

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

October 2023

www.HollisChurch.org

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are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month  
preceding publication.

## Be Transformed



Dear Friends,

October is a month when it's impossible *not* to see change all around us. By the day, the leaves on the trees transform from green to gold, umber, pumpkin, or crimson, before they surrender their tight hold on the branches that have transported their offerings of photosynthetic energy, finally drifting downward to the ground to further nourish the root system as they decompose. And the energy of that decomposition, feeding the tree across the winter months, gives rise to new leaves in the springtime: the circle of life story, told by the tree year after year.

Across the past month, we've been working with the theme of metamorphosis and emerging from safe (but constricting) places, with the butterfly as our object lesson. Another life story rooted in renewal, though the stages that frame the metaphor are slightly different. Each and every life is potentially its own story of transformation—and transformation is at the very heart of our Christian story. Resurrection is ultimately about our confidence and conviction that death is not the end, but rather the beginning of a new chapter of life in the eternal scheme of things.

When we begin to see this truth, it changes how we understand the whole of this world and life itself. Death doesn't hold the same terrifying power over us.

Where are you in your own process of transformation? As you look back across the years of your earthly sojourn thus far, can you identify moments when you "shed" a former way of being? Did you notice an energizing liberation, even as you discovered a deepened understanding of your *self*—of the person God has created you to be? Was there discomfort, anxiety, and/or grief in the process? And if so, how did that resolve? Or, maybe you've felt a deep longing to change for quite some time, but the fear of what that might mean or cost has kept you "stuck", like a leaf that just can't let go of the branch it's known forever?

*(continued on page 3)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## CE Book Read

Submitted by Gudrun Pfeiffer

### Small Gods by Terry Pratchett

Terry Pratchett? In the CE recommendations? A deceased fantasy author? (Who got married in a British Congregational Church, though I'm not entirely certain we're affiliated)

Well, yes--- why not. Some of us might have watched and enjoyed the Amazon Prime rendition of "Good Omens", his 1990s collaboration with fellow fantasy author Neil Gaiman, in which we follow angel Aziraphale and demon Crowley inadvertently saving mankind by bungling Armageddon. (A second season, contrary to the first one not following the original novel, was just released)

Terry Pratchett, who passed away in 2015, created the DiscWorld, "a world and a mirror of worlds", as many of his novels open, and he often muses on faith and Christianity in a tongue-in-cheek, allegorical way – but being true to himself, the border between narrator and author, and hence the one between satire and revelation is always rather flexible with him. He's elaborated on faith in "Lords and Ladies", "Witches Abroad" and "Sourcery", along with mentions in many of his other works, but "Small Gods" is arguably ALL about faith and how it and God(s) come to be.

The novel is set in Omnia, so called for the mighty god Om, usually depicted as a bull. This theocracy is currently led by Vorbis, the Head of the Quisition in the capital of Korm, and has (d)evolved so far from its origins of Om talking to shepherds, that Om suddenly finds himself in the body of a turtle instead of the bull he had intended to manifest as. He realizes that he is completely powerless and can't be heard and understood by anybody, while Vorbis, supported by his hierarchy of priests and soldiers, as well as the novice master Nhumrod, goes on sacrificing books and humans and plotting war on the "heathen" country of Ephebe – a Discworld version of a progressive, secular, and philosophical ancient Greece.

*(continued on page 3)*

## News from *The Flock...*



On **Sunday, October 1**, we celebrate our third graders. Be sure to attend the service this day to show your support as they earn their very own Bible from church. An annual tradition that's not to be missed!

## The Flock Underwear Drive

The Flock's annual service project is here, and they are collecting underwear! Did you know this is one of the most needed items at NSKS? Once the Flock learned this, they wanted to help!



The Flock is collecting

😊 **New** 😊 underwear

(all sizes - men, women, & children)  
for Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter

Please place packages in the marked bin outside the church center (handicap) entrance.

~ Collection Deadline is October 15 ~



## **NEW!! Flock Family Pizza Night**

Join Kim & Tanya on Wednesday, October 11 from 5:15-6:30pm for a family pizza night in Hardy Hall! This is where parents & kids alike can come and enjoy Christian fellowship with each

other and have a night off from cooking. The program will run once a month throughout the school year. Watch your emails for the Signup Genius link! We hope to see you there!

