

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

March 2024

www.HollisChurch.org

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*“...And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
and He tells me I am His own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.”*

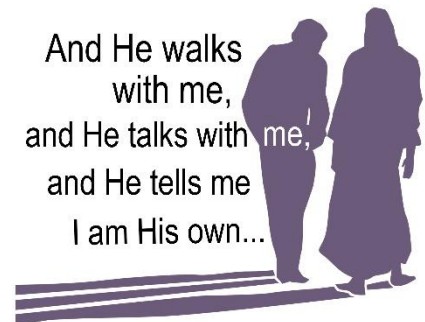
Charles Austin Miles
1912 hymn, “In the Garden”

Dear Friends,

What is your personal experience of Jesus? Some people say he’s their best friend: they talk to him about everything, though he’s obviously not an embodied presence whose words another person in the room would hear equally audibly. Others experience him as more two-dimensional: an historical character in an ancient text — someone with a gripping story offering guidance and grounding for how to be a good human. Some believe that saying, “I believe in Jesus” are somehow essential magic words to spare them from hell in the afterlife. Plenty of people don’t know exactly *what* to make of him—but there’s something compelling, lively, immediate-yet-eternal, about him that goes beyond the millennia-old stories that first pique our interest.

I’m going to guess that, at a minimum for those of us connected to Christ’s Church, Jesus is someone whose life inspires us. Gives us hope — for our own life, if not for all of humanity. Challenges or encourages us to do better, to be better...to prioritize our relationship with God, to live from the wellspring of love instead of feasting on the font of fear. And yet, like Jesus’ first disciples (those who actually *did* have an embodied presence eating and talking with them), if we’re serious about doing what disciples truly want to do (e.g., striving to think and act and relate with God in the same way he did, because we recognize the power and truth of such a life), then we’re also painfully aware of how often we miss the mark.

And He walks
with me,
and He talks with me,
and He tells me
I am His own...



(continued on page 3)

From the **Faith Formation Office...**

News from *The Flock*



A Winning Combination!

Flock Family Pizza Night + *Loaves & Lessons* + BINGO = FUN!!

Join us on **Wednesday, March 13** for inter-generational FUN when **Flock Family Pizza Night** merges with *Loaves & Lessons* for an evening of pizza and Bingo! The event begins at 5:30. Sign up at the *Loaves & Lessons* Sign-up Genius link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849ACAC29A7FF2-47324480-loaves>



Blessing Bag Thanks

A huge thank you to all who donated items for the Flock Blessing Bag project! The students assembled 50 Blessing Bags for Nashua Soup Kitchen due to your generosity. The kids learned so much completing this project and really enjoyed filling the bags knowing that they were helping to make someone's day a little brighter.

On March 24th, the Flock will go on an Egg Hunt after the service which will be led by the senior youth group. Stay tuned for more information!



Registration is now open!!

NEW this year...

Vacation Bible School Registration Day on Sunday, March 17 during Fellowship! Stop by the registration table in Hardy Hall to fill out the form and find out the theme!

Join us **July 22-25 from 9am-1pm** for a fun filled week of lessons, crafts, STEM, games, snacks & MORE! Don't miss out! Spots are limited.

- Ages 4 years - Grade 6
- Must be able to attend all 4 days
- Registration closes June 16
- \$5 per child
- Need a registration form? Contact Kim at CE@hollischurch.org or stop at the church office. You can mail the form to the church, drop off or bring to a Flock class.

***Adult and teen volunteers are needed!** Anyone entering Grade 7 and up is welcome to help! Please contact Kim at ce@hollischurch.org if interested.

(From the Pastor – continued from p. 1)

I've heard athletes talk about the power and importance of visualizing a successful performance to enhance their performance during the actual event. Albert Einstein famously suggested that imagination is more important than knowledge; knowledge is limited, whereas imagination encompasses the entire world—indeed, can usher us into different worlds. Strangely, it seems to me, the role and significance of imagination sometimes gets minimized, even disparaged, in our culture. We put such a premium on “facts, figures, and visible proof”—particularly in the realm of faith, and our relationship with God, and Jesus.

Although I've had an (evolving) relationship with Jesus for my entire life, I'm endlessly learning the importance of engaging my imagination when I approach the stories about him, and his teachings. And that's why our Lenten series is proving so powerful for me. For you too, I hope! Each week, we're “Entering the Passion of Jesus”, trying to imagine ourselves in the scene described, while also being attentive to the connections between “then” and now.

Sometimes, we can become numb to Jesus' courage (courage he promised we too will have, by the way, when we accept the power of his Holy Spirit—which may, or may not, also cause you to call on your imagination) because we've heard the stories so often. As we journey through this Lenten month where we straighten our focus on following Jesus: notice the ways Jesus fearlessly risks reputation; risks defiant challenge by those bent on deception; risks righteous anger, rejection, the loss of friends; and confronts the temptation to forsake the righteous behavior for the sake of something less painful or self-sacrificing. Then, imagining yourself in the scene with Jesus, consider how you—Jesus' trainee/ disciple—are being summoned to similar risks today. Christ's Passion narrative may be thousands of years old, but it's still being told (“same song, new verse”) all these years later.

