

The
Chimes

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

June, July, August 2018

www.HollisChurch.org

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**The
Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)**

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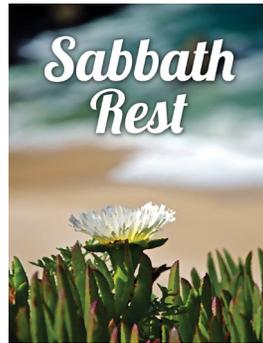
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The Chimes is published monthly
September to May. One edition is
published for the summer months.
All submissions for the newsletter are
due by the 15th of the month preced-
ing publication.

*“Remember to observe the Sabbath as a
holy day. Six days a week are for your
daily duties and your regular work, but
the seventh day is a day of Sabbath rest
before the Lord your God. On that day
you are to do no work of any kind . . .
For in six days the Lord made the heav-
en, earth, and sea, and everything in
them, and rested the seventh day; so he
blessed the Sabbath day and set it aside
for rest.”*

(Genesis 20:8-11)



Dear Friends,

When I was a little girl, our family observed the Sabbath pretty strictly. The only work that was done was after-dinner clean-up: breakfast was usually coffee cake, and my mother prepared the roast beef and vegetables for our main Sunday meal on Saturday evening, sliding it into the oven before we left for church. Kids’ Sunday sports were non-existent (remember those days?) unless it was the afternoon football game on television—which was allowable, because that didn’t involve effort on our part. We went to church at 9, Sunday School at 11, and then evening worship at 7 p.m. Sunday was truly “The Lord’s Day.” I remember being bored and frustrated some Sundays: I have always struggled to know how to be still, to practice restfulness.

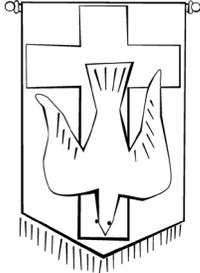
That’s at least partly because as a child, I also imbibed a strong sense of the “Protestant [or Calvinist] Work Ethic”—for better and worse: there’s a sense in which the virtues of hard work and frugality in that ethic easily warp into a latent fear that one needs to be constantly busy, lest our lack of productivity be displeasing to God. (For the record: just by *being*, we are pleasing to God, because we are God’s own creation made for the express purpose of loving and being loved.)

Exercise physiologists recognize that, in order to achieve optimum fitness, we need a healthy balance between working our bodies and resting them. Too many workouts without a rest/recovery day can lead to disastrous results.

(continued on page 3)

From the Faith Formation (Christian Education) Office

Confirmation Sunday



The Rite of Christian Confirmation on Sunday, June 3

A truly impressive, committed and thoughtful group of 13 ninth graders will take their confirmation vows and join the church on Sunday, June 3.

Their formal journey toward this milestone began two years ago when they became the first class to experience a year of Pre-Confirmation as

preparation for the more intensive faith exploration process known as Confirmation. Over the past two years, these young people have learned about the faith practices of their own church, as well as those of the Shakers, Islam, Judaism and Unitarian Universalist. They have delved into the Bible, prayer, worship, church history and Christian service. They have led two Easter Sunrise Services as well as last month's Children and Youth Sunday worship service. Together, they have written a Statement of Faith that will be shared with the congregation on June 3.

It is an understatement to say that these young people bring enormous joy and pride to their families and their church family. Everyone is invited to celebrate and welcome the Confirmation Class of 2018: Emma Armstrong, Henry Burns, Lucy Daigle, Jack Duquette, Joshua Gilbert, Devon Kuchta, John J. Leach, Sean Morrissey, Lindsay Rolls, Melinda Rolls, Andrew Watson, Kiyra Bartis-Weaver, Bryan Wright.

CE Summer Update

While summer signals the end of Sunday school classes, it is a busy season in the CE department.

2018/19 School Year Prep

Staff will be writing curriculum, recruiting volunteers, organizing and offering Vacation Bible School, sprucing up classrooms, relocating the nursery and setting up a temporary youth lounge for older classes and youth groups. See related articles in this issue of the Chimes and stay tuned for more exciting news from the CE office.

Summer activity time for kids! July 15th and August 19th

While our weekly Sunday School classes will break for the summer, we will be offering kids' activity time during the main service on select dates. If you're not a summer regular due to the Sunday School hiatus, we encourage you to try out Summer Activity Time of fun games, crafts and snacks on dates: July 15 and August 19, during the 9:30 service.



Vacation Bible School: Cooking! Construction! Caterpillars! July 23-26

Have you ever made electricity with a lemon? Come to Vacation Bible School this summer and learn how. You'll also build your own candy dispenser out of wood and make your own snacks. 5th and 6th graders will learn to play bells and drums!