*(CE Book Read – cont'd from p. 2)*

Om encounters the eidetic novice Brutha, an idiot savant, who was brought up as a strong believer by his grandmother. While taking care of the compost heap in the monastery gardens, he finds the powerless turtle-shaped Om, who was picked up by an eagle, carried away, and fortuitously dropped on said heap. Brutha turns out to be the only person left on the Discworld able to hear Om.

When Brutha shares his insights with Nhumrod, he is told that it is impossible that he would hear the voice of Om. Instead, what he hears must needs be a demon. Brutha should not feel moved by the spirit, but rather obey his betters and their deeper understanding of Om's word.

His case is brought before Vorbis, who discovers Brutha's unusual eidetic abilities and hence has him accompany him on a "diplomatic" mission to Ephebe, in order to use Brutha's strengths to subjugate Ephebe. Brutha brings Om along, and the two of them develop a mutually beneficial, yet not entirely conflict-free relationship.

What now follows is, to all who are familiar with the history of Christianity and the contents of the bible, a par-force-tour through the origins of faith in general and Christianity in particular, including 40 days in the desert, early ascetic Coptic saints, remorse, destruction, redemption, power, inspiration, salvation, Death, exchanges with God, prayer - as well as a look at the seedy underbelly of church hierarchies, religious wars and the inquisition.

In general, as a satire and allegory, "Small Gods" holds a mirror to our faith. The fact that God, not only faith, changes and loses power if those that claim to be speaking FOR him have actually become unable to listen TO him, strikes a chord deep inside me.

Even if that concept is far from you, "Small Gods" is a reassuring book for all who have been told that the spirit that moves us is, in fact, only egotism ---- and a cautionary tale for those who have felt moved to teach others what God was trying to ACTUALLY tell them. It is a moving introspection into how faith is created, how god(s) are strengthened by their believers and strengthen those who believe in them. At the same time, as most all of Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels, "Small Gods" is excellent, fiercely intelligent, sarcastic, thought-provoking, tongue-in-cheek entertainment.

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

As Christians, growth, change, transformation are at the heart of our story. Yet, it's possible to remain stubbornly in a particular stage. Sometimes it happens because of unresolved grief or trauma from earlier years, and we simply won't move out of the places that feel safe and familiar. But Gospel message invites us to see that it is only when we release our grip on the familiar, "safe", fixed ways of being, and dare to trust that divine grace is already at work ahead of us and ready to meet us in whatever "new thing" lies in wait, that we will discover the freedom and salvation our souls are seeking. We'll continue to ponder this core truth in weeks to come, as we continue to "Emerge."

There are a number of wonderful community-building activities happening in October to potentially help us to grow beyond our current spiritual comfort zones—do look over the announcements about them on the surrounding pages. But I want to put in a special plug for the worship service on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, when Cindy Ryherd will share her faith journey story (I'd like to encourage each of you to consider sharing yours!) . . . right before we bless Cindy and Eric on their onward journey. As many of you already know, they are moving to Dover—and we will miss them terribly! They have been joyful, tireless servants of this community in too many ways to count—effectively acting as unpaid staff at different moments. Please come to thank and honor them, and also offer our heartfelt blessing on them as they move into their unfolding future!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

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## **Our Church Records**

**Wedding** ~ *September 9, 2023*

Carrie Anne Harmon and Steven Roche

**Death** ~ *May 27, 2023*

Dorothy H. (Dot) Pitman

(A Memorial Service was held on Sept 16)



