

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

March 2020

www.HollisChurch.org

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Congregational Church of Hollis UCC
www.hollischurch.org

Lead Pastor

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen
Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Faith Formation (Christian Education):
Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia
CE@HollisChurch.org

Director of Christian Music:
Julie Oliver

Church Office
Eileen Widner
ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org

Susan Adams
Sue@HollisChurch.org

Contact us:
Office: 603-465-7797 or
603-465-7099

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“I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.”

(John 10:10)

Dear Friends,

What does being fully human, fully alive mean to you? What does abundant life look like and include? This is something worth mulling as we enter into the season that starts with a reminder of our mortality (“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”) on Ash Wednesday, and takes us on a journey to the cross of Jesus — with the reminder, too, that each of us is called to take up our own cross and follow.

This Lent, I invite you to read *Becoming Human*, by Jean Vanier. And if at all possible, try to participate in one of our **discussion groups on Monday mornings** (March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30) from 10-11:30 a.m., **or Wednesday evenings** (March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1) from 7-8:30 p.m. because I think you’ll enjoy the book much more if you discuss it with others. The book addresses the nature of human community, and the insights Vanier gleaned from living with developmentally disabled adults for many decades. At first, it may seem that those perceptions have little to do with us, or with our experience; although a number of us have developmentally-disabled loved ones, our community isn’t broadly engaged with them. But the more powerful and enriching observations lie in recognizing *what we hold in common* with visibly vulnerable human beings living in community; because that describes all of us.



Steeped in a culture that celebrates individualism and fierce independence, the truth is that God has created us to live in community. To recognize and appreciate the ways we are connected for mutuality, because we are stronger and more fully alive when we comfortably inhabit that reality. We are all vulnerable, all need to be understood and cared for and welcomed for who we are, in our entirety—including or in spite of the things that make us need others. But we live in an environment that is deeply fearful of appearing weak.

(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation Office

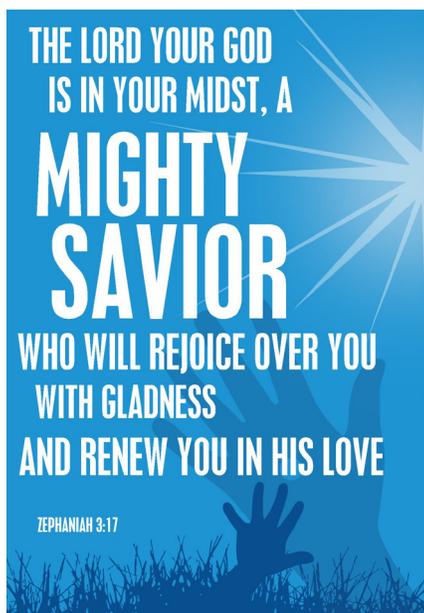
Journey to Confirmation Update

In March, confirmands will embark on another field trip; this time to the UU Church. New this year — they will be having a lesson on how the church works, by taking part in mock Board meetings. On March 22, confirmands will rotate through stations manned by representatives from Council, Trustees, Christian Education, Mission & Action, and Deacons. They will learn more about how decisions are made, how money is spent, which programs are offered, and how the church helps the wider community and those in need. This is sure to be an eye-opening experience for these teens!

March's Bible Memory Verse will be:

The Lord, your God, is in your midst; a mighty savior who will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love.

Zephaniah 3:17



Sunday School MARCHes on...

Sunday School lessons will continue focusing on **love** for the first half of March, and the second half will contain lessons on **trust** and **loyalty**.

The oldest Sunday Schoolers are invited to attend a special event* never before tried at Hollis Congregational Church...

Attention 6th Graders!!

On March 1st during Sunday School time, you will be 'locked' in a 21st century Tower of Babel. All those who enter will find themselves at some sort of communication disadvantage. Those who can and will work together despite handicaps will obtain the key to escape. Will you escape, or forever be hindered by a communication disadvantage??

Tower of Babel



40-Day 'Love Builds Up' Family Challenge

March 1st also marks the first Sunday of Lent, and this year we are hoping all families, couples, or individuals, will take part in the 40-Day Love Builds Up Family Challenge! This is a wonderful way to grow in faith together as Easter approaches.

