

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

January 2019

www.HollisChurch.org

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Church of Hollis
(UCC)**

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“... And the star they had seen...went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.”

(Matthew 2:9b-10, CEV)



Dear Friends,

Do you have a regular practice that helps tie your attention daily to your relationship with God? Maybe you subscribe to the UCC’s emailed “StillSpeaking Daily Devotionals” (www.ucc.org/daily_devotional), or use the *Upper Room* devotional booklets we provide in the narthex and outside the C.E. Office. Maybe you’ve used a “star word” to help guide you to a deeper attentiveness to your spiritual life?

A couple years ago, an acquaintance referred to his “star word”, marveling at the way it kept presenting itself in unexpected places, taking him to a deeper place spiritually. I’d never heard of “star words” before then. Last year, someone offered to distribute “star words” to their friends on Facebook—they’d just select a “star word” at random, and send it to the friend requesting it. Then, at a recent Hillsborough Clergy Association meeting, several of my colleagues were talking about how much their congregations enjoy the annual practice of receiving them — so I asked for more details.

The idea is that these words have the ability to help re-focus our mind on particular spiritual realities in our daily life, if we make a point of watching for them or seeing how they present themselves to us across the year. My colleagues shared anecdotes about parishioners who said their “star word” became a sort of watch-word, a miniature light-guide by which they scanned for the Spirit’s work in their workplace, home, and mundane activities.

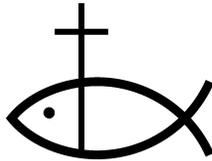
If your word was “courage”, for example: perhaps in the early days after receiving the word, you’d find yourself hearing God calling you to embrace the courage within you at various moments. Or, you’d notice where someone else demonstrated courage and you might commend them for that. But as the year progresses and your attention remains attuned for the word, you might discover that you’ve grown in your understanding of what courage requires, or maybe you appreciate the power of courage more than you previously did.

(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation Office

Pre-Confirmation

7th and 8th graders will continue their journey through the Old Testament while also learning about worship on Sundays, January 6, 13 and 27. To end the month, pre-confirmation will host the coffee hour on Sunday, January 27. Parents are invited and encouraged to help with coffee hour. Watch your email for details.



Confirmation

Seven young people continue their journey toward confirming their faith with classes on January 6 and 20. Classes meet in Emerson Chapel at 10:30am. ON the first Sunday of each month, confirmands join worshippers in the sanctuary for communion.

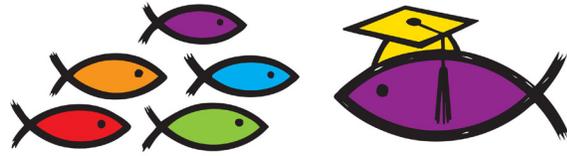
On Friday, February 1, confirmands will worship at Temple Beth Abraham during their 7pm service. Gather at the Hollis church by 6:25pm. Carpool leaves at 6:30 sharp and will return at 9:30pm. Drivers are needed. Contact confirmation@hollischurch.org.

HCC Basketball!

With two games under their belts, Team HCC is ready to face the New Year with enthusiasm, skill and spirit! The schedule is posted here, as well as on the church website and Facebook page. All are invited to 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! All games are on Saturday afternoons:



January 5: 12:45 pm
January 12: 2:05pm
January 19: Bye week
January 26: 2:05pm
February 2: 12:45pm



Sunday School

resumes on January 6!

In January, classes are focused on learning all about a Worship Service. Lessons include baptism, communion, prayer, and more! Students will have time in the kitchen making bread, and serving coffee hour. The CE team looks forward to the beginning of a new semester filled with lots of learning and fun!

Senior Youth Group

is off to a great start! We have enjoyed great activities throughout the fall. Stay tuned via email and social media for details of our January activity!

Mission Trip News!

On Sunday, January 13, 2019, there will be a **meeting** in Hardy Hall at 7:00 pm **for all work campers** planning on attending this summer's trip to Dexter, Maine in July.



We will be meeting to prepare for the trip and plan for our spring fundraisers. Some yummy after dinner treats will be available.

On Wednesday, January 23, 2019, the Mission Trip Planning Team will meet at 7:00 pm in the Parkhurst Room. This is for all adults attending and those who have agreed to help with the planning.

Mental Health Seminar:

The second session of our Mental Health Awareness meeting series will be held on **Sunday, January 13 at 2 p.m. in Emerson Chapel**. We explored aspects of Seasonal Affective Disorder at our first meeting. Monthly topics will dive more deeply into depression, anxiety, addiction, and other mental health conditions.



Happy New Year!

With the New Year upon us, the Funding Our Vision team is excited to actively engage the congregation in “Raising Our Faith † Building Our Vision”! Between now and Decision Sunday (Palm Sunday, April 14th), all of the congregation will be contacted – and many of us will be actively participating in the campaign. In January and the coming months, you will begin to see signs of the FOV work in the form of printed materials, banners, and announcements, as well as meetings and parties where we can re-connect in a more intimate setting and share our thoughts, prayers, wishes, concerns and excitement about Funding Our Vision.

