

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

January 2021

www.HollisChurch.org

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

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“The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn’t even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, “That’s mine; you can’t have it.” They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them. And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy.”

(Acts 4:32-34a, *The Message* translation)



Happy New Year, Friends!

Surely I’m not alone in my fervent prayer that this marks the beginning of a much better year than 2020 — though in the same breath, I can’t help expressing amazement over how many good things happened in those twelve months! We’ve learned so much about how adroitly we can “pivot.” How creative we can become in cramped quarters. And, how we truly can accept more inconveniences and discomforts, that we can make more sacrifices than we thought we might for the sake of the vulnerable and the greater good. We have developed a deeper appreciation of the many ways we truly do need each other, of the ways that we are stronger together, and how God frequently divulges holy strength through the co-operation of fellow human beings.

Among the most thrilling and humbling things to observe has been the spirits of those who, instead of responding to the crisis by hoarding out of a fear of scarcity, instead recognized our abundance and cheerfully shared resources of all sorts in order to meet the growing needs of others. When it was impossible for a time to find toilet paper, flour, yeast, and hand sanitizer, I saw folks quietly sharing these resources with neighbors. And, I am still astonished by the amount of food that was collected for our annual Home Ministries Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter food boxes! The expressions of gratitude and joy by families on the receiving end of the abundance is always emotionally moving and a reminder of how we truly are connected.

(continued on page 3)

From the Faith Formation Office

Journey to Confirmation

Confirmands will continue their learning with a couple core lessons and a new Life Lesson series on **Bravery**. Some fun service projects are planned for kids of all ages so be on the lookout for more details!

January Bible Memory Verse:

“And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.”

Revelation 21:23

Welcome Back to Church School!*

Church school classes will resume on zoom on January 5th at 4:30pm. Students will start off the year with a brand-new series of lessons on *Heaven*.

***Church School** plans to debut an all-new name starting in 2021 ... *but we need your ideas!!!* Some options are under consideration, but we'd like more ☺. Send your ideas for our new name to ce@hollischurch.org and stay tuned for *the big reveal!**

Bible Quiz

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above





Our church needs YOU!!

Several boards and committees are looking for both new and experienced members to help them. Please consider your talents and how God is leading you to help our church. Nominating Committee members would love to talk with you and answer questions about the various boards and openings. You may contact us by emailing: nominating@hollischurch.org or calling any of the members (Ruth Kabel, Jim Seager, David Gilmour or Charles Lewis).

Current openings:

- ✝ Stewardship – several people needed
- ✝ Church Clerk
- ✝ Music Board
- ✝ Nominating
- ✝ Church Council
- ✝ Trustees



(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

One of the most visible and exciting transformations (in Hollis, anyway) that took place in 2020 was, of course, the complete renovation of our church facilities. This, too, is an expression of joyful generosity on the part of many — and it will result in the blessing of countless others in coming decades and generations. While we will continue to exercise appropriate caution and concern until the threat of corona virus is fully behind us, it’s exciting to begin planning for small events that can begin happening in our refreshed spaces—activities that will help us to share the resources entrusted to us with which to serve and strengthen others. For example, on January 16th, we’ll host a Red Cross Blood Drive in Hardy Hall; what a wonderfully symbolic inaugural event for that space!

So, in 2021, I’m looking forward to Living Our Vision — increasingly putting our Strategic Plan to Welcome, Worship, Learn, and Serve into action as we form new Ministry Teams to facilitate sharing the resources entrusted to us for the sake of conveying God’s love even more effectively. While we don’t know yet when it will be, I can hardly wait to welcome folks back into the Meetinghouse for hybrid worship (going forward, we’ll continue to have a remote/electronic way to participate in our weekly worship services for those who can’t be there in person).

And, as we journey into the New Year together, we’ll also be engaging a new Holy Habits theme — one I’ve just acknowledged our community has been practicing already: the Holy Habit of Sharing Resources. Hopefully, our exploration of this theme will only deepen our appreciation and delight in its practice and definition of our community! May God bless each of you richly in 2021, and all of us as a community.

Yours with faith, hope and love,

Tanya

I would like to extend a Thank you for all the wonderful cards, messages, phone calls and prayers I received during my latest surgery and recovery.

A Special Thank You to the children of the church for the beautiful Christmas card complete with their art work!! Also to the Deacons for delivering me a lovely Poinsettia plant that graced the altar of the church on Christmas/music Sunday.

I feel most fortunate to belong to such a caring church and community.

Sincerely,
Dee Wagner



Stewardship Update

We are grateful to the entire Congregation not only for their financial support, but also the gifts of time and talent, provided by so many. Your pledge not only supports the church budget, it also impacts people’s lives by supporting worship, education, caring and community. Your gifts are the foundation of our faith and discipleship.

We thank those who have already made their commitment. As of mid-December, we have received only 85 pledges for 2021 for a total of \$206,000. At this point last year, we had received 104 pledges for \$234,000. The total pledged in 2020 amounted to \$255,000 and 108 pledge units.

