

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

March 2019

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LVII, No. 3



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

Lead Pastor

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen
Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

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 preced-
ing publication.

*“Like a young plant or a root that sprouts in dry
ground, the servant grew up obeying the Lord.
He wasn’t some handsome king. Nothing about
the way he looked made him attractive to us. He
was hated and rejected; his life was filled with
sorrow and terrible suffering. No one wanted to
look at him. We despised him and said, “He is a
nobody!” He suffered and endured great pain
for us, but we thought his suffering was punish-
ment from God.” (Isaiah 53:2-4, CEV)*

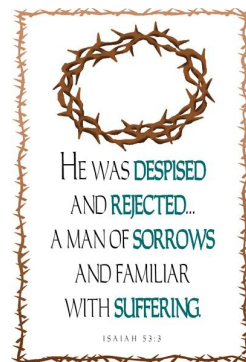
Dear Friends,

If there is one thing that human beings hold in common, it’s the ex-
perience of suffering. Oh, we all suffer differently — different
things cause us to suffer, and we cope with our suffering differently
— but suffering is simply part of the human condition. But, whereas
most of us go out of our way to avoid it, or try to dull its effects one
way or another, or spread it around (“misery loves company” and
all), the central figure of our Christian faith did not shrink from it.
And that’s how the Messiah redeemed even the reality of suffering,
showing just how powerful divine love is: Jesus Christ turned the
most feared and reviled of human experiences into something that
transforms and saves.

The prophet Isaiah described the Messiah as a suffering servant. In
Isaiah 52 and 53, he’s lyrically described as one who is misunder-
stood, mistreated, and misrepresented. And part of the misunder-
standing and misrepresentation is that his suffering was a punish-
ment from God. We sometimes have the same suspicion about our
own suffering, which makes us cry out, “Why, God, why?!” Espe-
cially when we know we don’t *deserve* the suffering we’re enduring.
The Bible speaks to this human experience in a variety of ways, with
different voices and perspectives. There’s soul-salving wisdom
amidst its pages; some have even discovered within them “a balm in
Gilead.”

During Lent, as we liturgically travel with Jesus down the bumpy
road to his crucifixion, we have the opportunity to delve a little
deeper into the uncomfortable subject of human tribulation ... and
discover what Jesus can teach us about suffering, sacrifice, and
salvation.

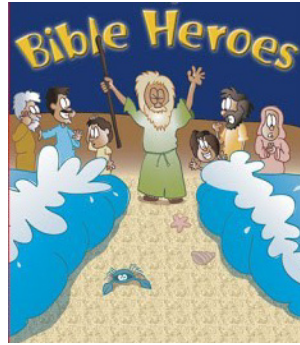
(continued on page 6)



From the Faith Formation Office

Sunday School in March

The first week of March, classrooms will wrap up the **Bible Heroes** unit with a lesson about Ruth and Naomi, and will fill bags of personal hygiene items for Church World Service. The following weeks will continue with Parables for the Lent Unit. Many fun activities and games are scheduled to accompany these lessons; don't miss out on the excitement!



March is Teacher Appreciation Month!

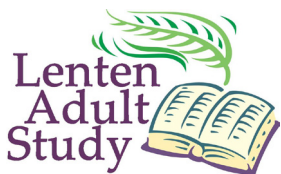


***Thank you** to all Sunday School volunteers! Classes could not take place without you and all your hard work and dedication to Christian Education!*

Throughout the month, let's take some time to celebrate and show our appreciation for all of the wonderful Sunday School teachers, assistants, and nursery attendants. There will be many fun surprises and goodies awaiting in the Christian Education office at 10:00 each week- please stop in!

Calling all 5th and 6th Graders!

Saturday, March 30 from 4:00-5:30, is the **kickoff event** for the new **5th and 6th Grade Youth Group**! This is sure to be an awesome event with **Live Clue** and board games galore. Friends are welcome!



