

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

June, July, August 2021

www.HollisChurch.org

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*“In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free! ...
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”*

(Natalie Sleeth)



Dear Friends,

Do you have favorite Biblical character, or one you wish you knew more about? There are so many stories, and most of them have “minor” characters that generally get lost or overlooked. But let’s face it: most of us have “bit parts” on the big stage of life, don’t we? Or ... do we just not appreciate the crucial function that every little role plays in the triumphs and tragedies of life?

Our summer sermon series this year is going to focus on the “Faces of Our Faith”, where we will delve into some of the less-recognized (but no less important!) characters in our Christian stories — and I hope we can explore our own lives a little more deeply as we delve into them. There’s a study journal to help you participate week by week, which will get emailed as a .pdf in early June, or you can either pick one up from the church, or get in touch with the office (churchoffice@hollischurch.org) and we’ll send a booklet to you.

As we head into our summer months, we’ll continue to experiment with the best ways to worship with our new “hybrid” ways of being together. We know that many are still not ready to resume gathering in large groups — and some have begun joining us regularly from remote places which will make it impossible to resume in-person only worship without excising a really important part of our community. And so, as we journey forward into the newness God is inviting us to embrace, we continue to pray for gracious spirits that are open to and welcome growth in unexpected ways.

Apropos to this, our first Sunday in June will be a Faith Formation Celebration Sunday. Although we don’t have any young people being confirmed this year, several adults gave generously of themselves across the past couple of years to nurture the faith of our children and adolescents.

(continued on page 3)

From the Faith Formation Office



Although no youth were Confirmed this year, don't be fooled — a huge group of 12-15 kids are on track to be confirmed next year!

This group of kids has been faithfully attending classes all year long, and are well on their way to completing their "Journey to Confirmation." The year concluded with a wonderful Youth Group evening event, the first in more than a year. The kids brought friends and gathered on the Squires Patio around a portable fire pit. They had so much fun enjoying each other's company in person — playing games and roasting s'mores.



In like a lion, out like a (FLOCK) of lambs...

In September, Kim and Kim introduced church school classes on Tuesdays at 4:30 because worship services were virtual. No one was sure how things would play out for the year given all the COVID obstacles, but God was hard at work making church school stronger than ever! Young families attended faithfully week after week, whether on zoom or outside in person. Parents dutifully picked up craft and project supplies for online classes. The kids participated enthusiastically and grew so much in their faith this year!

In spring, church school was renamed to *The Flock*, and these kids are truly shepherded by God's love. Classes concluded with an end-of-year Bingo and games party complete with prizes and games. Kim and Kim are truly grateful to all the dedicated parents and volunteers who made this year a huge success despite many challenges along the way! Many exciting classes are already planned for the fall — we cannot wait to see our little lambs again on

Homecoming Sunday, September 12th!



Adam Verrecchia Memorial Community Garden Update



A few weeks ago, numerous volunteers worked at the garden to help plant, mulch, and clean up the garden, bringing it to the final stages of completion! Some finishing touches are still being put in place, such as signage and a few more plants and trees going in. Additionally, some members of the church and community have purchased bricks to be engraved and placed around the fountain in the center of the cross-shaped patio. The garden committee is working on plans to have a dedication ceremony in the coming months. Keep an eye out for more details!

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

We will honor their gifts and contributions, with participation by some of last year's confirmands (whose confirmation ceremony happened in a memorable all-remote fashion last year) in the Meetinghouse. I do hope you'll join us, either in-person or remotely!

At that service, we will also remember members of our church family who died during the past year when we were unable to gather in-person; their personal stories and lives of faith played significant roles in the formation of others' faith, and of our community life together.

On Father's Day, June 20, we will NOT have a hybrid service. It will be **in-person only**, because we'll be resuming our tradition of meeting at **Rocky Pond Scout Beach** for worship that day, and there's no internet ability for us to stream the service. Please bring your own chair for the 9:30 a.m. gathering time!