# October 2023



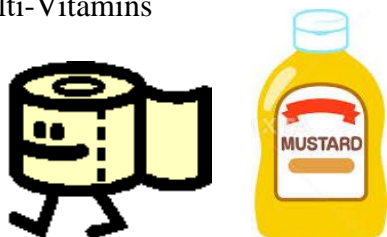
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Third Grade Bible Sunday</b> 9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock 11 am – Christmas Fair Informational & Planning meeting Hollis Apple Festival 2-4 pm on the town common 1	7 pm – CE Board meeting 2	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 3	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 4	7 pm - Choir 5	6	7
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock <b>Faith in Blue</b> “Coffee with a Cop” dur- ing Fellowship hour 1 pm - Blessing of the Animals on Little Nichols Field 8	7 pm – Deacons meeting 9	7 pm – Mission & Ac- tion Board meeting 10	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 12 noon – Facilities meeting 5:15 pm – Flock Family Pizza Night 11	10 am – Staff meeting 6 pm – Caring Connections 7 pm - Choir 12	Our church volunteers pro- vide dinner at Spring St. Shelter 13	Boy Scout Troop 12 Spaghetti Supper in Hardy Hall 14
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock November <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15	5:30 pm – Trus- tees meeting 16	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 17	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 6:30 pm – Steward- ship Board meeting 18	7 pm - Choir 19	20	NH Conference UCC Annual Meeting in Concord 21
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock Farewell to Cindy & Eric Ryherd CROP Hunger Walk - Nashua 22	23	24	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 4 pm – Youth Group 7 pm – Church Council meeting 25	7 pm - Choir 26	27	28
9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock 29	30	 31	<b>October Items of the Month: Supporting the Brookline Food Pantry</b> ♦ Boxed Cereal: Shredded Wheat/Bran ♦ Broths (Chicken/Beef/Veggie) ♦ Near East Couscous/Quinoa (or similar) Sides ♦ Salad Dressing ♦ Mustard ♦ Fruit Cocktail ♦ Women’s Chewable Multi-Vitamins ♦ Mayonnaise ♦ Toilet Paper ♦ Cooking Spray ♦ Shelf-Stable Milk			

# Mission & Action News

## October Items of the Month: Support the Brookline Food Pantry

The Brookline Food Pantry is seeking donations of:

- Women's Chewable Multi-Vitamins
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Toilet Paper
- Cooking Spray
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Fruit Cocktail
- Salad Dressing
- Broths (Chicken/Beef/Veggie)
- Boxed Cereal: Shredded Wheat/Bran
- Near East Couscous/Quinoa (or similar) Sides



Please place your donated items in the bin by the center entrance or inside in the shopping cart.

## Upper Room Daily Devotional

*The Upper Room*, a daily devotional booklet, is available to all in regular and large print. Mission & Action encourages you to pick up a copy – in the narthex or in the literature rack outside the office.

## Is there a college student in your family?

Please provide us with freshmen names and addresses so our Mission & Action Board can send an expression of our caring. Also, update all college student addresses for our newsletters. Email addresses to [churchoffice@hollischurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@hollischurch.org) or call us at 603-465-7797.



## M&A September Donations

Your contributions made possible donations to these organizations at work in our community and around the globe!

- Heifer International
- Harbor Care
- Neighbors in Need, a UCC special offering
- Thank You Project (wells for Nigeria)
- Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
- Stepping Stones (programs to support young adults transitioning out of foster care)



## GREATER NASHUA CROP Hunger Walk

This is our 39<sup>th</sup> year! This year the walk takes place on **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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. Registration and celebration are in the TBA tent to keep us safe.

**The Greater Nashua Area CROP Hunger Walk** is a very large walk since it merged with Souhegan (*ranking #1 in New England and #11 in the country!*). In 2022, more than 29 faith communities or teams participated in the walk, raising \$63,623.68 to support the 5 recipient agencies:

- Corpus Christi Food Pantry
- Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
- St John Neumann Food Pantry
- St James of Merrimack Food Pantry
- Share Inc of Milford

Google 'Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk' or go to this link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/nashuanh>

You can also find us on Facebook! Just look for Nashua Cropwalk.

For any questions or to volunteer please contact Becky Green at [nashuacrop-walk@gmail.com](mailto:nashuacrop-walk@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!





## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has extended their ministry to meet needs beyond shawls. We are now making baby blankets to be presented to families following baptism. The photograph above shows one of our baby blankets receiving the blessing. This blanket was presented to Rev. Bob Fellows, on behalf of the church, following the birth of his granddaughter. We were thrilled to receive a thank you note from Rev. Bob's daughter, Kristen, in which she mentioned that the blanket would be used at baby Clara's baptism!

We are also planning to make hats and scarves to help keep local students warm during the cold winter months.

Prayer squares are always available in the Narthex, so please feel free to take one.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in Emerson Chapel at 10:00am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Although many members of our congregation are unable to attend daytime meetings in person, we would love to have anyone who prefers to knit at home join our ministry.

If you're interested in joining us, or have any questions, please contact Patricia Cordell at [patricia.cordell27@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.cordell27@gmail.com).

