The **Chimes**

Newsletter of

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

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"You…are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God. You are like a building with the apostles and prophets as the foundation and with Christ as the most important stone. Christ is the one who holds the building together and makes it grow into a holy temple for the Lord. And you are part of that building Christ has built as a place for God's own Spirit to live."
~ Ephesians 2:19–22 (CEV)

Dear Friends,

Among the countless things I am grateful for in this month of Thanks—giving is the gift of holding citizenship in not one, but two nations—even though neither is where I root my primary sense of identity. Like me, a significant number of you have lived abroad for varying periods, and some may even hold dual citizenship. When Joel and I moved with our young sons for his work at Oxford University in 2007, we became immigrants to the United Kingdom. Expecting we would remain there for life, we undertook the arduous naturalization process. Through that journey, I reflected deeply on the blessings, burdens, expectations, and complex questions of identity bound up with citizenship.

Few issues today—in our nation and across the world—are as fraught, urgent, and historically enduring as immigration and citizenship. For centuries, human societies have struggled over lines drawn across the earth. The persistent insider/outsider mentality of tribalism, territorial disputes, and the presumed supremacy of one culture over another have produced division and bloodshed for longer than recorded history. When people ask the understandable question, "*Why don't undocumented immigrants just come legally?*" they often do not realize how convoluted and prohibitive the legal immigration system has become over the past half-century.

(From the Pastor- continued on p. 2)

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

(From the Pastor - continued from p. 1)

Yet as Christians, we are called to view boundaries through a higher allegiance. In Philippians 3:20, the Apostle Paul reminds us that our true "citizenship" (*politeuma*) is in heaven. In the ancient Greco-Roman world, a politeuma referred to a colony of foreigners living under the laws, customs, and protections of their homeland, even when far away. Paul's metaphor is intentional: we are a colony of heaven stationed here on earth, charged with embodying the culture, mercy, and justice of God's kingdom where we currently reside. And in Ephesians 2, Paul widens this vision, showing how Christ dismantles the dividing walls between peoples to form one unified global household.

What does it mean, then, for us to embody our citizenship in the kingdom of heaven when our earthly laws and borders make unity and mutuality between nations and neighbors so elusive? How do we pray "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*" while remaining passive in the face of human estrangement?

To engage these very questions, a delegation from our church—Amos Ponga-Fou, Andrea Seddon, and myself—will travel to Arizona and Mexico from November 7–18 with "The Borderlands Journey," sponsored by the Compassionate Listening Project. Our goal is to practice deep, compassionate listening across differences, learning directly about the shared and individual experiences of U.S. and Mexican citizens, as well as migrants on both sides of the border seeking dignity and survival. We will meet with people representing many perspectives: migrants fleeing untenable violence or poverty; border landowners; U.S. Border Patrol officers; environmental advocates witnessing harm to delicate desert ecosystems; and members of the Tohono O'odham Nation whose ancestral lands have been severed by the border barrier.

Ahead of our departure, our team has completed intentional training in compassionate listening so our journey is grounded in reflection and openness. We want to carry more than our own personal curiosities with us: if you have questions, reflections, or prayers you would like us to bring, please share them with us before we go. You can also follow our itinerary and updates at the website Amos created: hollistotheborderlands.netlify.app. We deeply appreciate your prayers and support.

While we are away, I am grateful for the faithful leadership of our deacons, who will help welcome two guest speakers from Nashua-based organizations we support as a congregation:

· **November 8:** Hannah Stohler, Executive Director of Marguerite's Place

· **November 15:** June Lemen, Community Resource Coordinator for the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter

Both will share how their organizations serve our neighbors and how our church's support makes a tangible difference. I encourage you to be present in person if you are able, to welcome and thank them for their vital ministries among vulnerable populations in our wider community.

On **November 22**, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday and conclude our "Journey to Generosity" theme (though not the journey itself!) not only with our pledged commitments—including the baptism and reception of new members (if you are interested in joining, please contact me as soon as possible!)—but also with a special pre-Advent "Music Sunday" led by our Minister of Music, Julie Oliver, and our wonderful choir. It promises to be a rich morning of worship that you will certainly want to experience in person if at all possible.

Friends, wherever you find yourself on Thanksgiving Day, may you find yourself filled with gratitude and joy for the abundance in your life. I am thankful for each and all of you in mine!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

FAITH FORMATION

Thanksgiving Food Parade Sunday, November 15

The Thanksgiving Food Parade will take place during the worship service on Sunday, November 15. Online signups for donations will be distributed at the beginning of November.

