

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

January 2022

www.HollisChurch.org

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

Lead Pastor

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen

Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia

CE@HollisChurch.org

Minister of Christian Music:

Julie Oliver

Church Office

Eileen Widner

ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org

Susan Adams

Sue@HollisChurch.org

Contact us:

Office: 603-465-7797 or 465-7099

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All submissions for the newsletter
are due by the 15th of the month pre-
ceding publication.

*“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end; they are new
every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The
LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore
I will hope in him.’”*

(Lamentations 3:23-24, NRSV)

Happy New Year, dear friends!

Having spent a fair amount of time in 2021 cultivating curiosity (remember “I’ve Been Meaning to Ask...?”), and having noted how fragmented and detached so many of us feel, I’m hoping as we move into 2022 to deepen the focus on our connections, the things we share in common. How, as diverse individuals (but members of one Body), does our sense of identity impact our commitments and mutuality? Who would you say you are at your core, and are you living out that identity authentically? From what or whom do you derive your deepest sense of who you are, and what you value? In order to live our vision, it’s important to know ourselves well.

In her book *The Great Emergence*, Phyllis Tickle (who died in 2015) noticed that roughly every 500 years, the church “cleans house”. It holds a “giant rummage sale”, she suggested, sorting through what to keep and get rid of in order to make room for new things. Every half-millennium, she mused, there have been tectonic shifts in the Christian tradition resulting in massive changes of both understanding and practice.

Starting with Jesus Christ, the first 500 years constituted “The Great Transformation” during which Emmanuel—God-with-Us—inaugurated a new understanding of our relationship with God. Five hundred years later saw the collapse of the Roman Empire, bringing on the so-called Dark Ages, during which the church went “underground” with monks and nuns developing the monastic tradition in abbeys, priories, and convents. In 1054 came “The Great Schism,” when the Christians split themselves into identities of East and West—identities that persist today in the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. And in 1517, it was the Protestant Reformation.



*...his mercies never come
to an end; they are new
every morning; great
is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV

(continued on page 3)

From the Faith Formation Office

Journey to Confirmation

In January, *Journey to Confirmation* will continue with two Core classes and a Life Lesson:

Sun, Jan 16 – Core Class: Sacraments and Planning Day

Wed, Jan 26 – Life Lesson

Sun, Jan 30 – Core Class: Worship & Spiritual Life

Puzzle!

Match each clue with the correct biblical dreamer.
Use the Scripture hints if needed.

1. This person's brothers were irritated to hear of certain dreams.
2. Angels went up and down a ladder in this person's dreams.
3. This person dreamed about skinny cows eating fat cows.
4. After an unpleasant dream, this person warned a loved one to avoid Jesus.
5. This person saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone.
6. A dream warned this person (plus family) to flee to Egypt.
7. This person saw a vine produce grapes, with juice squeezed into a cup.
8. A dream warned about Herod's evil plan.

- A. Pharaoh (Genesis 41:17-21)
 B. The Magi (Matthew 2:12)
 C. Jacob (Genesis 28:12)
 D. Pharaoh's cupbearer (Genesis 40:9-11)
 E. NT Joseph (Matthew 2:13)
 F. OT Joseph (Genesis 37:9, 11)
 G. Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:19)
 H. Daniel (Daniel 2:31-35)

Answers: 1. F, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. H, 6. E, 7. D, 8. B

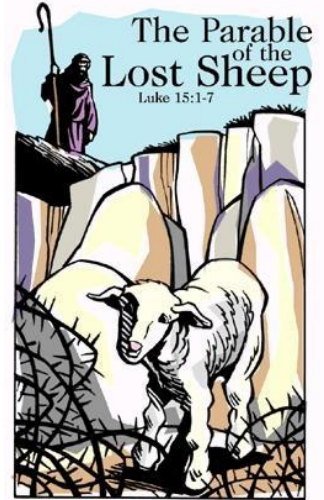
The Flock rings in the New Year!

Welcome back from
Christmas break!

Students will start 2022 learning all about Parables.

What is a parable? Why did Jesus teach using parables? Just ask a Flock student — and they will be able to tell you!

