

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

March 2021

[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)

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[www.hollischurch.org](http://www.hollischurch.org)

Lead Pastor

**Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen**

[Pastor@HollisChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@HollisChurch.org)

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

**Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia**

[CE@HollisChurch.org](mailto:CE@HollisChurch.org)

Director of Christian Music:

**Julie Oliver**

Church Office

**Eileen Widner**

[ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org)

**Susan Adams**

[Sue@HollisChurch.org](mailto:Sue@HollisChurch.org)

**Contact us:**

Office: 603-465-7797 or 465-7099

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published for the summer months.  
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*“...[T]each us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.  
Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!  
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”*

(Psalm 90:12-14, NRSV)

Dear Friends,

As we round the corner on a full year of pandemic living, I don't know about you but I'm exhausted. It takes me longer to process information, and I don't have the mental bandwidth I remember having a year and a half ago. And like most of you, while I'm grateful we can meet on Zoom, I am SO SICK of looking at a screen in order to be with people!

We were smack-dab in the middle of Lent last year when everything “shut down” and we transitioned all of our activities to the online platform. Not a one of us, I daresay, imagined we'd celebrate Easter together from our respective homes ... much less two years in a row! Truly, I want to cry at the thought of it.

Medical and sociological experts are noting a dramatic increase in the numbers grappling with mental illness, especially anxiety and depression, which are often accompanied by substance use disorders. (According to some reports, alcohol sales jumped by some 800% in March and April last year, and across the entire year it's been up by more than 350%; alcohol- and drug-related hospitalizations have also risen dramatically across the year.) The pain is real, and we will be grappling with it for a long time to come.

And yet, the pain that laces this experience offers up lessons and invitations to identify more closely with Biblical stories of God's people in history who have also suffered and sacrificed at length. Counterintuitively, rather than being destroyed, the faithful emerged stronger, clarified, transformed; more accepting of their own and others' vulnerabilities and ‘growing edges’—and also more open to watching God work through them, in spite of their perceived “weaknesses.”

*(continued on page 3)*



# From the Faith Formation Office

## *Journey to Confirmation*

Confirmands continue to meet for classes via zoom, and have shown great commitment and dedication to the program with great attendance. The Confirmation team is so proud of these kids for their perseverance with meeting on the computer when we know they would much rather be in each other's company in-person.

These students have begun a **Pen Pal program** with some of the adult/senior church members. Because the confirmation mentor program couldn't take place this year due to COVID, having a Pen Pal to communicate with will be the next best thing!



## News from *The Flock*

Students in PreK-Grade 6 have officially been welcomed into The Flock, and now they have a brand-new logo to represent themselves! All the children are very excited about their new name, and

feel that they are part of a close-knit group who can grow in their faith as they follow Jesus together.

The kids just finished a Unit learning about the *Holy Spirit*, and will now begin a Unit on the *Ten Commandments*. Parents, you can look forward to receiving a special handmade bookmark from your child(ren) as they learn about the importance of "Honoring thy mother and father"!

### Memory Bible Verse for March:

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;  
For he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.

Psalm 95: 6-7

Kids! Don't miss the puzzle just for you on the next page.

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## Deacons' 2021 Home Ministries

On the heels of our very successful Valentine's Weekend "Special" food basket packing event, the Deacons are already planning our "Normal" Easter food basket packing event with our Confirmands, on Palm Sunday, March 28th!

The Deacons would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that helped us purchase, pack and deliver 50 food baskets, filled with family packs of boneless chicken breasts, fresh fruits and fresh vegetables, topped off with Scouting for Food items and one frozen turkey, over this past Valentine's Day weekend...Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia, Cathy Doherty, Valerie Guay, Abby and Sam Kellner with their mom Amy, Luke Verrecchia, Brooke Laberis and her dad George, Raymond Hildreth, Thom Davies and his new (well, not new but new to him!) pick-up truck with a respectable tonneau cover, Brookdale Fruit Farm, Norm at Hannaford's and all our very hard working school nurses!!! It is our pleasure to work with you all!



Thank you!