The Fruits of the Spirit is theme for Vacation Bible School 2018, Monday-Thursday, July 23-26, 9:00-11:30am. Children age 4 through grade 6, as well as adult and youth volunteers, will have fun with music, crafts, cooking, outdoor games, snacks and stories while learning and acting to help others. New this year: science and building projects!

Teen (grade 7 and over) and adult volunteers are needed to make VBS a success. You can sign up for a few hours, a morning, or all four days. Contact CE@hollischurch.org to volunteer. Registration form and volunteer sign-up located outside CE office, or email ce@hollischurch.org.

All-church Mid-Summer Outing & Cookout at Rocky Pond!

Mark your calendars! Come enjoy the water, outdoors, fellowship and food. The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee invite you to the third annual all-church **Mid-summer Outing & Pot-Luck Cookout at Rocky Pond** (at the Boy Scout beach) on **Wednesday, July 25th at 5 pm** (raindate 7/26). Beverages, chicken, hot dogs and veggie burgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share and maybe even a friend! Lawn/beach chairs, outdoor games, and guitars are welcome. RSVPs and volunteers are greatly appreciated to FandH@hollischurch.org.



And at summer's end...



Community End of Summer Fiesta Supper!

Gather with friends and reminisce about your vacations at the F&H's **End of Summer Fiesta Supper** on **Sunday, August 26th, 5:30 - 7 pm**. Volunteers may contact FandH@hollischurch.org.

Summer Worship Schedule continues throughout June, July, and August with a **single worship service at 9:30 a.m.** Our two-service schedule resumes on Homecoming Sunday, September 9th.

Homecoming Sunday Sept 9th

Mark your calendars for Homecoming on Sunday, Sept 9th and watch your email for additional details and Sunday School registration information!

From the Church Office

Many Thanks go to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty and Joyce Toli for preparing your May *Chimes* for mailing.

Summer Church Office Hours

From mid-June through mid-August, the church office will be open only **Thursdays and Fridays, 8am – 12 noon**.

From the Pastor (cont. from p. 1)

I've learned that there's a cost that accompanies a disregard for our innate, God-given *need* for Sabbath—just as something of the abundant life God intends for us is lost whenever we ignore *any* divine commandment. See, God knew that rest and renewal are necessary to a spiritual life that is thriving, that is fully alive and bathed in grace. Our spirits suffer when we don't make room for Sabbath. And so, I'm trying to re-focus on the discipline of taking Sabbath rest more consciously, more intentionally; I'm far from perfect, but I'm practicing... (Don't worry—I won't take my rest on Sunday mornings.)

How and when do *you* take Sabbath rest?—a full day to just be, and delight in an intentional awareness of God's presence and delight in you? I hope if you struggle like I do to find a whole day for it, that perhaps the less-programmed rhythm of summertime will afford you the freedom to build it in as an intentional practice. See whether it doesn't change your spirit somehow.

Wherever you wind up spending these summer months, I do hope you'll find a place to worship—ideally in Christian community when it's available. But I also hope you find yourself renewed by your own private worship—just you and God, in a sacred place where you (re-)discover a unique connection with your Creator. And may your Sabbath bless the world you inhabit as your renewal contributes to the healing of others around you!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

June 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 June Mission Items of the Month: Diapers, Paper Goods, Cleaning Supplies and New Bedding for Bridges * New sheets (twin and queen size) * New blankets and pillows * Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6) * Toilet paper * Paper towels * Cleaning supplies 						
Confirmation Sunday 9:30 am – Communion Worship 1 pm – Women’s Fellowship Luncheon 3	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 7 pm – CE Board meeting 4	7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting 5	12:30 pm – Staff meeting & luncheon (off-site) 6	11 am – Christmas Fair planning meeting 7	Our volunteers provide Ash St. Shelter dinner 8	2
9:30 am – Worship 10:45 am – Building Our Vision ~ progress report on architectural plans 2 pm – Mission Trip meeting 7 pm – Community Prayers 10	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting 11	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 12	5 pm – Facilities Committee 13	6 pm – Music Board meeting 14	15	16
9:30 am – Worship at Rocky Pond (weather permitting) 7 pm – StageCoach Singers Concert 17	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 7 pm – Trustees meeting 18	7 pm – ALL BOARDS meeting in Hardy Hall 19	20	6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 21	22	23
9:30 am –Worship 2-4 pm Strawberry Festival - town common 24	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 25	26	27	28	29	30
July 2018 July 1 – Communion Worship at 9:30 am July 8 – Worship at 9:30 am July 8-14 - Mission Trip to Wallingford, CT July 15 – Worship & Children’s activity at 9:30 am July 22 – Worship at 9:30 am July 23-26 – Vacation Bible School Wed, July 25 – Swim & Cookout at Rocky Pond July 29 – Worship at 9:30 am	August 2018 August 5 – Communion Worship at 9:30 am Wed, Aug 8 – Deadline for school supplies donations August 12 – Worship at 9:30 am Wed, August 15 – September <i>Chimes</i> deadline August 19 – Worship & Children’s activity at 9:30 am August 26 – Worship at 9:30 am End of Summer Fiesta at 5:30 pm Mon, Aug 27 – CE Board meeting at 7 pm		September 2018 Church Boards resume regular meeting schedule Sept 2 – Communion Worship at 9:30 am – <i>End summer worship</i> Wed, Sept 5 – Teacher Training at 7 pm Sept. 9 – Homecoming Sunday - Sunday School begins Worship at 9 am / Worship & Sunday School at 10:30 am Homecoming All-Church Picnic after worship Sept. 16 – 9 am Worship / 10:30 Worship & Sunday School Sept. 23 – 9 am Worship / 10:30 Worship & Sunday School Sept. 29-30 – Confirmation Overnight Retreat Sept. 30 – 9 am Worship / 10:30 Worship & Sunday School			

