

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

November 2019

www.HollisChurch.org

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- Thanksgiving Food Baskets ... and more!

**The Chimes is a publication of the
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www.hollischurch.org

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“Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”

(Psalm 100:2, NRSV)



Worship the Lord with Gladness

Dear Friends,

Are you the type of person who has a vision for your life—a picture of how you’d like things to look a year, or maybe a few, from now?

Myself, I have a sort of ebb-and-flow experience of visions—for my life, and for the communities I’ve served. There are moments when I have a clear image, an embraceable impression of a reality to strive toward. But then life unfolds and situations change, and what once seemed a good idea no longer seems so desirable, practical, or in any way worth pursuing. Because discerning God’s vision for my life and the communities I serve has long been a core commitment, I’ve had to prayerfully work through a few moments when certain visions I’d felt were God-inspired didn’t pan out. Other times, I’ve realized that unexpected events have shifted my attention temporarily; when I re-engage my focus on the life-vision, it’s from a different vantage point—and the vision is even more gripping.

I recently re-read the entirety of our Strategic Plan, the vision that was discerned and articulated across 2016, and adopted early in 2017 at our Annual Meeting as our congregation’s “roadmap”. I try to revisit it a couple times a year, and each time I’m surprised by how it looks a little different—but still compelling. The Building Our Vision team has had to make some adjustments based on official decisions by municipal governing bodies and our building contractors’ advice across the past few months (BOV leadership is providing regular updates via announcements, informational sessions, and e-mailings), but our enthusiasm remains strong and excitement for ground-breaking in March, 2020 is growing!

(continued on page 7)

From the Faith Formation Office

Journey to Confirmation

October was filled with fellowship and team-building for students in Grades 7-9. Seventh graders have developed a lively, yet respectful atmosphere for learning in their classroom and are also developing sense of leadership amongst themselves. They have led Sunday School stations, prayers, and performed skits to teach lessons. 8th and 9th Graders are quickly developing relationships with their mentors as they had their first formal gathering for a luncheon. Also, they are deepening their relationships with each other- their overnight retreat to the Harris Center was really fun and a huge success!



Work Camp

Work Camp 2020

July 12-18, 2020

Reading, PA

There's still time to join the Workcamp Crew! The trip is

limited to 24 teens (currently in grade 8 and over) and 6 adults. To reserve a spot, complete the registration form found on the bulletin board outside the church office and send in your \$75 non-refundable deposit. For more information, contact either Kevin Duquette (603-930-9843 / kevinduquette46@gmail.com) or Holly Babcock (hdeurloo@aol.com / 603-759-9175).

Craft event for all ages!

Saturday, November 9 from 4:00-5:30pm

Following the conclusion of the first Holy Habits teachings on Prayer, learn how to make your own full prayer bead set or strand of *Grateful Beads*. No beading experience is necessary! Perfect for your own use, and they also make wonderful Christmas gifts. All supplies and instructions will be provided. If making more than one project, a small donation of \$5 would be greatly appreciated to go towards supply costs.



Holiday season is upon us in Sunday School



November is sure to be a lively month for Preschoolers through 6th Graders!

Plans for this month include:

- **November 3** – Kindness - Zacchaeus skit and Thanksgiving cards
- **November 10** - Advent (Hope) - Thanksgiving parade tickets and Advent Calendar craft
- **November 17** - Advent (Peace) - Make crafts for Christmas Fair and Birthday shoebox packing (see Sunday School Christmas Service Project)
- **November 24** (Thanksgiving Parade!) - Advent (Joy) - Cooking time and Christmas cards

Students have been very motivated to memorize their monthly Bible verses, and are on track to earn prizes in December for their hard work! Should your child be eager to begin practicing at home, November's Bible verse will be:

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is

God's will for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Sunday School Christmas service project: Birthday boxes for NSKS

Around the holidays, we can't forget that kids still have birthdays to be celebrated! The Nashua Soup Kitchen collects supplies to make children feel special on their big day, and we are excited for our Sunday School to contribute.

Some items being collected include small toys, themed party supplies, balloons, streamers, and cake mixes/frosting. If you wish to participate, **items must be in by November 17th**. On this day, our Sunday Schoolers will pack shoeboxes to make local children in need smile on their birthday! Items can be left outside the Christian Education office (at the top of the stairs at the side church entrance)



***Something's up* for Junior Youth**

Group! Mark your calendars for the **afternoon of Friday, November 8**. Details to follow...

