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**The Chimes is a publication of the  
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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)

Minister 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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*“Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I’ll lead you all in the Dance, said he.”*  
(Refrain, *Lord of the Dance* hymn)

Dear Friends,

As my dear husband will attest, I am *not* a good dancer. Despite childhood lessons in ballet and tap, I’m not light on my feet. In fact, when he’s occasionally attempted to pick me up and swirl me around in the playful way spouses sometimes do, he’s been met with something akin to a 5’2” dead weight with a low center of gravity. My physical movement through the world is probably better described as “determined” than “lissome”.

Nonetheless, as some of you may have observed during worship services, I occasionally find it impossible to keep my body from moving or swaying with the music I hear. It may not be in sync with the rhythm, and it may look awkward to others—but there’s no denying: it feels good to dance.

Throughout the Bible, we find descriptions of people dancing to express their delight, or gratitude, and/or honor for God or fellow human beings. In 2 Samuel 6, “[King] David danced before the LORD with all his might” as he led a victorious army back home with the Ark of the Covenant (the most sacred relic of the Israelites: a gold-covered chest containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments). The movement of dance is a bodily representation of human experience, a physical expression of the spirit’s experience. Like music, it can convey emotion and sentiment not easily captured in words.

Like speech, though, it can feel awkward—especially when it doesn’t come easily. Once, Joel and I took a couples’ dance class together. We wound up not completing it because I was such a frustrated (and frustrating) dance partner...clearly, I was not cut out for Cha-cha or Salsa dancing. I’d become too self-conscious, too self-critical, too fearful that everyone around me would judge me as harshly as I was judging myself; all playfulness and delight departed from my being, and I simply couldn’t figure out how to retrieve it.

*(continued on page 3)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## Confirmation classes in May



- Sunday, May 1 at 9:30 - Church speakers on options for teens to be involved as members next year
- Sunday, May 15 at 9:30 - Confirmation Preparation class

## CE Book Read

### Adult Education: What is the Christian Ed Board reading?

Introducing a new Faith Formation newsletter feature — monthly reading suggestions! This month we offer the suggested reading below from one of our CE Board members. We would also enjoy hearing what the congregation is reading and if you would like to share with others in a book club session. Please reach out to [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org) with your suggestions or inquiries on a book club session or other CE Adult Education idea.

### *The Red Tent by Anita Diamant*

Dinah, sister to Joseph and his brothers, and daughter to Jacob and Lea, is barely mentioned in Genesis. This book tells her story from before her birth, her growing up with her four mothers, who were all Jacob's wives, and her life leading up to, during and after the pivotal moment mentioned in Genesis 34. Part historical novel, part alternate history with a focus on women of the bible with a twist, this is a compelling and entertaining read.

## News from the Flock

The church school year is coming to a close! We are going to miss seeing all the kids on a weekly basis, but not to worry, because we have some exciting summer programming to offer — keep an eye out for details soon!

### The Flock's May classes:

- 5/1- Butterfly day!
- 5/8- Mother's Day lesson and activity
- 5/15- Father's Day lesson and activity
- 5/22- Children's Day worship service followed by end-of-year celebration!

## Vacation Bible School

**Registration is now open; volunteers\* are needed!**

Join us for *The Great Treasure Hunt*

July 18-21 from 9-11:30am.

VBS will be a fun filled week of adventure, scavenger hunts, 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
- \$5 per child
- Need a registration form? Contact Kim and Kim at [CE@hollischurch.org](mailto:CE@hollischurch.org) or stop at the church office. You can mail 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 and Kim at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org) if interested.**

## Birthday Box Kit Thank You!



Thank you so much to all those who contributed items, or a whole kit, to the Birthday Box drive for Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. We were able to donate over 10 complete kits, with lots of extra accessories and decorations to make a child feel extra special on their birthday. We are so grateful for your willingness to help!

~Kim and Kim

*(From the Pastor – cont'd from page 1)*

Across the season of Eastertide (the seven weeks between Easter and Pentecost), we're going to be "Daring to Dance Again." We're going to practice a bit of playfulness and movement in our worship, to make room for the Spirit's activity within us, through us, and among us. We're not going to judge each other or ourselves, we're just going to have a little fun seeing how we move. Being curious, but not critical, about our own and others' physical expression of our spirits' experience.

As our gardens begin the annual dance of new life, so may we reflect divine delight together in the month of May. I hope that with me and others, as Easter People in Hollis, you'll "Dare to Dance Again!"

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*



## New Member Inquirer's Classes

Interested in learning a little more about our church—our history, our current activities, and our future? Want to know what's involved with becoming a full member of our faith family? Come along to our New Member Inquirers Classes on Wednesdays, **May 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.!**

Please send Pastor Tanya an email [pastor@hollischurch.org](mailto:pastor@hollischurch.org) if you're interested — and if Wednesday evenings aren't a workable time for you (we know some of you have children who go to bed around that time!), let her know when a preferable time might be.

