

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

November 2020

[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)

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**[www.hollischurch.org](http://www.hollischurch.org)**

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*O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!  
But I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more.*  
(Psalm 71:12, 14)

*“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this  
ministry, we do not lose heart. ... But we have this  
treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made  
clear that this extraordinary power belongs  
to God and does not come from us.”*

(2 Corinthians 4:1, 7)

*We do not lose heart.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1



Dear Friends,

We are moving into a holiday season that, for most of us, will be inflected by grief. The ongoing coronavirus disruptions and responsible/compassionate distancing continue to reshape cherished traditions and gatherings. This represents meaningful loss and emotional pain.

In some households, the isolation has fed festering dynamics which have blossomed into full-blown toxic relationships. And, the aching and trenchant political chasm that has beset our nation for too long now appears poised to erupt into even greater chaos and potential violence following the election, regardless of who claims victory. We’ve lost track of how to speak to each other — more importantly, perhaps, how to *listen* to each other — and it’s not unreasonable to expect that it will take decades to recover.

The questions feel even more poignant now than it was six months ago, if that’s possible: How can we “come together” when it’s not safe to be together in significant numbers? And, what does it mean, what shape can it take, to praise God and give thanks amidst of the layers of trauma we’re experiencing?

I don’t think it does any good, nor do I believe God expects us, to minimize the aspects of life that are painful, scary, or debilitating. Just read the Psalms. So many of them are poetic prayers expressing a combination of both (major and minor) woes, and a determination to continue praising God and giving thanks in spite of the hardships.

*(continued on page 3)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## Confirmation

### The Journey Continues...

to Confirmation, that is! The 7th and 8th Graders will have lessons about Church History in November, and will continue in their Life Lesson series on Stress. The box packing tradition continues- Confirmands will meet to pack Thanksgiving boxes at Brookdale on Sunday, November 22. More details on this will be going out to families as the date approaches.

This year's lively class of thirteen 7th and 8th graders is being led by Gudrun Pfeiffer; assisted by Joel Verrecchia. The first class was held outdoors; students were spaced apart on blankets and chairs, and were excited to start their journey together! Classes in October will cover the Holy Spirit/Trinity, the Bible, as well as the all-new Life Lessons covering the topic of Stress.

### A big THANKS for all the undies!



Kim and Kim were able to deliver 14 packages of fresh new underwear to Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. This is their **most needed and least received item**; thank you to all who donated! The church school students were thrilled to package them up for delivery, and had many giggles as they did so 😊.

## Church School in November

Children in PreK-Grade 6 will continue their unit on *Caring and Friendship* on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:15pm. Classes have been held outside on the library playground field, as well as on Zoom. Fingers are crossed for some more good weather for an outdoor class in November!

Students have been working hard on coloring beautiful holiday placemats which will be delivered to the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter for their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

**\*There will be NO church school on November 24<sup>th</sup> as families prepare for Thanksgiving.\***



### November Bible Memory Verse:

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is Good;  
his love endures forever."*

1 Chronicles 16:34

*(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)*

Similarly, the apostle Paul wrote to congregations about the difficulties they all wrestled with — but in the same breath, he gave thanks that our adversities provide clear reminders that God's goodness, not our own efforts, are ultimately responsible for any and every good thing we've ever enjoyed.

This year, the first Sunday of Advent falls three days after Thanksgiving (29<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, respectively). Advent is the season when Christians pay special attention and give active voice to our longing for divine deliverance, for the coming of the Savior, Messiah, Christ. I expect the Advent anthems and carols expressing our anticipation and yearning will resonate in powerful new ways this year! We're going to be embracing the Advent theme "Those Who Dream...", about which there will be more details in the December newsletter.

Across the four Sundays of Advent, we're going to attempt "hybrid" services—a combination of our ongoing Zoom-based gatherings, with a limited number of sign-up participants to come and worship in the Meetinghouse, at our regular 9:30 a.m. time. Those who sign up for "in-person"/sanctuary worship will be expected to remain masked during the service. Pews will be marked for distancing. All participants will be asked to respond to the typical COVID-exposure questions prior to attending, and — perhaps most difficult — will have to refrain from singing while in the group setting, as singing is a known "super-spreader." (Humming is okay; and those who are participating at home on Zoom can sing their hearts out!) Our Advent services will serve as a pilot attempt for future or ongoing hybrid services, including Christmas Eve service(s). Watch for details in the weekly announcements, and/or reach out to the church office for more information about signing up if you're interested.