Scouting for Food

Did you know that our church receives food from the 'Scouting for Food' Campaign to help fill our Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets? Your participation helps us all. What goes around, comes around...

Hollis Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts will be participating in Scouting for Food. The Hollis scouts will drop off tags with information on Saturday, November 2, and collect filled bags on Saturday, November 9. Please consider donating any canned or dry foods (NO GLASS or perishables). Please leave the bags out in a visible place by your door NO LATER than 8 am on the 9th, rain or shine. Scouts will not ring the doorbell to collect donations. If your bag has not been picked up by 11 am, please use the drop box at Harvest Market.

The scouting community would like to thank you in advance for your generous donations. Someone will enjoy a nice meal because of your generosity.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets: An "all-church" effort...

Our Deacons get non-perishable foods through *Scouting for Food...*

Our children will be baking pumpkin pies and bringing fresh veggies and other Thanksgiving dinner items...

Our Pre-Confirmation & Confirmation students (grades 7-9) pack the food into boxes for delivery...

Our Deacons deliver the baskets...

But we need your help, too! We need volunteers to **bake more Thanksgivng pies** – pumpkin, apple, whatever you like – for the baskets. Please deliver the pies to the church office on the morning of Friday, November 22, or to Hardy Hall kitchen on Sunday morning, November 24th



Let's work together to make it a Happy Thanksgiving for all!

Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited to join the Women's Fellowship group on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 2 pm at the church. Our own Traci Weaver will talk about the Mental Health Resources in Nashua Area. We always offer great refreshments and excellent company. For further information, call Dot Pitman at 465-7672.

Do You Like to Sing? Check out these two opportunities!

Join the Community Christmas Chorus!

On December 14, our Women's Fellowship and the Hollis Town Band will present a holiday concert, collecting non-perishable food for our church's holiday baskets as "admission." All are invited to join the community chorus to perform holiday music with the band. This is a short-term 8-week commitment for anyone who loves to sing. *No auditions – if you can climb the stairs at the Town Hall, you're in!* All voices needed! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15 pm (no rehearsal Nov 27) upstairs in the Town Hall. Rehearsals have begun, but you can still join — just come when you can!



Voices needed for the 32nd annual MESSIAH SING! in Mont Vernon

The Mont Vernon *Messiah Sing!* chorus is open to all who love to sing. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday evenings November 17, 24, and December 1 from 6:45 to 9:00PM at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church at 4 South Main Street in Mont Vernon. Soloists are selected from the chorus during auditions following the second rehearsal. Performances will be Saturday, December 7 at 7:00PM and Sunday, December 8 at 4:00PM. Admission is free and a free will donation opportunity is provided during the performances. For additional information please call Kathie Fitzgerald at 673-2696 or visit the Facebook page: Messiah Sing – MVCC.

November 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Mission Items of the Month: Personal Hygiene Items for <i>Bridges</i> ... ♦ shampoo ♦ body soap & lotion ♦ face cloths ♦ deodorant ♦ toothbrushes & toothpaste		<i>Coming in December...</i> Sat, Dec 14 – Luminaria ~ Chili Supper ~ Community Christmas Concert Sun, Dec 15 – Sunday School Christmas Pageant Sun, Dec 22 – Christmas Music Sunday				Set your clocks back tonight! Daylight Savings Time ends
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 3	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 7 pm – CE Board meeting 4	6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 5	6	Church office closed for All-Day Staff Retreat 7 pm - Choir 7	Junior Youth Group Women’s Overnight Retreat Our volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 8	4-5:30 pm ‘Grateful Beads’ Beading Fun workshop 9
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group 10	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 11 am - Veterans Day observance in the meetinghouse 7 pm – Deacons meeting 11	10am – 12 – Christmas Fair book sorting 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 12	5 pm – Facilities meeting 13	10am – 12 – Christmas Fair book sorting 7 pm - Choir 14	December <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15	16
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Confirmand/Mentor Luncheon 2:00 pm – Women’s Fellowship GIVING TREE in Emerson Chapel and Hardy Hall 17	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner Church office closed (staff attending workshop) 7 pm – Trustees meeting 18	10am – 12 – Christmas Fair book sorting 7 pm – Church Council meeting 19	20	10am – 12 – Christmas Fair book sorting 6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm – Choir 21	22	 Christmas Fair 9:00 am ~ 2:30 pm 23
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 12-1 pm – Thanksgiving Food Basket packing at Brookdale GIVING TREE in Emerson Chapel and Hardy Hall 24	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 25	26	27	Happy Thanksgiving  28	Church Office closed 29	30

Christmas Fair News

Our fair is right around the corner ...