## Widening Our Vision Speaker Series Finale

Come, listen, learn, share, discuss, ask questions!

**Sunday, May 1 ~ Gerri Cannon will speak to us after worship about her personal experience and journey as a transgender woman.** A fellow member of the UCC, Gerri is a member of the NH House of Representatives (2018-present); a member of the Somersworth School Board; has held a wide variety of hardware, software, marketing, education and consulting positions across the past three decades; and as a master carpenter, is owner and founder of Cannon's Carpenter on Call.

## Introducing...

### The Caring Connection Ministry Team

The Pastoral Care Committee has a new name! We are now: "The Caring Connection Ministry Team!"

*Why the change?* You probably thought of us as reaching out mainly to the shut-ins. During the pandemic almost all of us have been "shut-ins." That led us to broaden our thinking and our outreach. We want to reach out to anyone who might like a phone call, an email, a hand-written note, a visit, and for any reason: a happy occasion, a simple reminder our church cares about them and wants to stay connected, a loss, an illness, and on, and on.

So, if you know of someone who might like us to reach out to them, please let us know.

And if you would like to join us with this ministry, please call the church and let us know.

The Caring Connection Ministry Team

## Our Church Records

### Deaths

April 1, 2022 ~ Eleanor Whittemore

April 3, 2022 ~ Ken Fiery

April 5, 2022 ~ Barbara Henry (Beth Harper's sister)

### Memorial Gifts

*In memory of Barbara Henry by:*

Pamela Gallagher

Barbara's friends at Cahill Place

### From the Church Office...

My grateful thanks go to Florence Baker, Sue Burton, Freddi Olson and Deb Shipman for preparing your April *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.

*From the Widening Our Vision (WOV) Team...*

## *A Look Back at Where We've Been and What's Next?*



### **Widening Our Vision Timeline: More than a Year in the Making...**

- March 2021 – Church Council approved formation of Open & Affirming (ONA) task force
- April 2021 – Call for interested individuals to join ONA task force
- June 2021 – ONA core team first meeting; work begins using *Building an Inclusive Church* toolkit
- Aug 2021 – ONA team meets with director of UCC Open & Affirming Coalition for ONA guidance
- Sept 2021 – ONA team renamed to Widening Our Vision; creates document: purpose, rationale, goals
- Oct 2021 – shared the WOV document at meetings with each church board and requested feedback
- Nov 2021 – introduced WOV to the congregation in church
- Nov 2021 – met with reps from other churches that recently completed the ONA process for guidance
- Dec 2021 – introduced WOV in *Chimes* newsletter and initiate series of monthly articles
- Jan 2022 – added Widening Our Vision information and resources to our web site
- April 2022 – offered a three-part speaker series (culminating on May 1)
- April 2022 – introduced our Welcome Statement (ONA Covenant) on Easter Sunday

### *So, what are the next steps?*

To become an Open and Affirming church, congregation members must vote to adopt our Welcome Statement (ONA Covenant). With the desire for this covenant vote to be overwhelmingly positive, the next step, then, is an **exploratory survey**. We ask that all voting members answer the one-question survey and return your responses to the church. You may use the survey form on the next page or respond to the emailed survey that will be sent on May 1. Whichever way you choose to respond, please **submit your surveys by May 15, 2022**. We look forward to hearing from you!

When the WOV team determines we are ready for a formal vote, we will request that Council schedule a **congregational meeting to vote on the Welcome Statement and adopt it as our ONA Covenant**. The UCC Open and Affirming Coalition will certify our church as ONA, and our name will be listed with the 57 other New Hampshire UCC ONA churches.

### *Does being ONA mean lots of changes??*

Once we are officially Open and Affirming, there may be some visible indications of our ONA status ~ perhaps a rainbow stripe will be added at the base of the sign outside the meetinghouse door that says 'Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here' or an addition to the sign outside the center door indicating that we are Open & Affirming, and our web site will identify our church as Open and Affirming. Our pastor and our hymnal already use inclusive language, so the WOV team doesn't expect any noticeable changes in what our worship looks or feels like. **After all, becoming ONA is really just an underscoring of what we've been saying all along ~ No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

### *So what difference will adopting our ONA covenant make?*

Throughout the past year, a number of church members (maybe you or someone who sits in the pew next to you!) have shared their personal stories — adult children or siblings who are LGBTQ+ folks, a teenage child who is gender fluid, other teens who are questioning or coming out, an adult son transitioning to become a woman, a family member who left our church due to condemnation of who he is. Our ONA covenant will make a difference to them and to ALL of us. It says that we *Draw the Circle Wide* — wide enough to include people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions — in other words ...**everyone**.