AN IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE BOV TEAM

The BoV team is hearing excitement and positive feedback from the congregation and are grateful that so many care deeply about our church. Part of the work of any project team, however, is to discern how a project is proceeding and how it is being received by the audience it serves.



The building of our vision is a large undertaking that is of utmost importance to the church and the wider community of Hollis. The BoV team does not want to rush this important process and has reached a consensus to delay recommending a single concept at this time. We have determined that more time is needed for reaching agreement with the town concerning fire safety and other compliance issues, and for careful and thoughtful consideration of the feedback that we are receiving from the congregation.

We are asking people to live into our Strategic Plan. This involves many changes — changes to our facilities, and changes to certain patterns in our ways of gathering. Our team firmly believes that these changes should be thoroughly discussed and well understood. We now see that this simply isn't possible in our original timeframe.

As a result, the **June 10th meeting will now be a second progress report**: Dennis will present a round of changes based on congregational feedback as well as address safety issues; one of our team members will review how the current plan implements our strategic plan; and there will be time for questions and feedback. At the end of the session, members will be able to take a copy of the plan to review over the summer. We encourage you attend this presentation!

In addition, **we will *not* have a Congregational vote on June 24th**. BoV will continue to move this project forward by working with our architect and the town over the summer, as well as continue to address input from church members and groups. In September we will assess where we are and determine a new date for a congregational vote on proceeding. But we will not be proposing a move to the contractual drawings phase until after the summer break. **The BoV team strongly believes that taking our time now will result in more realistic, better, clearer plans for the future of our church.**

Comment [EW1]: An alternative for a happy ending ... ;^)

**See the back page for
IMPORTANT UPCOMING BOV DATES**

Communications Team Updates

NEW Church Website has launched!

Please check out our new and improved website at hollischurch.org. While there are still some sections "Under Construction", most of the website is ready! Thank you to the Communications Team and especially Laura McCarthy for all their hard work!

Capturing the Moments: Pictures and Videos of Summer Church Activities

Being the very active church that we are, there are ALWAYS events and activities happening. Summer slows down a bit, but just look at the summer calendar and you'll see there are MANY things going on throughout the summer (e.g. VBS, Mission Trip, Christmas Fair planning, Confirmation Sunday, BoV meetings, summer service music performances, etc.). The Communication Ministry Team would greatly appreciate it if people (a) TAKE pictures or videos, and (b) post any pictures or videos they take on the church Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hollischurchmembers/> AND/OR email them to news@hollischurch.org AND/OR send them through cell phone text messaging to 603-966-7559 (Cindy Ryherd). Thank you!



2018 Christmas Fair Planning Meeting

There will be a Christmas Fair

Planning meeting on Thursday, June 7th at 11:00 a.m. in the Parkhurst Room for all who are available and would like to play a role in this year's fair. If you are not available, but would like to take a lead role, please contact Sue Adams at sue@hollischurch.org, Kim Burton, or Kim Verrecchia at ce@hollischurch.org.

Music Notes



Calling All Musicians! All are encouraged to sign up to provide music for the summer 9:30 a.m. worship services. There are plenty of opportunities available on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Upcoming Summer Concerts

The StageCoach Women's Chorus will be hosting a free concert on Sunday, June 17th at 7:00 pm, with a goodwill offering to benefit the church music program (purchase new hymnals). A range of secular music will be presented, featuring women's voices in 2-, 3-, and 4-part harmony. Come enjoy a relaxing hour of beautiful music!

