



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

October 2026

www.HollisChurch.org

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***The Chimes is a publication of the
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“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:25-27)

Dear Friends,

If you have spent even a few minutes following the news or scrolling through social media lately, chances are your spirit has felt the weight of it. You might not believe it, but I often wrestle with worry (alas, I’m as addicted as anyone to my screens)—and my imagination is pretty good at coming up with elaborately dreadful scenarios! It’s hard not to feel a tightening in the chest when crises unfold across the globe, when headlines clamor for our panic, and the drama of daily noise drains our emotional energy.

When worry creeps in, it’s helpful to turn to the familiar words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount quoted above—though, it’s easy to mishear these verses. Jesus is not offering a dismissive platitude. Nor is he instructing us to put on blinders and ignore the broken, hurting aspects of our world. Jesus was speaking to ordinary people living under empire, taxation, and genuine precarity. Rather than counseling apathy, Jesus is grounding us. He invites us to look up from our spiraling thoughts and remember the living God—the One who spoke creation into existence and has sustained its delicate rhythms far longer than human memory stretches.

(From the Pastor- continued on p. 2)

(From the Pastor - continued from p. 1)

On August 31, our world lost a true luminary when Wendell Berry took leave of his mortality. While he walked, breathed, and wrote among us, he possessed a rare gift for reminding us of the goodness rooted in creation. In his beloved poem, *The Peace of Wild Things*, Berry gave voice to that exact longing for grounding in language that echoes the gentle wisdom of Jesus:

The Peace of Wild Things

By Wendell Berry

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron
feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

Berry reminds us of what the wood drake, the great heron, and the lilies of the field already know: creation rests in the hands of a faithful Sustainer. When we step outside and watch a creature that does not “tax its life with forethought of grief,” we are nudged back toward perspective.

Our calling as followers of Christ is not to escape reality or responsibility, but to intentionally reorder our allegiance. As Jesus concludes in Matthew 6:33–34, “*Seek first the kingdom God, and divine righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.*”

This month, when the noise of the world threatens to overwhelm your peace, give yourself permission to step away from the screens. Walk among the trees, bathe in the colorful wash of fall foliage, watch the birds. Spend some quality time with your pet (don't forget to bring them to the Blessing of the Animals service on October 4th at 11:45 a.m.)! And, embrace opportunities to enjoy the delight of communal events—Sunday morning worship and fellowship, yes; but also the Hollis Apple Festival (Oct. 4, 2-4 p.m.), Flock Family Pizza Night (Oct. 15), Adults (Re)visiting Confirmation Classes (on Zoom), the super-fun Square Dance happening on Oct. 16, and participation in any of the various Ministry Teams that are active in our church. There are so many ways to re-ground ourselves in the faithful goodness and persistent presence of God, so many ways to rest in the grace of the world—and be free!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

FAITH FORMATION

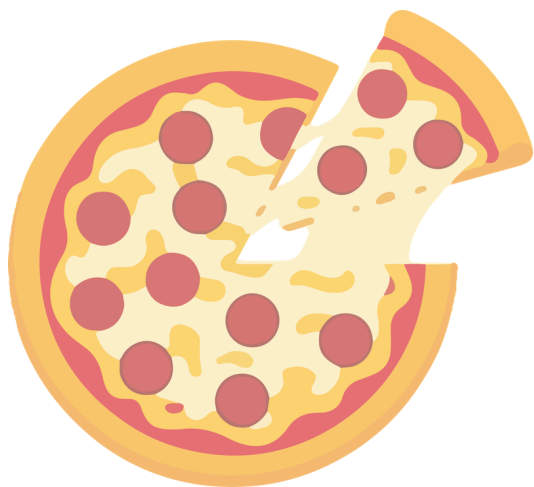
Third Grade Bible Sunday - Oct 18

On Sunday, October 18th we celebrate our third graders as they will receive their very own Bible from the church. A special tradition that brings smiles to the kids and the adults! Parents of third graders, be on the lookout for an email from Kim about choosing Bible verses for your child!



Flock Family Pizza Night is back! Thursday, October 15, 5:15 pm

Join Kim & Tanya on Thursday, October 15th from 5:15-6:30pm for pizza and pumpkin decorating 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. Come join in the fun! Check your emails for the sign-up genius link! Hope to see you there!



PUZZLE

HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.

The  will  
 what is , and 
 will  its ."
  : , NIV

Answer: "The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest." Psalm 85:12, NIV

Mission Trip: A Success!

Our congregation has a very long history of participating and hosting mission trip work weeks. When Covid struck, our participation came to a halt, but 2026 brought us back to the work of serving others with our hearts and hands.

Thanks to tireless efforts from Amy Zapp, and Tonda and Thom Davies, our small but mighty group spent a week in Hazlet, New Jersey. We painted, sanded, built stairs, and made connections with the homeowners and with participants from all over the USA. We had experiences that shaped character and renewed our faith. Hollis and Brookline teens were the backbone of our group! If you or your teen are interested in a conversation to learn more about joining a trip next July to Pennsylvania, please reach out to pastor@hollischurch.org.

