

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

June, July, August 2020

www.HollisChurch.org

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In this issue

- **BoV** Construction Update – page 5
- **ZOOM** Worship continues - page 3
- *Adopt a Caterpillar!* – page 2
- Horton Center camp (*free!*) – page 2
- *New Study Groups* – page 7
- *Time Capsule Input* – page 6
- *Mission Items of the Month* – page 9

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

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All submissions for the newsletter
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ceding publication.

“Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying, ‘I called to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.’”
(Jonah 2:1-2)



Dear Friends,

On May 19th, Church Council agreed that it is neither prudent nor faithful to rush back to in-person worship services across the summer, given all that still is unknown about the COVID-19 virus — especially as our Zoom worship services have gone relatively well, and have enabled us to include more people than often otherwise participate! So, we will continue online worship until at least September 6th.

Still, as we head into our third, fourth, and fifth months of pandemic-induced social distancing and isolation, it’s beginning to feel for some of us like a burdensome drag—on our routines, on our spirits, on our ability to heed the advice of the Scriptures to “give thanks to God in all circumstances”¹ and trust that “all things work together for the good of those who love God.”²

At worship on Children’s Sunday (May 17), I shared that during online Church School the previous week, one of the children had shared a conversation he’d had with his mother about the Biblical story of Jonah. He remembered that Jonah wasn’t doing what God wanted. Jonah tried to get out of doing God’s will and was trying to pursue his own agenda. But things got really rough for him and everyone else. In an attempt to escape from the difficult task God had called him to undertake, Jonah was on a ship heading for what he anticipated would be an easier life. But a huge storm kicked up, and Jonah eventually figured out that the only way things were going to calm down was for the crew to toss him overboard into the sea. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish.

But all was not lost, this wise member of our Church School observed: “God gave Jonah some time in isolation in the belly of the whale to sit and reflect on what was really important.

(continued on page 4)

¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

² Romans 8:28

From the Faith Formation Office

Confirmation Sunday ~ June 7



Zoom in to celebrate and welcome the Confirmation Class of 2020 as they take their confirmation vows and join the church during online worship at 9:30am on Sunday, June 7.

Aaron Bergeron Jack Brosnan
Owen Damon Savannah Duquette
Ella Gilbert Calla Kutschke
Nicholas Kutschke

Adopt-a-Caterpillar



Church families will have a chance to see first-hand the miracle of metamorphosis! Butterfly enthusiast Lee Harper will provide baby caterpillars for families who want to care for one and watch them grow. All supplies, including a caterpillar cage, book, and how-to video will be provided; one/family. A sign up will be emailed in the coming weeks for adoptions taking place in mid-July.

VBS-inspired Sunday School happening this summer!



Although traditional VBS won't take place this year, don't fret! The Christian Education team is hard at work planning some lessons that will include awesome activities/games/science, etc, just like VBS. Families will sign up, and Kim and Kim will provide

students with all materials they will need. Materials will be available for pickup at church. More information and details will be available soon!

Children's Sunday Thanks!

Thanks to our creative and inspiring superintendents Kim B. and Kim V., and Zoom-masters Jacqueline Wilmot and Cindy Ryherd, we celebrated our wonderful Sunday School children, youth and their amazing Sunday School teachers on Children's Day, Sunday, May 17. Technology glitches with Zoom (all across the nation and not of our doing!) created a challenge. But those who could not view the slideshow or hear the Bible memory verses were not left wanting! A BIG Thank You goes to Cindy Ryherd for recording the service and emailing links so we could ALL watch the service and slideshow (or watch again and again!) and get that song stuck in our heads "I L-O-V-E U GOD." See the next page for the names of all who helped to make this Sunday School year fabulous!

NEWS FROM HORTON CENTER

Our UCC camp on Pine Mountain



There can't be camping on site at Horton Center this summer, but HC@home, our remote camp opportunity, can help bring the

mountain to you! The goal of HC@home is to continue to give campers the Horton Center experience by building sacred community; encouraging time spent outdoors and continuing our faith journeys alongside one another while following COVID-19 safe practices of social distancing.