Monadnock Music Concert ~ Sunday, July 15th

For the first time, Hollis is honored to be part of the Monadnock Music Village Concert Series, hosted by the Congregational Church of Hollis on Sunday, July 15th at 3pm. For a complete schedule of the summer Village Concert Series please visit: www.monadnockmusic.org

URGENT PLEA! One of the three church grills we use for picnics is really not safely usable anymore. If anyone has a spare grill in good working order (and the wheels are on and work), the church would be MOST grateful for the donation! With grilling season here and Father's Day soon upon us, perhaps you'll be getting a new grill and could donate your old one? Please contact news@hollischurch.org if you can help... Thank you!



Children's Room Unveiling Party Sunday, June 3 @ 2pm

The Hollis Social Library's children's room has gotten a facelift! Due to a generous donation by the Squires family in memory of Jan Squires they've updated the kid's room. Stop in and join us for our unveiling party with the Squires family. Children are welcome. Light refreshments to be served.

Mission & Action News

TWO Summer Items of the Month:

For June, M & A is collecting supplies for Bridges, a non-profit agency that is dedicated to helping victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. They are in need of:

- * New sheets (twin and queen size)
- * New blankets and pillows
- * Diapers size 4, 5 & 6
- * Toilet paper
- * Paper Towels
- * Cleaning Supplies



For July & August, please support the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter's **Backpacks for Back to School** program. Besides the items below, they will need volunteers to help sort, organize, assemble & distribute in August. More specific information will be available on their webpage in June.

Deadline for the school supplies is Wednesday, August 8th.



- New backpacks for boys and girls of all ages, K – grade 12
- Boxes of 24 count Crayola crayons
- Boxes of colored pencils (bright or bold)
- #2 pencils in the 12 or 24 count

- Small handheld pencil sharpeners
- Glue sticks
- Children's Scissors
- 8 GB flash drives



Please place all donations in the shopping cart at the top of the stairs. Thank you for supporting these community needs!

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

Ash Street Shelter needs volunteers to prepare a dinner for 15-20 people on the 2nd Friday in July. Gift certificates are available to cover the cost of the meal ingredients. Consider asking a friend or family member to join you in the preparation. The meal can be prepared in your kitchen or in the church kitchen. More information and the volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall outside the pastor's office.

Looking for a way to volunteer in our community? M & A is looking for someone to organize Habitat for Humanity builds for our church. We have had 2 groups participate in Nashua over the last year and have a wonderful experience. If you would like more information on what this would entail, please contact Joyce Pepin at 603-566-1250 or joycepepin64@gmail.com.

M & A Donations:

- Meals on Wheels – ensuring our friends & neighbors have a meal, a safety check and some human contact
- Meals for Kids Program – helping to insure that school age children in our communities have enough to eat
- Mailing for Church World Service hygiene kits

Happy Birthday!

Bob Cushman will celebrate his 90th birthday on August 1st! Daughter Sarah tells us that although there will be no party, cards and/or emails would be much appreciated. Thanks in advance for helping Bob to celebrate this special milestone.



Bob Cushman
4 Carriage Lane
Nashua, NH 03063
RLCushman@comcast.net

Prayer Shawl Update

Our goal is to send 42 shawls with our 42 work-campers to Wallingford, CT as part of their ministry to the residents they serve. Deliver completed shawls to the church office, and we'll keep you updated on the total ~ **our current count is 36.**



Gloves...Keys...Glasses...CDs
Please check our Lost & Found items on the shelves near the office. **Any items not claimed by June 15 will be discarded.**



The Congregational Church of Hollis
 (United Church of Christ)
 3 Monument Square
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IMPORTANT UPCOMING BOV DATES



**SUNDAY, JUNE 10th at 10:45 in HARDY HALL:
 SECOND PROGRESS REPORT (NEW!)**

Please join BoV on June 10th for a **second progress report** (not a recommendation as originally planned). Our architect, Dennis Mires, will present a round of changes based on current feedback as well as address safety issues and one of our team members will review how the current plans live out our strategic plan. There will be time for questions and feedback. At the end of the session, members will be able to take a copy of the plans to review over the summer. We encourage you attend this important presentation!

SEPTEMBER 2018 (NEW!)

BOV will determine a new date for a recommended plan and a new date for a congregational vote on taking those plans to contractual drawings. Dates will depend on progress made with the fire chief over the summer and an assessment of where we are as a congregation.

Please note that there will NOT be a June 24th meeting as originally planned. Watch your emails for more information.