

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

February 2024

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LXII, No. 2

In this issue

- **Annual Meeting** – page 8
- **Lenten Loaves & Lessons** – page 3
- Blessing Bags – page 2
- **Flock Adventure Day** – page 2
- Nominating News – page 4
- **Prepared to Serve** – page 6
- Flowers for Worship – page 7
- 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

CE@HollisChurch.org

Minister of Christian Music

Julie Oliver

Church Office

Jessica Cleveland

Admin@HollisChurch.org

Eileen Widner

ChurchOffice@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.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.” – Psalm 51:10-12

Dear Friends,

To me, it feels like the year has barely begun (and also like the winter holidays were months ago!), but **Ash Wednesday** — the day that kicks off our annual observation of the Season of Lent — falls on **February 14th**.

This year, we will be **“Entering the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story”**, exploring familiar Scripture passages through a fresh vantage point with the help of an engaging and very readable book by the Jewish New Testament scholar, Amy-Jill Levine.



Marcia McFee, The Worship Design Studio visionary who produces a lot of the inspiration for our worship themes and liturgy, has written the following about the series we’re going to engage:

One of the reasons I think people don’t make Holy week services a priority is that it’s a painful story. And most people have pain that they are dealing with anyway — whether from physical pain or existential and ongoing emotional pain and any combination of those. We would much rather move from the seemingly joyful Palm Sunday parade to Easter morning life and skip the hard part — the pain of uncertainty, the pain of fear, the pain of loss and death. ‘Putting ourselves in the picture’ is not too difficult here. And don’t we come to church to feel better?!

Yes, since our earliest documents about the theology of the Sunday gatherings of Christians, to gather weekly has been to celebrate a ‘little Easter.’ This is why we don’t count Sundays in the 40-day computation of Lent. But the truth is that pain and fear and despair don’t take Sunday breaks, really. And for some, Sunday and church, has not felt like resurrection, it has felt more like rejection and judgment and fear.



(continued on page 4)

From the **Faith Formation Office...**

News from *The Flock*



Blessing Bag Collection

The Flock's collection of items for Blessing Bags for Nashua Soup Kitchen **continues through February 11**. 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.



Flock Family Pizza Night:

Join Kim and Tanya on **Wednesday, February 14** for **Flock Family Pizza Night** from 5:15-6:30 for pizza and an art project. We look forward to seeing your family creativity! Watch your emails for the signup genius link.



**NO Flock class on Sunday,
February 25 - Winter Vacation**



No school? No problem!

Join in the fun on the first day of February vacation – **Monday, February 26 from 9am-1pm**

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, snack & lunch.

For PreK-Grade 6.

Registration form is outside the Flagg Room and due by February 18.

Questions? Please email Kim at ce@hollischurch.org for more information.

Just for Kids!



Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



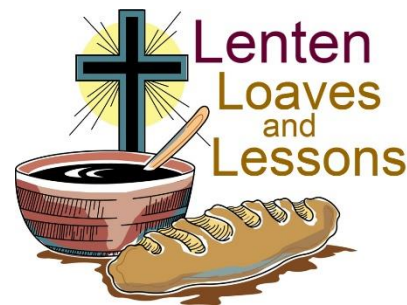
What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

Lenten Loaves & Lessons:

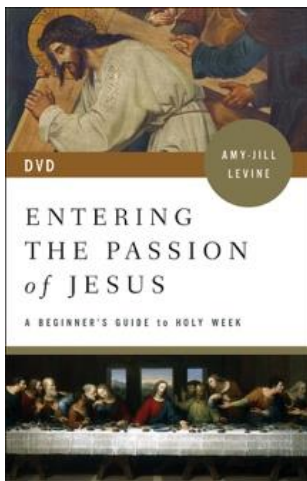
“Entering the Passion of Jesus”

On Wednesday evenings from Feb. 21 - Mar. 27



Usually during Lent, we try to identify more closely with Jesus in the weeks and days leading up to his ultimate sacrifice, his crucifixion. This year, while we’re doing that, we’re going to try to identify more closely with Jesus’ friends and followers — since that’s who we are today.

