

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

March 2018

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LVI, No. 3



**The
Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)**

Lead Pastor

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen
Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

Minister of Faith Formation

Pat Harris
Pat@hollischurch.org

Sunday School Superintendents

Kim Burton
Kim Verrecchia
CE@HollisChurch.org

Church Office

Eileen Widner
ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org
Susan Adams
Sue @HollisChurch.org

Music Staff

Organist
Edward Scibilia
Senior Choir Director
M. Sylvia Eggleston
Handbell Choir Director
Janet Sterritt

Contact us:

Office: 603-465-7797
603-465-7099

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.

*Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders work for nothing.*
(Psalm 127:1, NIV)

Dear Friends,

At our Annual Meeting on Feb. 11, a few members presented on behalf of the hard-working Building Our Vision (BoV) team. In the weeks leading up to Annual Meeting, Church Council posted a “State of the Church” notification in our weekly bulletins, and via email, and on our closed Facebook page. That brief status update set the stage for what our BoV team is tackling in good faith, but cannot do alone. The BoV team is shaping a process and inviting input from every member of the church, as we continue to flesh out the Strategic Plan we adopted at last year’s (2017) Annual Meeting — as we continue striving to embody the discerned congregational vision articulated there.

Drew Mason proclaimed the aim: “We are about faith raising.” And he wasn’t just talking about the BoV team — he was inviting the entire congregation to join in God’s purpose for all of us: “We believe that God is calling us to engage our faith, to practice our faith, to raise our faith. By planting and nurturing the seeds, our faith will increase, which will positively impact our growth in other areas.” Then he, along with Ed Wigfield, Sarah May, and others, described a thoughtful, intentional, prayerful process by which we hope to fulfill God’s desire for us as we reach beyond our present reality to welcome, worship, learn, and serve in Christ’s name. As we proceed, our recognition and confidence in God’s activity with us will get stronger. Especially when we genuinely listen to each other and trust one another, believing that each or any might represent God’s blessing for us.

Lent is a perfect season in which to devote ourselves to this process. Our Lenten agenda is to practice hewing more closely to Jesus’ ways — turning away from our usual ways, which often reflect the worldly habits of doubt, fear, anxiety, and scarcity-mentality. Lent is a season when we try to notice those habitual patterns of thought and behavior, and step away from their grip on us so that we’re ready for the resurrection reality of Easter. We practice getting out of our familiar, limiting, rut-bound routines, and experiencing the more vivid landscape of God’s picture for our life together.



(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation (Christian Education) Office

Pre-Confirmation

(for 7th and 8th graders)

The Pre-Confirmation class gathers on Sundays, March 4 and 18 to continue their exploration of the Bible. Classes begin at 10:30 in the Emerson Chapel. Contact preconfirmation@hollischurch.org.

Confirmation for 9th Graders

Lasagna is on the menu for Friday, March 2. Confirmands will gather in the church kitchen at 3:30pm to make dinner for residents of the Anne Marie House in Hudson.



On Sunday, March 11, the class will worship with the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashua. Gather at the Hollis church by 9:15am. Carpool leaves at 9:25am sharp and will return at noon. Drivers are needed. Contact confirmation@hollischurch.org.

Banner designs are due on March 11 and should be brought to the carpool. Remember to return the folder with your completed design and any unused materials. Confirmands gather in Emerson Chapel at 10:30am on Palm Sunday, March 25, to plan the Easter Sunrise Service for April 1.

Confirmands are expected to attend the Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary on March 29 at 7:30pm. Attendance at all three March events is important. If you are unable to make it, or need further information, contact confirmation@hollischurch.org.

The HCC Coed Basketball Team

Congratulations to HCC coaches and players on their February 3 win against the First Church of Nashua!



The improvement in this young team over the season is remarkable. In just a few short weeks, they have become a team in every sense of the word. The mutual respect, camaraderie, and sheer joy of being together is palpable among the coaches and players alike. Everyone has grown significantly through this shared experience. Kudos and many thanks to coaches Kevin Duquette, Tom Kuchta and Kerry Santerre for the hours of planning, practice and game time they have given to this program and to their players.

The final game of the season will be held at the Nashua YMCA on Saturday, March 3, at 2:15pm. Be sure to turn out to cheer on the HCC team as they face one of the toughest teams in the league: New England Pentecostal. Play offs begin on March 10. The time will be announced on the church Facebook page.