Having identified more closely with Jesus and his Passion this Lent – having deepened our personal connection with him through the gift of imagination – we will celebrate with greater joy and hope on the last Sunday of March (Easter Sunday) . . . because we will have experienced more personally the hope and truth of Resurrection! Hallelujah!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

On Sunday,
March 3rd, we
will welcome
guest preacher
and Member-
in-Discernment
Bekah Maren Anderson.



Bekah (she/her) is a queer and disabled writer, activist, and theologian. She earned her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 2021, and now serves as the Director of Pastoral Care and Community Connections for the Julian Way, a ministry offering spiritual care to people with disabilities. Legally blind from a young age, Bekah has been writing, speaking, and offering workshops about disability theology since 2016, using her personal experience, academic rigor, and the wisdom of her communities to explore the gifts and opportunities disability offers to the church. She is the co-convenor of the Disability Theology Discussion Group, a board member of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries Board, and a contributing writer for the Christian Citizen. Bekah lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons, sampling many kinds of loose-leaf tea, and entertaining her tiny gray cat, Jasmine.

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From the Church Office

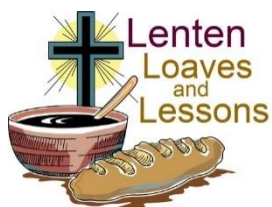
Chimes Thanks...

A BIG Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Patricia Cordell, Brenda Gibson, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your February *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.

“Entering the Passion of Jesus”

On Wednesday evenings through Mar. 27

During these weeks of Lent, we’re trying to identify more closely with Jesus’ friends and followers —since that’s who we are today.



With the help of an engaging video and writing by Vanderbilt’s New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, and simple meals provided (maybe even by you one week?), we’ll enjoy nourishing food for body and soul, and strengthening of our bonds in community along the way. It’s happening each **Wednesday, 5:30-6:45pm, through March 27.**

On March 13, we’ll have a joint Flock Family Pizza Night and *Loaves & Lessons* — an all-ages food, learning, and fellowship experience!

Come to one, several, or all of them — but please do sign up here: <https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/8050849ACAC29A7FF2-47324480-loaves>

For those interested in purchasing the book that will guide us, the church office still has several copies. A \$14 donation is requested (but not required) to cover the cost incurred.



Music and Meditation on the Vernal Equinox
7 pm on Wednesday, March 20

A musical performance will be offered by Hyponova (a musical project of Chris Volpe, local author, artist, and musician). The piece will consist of “a quiet and somber musical soundscape suitable for contemplation and observance of the Lenten season.” The piece will be shared with the community, perhaps along with poetry and prayers, at a service of music and meditation on the day of the Vernal Equinox. Please join us in the meetinghouse for this special event on Wednesday, March 20, at 7pm.

Our Church Records

Deaths

January 15, 2024

Marion L. Muzzey Sherwin

Memorial Donations

In loving memory of Florence Baker by:

Francine and Charlie Howe

Sandra Thorndyke

Patricia Cordell

Brenda Gibson

Maryellen Palmer

Marilyn Wehrle

Carolyn French

Freda Wang

Michael Jawer

Doris and Dick Rafferty

Brian and Christine Baker

Addie and Roger Saunders

Donna and Donald Reynolds



How to Provide Flowers for Worship*



Although we no longer have a ‘Flower Calendar’ for signing up, *you can still provide flowers for Sunday worship!* Just follow these simple steps:

1. By the Tuesday prior to your chosen Sunday — Call the church office (465-7797) or email Jessica (admin@hollischurch.org) with the date you’ll provide flowers and your bulletin dedication. Typical dedication format: “The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of / in honor of / in celebration of _____ by (your name).”
2. Arrange for the flowers — either bring them yourself by 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning *or* call Wendy Longland (465-3466) at least one week prior to your chosen Sunday to finalize flowers and payment options.

***See page 7 to order your Easter flowers!**



March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	 9 am - 2 pm in Hardy Hall 2
9:30 am – Communion Worship Bekah Maren Anderson, guest preacher (In Person and Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock 3	6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7:00 pm – CE Board zoom meeting 4	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 5	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5:30-6:45pm – <i>Loaves & Lessons</i> Lenten Study #3/6 6	7 pm – Choir 7	8	 Time to Spring Ahead 9
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> offering 9:30 am – The Flock 11 am – Food & Fuel/Deacons food box ministry meeting 10	7 pm – Deacons meeting 11	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 12	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 12pm – Facilities meeting 5:30pm – Flock Family Pizza Night + BINGO joint event with <i>Loaves & Lessons</i> Study #4/6 Easter Flower order deadline 13	10am – Staff meeting 6 pm – Caring Connections 7 pm – Choir 14	April Chimes deadline 15	16
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock VBS (Vacation Bible School) Registration during Fellowship 17	5:30 pm – Trustees meeting 18	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 19	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5:30-6:45pm – <i>Loaves & Lessons</i> Lenten Study #5/6 6:30 pm – Stewardship Board meeting 7pm - Lenten Equinox Music & Meditation 20	7 pm - Choir 21	22	23
<i>Palm / Passion Sunday</i> 9:30 am –Worship (In Person / Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock Flock Easter Egg Hunt after worship Food box packing at Brookdale 24	25	6:30 pm – Church Council meeting 26	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5:30-6:45pm – <i>Loaves & Lessons</i> Lenten Study #6/6 27	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00 pm – worship 28	<i>Good Friday</i> Services at Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua 29	30
<i>Easter Sunday</i> 6:15 am – Sunrise Service on the hill at Triple Knoll Farm, 11 Pepperell Rd 9:30 am –Worship (In Person/Livestream) NO Sunday School 31	 					