In particular, the children will be learning about The Lost Coin, The Lost Sheep, The Good Samaritan, and The Mustard Seed during the month of January.



Blessing Bag Collection

Beginning mid-January, the Flock will be taking donations to assemble *Blessing Bags* for NSKS; deadline is February 13. Creativity is welcome for items, but some ideas for what is needed most include:

- toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hair brush
- healthy snack items: granola bars, trail mix, tuna pouch
- socks, hair ties
- band-aids, Tylenol, etc...

Children will be assembling these bags in February during class time. Thank you!



CAMP NEWS

Summer Camp...already?

Yes, it is time to mark your calendars for summer camp at the UCC's Horton Center on Pine Mountain. There are family camps, adventure camps, arts camps, and much, much more. There is something for everyone! Go to www.HortonCenter.org to check out their camp schedule and see why YOU should be putting church camp on your calendar this year.

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

Each time, the Church was acting in response to, and as part of, the societal, political, intellectual, and technological changes affecting the world.

And now, it's our turn. Even before COVID-19 shook the world, we were feeling the ground beneath us beginning to shift; noticing that the old ways of being and “doing church” were starting to crumble. A brief glimpse at “The Challenges Before Us” section of our 2017 Strategic Planning Report reveals that much. Tickle speculated that we're entering a new era, which she dubbed “The Emergent Church”: a time and movement when denominational boundaries are blurred, and common ground is sought; one where diverse cultures and social causes are engaged, embraced as more authentic ways of living out Christ's call to love and serve God and neighbor.

But the only way to move forward with certain strength is to know who we are at our core, individually and together. And, that's what I'm proposing to do—though it requires time, reflection, and personal sharing.

In the past 2-3 years, we've had as many individuals share stories of their personal faith journey. They've offered testimony of their experience of faith, of God's activity in their life, and sometimes acknowledged when God has felt absent. And I still hear appreciative comments about each of those memorable moments to this day!

In every church I've served where we've practiced sharing personal testimonies, the community has developed deeper bonds and a stronger sense of shared identity and purpose. And every “sharer” has expressed two things: 1) it took work to reflect on their life's story and distill their journey into a few brief vignettes, but 2) it was deeply powerful and rewarding; they felt their faith strengthened, and their ability to see God's faithful presence with them confirmed. They also emerged with a clearer sense of who they were, what they valued most deeply, how they intended to live with growing authenticity—and more connected to the community of faith they belonged to. Because inevitably, others approached them to share that they, too, had “experienced this”, or “felt that”; genuine mutuality is always nurtured when people share from the heart.

My hopeful prayer is that you'll consider being someone who will share your story; that many of you will feel moved to accept this challenge, and offer this gift of connection. God is doing exciting work among us, and your life is a part of it—we'd love to hear about your experience; most likely, we'll discover we've got something in common!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Inquirer's Classes

Wondering how you might get (more) involved? Interested in learning what it means to be a member of this church? Want to know about the history, beliefs, commitments, and organization of this congregation?



If your answer is “yes!” to any of these, then sign up to participate in the Inquirers Classes that will take place on **Wednesdays, January 5th and 12th**, starting at 7 p.m., **OR Sundays, January 9th and 16th** starting at 11 a.m. (after worship). Please email churchoffice@hollischurch.org or pastor@hollischurch.org to let us know you'd like to participate!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

meets in the Emerson Chapel on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your coffee and join us! Everyone is welcome! Any questions, email Irene at rinorian@comcast.net or Patricia at patricia.cordell27@gmail.com

Our Church Records

Deaths ~ November 27, 2021
Rosemary B. Fiery

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of
Burnham Haven Baker *by:*
Brian Baker
Maryellen Palmer

From the Church Office

A BIG Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Freddi Olson, and Deb Shipman for preparing the December *Chimes* (and struggling with the removable seals I bought by mistake!) for delivery to your mailbox.

From the Widening our Vision (WoV) Team...

Q & A – You ask, WoV answers:



Why do we need to pursue Open & Affirming designation?

Why single out LGBTQ+ ? Can't we just welcome everyone?

