

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

January 2020

www.HollisChurch.org

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“Everything that was created received its light from him, and his life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out.”

(John 1:3b-5, CEV)

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! This promises to be an eventful twelve months, as we get started on manifestly, concretely building the vision we have collectively discerned across the past few years. No surprise, there are aspects of the proposed plans that need re-visioning now that we’ve gained clarity about what our community has committed, as compared to the firmer financial figures required to complete the hoped-for scope of works.



The variance between what we’ve been able to raise thus far toward realizing our vision, and what we now know we need either to raise or to trim, represents a challenging reality calling for some tough decisions. The BOV (Building Our Vision) team has, with great faithfulness and care, been wrestling mightily with the plans and trying to close the gap. But it’s crucial that the members weigh in with their questions, prayerful discernment, and observations regarding our potential next steps. This is, after all, *your church, our church*—we are a Congregational Church, and we value the input of every member. So, I hope each one will do their best to participate in the Information Session on January 12. (See p. 8 for more info.)

If the worshipful practice during Advent is focused on attentively waiting and watching for Messiah’s coming, then during Christmastide and Epiphany we’re invited to notice and rejoice where Christ’s presence is already gleaming amidst us.

(continued on page 3)

The Chimes is a publication of the Congregational Church of Hollis UCC
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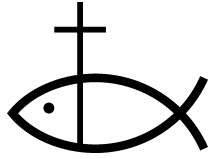
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The Chimes is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

From the Faith Formation Office

Journey to Confirmation Update



The holiday season was a busy time for the Confirmation students in Grades 7-9! 7th Graders baked 38 pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving boxes that were packed by all Confirmands, and they all packed Christmas food boxes just a few weeks afterwards. 8th and 9th Graders enjoyed their 2nd luncheon with their mentors, and continued to deepen their relationships with one another.

In January, Confirmands will journey to Crossway Christian Church and Temple Beth Abraham for field trips, as well as have a class on Church History, and participate in their 3rd Confirmand/Mentor luncheon. A busy and fun month for all!

Junior Youth Group Winter outing planning underway!

Stay tuned for more details on a Winter outing for kids in grades 5-8. Dependent on weather, sledding or ice skating will take place! Location and date TBD. An email will be sent when plans are confirmed.



Sunday School and Nursery services resume on January 5!

Plans for the spring semester include *all-new lessons* focusing on Community, Teamwork, Love, and “God’s Wants.” Accompanying these lessons will be all kinds of new interactive activities, games, cooking, and crafts. Stay tuned for more information on an upcoming service project as well!

- **January’s Bible memory verse (Teamwork):**



Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Fall Memory Verse Ceremony on January 5!

During the fall semester, students were encouraged to memorize a monthly bible verse. Throughout each month, they earned a sticker for each memorized verse. Students who earned stickers for each month in the fall semester will be awarded a prize and certificate on January 5! Keep up the good work, kids!

Students Serving Coffee Hour in January

Be on the lookout for the wonderful teachers, students, and Christian Education board members

serving coffee hour in the month of January. As you grab a drink and snack, be sure to ask them about what they are learning in Sunday school — they would be happy to share! Parents, please sign up to contribute a drink or snack on the week your child is serving. An online sign-up was emailed, but please contact Kim & Kim at ce@hollischurch.org if needed again.



- January 5- 5th & 6th Graders serving
- January 12- Board members serving
- January 19- Confirmation students serving
- January 26- 2nd through 4th Graders serving

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

During this time of ongoing discernment, there is opportunity to anticipate and observe how God's desires will be unfolded; let's not quit our Advent practices just because the season is behind us. But let's also notice where Christ's tireless message of abundance and glimpses of new life are already illuminating our community. For example, witness the sacrificial generosity of so many who have already demonstrated faith and confidence in our church's current ministry, as well as our future potential, through their support of the capital campaign: that is a sign of the Light of the World in our midst! Consider how our ongoing staff transitions are helping us to acknowledge how richly God has blessed us for many years—and how God is continuing to bless us with fresh, exciting new leaders with gifts to equip us for what's next! And, don't miss the ways our community is growing in a deepened fellowship, connecting with one another in new and meaningful ways as we explore the Holy Habits.

In the New Year, that will become our focus in worship for a while. Beginning in January, we will address the Holy Habit of **Fellowship**. In Greek the word is *koinonia*, and it is used in the New Testament specifically to describe the relationship between Christian believers in community. It's a deeper level of connection than an informal social gathering; it's a partnership, communion, a commitment to share life in meaningful ways by one's participation in that community. Among other things, we'll be thinking about trust, and mutuality, and the strength of vulnerability that is learned by actively participating in Christian *koinonia*-fellowship.