- ✠ See Kim and Kim for a copy of the booklet to guide your family through this challenge. Copies will be available in the CE office on Sundays, main office during the week, and handed out to students on March 1.
- ✠ **The challenge**, (quoted from the booklet):
“For each of the six weeks of Lent, spend some time at the beginning of the week (Sunday night, maybe?) reading the Bible passage together. Talk as a family about that week’s topic, using the enclosed conversation prompts if that helps. Commit to taking on an action or practice from that week, then just watch as the Realm of God fills, strengthens, and beautifies your house and the world!”

If you accept the challenge, we would love to hear about how it went, what was learned, and ways you saw God at work in your lives!

Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, March 8



On Sunday, March 8, the Mission Trip Crew will be hosting their annual spaghetti supper in Hardy Hall as a fundraiser for the summer 2020 Mission Trip to Reading, PA. Supper will be served family style (spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, and dessert) with **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 4

Deadline for names on placemat is Sun, March 1

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 Raffle Quilt

During the supper, one lucky person will be chosen as the winner of the beautiful Scrapy Stars raffle quilt, handmade by Nancy Bell. Order your raffle tickets now. *Don't miss your chance to take this lovely quilt home with you!*

Scrapy 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 spaghetti supper or use the form below to order your tickets.

The winning ticket will be pulled at the Mission Trip spaghetti supper on Sunday, March 8.



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



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 1	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am –Lenten study #1 of 5 7 pm – CE Board meeting 2	6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 3	7 pm – Lenten study #1 of 5 4	7 pm - Choir 5		 Remember to turn your clocks ahead! 6
9:00 am – Worship 9:30 am - Confirmation field trip to Nashua UU Church 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – BOV Info Session - Hardy Hall 2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper 5pm-7pm – Open Seating 8	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Lenten study #2 of 5 7 pm – Deacons meeting 9	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 10	5 pm – Facilities meeting 7 pm – Lenten study #2 of 5 11	7 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm – Choir 12	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 13	 10 am – 3 pm Hardy Hall 14
Scout Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – Women’s Fellowship meeting - <i>Dress a Girl</i> project April <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Lenten study #3 of 5 7 pm – Trustees meeting 16	7 pm – Church Council meeting 17	7 pm – Lenten study #3 of 5 18	7 pm – Choir 19		
One Great Hour of Sharing offering 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Congregational Meeting 22	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Lenten study #4 of 5 23		7 pm – Lenten study #4 of 5 25			
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 29	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s 10 am – Lenten study #5 of 5 30		31	All members are urged to attend the BOV Info Session Sunday, March 8 at 11:45 am and the Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 22 at 11:45 am		March Mission Items of the Month: * Spaghetti Sauce * Granola bars * Canned Vegetables * Pasta * Canned Meats * Peanut Butter for Nashua High School South Food Pantry

Female Chaperone Needed for Mission Trip

This year, our young people are traveling to Reading, PA from July 12-18 for their annual mission trip/work camp experience. **We are somewhat urgently looking for one more woman chaperone** to participate in this experience, which is often perspective-changing for our young people and always rewarding for the adults who join in the fun! If you're interested or know someone whose gifts might be a good match for this opportunity, please contact Holly Babcock (hdeurloo23@gmail.com) or Pastor Tanya (pastor@hollischurch.org).

Women's Fellowship

Women of all ages are welcome to join the Women's Fellowship. We meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2 pm unless we have a pot luck luncheon. The next meeting is March 15th at 2 pm.

Our March meeting is a service project for the Hope for Women Organization, specifically *Dress A Girl* Project. Under Debbe Shipman's guidance, our goal is to assemble 25 kits at the meeting. Later in the meeting, volunteer sewers will be instructed how to sew the dresses at home.

If you have any questions, please call Dot Pitman at 603 465 7672.

Donations Needed for March 15th *Dress-a-Girl* service project:

- 100% cotton fabric, ½ yd – 1 yd (or more)
- 1/2 inch elastic
- Extra wide bias tape double fold, minimum 1 ½ yard

Please drop donations at the church office in a bag marked Women's Fellowship.