We’ll observe the different viewpoints that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each present — have you ever noticed how *different* their versions of the final week of Jesus’ life looks in some cases? It’s fascinating, and may help us to read (or at least understand and/or talk about) the Bible and its authors differently!



With the help of engaging video and writing by Vanderbilt’s New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, and simple meals provided (maybe even by you one week?), we’ll enjoy nourishing food for body and soul, and strengthening of our bonds in community along the way. It’s happening each **Wednesday, 5:30-6:45pm, February 21-March 27.**

On March 13 (week 4), we’ll have a joint Flock Family Pizza Night and Loaves & Lessons — an all-ages food, learning, and fellowship experience!

Come to one, several, or all of them — but please do sign up here: <https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/8050849ACAC29A7FF2-47324480-loaves> and consider teaming up with a friend to provide a simple meal, or help with set-up and clean-up. You won’t regret it!

For those interested in purchasing the book that will guide us, the church office has a number of copies. A \$14 donation is requested (but not required) to cover the cost incurred.

(From the Pastor – continued from p. 1)

This series is meant to acknowledge all of that. Our human difficulties were also part of the human journey of the Divine in the person of Jesus. And when we enter the ‘Passion’ of Jesus, ‘picturing ourselves’ in some ways is more like ‘discovering ourselves’ already there. We will be diving into the stories with Amy-Jill Levine’s help so that we can understand them and know more about them. But we will also enter them in order to ask ourselves questions about how we are already living out these age-old and on-going stories that are full of human emotion and ambiguity. We are not only the bystanders in the crowd, we are also the persecutors, we are also the doubters, the mourners, the confused, the oppressed.

We will be invited, with care and compassion, to see beyond who we think we are — both light and shadow — to who we might be in unknowing or subconscious ways. As we “enter the Passion”, we’ll be invited to enter into a deeper *compassion* — for all of humanity’s and the earth’s suffering. I hope you’ll find the journey to be strengthening, empowering, life-affirming and -enhancing.

Prior to our Lenten journey, I hope you’ll participate in our **Annual Meeting** following our last Epiphany-themed “Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God” service on Sunday, February 11. Annual Meeting in the United Church of Christ, Congregational tradition is a significant event: it’s where this covenanted Body of members convene to receive reports on our ministry across the past year, and vote on the vision and direction of the year that’s now unfolding before us, including those whom we entrust with positions of leadership. You’ll find the Annual Meeting warrant on the back page of this newsletter.

May God continue to bless our life and ministry together, as we journey more closely with Jesus — feeling his love, his pain, his intentional sacrifice, his Passion — in the coming weeks!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Nominating News

Nominating Committee is seeking to **fill the roles of Church Auditor and Church Historian**. To submit your name or get more info, please email: Nominating@hollischurch.org or speak with any of the committee members (David Gilmour, Janis Louzek, Charles Lewis or Barbara Amos). The duties are as follows:

Auditor – Two Auditors shall be elected, one each year to serve a term of 2 years. They shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer, Special Trustees and other accounts as the Church Council or Board of Trustees shall specify. They submit a written report to the Board of Trustees for inclusion in the annual report.

Historian – The Historian of the church shall be elected to serve a term of 3 years. The Historian represents the church on all historical affairs and shall keep a proper and complete record of all events & programs as would comprise a general history of the life of the church. A written report shall be made to the Annual Meeting.

* * * * *

Our Church Records

Deaths

January 3, 2024

Sibyl Irvine Cushman

January 17, 2024

Florence Edith Baker

Memorial Donations

*In loving memory of Beverly Bowler
by her daughter, Sherry Wyskiel*

* * * * *




From the Church Office

Chimes Thanks...

Many Thanks go to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Patricia Cordell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your December *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.