Saturday, November 23 9am – 2:30pm

... and we still need your help!

Angel Loft...Earn Your Wings!

At the Angel Loft, the special children's-only boutique at the Christmas Fair, children can find small gifts for their families at the wonderful price of \$2 per item.

We need a variety of Angels --both adults and teenagers -- to help the Loft run smoothly! Adult help is most appreciated in setting up the Loft during school hours the day before the Fair on Friday, November 16. Teenage workers are incredibly helpful during the Fair on the Saturday, specifically in these areas:

* assisting children in finding special gifts for their loved ones
* re-stocking gifts and decorating tables throughout the day
* running the cash box
* putting gifts into shopping bags
* cleaning and sorting unsold items at the end of the day

If any of these tasks sound like fun please contact Kathryn Hildreth at 603-566-4204 or kathryn_ruff@yahoo.com. Teens please call or text our teen coordinator, Amy Ryherd, at 603-233-4494.

And welcome to our newest Angels!



Christmas Fair Raffle Baskets



**Raffle
Baskets**

If you missed the October 31st deadline for Raffle Basket donations but have items (or a whole basket!) to donate, *please email Kim & Kim* at ce@hollischurch.org ASAP. Thank you!

Book Sale

Helpers needed to sort and price books from 10am-12pm on Tuesdays 11/12 and 11/19 and Thursdays 11/14 and 11/21. During the week of the fair, we will set up the book room in the Austin Room. Please contact Karen Marino for more info at KMarino360@gmail.com.

Also at the Fair...

Mission Trip Raffle Quilt



Scrappy Stars is a new quilt made by Nancy Bell being raffled to benefit the 2020 Mission Trip to Reading, PA. The quilt has multi-colored stars on a neutral background with a blue floral border and measures 75" square ~ perfect as either a wall hanging or on a bed. Raffle tickets will be available at the fair or use the form below to order your tickets. The winning ticket will be pulled at the Mission Trip spaghetti supper in the spring.

Quilt Raffle Ticket Order Form

Tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5.

Total _____ # of tickets

Total \$ _____ enclosed

Name _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to the *Congregational Church of Hollis* with **Mission Trip Quilt** on the memo line. Send order form and payment to:

Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square
Hollis NH 03049





Christmas Fair

Everyone can do something to help with the fair. See below for areas where help is still needed! We look forward to working together to make this a successful and fun Christmas Fair for all.

Susan Adams scadams@charter.net
 Kim Verrecchia kimberlysu@hotmail.com
 Kim Burton kimburton83@gmail.com

Here's how YOU can help!

<u>NEED</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Bake Sale items	Sign-up sheet outside church office
Fashion Boutique	Sign up to help with pricing, displaying or working as an attendant on fair day.
Books, CDs, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs	Drop off in church office. Church office hours are 8-noon Monday – Friday.
Craft Items to donate	Drop at church by 11/15 Contact Debbe Shipman at deb3ship@tds.net
Silent Auction Helpers	Sign-up sheet outside church office
Luncheon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup-makers needed! • Sign up to help during the luncheon
Set up	Sign-up sheet outside church office
Volunteer on fair day	Sign-up sheet outside church office
Clean-up	Sign-up sheet outside church office



Holiday Shopping on Amazon?

Turn your online purchases – all year long -- into dollars for the church *without costing you a penny* at **AmazonSmile!** AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to **support our church** every time you shop, at no cost to you. **On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, just designate the Congregational Church of Hollis as your charitable organization** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Since our church joined the AmazonSmile program in 2014, the total given to the church is \$1,076.79. **Join the 82 other families who have supported our church through Amazon Smile and help us grow!**

From the Church Office

Sincere Thanks go to Nancy Bell, Carol Birch, Marsha Joyce, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty and Deb Shipman for preparing your October *Chimes* for mailing.



WANTED: Empty printer ink & toner cartridges

Our church earns a credit of \$2 per cartridge (up to 20 cartridges/month) when we recycle your empties. Just drop your empty cartridges in the collection bin on the shelf outside the CE office. Thank you!