Flock Family Potluck Event Thursday, November 5

Join Tanya and Kim for a special Glow Night & Potluck, "Friendsgiving" style, on Thursday, November 5 at 5:30 pm. Enjoy a night of fellowship, fun glow games, and a potluck dinner!

Check your emails for the signup genius.

No Flock November 29

There will be no Flock or Nursery on Sunday, November 29, for the holiday weekend. Children are welcome to worship with their families.

Flock Christmas Pageant & Rehearsal Information

Save the Date for the big day... December 13 will be our Christmas Pageant! It's hard to believe Christmas is around the corner - but it is also a very exciting time for our children.

Throughout the month of November, we will be rehearsing and choosing roles during classes. On Wednesday, December 9 (Time TBD), we will rehearse in the Meetinghouse!

There are roles for all children, and there are even a few speaking roles. To help with casting, please let Kim know if your child will be available or not for the big day!

Jr. Youth Group Gathering Wednesday, November 11 at 2 pm

Our first Junior Youth Group, for kids in grades 4th-6th, will be on Wednesday, November 11 from 2-4pm. We will be making Angel Loft signs for the Christmas Fair. Email Kim at ce@hollischurch.org to sign up!

MISSION AND ACTION

Annual Giving Tree Program

The Mission & Action Board sponsors the Christmas Giving Tree for Nashua Children's Home and Marguerite's Place.

Here's how it works:

1. The Christmas tree will be in Hardy Hall on **Sunday, November 22**. If you are unavailable to attend church that date, please call or email Shawntel Fugate, **missionandaction@hollischurch.org,** and she will deliver the tags.
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 all the information about your 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. Many items are available on Amazon. In order to make all children feel equally loved and important, we ask that every child has 6 to 8 gifts to open.
5. Please wrap gifts individually with the child's code number on each package. Feel free to use "From: Santa" on the give of each gift. Place all gifts in a large plastic bag. Attach the tag to the bag with the gifts you purchased checked off. Any other items which are not on the tag, please list.
6. **Please return the bags to church as soon as you have them ready to go. The deadline is Sunday, December 13 to give us time to deliver them.**
7. 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.
8. Monetary **donations are needed by December 1** to allow time for M&A to shop to fulfill wishes.

Mission & Action: Our Outreach in Action

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our church's charitable efforts. Your contributions help us make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors. Over the past year, we have supported a number of charitable organizations, such as:

- Nashua Children's Home
- Marguerite's Place
- Bridges
- Horton's Center
- Immigrant & Refugee Support Group
- Nashua CROP Hunger Walk
- Holy Joe's Cafe

We invite all of you to share suggestions for charities or organizations that would benefit from our community's support. If you know of a local nonprofit, community initiative, or charitable cause that you feel is making a meaningful difference and that may be unfamiliar to us, we would welcome your ideas for consideration.

Neighbors in Need

Walk in love, as Christ loved us. Ephesians 5:2

On November 1, we will take a special collection for the United Church of Christ's ***Neighbors in Need*** offering, which supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministries, while the remaining two-thirds fund UCC justice initiatives, advocacy, and community service projects. We invite you to contribute to this important work as we strive to build a more just and compassionate world.

Hollis Congregational Church

Blood Drive

3 Monument Square, Hollis NH

Saturday, November 7th
9:30AM - 2:00PM

Give Blood For a $10 Gift Card and Successful Donations get Free A1C Testing

For an appointment visit redcross.org
Search: **HollisNH** or Scan the Code

American Red Cross

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Blood Donor App

© 2025 The American National Red Cross | 418001-9

FOOD AND FUEL

FOOD AND FUEL MINISTRY: DONATE FOOD AND VOLUNTEER THIS NOVEMBER

Volunteer Dates and Supplies Needed

Box gathering—Now through November 14: We need 400–500 clean, sturdy boxes measuring approx. 1 to 1.5 cubic feet. Good options include Amazon boxes, copy-paper boxes, small moving boxes, and similar boxes from stores, businesses, or Facebook Marketplace. We will fill them with food and store them in blue apple bins at Brookdale.

We also need 80-100 Chiquita Banana/Orange boxes to pack for family delivery. These are generally double-walled, open top, with cutout handles at each end, sourced from grocery stores.

Friday, November 13—Intake Day setup and preparation: We need 2-4 helpers and at least 1 pickup truck. In the late morning, move 14 folding tables from the church to Brookdale. In midafternoon, use a pallet hand truck to move and set up the large apple bins, tables, and signs.