As our hemisphere tilts away from the sun in the coming weeks, it will offer visible and palpable reminders that living in prolonged darkness need not imply or mean that God is any less present or active. If we're open and attentive to the activity of Love during these challenging times, we'll likely discover our spiritual 'night vision' — a deepening and strengthening of our faith understanding in the 'darkness' — and a surprising resolve to rejoice and give thanks, even as we name in God's hearing the things that grieve us. Giving thanks for you, and for the myriad gifts of our community in the midst of pandemic.

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

LOVE  
Beloved,

## 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 2021 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

## A Well-Deserved Vacation




It's been a very busy year, and **Rev. Tanya** didn't get around to taking her usual summer vacation. She will be away from **November 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office ([churchoffice@hollischurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@hollischurch.org) or 465-7797) and they will put you in touch with someone to assist.



# November 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Zoom Sunday worship services and fellowship continue on <u>Sunday mornings at 9:30</u>.</b> Church boards meet via Zoom. Church Office hours: November 1 <sup>st</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8am-Noon (closed Tuesdays and Fridays)/Resume M-F hours on November 16						
9:30 am – Communion Worship on zoom  1	7 pm – CE Board meeting  2	4:30 pm – Church School outdoors or on zoom 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting  3	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom  4	7pm - Choir  5		Scouting for Food information tags distributed  7
9:30 am –Worship on zoom  8	7 pm – Deacons meeting  9	4:30 pm – Church School outdoors or on zoom 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting  10	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom  11	7pm - Choir  12	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter  13	<b>Deadline for Christmas Fair Raffle Basket donations</b> Scouting for Food collection 14
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 7 pm – <b>BoV Virtual Housewarming Party</b>  15	7 pm – Trustees meeting  16	4:30 pm – Church School outdoors or on zoom 7 pm – Church Council meeting  17	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom  18	7pm - Choir  19		20  21
<b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> 9:30 am – Worship on zoom with special Church School Thanksgiving video Thanksgiving Food Baskets ~ homemade pie delivery to church and packing event with Confirmands 2 pm – Mental Health Discussion Group 22		NO Church School  24	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom  25	<b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>  26	<b>Christmas Fair Online Auction and Raffle Basket ticket sales begin!</b>  Church Office closed 27	<b>Christmas Fair Online Auction and Raffle Basket ticket sales continue until December 6<sup>th</sup></b> 28
<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 am – Worship on zoom  29		<b>November Mission Items of the Month:</b> ♦ Coats, Sweaters, Jackets – for Davis Funeral Home’s Annual Coat Drive ♦ Non-perishable Food Items - for Brookline Food Pantry ♦ Cleaning Supplies and Diapers (sizes 5 & 6) – for <i>Bridges</i> <b>GIVING TREE</b> ~ tags available to support Nashua Children’s Home residents – email Karen Marino ( <a href="mailto:kmarino360@gmail.com">kmarino360@gmail.com</a> ) to participate 30				





Due to COVID-19 and our responsibility to keep our staff, congregation, and community members safe, we are saddened that we are unable to do our traditional “live” Christmas Fair this year (to be resumed in 2021!). **HOWEVER, ALL IS NOT LOST!**

**Our very Special Edition Christmas Fair for 2020** will be comprised of **two traditional favorites** – our ever-popular **Raffle Baskets** *AND* our **Auction** (which transforms from in-person Silent Auction to **Online Auction** this year!). We recognize that this is completely different than the normal “live” experience, but most everything about 2020 has required us to do things differently and we are happy to be able to do something!

### ***Here’s How YOU Can Help!***

While this year’s fair may be different from years’ past, one thing very much the same is the need for **donations of items** for both the Raffle Baskets *and* the Online Auction.

### **Raffle Basket Donations**

For raffle baskets, we welcome donations of one item, all the way through an entire basket. **Items donated for raffle baskets need to be *new and unopened*.**

Because we need time to assemble and photograph the baskets for viewing on the website, there is a **strict deadline of November 14** to receive raffle basket items.

**Some confirmed basket themes we have so far:** Coronavirus, Cookie Monster, Arts and Crafts, Board Games Galore, Family Movie/game night, and Relaxation.

*Looking for inspiration for Basket Themes?* Check out <https://www.livingonadime.com/gift-basket-ideas-recipes/> or <https://www.giftblooms.com/content/amazing-gift-basket-ideas-according-to-likes-dislikes/> ... or just Google “raffle basket ideas”.

