

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

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The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)

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The Chimes is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

JOHN 13:35. ESV



Dear Friends,

A couple decades ago, someone asked me, “What’s your love language?” “My what?” I blinked. “Your love language,” she repeated. “You know: do you use words of affirmation, quality time, giving gifts, acts of service, or physical touch to communicate your love?”

My friend had been reading the book by Dr. Gary Chapman entitled, *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate*. It was such a runaway bestseller (11+ million copies) that it spawned numerous other books—e.g., for parents and children, for single adults, and (believe it or not) a special version for men!—all based on his basic concept that each of us tends to “speak” or communicate our love by doing those things that make *us* feel most loved.

Whether or not you agree with Chapman’s five categories by which love is “spoken”, the underlying question is worth pondering: How do *you* share your love in demonstrable ways? How do you communicate to others that you care? Because, according to Scripture, this is our fundamental purpose as human beings: to know God’s love, and to share that love with others.

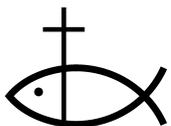
Jesus said the greatest law, or most important rule in life, is this: that we love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and that we love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The Bible is full of verses about how love behaves, and the New Testament in particular paints picture after picture for us. Each one challenges us to dig a little deeper, to stretch a little further as our spirits mature, in our quest to draw ever nearer to the God of Love in whose image we were created.

According to Genesis, God’s love for us was expressed when we were entrusted with the stewardship of the earth and all its creatures. God loves and trusts us enough to allow us to tend to this amazing creation.
(continued on page 6)

From the Faith Formation (Christian Education) Office

Confirmation

The Confirmation year is underway with seven 9th graders meeting to explore their faith. This month the class will gather in Emerson Chapel on Sundays, October 21 and 28, following the Introduction to the Theme.



Pre-Confirmation

Grade 7 and 8 students gather in the Parkhurst Room on Sundays, October 14 and 21, following the Introduction to the Theme.

Sunday School is back in full swing!

In October, all Sunday School classes will be continuing with their Bible stories unit, and will finish up the month starting the Faith In Action unit. In this unit, they will complete some fun and meaningful service projects. On October 14th, Stewardship Sunday, the kids will submit the stewardship pledge cards they worked on in September.

Third Grade Bible Sunday & Bells!

Mark your calendars for October 28th! During the 10:30am service, 3rd Graders will receive their bibles, and this will be the first musical performance of Grades 1-4 playing Chimes, and Grades 5-6 ringing bells. It's sure to be a wonderful morning!

Faith Formation is for Everyone!

For Adults...

Exploring Neighboring Faiths: Field Trips for Adults

Have you ever looked at the schedule of confirmation classes and wished you could join in some of the interesting field trips? This fall, you can! Sign up on the bulletin board by the church office. **SIGN UP IS REQUIRED** by the Monday preceding each program. All programs are free. Remaining sessions include:

Monday, October 1, 10-11:30am: **Rev. Richard Slater**, NH Associate Conference Minister, will discuss the history, polity and theology of the United Church of Christ. Parkhurst Room.

Monday, October 15, 10-11am: Meet at the **Islamic Society of Greater Nashua**, 5 Pine St. Ext. or carpool from Hollis church at 9:30.

Monday, October 22, 10-11am: Meet at **St. Philip Greek Orthodox Church**, 500 West Hollis St., Nashua or carpool from Hollis church at 9:30.

Monday, October 29, 10-11am: Meet at **Temple Beth Abraham**, 5 Raymond St., Nashua, or carpool from Hollis church at 9:30.

New Member Enquirers Class:

Think you might be interested in joining this church? Rev. Tanya will offer a one-session new member class at her home on Sunday, October 28, from 6:30-9pm. Contact Rev. Tanya if you're interested in attending: pastor@hollischurch.org

Embracing an Adult Faith: What It Means to Be Christian

This five-session study with Marcus Borg utilizes a DVD and study book to explore key faith issues that concern 21st-century Christians. We continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parkhurst Room, Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 24. In this series, we will explore our understanding of the following: 1) **God**—the meaning of the word, and the language we use for God; what God is like; speaking about God; our experiences of God; our need and God's response. 2) **Jesus**—why he matters to Christians; knowing the pre-Easter and post-Easter Jesus; finding the courage to follow Jesus; personal and global transformation; and how a Jewish mystic became a Christian Lord. 3) **Salvation**—what it means, and getting rid salvation "baggage"; the path and mystery of transformation; metaphors of grace. 4) **Practice**—what we mean by Christian practice; the way of Jesus; prayer as practice; worship as practice. 5) **Community**—opening into community; stories of community; communities of the Bible; Christian community today; and the yearning for community.

