

The



Newsletter of

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

March 2025

www.HollisChurch.org

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www.hollischurch.org***

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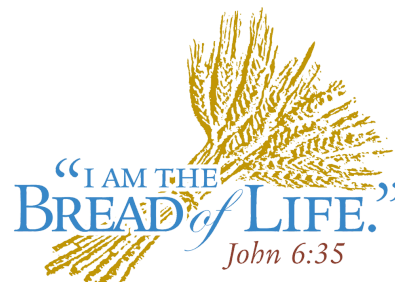
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*Information is subject to change. For the latest
updates, visit our online Chimes at
<https://hollischurch.org/news/chimes/>.*



*"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes
to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will
never be thirsty.'" (John 6:35)*

Dear Friends,

Are you hungry? I'm not just asking whether your stomach is grumbling.

When Jesus was in the wilderness by himself for forty days, Luke tells us that "He ate nothing at all during those days and ... he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" (Luke 4:2b-4)

Most of us have experienced that gnawing feeling of hunger, but nothing edible seems to satisfy. More often than we probably realize, our spiritual hunger gets mistaken for a hankering for something sweet or savory to put in our mouth; it's part of our human condition—as evidenced by the devil's temptation and Jesus' response.

Each year, the season of Lent offers us an opportunity to pay closer attention to our spiritual hunger, to intentionally focus on our hunger for the "Bread of Life." This year, our Lenten liturgy is going to help us reflect on what these words mean in terms of our spiritual journey. We'll start with a service on Ash Wednesday at 7 p.m., and our sister congregations from Brookline and Mason will join us here in Hollis.

Along the six-and-a-half week way, we'll think about spiritual "bread" for growth, and daily living, for sustaining community, and "bread for the road" as we journey with Jesus toward the cross.

On Thursday evenings, we warmly invite you all to participate in Loaves & Lessons, where this year we will go back to some of our spiritual basics, as we look at Marcus Borg's *Embracing an Adult Faith: What it Means to Be Christian*.

Each Thursday evening, from 5:30-6:45 p.m. on March 13th through April 10th, we'll gather in Hardy Hall to enjoy a simple, delicious meal and then share edifying conversation about our personal experiences and understandings about the following basic themes (by week): God (Mar. 13); Jesus (Mar. 20); Salvation (Mar. 27); Practice (Apr. 3); and Community (Apr. 10). The Faith Formation/Christian Education Board will be providing childcare each week so that parents and Flock children can also be nourished in new ways—so I hope we'll have a really good, intergenerational turnout!

On Maundy Thursday (April 17) this year, we will be breaking with tradition and trying something new. Having welcomed the Mason and Brookline congregations in worship with us in Hollis on Ash Wednesday, we will journey to the Mason Congregational Church for a simple soup and bread supper at 5:30pm followed by a worship service (with a joint choir). Mark your calendars now and please plan to participate!

Blessings on your Lenten journey, dear friends... may your deepest hunger be satisfied!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

-Tanya



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
OF HOLLIS,
UCC



Introducing the Bylaws Task Force...

... but, first, a bit of history. If you have been part of our church family for a while, you may remember hearing about a Strategic Plan. The 2016 Strategic Planning Task Force report provided a Vision Statement of our church's vibrant future:

The Congregational Church of Hollis:

A Christ-centered community church where all are welcome, and faith flourishes as our words and deeds reflect God's infinite love, hope, and joy.

The Strategic Plan introduced the four pillars of our church — Welcome, Worship, Learn and Serve — the framework for the organization of our church and its mission, and a "roadmap" of seven goals that would allow us to live into this vision. At the very top of the list was Goal #1: Create a Ministry Team model of church leadership. Pursuit of this first goal was put on hold as we addressed critical infrastructure repairs and facility safety concerns. Renovations of our church building were completed in 2022, allowing us to return to Goal #1 and move toward a Ministry Team model.

The Bylaws Task Force, formed in 2024, discussed ideas about how best to move toward a Ministry Team model. Ministry Teams are groups of people who feel called to a common focused ministry activity. Unlike our current system of boards with their set number of members, terms and term limits, Ministry Teams are fluid, more spontaneous, and bring people together united in a common cause as long as there is a need and people who respond.

In order to move us toward the Ministry Team model, it quickly became obvious that we would first need to do a little housecleaning.

Due to a variety of factors, the current bylaws did not adequately depict the structure of some boards, and committee members discovered inconsistencies and inaccuracies that needed to be corrected. It seemed logical to first clean up and simplify the current bylaws as much as possible to provide a clean slate from which to build a new model.

Bylaws Task Force members met with each of our boards for feedback and approval. Articles pertaining to each board were checked for accuracy. Language was streamlined, and consistency was established across boards. Terms of service were amended to respond to a reluctance to long-term commitments. Most boards were updated to offer 1-year renewable terms with a maximum of 6 consecutive years.