Because we still have not been able to hire an organist, we will not have live accompaniment across the summer months. Though it's not part of her job description, our Music Minister/Director Julie Oliver, has very graciously provided musical accompaniment across the past year and a half, for which we owe her immense gratitude! And she is well deserving of her summer off. We look forward with hope to resuming our tradition of "favorite hymn sing" when we have an organist again! That said, if you or someone you know would like to provide special music for us across the summer months, please contact the Church Office; we'd love to hear from you!

In August, when I will take my annual summer leave, I am happy to report that we will again welcome our own members, Bryar Trent and Jenna Zullo, as our worship leaders and preachers. They were very well received last year, and I know I won't be alone in welcoming them back!

I want to encourage everyone to **log on and/or come in person to our Church Council June meeting**, where we will celebrate all the great accomplishments of the past

program year, and will share our hopes and dreams for the coming 2021-2022 program year. Please join us in-person either in Hardy Hall or remotely (a Zoom link will be emailed out) for this significant moment of storytelling and dreaming about our coming year.

Friends, it's been a challenging, patience-requiring, fascinating, growth-inducing, different sort of program year and a half. We have learned new ways of doing all sorts of things individually and as a congregation. I have been so proud of and grateful for the various teams of people (and the half-dozen or more who have been working hard on multiple teams!) who have sustained our key programs, and who have helped put the church back together in a beautiful way following our renovation. So many stories, and many of them could be cast as "minor characters" in the overarching account of our community's activities — but every one of you has been essential. God has faithfully provided the gifts we've needed to be able to realize the vision and purpose we've discerned together, through every faithful individual who has shared what they can to accomplish what we've done so far — but, while our building "refresh" may be finished, we're only at the beginning of living our vision!

We are planning a major celebration for Homecoming Weekend (to coincide with Old Home Days, Sept. 11-12) — so mark your calendar and plan to be here! In the meantime, I do hope you'll continue to contribute to and participate in our community in whatever way you're able, and that you discover the ways it enriches your own life and tells the Gospel Story in fresh, relevant ways to the world around us.

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Summer Sermon Series

Faces of Our Faith Biblical Characters

(list is subject to change)

June 6: Shiphrah & Puah (Exodus 1:8-22)
June 13: The Daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1-11)
June 20: Deborah (Judges 4-5)
June 27: Queen Vashti (Esther 1 – 2:17)
July 4: Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego (Daniel 3)
July 11: Anna (Luke 2:21-38)
July 18: Judas Iscariot (Mark 14:1-2, 10-50)
July 25: The Penitent Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:32-43)
and Joseph of Arimathea (Luke 23:44-56)
August 1: Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:1-11)

Deacons Home Ministries Food Basket Wrap Up. THANK YOU!!!



This program year, for the first time ever we distributed food baskets **FIVE TIMES** (our usual three at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, plus one mid-February for Valentine's Day and the final one mid-May for a "Kick Off to Summer" event). Each distribution had 50 baskets, so **a total of 250 baskets were distributed from November 2020 - May 2021 (more than 2x what we typically distribute).**

The Deacon's Fund paid nearly \$6,000 for fresh and "themed" food to go into 200 of the baskets, the "Complete Meals", including:

- 80 frozen 10#-16# turkeys
- 80 boxes of turkey stuffing mix
- 80 cans of cranberry sauce
- 120 cans of gravy
- 80 cans of green beans
- 160 5# bags of white potatoes
- 40 large pkgs boneless chicken breast
- 40 4# bags of mandarin oranges
- 40 3# bags of apples
- 40 3# bags of whole carrots
- 40 10# spiral sliced hams
- 40 dozen large white eggs
- 40 boxes PAAS Easter egg dye kits
- 40 cans of pineapple rings
- 40 14 oz. bags of jelly beans
- 40 3# pkgs ground beef
- 40 8ct pkgs of beef hotdogs
- 40 8ct pkgs of hamburger buns
- 40 8ct pkgs of hotdog buns
- 40 beefsteak tomatoes
- 40 white onions
- 40 boxes of graham crackers
- 40 bags of large marshmallows
- 84 Hershey's chocolate bars
- 40 small watermelons