Games are free and fun for all ages. See you there! Check out the Congregational Church of Hollis Facebook page for action photos of the team.



What's Happening in Sunday School in March?

	PreK-Grade 2 lesson (Worship Center)	Grade 3-6 lesson (Chronicle)	Chronicle activity
March 4	Ten Commandments and Chimes practice	Jesus Chooses Levi	Making crests
March 11	Zacchaeus	Jesus in the Temple	Scrip activity
March 18	Entry to Jerusalem	Sermon on the Mount	TBD
March 25	Jesus is Alive	Peter's Denial	Shrinky Dink Roosters

Children in Service to Others... Children Reaching Out to Children



Each year our combined 5th and 6th graders select and organize a **Lenten service project** to encourage all of us to live in God's ways. This year the class has chosen to **help foster children through the My Stuff Bags Foundation.**

During this season of Lent our fifth and sixth grade ask for your support by donating children's item that would fit in a mid-sized duffel bag. Items must be new, non-violent, and non-denominational. No food or candy, please. For example, coloring books and crayons, small toys for all ages, school supplies, books, games, makeup, trading cards, small photo albums, and small toiletries. For more suggestions please see <http://www.mystuffbags.org/how-to-help/donate-stuff/>. The class will be collecting donations in Hardy Hall until March 25. The kids appreciate your help to support their service project.

All teachers welcome!

Sunday School teacher meeting taking place on Sunday, March 18 in Emerson Chapel at 11:45. Grab a snack downstairs and join us for our 2nd teacher check-in meeting. During this time, we will talk about plans for Children's Day (May 20), and share thoughts and feedback on how the semester is going.

Vacation Bible School!

The most exciting four mornings of the summer take place July 23-26, 9-11:30am when our VBS comes to Hollis! Mark your calendars now. Children age 4 through grade 6, as well as adult and youth volunteers, will have fun with music, crafts, outdoor games, drama, snacks and stories while learning and acting to help others. Contact CE@hollischurch.org to volunteer and watch for further news.



Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 11. Remember to set your clocks forward on Saturday night!

Mission Trip News

Our annual **Spaghetti Supper** will be **Sunday, March 11th** with seatings at both 5pm and 6:30pm. We are looking forward to serving our Church Community at this delicious annual event. **Make your reservations by March 7!** See the order form on page 9.

The beautiful handmade **Mission Trip Quilt** will be on display at the spaghetti supper. You can purchase raffle tickets at the supper or **use the form on page 9 to purchase your tickets now!**

Spring Yardwork & Clean-up

Help the 2018 Mission Trip Crew get to Wallingford, CT. This yard work fundraiser is only one of several fundraising activities that are undertaken (but a very important one) to underwrite the Mission Trip.



Dates available are **April 7, April 21, May 5, May 11 (pm), May 12 and May 19.** Our workcampers are ready to be your personal **Yardwork Crew!** Please consider other non-weather dependent jobs as well. Such jobs could include taking things to the transfer station or stump dump, moving furniture, hanging pictures, small painting jobs, etc. Call to reserve your time slot on one of our yardwork dates. Contact: Julie Kopser – julie@kopser.net - (603) 325-5745.



Coming April 8th
"Eat at Shorty's"
Mission Trip fundraiser

March 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mission Items of the Month: Paper Goods, Baby Items & More! * toilet paper * paper towels * tissues * diapers (esp. sizes 5 & 6) *Baby Wipes *Pedialyte *Clorox disinfecting wipes *HE laundry detergent to support Marguerite's Place				7 pm – Choir 1		10am – Bell Practice 2:15pm – HCC Basketball vs NEP at Nashua Y 3
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – New Member Enquirer's class in Emerson Chapel (class #2 of 3) 4	7:15 am– Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 10am- Adult Lenten Study 7 pm – CE Board meeting 5	7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting 6	7pm – Adult Lenten study 7	6 pm – BoV Listening Session 7 pm – Choir 8:15 pm – Music Board meeting 8	Our volunteers provide Ash St. Shelter dinner 9	10am – Bell Practice 4-5:30 pm – Family Bingo Night <i>Daylight Savings Time begins tonight!</i> 10
Scout Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – New Member Enquirer's class #3 Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. 7 pm – Community Prayers 11	7:15 am– Men's Breakfast 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 10am – Adult Lenten study 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting 12	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 13	11 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities Committee 7pm – Adult Lenten study 14	6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm – Choir April Chimes deadline 15	3:30 pm – Confirmands prep dinner for Anne Marie House 16	10am – Bell Practice 17
One Great Hour of Sharing offering 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – BoV Listening Session 11:45 am – Teacher meeting 2 pm – Women's Fellowship 18	7:15 am– Men's Breakfast 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 10am – Adult Lenten study 7 pm – Trustees meeting 19	7 pm – Church Council meeting 20	7pm – Adult Lenten study Easter flower orders due 21	7 pm – Choir 22		 10am – 3pm Hardy Hall 24
Palm Sunday *New Members join our church family* 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Easter food box packing at Brookdale 11:45 am – All-Church Potluck Luncheon 25	7:15 am– Men's Breakfast 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 10am – Adult Lenten study 26		7pm – Adult Lenten study 28	Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm – Communion service Confirmands attend 29	Good Friday 30	31