For Teens...



Progressive Dinner for 7th/8th Graders

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to a progressive dinner on Friday, October 12, 6:00-8:00pm. Meet at the church and walk to neighboring

homes for dinner, dessert and fun. Return to church for pick up at 8pm. Sign up at pre-confirmation@hollischurch.org.

High School Youth Climb Pack Monadnock!

Plans are underway for a Senior Youth Group Hike up Pack Monadnock on Saturday, October 13. Meet at the church at 11 am; return scheduled for about 3pm. Watch for details.



For Teens and Adults...



There's still time to sign up for our 2019 Workcamp in Dexter, Maine!

Group Mission Trips offers a workcamp in Dexter, Maine, July 21-27, 2019. Students in grade 8 and over, as well

as adult chaperones are welcome to join the Workcamp crew! The trip is limited to 24 teens and 6 adults on a first-come basis.

Complete and return your registration form and a non-refundable deposit of \$75 per person, payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis, to reserve your space.

Workcampers will meet throughout the year for planning, learning and fund raising. Much of the \$500 per person cost of the trip is offset by fund raising.

Registration forms are available on the church website, Facebook page, in the church office, or by emailing workcamp@hollischurch.org.

Women's Fellowship

All women are welcome to come to the Women's Fellowship meeting at 2pm on Sunday, October 21 in Emerson Chapel. The group will learn about the ministry and mission of Marguerite's Place, one of the helping agencies supported by our church.

Your Church Nominating Committee wants YOU!

There are many openings to be filled this year on various church committees, including Deacons, Music, Christian Education, Stewardship, and Mission and Action (and the Nominating Committee as well!). The term starts after the annual meeting in February 2019 and the time commitment is varied but not onerous. If you've been thinking about how you can be more active in the Church's community programs or helping to guide charitable decisions, budget creation and management, or music selection during our services - please consider joining one of the committees. Email Susan.Benz@gmail.com or call 759-0179 for more details on what is available for service to our church, and thank you for your consideration.

From the Church Office

Many Thanks go to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, and Deb Shipman for labeling, collating, and folding the September *Chimes* in preparation for mailing.



Bingo is Back!

Saturday, Nov. 3 from 4-5:30

Join in the fun! Prizes and snacks provided. *Please bring an item to donate to a Christmas Fair Raffle Basket as your "admission."* One item per family.

Basket themes include:

- ◆ Hollis ◆ Guys ◆ Ladies ◆ Gift Wrap
- ◆ Family Fun ◆ Gift Cards/Scratch tickets
- ◆ Dreaming of Summer ◆ Animal Lover
- ◆ Boo-Boo (1st Aid Items) ◆ Warm Drinks
- ◆ Car Care ◆ Ice Cream ◆ Mexican
- ◆ Chocolate Lovers!



October 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mission Items of the Month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, and Diapers (size 4, 5, 6) for <i>Bridges</i> • College Care Package Goodies - snacks for our college freshmen 	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 10 am – <i>Exploring Neighboring Faiths</i> UCC – Rev Richard Slater 7 pm – CE Board meeting	7pm – Stewardship Board meeting	7 pm – <i>Embracing an Adult Faith</i> (Class #2 of 5)	7 pm - Choir		
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 2 pm – 4 pm – Hollis Apple Festival	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 7 pm – Deacons meeting	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 7:30 pm – Music Board meeting	10 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities meeting 7 pm – <i>Embracing an Adult Faith</i> (Class #3 of 5)	7 pm - Choir	Our volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 6pm - Junior Youth Group Progressive Dinner	11 am – 3 pm Senior Youth Group hike Pack Monadnock
Stewardship Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 7pm – Community Prayers	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 10 am – <i>Exploring Neighboring Faiths</i> –Islamic Society of Nashua - carpool 9:30 7 pm – Trustees meeting November <i>Chimes</i> deadline	7 pm – Church Council meeting	7 pm – <i>Embracing an Adult Faith</i> (Class #4 of 5)	9:30 am – Christmas Fair workshop at Debbe Shipman’s 6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm - Choir		NH Conference UCC Annual meeting in Concord Red Cross Blood Drive
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:30 am – Congregational meeting 2 pm – Women’s Fellowship 4:30 pm – Stewardship Celebration at Lawrence Barn	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 10 am – <i>Exploring Neighboring Faiths</i> – St Philip’s Greek Orthodox church - carpool 9:30		7 pm – <i>Embracing an Adult Faith</i> (Class #5 of 5)			
Third Grade Bible Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 1 pm – CROP Walk in Nashua 6:30 pm – New Member class at Rev. Tanya’s	8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 10 am – <i>Exploring Neighboring Faiths</i> – Temple Beth Abraham – carpool 9:30		Deadline for Christmas Fair raffle basket donations	<i>Coming in November...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Bingo Night – Nov 3 • Christmas Fair – Nov 17 		