Email [WOV@hollischurch.org](mailto:WOV@hollischurch.org) with questions or comments



## Proposed Welcome Statement

*“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.”*

Romans 15:7



We, the members of the Congregational Church of Hollis, United Church of Christ, believe that all people are created in God's image and therefore are loved, valued, and blessed by God. Through our diversity, we strive to be Christ-like and extend Christ's love, compassion, and acceptance to everyone. This community of faith is an Open and Affirming congregation which welcomes persons of all races, ethnic backgrounds, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, physical and mental abilities, family structure, marital status, and socio-economic background. All are invited to fully share and participate in the membership, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family. Understanding that repression and discrimination of any kind is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ's principles of love, peace, justice, grace, and compassion, we are committed to the on-going work of inclusivity and discovering ways to live out our support and respect for all of God's beloved children. For no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

If a vote were held today on the above Welcome Statement, how would you respond?

- ☐ **YES**, wholeheartedly
- ☐ **YES**, but I would appreciate more education (additional comments welcome)
- ☐ **YES**, but I would appreciate more scriptural engagement (additional comments welcome)
- ☐ **NO**, because I need more ... (please provide additional information in comments section below)

Additional comments:

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Name (optional)




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**Survey submissions are due by May 15, 2022**

Return completed surveys to the church (drop in basket in the narthex when you come to church or mail to Congregational Church of Hollis, 3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049) *OR* respond to the emailed survey that will be sent on May 1.

# May 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock / Confirmation 10:45 am – <i>Widening Our Vision</i> speaker event: Gerri Cannon shares her personal experience and journey as a transgender woman 1	7 pm – CE Board meeting 2	8am-3:30pm -Yard Sale donations ac- cepted 10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 3	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 12:30-3:30pm -Yard Sale donations accepted 7 pm – New Member class (#1 of 2) 4	8am-3:30pm - Yard Sale dona- tions accepted 7 pm – Choir 5	8am-12pm - Yard Sale donations accepted 6	 Community Yard Sale and Bake Sale 9am-12:30pm 7
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock 8	7 pm – Deacons meeting 9	1pm – Staff meeting 7 pm – Mission & Ac- tion Board meeting 10	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Commit- tee meeting 7 pm – New Member class (#2 of 2) 11	 6 pm - Hardy Hall and Squires Patio 7 pm - Choir 12	Our church volunteers provide din- ner at Ash St. Shelter 13	 Red Cross Blood Drive 10am-3pm 14
9:30 am –Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock / Confirmation Deadline to return <i>Widening Our Vision</i> survey 15	7 pm – Trustees meeting Summer 2022 <i>Chimes</i> deadline 16	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 17	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Council meeting 18	7 pm - Choir 19	20	21
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock - Children's Day 22	7pm – Steward- ship Board meeting 23	24	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 25	26	27	28
9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 29	Memorial Day 30	31	Mission Items of the Month: Personal Hygiene Products ♦ Shampoo/Conditioner ♦ Soap bars or body wash ♦ Toothbrushes ♦ Toothpaste ♦ Dental floss ♦ Razors/blades ♦ Shaving cream ♦ Feminine products ♦ Combs ♦ Deodorant ♦ Hand lotion ♦ Body lotion			

# Mission & Action News

## May Items of the Month:

### Personal Hygiene Products

- ◆ Toothbrushes/Toothpaste ◆ Dental Floss
- ◆ Razors/Blades ◆ Shaving Cream
- ◆ Soap Bars/Body Wash
- ◆ Shampoo/Conditioner ◆ Combs
- ◆ Deodorant ◆ Feminine Products
- ◆ Hand Lotion ◆ Body Lotion



Please place all donations in the collection bin outside at the center entrance or inside the center entrance in the M&A cart. Thank you!

## Cook a Meal for Ash St Shelter

On the second Friday of the month, we provide a dinner for 20-30 people for the Ash Street Shelter. We provide you with a \$75 Market Basket gift card to purchase the ingredients for the meal. We just need you to prepare the meal and deliver it to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua after 6 PM on the Friday date. We are in need for chefs for months October – December. If you or a group you are part of would like to cook a meal for the homeless who appreciate it so much, contact Lee Harper at [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net)

## Red Cross Blood Drive



Mark your calendars now for donating blood at our **Saturday, May 14** Blood Drive in Hardy Hall! Online registration for

an appointment is recommended; walk ins may have a lengthy wait. Please go to [www.red-crossblood.org](http://www.red-crossblood.org) to book your appointment today. The drive is from 10 until 3 PM. Blood and platelet shortages are critical and the need is urgent! Most adults are eligible, so please consider being a blood donor and help save lives. For more information or to register please go to the website listed above.