Check out HC@home at:

<https://hortoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HC@home-Info-Pack.pdf>

There is no cost to you to register. Registration for HC@home is free for everyone so we encourage you to invite a friend or two who would like to give Horton Center a try! Because of the online model of our programming, the maximum number of campers who can register for a week of camp is 30. We recommend you register as soon as you are able! Registrations must be made at least two weeks before the first day of the camp.

Registration is available on our website, <https://hortoncenter.org>

If you have questions please email Tim Hughes at thughes@nhcucc.org.

A Big Thank you to all! Sunday School Children and Youth



Lolly Adair	Savannah Duquette	Jason Laberis
Braeden Anderson	Sydney Earl	Avery Mann
Cameron Anderson	Caitlin Engle	Chloe Langfield
Shae Anderson	Cassidy Engle	Olivia Langfield
Jason Babcock	Jillian Garruba	Paige Langfield
Aaron Bergeron	Paul Gehan	Avery Mann
Linnea Bergeron	Ella Gilbert	Sarah Seddon
Everett Bird	Raymond Hildreth	Matthew Souza
Sylvia Bird	Rowen Hildreth	Michael Souza
Jack Brosnan	Abby Kellner	Milan Souza
Kate Brosnan	Sam Kellner	Kate Stelmack
Everett Burton	Calla Kutschke	Adam Verrecchia
Hannah Burton	Nick Kutschke	Josie Verrecchia
Oliver Damon	Brooke Laberis	Luke Verrecchia
Owen Damon	Emma Laberis	

Sunday School Teacher and Volunteers

Britta Bergeron	Rick Guay	Gudrun Pfeiffer
Carol Birch	Lee Harper	Daniel Sattler
Amy Brosnan	Pat Harris	Emilee Sattler
Sue Burton	Kathryn Hildreth	Morgan Sattler
Allison D'Ambrosio	Dot Hyde	Andrea Seddon
Marth Daigle	Amy Kellner	Jen Squires
Thom Davies	Julie Kopser	Becky Stelmack
Sylvia Eggleston	Devon Kuchta	Brian Stelmack
Liz Gilbert	Amy Kutschke	Kiyra Weaver-Bartis
	Jacqueline Wilmot	Brian Wilmot

CE Superintendents

Kim Burton & Kim Verrecchia

Sipe Scholarship Awarded

The William C. Sipe Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Cynthia D'Andrea of New Boston, a member of the Mont Vernon Congregational Church, is this year's recipient of the scholarship. Cynthia is enrolled as a Seminarian at the Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, MA. She is taking courses both this summer and fall in Clinical Pastoral Education, Youth and Holistic Ministry, and UCC Polity. She is also a member in discernment in the Hillsborough Association.

We are proud to have Cynthia be this year's recipient of the \$500 scholarship, and wish her well in her studies this year.

Chris Hyde, Traci Weaver, Susan Benz
William C. Sipe Scholarship Committee

A Message about Summer Worship

At our May meeting, your church Council made the decision to **continue worshipping virtually at least through Labor Day weekend**. We know this will be disappointing, especially for those who feel that meeting in-person makes a big difference to their worship experience. However, Council realized that holding in-person worship in the ways required to maintain safe social distance and other safe-practices would alter the service so much that it would be more disruptive and disconcerting than continuing with our online gatherings (e.g., we'd have keep at least two pews between family groups, staggering on either side, figure out how we enter and exit safely, everyone would need to remain masked, and no singing would be possible, we could not use hymnals or pass communion or offering plates, etc.).

On the up-side: our **Music Minister and choir**



overwhelmingly expressed a desire to **continue singing and providing special music across the summer** — something we don't typically enjoy! This represents a great deal more work for them, because they need to re-

hearse remotely and recordings are (often) made and mixed in advance — so, many thanks in advance for this additional sacrificial effort in order to enhance our worship!

Finally, because we traditionally invite favorite hymns to be sung at the end of each summer service, I invite you to email me (pastor@hollischurch.org) with your favorite hymn(s) — I'll do my best to incorporate them across the summer Sundays (though I won't necessarily be announcing whose favorite hymns will be sung on which Sunday)!