Our Church Records

New Members ~ September 29, 2019
 Angelike Dyer and Jonathan Dyer

Baptism ~ September 29, 2019
 Julian Costas Dyer

Deaths

Mary Duncan Pike Williams
 Richard Barton Pease
 Nancy Woodman Dressler Wall

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

As the Community OutReach (COR) ministry team is busy spreading the Good News of our church’s active mission and future vision with our wider community, the exhilarating reality is dawning that one year from now we will be inhabiting our newly-revitalized space. It’s time for us to gather another team of folks to form the Living Our Vision team! This team will help to ensure that the vision and goals set out in our Strategic Plan are supported and realized. As a first step, we’re hoping plans can be formed for community suppers, as well as exploring possibilities for a new “café church” or “dinner church” venture. It would be wonderful if ideas were well enough developed across the coming months, that visions and plans could be implemented almost immediately upon completion of our project! If this holds any attraction to you, or you’d like more information, please get in touch with me or with bov@hollischurch.org.

In our Sunday services, we’ve spent the past eight weeks focusing on the Holy Habit of Prayer—which is a component part of Worship, which is the subject we’ll be exploring more deeply in November and December. So far, feedback about the Holy Habits series has been overwhelmingly positive. And personally, I’ve really enjoyed the “deep dive” into the discipline of prayer. I look forward to seeing what we discover about our collective understandings regarding worship in the month of November: how we might variously define worship, what helps and hinders us in communal services of worship, and what is most meaningful to us about worship. Here’s an outline of what the Holy Habits planning team is hoping to engage across the coming weeks:

Week 1, November 3: “What *IS* Worship? Beginning to Explore the Holy Habit of Worship”

Week 2, November 10: “What Makes for Authentic Worship? Personal and Biblical Perspectives”

Week 3, November 17: “Utilizing Star Words in Worship”

Week 4, November 24: “Thanks-giving Worship: How Can We Say Thanks?”

I hope you’ll participate!

With faith, hope, and love,

Tanya



Stewardship Message

The Stewardship Committee would like to express our gratitude for your consideration of your financial commitment to the church. Your pledge not only supports the church budget, it also impacts people’s lives by supporting worship, education, caring and community. Your gifts are the foundation of our faith and discipleship.

We thank those who have already made their commitment. For those who have not, we ask that you consider your gift as an act of faith. We’re blessed to be part of a generous and supportive church family that offers so much to the congregation, children, and the greater community.

Please get your pledges in so the Trustees can complete their plans for the 2020 budget.

Pledge cards are available in the church office. You can also complete your pledge online through the church website. We also have electronic giving options* that allow you to fulfill your pledge electronically as well. Thank you for your support!

Faithfully,
The Christian Stewardship Board

*Questions about online giving? See the FAQs on the next page!

**THE COUNTDOWN
TO BREAKING
GROUND
CONTINUES!**



ONLY  WEEKS TO GO!

- Permits Approved!
- Task Forces Hard at Work!
- Community Outreach Underway!
- Help us LIVE OUR VISION! Get Involved!

CONTACT BOV@HOLLISCHURCH.ORG

Some Online Giving FAQs:

How does online giving help me?

Online Giving enables a safe reliable way to move your stewardship plan into action through planned giving. This will allow you to give consistently and eliminate those periods of “catch up” at year end or post vacation periods.

How does online giving help the church?

Online Giving simplifies church financial planning through predictive giving while reducing risks and time delays due to processing weekly offerings.

Is there a phone app to do online giving?

Yes, for those who prefer to use phone apps instead of website online giving, “There’s an app for that!” (and it’s free). From the App Store and Google Play, search for “GivePlus Church” to download the app.

Do I have to enroll in (create a profile for) Online Giving?

If you want to make a recurring donation (for example, a scheduled monthly regular offering donation) and/or if you want the ability to see a history of your donation(s), you will need to create a profile for online giving.

Is there a preferred frequency and method of payment for recurring donations?

Yes, for recurring donations towards your annual pledge, **the preferred frequency is monthly on the 15th of the month by ACH (directly from your checking account)**. This helps minimize fees to the church. However, you are also welcome to use your credit card instead, and if monthly on the 15th does not work for you, weekly and quarterly frequency options are also available, as is any day of the month.

Can I choose to offset the fees to the church when I make an online donation?

Yes, when donating online via the website, if you pay by credit card you can check the optional “Give additional 2.75% to help offset the processing fee.” If you donate using the GivePlus phone app (instead of the website), there is also an option to offset the 1% fees for ACH (direct-from-checking/savings) payments. Unfortunately, the website does not allow any fee offset option for ACH payments, only credit card payments.

Can I cancel once I enroll?

You may cancel your enrollment at any time by logging into your Online Giving account. From the “Profile” tab, click on “Cancel Profile”.