Saturday, November 14—Food intake and sorting: We need 20–30 volunteers between 8:00 - 2:00 p.m. Tasks include unpacking, counting and sorting food, carrying cans, loading bins, retrieving empty boxes, taking trash to the transfer station, and troubleshooting. These jobs are active and fun!

Sunday, November 15—Pack food boxes for families: Join us immediately after worship, from approximately 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We need more than 20 volunteers. Our assembly-line process makes quick work of packing, and any remaining bulk food will be consolidated into apple bins for later distribution.

Monday, November 16—Thanksgiving food-box delivery: We need six SUVs or pickup trucks and their drivers to deliver boxes to partner agencies in Brookline, Hollis, and Nashua. Deliveries will take place between 8:00 a.m. and noon, depending on agency schedules. Volunteers will also return all tables to the church.

Our church is partnering with the Scouts and Brookdale Fruit Farm to collect food for neighbors facing food insecurity. Food and monetary donations will be gathered through the **Scouting for Food Drive** and at the Hollis Town Band and Chorus Christmas Concert.

Scouts will leave reminders at Hollis homes on Saturday, November 7, and **collect donations on Saturday, November 14.** By 8:00 a.m. on collection day, rain or shine, place donations in plastic bags where they are clearly visible from the street, such as on your doorstep or near your mailbox. The Scouts will not ring your doorbell.

If your donation has not been collected by 11:00 a.m., please choose one of these alternatives: bring it to the back warehouse at Brookdale by noon; place it in the drop box at the church's center entrance; or bring it to the worship service on Sunday, November 15.

All monetary donations will be deposited into the Food and Fuel Ministry Team account and used throughout the year to meet emergency requests for aid. Checks can be made out to Hollis Congregational Church with a note on the memo line, "Food and Fuel."

Volunteer sign-up through SignUpGenius will be available soon. Friends & neighbors are all welcome. For questions, speak with Chris Hyde or Lynn Goldberg, or email FFMT@hollischurch.org. Thank you for helping our neighbors!

Our Church Records

Deaths
September 11, 2026
Edward (Ted) A. Chamberlain

Memorial Gifts
In loving memory of Laurie Lingley by:
Marilyn Wehrle
Karen and Warren Coulter
Mary Ferguson

It's not too late to join the Community Christmas Chorus!

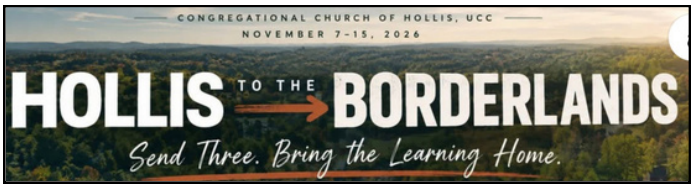
December 12, the Hollis Town Band & Community Christmas Chorus will present a holiday concert, collecting non-perishable food for our church's holiday baskets as "admission." The chorus is a short-term commitment for anyone who loves to sing. *No auditions – All voices needed!* **Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15 pm at Hollis Brookline High School.** Rehearsals have begun, but you can still join — just come when you can!

Missing Something?

We seem to have accumulated a variety of lost & found items:

- several pairs of gloves/mittens
- a baseball cap
- a ceramic plate with a frog & dragonfly
- several water bottles
- sunglasses
- random pieces of costume jewelry (necklace, single earrings, fake pearls)

If you've been wondering where your item of this description disappeared to, you may wish to check out our "Lost & Found drawer" in the cloakroom area next to the basement stairs of the center entrance doors. All unclaimed items after Nov. 8, 2026 will be either placed in the "New to You" room at the Christmas Fair, or discarded.



Borderlands Journey Trip November 7–15, 2026

A few members of our Immigrant and Refugee Support Group will soon embark on a journey to the Borderlands of Arizona and Mexico. The delegation includes Amos Ponga-Fou (Delegation Coordinator, Māori Storyteller, and Lay Leader), Andrea Seddon (Educator, Language Specialist, and Lay Leader), and Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen (Pastor, Faith Leader, and Community Advocate).

As they prepare for this journey, we invite you to support them in their mission to listen, learn, and deepen their understanding of the challenges faced by immigrants and refugees. Their goal is to return with a fuller perspective and a deeper capacity to stand alongside individuals and families in our community who may be facing difficult realities.

To follow their journey, learn more about this important mission, or support the delegates to reach their goal of $10,000, please visit hollistotheborderlands.netlify.app or scan the QR code.

With Gratitude!

Thank you Freddi Olson, Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Debbe Shipman, and Joyce Toli for preparing the October 2026 Chimes for mailing! We are grateful for your time!