Mission & Action News

March Items of the Month: “Meals in a Can” Items

for Nashua South High School’s Food Pantry

Some suggested items are:

- Dinty Moore’s stews
- Tuna Fish
- Canned Chicken
- Progresso Soups
- Spaghetti O’s
- Hormel Chili
- Individual-Serving Cereals



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Watch for the flyer and special offering envelope with your bulletin on Sunday, March 10. We thank you in advance for your generous support of this special Lenten offering!



Saturday, March 2

**9am – 2pm
in Hardy Hall**

Our next Blood Drive will be on Saturday, March 2nd. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the setup and checking in donors. If you would like to donate there are still spots available at www.redcrossblood.org

From Our Prayer Shawl Ministry Team

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is planning to make hats for patients receiving treatment at local Cancer Centers. We have recently received a generous donation of yarn, so this seems a wonderful way to use it. If anyone would like to use yarn from our supply, please email Patricia Cordell at patricia.cordell27@gmail.com and I will make sure to have access to it. If you would like to be part of this project, either by knitting or crocheting, your contribution would be very much appreciated! Knots of Love (knotsoflove.org) has an interesting website with patterns that can be downloaded or use the *Baker Street Beanie* instructions below.

* * * * *

Knitted Baker Street Beanie Instructions :

Materials:

- Needles: #8 circular needles and #8 double point needles
- Yarn: 200-250 yards of any yarn from Knots of Love’s list of yarns
- Stitch marker
- Tapestry needle



Instructions:

Cast 80 stitches onto #8 circular needles. Being careful not to twist, form into ring, place stitch marker

Brim: Work *K1, P1 for approximately one inch.

Pattern: Rnd 1: *Purl around

Rnd 2: *K1, P1 around

Repeat rnds 1 and 2 until piece measures 6”.

Crown Shaping: Change to dpn when needed.

Rnd 1: Purl 6, P2 tog around

Rnd 2: K1, P1 around

Rnd 3: Purl 5, P2 tog around

Rnd 4: K1, P1 around

Rnd 5: Purl 4, P2 tog around

Rnd 6: K1, P1 around

Rnd 7: Purl 3, P2 tog around

Rnd 8: K1, P1 around

Rnd 9: Purl 2, K2 tog around

Rnd 10: K1, P1 around

Rnd 11: Purl 1, P2 tog around

Rnd 12: K2 tog around

Finishing: Leaving 12” tail, cut yarn and thread through a tapestry needle. Transfer stitches from dpn to yarn. Cinch tightly, tie off, and weave in all ends.



Order your Easter Flowers today!

You may place tulips, daffodils or hyacinths in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones. Complete and return the form below along with your payment to place your order.

I would like to order (please indicate quantity and cost) to be placed in church on Easter Sunday:

_____ tulips @ \$7.50/plant = \$_____

_____ daffodils @ \$7.50/plant = \$_____

_____ hyacinths @ \$7.50/plant = \$_____

\$_____ Total cash/check enclosed. 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 IN FLOWER DEDICATION)

Your Name: _____

PRINT YOUR NAME EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR IN FLOWER DEDICATION

Telephone/email: _____

_____ 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 service* on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

Please return form & payment to:

The Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square
Hollis, NH 03049

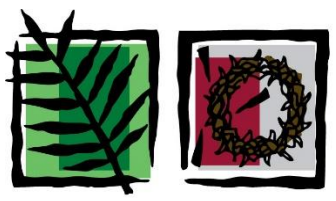
DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: Wednesday, March 13, 2024



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



HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Palm/Passion Sunday ~ March 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday worship with a Parade of Palms and “Enter the Passion” tableau.

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

An interactive, powerful, and "moving" Maundy Thursday service (we will move from one place in the church to another), including Holy Communion and the retelling of the Crucifixion. The community cross (outside) will be draped in black through Holy Saturday.

Easter Services ~ March 31

6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service at Triple Knoll Farm, 11 Pepperell Road, Hollis.

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship with joyous music and fellowship to follow on Squires Community Patio (weather permitting). You are invited to bring cut flowers to adorn the community cross and celebrate Resurrection!