Church Fair News

Although it seems early to be thinking about next November's fair, time flies! So if you are having a case of "cabin fever" and would like to work on some projects at home for the Crafts and Gifts Table, I have lots of supplies (yarn, fabric, felt, beads, buttons, card stock, etc.) if you need them. Please contact me (Debbe Shipman) by e-mail or phone to let me know what you need and I can make arrangements to get them to you. (deb3ship@tds.net or 603-465-7645).

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

That idolizes accomplishment, status, and impoverished notions success. That insists we must never let others know we need them. But the epidemic levels of loneliness, despair, and disconnection are evident all around us; rising rates of suicide, substance abuse, and polarization tell the truth. And, they invite us into the deeper, transformational, abundant-life-endowing divine truth.

Jesus' journey toward his passion and crucifixion tells the story of God's intended design for our human life together. Surrounding himself with a band of broken, bumbling disciples who were just as fearful of vulnerability as any human group has ever been, Jesus tried to show them the power of identifying with the weak even as they were jockeying for who would get the seats of power. They were as uncomfortable with Jesus washing their feet as any of us are when we imagine participating in a foot-washing ceremony. They weren't sure what to do with the downwardly-mobile Jesus whose aim was to serve others and humbly allowed others to serve him.

But they felt the love; they wanted it for themselves, and to share it with others. They recognized the power of this man who was fully human, fully alive, and sharing his life—every last drop of it—with the world. And they recognized their hunger for the peace and joy, fearlessness in the midst of vulnerability, and the deep communion Christ Jesus had with everyone and everything in this world.

As we continue our exploration of the Holy Habit of Fellowship/Community in our Sunday worship services across Lent, we will look at our common experiences of temptation, vulnerability, mutual accountability, and resiliency. And, we will continue to notice what Love has to do with all these things.

One last thing for Lent: Check out the fun, engaging kid-friendly (but great for all ages!) "Love Builds Up" resource we're making available! It provides some wonderful short readings, reflections, and thought-and-action challenges to help engage your faith and daily living. God bless your Lenten journey and reflections, and may you share your blessedness with others!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Music Notes



Spring Open Mic

6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturday, April 4
at the Lawrence Barn

Come get a taste of Spring with music and fellowship at our Spring Open Mic!

We will be holding this in the Lawrence Barn due to the start of our BOV construction. We are looking for talent of all kinds to make this another night to remember. If you or anyone you know have a talent including playing an instrument, singing, dancing, poetry, etc. please let us know so that we can plan a slot for each act. All ages are welcome to share their talent. Send the name, email address and brief description of the act to be performed to : blharper@tds.net - subject line: Spring Open Mic. Walk in talent is also welcome.

We hope to see you all there for a wonderful evening on April 4th!

Host Homes Needed: On Saturday, June 6, the **Angel Choir** (a teen choir from First Presbyterian Church of Granville, OH) will come to Hollis to perform a brief evening concert, and they will help lead our worship on Sunday, June 7th (Confirmation Sunday). This choir, led by Joy Hire (a descendant of Hollis' Worcester family), came and performed in June of 2016--and it was a wonderful concert by some very talented young people! **About 28 teens, along with several adults, will need a bed to sleep for the night of June 6-7;** might you be able to spare a couple beds and welcome a couple teens for that evening? (There's a safe-church policy that no teen is allowed to stay alone in a home; they must go at least in pairs.) If you're able to help, please contact Pastor Tanya, thank you!

Worship Schedule Change

Your Church Council thanks the many individuals who offered input as they examined consolidating our Sunday worship services. **Beginning April 19, the Sunday after Easter, Sunday worship will move to a single service at 9:30 am.** This new schedule will enable all members of our congregation to grow together into one body in Christ, facilitating opportunities for greater fellowship, as well as address issues surrounding small attendance numbers at the current early service. Our hope is that together we will embrace the sacrifices this change presents and grow into a deeper relationship with Christ and with each other.