As I've said before, God has been busy with our community in some awe-inspiring ways. I pray that we'll continue to be open to that divine activity, and I look forward to the new Light and Life that will dawn on us as we continue journeying deeper in faith in 2020!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya



Fellowship & Hospitality Thanks...

Special thanks to all who attended our events in December, beginning with the Advent Workshop, where attendees of various ages enjoyed fellowship over pizza and brownie sundaes, followed by several service projects. Their efforts provided two dozen *Socks of Love* for the homeless, which included two pairs of socks along with needed hygiene products and nutritious treats; dog and cat toys for the Humane Society; and 10 decorated wreaths for the residents of the apartments at Marguerite's Place. We ended the evening with a Christmas carol sing-along, accompanied by Dan Ericson on the piano.

Also many thanks to the many people who helped both before and during the Advent Workshop, decorating the sanctuary and lighting the tree outdoors, and setting up our very special crèche in preparation for the holiday season and the luminaria event.

Our last big event of the year was the Chili and Cornbread supper for people who were attending the town-wide Luminaria event. We served about 90 people, many of whom had never been in our church before. As in the past, we did not charge for the supper, but donation baskets were set out, and people were generous with their donations, which will allow us to provide many meals for the Nashua Soup Kitchen's Youth Hunger program.

...and Request for Help

On Sunday, January 5th between and/or after worship services, **we need your help** to retire the outdoor **crèche figures to the shed and take down the high-hanging greens** in the meeting-house. Thank you in advance!

We wish everyone a Happy New Year!




Your F&H Committee

From the Church Office

Grateful Thanks go to Nancy Bell, Marsha Joyce, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Debbe Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your December *Chimes* for mailing.

January 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>January Mission Items of the Month</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * New standard size pillows * New bath towels and facecloths * New bathmats </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>						
			<p><i>New Year's Day</i> (office closed)</p>	7 pm - Choir		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Loose (unpledged) Offering given to the Deacons Fund</p> <p>9:00 am – Communion Worship</p> <p>10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School</p> <p>11:45 am – Confirmand/Mentor Luncheon</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's</p> <p>7 pm – CE Board meeting</p> <p>Annual Reports due</p>	<p>6:30 pm – Music Board meeting</p> <p>7pm – Stewardship Board meeting</p>	<p>10 am – Staff meeting</p> <p>5 pm – Facilities meeting</p> <p>7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting</p>	7 pm - Choir	<p>Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter</p>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>9:00 am – Worship</p> <p>10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation field trip to Crossway Christian Church</p> <p>11:45 am – BOV Information Session</p> <p>2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group</p> <p>3 pm – Stagecoach Women's Chorus Winter Concert</p> <p>7 pm – Mission Trip meeting</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's</p> <p>7 pm – Deacons meeting</p>	<p><i>(Mission Board meeting moved to Wed, Jan 8)</i></p>		<p>6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting</p> <p>7 pm – Choir</p>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>9:00 am – Worship</p> <p>10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School</p> <p>2 pm – Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's</p> <p>7 pm – Trustees meeting</p>	<p>7 pm – Church Council meeting</p>			<p>Confirmation field trip to Temple Beth Abraham</p>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Coming in February ... Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 9



Mission Trip 2020

Reading, PA

July 12 – July 18

Our first organizational meeting is at 7 pm on Sunday, January 12, 2020 in Hardy Hall.

It's not too late to join us in Reading! Complete a reservation form below and send in your \$75 non-refundable deposit. You can drop it off in the mission trip mailbox in the church office or mail it to the church office.

2020 Mission Trip July 12th – 18th Reading, PA

Your \$75.00 non-refundable deposit (payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis) will secure a place for you at this camp.

Contact Information:

Name

Address

Phone

Camper Cell Phone

Parent Email

Camper Email

You will be contacted throughout the year for fundraising events, monthly planning and preparation meetings.

Please complete a separate form for each attending camper.

Mission Trip Raffle Quilt



Scrappy Stars is a new quilt made by Nancy Bell being raffled to benefit the 2020 Mission Trip to Reading, PA. The quilt has multi-colored stars on a neutral background with a blue floral border and measures 75” square ~ perfect as either a wall hanging or on a bed. Raffle tickets will be available at the fair or use the form below to order your tickets. The winning ticket will be pulled at the Mission Trip spaghetti supper in the spring.