Congregational Meeting & Vote

Sunday, October 21:

Please plan to attend!

BoV continues to progress toward a recommended plan. We have furthered our work with architect, Dennis Mires, and our Campaign Consultant, Bill VanderWyden. We have incorporated new information on many fronts including ongoing input from our own congregation and our boards to input from town officials, cemetery and library trustees and the fire chief. There are also task forces hard at work to address the kitchens, to set priorities for our flexible meeting spaces, and to identify potential updates to the chancel.

Please remember, the Building our Vision initiative is intended to give life to our strategic plan. Specifically to:

- Become more **welcoming**
- Enable both contemporary and traditional forms of **worship**
- Enhance our **learning** environment
- More fully **serve** our congregation and community

The BoV team asks for your openness to accept the changes we will be recommending, your willingness to let your faith guide you and your generosity in supporting our church's needs as well as that of the wider community. We, on the BoV Team, are convinced that, as glorious as our 275-year past has been, the future will be better still.

Sunday, October 21: Congregational Meeting & Vote

BoV will present its recommended concept based on a year of input from the congregation. At this meeting, the congregation will vote on:

- 1) Whether or not to proceed to contractual drawings for proposed changes to the church, under the direction of our architect, Dennis Mires.
- 2) Whether or not to begin a capital campaign, under the guidance of Bill VanderWyden (consultant), to fund the envisioned improvements.

If you have questions at any time, please email BoV@hollischurch.org or talk with a team member.

Ed Wigfield, Chair
Julie Forgaard
Tom Hildreth
Drew Mason

Sarah May
Roger Saunders
Tanya Stormo Rasmussen
Kara Tulley

From the Pastor (cont. from p. 1)

When the resurrected Jesus met Peter who had denied knowing him thrice in the moments before his crucifixion, he asked him three times, “Do you love me?” Each time, Peter responded, “Yes, Lord!” And Jesus said, “Feed my sheep; tend my lambs; care for my sheep.” In other words, prove your love for me by taking care of those whom I love. Nurture the faith and life of others.

One of the ways we communicate, or share, our love is by supporting the work of this church with our presence, our efforts, and our financial resources. This support has the potential to be expressed as we participate on Boards, Committees, Ministry Teams, and various activities of the church. And, in order to express sound, faithful financial stewardship of resources as a communal body, we ask for an annual pledge from each member/household so that appropriate planning can be done. Making a pledge is a genuine expression of faith, hope, and love—for God, and neighbor, as what we give nurtures them by supporting our church’s initiatives.



On October 14th, we will be asking you to make a pledge to help support our church’s operating budget for the coming year.

This pays for our weekly worship provisions, Mission

& Action activities, Faith Formation programming, Music programs, regular fellowship activities, as well as funding the necessary facilities and administrative costs that allow us to provide space for all these activities. Your annual support is absolutely critical to sustain and grow our life-giving ministries today.

Then, on October 21st, we will be voting on whether to move forward with the discerned vision and plans that have been carefully,

prayerfully listened to and articulated by the Building Our Vision Team. This team has relied on voluminous input from this congregation across the past year. We will vote on whether to proceed to contractual drawings with our architect, and to approve continued work with our capital campaign consultant, Rev. Bill VanderWyden, to raise the funds necessary to improve our building and equip for our future. The deliberations that have gone into this proposal have not been undertaken frivolously; there has been significant soul-searching. **We believe that God is asking us to step out in bold faith, to stretch our spirits, to reach out perhaps further than we ever have before, so that we may experience the wonder and joy of seeing what happens when we respond with courageous faith, hope, and love to God’s outrageous invitation.**

This vote will represent how confident we are that God is working with us, that God has provided what we need to accomplish the work and challenge set before us. It will represent how we as a community intend to express our love for God, and for our neighbors—both those we know, and those of future generations.