Our Church Records & Letters

New Members ~ January 26, 2020

Patricia Cordell
Lily and Joe Garruba
Irene and Roger Norian
Lorna Rupert
Barbara Zullo

Deaths ~ February 1, 2020

Robert Lincoln Cushman

A Note of Thanks... following the Raffertys' surprise 60th anniversary celebration:

Many thanks to all who came and celebrated with us.
You made our day so special!

Love you,
Dick and Doris

Packing Up Before Construction

Before construction can begin, we must completely empty Hardy Hall (including the closets and stage area), Austin Room and the kitchen. Volunteers are needed to help pack up items (*especially in the kitchen!*) to be stored during construction.

If you can help in the kitchen, please contact Carol Birch (465-7622). Also, if you have boxes with lids (like those from cases of paper or banker's boxes) to donate, those would be much appreciated!



Mission & Action News

March Item of the Month:

Non-Perishable Foods for Nashua HS South

The Nashua High School South Food Pantry is an important resource for students in need. Students can pick up breakfast and lunch and sometimes even take home dinner from their supply of food. We are collecting non-perishable foods such as spaghetti sauce

(can be in glass jars), pasta, canned meat, canned vegetables, peanut butter and granola bars.

Please help those in need and thank you for your continued generosity in advance!



One Great Hour of Sharing offering

Sunday, March 22



Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, you have the opportunity to plant seeds of new life. OGHS invests in communities world-

wide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting micro-credit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives. Watch for the special envelopes inserted in your bulletin on March 22 and please provide generous support. Thank you!

The Nashua Soup Kitchen:

Thank you all so much for your wonderful support of the mug drive! The Nashua Soup Kitchen is very grateful for the many mugs coming in as they always have a need for them. They also need **soup and cereal bowls** and **gently used bath towels**. Please drop your donations off in the shopping cart and again, many thanks for your generosity!

Fuel and Food Assistance:

If you know of anyone needing assistance with paying their heating bill or feeding their family, please contact Karen Marino at 603-475-3073 or at kmarino360@gmail.com

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

Once a month someone from church prepares and delivers dinner to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua. We provide a \$75 gift card to cover the cost of the meal and offer suggestions for dinners on our bulletin board. We need volunteers for April 10 and June 12! Please consider participating and sign up through our bulletin board!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, March 14

10am - 3pm

Hardy Hall



Let's roll up our sleeves and help save lives at our blood drive in Hardy Hall on Saturday March 14, from 10am – 3pm! It is not every day that we can do something that has such a lifesaving impact! Refreshments, homemade soup and free long sleeve T-shirts for every participant! Please sign up online at redcrossblood.org if you are planning to donate. Drop ins are always welcome, but there could be a wait for scheduling around appointments. If you would like to volunteer to help check in donors during the blood drive, please contact Thelma Wigfield, tr.wigfield@comcast.net or by cell at 603-438-3833. Thank you in advance for your support of the American Red Cross Blood Drive!

From the Church Office

Many Thanks go to Carol Birch, Brenda Gibson, Marsha Joyce, Freddi Olson and Debbe Shipman for preparing your February *Chimes* for mailing.

Daylight Savings Time

begins at 2am Sunday, March 8. Remember to set your clocks forward!





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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Building Our Vision (BOV) Update...

ONE LARGE STEP CLOSER TO LIVING OUR VISION

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.
 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*



Shortly, we will begin our renovation and be on our way to living out an important element of our Strategic Plan. As we explained in the Information Session in January and at Annual Meeting, there are many potential options available to us at many different price points. BoV will be sharing a recommendation with time for the Congregation to reflect and ask questions before voting on the recommendation in March. We are excited to get this project underway and to begin living out our Strategic Plan in our new facility!

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, March 1st - Renovation information packets distributed.
- Sunday, March 1st - BOV reps available after each service to answer any questions.
- Sunday, March 8th - **Information session** 11:45 a.m. in Hardy Hall.
- Sunday, March 22nd - **Special Congregational Meeting and Vote** 11:45 a.m. in the Meetinghouse.
 Absentee Ballots will be available.

We are always available to answer questions at BoV@HollisChurch.org
 Ed Wigfield, Sarah May (Co-Chairs)