Other items included with the food baskets include:

- 21 1/2 large crates (430 bushels) of Scouting for Food non-perishable food + non-perishable food collected at the Luminaria Chili Supper and by Mission & Action
- 88 3# bags of apples donated by Brookdale's
- 72 half-gallon jugs of apple cider donated by Brookdale's
- 50 homemade and frozen pies (made or donated by congregants)
- 40 pkgs of Christmas chocolate purchased with gift card donated by community member
- 1 frozen 15# turkey donated by congregant
- 2 large boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables donated by community members
- 4 large boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables donated by Sunday School families as "Feather Food"
- 10 Christmas stockings filled with treats made by CE and Sunday School students
- 160 Holiday greeting cards made by Sunday School students
- 150 Covid food safety letters from Deacons
- 4 bags of homemade cookies from Scout Troop 465
- Homemade baked treats

Food baskets were distributed as follows:

122 "Complete Meal" food baskets (with purchased food from Deacon's Fund) + 37 "Overflow" food baskets (with non-perishable and other items from the list above) were given to the **school nurses who distributed to local families in the school district as follows:**

- HPS – 12 "Complete Meals"
- RMMS – 4 "Complete Meals"
- HUES – 12 "Complete Meals"
- CSDA – 1 "Complete Meal"
- HBMS – 10 "Complete Meals"
- HBHS – 83 "Complete Meals" + 37 "Overflow"

(Home Ministries – continued from p. 4)

49 “Complete Meal” food baskets (with purchased food from Deacon’s Fund) were given to [Marguerite’s Place](#). 29 “Complete Meal” food baskets (with purchased food from Deacon’s Fund), 13 “Overflow” food baskets (with non-perishable and other items from the list above) and other items were given to [Tolles Street Mission](#). 2 large crates (40 bushels) of left-over Scouting for Food non-perishable food were given to the [Nashua School District](#) for their food pantry and 1 ½ large crates (30 bushels) were given to [NH Gleans](#).

As always, the “thank you” list is too long to possibly list every individual involved, but included are our Deacons (especially Rick Guay who is the “Master of Ceremonies” for this, but many other Deacons actively participate as well), the Scouts, the F&H committee, the M&A board, teachers and students of “The Flock”, teachers and students of the confirmation class, our pie-bakers, the local school nurses, Brookdale Fruit Farm, and community members who donate the non-perishable food. These groups/organizations/individuals provide at least one of the following: financial support, physical storage and space to pack, food donations, homemade pies, handmade cards, other items included in the baskets, the gift of time to shop for, pack and distribute the 250 baskets (which is very extensive for each of these distributions).

Thank you one and all! We are so blessed to have so many generous people donate their time, talent, and financial resources to provide this very important greater-community outreach and support!



The Board of Deacons

Our Vision Becomes Reality!

Just over a year ago, following two-and-a-half years of exploratory discussion, fund-raising and design, our **Building our Vision** team recommended a thorough, once-in-a-generation renovation of our 100-year-old facility.



This renovation was undertaken with the goal of meeting fire and safety codes and carrying forward the tenets of our Strategic Plan to better position us for the 21st century.

BoV is now excited to share that the renovation is complete and exceeds our original expectations! Through this entire project we have had strong support from the congregation and the community. Our renovation is one that all can be proud of, touching virtually every surface in the church, and building a new community patio in the center of town.

We are now embarking on the **Living our Vision** phase, learning how to best use our new capabilities to improve our welcome, worship, learning, and service. We are already seeing new ministries, and the Squires Patio is quickly becoming a vibrant gathering place.