I hope and trust that each one will have prayed about this carefully: that you will acknowledge any fears and anxieties you might have, weighing them against the careful, faithful work that the BOV team has done. And, I hope you’ll arrive at a conclusion that is as confident as those who have devoted so much time and effort to this discernment process already: that God is asking something great of us so that we might experience God’s greater blessing.

As you prepare to make an annual pledge, and then to vote on the future of our church’s life and witness, I entreat each of you to humbly, prayerfully consider how you will ungrudgingly share the love you’ve experienced—so that the world around us might also know a deeper meaning and purpose, a greater Love. Let’s share the Love we’re blessed to know!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya





Christmas Fair News

Our fair is **Saturday, November 17**

It's time to start preparing for the 2018 Christmas Fair! A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the CE office at the top of the side stairs.

People Needed for...

Fair Day Setup Coordinating Wreath orders Baking
Fair Day Workers Entertainment Children's craft helpers
Decorating Fashion Boutique Post-Fair Clean-up Crew

Items Needed...(drop off in church office)

- * **Goods & Services** for the **Silent Auction**
- * **High End Clothing, Purses and Fashion Accessories** for the successful Fashion Boutique
- * **Craft Items** - Do you have any craft/handmade items that you would like to donate? We would like to hear from you.
- * **Angel Loft Items** – **New or gently used small trinkets, family games, jewelry, items for young children, items for dads and grandfathers.** Also needed – recycled paper shopping bags for our “angels” to carry their purchases
- * **Gently used books, puzzles, DVDs/CDs, and games** for the always popular book room.



Raffle Baskets

Christmas Fair Raffle Baskets

Donations are now welcome!

New this year: anyone and everyone is invited to contribute items to any basket they wish! (Suggested themes below) Have an idea for a basket not

listed here? Wonderful! You are welcome to donate a basket on your own or with some friends with any theme you wish. We just ask that all items are new and unused. Items may be left in the church office, or in the teal bin outside the CE office. **Deadline for donations is October 31!** As always, thank you for your generous donations!

This year's themes include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Hollis ◆ Ice Cream ◆ Ladies ◆ Gift Wrap
- ◆ Family Fun ◆ Gift Cards/Scratch tickets ◆ Guys
- ◆ Dreaming of summer ◆ Boo-Boo (1st Aid Items)
- ◆ Warm drinks ◆ Animal lover ◆ Car Care

And back by popular demand...◆ Mexican ◆ Chocolate Lovers!

Help us create baskets everyone will covet!

A **Christmas Fair Craft Workshop** will be held on **Thursday, October 18** from 9:30-11:30 at Debbe Shipman's house, 45 Love Lane. A variety of projects are in progress that need assembling or finishing, so there should be something for people with various skills to do. #45 is the first driveway on the right after the big open field coming up the hill. Take the immediate fork to the left (long, dirt driveway) at the fence after entering the driveway entrance. For more information, call Debbe at 465-7645 or e-mail at deb3ship@tds.net.

The Angel Loft is the special children's-only shoppe at the Christmas Fair where children can find small gifts for their family members and friends (from baby siblings to grandparents) at the wonderful price of just \$2/item (which includes having items gift wrapped!) Please bring your donation(s) to the church office and mark them “Angel Loft”. Thank you for your support! The kids really LOVE this tradition!

Also at the Fair...

Mission Trip Raffle Quilt

Cactus Wreath is a new red, white and green quilt being raffled to benefit the 2019 Mission Trip to Dexter, Maine. Raffle tickets will be available starting Sunday, October 7, and the winning ticket will be pulled at the Church Fair on Saturday, November 17. The quilt will be in church every week and tickets will be sold in Hardy Hall during the coffee hour.

Mission & Action News

October Items of the Month: Snacks

• Freshman Care Package Goodies!

Please join us this month in donating snack items for our college freshmen. It's a fun surprise to receive a package full of goodies from your home town when you are away in a new situation. *Food makes friends!* We are collecting snacks such as microwaveable packages of popcorn, mac and cheese, granola/protein bars or single serving trail mix. Use your imaginations!