The Board of Deacons

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

Lent is a season of weeks in which to become mindful of our human mortality, of our vulnerability, and the precious precariousness of life; how else do we come to understand the goodness of God's grace, sustenance, and life in this life? Jill Duffield, writing in Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects says this: *"Escaping grief, loss, and suffering is impossible. When faced with inexplicable circumstances, asking 'Why?' and 'How long, O Lord?' and 'Where are you, God?' are faithful prayers. When nothing remains of hopes or health, dreams or relationships, but dust and ashes, Lent offers the space to grieve unabashedly and without apology or embarrassment. And yet Sunday, the day of resurrection, cannot be stopped from coming. Alleluias may remain stuck in our throats, but nonetheless rebirth is proclaimed. Resurrection is promised even when we find ourselves weeping by the tomb."* (p. 9)

As we journey forward—still in the throes of pandemic living, albeit with growing glimmers of hope visible as the vaccine is rolling out; our eyes slowly opening to the fact there is no going back to "the way things were"; only going forward with our transformed understandings and selves—may we look around and recognize God in and through the others around us. May we learn the art of grieving in new ways that make us more tender, more accepting, more willing to operate as mutually flawed and vulnerable vessels through which God's light pours forth.



I hope and pray you'll adopt a meaningful practice to ground and guide you during this season as we make our way toward Easter. If you appreciate daily devotional reflections, I recommend the book by Jill Duffield quoted above. Even more than that, I cannot recommend highly enough the **weekly 30-minute podcast "Strange New World: Understanding Easter"**, by Rev. Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton and SALT Project.

You can find it at [www.saltproject.org](http://www.saltproject.org), and click on the "Podcast" option. Come along to the **discussion group on Wednesday evenings in March from 7-8 p.m.** if you'd like to listen and discuss in community (watch for the weekly Zoom link, or email [news@hollischurch.org](mailto:news@hollischurch.org)).

Lent is meant to be an engagement with our spiritual wilderness, as we intentionally try to identify more closely with Jesus' experience, and those of other exemplars of our faith. Indeed, our wilderness mettle continues to be tested. But the outcome is certain: as surely as the sunlight is lengthening and our days feel brighter, longer ... Easter is coming!

With faith, hope, and love,

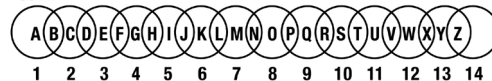
*Tanya*

## Just for Kids...

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

## Our Church Records

### New Members

Cheryl (Cherie) Moreno

### Memorial Gifts

*In memory of Rosalie Vartabedian by:*  
Bob Vartabedian



\*\*\*\*\*

### Puzzle Answer:

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

# March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Zoom Sunday worship services and fellowship continue on <u>Sunday mornings at 9:30</u>.</b> Church boards meet via Zoom.	7 pm – CE Board meeting 1	4:30 pm – The Flock meets on zoom 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 2	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7-8 pm – Lenten Discussion Group 3	7pm - Choir 4	5	6
9:30 am – Communion Worship on zoom 7	7 pm – Deacons meeting 8	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 9	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 7-8 pm – Lenten Discussion Group 10	7pm - Choir 11	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 12	<b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b> 10am-3pm in Hardy Hall  13
 2 am – Daylight Savings Time begins 9:30 am – Worship on zoom 14	7 pm – Trustees meeting  April Chimes deadline 15	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 7 pm – Church Council meeting 16	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7-8 pm – Lenten Discussion Group 17	7pm - Choir 18	19	20
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group 21	22	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 23	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7-8 pm – Lenten Discussion Group 24	7pm - Choir 25	26	27
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 am – Worship on zoom 12 – 1:30 pm - Easter Food Basket packing at Brookdale 28	29	4:30 pm – Church School on zoom 30	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7-8 pm – Lenten Discussion Group 31	<b>March Items of the Month: “Meals in a Can” like...</b> ♦ Tuna fish ♦ Hormel Chili ♦ Canned Chicken ♦ Progresso soup ♦ Dinty Moore’s stews ♦ Spaghetti O’s ♦ single-serving cereals for the food pantry at Nashua High School South		



# ...And the Rest is History

## The Legacy of Phineas Hardy

By Cindy Ryherd



Anyone who is a member of the Congregational Church of Hollis, or has visited the church, is usually familiar with Hardy Hall (more formally called Hardy Parish Hall), which is the fellowship hall in the lower level under the Meetinghouse. There is a brass plaque in Hardy Hall that was rarely noticed before our current renovations due to its inconspicuous location. Now the plaque is prominently displayed as you walk into the newly refreshed Hardy Hall (with its much wider entrance and from which you can walk out onto the new Squires Community Patio). The plaque explains that Hardy Parish Hall was dedicated in 1925 and named in memory and honor of Phineas Hardy, one of the earliest settlers of Hollis (living in Hollis from 1751 until his death in 1813).