Through the Joy of Generosity Campaign, we were able to raise an initial \$1.5M that enabled us to take on a \$1.9M project. Due to steady and persistent generosity, we have had additional donations from our congregation and the community as well as a variety of in-kind donations and donor-directed programs. These include a housewarming campaign to furnish and equip the renovation, the refinishing of hundred-year-old hardwood floors in our meetinghouse, and the painting of the meetinghouse interior. These incremental projects have pushed the project value well over the \$2M mark, without additional financial burden to the congregation. At the time of the annual report, our fundraising gap was \$165,000. We have since brought the final project in under budget and continued our fundraising efforts. We now have a relatively small **gap of about \$125K**, just over 5% of the new project value. ***If you have the means and could consider an incremental donation to help us close that gap, we would greatly appreciate it.***

You are, of course, welcome at any time to see our new space, but make sure that you save the date for a larger-scale **grand re-opening event in September on Homecoming weekend**. We hope you will all be able to join us for the celebration!

The BoV Team



Have you ever found yourself looking back on some trying situations or events where you helped someone or some group do or get through something really challenging or accomplish a big effort, and that as you emerged from all the hard work, support, and costs that you could look back and feel really proud of your efforts, but also

found that surprisingly it was not as hard or as burdensome as you thought with trepidation it was going to be when you looked at it at the start?

This is a good example of the **concept and practices of Abundance and Generosity** – where you find that you wanted to help and despite thinking you might come up short and requiring more than you could provide, somehow you found you could supply all that was needed and more. If you think further, you might find that you can see God’s loving hand of support was there for you, having helped provided all that was needed and more, and in the process of helping the outcome, also helped you strengthen your muscles of Generosity and instill confidence that what is needed will be found and supplied, with room to spare, aka Abundance.

The Stewardship Board is reinvigorating ourselves with these very concepts and practice. We are developing plans and events to help us all better **understand and trust in the power of God's love and Abundance**, and that when we act generously, we can act in new, liberating and inspiring ways that can help advance our church's many missions and outreaches and find that not only do we truly receive far more than we give, but that there is Abundance to spare.

You'll be hearing during the coming months firsthand testaments about the great works and results of our church's giving and efforts, and how we can change lives with simple acts of generosity, and how in the process, it draws us closer to Christ and his desires for us.

We will also be sharing more information about where and how our money and time is spent, and what can happen if we are able to trust in the power of Abundance and Generosity. We also are listening to what you find motivating, inspiring and exciting about our churches works and future.

A call to action:

We are excited to learn, share and grow together as we grow in faith and community and accomplish wonderful things, but as we head into the summer season, please remember that the work of the church (and the expenses) doesn't take a vacation. In fact, some of our needs and expenses increase, and we really need everyone's continued support and contributions to continue. Please check and be sure that you have paid the amount you planned against your 2021 pledge. And, if you still haven't pledged, please consider doing it — it's easy and really helps both the church as well as you (another way to grow in faith and strengthen your response to God's call).

Enjoy God's blessing of summer,

Chris Hyde, Stewardship Board



Yard Sale Recap!

The Yard Sale Committee would like to thank the congregation for a hugely successful inaugural yard sale/bake sale event this spring. Twenty-three spaces were rented by community and church members to sell their own goods, and numerous volunteers helped bake, price, sort, and sell items on behalf of the church. So many church items were relocated to new homes! **The yard sale raised \$2,100 to put towards Building Our Vision**; additionally, an extra \$239 was earned through the *Savers* fundraiser by taking leftover yard sale items and clothing donations.

Next year...

A few yard sale shoppers remarked, “Can we do this every year??” “What a great event!” The yard sale committee agrees — Start making a pile of donations for next year in your basements now!

Our Church Records

Deaths



May 14, 2021

Ned Wheeler Roman



June 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer Items of the Month: School Supplies for Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter's <i>Backpacks for Back-to-School</i> program Donations deadline is August 1st!						
		6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour			
		1	2	3	4	5
Faith Formation Celebration Sunday 9:30 am – Communion Worship Hybrid format - In Person and Zoom	7 pm – CE Board meeting	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting		Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter	Red Cross Blood Drive 10am – 3pm Hardy Hall
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am – Worship Hybrid format In Person and Zoom	7 pm – Deacons meeting		10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Father's Day 9:30 am – Worship at Rocky Pond (weather permitting) In-person only – No Zoom worship	7 pm – Trustees meeting	7 pm – All-Church/ Church Council meeting In person in Hardy Hall or via Zoom	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am – Worship – Hybrid format In Person and Zoom			10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour			
27	28	29	30			

Sunday worship services continue both in-person and on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:30. No Zoom worship on June 20th.