April 1 ~ Easter Sunday 6:15 am – Sunrise Service at Triple Knoll Farm 9:00 am – Easter Communion Service 10:30 am – Easter Communion Service

From the Pastor (cont. from p. 1)

I was delighted to see all of this happen at our first “Listening Session” on Feb. 18th. Participants shared visions, dreams, and imaginings about how we might use our church spaces and property to more fully build our vision and flesh out God’s desires for our community. There are more of those Listening Sessions to come — we want everyone to have fun, and to have their say, as we all listen with open hearts and minds to hear what God is asking us to do together for future generations.

As Drew said in his conclusion at Annual Meeting, “They say that we don’t inherit the earth from our forebears, we hold it in trust for those who come after us. Our church has deep roots in this community stretching back 275 years. Our forebears have gifted us our land, our buildings, our church. This is our turn to step up to that trust, pursue our vision for the future, and prepare the way for the next generation.” I’m looking forward to hearing what dreams and visions God has placed on *your* heart, and to experiencing life together that is even more vibrant, joyful, and life-giving as we undertake this stretch of our journey!

May your Lenten journey through the month of March be meaningful, inspiring, and soul-expanding. Please join us (and bring a friend!) for our Palm/Passion Service (March 25th), our Maundy Thursday service (March 29th at 7:30 p.m.), and our glorious Easter Celebrations — Sunrise service at 6:15 a.m. at Triple Knoll Farm (just south of Ridge Rd. on Rte. 122), and Easter Communion Services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

**BoV Listening Sessions:
We want to hear from you!**

The Building Our Vision (BoV) team would like your input. If you missed the first Listening Session, there are more!

Next Listening Session dates:

Thursday, March 8 at 6 pm in Emerson Chapel: This one will be a brainstorming session similar to the first session.

Sunday, March 18 at 11:45 am in Hardy Hall: The format of this session will be slightly different. Watch for details as we get closer to the date.

Childcare will be provided at both sessions. If you have any questions or have input but can’t attend the sessions, please contact a team member at BoV@hollischurch.org. We always like to hear from you!



You are invited to ...

Unwrapping Our Gifts
a Laity Empowerment Project

DESCRIPTION:

This group, possibly unlike any group you’ve participated in before, will join your faith to the real world, spanning the chasm between Sunday morning and work week issues. We will explore the Biblical vision that all Christians (not just the ordained) are **MINISTERS**, equally gifted and called by God to different kinds of focused Christian action. Through imaginative Bible studies, case studies, guided journaling exercises, and supportive group discussion, we will discover our gifts and strengthen our personal ways of ministering in our workplaces, relationships, and world. This group, for employed people, homemakers, or retirees, will help us unwrap our God-given purposes more fully.



REQUIREMENTS:

- * **Sense of adventure**
- * **Desire to apply one’s faith to the workday world**
- * **Willingness to attend weekly sessions**
- * **Willingness to do brief homework assignments**

WHEN: Wednesdays, APRIL 11 – MAY 30, 7-9 p.m. (8 sessions)

WHERE: Flagg Room

LEADERS: Kimber Harmon, Keith Hamer, Rev. Tanya

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 February *Chimes* for mailing.



New Church Email Addresses

Please note that two new church email addresses are now available:

BoV@hollischurch.org – To send email to the Building Our Vision Team

Pat@hollischurch.org – To send email to Pat Harris, Minister of Faith Formation.

The New Church Website is Almost Ready!

