

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

May 2018

www.HollisChurch.org

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The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)

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“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2, NRSV

Dear Friends,

As I write, there are still mounds of snow and we still need warm coats to go outside. But, bless the crocuses and daffodils that are determined to make a go of it, having tolerated nearly 24 hours of sleeting rain! Unlike some of us, they are convinced that springtime resurrection *will* be fully upon us imminently, and they’re not resigning their cheerful spirits.

I think many of us claim springtime as our favorite season of the year. For me, it’s a toss-up between springtime and autumn. Of course, they both represent the seasons of most visible change; they ground us in the constancy of life’s transformation—with all of the pleasant and not-so-pleasant realities that entails. (Think allergies. Barometric pressure changes, which are pain-inducing for some people. But also: vibrant colors and landscape changes; new life, or the resplendent completion of life!)

Each of the gospel writers, in recounting the disciples’ reactions to the resurrected Jesus appearing to them, notes that their first response was fear, anxiety, confusion, trepidation. Jesus’ appearance—particularly after they had witnessed him crucified, dead, and buried—represented a radical change in everything they knew, thought they understood about life, and expected. It was an absolute reordering, a total transformation, of their minds. None of this was lost on Jesus, which is why each time he approached them, his first words of blessing for them were: *“Peace be with you.”* That greeting/blessing, phrased in the infinitive form, was a reminder that God (the source and bestower of peace) *was*, and *is*, and *will be* with us. We’re often oblivious to this truth, because there are plenty of things that conspire to distract us or close our minds to it . . . but, still:



it’s true. God—Love, our Creator, and Power Above All Other Powers who intends for us to flourish—abides with us. In the midst of life’s unpreventable changes, and throughout the inevitably unpleasant aspects of change, God is with us and is offering us peace that we’re free to accept, or not.

(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation (Christian Education) Office

Pre-Confirmation

(for 7th / 8th graders)

Only one gathering remains on the Pre-Confirmation schedule for this year. Class will meet on Mother's Day, May 13 in Emerson Chapel at 10:30am.

Confirmation - 9th Graders

After a full year of learning, service, exploration, fun and worship, the Confirmation class of 2018 meets one last time in the Emerson Chapel on Sunday, May 6, 10:30-11:45am. At that time, thirteen young people will make their decision on confirming their baptismal vows and becoming full members of the Congregation Church of Hollis. This is an important decision, made after careful thought and preparation.



Confirmation Sunday is June 3

The Rite of Christian Confirmation will be celebrated during the

9:30am worship service on Sunday, June 3. All are invited: families, friends, everyone! Come celebrate and welcome the newest members of our faith community.

May Sunday School Schedule

In May, Sunday School classrooms will be busy rehearsing for their performances on Children's Day. Teachers will incorporate some fun activities and games as time allows between practices. This month, classrooms are sure to be filled with laughter, music, and dancing!



Children and Youth Sunday is May 20

The children of the Sunday school, including those in Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation, will lead the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 20. The service will include singing, chimes, dance, readings, and drama centered around the theme of Peace. Rehearsals will take place during Sunday School. Parents are asked to make attendance a priority.

After the service, please join us for a church picnic outside, and bring your sneakers to join in a Whiffle Ball game!



Teacher Appreciation Event

Calling all Teachers and Assistants! We would like to celebrate you and your commitment to our children's faith formation. Please join us at the Rasmussen Residence, 16 Depot Rd, on May 20 from 4:00-5:30pm. Light refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Vacation Bible School

The Fruits of the Spirit will be the theme for Vacation Bible School this summer. VBS will take place Monday-Thursday, July 23-26, 9-11:30 am. Children age 4 through Grade 6, as well as adult and youth volunteers, will have fun with music, crafts, outdoor games, snacks, and stories while learning and acting to help others. New this year: science experiments, nature projects, and cooking!

Teen (grade 7 and over) and adult volunteers are needed to make VBS a success. You can sign up for a few hours, a morning, or all four days. Contact CE@hollischurch.org to volunteer. Registration form and volunteer sign-up located outside CE office, or email ce@hollischurch.org. Registration form also available on page 9 of this *Chimes*!



