

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

January 2018

www.HollisChurch.org

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The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)

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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 preceding publication.

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them...’⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’” (Revelation 21:3-5)



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! And, Happy 275th to the Congregational Church of Hollis! It was on January 17th, 1743, that the early settlers of Hollis voted unanimously at a town meeting to call a permanent minister to this church. The Rev’d. Daniel Emerson of Reading, Massachusetts, was called; he responded to the call in March and was ordained on April 20th, 1743.

Needless to say, this church has experienced a great deal of change across the past two and three-quarters centuries — including a few minor name changes, and several new buildings. The people who’ve comprised the congregation over the years have come and gone as they always will, but throughout, God’s faithful presence here has remained constant. The question we should greet each New Year with is, “What new thing is God doing with us now?” Or, slightly differently, “What new thing is God inviting us to do together?”

As we set off into 2018, I can see how God’s spirit of renewal and creativity is continuing to move among us, sparking fresh ideas and different approaches to how we can effectively carry out the Strategic Plan we adopted early last year. As we strive to strengthen our community through our efforts to **Worship, Welcome, Learn, and Serve** (the four headline areas of our mission), I’m already observing the ways that the intrepid Spirit is doing new things — and getting results!

Last year, we were informed by the Hollis Fire Chief that for our own safety, as well as for the many groups we allow to meet in our space, we must begin making plans to install a sprinkler system into at least the basement level of our church. Needless to say, this will not be a small undertaking, and it will require us to tear deeply into the fabric of our building.

(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation (Christian Education) Office

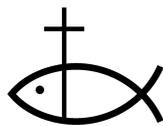
Pre-Confirmation

(for 7th and 8th graders)

Fresh off a spectacular field trip to the First Church of Nashua for Vivaldi's GLORIA, 7th and 8th graders gather on Sundays, January 7 and 21 to continue their exploration of the Bible. Classes begin at 10:30 in the Emerson Chapel. (Note that **class begins in Emerson Chapel – not the sanctuary.**)

Confirmation (for 9th graders)

Thirteen young people continue their journey toward confirming their faith with classes on January 14 and 28. Classes meet in Emerson Chapel at 10:30am.



On Friday, February 2, confirmands will worship at Temple Beth Abraham during their 7pm service. Gather at the Hollis church by 6:25pm. Carpool leaves at 6:30 sharp and will return at 9pm. Drivers are needed. Contact confirmation@hollischurch.org.



Come and cheer on the Hollis Church Basketball Team in its inaugural season! With one game under their belts, Team HCC is ready to face

the New Year with enthusiasm, skill and spirit! Because the first game was canceled, the schedule has changed a bit. Please check this new schedule and turn out at the Nashua Y to cheer on your team! You can't miss them; they're the ones in the neon green shirts! The January 6 game has HCC, the newest team in the league, facing off against First Church of Nashua, the league's oldest team. You don't want to miss that one. *See you at the games!*

January game schedule:

Sat, Jan 6 @ 2:15 pm vs. First Church Nashua
Sat, Jan 13 @ 12:45 pm vs. Nashua YMCA
Sat, Jan 20 @ 2:15 pm vs. St. Pat's

Share Your Passion!

Co-Superintendents Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia are excited to announce the start of a new year, and a new day, in the Sunday School! Rooms and materials are being refreshed, teachers are being recruited and trained, and new lessons for grades 3-6 are ready to go!

There is plenty of room for more volunteers. It really does take a village to raise a child and it takes a church community to shape the faith of a young Christian. You can be part of this learning and growing faith village by sharing your talents, hobbies and passion. The **Chronicle** curriculum for grades 3-6 is dynamic, meaning it can be adapted to incorporate the talents of those who would like to share a few minutes with a child. Whatever your interest: woodworking, bird-watching, art in any form or expression, knitting, crochet, quilting, or other crafts, cooking, story-telling, history, science, music, **you are invited to share your passion with a class** on the Sunday morning of your choice.

To learn more about these opportunities, contact **transition@hollischurch.org**. Kim and Kim look forward to welcoming you onto the growing team of volunteers who share their faith with the children of the church.

Nursery and Sunday School Leaders Training on January 3

All Sunday school teachers, assistants and substitutes, and all Nursery volunteers are invited to gather in Hardy Hall on Wednesday, January 3, at 7pm. Refreshments, fellowship and a preview of the updated classrooms will be offered beginning at 6:30pm. Training with the new curriculum is featured, along with the opportunity to share ideas and offer feedback. Contact Kim Burton or Kim Verrecchia at **transition@hollischurch.org** with any questions.

Faith Formation Commissioning and Gathering on January 28

All who volunteer in the nursery and Sunday school, along with new Sunday School Superintendents Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia, will be commissioned during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, January 28. Volunteers are asked to make every effort to attend that day.