We are blessed to have had multiple members already make initial donations in 2018, including some five-figure contributions. They did so eagerly, approaching us even before we’d formally launched the campaign! Building on our 275-year history at the center of the Hollis community, these generous givers have embraced the joy of generosity in responding to the need to renew our facilities, so that we can prepare the next generations of worshippers to be charitable, mission-in-action participants. We hope all of our members will experience this joy in their own response!

With substantial input from the congregation throughout, the Building Our Vision (BOV) team has developed a church renovation project for the Congregational Church of Hollis. This project is responsive to the vision of the Strategic Plan that was approved by the congregation in February 2017 to improve our Welcome, Worship, Learning and Service, as well as answer safety concerns of the town’s fire chief.

Fire Chief Towne is supportive of the BOV team’s concept for our church’s refurbishment plans to improve emergency egress, especially from the lower level, via on-grade exits from Hardy Hall plus two fire-rated stairwells on the east and west sides of the facility. A welcoming new lobby with seating area will be added in front of the elevator entrance to accommodate traffic that will be routed to the front of the church instead of using the west-side entrance. Other major improvements include expanding the chancel to the rear wall, and opening new windows to the north side of the meetinghouse as well as re-opening windows on the west side of the meetinghouse to look onto the new lobby. Our revamped kitchen will support new food-based ministries. And a state-of-the-art A/V system and reconfigured classrooms will enhance our worship and faith formation programs for young and old.

The FOV team truly believes that God has equipped us to attain the exciting vision our community has discerned together, and that God is inviting us to experience the joy of personal and congregational growth when we respond with bold faith. We are committed to using this campaign to raise the funds necessary to meet our vision, and to also to grow in our faith and deepen our relationship with God and one another as we embrace the joy of generosity. We want everyone to experience our excitement in preparing our church for the future. We look forward to joining with you in imagining innovative new ways to use our enhanced facility to connect us even more with one another and with our community at large. Please feel free to speak with any one of the FOV team members, or email your thoughts to FOV@hollischurch.org.

Sincerely,

Your FOV Team

Ed Wigfield, Holly Babcock, Peggy Gilmour, Kimber Harmon, Tom Hildreth, Dot Hyde, Ruth Kabel, Cindy Ryherd, Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Kara Tulley, Traci Weaver



Ed Wigfield - Campaign Chair, Ed@HollisChurch.org

Tom Hildreth - Printed Materials Chair, Tom@HollisChurch.org

Peggy Gilmour - Lead Gifts Committee Co-Chair, Peggy@HollisChurch.org

Holly Babcock - Lead Gifts Committee Co-Chair, Holly@HollisChurch.org

Cindy Ryherd - Publicity Chair, Cindy@HollisChurch.org

Ruth Kabel - Correspondence Chair, Ruth@HollisChurch.org

Kimber Harmon - Pre-Decision Parties Chair, Kimber@HollisChurch.org

Kara Tulley - Continuity Committee Chair, Kara@HollisChurch.org

Traci Weaver - Caring Callers Chair, Traci@HollisChurch.org

Rev. Tanya Rasmussen - Pastor, Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Dot Hyde - Church Council Liaison, Council@HollisChurch.org

Sarah May - BoV Liaison, BoV@HollisChurch.org

Music Notes

What's Your Contemporary Favorite?

Do you have a favorite contemporary Christian song or other contemporary music appropriate for our church services? Here is your chance to share some of your favorite contemporary songs! We are planning a trial contemporary music Sunday where we will replace our usual hymns with some contemporary music at the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 27.

If you have some songs you would like to hear as part of this type of service, please send us the name of the song, the composer and arranger *as soon as possible*. Send to blharper@tds.net with "Attention: Contemporary Music" in the subject line, or drop a note in the Music Board mail box in the church office.



Ring in the New Year!

Group Ring for all ages and capabilities
Practice: January 6, 13, 20
Play January 27 – both services
Come Celebrate the New Year and New Beginnings with us!

Our Church Records

Baptism

December 9, 2018

Deanlan Bartis Desueza, son of Alex Bartis and Izcar Desueza Delgado and grandson of Traci Weaver; sponsors were Heather and Nicholas Bartis.

From the Church Office

A BIG Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for collating, folding, and labeling your December *Chimes* in preparation for mailing.

From the Pastor (cont. from p. 1)

In any case, there is spiritual growth — all because you've engaged a simply daily practice of being mindful for a word and its potential impact on your spirit.

I've decided to try it. At our Epiphany Service (on January 6), when we annually hear the retelling of the story of the Magi who paid attention to the star that guided them to the Light of the World, everyone present will receive a "star word". (I'll have extras in my office for anyone who can't be here that morning but wants one.) I'll invite you to place the word in a place where you'll see it every day — on your bathroom mirror, your refrigerator, your desk, whatever works. And then, sometime at the end of the year, we'll compare notes on how or whether that simple practice helped to deepen your awareness of the light of Christ (the incarnate Word of God), as it manifests in the world in the way described by the word you receive.