February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 11 at 10:45 am (snow date February 18)</p>				7 pm – Choir		
				1	2	3
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock	7:00 pm – CE Board zoom meeting	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour	10am – Staff meet- ing 6 pm – Caring Connections 7 pm – Choir		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock <i>Deadline for Blessing Bags donations of travel size hygiene items</i> 10:45 am – Annual Meeting	7 pm – Deacons meeting	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting	Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm 10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 12pm – Facilities meeting 5:15pm – Flock Family Pizza Night	7 pm - Choir March Chimes deadline		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock Annual Meeting – <i>Snow Date</i>	5:30 pm – Trustees meeting	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 7 pm – Church Coun- cil meeting	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5:30-6:45pm – <i>Loaves & Lessons</i> Advent Study #1/6 6:30 pm – Stewardship Board meeting	7 pm - Choir		Creating New Tables NH Conference <i>Prepared to Serve</i> workshop event
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) NO Flock Sunday School	FLOCK Adventure Day 9 am – 1 pm		10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5:30-6:45pm – <i>Loaves & Lessons</i> Advent Study #2/6	7 pm - Choir  Leap Day	Mission Items of the Month: Brookline Food Pantry Requests	
25	26	27	28	29		

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 dedicated to equipping congregations with invaluable tools and resources to empower faith communities.

Where and When?

Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH
Saturday, February 24, 2024

Registration (Refreshments).. 8:00 – 8:45 am
Welcome and Worship 9:00 - 9:40 am
Workshop Block A..... 10:00 – 11:15am
Workshop Block B 11:35am – 12:50pm
Workshop Block C 1:10 – 2:25 pm
Workshop Block D..... 2:45 – 4:00 pm

What's New in 2024?

- **Hybrid Participation:** Understanding that not everyone can come in person, a new hybrid experience will be offered so that you can attend Prepared to Serve from the comfort of your own space. The hybrid option includes captivating panel discussions during each workshop block, covering a diverse range of topics sure to pique your interest.
- **Pathways for Deep Learning:** Introducing an exciting feature – **Pathways**. These are extended courses that span 3 or 4 workshop blocks, delving deeper into four different Pathways: Youth, Anti-Racism, Lay Preaching, and the ONA (Open & Affirming) Journey . Each Pathway builds on the previous one, offering a comprehensive exploration of your chosen subject.

Event Highlights:

- **Four Workshop Blocks:** Each lasting 75 minutes, giving you the flexibility to attend up to 4 workshops or 3 workshops, if you prefer to take a break for lunch.
- **Panel Discussions:** Engage with our dynamic panelists who will delve into thought-provoking topics. You'll also have the chance to ask them questions, making these discussions interactive and insightful.
- **Theme:** Building upon the 2023 Annual Meeting theme, *Turning the Tables*, this event will provide the tools and take-home resources to act on the Annual Meeting's charge to overturn tables and Create New Tables.

Register online at www.nhcucc.info/pts2024

Registration deadline is February 12, 2024.

In-Person Attendee \$50 Virtual Attendee \$25

Youth (under 18) \$25



Prepared to Serve 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. Here's just a small sample:

- Ministry and Worship in the Era beyond Membership
- Caring for Each Other through Lay Visitor Programs
- Protecting Your Church with a Homeland Security Grant
- Best Financial Practices for Churches
- Taming your Church's Energy Bills
- Creative Worship at the Intersection of Scripture and Our Lives
- Church Governance for a Changing Church
- Immigration and Refugee Issues
- Let's Talk about the NH End of Life Options Act
- How to Expand your Ministry's Reach with ChatGPT
- Family Homelessness
- The Transformed Congregation
- Aging Gracefully... The butterfly died with wide open wings!
- Delegate Like a Boss
- Values Aligned Investing: The Intersectionality of Faith + Finance

Join us for a day of growth, transformation and empowerment!