In these challenging times, many may not have had a chance to reflect on their pledge commitment for the coming year. We ask that you please consider your pledge for 2021. The church and the community that we support need our help more than ever.

Please get your pledges in so the Trustees can complete plans for the 2021 budget. Pledge cards are available in the church office. You can also complete your pledge through the church website at <https://hollischurch.org/annual-pledge>. Here you will also find electronic giving options that allow you to fulfill your pledge electronically. Thank you for your support!

Faithfully,

The Board for Christian Stewardship

January 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Zoom Sunday worship services and fellowship continue on <u>Sunday mornings at 9:30.</u> Church boards meet via Zoom.</p> <p>January Mission Items of the Month: ♦ ‘Hoodies’ (hooded sweatshirts) for the Nashua Children’s Home</p>					New Year’s Day (office closed)	
9:30 am – Communion Worship on zoom 3	7 pm – CE Board meeting 4	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 5	 10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour <i>Annual Reports due</i> 6	7pm - Choir 7		2
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 10	7 pm – Deacons meeting 11	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 12	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 13	7pm - Choir 14	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 8	 Hardy Hall 10 am – 3 pm 16
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group 17	7 pm – Trustees meeting 18	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 7 pm – Church Council meeting 19	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 20	7pm - Choir 21		23
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 24		4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 26	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 27	7pm - Choir 28		30
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 31						

Mission & Action News

January Items of the Month

It has been our practice of the last few years that we assist the Nashua Children's Home with our January Item of the Month. This year they are asking us for "Hoodies" for the boys and girls. If any of you have children, you know that a lot of them do not like to wear coats. They prefer to wear the sweatshirts.

+ Hoodies in these sizes ~

Girls: 10/12, 12, XL, Sm Jrs, 14/16, Sm Womens, Med Womens

Boys: 7/8, 14/16, Mens Med, Mens Large, Mens Xlarge, Mens 4XL



Thank you so much!

Food & Fuel Assistance

The nights are already cold! If you would like to donate to this fund or know of anyone needing assistance in paying for heat this winter please ask them to contact Karen Marino at 475-3073 or kmarino360@gmail.com.

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Ash street dinners. We desperately need someone to step forward and plan the February dinner. Please call Lee Harper at 465- 5118 or blharper@tds.net if you would like to help.

M & A December Giving

Your dollars this month went to:

- Family Promise of Southern NH
- Heifer Project International ~ purchased goat, heifer, sheep, chickens, honey bees and a pig.
- Meals Matter NHSS program
- UCC Christmas Fund
- Doctors without Borders
- Gift cards to HB School Nurses



We are also distributing more than **2500 pairs of Bomba Socks** to our local communities.

Red Cross Blood Drive

January 16th will be our very first use of our brand new, beautiful Hardy Hall! **And ...**



how special it is that our first event in our new space is in reaching out to our community! We are holding a **Red Cross Blood Drive** from 10am until 3pm on Saturday, January 16th. Mark your calendars and go online to www.redcrossblood.org to reserve your appointment time. With the Red Cross blood supply in critical shortage, they need as many volunteers as possible. As always, thank you for your response to those in need!

Giving Tree Wrap-Up

I would like to **Thank** everyone who participated in the 2020 Giving Tree this year. We helped 45 children from the Nashua Children's Home. We supplied them with clothing, games and several toys. We also gave them several Amazon Gift cards so they could help other children whose names were not chosen. Again, I thank you for your generosity.

Karen Marino, Giving Tree Coordinator

Our Church Records

Deaths

November 26, 2020

Patricia Jean Petrasek

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of Pat Petrasek by:

Dee and Bill Wagner

In loving memory of Adam Verrecchia by:

John and Amy Watson

Jonathan Hambrecht

Jean Cunningham

Sheila Field

Brian Fitzpatrick

In loving memory of Helen Elizabeth May

(Sarah May's mother) by:

Wendy Brooks

Virtual Christmas Fair a GREAT Success!



When it became clear to the Christmas Fair committee that our traditional Christmas Fair was out of the question for 2020, we brainstormed ideas to create “Our Special Edition Christmas Fair for 2020.” The Fair would offer two traditional favorites – our ever-popular **Raffle Baskets** our **Auction** (transformed from Silent Auction to Online Auction). We had no idea how well this “Virtual” Christmas Fair would be received. As it turns out, it went better than any of us would have imagined!

Raffle Baskets

THANK YOU to the **MANY** people who donated items or entire baskets. At **23 baskets**, it was the highest number of baskets we’ve had to raffle off!

THANK YOU to the **MANY** people who bought raffle tickets! We sold over 1,900 tickets to 53 individuals totaling over \$1,500 in sales: another record!

Winning raffle tickets were drawn live via Zoom on Wednesday, December 9th with lots of happy winners!

Go to <https://youtu.be/hRiaqbKp1Gc> if you’d like to see the video recording of the live drawing. The video is also posted on the church private Facebook group.