The Kitchen Board was created to recognize the importance of the kitchen and its use in the life of the church. Inconsistencies were corrected, and language in the amended interim bylaws now more accurately reflects how the church actually functions.

After working through the board sections in the bylaws, the bylaws team went back and reviewed all the other sections pertaining to officers, the role of the Pastor and Teacher, general business sections, and examined each section for consistency, streamlined, and made adjustments when needed.

Several sections were “suspended.” That means we deferred discussion about updating those sections, for example, defining membership. We will take up suspended sections in future meetings, and they remain in force in the interim bylaws. Draft copies of the proposed interim bylaws will be posted on the church website and printed copies available in the literature rack outside the office.

The work of the Bylaws Task Force is not finished! The next step is to gain feedback and answer questions. We will hold information sessions after church on three Sundays, March 16, April 6, and May 4.

We will consider all comments and make further adjustments if needed before calling a special Congregational Meeting on June 1 where we will vote on the amended bylaws that reflect our current structure and operational processes.

Once our interim bylaws are approved, we will have established the springboard from which to build our Ministry Team model. What could that look like? This is a model of how the Ministry Team Model COULD look, evolved from our current structure and combined with elements adopted from sister church models.

It is simpler, and based on our 4 pillars as outlined in our Strategic Plan. In this model, Council oversees the pillars, which in turn incorporate all of the church activities formerly conducted by boards, committees, and ministry teams.

Operations provides the foundation, or support, for the organization. Council consists of representatives from each pillar, the pastor, members of the Operations team, and at-large members. All work of the church aligns under one of the four pillars established in the Strategic Plan. Pillars are capped by a smaller Council, and supported by the strength of our financial and operations infrastructure.

With your feedback and support, the Bylaws Task Force will proceed with the creation of a strong organizational structure for our church that will endure well into the future, enabling us to fulfill our church’s vision and mission.

Your Bylaws Task Force

Holly Babcock	Drew Mason
Susan Benz	Rev. Tanya
Lynn Goldberg	Eileen Widner
Kimber Harmon	Ed Wigfield

FROM THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Loaves and Lessons

Thursdays in March, from 5:30pm - 6:45pm



We are very excited to announce the offering of childcare at the Lent Loaves & Lessons sessions! With that said, we will *not* be hosting the March 12th pizza night in hopes you will be able to attend the Loaves & Lessons on Thursday March 13th, while your children hang out for pizza and activities in the Flagg Room.

Volunteer cooks needed for three of the five meals; please contact ce@hollischurch.org if you can help.

Please watch for the Signup Genius - which will include a section for signing up children.

Sorry - no drop ins. This will help us plan for the correct amount of volunteers needed to follow Safe Church Policies.

The Flock Service Project

Please watch for more information on how you can help sponsor a child for an Easter basket!

The Flock is always impressing me with their generosity. This spring, they have come up a new project. They have chosen to **build Easter baskets, and an egg hunt!, for Marguerite's Place.**

The Flock is looking for egg filler items - wrapped candy, little balls, stickers, bracelets, etc, to use to fill their eggs.



All items can be dropped off in the CE bin outside the church front doors, or in the CE office by **March 12.**

April 23 will be our final pizza night for the school year - theme TBD.

Service Project Day

Sunday, April 13th will be Service Project Day.

This is when we will fill Easter eggs for Marguerite's Place OR you are welcome to pack boxes at Brookdale as a family! 😊

Any donations for Easter egg fillers will be due on Sunday, April 6th.

Blessing Bag Thanks

A huge thank you to all who donated items for the Flock Blessing Bag project! The students assembled over 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.

Vacation Bible Camp

Introducing Vacation Bible CAMP

Vacation Bible Camp, VBC, registration will begin on Sunday, March 2 during Fellowship! Stop by the registration table in Hardy Hall to fill out the form and find out the theme!

Join us July 21-24 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 15
- \$10 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! A volunteer meeting will be held on Sunday, July 20 - time TBD.

Please contact Kim at ce@hollischurch.org if interested.



Mission & Action News

Mission & Action Items of the Month

March, April, May

Throughout the months of **March, April and May**, your M&A Board will focus on the needs of vulnerable children. Our Items of the Month collections will support Bridges' Jancie House, a transitional, confidential home for shelter-seeking individuals new to the Bridges program. Some of these individuals come with small children who need activities to do in their new environment.

Child Coping Kits provide items to help destress the children (and their Moms!). Please consider donating items from the list below by placing the items in the basket inside the front center entrance or in the M&A bin outside on the porch.

Coping Kits Suggested Donation Item

- Fidget spinners & other sensory toys
- Slime, play-doh, kinetic sand
- Tissue paper (bright colors!)
- Stones, rocks, magnets
- Small containers & memory boxes
- Coloring books (adult and child)
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers
- Bath bombs
- Face masks
- Lotion
- Fuzzy socks
- Grounding stones
- Memory boxes/gift bags



You may also/alternatively wish to support Marguerite's Place as they seek donations of gift cards in \$25 increments.