More October Items of the Month:

- Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6)
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels

These items will support *Bridges*.

Place any of these items in the shopping cart at the top of the stairs. Thanks, as always, for your generous support.

Is there a college student in your family?

Please provide us with **freshmen names and addresses** so they can receive a care package. Also, please **update addresses for upper classmen** so we can keep in touch. Send contact information to the church office: churchoffice@hollischurch.org or 465-7797.



Red Cross Blood Drive Saturday, October 20 10am – 3pm in Hardy Hall

Most people are eligible to give blood so, please join us on October 20. Your donation will save lives! To schedule your appointment or get more information, visit www.redcrossblood.org. **Volunteers are needed to help with the drive!** You don't need any medical training, just a smile. If you can help, please contact Thelma Wigfield at 603-438-3833 or tr.wigfield@comcast.net

Ash Street Shelter Dinners

Thank you to everyone who has filled our calendar for the remainder of 2018. The 2019 calendar will be posted on the M&A bulletin board soon. If you would like to provide our monthly dinner to the Ash St shelter, please sign up. Grocery gift cards are available to cover the cost of the meal. Use the church kitchen or your own! Contact Karen Marino with questions, kmarino360@gmail.com or 603-475-3073.

Your Mission & Action dollars at work:

Habitat for Humanity - toward purchase of land for their next build
Southern NH Services - for books at the Hillsborough County Jail
St John Neumann Food Pantry
Harbor Homes - for bus passes to get to work
Holy Joe's Café
Neighbors in Need.

GREATER NASHUA CROP Hunger Walk



Our 34th year! This year the walk takes place on **Sunday, October 28th** beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua. Registration is from 12 to 1pm with opening ceremonies at 1 and stepping out at 1:30. This year the walk features a new and different and interesting shorter route for all. The Greater Nashua Area CROP Hunger Walk has raised over one million dollars in its previous 33 years. The money raised fights hunger and poverty around the world and provides refugee and disaster relief through Church World Service, as well as locally through four agencies—Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Salvation Army, St. John Neumann Food Pantry, and Corpus Christi Food Pantry. The Nashua Area Interfaith Council sponsors the event. More information is available at <http://nashuacropwalk.blogspot.com>. And you can find us on Facebook! Just look for Nashua Cropwalk.

Music Notes

Distribution of Pilgrim and Worship & Celebration Hymnals

Starting October 7 through October 28, following each Sunday service (9:00 and 10:30) we will have people distributing the old hymnals to folks who would like their dedicated copies. Dedicated hymnals are organized alphabetically for ease of distribution. Undedicated hymnals are also available for those who would like one for their personal use. Volunteers will distribute hymnals from the stage area in Hardy Hall. After October, we will make arrangements to either store or donate the remaining hymnals. If you have questions, please contact Beth Harper at blharper@tds.net or 603-320-1257.



Ring with Us!

Youth Bells (5th grade and up) and **Youth Chimes** (up to 4th grade):

We will practice during Sunday School during October. We play in church on 10/28.

Adult Bells (Devotion Chimes):

Keep this time frame in mind: We will practice during November and play in church on 11/25. Please let me know convenient dates and times to practice.

For more info, contact Janet Sterritt at janetsterritt@gmail.com

Do You Like to Sing?

Each December our Women's Fellowship and the Hollis Town Band present a holiday concert, collecting non-perishable food for our church's holiday baskets as "admission." A community chorus will perform with the band at the December 8th concert.



Come join the Community Christmas Chorus! 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 upstairs in the Town Hall. **First rehearsal is Wednesday, October 17**, but you can still join even if you can't make it on the 17th — just come when you can!

Just for Kids...



What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stewardship Sunday is October 14

As you consider your pledge, please look within and *“Share Your Love”* for the church, your community, and our broader mission.

Some points to ponder...

- Over 80% of the church budget goes toward salaries, administration and facilities.
- To meet our proposed, budget we need the average family to pledge \$35 per week.
- If you haven’t pledged before, please consider it. It helps us plan for church budget and community outreach.



**STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY**

On Stewardship Sunday, October 14, please bring your pledges for the offering.

Celebrate! We will also have a Stewardship Celebration at Lawrence Barn on Sunday October 21nd from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. **All are welcome to attend the celebration!!!** Please RSVP if you plan on attending. Both pledge cards and RSVPs will be available in church up until the 14th.