Following the 10:30 service, Sunday school teachers and assistants will meet in the Parkhurst Room and Nursery volunteers will meet in the nursery. Meetings will be brief. Grab refreshments in Hardy Hall and make your way to the meetings by 11:45.

Changes in our Faith Formation program

The Church Council, having received the report of the Christian Education Board and Personnel Committee, is pleased to announce a successful conclusion of the search process for our **Sunday School Superintendent** position, which resulted in the hiring of Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia. As a team, their combined talents and training — which include significant experience in early childhood development, exceptional organizational, administrative, and communication skills, and lots of energy and ideas about how they can continue to strengthen the Faith Formation program for our church's youngest members — are very promising for our anticipated future direction. Welcome, Kim and Kim! One of the very important pieces of work that the CE Board and Personnel Committee accomplished across the past year was an intensive evaluation of the Sunday School and overall Faith Formation program in our church. At the end of the evaluation, the conclusion drawn was that the best way to accomplish the congregational objective for strengthening the faith formation program (*for all ages*) expressed in our Strategic Plan is to reconfigure the existing staffing model to include a transitional **Minister of Faith Formation**; this individual would have the essential qualification of theological training and experience in developing programs and curricula for all ages, including revision and reinvigoration of the youth program as well as overseeing the development of our adult faith formation programs. The Minister of Faith Formation would also work with the Sunday School Superintendent(s), equipping and training them where necessary. The Church Council supports and has voted to approve the creation of the position of Minister of Faith Formation, but the final step will be for the congregation to consider and vote on it at the Church Annual Meeting on February 11.



Work
Camp

Mission Trip News

A **Mission Trip meeting** is scheduled on **Sunday, January 7th**, at 12pm in the meetinghouse. Put it on your calendar *now*, and plan to attend!

Come visit your favorite mission trip crew at our first **fundraiser** of the year! We will be at **Uno's on the 24th and 25th of January**. Bring in your ticket (see page 8) for a dine-in meal, or take-out, and we will receive 20% of the total proceeds :) We will also be there to greet you as you walk in, selling candy bars and a chance to enter your name into a raffle! We hope to see you there!

Potiphar's Wife, Jephthah's Daughter, and Rahab, the Harlot...

There are 300 women in the Bible, only 150 of whom are named. In this age when society still wrestles with the role of women, it is instructive to consider the pivotal part women played in the Bible story. Hear the haunting tale of Hagar, the handmaid, the saga of sibling rivalry between Leah and Rachel, the true stories of Bathsheba and Jezebel.

All of this and refreshments, too, at **2:00pm on Sunday, January 21, in the Emerson Chapel**, hosted by the **Women's Fellowship**. All women of the church are invited. Contact Dot Pitman (465-7672) with any questions.

CHRISTMAS FAIR THANK YOU!

The Christmas Fair Committee would like to say thank you to everyone who helped make this year's fair another success. Whether you donated items, made crafts, helped with decorating or setting up, worked the day of the fair, baked pies, made soup, baked, performed music, cleaned up (or did multiple jobs!), we could not have done this without the support of all of you! We will communicate a final number on proceeds as soon as we have it. Blessings to all!

Post-Christmas Fair Meeting

There will be a short meeting in Emerson Chapel on Sunday, January 7th at 11:45 a.m. for Christmas Fair volunteers to offer any post fair thoughts. What worked well and what can we do differently? We hope to be able to communicate final numbers on our proceeds and talk about how the monies will be used.

From the Church Office

My sincere thanks go to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Debbe Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your December *Chimes* for mailing.

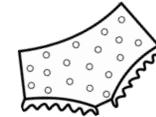
January 2018



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



**Mission Items of the Month: NEW Underwear
for Girls - size 8 to Adult
for Boys - size 10 to Adult ... Boxers and Briefs**
to support the Nashua Children's Home



<p><i>December 31 2017</i> 9:30 am - Worship / NO Sunday School</p>	<p><i>Happy New Year!</i> Church Office closed</p>	<p>Annual Reports due 7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting</p>	<p>8:00 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 7pm – Sunday School Teacher Training</p>	<p>7 pm – Choir</p>		<p>2:15pm – HCC Basketball vs FCN at Nashua Y</p>
<p>9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Christmas Fair Wrap-up meeting 12 noon – Mission Trip meeting</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 7 pm – CE Board meeting 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting</p>	<p>7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting</p>	<p>9 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities Committee</p>	<p>7 pm – Choir 8:15 pm – Music Board meeting</p>	<p>Our volunteers provide Ash St. Shelter dinner</p>	<p>12:45pm – HCC Basketball vs NY at Nashua Y</p>
<p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 7 pm – Community Prayers</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men's Breakfast 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 7 pm – Trustees meeting February <i>Chimes</i> deadline</p>	<p>7 pm – Church Council meeting</p>	<p>7 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting</p>	<p>7 pm – Senior Choir</p>		<p>2:15pm – HCC Basketball vs St. Pat's at Nashua Y</p>
<p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – Women's Fellowship meeting</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men's Breakfast 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's</p>		<p>Mission Trip Dough Rai\$er Eat at Uno's</p>	<p>Mission Trip Dough Rai\$er Eat at Uno's</p>		
<p>9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Sunday School Teacher Gathering</p>	<p>7:15 am– Men's Breakfast 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's</p>					