Our Adult Lenten Study will utilize the devotional book by Luke A. Powery entitled, *Were You There? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals*. Sessions will be held on Monday mornings from 10-11 a.m. or Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m.,

starting the week of March 11th. Whether or not you're able to participate in the session discussions, you are invited to read along at home. Rev. Tanya will have a few books available for \$13 or you can order directly from Amazon.com.

Christian Symbols ~ the Butterfly



The butterfly represents the Resurrection and eternal life. It emerges from its cocoon or chrysalis and gloriously rises into the sky in its splendid new body.

Butterfly Pretzels

Celebrate being a new creation by making this fun spring snack.



What you need:

- 45 miniature twist pretzels (to make 20 butterflies)
- Cookie sheet covered with parchment paper
- Light cocoa and multi-colored Candy Melts (available at craft stores)
- Disposable decorating bags
- M&M's, Skittles, sprinkles, cinnamon drops, etc.

What you do:

1. Break five pretzels into pieces for antennae.
2. On cookie sheet, arrange pairs of whole pretzels as shown.
3. Melt Candy Melts in microwave, separating colors into different bags.
4. Pipe melted brown candy down the center to hold pretzels together, making a head and body. Press on two pretzel pieces for antennae.
5. Pipe other melted candy into the pretzel holes.
6. Add M&M's and other decorations into melted candy on the wings. Let cool. Enjoy!



Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, March 10

On Sunday, March 10, the Mission Trip Crew will be hosting our annual spaghetti supper in Hardy Hall as a fundraiser for their summer 2019 Mission Trip to Dexter, ME. Supper will be served family style (spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, and dessert) **New this year -open seating from 5 – 7 PM.** Tickets will be available at the door as well as Take-Out orders.

Names will be recorded on our presale list, just give the name of your party at the door.

Please fill out the below information and submit to the church office along with your payment. You will receive a confirmation via email (or telephone, if no email is provided).

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

_____ Take-Out Order

_____ # of Adults at \$8.00 each

_____ # of Seniors at \$5.00 each

_____ # of Children (ages 6-12) at \$4.00 each

_____ # of Children under 6 - FREE

Total _____ # **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 presales — Wednesday, March 6
(Deadline for donor names on placemat is Sun, 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



HELP NEEDED!

This year's youth **Mission Trip** will be yet another

success, thanks to the volunteer efforts of a number of dedicated individuals. However, next year will be a different story: **we need three or four adults (the more, the merrier!) willing to help plan and organize** for this important annual event, or else the annual event won't come together.




What does it entail? We need someone willing to work with the sponsoring organization (Group Ministries) on administrative details, including coordinating planning and organizational meetings with interested participants/youth; someone(s) willing to arrange and coordinate the annual Spaghetti Supper (our biggest annual fund-raiser); someone(s) willing to arrange for other fund-raising opportunities (which also serve as community-building opportunities); someone who can effectively communicate with all the participants; and someone to recruit the additional helpers that are always needed along the way.

Obviously, it's no small feat to pull off this significant annual event, and we're very grateful for the efforts of all those who have generously given their time and efforts to make it happen. Might you be someone who could contribute to this potentially life-changing opportunity in the lives of our young people?

In case this makes the prospect even more interesting: Church Council discussed it, and there's openness to exploring a multi-generational mission trip opportunity — but we urgently need a team of people willing to discuss and plan. If you're interested — or know someone who could be — please get in touch with Rev. Tanya (pastor@hollischurch.org). Thanks!