Good questions!

The sign at our meeting front door proclaims, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” Rev. Tanya uses those same words in her greeting at Sunday worship. So why do we need to extend an explicit welcome to the LGBTQ+ community by becoming Open and Affirming?

Consider this analogy: *All* homes in our community are important. Our fire department works to ensure that every one of them is safe. But when one house is on fire, *that’s* the house where firefighters aim their hoses!

So, yes, *all people* of our community are welcome in our church, but the LGBTQ+ ‘house’ is ablaze and needs special attention. These statistics from the 2019 CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance are alarming:

- 29% of transgender youth have been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property vs. 7% of cisgender youth. 16% of gay and lesbian youth and 11% of bisexual youth have been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property compared to 7% of straight youth.
- 43% of transgender youth have been bullied on school property vs. 18% of cisgender youth. 29% of gay or lesbian youth and 31% of bisexual youth have been bullied on school property compared to 17% of straight youth.
- 29% of transgender youth have attempted suicide compared to 7% of cisgender youth. 21% of gay and lesbian youth and 22% of bisexual youth have attempted suicide compared to 7% of straight youth.
- Members of the LGBTQ community are 4X more likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside such communities (PBS 2020)

If you were on the receiving end of these elevated statistics, would you not be seeking a safe haven? Would you not want the sanctuary of a community who assured you that you are, indeed (and regardless of what the rest of the world might say), a beloved child of God--and beloved also by them? And would you not want that sanctuary to visibly demonstrate that they affirm you in ways that are not hiding or downplaying the light of that love?

This data speaks to the reality that our society has not been accepting and tolerant to a group of people who have been stigmatized and targeted simply for being different. Sadly, religious organizations have historically not been welcoming to this population either. And so, as a faith community that believes all people are beloved by God, we are called to speak out in support, and to provide these people with a clear, concrete symbol that ours is a safe and truly welcoming space for them. By pursuing the Open & Affirming designation, our church will be an identified safe haven for them. We are called to be Christ in our time and place and reach out to those who are in need. And clearly – this is a group of people in need of our love and support.

The WOV team asks you to please pray on this and look to future Chimes for question-and-answer articles on this subject. If you would like to reach out to us directly, please do! WOV@hollischurch.org

Mission & Action News

January Items of the Month:

- Cleaning Supplies
- New Sheets (twin and queen size)
- New Blankets and Pillows
for Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire

Ash St Shelter Dinner Chefs Needed



Volunteer
Chefs
Needed

We are looking for cooks to help provide dinners for the Ash Street Shelter on the second Friday of every month for the remainder of the year. You just cook the meal and deliver; we provide you with a gift card to pay for the food. Please call Lee Harper at 465- 5118 or blharper@tds.net if you would like to help.

M&A received this letter from Ash Street Shelter:

We truly appreciate the wonderful dinner donations that your church has provided for us...they are truly a blessing to both clients AND staff. May God bless you and your church for such kindness and sacrifice.

Sincerely, Lee Kraus

Food & Fuel Assistance

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

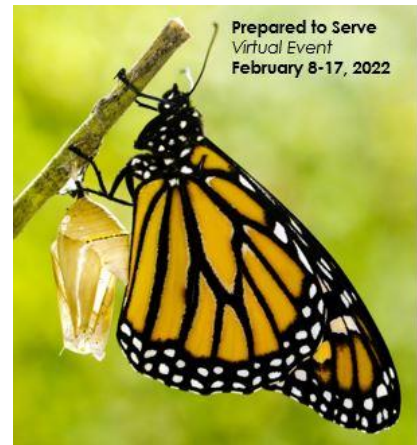


M & A December giving:

- Family Promise of Southern NH
- Engineers without Borders UNH Chapter help dig water wells in Tanzania
- New Hampshire Council of Churches
- Ash St Shelter
- Nashua Soup Kitchen
- UCC Disaster Relief Fund/Kentucky

Giving Tree Thanks

We want to thank members who have generously given to the Giving Tree this year either with gifts or monetary donations. You made a child's Christmas very special!