## From the Church Office...

A BIG Thank You goes to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton, Patricia Cordell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing the September *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.



The fall brings apples, pumpkins, and pledge season! The Stewardship Board invites you to join us for services in the weeks leading up to **Pledge Sunday on November 19**. We will explore the ways in which our church changes lives because of all of you and your contributions.

Please reach out to [stewardship@hollischurch.org](mailto:stewardship@hollischurch.org) with any questions or if you'd like to get involved.

**Music Ministry** is an opportunity to express yourself musically and help enhance our worship services. Join us in the joy of Singing, Ringing and Sacred Dance in the following ways:



Share your  
**Musical Gifts!**

- ♪ **Choir** - practices are Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. for approximately 1 hour/singing in Sunday morning services. We are flexible – participate as you are able. All voices -alto, soprano, tenor and bass - and experience levels needed
- ♪ **Handbells** – this is an exciting opportunity to participate in a unique musical venue occasionally throughout the year. Novice to experienced ringers welcome.
- ♪ **Sacred Dance** – help to movingly illustrate our musical offerings with those ballet and dance class moves you learned long ago!

Join us in our Music Ministry: As one of our newest choir members said – he had to join because we were just having too much fun!

For questions re: Choir and Handbells contact Julie Oliver - Choir Director – 603 930-6139

For questions re: Sacred Dance contact Jessica Marchant – 603 305-8130

For general questions re: our Music Ministry contact April Springfield, Music Board Chair – 603 943-9452.



## **Christmas Fair News!**

We're planning this year's Christmas Fair with all or most of your returning favorites, including the Luncheon, Raffle Baskets, Angel Loft, Book Room (with puzzles & DVDs, too), Angel Loft, Bake Sale, Silent Auction and Visits with Santa and hopefully more! Mark your calendars for:

**Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 am - 2 pm**

with Luncheon served 11 am - 1:30 pm. *But, we still need you*

*and your help!* Please contribute and volunteer to assist with this important and beloved Church and Community annual tradition!

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Coordinators to manage Publicity, Craft Room, or Musical Entertainment
- Helpers to sort, organize and set-up the goods prior to the event for the Book Room, Angel Loft, and Silent Auction
- Musicians/singers to perform and share the holiday spirit
- Helpers for each activity/area on Fair day
- Elves to assist Santa with the kids
- Set-up and clean-up crews
- Chairperson or co-chair(s) of the Fair

### **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 or events, special experience opportunities, excursions, gift baskets, coupons for a unique product or service -- be creative, and other new items for Silent Auction
- Books, puzzles, games and DVDs for Book Room
- Homemade tasty treats for the Bake Sale table
- New or *gently* used goods for the "New to You" and handmade craft items for the Craft tables
- Items for themed Raffle Baskets

Please contact Carol Birch or email [ChristmasFair@hollischurch.org](mailto:ChristmasFair@hollischurch.org) to volunteer, contribute or ask questions. Sign-ups also at top of stairs near the church office. Drop off donations on Sundays, during church office hours or place items in the CE (left) box outside the church's front door or make special arrangements.



## **Christmas Fair Information & Planning Meeting**

Interested or want to learn more about the Christmas Fair? Come join the **Christmas Fair Informational and Planning Meeting on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11 am in Emerson Chapel**. Enjoy Fellowship after worship for a bit, then bring your coffee upstairs where we'll talk about the 2023 Christmas Fair plans and answer all your questions.



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**

## **Two Special Events in One Day! Sunday, October 8**



### **Faith & Blue**

*Faith & Blue* is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and breaks down biases through activities and outreach amongst law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. National Faith & Blue Weekend is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect, trust and understanding. Law

enforcement entities and faith-based groups are key pillars of a local community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

Following our worship service on **October 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will welcome the Hollis Police Department to our Fellowship Hour. They will be bringing the treats, and welcoming the wider community to join in “Coffee with a Cop.” Please join us—bring your kids and invite a friend as sacred and secular “keepers of community” demonstrate our solidarity and commitment to getting to know and mutually respect each other.



**BLESSING**  
 of the Animals

Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>  
 1:00 p.m.

Little Nichols Field

All your four-footed (or finned or feathered) friends are welcome! Please be sure animals are leashed or contained for their own safety, and the safety of others.