Perhaps the best news of all about our remote worship is that you are able to log on and join your faith community in worship on Sunday mornings, regardless of where you are in the world! ☺ May you enjoy a safe, healthy, and restorative summer!

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

What God really wanted him to do. I think God is giving us some isolation time to figure out what we're really supposed to be doing, how we should be treating each other and loving God better." Well. Out of the mouths of children! I was so grateful for this reminder from one of our community's youngest members that the Bible still has things to teach us, if we are willing to read and reflect on how the stories speak to us today.

Across the past six weeks in our online worship, we've focused on the Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching. Have you found time to read your Bible at least a few times each week? I hope so—and I hope you've discovered the power it has to help both ground and buoy our spirits to persevere in these difficult days. If not—and if so!—please consider joining one of the two different small groups for discussion and community that I'll be facilitating on Wednesday and Sunday evenings (see p. 7 for more details) to help deepen your awareness and appreciation for Biblical Teaching in navigating unsettled times. As we continue to move forward into these uncertain days of pandemic and recovery, we can find ourselves resonating more deeply with the experience of the Jewish exiles, who felt far from a familiar place, thrust into a situation with no clear timeline, and a wide-open opportunity to learn to trust in God, and work at meaningful relationships in renewed and enhanced ways. This is the way it has always been for God's people!

For many of us, our summer plans and traditions will have been shaken up, possibly altogether scrapped—tossed overboard, if you will. Although this represents a loss in some ways, I also want to claim the promise that God is nonetheless abiding with us, working with this mess to bring about something that will ultimately bless us in ways we can't yet imagine, ways that will enhance and enrich our lives ... if we accept the challenge of paying closer attention to what God really wants from us: listening closely to each other in new ways, going deeper in our faith and in our understanding of God and one another.

As you page through this summer *Chimes*, take note of all the ways God is giving birth to new realities even as we're grieving the loss of old ways of being. Observe: Construction has begun in earnest (p. 5)! Our choir (or subsets) will perform across the summer (p. 3)! Wednesday (10-11am) Zoom Coffee Hour is continuing across the summer! In addition to Sunday worship and Wednesday coffee chats, there will be two opportunities (Sunday and Wednesday evenings) to gather online for spiritual and communal

growth (p. 7)! Check out the exciting plans for "VBS in a Box" (p. 2)!

One final and sincere note: Please reach out to me if you, or someone you know, is in need of pastoral care or assistance. I do not mean, by encouraging us to focus on the wonderful new ways God is motivating and moving us, to minimize the real suffering that many of us are enduring. This is why community is so important—because we belong to one another, we are connected in the one Body of Christ; when one member suffers, the entire body is less well until all are cared for.³

May God continue to be with us and make Her steady presence known; may His love be revealed in all we do with and for the world; and may Their hope abound in us!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya



Virtual Coffee Hour Open House Continues...

Typically church activities slow down during the summer, but this is definitely NOT your typical summer! With that in mind, and with a strong showing of regulars at Wednesday Virtual Coffee Hour Open House, we have decided to keep it going throughout the summer. It will continue to be held every Wednesday at 10:00am. If you're looking for a mid-week break and opportunity to connect, please join in! It is an open house format, so you can come and go any time during the 10-11am time without feeling awkward for joining late or leaving early. It's as informal as it gets: no agenda, just free-flow conversation with other church family that want to stay connected.

³ 1 Corinthians 12:26

Exciting Times!

In a memorable and enthusiastic response to our fund-raising success, our Capital Campaign Consultant Rev. VanderWyden exclaimed: **“God said go!”** That was months ago.