Come to the Christmas Fair!

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 21
Luncheon served 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

All your favorites are back ~ Raffle Baskets, Book Room, Bake Sale, Holiday Pies & Crisps, Jams & Jellies, Luncheon, Angel Loft, Kids' Craft, New to You + Crafts, Silent Auction & Santa!

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to take pictures of your child with Santa at the Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 21.

Santa will be visiting the fair from 10 - 11:30 am, and 12:30 - 1:30 pm to greet children.

While you're there with your child, be sure to visit the **Angel Loft** (where only children shop) and the kids' craft room! Have some lunch and get some of your own shopping done as well.

CHRISTMAS FAIR LUNCHEON

What better way to share the holiday spirit with friends and neighbors than a hot homemade lunch at the Christmas Fair?

Holiday shopping builds up an appetite! Be sure to join us in Hardy Hall for the **Christmas Fair Luncheon on November 21, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm**. Enjoy holiday music, relax, and socialize with friends and neighbors.

PRE-ORDER YOUR HOMEMADE PIES & APPLE CRISPS

Pre-order homemade pies & apple crisps to be purchased and picked up at the Fair on **11/21,** just in time for Thanksgiving. They will be frozen and ready to bake at home for the holidays. Reserve yours now to ensure availability: Choose from traditional 2-crust apple pie, Dutch crumb apple pie, triple berry pie, and apple crisps (square or 9"x13"). Send email request to: **ChristmasFair@hollischurch.org.**

We need your help to make the Christmas Fair a success!

How YOU can Help with the Christmas Fair

It's almost here... the 2026 Christmas Fair with all the favorites. It's always a fun event and a great opportunity to welcome people from Hollis and the surrounding communities into our church. Our visitors look forward to it every year! **But we still need you and your help to make it a success!** Please contribute and volunteer to assist with this important and beloved **Church and Community annual tradition!**

Volunteer Opportunities: christmasfair@hollischurch.org (or call/see Carol B. and/or Kim B.)

- Helpers for each area/activity on Fair day...volunteer for a favorite job or as a floater or "wherever needed." We have both active and seated tasks/roles to fill with varying shifts and time commitments.
- Musicians/singers to perform and share the holiday spirit
- Elves to assist Santa with the kids
- Coordinators to manage Santa visit, Musical Entertainment and volunteers
- Prior to the event, Wednesday 11/18 - Friday 11/20, helpers to sort, organize and set-up goods for the Book Room, Angel Loft, Silent Auction and New-to-You
- Set-up and clean-up crews

Solicitation to local area businesses for silent auction (to avoid duplicate requests please first check with or notify Allison at auctiondonations@hollischurch.org.

Donations Needed:

- New or gently used small trinkets for children to purchase as gifts for their family members in the Angel Loft (e.g., toys, games, jewelry, Mom & Dad things) and holiday or plain gift bags, too
- Gift cards to local businesses, tickets to games/events, special experience opportunities, excursions, gift baskets, coupons for unique product/service--be creative!--and other items for the Silent Auction
- Books, puzzles, games and DVDs for the Book Room
- Homemade tasty treats for the Bake Sale table -- see details below
- New or "like new" goods for the "New to You" tables -- see details below
- Handmade crafted items for the Craft tables -- see details below
- Items for themed Raffle Baskets or donate a basket from your family or group of friends (email: admin@hollischurch.org so Jenn and Brad Millen can anticipate what is coming)!

Please contact Carol Birch or email christmasfair@hollischurch.org to volunteer, contribute, or ask any questions. Sign-ups near the church office or Hardy Hall. Drop off donations on Sundays, during church office hours, or place items in the CE box (right side) outside the church's front door or reach out to Carol or christmasfair@hollischurch.org to make special arrangements.

New To You Donations Needed

We are looking for new and gently used upscale items to sell at our popular New to You Room. If you have beautiful things that you no longer need, this is the perfect time to give them a second life - and support a great cause! We're especially looking for: Quality home Decor and small furnishings, Jewelry, handbags and accessories, Designer Clothing (No Shoes Please), Collectibles, antiques & vintage, New or like-new gift items.

Make sure all items are clean and in good condition. **Please hold your yard sale items for our annual Spring Yard Sale** as we will gladly accept them there! Items can be dropped off during the week before the fair in the upstairs former nursery.

Christmas Fair Raffle Baskets

Jenn and Brad Millen will be collecting donations for the raffle baskets. They are willing to do the shopping for you! Please send financial donations to her Venmo, @Jennifer-Millen-1, along with any details for your donation, e.g., general raffle baskets donation or a complete basket and ideas for its theme. Any leftover money will be donated directly to the church. If you plan to make your own basket, please email admin@hollismontessori.org and we'll send you the details.