From the Pastor (cont. from p. 1)

But every challenge also represents an opportunity, and that's how we are choosing to view this. Most of you have probably noticed that our building is in need of refreshing and renewal in a number of respects. While we're looking at the structural changes that will be required to bring our building up to safety-compliant code, we also have the opportunity to take a careful look at every aspect of our building and ask questions about how well it's serving our needs today — for worship, welcome, learning, and service — and for what we hope to accomplish into the future.

So, in the unfolding year, we will be entertaining numerous conversations about what works and what doesn't work — and what God might be encouraging and equipping us to do, if we will respond with faith and courage. Faith and courage, because God never asks us to do things that don't challenge us in life-giving ways. We will be invited to sacrifice in order to discover how that choice actually leads to a richer, more satisfying life in and with God.

The good news — the Christmas and Epiphany message — is that God IS with us; God dwells with us mortals. As we venture forward into the 275th year of this church's life together, I hope we can all embrace and rejoice in the ways God is still making all things new!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya



Ladies' Breakfast

Due to the upcoming Monday New Year holiday, Ladies Breakfast is moved to Wednesday, Jan.

3rd for the first week of January. For the winter months, when HB schools are delayed or closed due to weather conditions, Ladies Breakfast is moved to Wednesday morning.

Fellowship & Hospitality

The F&H team wishes to thank the volunteers and participants in both of our sponsored holiday events. We kicked off the season with an Advent Workshop following the late worship on December 3rd. About 45 people of all ages enjoyed soup & pizza for lunch, a carol sing, and fellowship and fun while creating gifts for charity including:

- patriotic cinnamon stick stars with a holiday card of gratitude for veterans at the Dalianis House in Nashua
- fleece & catnip cat toys, dog knot toys (from recycled jeans/flannel shirts), and fleece tug-of-war dog toys for the Humane Society
- fleece ball toys for babies served by The Stork Project
- Socks of Love stuffed with extra socks, hygiene products, and healthy snacks, for the homeless men at the Ash Street Shelter
- decorations to brighten the holidays for Meals on Wheels shut-ins
- kid-decorated sugar cookies for holiday food baskets

Also, keep your eyes open for the painted kindness rocks that have been spread around town!

The next weekend, in conjunction with the Luminaria Stroll & Town Band concert night, the F&H team hosted a Chili and Cornbread Supper serving more than 100 people — at least half of whom were new faces to our church. With three varieties of chili for the varied palates, everyone was happy and satisfied.

We hope to repeat these popular events in 2018, but need more volunteers to assist. Also, if you have ideas for fellowship activities or want to join the F&H team, we'd love to hear from you at FandH@hollischurch.org or contact Carol Birch.

Thanks to All ~ Cookies & Concert Help!

Because of the many who contributed cookies and bars, we were able to deliver a number of gift packages to our shut-ins and others. Also we had a good supply of goodies which were sold at the Christmas Concert. The sale of these resulted in money for our Deacons' Fund. So again, thanks for your contributions.

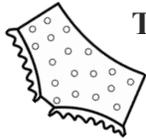
There should be a special thanks to those who braved the winter storm and helped at the concert — Carol Birch, Joyce Toli, Karen Marino, Mary Anne Smith, Deb Shipman, Thom & Tonda Davies, Rick Guay, and the Kreibel family.

Dot Pitman

Mission & Action News

January Items of the Month: Underwear! for the Nashua Children's Home

Nashua Children's Home provides care and stability to boys and girls unable to remain with their families, special education services for students who have not been successful in public school settings, and supportive housing for youth that have "aged-out" of care.



They are asking for new underwear.

**Boys - size 10 to Adults...Boxers and Briefs
Girls - size 8 to Adults**



Heating Assistance Update

Brrr it's cold outside! If you know of anyone needing assistance in paying for heating oil, kerosene, or propane, please ask them to contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or cbrady27@comcast.net. This winter oil will again be kindly donated by our partnering oil supplier. This is in addition to fuel purchased with funds from our Christmas Eve offering.