Can I donate to specific funds?

When enrolling, you may choose to donate to any of the specific funds listed on the Give Online page linked above. This list may be updated from time-to-time.

Can I change or delete a donation?

For recurring donations or donations scheduled for a future date, you can change or delete a donation by logging into your account. Under the “My Scheduled Transactions” section, select the “Edit” or “Delete” link next to the specific transaction(s) you would like to edit or delete and follow the instructions from there.

Will I receive a receipt/confirmation of my transaction?

After you complete your online donation or edit or delete a transaction, you will receive a receipt via email. If you created a profile, you will also be able to view transactions in your giving history from your account.

When I make a donation, is my debit/credit card or bank account information secure?

Yes. Vanco Payment Solutions meets or exceeds all industry standards to safeguard your data. To help ensure your data stays safe, they leverage technology such as tokenizing card data and encrypting sensitive information for transmission and storage.

I made a mistake and donated the wrong amount. How can I get a refund?

Contact the church office at 603-465-7797 or churchoffice@hollischurch.org to credit the amount donated in error back to your account.

Mission & Action News

November Items of the Month:

Personal Hygiene items for *Bridges*

Bridges is a nonprofit agency dedicated to assisting victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. They create bridges to learning in local schools & workplaces as well as bridges to healing with support groups and a confidential support line. Help these victims get back on their feet by donating (full size or travel size):

- Shampoo
- Body soap
- Hair Conditioner
- Body lotion
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Face cloths



We're also collecting...

- **Puzzle Books** -- Crossword, Word Search, Sudoku – for Meals On Wheels Holiday Build-A-Bag program
- **Diapers** (sizes 4,5,6) *Please keep them coming!*

All donations can be left in the shopping cart at the top of the stairs and thank you!

Recent Donations by Mission & Action:

- **St John Neumann Food Pantry** for stocking their shelves
- **Nashua Children's Home** to help with the continuing needs of the children
- **Bethany Christian Services** to assist their efforts in giving children safe homes
- **Clothing purchases** for homeless teens in our community

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

The 2020 calendar has been posted on the M&A bulletin board to provide **Dinner to the Ash Street Shelter**. Contact Martha Daigle with questions, marthadaigle@me.com or 603-305-6047



HEATING HELP

Food and Heat Assistance

It's just starting to get chilly and winter is right around the corner!!!!

Do you know of anyone needing assistance in paying for food, heat or hot water (oil, kerosene or propane)? If so, please ask them to contact Karen Marino at 603-465-2463 or kmarino360@gmail.com.

Annual Giving Tree Program:

The Mission & Action Board sponsors

THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE*

for needy families in our area. The tag-loaded Christmas tree will be in Emerson Chapel and Hardy Hall on **Sunday, November 17th** and **Sunday, November 24.**



Here's how it works:

1. Choose a tag (*if you wish to sponsor more than one child, please speak with Karen Marino for assistance*) from the tree.
2. There are TWO tags on each string. Pull the *second* tag off the string, write your name and telephone number on it, and put it in the basket provided.
3. Keep the top tag. It has the information about the gift recipient.
4. Go shopping! Use the information and suggestions on the tag as a guide. It is not necessary to purchase every item listed on the tag.
5. *Please wrap gifts individually.* This is so the children will have multiple things to open on Christmas morning, and it's a lot more fun to open wrapped gifts!
6. Place all the gifts in a large trash bag and attach the tag to the bag. *Please include a separate list of all the gifts you purchased.*
7. The **gifts need to be back at the church by Sunday, December 8th** to give us time to deliver them.

***Monetary donations** toward fulfilling 'Christmas wishes' are also gratefully accepted. Checks should be payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis with *Giving Tree* on the memo line. **Donations needed by December 8th** to allow time for M&A to shop to fulfill wishes.



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



There will be something for everyone at our...

Christmas Fair

Saturday, November 23
 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Come visit with Santa!

10:30am-12 noon and 1pm-2pm

- * **Fabulous Gift Basket Raffle** —something for everyone or great for gift giving
- * **Fashion Boutique** - designer labels and accessories
- * **Kids' Crafts**
- * **Angel Loft** (where only children may shop ☺)
- * **Silent Auction** – goods and services
- * **Bake Sale** - delicious homemade treats
- * **Handcrafted Items**
- * Browse among the gently used **books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs** in the **Book Sale room**
- * Don't miss the **Luncheon** — *homemade soups, breads and pies!*