**Raffle Basket Donations** can be left in the bin outside the front entrance, or depending on what you are donating, you may want to bring it into the church. Office hours to drop off donations are Mon, Wed and Thurs from 8am – noon. Due to construction, you may want to call ahead 603-465-7797, or you can contact Sue at [Sue@hollischurch.org](mailto:Sue@hollischurch.org) to make arrangements as well. Please remember that **all raffle basket donations must be received by November 14th.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Online Auction Donations

One exciting facet of an Online Auction is that there are *NO space limitations*! We can auction an **unlimited number of items – large or small** – by posting photos and descriptions on the auction site. We're in the process of soliciting donations from local businesses, but would love to have a variety of items or certificates for services from our members, too.

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking 'outside the box'!

- **Knitters** ~ mittens/hats/scarves, baby sweaters, prayer shawls
- **Crafters** ~ what items could you offer to be auctioned?
- **Quilters** ~ wall hangings, table runners, place mats
- **Photographers** ~ framed or canvassed photos to donate?
- **Bakers** ~ offer a certificate for a home-baked apple pie to be auctioned. The winning bidder gets the baker's contact information to make arrangements for date (so the pie doesn't have to be made prior to the auction).
- **Cake Decorators** ~ offer a certificate for a decorated 10" round double layer cake or a dozen fancy decorated cupcakes (provide a photo or two of past creations)
- **Athletes** ~ Any tennis players or soccer players willing to offer a 60 minute one-on-one lesson?
- **Car Buffs** ~ Anyone have an antique convertible car that they can offer a 60-minute sight-seeing drive in?
- **Drone Owners** ~ take professional quality drone footage of someone's house and property
- **Snow Plowers** ~ gift certificate worth \$xxxx towards driveway plowing
- **Anyone who is able** ~ certificate for 2-hour spring or fall yard cleanup
- **Any high school students** ~ certificate for an hour or two of tutoring a subject you are really good at

*You get the idea. **Everyone** has something to offer!*

### Ready to Donate Auction Items?

An **Online Auction Donation Form** will soon be available on our website. Donors are encouraged to provide a completed form with their donation.

**Certificates** may be mailed to the church at 3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049

**Donations of items** ~ please contact Sue Adams ([Sue@hollischurch.org](mailto:Sue@hollischurch.org)) or Tanya Engle ([TanyaFay@gmail.com](mailto:TanyaFay@gmail.com)) to make arrangements.

# BoV Update: *What's New?*



Our project continues to grow more exciting every day as we move closer to completion. If you haven't had a chance to view our Sneak Peek Videos they are available on our webpage at <https://hollischurch.org/bov/>.

Highlights include:

- Exterior: The dog house has been removed and a fire rated exit has been installed.
- Patio: By the time you receive this, the patio should be almost finished. This will be the first part of the project to reach completion! We can't wait for it to be shared by all.
- Kitchen: New flooring is in place and appliances are being installed.
- Hardy Hall: Light filled exterior doors and windows are in place and painting has been begun.
- CE Space: A bright, new welcoming CE office and space in the Flag Room is near completion.
- Austin Room: The room has been framed and awaits new paint. A team of youth are currently imagining uses for this new space.
- And more!: The start of renovations to upstairs spaces such as admin, Parkhurst, the nursery, pastor's office, Deacon's Kitchen and more!

We hope we are able to join together soon to celebrate this amazing project.

With Joy,  
The BoV Team

## 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 Scouts will again be participating in Scouting for Food.** The Hollis scouts will drop off tags with information on Saturday, November 7, and **collect filled bags on Saturday, November 14.** Please consider donating any canned or dry foods (NO GLASS or perishables). **Leave the bags out in a visible place by your door or near your mailbox NO LATER than 8 am on the 14th, 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 the handicapped entrance of the church.

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* as well as purchasing Thanksgiving meal items to include in the baskets...

**Our children** will be creating Thanksgiving greeting cards 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 Thanksgiving pies** – pumpkin, apple, whatever you like – for the baskets. Please deliver the pies to Hardy Hall kitchen on Sunday morning, November 22<sup>nd</sup> or contact Rick Guay to make other delivery arrangements (RMGuay@comcast.net)



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

# Mission & Action News

## November Items of the Month ... supporting many organizations!

† This month we are **collecting sweaters, coats, and jackets**

for the Davis Funeral Home's annual coat drive. Drop off your donations and know you'll be keeping someone warm this winter!



† There is a continuous need at the Brookline Food Pantry for **non-perishable food**.



† *Bridges* is moving to their new home on Concord St. and is **in need of cleaning supplies**.

† There is a constant need for **diapers in sizes 5 and 6**.

Please drop ALL donations in the plastic bin at the handicapped entrance to the church.