Help us Help Others

Nashua High South students are in continuing need of food, backpacks and clothes. These English Language Learners move to Nashua after fleeing home countries ravaged by war, hurricanes, famine and water shortages. Many arrive with the clothes on their backs and the flip-flops on their feet. Most needed items include:

- Food: Kraft macaroni and cheese, Hormel Compleats, kid-friendly cereal, crackers with peanut butter, granola bars, etc., Ramen soups and noodles.
- Backpacks
- Gently used teen clothing and shoes in good condition
- New underwear and socks
- Gift cards to Target and WalMart

Donations may be left in the CE office or at the home of Pat and Tom Harris, 1 Broad St. Contact patharris.hollis@gmail.com.

Help End Childhood Hunger

If you read the Spring issue of *Bread and Board*, the newsletter of the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, perhaps this line stood out for you: *Annually, we need 300 people to sponsor a child at \$30 a month to end childhood hunger in Nashua.*

For many of us, \$30 a month, \$1 a day, is very doable. The challenge of ending childhood hunger, rampant in our neighboring community, by contributing a mere \$1 each day, is a call to action. If you would like to accept this challenge, contact the NSKS at 889-7770 to contribute \$30 a month or visit nks.org. Through our Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation project helping to provide food and clothes for vulnerable high schoolers in Nashua, we have learned of the everyday struggle of those who fall through the cracks of federal assistance programs.

One program in Nashua is working. A collaboration of the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Salvation Army, Corpus Christi, End 68 Hours of Hunger, Southern NH Service, United Way and Mayor Jim Donchess, **Nashua Meals for Kids** has distributed over 20,000 evening meals and 3200 bags of food for the weekend to hungry children in the past eight months. Joyce Toli and Lee Harper led the effort at our church in April to cook meals for this program.

Sign up to cook!

There will be another opportunity to help with cooking and packing meals at **1:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9** in the church kitchen. If you'd like to join this cooking session, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Call Lee Harper (603)465-5118 or Joyce Toli (603)882-7028 for more info.

From the Pastor (cont. from p. 1)

As our congregation continues to engage the challenging realities of our changing society, we're doing our best to discern and act on God's will for our church. We want to embody a Christ-given resurrection faith and life, a haven of peace in the heart of our community, in contrast to a landscape of churches that are ossifying and dying for fear of change, or resistance to transformation. I pray that each of us believes and claims Christ's blessing — God's peace *is*, and *will be* with us — as we persevere in prayer, and trust in the life-enriching renewal God is inviting us to co-create in our 275th year as the Congregational Church of Hollis. Peace be with you!

With faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Calling All Graduates!



Is there a 2018 high school or college graduate in your household? At our June 3rd worship service,

we will acknowledge our graduates and offer a prayer of blessing as they embark upon new pathways. Please let us know your graduate's name, where they're graduating from and what their future plans are! Contact the church office with the info: churchoffice@hollischurch.org or 465-7797.

From the Church Office

Thank You to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Marsha Joyce, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for collating, labeling, and folding your April *Chimes* for mailing.

May 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mission Items of the Month: Underwear, Socks & Snack Items * New underwear (Women's and Men's sizes S, M, and L) * New socks (for Women and Men) * Individually wrapped Snacks (<i>no candy</i>) like... *granola bars *trail mix *Cheez-it crackers * Single-serving Cereal * Goldfish crackers for the Nashua High South pantry/clothes closet 		7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting	7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (session #4 of 8)	10 am – Christmas Fair Crafts planning meeting 7 pm – Choir		Bell Practice Mission Trip Yardwork Day (all slots full)
		1	2	3	4	5
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Building Our Vision ~ Architect Concept Walkthrough, Q&A, and Lite Lunch in Hardy Hall	7:15 am– Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 7 pm – CE Board meeting	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting	11 am – Staff meeting 1 pm – Cooking for Nashua Meals for Kids NSKS program 5 pm – Facilities Committee 7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (#5 of 8)	6 pm – Music Board meeting 7 pm – Choir	Our volunteers provide Ash St. Shelter dinner	Bell Practice Mission Trip Yardwork Day (all slots full)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Music Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 7 pm – Community Prayers	7:15 am– Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting	Summer Chimes deadline	7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (#6 of 8)	6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting		Bell Practice Mission Trip Yardwork Day (all slots full)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Children & Youth Sunday & All-Church Picnic 9:00 am – Worship – 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:30 am – All-Church Picnic 4-5:30 pm – Teacher Appreciation Event at the Rasmussens' home	7:15 am– Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's 7 pm – Trustees meeting	7 pm – Church Council meeting	7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (#7 of 8)			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Summer Worship schedule begins 9:30 am –Worship			7pm – Unwrapping Our Gifts (#8 of 8)	7 pm – Choir	All-Church Picnic ~ Sunday, May 20th 	
27	28	29	30	31		