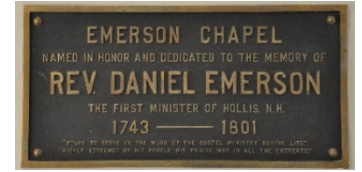
Church office: Closed Monday & Tuesday; Wednesdays 12:30-3:30 (closed June 9); Thursday 8am-3:30pm; Friday 8am-12 noon

Church boards meet in June via Zoom (unless otherwise notified by board chairs); on hiatus in July and August, resuming in September.

...And the Rest is History

Reverend Daniel Emerson, Part III

by Cindy Ryherd



This is the final part of a three-part series about Reverend Daniel Emerson, first pastor of what is now the Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C. (see April *Chimes* for [Part I](#) and May *Chimes* for [Part II](#)). Part I ended with Rev. Emerson being ordained in April 1743, building his home ([Emerson House](#)) on the 40 acres of land he was given as part of his contract (on the Hollis Town Common), and marrying the love of his life, Hannah Emerson. Part II covered Daniel Emerson's professional, community, and patriotic contributions as pastor, teacher, soldier, public servant, and original "Friend(s) of the Library", as well as his resting place and epitaph. Now we get to learn more about Daniel Emerson on a personal level, and particularly about his wife, Hannah, with whom he shared an unbounding love.

About Hannah: Daniel Emerson's wife (and second cousin), Hannah Emerson Emerson was born December 3, 1722 in Malden, Massachusetts to her parents Rev. Joseph Emerson, Sr. and Mary Moody Emerson. Through Hannah's younger brother, Rev. William Emerson, Sr., she is the great-aunt of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Like everyone of Colonial times, she was familiar with hardship and loss, even at a young age. At 1 ½ years old, she survived the burning down of the new family home in the middle of the night, and in 1734, she lost her new-born brother, Waldo. She was also afflicted with hearing loss early in life (more on that later). But in the years 1735 to 1739, things were looking up. Her father's handsome, athletic, tall cousin Daniel, would sometimes walk over from Harvard in Cambridge for a visit. The "spark" that began then continued to smolder, eventually being fanned into a full-blown flame, culminating in their marriage on November 11, 1744, a year and a half after Rev. Emerson had been ordained as the first settled pastor for the small church of West Dunstable Parish (now the Congregational Church of Hollis).

Hannah would have taken the role and duties of minister's wife with ease after her years of experience as a minister's oldest daughter and having many other ministers in her extended family. Her brother, Rev. Joseph Emerson, Jr. came as the first minister to the new parish just south of Hollis called the West Precinct of Groton (which eventually became Pepperell), and in fact, her husband made the opening prayer at her brother's ordination in 1747.

Exactly ten months after marrying Daniel on September 11, 1745, Hannah gave birth to their first of thirteen children, daughter Hannah. She spent the next 20 years having children every one to two years and at 43 years old, she gave birth to their last child, William Emerson, on December 11, 1765. Even by today's standard, 43 years old would be considered high risk, and she would have had none of the conveniences of today's modern medicine! Hannah and Daniel faced the death of one child at birth (Rebecca), three children before age ten (Mary, Ebenezer and William), and two more children pre-deceasing them as adult children (Joseph and Ralph). All but two of Hannah's siblings would pre-decease her, losing her brothers Joseph and William in 1775 and 1776, respectively, as a result of illness incurred during their time in Revolutionary War camps. Losing Joseph, living in nearby Pepperell, was particularly hard on her.