May God bless you, and our entire community, richly in 2019!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Sunday, January 20th at 2 pm in Emerson Chapel. The discussion topic is: ***The BIG Changes in Our Lives: Finding Balance and Peace***. Rev. Tanya will facilitate our discussion.

We are a small group of friendly and caring women. Come join us!

HOLIDAY THANK YOU!

A very special thanks to all those who so generously shared their time, efforts and contributions and/or attended the Christmas Fair Luncheon, the Advent Celebration, and the Luminaria Stroll events including the church's Community Chili & Cornbread Supper and the Town Band Concert. It was an incredibly busy 3-4 weeks, but the spirit of giving shined through! From baking and cooking to church decorating (indoors and outdoors), set-up & clean-up, musical talents, physical labor, and donations to the Fair soups, NSK's Youth Hunger program, the NH Women's Prison chapel ministry, shut-ins' and bake sale cookies, and the church's holiday food baskets, we THANK YOU!

-- F&H and Women's Fellowship

January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
<p><i>Mission Items of the Month</i> for local high school teens</p> <p>* Hats * Mittens * Gloves * <i>New Socks</i></p> <p>* Single-serving Snacks </p>		<p><i>New Year's Day</i> (office closed)</p>	7 pm – Teacher Training	7 pm - Choir	Annual Reports due to office	12:45 pm – HCC Basketball at Nashua Y vs. Nashua Y			
			1	2	3	4	5		
<p>9:00 am – Communion Worship</p> <p>10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's Diner</p> <p>7 pm – CE Board meeting</p>	<p>7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm – Music Board meeting</p>	<p>10 am – Staff meeting</p> <p>5 pm – Facilities meeting</p>	7 pm - Choir	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter	2:05 pm – HCC Basketball at Nashua Y vs. St Pat's / PAL			
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>9:00 am – Worship</p> <p>10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School</p> <p>2 pm – Mental Health seminar</p> <p>7pm – Community Prayers</p> <p>7pm – Mission Trip meeting for <i>all</i> workcampers</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies' Breakfast</p> <p>7 pm – Deacons meeting</p>	February <i>Chimes</i> deadline		<p>6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>					
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>9:00 am – Worship</p> <p>10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School</p> <p>2 pm – Women's Fellowship</p> <p>SYG event – time TBD</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies' Breakfast</p> <p>7 pm – Trustees meeting</p>	7 pm – Church Council meeting	7 pm – Mission Trip Planning Team meeting			2:05 pm – HCC Basketball at Nashua Y vs. District 42			
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>9:00 am – Worship</p> <p>10:30 am – Contemporary Worship and Sunday School</p>	8 am – Ladies' Breakfast			7 pm - Choir					
			27	28	29	30	31		

Coming in February ... Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 10

Mission & Action News

January Items of the Month : Hats, Mittens, Gloves, New Socks & Snacks

Help Local Kids!

So many high school children in our area don't have winter clothing to keep them warm and food to keep their stomachs full. For January, please help us collect **warm hats, mittens and gloves** for the winter months (sizes small, medium and large). We are also collecting **new socks** and **single-serving snacks** that can be handed out at school to a hungry teen (granola bars, cookies, chips, goldfish, etc). Thank you for your generosity!



Always Collecting

(bins outside the CE office at the top of the stairs):

- Unwanted eyeglasses – The Lions Club recycles them for use by those in need
- Greeting cards and stationery - sent to the NH State Women's Prison
- Unwanted cell phones – Bridges gives the phones to victims of domestic or sexual violence for use in calling 911 for help. Phones that don't work are recycled which earns Bridges some income.
- Travel size toiletries – If you have hotel shampoo/conditioner/soap from your travels, please drop it off so we can donate it to the Ash Street Shelter.



Food and Heat Assistance

The nights are already cold! If you know of anyone needing assistance in paying for heat this winter (oil, kerosene, propane or pellets for a stove) please ask them to contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or cbrady27@comcast.net.



The Giving Tree was a huge success in December! A BIG thank you to all of you who shopped, wrapped and provided monetary donations. You helped to bring a lot of joy to these families for Christmas!

In December, M&A donated to:

The Caregivers – group provides non-medical services such as transportation, assistance with grocery shopping, free food packages and friendly visits

Meals Matter - a program run by Nashua High South students to provide lunches to students who cannot afford to pay for lunch

The Christmas Fund offering

The special offering taken on December 16th for the Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) provided \$976 in direct support to those who have faithfully shepherded our UCC churches and who now find themselves facing worrisome financial needs. Thank you for your generous donations to the UCC Christmas Fund.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Shopping on Amazon?

Turn your online purchases – all year long -- into dollars for the church *without costing you a penny* at **AmazonSmile!**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to **support our church** every time you shop, at no cost to you. **On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, just designate the Congregational Church of Hollis as your charitable organization** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Since our church joined the AmazonSmile program in January 2014, the total given to the church is \$826.10. **Join the 69 other families who have supported our church through Amazon Smile and help us grow!**



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



- What is a *star word*?
- What items does Mission & Action always collect and where do they go?
- When is the next church basketball game?
- Learn about our *Funding Our Vision* team and exciting plans for our church's future!