Building our Vision Update

Last year, I volunteered to be on the BoV team. Actually, does anyone really volunteer with Tanya? She frames everything as a “calling” which makes it sound so much better. Naively I thought, sure why not, I’ll look at plans, get to know some people. How hard can it be? Ha! While it has been fun and I’ve definitely met some great people, it has not been easy.



We are in a unique situation. This is the first time in history we have five generations living under one roof. Even I have five living generations in my own family. While this makes for a great family reunion, it becomes slightly more complex in the context of a community. Five generations represents a lot of perspectives ... from people who have lived through the Great Depression and WWII to five year olds who know more than I do about my iPhone and to whom advances in technology are limitless. It also means that people are on all points of the change spectrum. Some want a lot of change, some don’t want change at all. Some feel change is happening too quickly, some not nearly quickly enough.

There’s another challenge though. Participation in organized religion is declining. Interest in church is declining, especially amongst younger generations, and families today have more competing demands on their time. Growing up, my Sundays were spent going to church and visiting grandparents. For today’s families, my own included, Sundays are spent driving to lacrosse practice, helping with an unfathomable amount of homework, and trying to squeeze in church on the side.

The BoV team will be holding a Listening Session on May 6th at which our Architect will share preliminary sketches. A lot of effort has gone into developing these sketches. I’d like to share with you what our team has already asked ourselves in hopes that when you’re reviewing plans, you’ll ask yourself these questions too:

- Is it in line with the Vision outlined in the Strategic Plan?
 - Specifically, the Pillars that we have identified (Welcome, Worship, Learn, Serve & Safety)
- Based on the congregational input we have received, does it accurately reflect the desires of those members?
- Does it honor the perspectives of the five generations of past, present and future users of this church?
- Does it sufficiently meet our Goals?
- Does it fulfill our project lists?
- For me, personally, does it make me feel proud to be a member of the Congregational Church of Hollis? Not because it represents a shiny penny but because it is:
 - A place I want to bring my friends and family
 - A place I feel accurately reflects the truly welcoming nature of our congregation
 - A place that also reflects that we are leaders in the community and are prepared to serve the community in which we live

The BoV is an amazing team: Julie Forgaard, Tom Hildreth, Drew Mason, Roger Saunders, Reverend Tanya, Kara Tulley, Ed Wigfield. Not only do they represent a cross-section of users of the church, but also they are hardworking, kind, and bring good snacks to meetings. This could be said of many committees, however. To me, the reason this team is remarkable is that I have never worked with a group of people who are so open to other people’s points of view. They genuinely listen. They take time to consider different viewpoints. They are truly interested in making this the best project possible, not just the best possible in their own opinion.

In the coming months, as we as a church go through this process, I ask you to practice Faith and Trust. Faith and Trust in God who is guiding us. Faith and Trust in our BoV team and the decisions we have made. Faith and Trust that although you might have a different opinion than your neighbor, we are all on one team, the same team, the team that truly wants what is best for our church.

Respectfully, Sarah May on behalf of the Building Our Vision Team

BOV: Important Upcoming Events

Architect’s Concept Walkthrough, Q&A, and Lite Lunch

Sunday, May 6th at 11:45am in Hardy Hall

Our architect, Dennis Mires, will be walking us through concept drawings based on the input from the congregation and the team’s research. After his presentation, there will be a Q&A session where you will have an opportunity to offer feedback. We will continue to solicit input for several weeks in May including at meetings with boards and committees. Individuals who are unable to attend these meetings are always welcome to provide feedback to bov@hollischurch.org, or contact a member of our team.