Quilt Raffle Ticket Order Form

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Total _____ # of tickets

Total \$ _____ enclosed

Name _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to the *Congregational Church of Hollis* with **Mission Trip Quilt** on the memo line. Send order form and payment to:

Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square
Hollis NH 03049

Mission & Action News

January Item of the Month:

Bed & Bath Items



for the Nashua Children's Home

- New standard size pillows
- New bathmats
- New bath towels and facecloths



Please help provide bath & bedding items for the children and young adults at the Nashua Children's Home. Their Residential Housing program provides care and stability in four distinct residences for 6 – 18 year olds, who are unable to remain with their families. The Transitional Living Program supports and guides young adults (age 18-20) who have exited the child-protective or juvenile justice systems. Housing is provided at a nominal rent to encourage and assist in the transition to self-sufficiency. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Always Collecting (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
- **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.



- **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.
- **Diapers (Sizes 4, 5 & 6)** - needed by many local agencies for our littlest ones

Giving Tree Thanks

A BIG thank you to all of you who shopped, wrapped and provided monetary donations for the **Giving Tree** in December! You helped to bring a lot of joy to **67 children** this Christmas!

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, electricity or pellets for a stove) please ask them to contact Karen Marino at 603-475-3073 or kmarino360@gmail.com.

M&A December Giving

In December, your Mission & Action dollars assisted these organizations:

Holy Joe's Café : Sending coffee to chaplains at U.S. military bases around the world since 2006. Serving a little bit of home 24/7/365 to those who serve our country.

End 68 Hours of Hunger : Public non-profit effort to confront the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience in between the free lunch they receive in school on Friday and the free breakfast they receive in school on Monday.

The Christmas Fund offering Thanks

The special offering taken on December 15th for the Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) provided \$939 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.



The Stagecoach Women's Chorus, under the direction of Judy Hayward, will be presenting their annual **winter concert on Sunday afternoon, January 12, at 3:00 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. The music will consist of several well-known songs, including *Mary Sat a-Rockin'* and *Joy to the World*, songs for the winter season, such as *Solstice* and *Hot Chocolate*, and other wonderful songs such as *They All Laughed* and *Dear Theodosia* from the Broadway show *Hamilton*. Joining the Women's Chorus as a special treat will be the **Silver Lining Chorus**, an enthusiastic group of singers from the Nashua Senior Center. We hope you can join us for this afternoon of beautiful music! This is a free concert; however, we will have a goodwill offering to benefit the church.

Women's Fellowship

We thank you for the abundance of donations we received of cookies for our 15 Shut-ins and many, many dozens of cookies for the Dec. 14th Christmas Concert (proceeds for Deacons food baskets). Also, our gratitude for very generous gifts for the women in the Concord prison.

We invite all women to our meetings. Our Sunday, January 19th meeting will be at the Church at 2 pm.

Members will be sharing: ***People and Events That Changed My Life***. Call Dot Pitman at 465-7672 for further information.

Prepared to Serve: A Training Event for All of God's People

What IS Prepared to Serve?

It's a day-long event for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference, UCC (that's us!) with fellowship, inspiring worship, and educational, faith-building workshops and exhibits on a variety of topics, including stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian education.

Where and When?

Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Online Registration opens January 2020

A full listing and description of the *Prepared to Serve* workshops will soon be available on the New Hampshire Conference website www.nhcucc.org.

Prepared to Serve

Horton Center Summer Camp



Horton Center Camp and Retreat Center, a ministry of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ, is located in the heart of the White Mountains, where spectacular beauty abounds.

Experience God's creation in this "thin" place between heaven and earth.

Make new friends, explore your faith, take risks, have the time of your life. Come be a part of the Horton Center family!

There are lots of great camps for all ages, all summer long in 2020. From Hogwarts to Archery; Adventure Camp to Middler Extreme; New Things to Gameapoluza! Plus some new camps this year especially for those campers who love music, theater and creativity! Because most weeks have camps for every grade, there are tons of opportunities to come to Horton Center this year!

Registration begins January 2nd so get your fingers ready and your browsers pointed to www.HortonCenter.org and sign up early!

See you up on the Mountain!



The Congregational Church of Hollis
(United Church of Christ)
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Hollis NH 03049

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BOV UPDATE ~ *IMPORTANT MEETING*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 11:45 AM Hardy Hall

On Sunday, January 12, BoV will be holding an INFORMATION SESSION to share:

- Cost Estimates
- Construction Schedule
- Project Options
- Permitting Status and Accessibility Alternatives
- Bridge Financing during construction

We ask that all who are able attend this meeting as **we will be discussing alternative actions based on what we have raised and the project costs.** Your input is important!

CONTACT BOV@HOLLISCHURCH WITH QUESTIONS

COUNTDOWN TO BREAKING GROUND



weeks to go!