**So, who is this Phineas Hardy and what makes him worthy of the fellowship hall being named after him?** Well, it doesn't hurt that George. E. Hardy, a public utilities executive from New Jersey who was a direct descendent of Phineas, gave a hefty donation to build the hall and maintain it for ten years. But with or without such a benefactor, upon researching the legacy of Phineas Hardy, his own contributions and those of now TEN generations of Hardys in Hollis, I conclude that he is VERY worthy of the honor bestowed upon him!

Phineas Hardy, Sr. lived to the very old age of 86 (1726-1813). He was born in Bradford, MA, married his wife Abigail Gage Hardy in 1749, had his first child (of 9), Elizabeth, in 1750, then moved his young family to Hollis in 1751. Upon arrival in Hollis, he purchased land with a cabin on it, situated at the south end of Long Pond (now called Silver Lake). His next SIX children were born in that small cabin (making nine people total). Can you imagine? He then built a gambrel roof home at the head of Long Pond in 1764 (pictured left in 1959). This home was owned and occupied by the Hardy Family for 100 years. His mother, Martha, came from Bradford, MA to Hollis upon completion of the new home and lived with her son, daughter-in-law, and ultimately 9 grandchildren until she passed in 1783 at age 83. Unfortunately, the home burned down in the 1980s.



Mr. Hardy engaged in agricultural pursuits and became a respected citizen of the town and church. He first appeared as a taxpayer in 1752 and was listed as a member of the church in 1755. Hanging in the church today, there are two drawings of the 1804 church pews and gallery. During those times, pews were built, owned, and maintained by the parishioners. There were many Hardy-assigned pews: three in the gallery and six main-level pews.

At nearly 50 years old, Phineas, Sr. enlisted and served in the garrison at Portsmouth, NH for 3 months during the Revolutionary War (along with four of his sons, Phineas, Jr., Thomas, Noah, and Jesse). He was described as an honest, industrious, frugal, Christian man who was an excellent and patriotic citizen, respected by all who knew him. He was also known for his humor and great storytelling. Among his favorite yarns: one winter day when he was returning across Long Pond from a visit at Wright Mill, he accidentally walked into a large air hole. The water was deep and no aid near. Coming up under the ice and not finding his place of entrance, he swam underneath on a bee line for home. When he arrived at the shore, he called loudly for help, but his family did not respond so placing his back against the ice, his hands and feet on the ground, he made a successful break for liberty. To prove the great force of his exertion he measured the ice and found it 26 inches thick. Can you picture his children rolling their eyes?

Phineas, his wife, his mother, and several of his children and grandchildren are all buried in the church cemetery. In fact, between the four cemeteries in Hollis, HUNDREDS of Phineas Hardy's descendants are buried.

**What is the link between Phineas Hardy and the church today?** Since 1751, there have been 9 generations of Phineas' descendants living in Hollis, the youngest generation includes a mere 1 year old. The youngest generation are the (are you ready for this?) **great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren of Phineas!** That's SEVEN greats! Those generations have included soldiers in wars, town and state government leaders, church and town organization leaders and members, philanthropists, doctors, lawyers, leaders in agriculture, businessmen, employers, historians, and friends. There are actually way too many links between Phineas Hardy and the church over those generations to call them all out, so I'll focus on one link to the church: [Brookdale Fruit Farm.](#)



For decades, the Deacons of the Congregational Church of Hollis have distributed food boxes to local families in need at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. **Brookdale Fruit Farm has been a critical partner in that endeavor.** Much of the non-perishable food is provided to the church from the Scouting for Food program each fall. Crates and crates of non-perishable food are given to the church to fill the food boxes (photo left). Brookdale Fruit Farm allows the church to store all of those crates of food in their wholesale warehouse. At the time of each distribution, the church Deacons also purchase perishable food to go in the

boxes: turkeys and milk and eggs for example. Again, Brookdale Fruit Farm allows the church to store the perishables in the refrigerated area of their warehouse until the boxes are packed and distributed. The packing of the 40-50 food boxes each distribution is quite the operation itself, and Brookdale's graciously allows the church to take over a significant area of their warehouse to make it happen. Finally, Brookdale's also generously provides a bag of apples and/or other fresh produce for each box packed. We are so grateful to the Brookdale organization for their ongoing support of this very important outreach to local families in need!