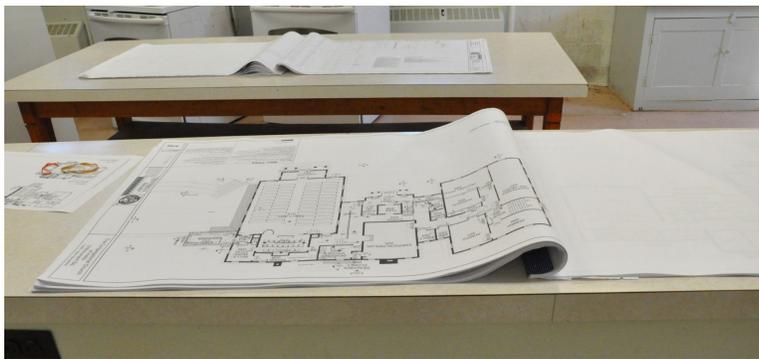
And now, finally--the day is here! **Construction Has Begun!**

On Wednesday, May 20, our construction firm, Milestone Engineering, brought in plumbers, electricians and a demolition team to officially start building our vision. Demolition work began in Hardy Hall and the kitchen and will quickly move to the east side stairway. The patio also got underway with Morin's starting the excavation of the East Lawn! Perhaps you've seen the equipment?

At the end of the demolition period, Milestone will start work on the center portion of the church, enveloping the elevators, rotating the stairs, adding an ADA bathroom, and renovating the Deacon's kitchen amongst many other projects. They expect this work to take approximately three months. The hallway will be blocked off on either side of the elevators by plastic sheeting to block entry to the work zone. Passage through Emerson Chapel to the Meetinghouse from the Administrative area will remain open.

While this is certainly exciting and it is tempting to peek, we respectfully ask that you please refrain from entering the church unless absolutely necessary, as we need to limit the exposure of the construction team to COVID-19. Don't worry though; BOV is hard at work on plans to potentially bring you a virtual walk through on the progress.

Milestone Engineering's schedule calls for construction to last six months and be substantially complete in mid-November. As of today (in May), we hope to be able to occupy the church and resume services sometime in late September, and wrap things up in late November. Watch the church website and Facebook for updates over the summer.



May 20, 2020 - Work has officially started for the BOV renovations! For members of our church Facebook group, progress photos will be added regularly (at least weekly) so stay posted!

Packed & Ready

On behalf of the BoV Logistics Team, a huge THANK YOU to all those who pitched in during the past few months to prepare Hardy Hall, the kitchen, Austin Room, the Deacons kitchen, and closets for the BoV renovation project.

Cindy Ryherd, Deb Shipman, Kiyra Weaver, Doris Rafferty, Joyce Toli, Karen Marino, Tonda Davies, Jane Edmunds, Thelma Wigfield, Carol Birch, Eileen & Paul Widner, Kim & Joel Verrecchia, Kim Burton, Rick & Valerie Guay, Tom Hildreth, Britta Bergeron, Sue Burton, Sue Adams, Roger Saunders, Ruth Kabel, the Scout Troops and anyone else we accidentally missed. Also, special thanks to the "Shed Team" and Traci Weaver for providing the additional storage space needed.

It was a huge task and took a full team effort, but we're ready now, so let the project begin!

Your Time Capsule Input Still Wanted...

Just a reminder that the BoV Time Capsule committee is still looking for input submissions *from everyone* so that in 2043, when the time capsule is intended to be opened, congregants at that time (including some of us, our children and grandchildren) can get a wonderful sense of how we were feeling at this time. **All input will remain unread** – the time capsule team recognizes that these documented thoughts are for the eyes of our future selves, as well as for congregants now unknown. Mail your input to the church (3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049 Attn: Time Capsule Input) or if you have a scanner, you can scan it and email it as an attachment to timecapsuleinput@hollischurch.org



Congregational
Church of Hollis
UCC

Name _____

Age _____

2020 Time Capsule

Share your thoughts, hopes, prayers, a drawing or doodle, or whatever else you would like people to know about you at this 2020-moment-in-time when the time capsule is opened and this is read in 2043.



Congregational
Church of Hollis
UCC

Name _____

Age _____

2020 Time Capsule

Share your thoughts, hopes, prayers, a drawing or doodle, or whatever else you would like people to know about you at this 2020-moment-in-time when the time capsule is opened and this is read in 2043.