Her eldest son, Daniel Emerson, Jr. became a Deacon of the Hollis Congregational Church in 1775, married, and took residence a short distance away at [5 Broad Street](#) (ca. 1764-68; another of Hollis' oldest homes), giving Hannah and Daniel grandchildren within a few years of having their own youngest child. They watched four times as their eldest son, Daniel, Captain of Militia, went off to fight in the Revolutionary War, nearly every time one of his younger brothers coming with him (Peter, Ralph, and Samuel) as they became old enough to go (only 15 or 16 years old). Peter, toward the close of the war, having studied medicine, served as a surgeon. Most happily, all came safely back to her, however, she ended up losing Ralph in 1790 when, on the Hollis

Common, Ralph was killed by the accidental discharge of a cannon during Militia practice, leaving a wife and two small daughters to mourn with Hannah.



Rev. Daniel Emerson and Hannah had the pleasure of seeing their granddaughter, Ama Emerson Smith, daughter of their son Deacon Daniel, Jr., marry Reverend Eli Smith, Rev. Daniel Emerson's successor as pastor of the Hollis Congregational Church. Rev. Smith and Ama Emerson Smith lived in the stately, [white Georgian house at 9 Monument Square](#), built for them in 1794-1797 on the Hollis Common, facing the church. Together they had six children. Reverend Eli Smith served as pastor of the Hollis Congregational Church for 38 years, from 1793 to 1831 (co-pastor with

Reverend Daniel Emerson from 1793-1801).

As mentioned previously, early in Hannah's life, she was afflicted with hearing loss. It is unknown exactly when, but at some point, she became so very deaf that the Hollis people bought, or had made for their beloved first lady of the church, a beautiful chair for the pulpit platform, where, with her long ear trumpet, she could sit near the speaker to hear better. The church also dedicated front-row benches near the pulpit for elderly congregants who were hearing impaired, being an early adopter of caring for those with disabilities. A grandson, who remembered her well, wrote that after she became unable to hear her husband, in their social prayers she was accustomed to take the lead. We may well believe that this was at the suggestion of the loving husband with his unbounded admiration.

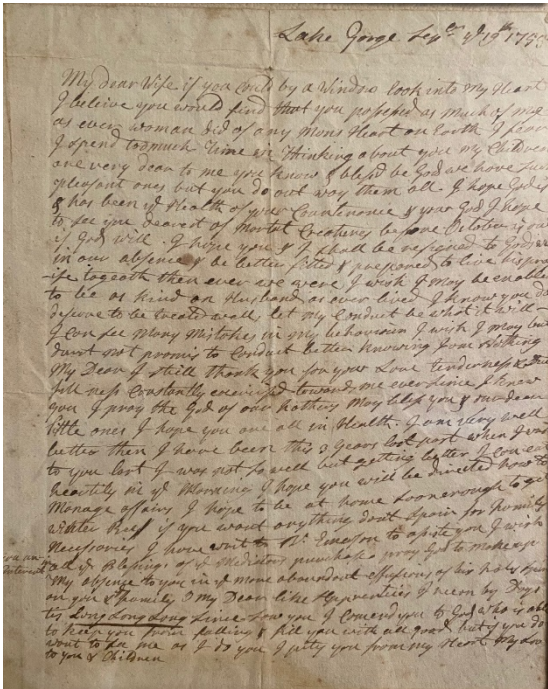


The Love of Daniel and Hannah Emerson: In 1755 Daniel came to feel that it was his duty to leave his wife and children to serve as Chaplain with the Hollis company led by Captain Peter Powers at the Expedition to Crown Point (part of the French and Indian War expeditions), leaving July 8 of that year. At home with Hannah at that time were six young children, ages two months to nine years old. Certainly, having her brother Joseph in nearby Pepperell would have given her great comfort. It is during Daniel Emerson's stay at Lake George, NY, that several love letters were written to one another, confirming a very deep, sincere, and abiding love for one another.