Baskets are due by November 8.

Angel Loft

Have any treasures at home you are ready to part with? The Angel Loft is looking for new or gently used donations - this may be the spot for them! Each year, children get to shop at the Christmas Fair for parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.

Some Angel Loft Treasure Donation Ideas:

- Jewelry/Small Trinkets
- Picture frames
- Ties
- Games/Kids puzzles/Coloring books
- Toys for siblings
- Coffee/tea mugs

All items can be dropped off in the Flagg Room. If you have any questions, reach out to Kim at ce@hollischurch.org.

Calling All Bakers/Candy Makers!

We are hoping that people who love to bake will contribute to making this sale another success this year. There is a sign-up sheet at the church where you can indicate what you anticipate making. You can also contact Debbe Shipman with any questions at christmasfair@hollischurch.org.

Helpful Hints: (for you and the bake sale!)

- Please label donations, especially identifying add-ins, such as Brownies with pecans; Pumpkin bread with cranberries; Oatmeal cookies with raisins and walnuts; gluten free, etc. Packaged items do not need each one to be labeled - one label per batch/loaf is okay. I will also have packaging supplies on Friday, 11/20 if you need them.
- If possible, package items individually or in multiples, depending on item.
- Candies (e.g., fudge, pralines, popcorn balls) and other homemade edibles are welcome.
- Try to avoid: large, fancy cakes; large loaves of nut breads (smaller ones sell better); items that must be refrigerated (e.g., custard pies or fillings); and most pies in general, since we are taking pre-orders for pies to be picked up that day.

Items can be delivered to the church on Friday, November 20, or Saturday morning, the 21st.

Arts, Crafts and Gifts…

Do you have craft or hobby items you have made that could help us increase our offerings for our crafts and gifts table at the church fair this year? Knitting, sewing, woodworking, card making, handmade jewelry, etc. (even just one or two items will be welcome!). Please leave them at the church any time between now and the week of the fair, in time to be labeled and priced ahead of time. Please label them for the gift table.

2026 November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship & Communion Neighbors in Need Offering Collection 9:30am Flock 11:00am CE Board *Daylight Saving Time Ends*	2 5:30pm Stewardship	3 4:00pm Mission & Action 6:00pm Music Board 10:00am Knitting Ministry	4 4:30pm Caring Connections	5 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Adults Revisiting Confirmation 5:30pm Flock Family Pizza Night	6	7 9:30 - 2:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive Hollis to the Borderlands Trip (Departure)
8 9:30amWorship 9:30am Flock 11:00am Hand in Hand	9 7:00pm Deacons	10 12:30pm Bylaws	11 11:00am Veterans Day Observance and Reception 2:00-4:00pm Jr Youth Group Sign Making Event	12 7:00pm Choir	13 4:00pm Facilities	14 Scouting for Food Collection Day
15 9:30amWorship 9:30am Flock (Pageant Rehearsal & Thanksgiving Food Parade) Food Box Packing Hollis to the Borderlands Trip (Return) **Chimes Deadline**	16 6:00pm Trustees Food Box Deliveries	17 6:30pm Council	18	19 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Adults Revisiting Confirmation	20	21 CHRISTMAS FAIR Congregational Church of Hollis SAT. NOV. 21 • 9am - 2pm
22 9:30amWorship Music Sunday 9:30am Flock (Pageant Rehearsal)	23	24 12:30pm Bylaws	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 9:30amWorship **No Flock**	30					

For the most up-to-date information please check our online calendar: *https://hollischurch.org/events/month/*

Church Office Hours are Tues & Thurs, 8:00am—12:00 & 3:30—5:30pm

Please remember that hours are subject to change due to inclement weather, holidays, vacations, and staffing fluctuations.
Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).

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

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Hollis, NH 03049

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Congregational Church of Hollis

SAT. NOV. 21 • 9am - 2pm

JUMPSTART YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

There will be something for everyone!

Pre-order your homemade holiday pies & crisps by 11/8 (frozen for pick-up). Santa will be visiting too!

- Gift Basket Raffle
- "New to You" Sale
- Kids' Craft
- Angel Loft (where only children are permitted to shop)
- Pictures with Santa
- Silent Auction - goods and services
- Bake Sale - enjoy delicious homemade treats
- Handcrafted Items for Sale
- Books and Puzzles for Sale
- Hot Luncheon - enjoy homemade soups and desserts
- Holiday Music