Two Different Community- Building Study Groups in June and July:



Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again

Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in June (3, 10, 17, 24)

This very readable book by best-selling author Rachel Held Evans offers a rich introduction to reading the Bible. We'll cover two chapters each week. Join us even if you can only come once or twice – I promise, you'll enjoy it and get something out of it! Please email pastor@hollischurch.org to get a link to the class, and be sure to **order yourself a copy of the book at your favorite bookseller.**

"Called to Community"

Sunday evenings from 7:45 - 9 p.m. (hopefully, at a time when younger parents can participate!)

June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 5 & 12

In this six-week series, we'll explore the Church – as it was, and is, and is becoming – with the help of some brief video clips from theologians and church leaders of various denominations, along with questions for us to ponder together as God is doing a new thing with the Church during these strange, awkward, and liminal times.

Session 1: "What is the 'Church'?" with Walter Brueggemann

Session 2: "A Call to Justice" with Hannah Terry

Session 3: "A call to Love" with Richard Rohr

Session 4: "A Call to Kingdom Worldview" with N.T. Wright

Session 5: "A Call to the Body of Christ" with Malcolm Guite

Session 6: "What is the Church Becoming?" with Rachel Held Evans and Brian Zahnd

Again, please email pastor@hollischurch.org to get a link to the class; I'll email you the reading material!

Music Sunday Thank You!

It is no secret that our congregation is blessed with AMAZING musical talent, and that all of us



LOVE when they showcase that talent! Such is the case twice a year on Music Sundays held in December and on Mother's Day in May. While there is no substitute for watching music performed live, on Mother's Day/Music Sunday last month, several of our musicians still managed to "Wow!" us! A very sincere and special "Thank You!" to Julie Oliver who provided our live music on Music Sunday (as she has been every Sunday), and to the following musicians who provided wonderful pre-recorded music:

- **Peter Szczeszynski** played a prelude *Chopin Opus 34 No. 1 Waltz #2 in A flat major "Valse Brillante"*
- **Beth Harper** sang *In Christ Alone* by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, piano by Kaleb Brasee, with a slideshow display
- **The choir** sang *Draw the Circle Wide* (lyrics by Gordon Light, music by Mark A. Miller, edited by Laura Babb and Julie Oliver) with a year-in-review slide show of church photos over the year
- **Matt Kopser** sang all 21 voices of the benediction *Go In the Grace of the Lord* (music and lyrics by James Barnard) with a slideshow display

- **Dan Ericson** played the postlude *Postludium* by Johann Martel on the new organ (currently located at Dan's house)



Here's to looking forward to the next Music Sunday in December, which hopefully WILL be live!

Virtual Zoom Worship Services Going Strong!

With virtual worship services staying in place throughout the summer, we are so pleased that our online service attendance remains strong! We've even been able to successfully have virtual services for two of our favorite worship services: Music/Mother's Day Sunday and Children's Sunday, complete with very special music and slideshows!



Date	Join Ins
March 22	48
March 29	75
April 5 (Palm/Communion Sunday)	83
April 9 (Maundy Thursday/Communion)	53
April 12 (Easter Sunday)	100* limit
April 19	75
April 26	73
May 3 (Communion)	74
May 10 (Music/Mother's Day Sunday)	86
May 17 (Children's Sunday)	74

Of course, a Zoom "join in" often has multiple people (for couples and families) so the number of participants is even higher!

Special "Thanks!" to **Jacqueline Wilmot** and **Cindy Ryherd** for their time and effort in being the "stage managers" behind the scenes, helping to keep the service flowing as seamlessly as possible (even when Zoom is acting flakey!).

A huge shout out also to **Julie Oliver** who has provided the live music each Sunday and who has gone above and beyond in putting together some AMAZING prerecorded choir anthems! **Special treat this summer:** the choir is going to continue to perform anthems throughout the virtual worship summer services!

Typically, summer worship attendance goes down when we meet in the Meeting House. With people travelling less this summer and the option to join the virtual Sunday worship service from anywhere, it will be interesting to see how attendance goes. We hope you'll continue to join in every Sunday, wherever your summer plans take you!

Our Church Records

Births – April 27, 2020

Taiao Luke Mason, son of Hannah Sterling Mason and Amosa Ponga Fou, at home in New Zealand. Taiao's grandparents are Susan Lindeberg and Drew Mason.