Prepared to Serve

Prepared to Serve is an online event for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference, UCC (that's us!) featuring 12 workshops from February 8-17.

This year's theme is from the scripture passage found in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

Prepared to Serve offers workshops to meet the needs of local churches. This year's workshop topics will include:

- How to do Hybrid Worship
- Copyright Compliance and the Local Church
- How Churches Can Help Afghan Refugees
- How to Become a Creation Care Church
- The Shared Pastorate Model
- What it Means to be Open and Affirming
- How to Become a Racial Justice Church
- Creating Healthy Pastoral Relations Committees
- Thinking outside the box to address shrinking church membership and finances
- Dealing with the intensified emotions of grief and loss during the pandemic

Registration is planned to open January 3. Stay up-to-date on this event by visiting: www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve

...And the Rest is History: *Our Church's History Highlights* Room Names, Part V

by Cindy Ryherd

This month, the "Room Names" series continues with the Austin Room.



The Austin Room

The Austin Room (*pictured*) was named/dedicated as part of the 1999-2000 renovations and accessibility addition. Named after Genevieve Hunt Austin (Jan Squires mother, Jim Squires mother-in-law), she moved to Hollis to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law and the 1970s and joined the church in the 1980s. She loved children and taught confirmation classes and Sunday School for over a decade at the church and volunteered in other church activities.

The Austin Room is located on the bottom floor to the left as you enter Hardy Hall from the hallway. While the room is not new, the 2020-2021 Building Our Vision renovations resulted in the room becoming a flexible space that teens could call home, but also provide storage for the kitchen and a waiting area for functions such as the spaghetti supper and blood drives when needed. Now with a teen focus, the room has always been used for children, starting as a Nursery and becoming a Christian Education classroom over the years. This room has also been used for the Christmas Fair Fashion Boutique for many years.

BOV Renovations Changes to the Austin Room:

- An old, dark utility closet was removed and two, new, brightly-lit closets with considerable shelf space (and some hanging space) were added to provide additional storage for the kitchen next door.
- The leak in the wall adjacent to the cemetery was repaired.
- New flooring was laid and fresh, bright-colored paint was put on walls
- New ceiling/lighting and new windows (the old windows were quite drafty), making the room lighter and brighter
- All new teen-inspired furniture and decor was purchased as part of the "housewarming" fundraising
- A big-screen TV and gaming system was installed.

About Genevieve Hunt Austin:



Mrs. Genevieve "Gen" Austin (*pictured with her daughter, Jan Squires*), was fondly known as "Nana" to family and friends. She moved to Hollis in the 1970s to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law, church members Jan and Jim Squires.

Before moving to New Hampshire, Mrs. Austin lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she was the Dean of Residence at Radcliffe College. She, herself, was a proud graduate of Oberlin College. Near and dear to her heart were the issues of civil rights, literacy, and religious ideals that honored the worth and dignity of all people. She was the widow of Dr. Eugene M. Austin, president of Colby Junior College (now Colby-Sawyer College) from 1935-1962, and a Baptist minister with whom she served congregations in New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Genevieve joined the Congregational Church of Hollis in the 1980s and taught confirmation classes and Sunday school. She volunteered her time stuffing the weekly "Chimes" for distribution in the mail and playing the piano at Greenbriar in Nashua.

Ann Siglin, a current choir member, remembers well how in 1984, Gen "rallied" the congregation to fund the purchase of bells to create the bell choir. Within days of the initial request for donations, Gen's persuasiveness had managed to get the bells purchase fully funded, even though, she, herself, never played the bells!

The Congregational Church of Hollis provided Mrs. Austin the opportunity in her later years to share her faith with children, and she always marveled at the insight, curiosity, and enthusiasm of youth. It is appropriate that a room dedicated to our youth is named after Genevieve Hunt Austin.



[Genevieve Hunt Austin](#) (1908-1998) is laid to rest next to her husband, [Dr. Eugene Austin](#) (1910-1962), in the West Part Cemetery of New London, NH. Her gravestone inscription reads *"She cherished her family and always bloomed in the place she was planted."* in reference to the many places she lived, made an impact, and was loved by those who knew her. In addition to the Austin room named after her, her memory is kept alive and loved by family, friends, and church parishioners, including her son-in-law Dr. Jim Squires, and Jim and Jan Squires children: Jim Squires, Anne Scarano, Martha Hummer, and Marc Squires.