**The tie between Brookdale Fruit Farm and Phineas Hardy goes back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of Phineas**

**Hardy descendants:** Edward Hardy (1825-1908). Edward started the business in 1847. It was originally called Hardy and Son in those days. Fast forward to the 5<sup>th</sup> generation: enter Harold Hardy (1887-1989). Harold was named Deacon Emeritus of the Hollis Congregational Church in 1965. He celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 1987 (photo right) in none-other-than Hardy Hall ☺. It was during Harold's tenure that Brookdale Fruit Farm became incorporated in 1966.



The 6<sup>th</sup> generation includes two of Harold's five children, Elwin (1920-2013) and Eleanor (1925-present). Elwin, Eleanor, and Eleanor's husband Frank Whittemore co-owned and managed Brookdale Fruit Farm together for decades. This is where the Whittemore family name enters. Today, their children and grand-children continue to own and operate Brookdale Fruit Farm. Their great-grandchildren are the 9<sup>th</sup> generation descendants and 7x-great grandchildren of Phineas Hardy!

**Direct descendants of Phineas Hardy have also made the following donations to the church:**

- **Brass plaque and funds for Hardy Parish Hall** – Donated in 1925.
- **Needlework “Madonna of the Chair” in oval frame** – Donated in 1972.
- **Three Deacons benches and a framed picture of the church** – Donated in 1987.
- **Circa 1733 secretary desk in Emerson Chapel**- Donated in 2000.

Over the 270 years they have resided in and around Hollis, Phineas Hardy and his nine generations of descendants have served the church, town, state, and country in so many significant ways. In presenting all the above evidence, it is my hope that when it is safe to use Hardy Hall again, we all remember to pay homage to Phineas Hardy, even if just a nod of the head toward his plaque or a silent prayer of gratitude. I'm sure he would never have imagined the Hollis Congregational Church fellowship hall being named after him, but he has earned it!

# Mission & Action News

## March Item of the Month: *Meals in a Can* for the Food Pantry at Nashua High School South

Suggested items include:



- ◆ Tuna fish    ◆ Dinty Moore's stews
- ◆ Canned Chicken    ◆ Progresso soup
- ◆ Hormel Chili    ◆ Spaghetti O's
- ◆ single-serving cereals

Thank you so much!



## Ongoing Collections

We are continuously collecting:

- Items for the **Brookline Food Pantry**  
You can check their website for items most needed:  
[brooklinenh.us/public-welfare](http://brooklinenh.us/public-welfare)
- Eyeglasses
- Used Cell Phones
- Travel size Toiletries
- Greeting Cards and Stationery
- **Diapers, Diapers, Diapers**



## Food & Fuel Assistance

Mission & Action has provided vouchers for fuel along with Market Basket gift cards to those in need during the last months.

If you know of anyone needing assistance with food or in paying for heat this winter please ask them to contact Karen Marino at 475-3073 or [kmarino360@gmail.com](mailto:kmarino360@gmail.com).



**Volunteer  
Chefs  
Needed**

## Ash St Shelter Dinner Chefs Needed

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, members of our church make dinners for The Ash Street Shelter. We provide you with a grocery gift card to pay for the ingredients. You do the cooking and delivering. **Volunteers needed for June – December!** For more information or ideas of what to cook, contact Lee Harper at [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net) or (603) 465-5118.



**Saturday, March 13  
10am – 3pm  
Hardy Hall**

Our Mission and Action Board is holding another Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, March 13 in Hardy Hall from 10am until 3pm. **Please sign up online** through **Redcrossblood.org** to book your appointment. Walking in without an appointment is discouraged as scheduling is very tight. We appreciate, especially during COVID-19, that donors arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before their scheduled time. So, please mark your calendars and plan to donate as every two seconds someone in the US needs blood!

**Our January Blood Drive** was a success with 31 pints of blood collected, including all the different types of blood needed. They reached 137% participation, and there were 4 new donors! Our protocols for COVID and our new space helped to streamline efforts and all went extremely well. We look forward to similar success at our March 13<sup>th</sup> drive.



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**

# OPEN MIC NIGHT

**Saturday,  
March 13**

**7:00-8:30pm**

***Family-Friendly***



**Zoom  
In!**

*Socialize  
virtually with  
suggested  
snack ideas!*

**\*Sign up to be in the audience or to perform by March 10 at:**

***OPENMIC@HOLLISCHURCH.ORG***