## Food & Fuel Assistance

If you know anyone in the community who needs assistance with food or fuel, please connect with Karen Marino at 603-475-3073 or [kmarino360@gmail.com](mailto:kmarino360@gmail.com)

## Ash Street Shelter Dinners

Thank you to everyone who has cooked a meal. We are now signing up for next year. We would love to have families or volunteers for January and February. Contact Lee Harper at 465- 5118 or [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net) if you would like to help.



## Your Mission and Action Dollars at Work for the month of October:

- UCC Disaster Relief; Domestic, Hurricanes
- Save the Children
- Neighbors in Need
- Brookline Food Pantry
- Meals Matter



This year the **GIVING TREE** will be supporting the Nashua Children's Home, an organization that our

church has supported for several years.

After much discussion, M&A decided we will do the name tags as we have before, except we will not be hanging the names on a tree for people to view.

Karen Marino will receive the list, make the tags and will be in contact with people who have participated in the past. She can meet you at the church for you to review the names or visit you outside at your home. Karen will provide further instructions about where and when to return the wrapped gifts.

If you would like to participate, please email Karen at [kmarino360@gmail.com](mailto:kmarino360@gmail.com) or call her at 603.465.2463

Thank you so much for your participation.



## Our Church Records

### Deaths

September 26, 2020

Charles Clayton (Clay) Sipe

### Memorial Gifts

*In loving memory of Evie Lutz by:*

Martha Davis

Gail Harrison and Tom Army

*In loving memory of Thelma Pollard by:*

Martha Davis

*In loving memory of Carolyn Hackett by:*

Martha Davis

*In loving memory of Adam Verrecchia by:*

Nancy Bell

Peggy and David Gilmour

Diana Jay

Peter and Nancy LeMay

Diane and Kevin McNamara

June and Donald Poulin

Mike and Joyce Pepin

The Seddon Family

Paula Flannery

Susan and Thomas Burton

Susan Cummings

Tom and Kathryn Hildreth

Hollis Primary School staff

James Officer

Johanne and Stephen Verrecchia

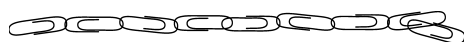
Janet and Richard Waited

Roxanne Warniers

*In loving memory of Adam Verrecchia  
and Mike Verrecchia by:*

Fred Ranuro

Peter Shima



### From the Church Office...

Many thanks go to the masked and socially distanced group Nancy Bell, Freddi Olson and Deb Shipman for prepping the October edition of *The Chimes* for mailing.



## Note of Thanks

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the lovely cards I received at the time of my birthday. I have missed seeing you at church so the cards and notes made me feel like I still belong to a *friendly, welcoming* church. Let's not forget — a *beautiful* church. I really appreciate the pictures you send out on the computer. It is going to be a beautiful, bright and safe church for all to enjoy. Well done!

Fondly,

Martha Davis

## Thanks-giving Thoughts



After “turkey day” came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not “How *was* your Thanksgiving?” but “How *is* your Thanksgiving?” After all, **giving thanks should be an ongoing act.**

That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? “Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms.” That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being “thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice.”

**So ... how *is* your Thanksgiving?**

## Holiday Cards 4 Our Military Challenge

Our church will once again help out with the annual **Holiday Cards 4 Our Military Challenge**. But, in the face of the COVID19 global pandemic, **plans for 2020 have been adapted for the times. Participation is easy!** This year, you are invited to pick up a Christmas card (or a stack of cards!) from the bin located outside the handicapped entrance to the church. Take one of the guidelines/instructions for card writing (it even includes a few writing prompts to help you with your message!) from the bin, too. Write a newsy holiday message, remembering that our Troops are diverse in their faiths. Sign your first name **ONLY**, city and state. You can include our church name, too! Then drop your completed cards in the Touch-free drop box outside the Hollis Pharmacy.





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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Hollis, NH 03049

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**News from BoV: *Save the Date!***

**YOU'RE INVITED TO BOV'S**

**VIRTUAL HOUSEWARMING PARTY**

**November 15 @ 7:00PM via Zoom**



Please join BOV for a Virtual Housewarming Party on November 15<sup>th</sup> to help fill our new spaces with fresh items. The virtual gathering will include an entertaining evening of camaraderie, laughs, a few games and a fun, snappy, giant sneak peek video starring many local celebrities (a certain Italian host comes to mind) and highlighting our new rooms. It will also kick off our housewarming registry where you will be able to purchase items like kitchenware, toys for the nursery, furniture for the youth room and much more. Watch for an invitation soon!