AV Ministry Team Formation Worship Service Operators Needed



It has taken a pandemic to get it started, and a small number of techies to get it up and working well, but we are now at the point that the running of virtual services is ready to be handed over to a ministry team of volunteers. A significant effort has been made to make it as simple as possible (a degree in engineering or anything else is definitely NOT required!).

What knowledge is needed will be provided with training, as well as documentation. It takes one person to run a service. That person needs to arrive at the church 60 minutes before the start of the worship service and typically is done within 10 minutes after the service. They will sit at the AV console located in the southwest corner of the Sanctuary. A new, permanent AV console is being constructed to replace the temporary one that currently exists. During the service, while performing as service operator, much of the time (roughly 70%) you are able to sit and enjoy the service, while other times (roughly 30%) you will need to be focused on getting the next thing ready to display, changing camera angle (using presets), adjusting microphone volumes, and reading prayers during "Prayers of the People" if any are submitted by YouTube chat for those watching via streaming.

The more people that sign up for this, the less often any one person has to do it. Ideally there will be at least 4 people who can either rotate by month (person 1 takes February, person 2 takes March, etc.), or they can rotate by Sunday (person 1 takes 1st Sunday in February, person 2 takes 2nd Sunday in February, etc.). The team can decide for themselves on how they want to rotate coverage.

Without volunteers doing this, to continue having virtual services would require a paid position which is not budgeted for in the 2022 budget. Virtual services are now considered a critical part of our church, allowing flexibility for families with busy schedules or who may not be in town on a specific Sunday, as well as a means for someone who is sick or for shut-ins to watch the service (either live, or the recording at their convenience).

Please consider volunteering your time to be a part of the AV ministry team as a worship service operator. Contact HollisChurchIT@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer or learn more.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Living our Vision: A New Journey Begins!

It's so gratifying to see our revitalized spaces starting to be used as BoV envisioned and to feel the energy, despite Covid. We are at the beginning of an amazing new journey!

Recently, a small group of church members has been discerning how we, as a church, can begin to Live into Our Vision and work toward fulfilling the goals of the strategic plan. The newly formed Living Our Vision Steering Committee's intention is to act as a clearinghouse for new initiatives, coordinate these initiatives with existing programs, identify logistical issues, ensure communication church-wide and provide funding and guidance for new teams as needed.

If you have new ideas, we'd love to hear from you!

Living our Vision Steering Committee
Holly Babcock, Chair

Sue Adams, Kim Burton, Kimber Harmon, Beth Harper, Lee Harper, Sarah May,
Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Kara Tulley, Kim Verrecchia, Eileen Widner





Email: LOVSteering@hollischurch.org

Living
Our Vision
A New Journey





January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Annual Reports from Boards and Committees are due Wednesday, January 5 th ! Email reports to churchoffice@hollischurc.org						
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and YouTube) NO Sunday School 2	7 pm – CE Board meeting 3	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 4	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – New Member Inquirers Class #1 of 2 <i>Annual Reports Due</i> 5	Epiphany  7 pm - Choir 6	7	8
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock 11 am – New Member Inquirers Class #1 of 2 9	7 pm – Deacons meeting 10	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 11	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 7 pm – New Member Inquirers Class #2 of 2 12	7 pm - Choir 13	Our volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 14	February 2022 Chimes deadline 15
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock / Confirmation 11 am – New Member Inquirers Class #2 of 2 16	7 pm – Trustees meeting 17	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 7 pm – Church Council meeting 18	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 19	7 pm - Choir 20	21	22
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 23	7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 24	25	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 4:30pm – Confirmation Life Lesson 26	27	28	29
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) New Members join our church family 9:30 am – The Flock / Confirmation 30	31	 Mission Items of the Month for Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning supplies • New Sheets (twin and queen size) • New Blankets and Pillows 