Ash St. Shelter Meals

The church provides a meal once a month for the Ash St. Shelter for the Homeless in Nashua. The 2018 sign-up list along with details is posted on the Mission and Action bulletin board in the hallway outside the pastor's office. Many thanks to those who have already signed up for 2018 and to those who have prepared meals in the past.

March Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held at the church on Saturday, March 24. Mark your calendars now and plan to donate. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Item of the Month Updates

December - The Christmas Giving Tree

You shopped and wrapped gifts for 57 children! Monetary support from M&A and the congregation also helped bring joy to these families. Thank you for your caring and personal attention!

November - Cleaning Supplies for Bridges

Bridges is dedicated to helping victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Your generous donations of cleaning supplies will help survivors settle in a new home. Donations are shared by the Milford and Nashua agencies. Thanks for responding to this need!

Mission and Action Donation

Gift cards for homeless youth at Nashua High School - South.

Unwrapping Our Gifts

This spring a whole new study group will be formed. It will be a rare and affirming opportunity to each one of us to **awaken and enjoy the gifts that make each one of us the special person that God has intended us to be.**

This adventure will explore the unique set of talents that each one of us have. We may think those talents are ordinary but others view them as remarkable. We will unwrap our talents to awaken within ourselves our own special gifts.



This study will explore the Biblical vision that each of us is called by God to focus our Christian ministry through our strengths and talents. Empowerment starts with the individual who knows and values his or her own gifts. We will learn to identify and enhance our gifts and calls. This affirming workshop will help us and to assist one another to grow in our faith and strengthen our personal ways of ministering in relationships, workplaces and the world. We are called to be fruitful



in serving God but also to be fulfilled in our ministry through the use of our special and unique gifts.

If you are interested, please contact Rev. Tanya, Kimber Harmon or Keith Hamer for more information.

Our Church Records

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of Jan DeFeo by:

Thelma Pollard

Susan and William Gorham

Music Notes

Mark your calendars now for our ...

Sunday Afternoon Concert ~ February 18



Share Your Talents

Seeking Musicians

Do you love to make music and share it with others? The Music

Board, in combination with the Women's Fellowship, is currently seeking musicians interested in performing at our afternoon concert, to be held Feb 18, 2018. Any genre and all levels welcome! Please RSVP to Kirsten Szczeszynski (465-2324 or kirsten@electriceng.com) by January 31st. It's going to be a great afternoon of music!

The Music Board is pleased to announce that the new hymnal order has been placed, and the hymnals will arrive sometime in the spring. This hymnal replaces BOTH hymnals now used and includes congregation-selected hymns in a supplement and more than 90 hymns from the Pilgrim Hymnal.



Looking for a unique gift for those hard to shop for people in your life? Or wish to give a gift in memory of a loved one? Then the Music Board suggests that you **donate a hymnal** in honor of or in memory of these special people. The gift can be purchased with your donation of \$25.00. Your donation of hymnals to the church is tax deductible and the Music Board will place a bookplate on the inner cover of the hymnal. At your request, the Music Board will mail a card to the recipient acknowledging that a gift was made in their name. Use the Hymnal Donation form at right and return it to church. For more information or questions please contact music@hollischurch.org.

New Hymnal Fund



Hymnal Donation Form

Yes, I would like to give _____ hymnals to the church (please indicate quantity)

I am enclosing a check in the amount of _____ (\$25.00 per hymnal)

In loving memory of _____

by _____

or

In honor of _____

by _____

Your name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

If you would like the church to notify someone of this gift, please give the name and address below:

Please enclose a check (\$25 for each hymnal) payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis with "Hymnal" on the memo line and send to:

Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square
Hollis, NH 03049



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
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 Hollis, NH 03049



Help the 2018 Mission Trip Crew get
 to Wallingford, CT...

Join us for our

“Dough-Raising” event at...

Uno Chicago Grill

593 Amherst St (Route 101A), Nashua

on Wednesday, January 24th

AND Thursday, January 25th

ALL DAY (11 a.m. until 1 a.m. close)

Dine-in or Take-out!

Give your server this coupon at the time
 of payment and the Mission Trip Crew will
 receive 20% of your check’s value.

EST. 1943
UNO
 PIZZERIA & GRILL

**EAT, DRINK &
 RAISE MONEY!**

COME SUPPORT A **DOUGH RAISER** TO BENEFIT
 Congregational Church
 of Hollis

**UNO® will
 donate up to
 20%
 of your check**

**DINE-IN
 or
 TAKEOUT!**

DATE:
 January 24th & 25th

VALID AT:
 UNO Nashua
 593 Amherst St.
 603-886-4132

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

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