Mission & Action News

February Items of the Month: Hollis Brookline Food Pantry Items

The Hollis Brookline Food Pantry serves families and individuals in our communities. Please consider donating items from the list below by placing the items in the basket inside the front center entrance or in the M&A bin outside on the porch.

Please Note: Most of the Food Pantry clients are 1 & 2 person households. Bulk-size packaging is harder to move through the pantry unless it can easily be broken up into smaller quantities. **Please do not donate expired goods!**

Urgent Needs:

Maple Syrup	Pasta Sauce (jar & canned)
Coffee	Flour
Sugar	Baking Soda
Baking Powder	Toothpaste
Sponges	Macaroni & Cheese
Paper Towels	Boxed Tissues
Frozen Bread Dough	Instant Rice
Rice Pilaf Mixes	Mayonnaise
Mustard	Jelly
Beef Broth	Canned Fruit
Laundry Detergent	Chef Boyardee canned Pasta
Dog Food (wet & dry)	Liquid Dish Detergent
Saltines/Ritz-type Crackers	
Boxed Cereal: Shredded Wheat/Bran/Corn Flakes	
Bottled Juice (apple, cranberry)	
Apple Sauce (jars and snack packs)	
Ramen Noodles (Chicken & Beef)	
Cooking Oil (olive oil/vegetable oil)	
Cleaning Supplies (all-purpose/window)	

Not Currently Needed:

Canned or Dry Beans, canned corn, canned diced tomatoes, canned soup, tuna, Hormel chili

Ongoing Needs:

Baked Beans	Raisins
Craisins	Pancake Mix
Toothpaste	Ketchup
Pepper & Salt	Italian Seasoning
Garlic Powder	Apple Sauce
Sugar	Shampoo

More Ongoing Pantry Needs:

Pasta	Canned Carrots
Canned Potatoes	Canned Spinach
Apple Cider Vinegar	Canned Green Beans
Canned Peas	Juice Boxes
Pickles & Olives	BBQ Sauce
Salad Dressing	Relish
Cheerios	Toilet Paper
Cooking Spray	Jiffy Cornbread Mixes
Shelf-Stable Milk	Oat or Almond Milk
Fruit Cocktail & Canned Fruit	
Chips - Full Size Bags for Families	
Non-creamy salad dressing	
Near East Couscous & Quinoa (or similar) Sides	
Ground Coffee (not decaf or whole bean)	
Individual Snacks (Pretzels etc.)	
Quart & Gallon Size Zip-Lock Bags	
Canned "mixed vegetables"	
Canned tomatoes: stewed, crushed, puree, whole	

How to Provide Flowers for Worship



Although we no longer have a 'Flower Calendar' for signing up, *you can still provide flowers for Sunday worship!* Just follow these simple steps:

1. By the Tuesday prior to your chosen Sunday — Call the church office (465-7797) or email Jessica (admin@hollischurch.org) with the date you'll provide flowers and your bulletin dedication. Typical dedication format: "The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of / in honor of / in celebration of _____ by (your name)."
2. Arrange for the flowers — either bring them yourself by 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning *or* call Wendy Longland (465-3466) at least one week prior to your chosen Sunday to finalize flowers and payment options.



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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Join us for our Annual Meeting on February 11!

WARRANT

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 said Hollis, New Hampshire, on Sunday, February 11, 2024, (snow date of Sunday, February 18, 2024) 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 see if the Church will revise Bylaws Article IIV Section 8 by removing “either annually or semiannually”
- Article 5: To See if Church will remove Article VIII Section 1(c) of the bylaws, hereby, eliminating the Deacons fund. Subsequent sections will be renumbered accordingly.
- Article 6: To see if the Church will create Article X “Church Wide Policies” and include Section 1: The Safe Church Policy originally adopted by the Church at the February 2019 Annual Meeting is hereby incorporated into these bylaws. Copies of the policy may be obtained from the church office.
- Article 7: To consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

Jessica Marchant, Church Clerk