The communications team would like to share some of their work on the **TEST WEBSITE**:

<http://hollischurch.six0three.com/>

We have worked hard and still have a bit to go before we take the test website live. We welcome constructive, kind feedback as we make this a reality. Please email news@hollischurch.org with your thoughts/comments.

Communications Ministry Team Needs Your Help

The Communication Ministry Team is very happy with all of the progress made in various forms of communication since the beginning of this Church School Year:

- Facebook group and Facebook page
- Monthly Chimes by email
- Monthly mid-month updates and reminders
- An almost-ready, amazing new website

We have received a lot of positive feedback from many members of the congregation about all of the above, so we know the communications are both appreciated and utilized.

Unfortunately, due to personal time constraints, *we really need another team member* to be added that would take over the mid-month and Chimes email blasts (or at least one of them). This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to learn (or already knows) how to use Constant Contact and use some creativity in design/layout. Instruction will be given if you don't already have those skills. Please consider giving your gift of time to keep this much appreciated and used communication resource going!

Fellowship & Hospitality (F&H) News

Thank you to all who attended and/or helped with the Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast. Special thanks to our cooks - Darrell, Peter and Tom, the F&H team, and the Szczeszynski brothers for their jazz music. We hope everyone enjoyed this fellowship opportunity. We also extend our gratitude to the Cub Scouts for their generous donation of leftover bacon, sausages and syrup.

See the back page for our next planned event!

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will gather in the Emerson Chapel at 2 pm on Sunday afternoon, March 18, for dessert and a program on nutrition. Leading a discussion on some of the current thoughts on good nutrition will be Erika Damon. Our gatherings are open to all — come join us!

Our Church Records

Deaths January 25, 2018

Charlotte Dickerson

Memorial Donations

In loving memory of Charlotte Dickerson
by: Addie and Roger Saunders



Note of Thanks:

“The family of Jerry Amos thanks you very much for your thoughtful notes, cards and prayers following Jerry's cancer surgery last January and the extensive treatment afterward. Although recovery came slowly he is now feeling quite well. We are grateful.”

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday ~ March 25

9:00 am and 10:30 am services

Procession of Palms at 10:30 service

Maundy Thursday Worship ~ March 29

7:30 pm Communion service

Easter Worship Services ~ April 1

6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service led by the Pre-Confirmation class at Triple Knoll Farm, on the hill to the south of the house (0.1 mi. south of Ridge Road at 11 Pepperell Road/Rte. 122 in Hollis).

9:00 and 10:30 Family Worship

Services in the meetinghouse with the Senior Choir singing at both services (No Sunday School ~ Families are invited to worship together)

Mission & Action News

March Item of the Month:

Paper goods, baby items & more

for Marguerite's Place

Marguerite's Place provides physical, emotional, educational and social support services to homeless women with children so they can achieve and sustain self-sufficiency, margueritesplace.org.

Please help them this month with the following items:

- Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tissues
- Diapers (especially sizes 5 & 6)
- Baby Wipes
- Pedialyte
- Clorox disinfecting wipes
- HE Laundry Detergent



Place items in the shopping cart by the CE office.

In January, we gave over 200 pairs of underwear to the Nashua Children's Home. **BIG Thanks!**

Fuel and Food Assistance

There are a few months before the temperature rises! We can help with oil, propane and kerosene heat through the funds from our Christmas Eve offering. If you know of anyone needing financial assistance with home heating or feeding their family, please contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or cbrady27@comcast.net.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Sunday, March 18

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship — making possible refugee assistance, development aid and more. We ask for your help by donating in the offering on Sunday, March 18. Use the special envelope inserted in your bulletin. Make checks payable to the church with OGHS in the memo line.



Donations by Mission and Action

The food pantry shelves are low this time of year. To help fill them up, we gave to the St John Neumann Food Pantry and the Nashua Soup Kitchen. To help children in 120 countries have a healthy start, protection from harm and the opportunity to learn, we approved a donation to Save the Children.



Blood Drive Saturday, March 24

10 am - 3 pm

Blood Drive Hardy Hall

We need volunteers and you don't need any special skills! Contact Thelma Wigfield, if you are able to help, at tr.wigfield@comcast.net. If you would like to give blood, sign up online now at redcrossblood.org.

Ringers Needed!

Bells: all ages/all capabilities.

If you always wanted to try, please come and join us.