Addressing her husband as "*Dear Sir*", on August 5 poor Hannah wrote how melancholy she found life living without him, especially on the Sabbath. Though only a month had passed since he left, and he had been home on leave a week, the time of his absence seems "*long already*" and she is anxious to know when to expect his return. Reaching him at Albany on August 20th, he treasured this short letter and kept it all his life. In letters back to her, he tells her, "*It was like cold water to a thirsty soul*" and he wrote in his journal that his wife's letter refreshed his spirit. Calling Hannah "*Dearest of Creatures*" he "*longs to see her above what tongue can express.*" He writes "*Pray my dear don't call this flattery or think as you used to say, I could express myself better on this subject than on others, for if I had Solomon's pen dipped in love, I could not write what my whole heart beats toward you.*" "*O, I fear that you possess too much of my affections, and if anything destroys me 'twill be idolizing you, but I fear I shall offend your modesty, yet you must remember that a living spring will keep bubbling.*" "*Let us wait upon God for his presence with us in our absence and for leave to meet again in this world, but if otherwise may we meet together in Heaven.*"

But the most amazing story and letter from Rev. Daniel Emerson to his wife Hannah during his time at Crown Point in 1755, is the letter affectionately known as the "Dog Letter". It is preserved between glass at the Hollis Historical Society and at only 6" x 7", it is crowded by fine writing still legible despite being over 250 years old. You see, Rev. Emerson, in addition to his Bible, brought his favorite dog with him to Lake George. The trek is 120 miles as the crow flies but likely nearly 2x that distance as they traveled on horse and foot, taking weeks to arrive.

In this letter, dated September 19, 1755, Daniel Emerson outpoured his overwhelming love and devotion to Hannah. He then wrapped it well in oiled silk, sewed it in a buckskin packet, fastened it to his dog's collar, and told the dog to "go home". Weeks later, lean and limping, the faithful dog scratched at the door in Hollis. What a day of excitement it must have been for the children and Hannah as she untied the package from the dog's neck, carefully unwrapped the contents of an unsigned letter from Lake George, and read:



"My dear wife. If you could by a window look into my heart, I believe you would find that you possessed as much of me as ever woman did of any man's heart on Earth. I fear I spend too much time in thinking about you. My children are very dear to me you know & blest be God we have such pleasant ones, but you do out way them all. I hope God is & has been the health of your countenance & your God. I hope to see you dearest of mortal creatures before October is out if God will. I hope you & I shall be resigned to God's will in our absence and be bettered fitted & prepared to live His promise together than ever we were. I wish I may be enabled to be as kind a husband as ever lived. I know you do deserve to be treated well, let my conduct be what it will – I can see many mistakes in my behavior. I wish I may but darst not promise to conduct better knowing I am nothing. My Dear I still thank you for your love, tenderness & truthfulness constantly exercised toward me ever since I knew you. I pray the God of our Fathers may bless you & our dear little ones. I hope you are all in health." After providing some instructions, he continues "I wish all the Blessings of the mediatous purchase pray God to make up my absence to you

in the more abundant effusions of his holy spirit on you & family. O my dear, like Apprentices Union by Fays tis long, long, long since saw you, I commend you to God who is able to keep you from falling & fill you with all good, but if you do want to see me as I do you, I pity you from my heart. My love to you & children."

Too bad this happened pre-Victorian time. I believe a letter such as this would put to good use a fainting chaise lounge common to that era! This letter could easily make any love-sick woman, especially one exhausted from single-parenting six young children, swoon!

Other than Daniel's two absences because of military service during the French and Indian Wars (1755, and again in 1758), through all the trials and tribulations as well as events of great happiness, Hannah had her beloved husband, Daniel, by her side until he passed on September 30, 1801. Hannah would live another 10+ years, passing away at age 90 on February 28, 1812. She is buried with Daniel in the Hollis Church Cemetery, her **epitaph reading:**

*Here are also deposited the remains of **Hannah Emerson**, wife of the above and Daughter of the Rev. Joseph Emerson, of Malden. She lived a pattern of filial obedience, respect and affection; And an example of conjugal love and duty; a most tender, indulgent and faithful Parent, the delight of her Friends and ornament of the Church; She lived the life of a true Disciple of Christ, In the constant exercise of active faith in His promises, and died in triumphant hope of everlasting life in those Regions where Charity never faileth, February 28, 1812, aged 90.*