Preferred Stores:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| • Walmart | • Market Basket |
| • Target | • Shaws |
| • Walgreens | • Amazon |
| • CVS | • Gas Cards |

M&A Donations and Plans 2025

- Donation made to the Altadena Community Church, following the devastation from the California wildfires
- Matched donation to Heifer International
- March 30: Special UCC congregation-wide offering for One Great Hour of Sharing
- M&A support for Strengthen the Church special UCC offering
- M&A support for Neighbors in Need special UCC offering
- November/December: support for holiday food baskets
- December: Special UCC congregation-wide offering for UCC Christmas Fund

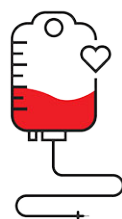


Give the Gift of Life

Blood Drive on Saturday March 1st, from 10am-3pm in Hardy Hall.

To schedule an appt to donate blood, visit <http://www.redcross.org/give-blood>

Or use this QR



From the Church Office

Our Church Records

Deaths

January 26, 2025

William Franklin Gorham

January 31, 2025

Carolyn Mae Gargas



Memorial Donations

In loving memory of Chuck Hildreth by:

Roger and Addie Saunders

In loving memory of William Gorham by:

Roger and Addie Saunders

In loving memory of Carolyn Gargas by:

Ann Siglin

Jerry's Legacy

Thank you to everyone who adopted Jerry Amos' beloved orchids.

"Jerry was very fond of his orchids and cared for them faithfully for many years. He would be so pleased to know that they have all been adopted to good homes!"



Church Office Hours

Program Year Hours (September - May)

The church office is open

Tuesday through Friday 8.00 am – 12.00pm

Church office hours are subject to change to accommodate inclement weather, vacations, and staffing fluctuations. Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).



Thank you

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

April Chimes Reminder

Our next Chimes Newsletter will be the

April Edition: Deadline March 15th

Food & Fuel Ministry Team

Our Food and Fuel Ministry Team has been working hard to provide food and essential supplies to families in our community.

This work is made possible through the generosity of volunteers like you!

As we prepare for our next food box delivery, we invite you to join us in this important effort.

March 23rd – Committee Meeting

We will be gathering to assess our boxes and assign roles for the upcoming Palm Sunday food delivery. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this mission and see how you can help.

April 13th (Palm Sunday, 11:00 AM)

Box Packing Event

We need volunteers to help pack food boxes that will be delivered to families in need. Every box packed represents a meal, hope, and care for those in our community.





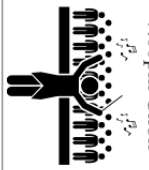











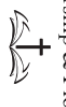



April 14th – Volunteer Delivery Drivers Needed

Once the boxes are packed, we need volunteer drivers to help deliver them to local families. If you have a vehicle and a heart for service, we would love your help!

If you would like to be part of this effort, please reach out to **Bruce Bottamini** at caracasa99@yahoo.com for more details.

Together, we can bring hope to those in need.

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>*Thank you to the Trustees for hosting Sunday Fellowship this month!</p> <p>Church Office Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 am—12:00pm. Please remember that hours are subject to change to accommodate inclement weather, holidays, vacations, and staffing fluctuations. Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).</p>						
Transfiguration Sunday 9:30am - Communion Worship & Flock 10:30am C.E Board  2	3	10:00am  Knitting Ministry 6:30pm - Music Board  4	7:00pm  5	7:00pm Choir  6	7	10:00pm-3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive  1
First Sunday in Lent 9:30am - Communion Worship & Flock  9	7:00pm Deacons  10	7:00pm Mission Board  11	4:30pm Facilities  12	5:30pm Loaves & Lessons  7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Caring Connections 13	14	15
Second Sunday in Lent 9:30am - Communion Worship & Flock  16	1:30pm Bylaws 5:30pm Trustees  17	 10:00am Knitting Ministry 6:30pm - Council  18	19	5:30pm Loaves & Lessons  7:00pm Choir 20	21	22
Third Sunday in Lent 9:30am - Communion Worship & Flock  10:30am FFMT Meeting  23	24	25	26	5:30pm Loaves & Lessons  7:00pm Choir 27	28	29
Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:30am - Communion Worship & Flock  30	31					

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
OF HOLLIS,
UCC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Ash Wednesday Joint Service

March 5, 7:00pm in Hollis

with Brookline and Mason Congregation

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Loaves & Lessons - Thursdays 5:30pm - 6:45pm

March 13

March 20 -Meal prep volunteer needed

March 27 -Meal prep volunteer needed

April 3 -Meal prep volunteer needed

April 10

.....
Bylaws Update Info Session

March 16

April 16

May 4

Please read the document before you come

-Come with your questions!