical. Please pray with us, for continued faithful discernment in our onward journey together, and for blessings in Sue's new adventures.

In faith,

Your Church Personnel Committee

## From the Church Office



### New Office Hours

Due to the changes in church office staffing, the hours the church office is open will be changing, effective January 31.

New office hours are 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday through Friday (closed Mondays)

### Chimes Thanks...

A big Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Patricia Cordell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for folding, labeling, and sealing your January *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.

## The End of AmazonSmile

The church office recently received notification that the AmazonSmile program will be discontinued in February. In part, Amazon's email read:

"In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change—from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters."

Our church joined the AmazonSmile program in 2014, and will have received benefits totaling **more than \$2,000.00** when the program ends. While that amount may seem insignificant to a corporate giant like Amazon, our church was able to do a great deal with that amount. **Consider this:** \$2,000 was enough to fund more than two years of supplying grocery gift cards for our Ash St Shelter dinner program!

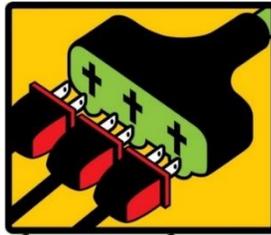
**We sincerely thank the more than 90 families who supported our church through AmazonSmile. Together, we did a lot of good!**

## Prepared to Serve: An Event for All of God's People

*Prepared to Serve* is a day-long event for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference, UCC filled with fellowship and inspiring, faith-building workshops and exhibits.

### Where and When?

Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH  
Saturday, February 25, 2023



*Connecting &  
Reconnecting*

- Registration (Refreshments).....8:00 – 8:45 am
- Welcome/Opening Prayer .....9:00 - 9:20 am
- Workshop Block A.....9:45 – 11:00 am
- Workshop Block B .....11:20am – 12:20pm
- Workshop Block C .....12:40 – 1:55 pm
- Installation of Rev. Sara Marean as Associate  
Conference Minister.....2:30 pm

Register online by following the registration link at [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org). Register on or before February 8 for a reduced fee of \$40/person. Registration fee includes a continental breakfast, refreshments, and a full buffet lunch or optional boxed lunch. If you serve on a church board, check with your board for possible underwriting of the registration fee.

The theme of our Prepared to Serve event — **Connecting & Reconnecting** — is based on the scripture passage found in Romans 1:11-12 “I want to see you and share with you the same blessings that God's Spirit has given me. Then you will grow stronger in your faith. What I am saying is that we can encourage each other by the faith that is ours.”

Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics, including faith formation, church leadership, church finances, stewardship, global missions and wider church relations. A full listing and description of the *Prepared to Serve* workshops is available on the New Hampshire Conference website [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org). Here's just a small sample:

- Meeting the Challenges of Decreased Volunteerism
- Best Financial Practices for Churches
- How Prayer can Center & Guide your Church
- Promoting Spiritual Community thru Contemporary Worship
- Immigration Issues 2023
- Making Sense of the Changes Caused by Covid
- Caring for Alzheimer's in Today's World
- Confronting White Christian Nationalism
- Eradicating Poverty through Innovative Solutions for Housing Insecurity

## Just for Kids...

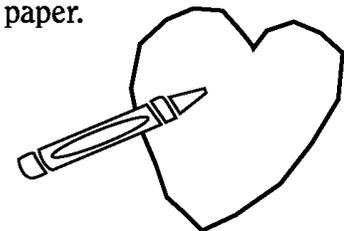
### Send an Invisible Valentine to Someone You Love!

*Here's what you'll need:*

- Scissors
- White construction paper
- White crayon
- Pen
- Pink or red watercolor

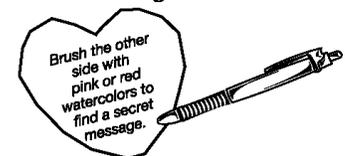
*Here's how to make an invisible Valentine:*

1. Cut a heart shape out of the white construction paper.



2. Use the white crayon to decorate the heart with designs and a message. Press hard!

3. On the back, use the pen to write: “*Brush the other side with pink or red watercolor to find a secret message.*”



4. Give the valentine to someone you love. When the person paints the “blank” side, your secret message will be revealed!



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 5!**

### **WARRANT**

(for the February 2023 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 or virtually in the Church Zoom link which will be provided, in said Hollis, New Hampshire, on Sunday, February 5, 2023, (snow date of Sunday, February 12, 2023) at 10:45 a.m. to consider the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the church will allow remote voting at this annual meeting using procedures specified by the Moderator. This article may be voted on only by active members physically present at the meeting.

Article 2: To consider the reports of the elected officers, boards, committees, and organizations connected with the Church.

Article 3: To elect all officers, board members, and committee members necessary for the upcoming year.

Article 4: To see if the Church will accept and adopt the budget as recommended by the Trustees and Church Council.

Article 5: To consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

Cherie Moreno, Church Clerk