March 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mission Items of the Month * Bath towels * Bath mats * Face cloths * <i>NEW</i> pillows * Shower caddies for Nashua Children's Home						2:05 pm – HCC Basketball vs. NEP at Nashua Y
					1	2
9:00 am – Communion Worship 9:30-10:30 am– <i>Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast</i> 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 3	8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's Diner 7 pm – CE Board meeting 4	7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting 5	 7:30 pm Worship service 6	7 pm - Choir 7	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 8	 9
Scout Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – Mental Health discussion group Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper 5pm-7pm – Open Seating 7pm – Community Prayers - <i>cancelled</i> 10	8 am – Ladies' Breakfast 10 am – Adult Lenten study #1 of 6 7 pm – Deacons meeting 11	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 7:30 pm – Music Board meeting 12	10 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities meeting 7 pm – Adult Lenten study #1 of 6 13	7 pm - Choir 14	April Chimes deadline 15	6:30-8:30 pm Open Mic Acoustic Café <i>Music, poetry, stories</i> Refreshments 16
9:00 am – Worship 9:30 am – Confirmands worship at Nashua UU Church 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – Women's Fellowship New Member Enquirer's class – time TBD 17	8 am – Ladies' Breakfast 10 am – Adult Lenten study #2 of 6 7 pm – Trustees meeting 18	7 pm – Church Council meeting 19	7 pm – Adult Lenten study #2 of 6 20	6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 21	22	23
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am –Worship / NO Sunday School 24	8 am – Ladies' Breakfast 10 am – Adult Lenten study #3 of 6 25	26	7 pm – Adult Lenten study #3 of 6 27	28	29	4-5:30 pm 5 th & 6 th Grade Youth Group Game Night 30
One Great Hour of Sharing offering 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School New Members join our church family 31	<div> <div> Don't Miss ... These March Happenings!  </div> <div> Sunday, March 3 – Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast Sunday, March 10 – Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper Saturday, March 16 – Open Mic Acoustic Café </div> </div>					



The Joy of Generosity

"Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake." (Deuteronomy 15:10)

The Joy of Generosity capital campaign is in full swing. The co-chairs of our lead gift committee, Peggy Gilmour and Holly Babcock, are continuing to meet with members and are truly grateful for those who have picked up their phones! In today's world of robocalls and voicemail this is no small feat. They are happy to report that their meetings to date have been rewarding; they have had fulfilling conversations with our members about contributions to the campaign and are excited about the connections that are being made and the potential to raise our collective faith.

While we are certainly grateful to those who have generously donated already, we need contributions from across the congregation to make our vision a reality. We respectfully ask that you embrace our team's

request for participation in our house parties (calories don't count if they aren't at your own house!), conversation in the hallways, and the call to give generously. What better way to thank God for the inspiring, faith-filled example set by our predecessors in this church, who sacrificed much for the sake of their future, our present?

While not quite the same challenge as getting folks to answer their phone, BoV continues the lengthy and involved process of approvals from town boards and committees. The town community has had a positive reaction to our efforts and is cooperatively working with us to ensure that the plans are in compliance with all regulations. We are fortunate to have Tom Hildreth to guide us through this process!

God has been faithful to us in so many ways. Let us embrace the enriching challenge before us to stretch, to grow in our fullness of faith, to live into our vision so that we might become the life-changing community God has equipped us to be. This is *our* moment: may we, too, discover the joy of being generous and faithful toward generations to come!

Respectfully,

The BoV and FoV Teams
BoV@hollischurch
FoV@hollischurch

From the Pastor

(cont. from p. 1)

Across the Sundays of Lent, we'll be noting these themes as they get presented in our weekly lectionary texts. They will help us to "prepare the way of the Lord."

And, for those who participate in our Lenten study, we'll be learning about how an entire population of African Americans turned *their* experience of suffering into some of the most powerful, poetic human expressions of faith in the God who liberates us from every form of slavery. Whether or not you're able to participate in our Monday morning (10-11 a.m.) or Wednesday evening (7-8 p.m.) discussions, I invite you to read the devotional book by Luke A. Powery entitled, *Were You There? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals*. These songs, like Jesus' own teachings, have something to teach us about suffering, sacrifice, and salvation.

This March, our congregation will journey still deeper into our capital campaign — which represents an opportunity for us to stretch and grow in our faith. The campaign invites us to discover the joy of generosity through boldly, sacrificially committing to God's vision for our community's future just as others have done for us. Our path is overlaid with the annual Lenten call to (re-)commit in new and deeper ways to the God whose everlasting life and love are most powerfully revealed in his willingness to suffer and sacrifice for us and with us, in the person of Jesus Christ. I look forward to seeing you on the road.