## April M&A Donations

We have been busy donating monies.

In April we gave to:

- Church World Service Kits program
  - Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire's *Building Home Building Hope* capital campaign
- M&A also sponsored the Church World Service Blanket Sunday congregation-wide special offering, which netted more than \$700.

Thank you for supporting our monthly charities. Your generosity is boundless and we hope you can continue to contribute.



## The Community Yard Sale and Church Bake Sale is Back!

9am-12:30pm on Saturday, May 7  
Church Parking Lot

### There are many ways to participate:

- **Volunteers needed** Wed - Fri (5/4 - 5/6) for pricing donated goods, and Saturday, 5/7, for set-up, working at the sale, parking/traffic control, clean-up and haul away afterward.
- **Donate merchandise** to be sold as part of the church's yard sale tables (donations drop-off at the church May 3-6; **please no donations before May 3**)
- **Donate baked goods** for bake sale
- **COME OUT AND BUY!** Great bargains and awesome baked goods to be had, plus an opportunity to see lots of people from town!

**Questions or Willing to Help?** Contact Carol at [FandH@hollischurch.org](mailto:FandH@hollischurch.org) or 603-860-2178

*Church fundraiser for BOV renovation and Mission & Action contribution*

*Coming in June...*

## **Free Concert**

Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 7 pm

On Wednesday, June 8,  
the Angel Choir from  
Granville, Ohio will be  
performing at our church.

This is a rescheduled concert from their 2020 tour. For a  
taste of their sound, search "I Believe by The (Virtual) Angel  
Choir" on YouTube or go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g79I1VW180Q&t=114s>



## **Host Families needed!**

Host families are needed to host high school and college-  
aged singers and their adult chaperones. This would be for  
about 12 hours as they would go home with you after the  
concert and would return for an 8:30 AM arrival back at  
church the next morning. Following safe church policies,  
they will be housed in pairs or trios. If we all pull together,  
we can offer an experience that we can all benefit from.

There are so few safe "adventures" for teens these days, and  
experiences like this are all the more memorable, especially  
considering how our world has changed since the Angel  
Choir's first tour in 1998.

If you are curious about becoming a host for the night of  
June 8, please fill out the host form at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHBI9tKPtSLISmTslY8P-DxvRjbJ8XGCclYDIYFGCvU8xrOA/viewform>

or contact Beth Harper at: [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net)

Joy Hire is the choir director and her father is from Hollis.  
She is very excited to bring these wonderful young people to  
his hometown, which she loves so very much.

The touring group has been fortunate to eat a simple dinner  
at the host churches along the way and your Music Board to-  
gether with the Fellowship and Hospitality Committee will  
be providing their meal.

## ***Church History Spotlight on ...*** **Collection Pouches**

Collection pouches, instead of collection  
plates, were used in the third Meeting  
House which burned down in 1923. The  
pouches displayed were saved from the  
burning building and stored in the pre-  
sent church attic. Somewhat forgotten,  
church custodian, historian, and treasurer  
Nelson Parkhurst found them in the attic  
many years later in broken and moth-  
eaten condition.

Mr. Parkhurst remembered the collection  
pouches with long handles being used in  
the church when he attended as a boy. He  
also remembered being restless during  
the services but recalled the highlight for  
him was when he watched the ushers pre-  
sent the collection pouches with an ele-  
gant flourish. This memory set him on a  
mission to restore the relics of a by-gone  
day.

In 1976, Mr.  
Parkhurst, assisted  
by Roy Stavely,  
repaired and refin-  
ished the wooden  
handles and rims  
of the pouches.  
Mrs. C. Wordbury  
Bell sewed on new  
pouches and Irvin  
Londry made the  
display case with  
materials supplied  
by Warren Towne.  
The church is  
grateful that to-  
gether, they saved  
a wonderful and  
interesting piece of our church history.



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*Coming in the next issue, a full-length  
'And the Rest Is History' article about a  
very special church space — our Adam  
Verrecchia Memorial Community Garden*





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**

## Join us for an All-Church Potluck!



Weather is warming and it's been WAY too long  
since we have all been able to gather in fellowship!  
Time to enjoy each other's company and our new  
spaces!

**The Fellowship & Hospitality team invites  
ALL to come for a potluck dinner on  
Thursday, May 12th, 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

Hardy Hall & Squires Patio  
Supper served ~ 6:00pm

*All are Welcome (bring friends, neighbors, whoever)!*

RSVPs are appreciated to: [FandH@hollischurch.org](mailto:FandH@hollischurch.org) or 603-860-2178