Online Auction*

The Auction opened with **209 items** available to bidders. Of those, 188 were bid on, totaling nearly \$5,400 in revenue (before expenses). There were 83 people who participated in bidding with 64 of them being winning bidders of item(s).

THANK YOU to all the bidders! Since the auction ended, we’ve sold many of the items that did not have auction bids as people came in to pick up the items they won.

***See next page for a list of our donors!**

The Final Tally

Our Special Edition Virtual Christmas Fair netted a grand total of \$7,241.95.

Of this, Raffle Basket proceeds were \$1,497.81 while the Auction netted \$5,744.14.

The Christmas Fair Committee has met and determined the following distribution of the proceeds:

- \$2,000.00 – to augment Mission & Action’s 2021 budget
- \$1,000.00 – immediate donation to the New Hampshire Food Bank (this donation has been made)
- \$1,000.00 – hold in reserve to underwrite the 2021 Christmas Fair
- \$3,241.95 – to the Building Our Vision Renovation Fund

While we are so happy for the success of this year’s “Virtual” Christmas Fair, we look forward to resuming the LIVE Christmas Fair next year. As entertaining as it was to have the distraction of bidding online and looking at raffle baskets online, we SO much missed:

- the excitement of the live fair
- the bringing together of the community
- the sounds of laughter and Christmas carols and Santa’s “Ho! Ho! Ho!” as he greets the next child
- the smells of the hot lunch and desserts
- the smiles and hugs of people seeing each other for the first time in a long while
- the beautiful Christmas decorations in every nook and cranny of the church building
- the feeling of gratitude for the community we live in and our fellow congregants who work so hard throughout the year to pull it all together

We are truly blessed to be a part of such a caring, committed, and active church community as well as the wonderful larger community of our towns. Thank you again to everyone who participated!

The 2020 “Virtual” Christmas Fair Committee

Sue Adams, Kim Burton, Tanya Engle, Cindy Ryherd, Kim Verrecchia, Eileen Widner

Thank You Christmas Fair Online Auction Donors!

Thank you so very much to all the individuals and businesses who donated items and services to the Online Auction for our 2020 Virtual Christmas Fair. We had no idea how well the online auction would be received, and as it turns out it went better than any of us would have imagined! The success would NOT have been possible without the many items donated by all of you! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Individual Donors:

Sue Adams
Florence Baker
Nancy Bell
Shirley Coleman
Karen Coulter
Tonda Davies
Peggy Gilmour
Kimber Harmon
Becky Henderson
Ruth Kabel
Carole Kopser
Marty Lancourt
Karen Marino
Cheryl Moreno
Sarah May
Joyce Pepin
Julia Pepin
Thelma Pollard Estate
Pat Roy
Cindy & Eric Ryherd
Debbe Shipman
Jeanne Smith-Cripps
Tanya Tenkarian
Chris Trow
Kim Vella
Dee Wagner
Amy Watson
Eileen Widner
"Anonymous" donors

Business Donors and Sponsors

Art by Anna Birch
Brookline Hollis Youth Soccer League
BSA Troop 465
Cahill Roofing *Sponsored \$200*
Casual Cat Picture Framing & Unique Gifts
Charming Nest Studio (Tanya Tenkarian)
Christian Party Rental
Christopher Volpe Paintings
Chrysanthi's Restaurant
Chunky's Cinema
Ground Support, LLC
Hilltop Café
Hollis Auto Service/Sunoco
Hollis Fire Department
Hollis Pharmacy
Hollis Police Department
Kimball Fruit Farm
Lara's Theme Jewelry
Laromy Lavender Farm
Lorden Oil
Lull Farm LLC
Monument Square Market
Morin's Landscaping Inc.
Nelson's Candy & Music
Parker's Maple Barn
The Alamo Texas Bar-B-Cue & Tequila Bar
The Art of Dentistry, Arthur O. Lyford, DMD
The Flight Center
The Hills Restaurant
Valicenti Pasta Farm
Wendy Steckler Photography
Young Pups Photography

Thanks
for your
participation

Celebrating



Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.



The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children.



The Congregational Church of Hollis
 (United Church of Christ)
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“For nothing will be impossible with God” Luke 1:37

A New Year, A New Us!



It is with joy and gratitude that we share news of the anticipated completion of our renovation in mid-January 2021. We expect to be within our \$1.9M budget, close to our estimated time frame, and have raised over \$1.7M thus far thanks to our generous congregation and those in the community.

While the new building will not change who we are as a church, it will more accurately reflect our welcoming nature and enhance our ability to serve others. Improvements to our building can be felt everywhere. We have tackled long-deferred maintenance projects, improved our accessibility, met life safety codes, and, in the process, we made a positive impact on all four pillars of our strategic plan — ***Welcome, Worship, Learn and Serve.***

We anxiously anticipate celebrating together with an official grand opening as soon as we are able. Most importantly, we are excited that 2021 will bring the opportunity for us to live into our vision. With the renovation we are now completing we are better prepared than ever before to meet the challenges and the opportunities of our future.