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Mental Health Discussion Group

The March session of our Mental Health Awareness meeting series will be held on **Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m. in Emerson Chapel**. Monthly topics will dive more deeply into depression, anxiety, addiction, and other mental health conditions.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will meet at the church at 2pm on Sunday, March 17. Our speaker is David DeDiego of Travelers Antiques, and his talk is "**De-Cluttering: What to do with all that stuff!**"

Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. For further information call Dot Pitman at 456-7672.



Celebrate Mardi Gras!

The Fellowship & Hospitality committee invites you to our annual **Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 3rd**. Once again we will be serving between the two services from 9:30 to 10:30, so people from both can "mix and mingle." We will have gluten-free pancakes and sausage available, too. So get out your beads and your masks and plan to be there! If you would like to come and help decorate for this event, or if you can stay to help clean up afterward, please contact a member of the F&H Committee or e-mail us at F&H@hollischurch.org.

Suggestion Box in the Narthex

A request was made to Council for a suggestion box for the church community to better be able to offer ideas to improve our church life. There is now a suggestion box with cards in the Narthex area of the church (Thank you, Charles Lewis!). Council will check on the box and bring ideas forward for discussion. I would encourage all to sign their suggestions, to better enable our growing together as a church family, but if you do not feel comfortable doing that, that is fine as well. However, signing your suggestion would allow Council to communicate directly with you about your concerns, especially if something is not clear. Feel free to use the box if it is an easier avenue for you to express your ideas.

- Dot Hyde, Council Chair



From the Church Office

My grateful thanks go to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your February *Chimes* for mailing.

Mission & Action News

March Items of the Month:

Please support the Nashua Children's Home

The Nashua Children's Home provides care and stability to boys and girls unable to remain with their families, supportive housing for youth that have "aged-out" of care, and special education services. Please help them this month by donating the following items (new or gently used - they can be put in the shopping cart):

Bath towels	Bath mats
Face cloths	New Pillows
Shower Caddies	

Constant needs in our community

(leave all donations in the shopping cart)

- **Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6):** We will distribute diapers to local organizations who are in need.
- **Grocery Gift Cards** (Market Basket, Walmart, etc): Please consider picking up a grocery gift card when you do your shopping so that we can help area teens who continue to go hungry.
- **Bedding and towels:** Bridges needs new or gently used towels, facecloths and twin bedding (sheets, blankets, comforters) for use in their living communities, assisting victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



We are always collecting...

- travel sized toiletries
- old eyeglasses
- greeting cards/stationery
- cell phones you no longer use



There are permanent collection bins in the shelving behind the shopping cart for these items. They will be distributed to the Ash Street Shelter, Lions Club, Bridges and the Women's Prison.

Food and Heat 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.

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

On the 2nd Friday of each month, someone (or a group!) from our church prepares and delivers dinner to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua. We provide a grocery gift card to help pay for the meal ingredients and also specific instructions. There are currently openings in May and July - December. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet on the Mission & Action bulletin board.



Music Notes

Open Mike Acoustic Café



6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturday, March 16
Hardy Hall

Come and enjoy music, poetry, stories ... the many talents of our members! Refreshments will be served, too!

For more info or to reserve a time slot,
contact Music@hollischurch.org.

Special music needed for our 9:00

worship services throughout the year. Share your musical gifts with us by contacting the Music Board at Music@hollischurch.org, or sign up on the 9:00 service sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Music in Our Community...

Hollis Town Band Pops Concert - Sunday, April 7th at Alpine Grove. Tickets are \$25, available until March 27th from Hollis Town Band members (including Diane Fallier and Eileen Widner), 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. For more info see poster on the bulletin board.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission Trip Workcampers invite you to a ...

Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, March 10

On Sunday, March 10, the Mission Trip Crew will be hosting our annual spaghetti supper in Hardy Hall as a fundraiser for their summer 2019 Mission Trip to Dexter, ME. Supper will be served family style (spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, and dessert). Take-Out orders are also available.

New this year — open seating from 5 – 7 PM.
Space is limited ... Reserve your tickets now! Use the order form on page 3 to hold your place at the table ☺.
Tickets will also be sold at the door.