Presentation of BoV Recommendation

Sunday, June 10th at 10:45 am in Hardy Hall

On June 10th, the BoV Team with the Architect will present the recommended concept based on architectural design work accomplished to date and considering congregational input. This recommended plan will have been determined by the BoV team to be the best option for the church to move forward considering safety, strategic plan guidelines, and cost. A rough order of magnitude estimate will be available.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 24th 10:45 am in the Sanctuary

The congregation will vote on BoV’s recommended concept. A vote to approve the recommended concept is a vote to move to a detailed design phase. If the concept is approved, a second vote will be taken to provide incremental funding for the detailed design phase. The detailed design phase would develop the recommended concept into contractual plans over the summer. This phase will produce build-to drawings and firm financial figures for the proposed work to be done. Construction would not begin until approved by another Congregational meeting.

Lead Givers

At this time, the BoV team is also considering the financial feasibility of this project. Although all church members will be invited to contribute as they are able in due course, we would like to identify “lead givers” (who are interested in providing substantial gifts) prior to the formal launch of our capital campaign to fund the project. If you think you would like to be a lead giver, please kindly contact Kara Tulley at tulley5@charter.net (OR: BOV@hollischurch.org). All responses will be confidential.

Knitters Wanted for Prayer Shawl Ministry!

Why is this a ministry?

You are giving of yourself to help another in need. The tradition of a prayer shawl is borrowed from the Jewish faith.



The prayer shawl, or talith, reminds the wearer of the closeness and comfort of God. The knitting of prayer shawls is one way to connect the knitter and the church with those in need of God's care. The shawl becomes a prayer of healing, or even thanksgiving, and is a blessing both to the creator and the recipient.

How do I begin?

The directions for the easy-to-make shawls are posted on the bulletin board outside of Rev. Tanya's office. When you are ready to knit, you are encouraged to pray for the person who may receive your shawl. Although you may not know who that is, God knows. Pray for healing, good health and peace for the one who will receive the shawl and take time as you knit to repeat your prayer. Prayer is good for you as well as the one who will wear the shawl!

The Mission and Action Board has purchased a supply of yarn, now available in the church office, for anyone who would like to make a prayer shawl for our Church's Prayer Shawl Ministry. There is worsted weight yarn which you know as "regular", as well as homespun, the fuzzier type. Each bag has enough yarn to make one prayer shawl; please use one bag at a time, and do not remove single skeins from different bags.

Knitters' Challenge: 42 by the 4th of July!

Our goal is to have 42 shawls for our 42 workcampers to take to Wallingford, CT as part of their ministry to the residents they serve.

Deliver completed shawls to the church office, and we'll keep you updated as we work toward the magic number of 42!

Our current shawl count is 23.

Music Notes



Music Ministry Needs You!

As we approach the end of our regular church year, we would like to start planning the **music for our 9:30 summer services**. This is a great opportunity for anyone who loves music and has a talent that they could share with the congregation. You don't have to be a superstar, just have a love of music and a willingness to let your light shine.



If you have an interest in participating in this special way and be part of the service, but you are shy about doing this on your own, we can work to get people with similar or complimentary talents to work together. For example, if you like to sing but are nervous singing alone, we can work to team you up with other singers. If you play

an instrument we can find others that might want to play with you. If you have always wanted to learn to play the bells, we can help make that happen. We also have some seasoned musicians with music degrees, who are willing to mentor young people who are considering studying music.

In addition, we are starting to **plan for the fall**. We are looking for a small group of singers and musicians that would like to get together to talk about **starting a 9:00 music ministry** to play a few times a year as a regular addition to this service.

We have so much talent in our church that can be shared. We look forward to continuing to enrich our Sunday services with the gift of your music.

If you are interested in more information about any of these opportunities, please contact Beth Harper at blharper@tds.net. If you would like to sign up for one of our Summer services, please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway across from Rev. Tanya's office.

Last ring for the season Come and ring!