Practice on Saturdays in the following sets:

<u>Play:</u>	<u>Practice on:</u>
March 18	Mar 4 & 11
April 29	April 7, 14, 21
May 27	May 5, 12, 19, 26



Please contact Janet for practice times.

JanetSterritt@gmail.com

Piano Lessons for beginner and intermediate levels are available from our organist/pianist Ed Scibilia. Ed is an experienced teacher, will travel to your home, and charges reasonable fees. Call Ed at 603-809-3788 for more info.

Hollis Town Band Pops Concert Sunday, April 8th at Alpine Grove

Come celebrate the Band's 75th Anniversary at this year's Annual Pops Concert, featuring a variety of music from classical and Broadway to pop and jazz as well as a dessert buffet.

Tickets are \$24, available until March 28th from Hollis Town Band members, by emailing htbdirector@gmail.com or by telephone (603)883-2448. The event starts at 1:30 with desserts and music by the Hollis Clarinet Choir. The Hollis Town Band concert begins at 2:30.



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



Easter Flowers

You may place flowers in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones. Fill out the form below to place your order. Call Wendy Longland at 465-3466 with any questions.

I would like to order _____ tulips and/or _____ lilies (please indicate quantity & flower choice) to be placed in church on Easter Sunday.

_____ Total cash/check enclosed at \$7.50 per plant Checks should be made payable to: **The Congregational Church of Hollis** with *Easter flowers* on the memo line.

This plant is given _____ in loving memory OR _____ in honor of:
(PLEASE PRINT NAMES AS THEY SHOULD BE LISTED)

Your Name: _____
(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR)

Telephone: _____

_____ I wish my plant **TO BE DELIVERED** to friends or members of our church family in hospitals or nursing homes.

_____ **I WILL PICK UP** my plant(s) *after the last service* on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

Please return form to: The Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square
Hollis, NH 03049

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING:
Wednesday, March 21, 2018



Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, March 11

On Sunday, March 11, the Mission Trip Crew will host our annual spaghetti supper in Hardy Hall as a fundraiser for their summer 2018 Mission Trip to Wallingford, CT. Supper will be served family style (spaghetti, bread, salad, and dessert) with two seatings — 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm. Take-Out orders are also available. **Please complete this form and submit to the church office with your payment. Your name(s) will be recorded on our reservation list for each seating. You will receive reservation confirmation via email (or telephone, if no email is provided). No tickets will be issued.**

Name _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Seating time: _____ 5:00 p.m. _____ 6:30 p.m. _____ No preference

OR _____ Take-Out Order

_____ # of Adults at \$8 each _____ # of Seniors at \$5 each

_____ # of Children (ages 6-12) at \$4 each

_____ # of Children under 6 - FREE

Total _____ # reservations **Total \$** _____ enclosed

YES, I would like my name included on the placemat as a supporter.
Please accept my additional donation of _____ and list my name as: _____.

Deadline for reservations — Wednesday, March 7
(Deadline for donor names on placemat is Sunday, March 4)

Please make checks payable to the *Congregational Church of Hollis* with **Spaghetti Supper** on the memo line. Drop off or mail to:

Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square
Hollis, NH 03049

Mission Trip Quilt

This beautiful handmade quilt will be offered for raffle to benefit the 2018 Wallingford, CT Mission Trip. The quilt, measuring 54"x75", is a large lap quilt or small twin. The hearts are hand applied and the quilt is machine pieced and quilted.



Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You can purchase tickets from Jessica Marchant or use the order form below. When we receive your order, your name and phone number will be written on each of your tickets and

dropped in the raffle bucket. *Don't miss your chance to take this lovely quilt home with you!*

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

Total _____ # of tickets Total \$ _____ enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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



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

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 1
 Hollis, NH 03049

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March Fun Events!

Join in the
 fun at ...
**Family
 Bingo
 Night!**

Saturday,
 March 10th
 4:00 – 5:30 pm

All ages welcome! Come by yourself, bring a friend, or bring the family! ***Please bring coins*** to use to cover squares, which will be donated to the Sunday School Lenten project afterwards. Snacks and prizes provided!



All-Church Potluck Luncheon

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **March 25 (Palm Sunday)** when F&H will host a **potluck lunch** after the 10:30 service to usher in Holy Week. All are welcome. We hope to have daffodils for sale to brighten your home during the final week of Lent and some special entertainment. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletins, and on our church website and Facebook page.