Despite this being a 3-part series that hopefully readers have found interesting and informative, there is so much more that could be written! Easily a book could be written about Reverend Daniel Emerson, his wife Hannah, their children, and their extended families (Hannah's mother's story is intriguing as well!) I encourage you to visit the Hollis Historical Society where they have the *Emerson Genealogy* book as well as *History of the Town of Hollis (from its First Settlement to the Year 1879)* by Samuel T. Worcester. These, along with church archives and Google, have been invaluable resources for my research.

Cindy will be taking the summer months off but plans to resume writing "...And the Rest is History" articles in September 2021.

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

Marcus Garvey

Mission & Action News

Ash Street Shelter Meals



We are in need of individuals or families to cook dinner for the Ash St. Shelter on the 2nd Friday of the month from July to the end of the year. You will be given \$75.00 to pay for the groceries. For more information and delivery information please contact Lee Harper at Blharper@tds.net.

Red Cross Blood Drive

10 am until 3 pm
Saturday, June 12
Hardy Hall

Register online at redcrossblood.org. If you are unable to donate blood but would still like to help, please consider **volunteering for a 2 hour shift at our drive**. Contact Thelma Wigfield at tr.wigfield@comcast.net or 603-438-3833.



Diapers, Diapers, Diapers

The need for Diapers never dries up!!! Sizes 4,5,6 would be greatly appreciated by many organizations.

Ongoing Collections...

- Items for the **Brookline Food Pantry**
- Eyeglasses ▪ Used Cell Phones
- Travel size Toiletries

Please Note: We are no longer collecting Greeting Cards and Stationery.

Please place all donations in the M&A collection bin outside the church's center (handicapped) entrance.

Your Dollars at Work

Upper Room (regular and large print) subscriptions were renewed. Contributions were made this month to Save the Children, Bridges, and the *Strengthening the Church* UCC offering.

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. **Deadline for donations is Sunday, August 1st.**

- **New Backpacks** for Boys and Girls, K – Grade 12
- Dry-Erase Markers for All Grades (when called up to the board)
- 8GB (or larger) Flash Drives for High School Students
- 2 inch 3-Ring Binders – required in High School
- Loose Leaf Filler Paper
- Tabbed Dividers
- Spiral Notebooks
- Protractor or Multi-piece Drafting Package
- Pencil Boxes/Pouches for Elementary School Children
- Lunch Boxes and Snack Bags for Elementary School Children



- #2 Pencils
- Hand-held Pencil Sharpeners
- Separate Erasers
- Pens
- 12-inch Rulers
- Bottled Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Scotch Tape
- Staplers - Mini or Desk Size
- Student Scissors
- Safety Scissors for Younger Students
- Crayons – Boxes of 24
- Colored Pencils – Bright or Bold
- Washable Colored Markers
- Calculators For High School Students
- Dictionary (one per family)
- Index Cards



For more information or to sign up to volunteer for Backpack Packing or Distribution, go to <https://nsks.org/project/nsks-backpacks-for-back-to-school/>. Volunteer sign-up link will be available at the beginning of July.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming this Fall: Dinner Church!

A new, informal, monthly community-building worship experience for all ages will launch this fall: DINNER CHURCH!

Come after work/school/extracurriculars, and enjoy:

- * **A delicious meal** that's been prepared for you (no need to figure out what to cook on a busy work/school-week night)!
- * An opportunity to **worship in new ways** (around the table, informally, with lots of fellowship)!
- * **Intergenerational interaction**--conversation, games, singing, prayers--with others seeking to grow in their faith and relationship with God and others!
- * **Childcare & activities for the tiniest ones**, if they can't participate in the "table talk" and activities with older folks!

Starting on **Wednesday, Sept. 15th** (thereafter, on the *second* Wednesday of each month) from 5:30-7 p.m. in Hardy Hall.

Mark your calendar now ... we can't wait, and hope you can't either!