Bells play May 27 – one service at 9:30. Practice Weekend of May 5, 12, 19, 26. For exact time and dates contact Janet at 603-315-4952 or JanetSterritt@gmail.com



**Save the date...
Monadnock Music is
coming to Hollis!**

Monadnock Music has provided world-class live classical music performances to Southwestern New Hampshire for over 50 years. For the first time, Hollis is honored to be part of the Monadnock Music Village Concert Series, hosted by the Congregational Church of Hollis on Sunday, July 15th at 3pm. Please stay tuned for additional details about the concert. For a complete schedule of the summer Village Concert Series please visit: www.monadnockmusic.org



Although it's barely spring, it is not too early to start thinking about projects we might like to do for the fair. There will be a **planning meeting** for anyone interested in helping to make things for the **Craft and Gift Table on Thursday, May 3** in Hardy Hall at 10 a.m. Please bring any ideas or samples of items we might like to make with you. This will give people a chance to work on projects over the summer when life is a bit slower paced instead of rushing to get it all done in the fall. There is fabric at the church and a whole bunch more at my house if people have projects in mind and need materials. For more information, or if you can't make the meeting but still want to be included on the committee e-mail list, please contact Debbe Shipman at deb3ship@tds.net or 465-7645.

Mission & Action News



May Items of the Month: Snacks and New Underwear & Socks for Local Teens

We are becoming increasingly aware of teenage homelessness in our community. These kids are trying to go to school while looking for a place to sleep, food and clothes. Nashua High South has a clothes closet for children in need and snacks to help get kids through the day. Please assist us in helping these students. All items can be left in the shopping cart at the top of the stairs.

- New underwear (womens and mens -- small, medium & large)
- New socks (womens and mens)
- Snacks like granola bars or individual packs of cheez-its / goldfish / trailmix / cereal *No candy, please*

April Item of the Month - Collection Continues for our Mission Trip

In April, we collected hygiene items for the workscampers to take with them to Wallingford, CT this summer. We will continue to accept donations beside the shopping cart until the trip in July.

- * travel size toothpaste * toothbrushes
- * shampoo * facial tissue * shaving cream * disposable razors
- * bars of non-scented soap * non-scented deodorant
- * disposable diapers & wipes



The Meals on Wheels Walk-a-thon is taking place on Saturday, May 19 at Southern NH University at 10am. If you'd like to join in the fun, you can find details at mealsonwheelnh.org.

Fuel and Food Assistance

Thanks to the funds from our Christmas Eve offering and local fuel distributors, our church has helped 11 families with food and fuel since December. If you know of anyone needing this assistance, please contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or cbrady27@comcast.net.

April Donations by Mission and Action

- * At our April meeting, David Gilmour came to speak to us about Harbor Homes and the End Homelessness Fund. We made a donation specifically to help reach the youth homeless population.
- * We approved funds for Anne-Marie house in Hudson NH, which supports the needs of homeless families with transitional housing, wholesome meals, career assistance, continuing education and other support services.

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
Vacation Bible School 2018



Takes place: July 23-26, 9-11:30 a.m.

For: Children age 4 through Grade 6

Registration Deadline: June 30, 2018

****Please complete one form per child****

Child's name _____ Date of Birth _____

Grade (Fall 2018) _____ T-shirt size (adult or child S, M, L, XL) _____

Parents Name(s) _____

Home address _____

Parent cell Phone _____ Parent alternate Phone _____

Email _____

Other emergency contact person _____ Relationship to child _____

Emergency contact cell phone _____ Emergency contact alternate phone _____

Food allergies: _____

Medical or Behavioral concerns: _____

*By signing below, I give permission for VBS staff to photograph my child and post photos, unnamed, on Hollis Congregational Church's Facebook page and/or within the church on bulletin board(s).

Parent signature _____

Otherwise, please opt out of photo/video permission by checking boxes below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Chimes Emails | <input type="checkbox"/> Church website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private church facebook group | <input type="checkbox"/> Public church facebook group |

Please return this form by June 30, 2018 to church office, or send to:

Hollis Congregational Church
Attn: CE Superintendents
3 Monument Sq.
Hollis, NH 03049



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Everyone's invited to the...

Children and Youth Sunday All Church Picnic

Sunday, May 20th at 11:30

Come join us in the Church parking lot as our talented chefs grill burgers and hotdogs. We will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. Bring a salad, casserole, dessert or even a bag of chips to pass. Come and enjoy the fellowship of your church family and friends ... and a rousing game of Whiffle Ball afterwards!

See you there!