Deaths – May 2, 2020

Thelma Knight Pollard

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of Thelma Pollard by:

Pam Peters

Three Rivers HomeCare, Inc

Eileen and Paul Widner

Addie and Roger Saunders

Edward and Joan Chamberlain

Susan Benz

Peggy and Paul Van Blarigan

Bill DeFeo

Pledge Giving Thank You!

A big "thank you" to all of our church members! For those that are able, your generosity in continuing to meet your pledges during these trying times is very much appreciated! Many of you have set up automatic monthly payments for your pledge giving, making the financial predictability for the church so much easier!

For those who have been meaning to set up **automatic monthly payments** but have not had a chance to do so yet, there are two options:



OPTION 1: Give via online Bill-Pay through your bank (**preferred option**)

OPTION 2: Give via church's online giving. To initiate Online Giving, go to

<https://hollischurch.org/donations/>

While auto-payments are preferred, we know some aren't comfortable with that form of giving and of course we still happily accept checks mailed to the church!

THANK YOU again for your continued financial support!

Mission & Action News

Summer Items of the Month: Non-Perishable Food

for Brookline Food Pantry

- ◆ Pasta / Sauces / Rice ◆ Condiments / Sauces
- ◆ Canned Vegetables ◆ Soups
- ◆ Dry Goods / Baking Supplies
- ◆ Snacks ◆ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Proteins / Beans ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Boxed Cakes / Frostings
- ◆ Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ◆ Ground Coffee ◆ Canned Chicken
- ◆ Dry Baby Formula ◆ Children/Adult Vitamins
- ◆ Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Paper Towels ◆ Personal Hygiene Items



There is a recurring need to locally support the Brookline Food Pantry because of the Coronavirus-19 fur-loughs. We would like to keep their shelves full this summer. Please drop your donations in the plastic container at the handicapped entrance to the church.

More Summer Items of the Month:

Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter's **Backpacks for Back to School program** collects new backpacks and school supplies for families trying to live on minimum wage, staying at shelters, or coming to the soup kitchen for food. Eligible children are provided with a new backpack filled with new, grade-appropriate supplies.

Throughout the summer months, we will collect items to support this program.

- New backpacks for boys and girls, 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
- Calculators
- 3 ring binders
- Paper to fill binders
- Spiral notebooks
- Packages of erases
- Composition books



Diapers, Diapers, and More Diapers!

Please help us collect diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6 for Marguerite's Place, the Nashua Soup Kitchen, and Bridges. This is a constant need for our youngest community members! Whenever you can, pick up diapers and we will distribute them to these grateful organizations!

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

Once a month someone from the church prepares and delivers dinner to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua. We provide a \$75 gift card to help cover the cost of the meal. **We need a volunteer for August, September and October.** Please contact Lee Harper at 465-5118 if you are able to provide a meal.



Fuel Assistance

If you know of anyone needing assistance with paying their heating bill or feeding their family, please contact Karen Marino at kmarino360@gmail.com or 603-475-3073. Or if you know of local families in need please contact Tanya at pastor@hollischurch.org

M & A Donations

Mission and Action has helped these partnership organizations monetarily this spring.

- Bridges in Nashua
- Harbor Homes in Nashua

Mission & Action has also provided the Upper Room (regular and large print) daily devotionals for our members. If you would like a copy of The Upper Room, contact Sue in the church office (sue@hollischurch.org).

M&A wants to thank our members of the church for their continuing support and generosity!



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

How to Stay Informed This Summer



With virtual worship, fellowship and meetings continuing throughout the summer, please remember to **check your email and/or the church private Facebook group regularly** as these are the primary ways we have to communicate.

For those who aren't members of our Facebook group, please consider joining as this is the fastest, most immediate way we get news out. It is a closed Facebook group so to join, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hollischurchmembers/>

and request to become a member of the group. Posts in our

Facebook group include news, activity updates, photos (*which will include construction photo progress throughout the summer*), and uplifting articles and images. It is intended to help everyone stay informed quickly, feel connected to our church and church family, and bring a smile to your face. There are currently 173 members of the group; it would be wonderful to get to 200!