Our group will be speaking at the October 11 service and sharing a slideshow of our top trip moments. We want to thank the congregation for supporting us with funds, prayer shawls, food boxes, and prayers. ❤️



Are You a Crafter?

Are you a crafter or hobbyist? Could you spare one or two items that could be sold on our “Gift/Craft Table” at the fair? We have always been proud of being a fair that did not merely rent out tables for other people to sell their products but offered instead a variety of quality hand-made items for holiday gift-giving. There is still time to make something wonderful!

Keep an eye out for more details about drop off logistics in the November Chimes.



Do You Like to Sing?

On December 12, the Hollis Town Band and Community Christmas Chorus will present a holiday concert benefitting our church’s holiday food basket project.



Come and Join the Community Christmas Chorus!

The chorus is a short-term commitment (only 8 weeks!) 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. First rehearsal is Wednesday, October 21**, but you can still join even if you can’t make it on the 21st — just come when you can!

Mark your calendars for our holiday concert! Admission is a donation of non-perishable food items, benefiting our church’s Holiday Food Basket Program. During intermission, F&H will also be selling delicious desserts, with all proceeds supporting the holiday food baskets.

Come enjoy an evening of festive music while helping provide holiday meals for families in our community!

HOLLIS MONUMENT SQUARE
Apple
FESTIVAL
AND
BAND CONCERT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

2:00pm-4:00pm

Presented by:
Hollis Town Band
HB Rebels Cheerleading

Serving apple pies, apple crisps, and ice cream

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsors:

Haywards Ice Cream - Milford, Brewer Landscaping,
Millyard Bank, Brookdale Fruit Farm, Lull Farm,
Kalil & Kress Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Diamond Sponsors:

Art of Dentistry, Hollis
Hollis House of Pizza

Gold Sponsors:

Hollis Auto Service, Hollis Veterinary Hospital,
Shelly Gillis, MS, CFP, at Edward Jones,
Peters Honda of Nashua, Hollis Family Chiropractic,
Tulley Automotive Group

Silver Sponsors:

Morin's Landscaping, Ciardelli Fuel Company, Inc.,
Carol Birch, realtor at Coldwell Banker Realty,
Monument Square Market

**Thank you, and all our anonymous donors, for your
generosity!**

*Rain location: HB Middle School
This is not a school sponsored event*

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:30 Worship & Communion 11:00 CE Board 11:45 Blessing of the Animals APPLE FEST 2-4 PM	5 5:30pm Stewardship	6 10:00am Knitting Ministry 4:00pm Mission & Action 6:00pm Music Board	7 4:30pm Caring Connections	1 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Adult Reformation Class	2 4:00pm Facilities	3
11 9:30am Worship 9:30am Flock 11:00am Hand in Hand	12 7:00pm Deacons	13 12:30pm Bylaws	14	15 7:00pm Choir Chimes Deadline 5:15pm Flock Family Pizza Night 7:30pm Adults Revisiting Confirmation	9 4:00pm Facilities	10
18 9:30am Worship 9:30am Flock 3rd Grade Bibles Nashua Crop Hunger Walk	19 6:00pm Trustees	20 6:30pm Council	21	22 7:00pm Choir	23 Fall Community Square Dance SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 16 2-5 PM	17
25 9:30am Worship 9:30am Flock	26	27	28	29 7:00pm Choir	30	31 Turn clocks back tonight!

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

Thank you to Kitchen Board for hosting Sunday Fellowship this 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).

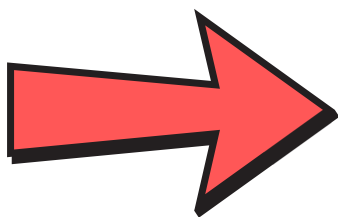


Volunteers Needed!

Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and dancing at our upcoming Square Dance in Hardy Hall!

We're excited about hosting a Fall Community Square Dance, but this event can only happen with the support of volunteers!

To sign up: scan the QR code, visit [this link](#), or see the sign up sheet on the office bulletin board.



With Gratitude!

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



Nashua Crop Hunger Walk Sunday, October 18, 2026

Join the 42nd Annual Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk! Registration is 12:00–1:00 p.m. (TBA Parking Lot), with opening ceremonies at 1:00 p.m. and the walk beginning at 1:30 p.m. The walk supports local food security and agencies like Corpus Christi Food Pantry, Nashua Soup Kitchen, St. James of Merrimack Food Pantry, and SHARE Inc. of Milford. This year's goal is \$62,000, and your support is especially important as funding cuts impact food security.

Walk, sponsor a walker, donate to a team, or volunteer to cheer and welcome walkers!

To participate or donate, visit events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/nashuanh

Our Church Records

Baptisms

September 6, 2026

Jackson George Dyer, son of
Jonathan and Angelike Dyer

Deaths

August 31, 2026

Lawrence (Laurie) J. Lingle

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of Laurie Lingley by:

Ann Siglin
John and Joan Marcotte
Larry Sylvain
Craig and Vicki Jones
Richard Towne
Bob and Donna Cormier

STEWARDSHIP

As we enter fall, the Stewardship Board is preparing for our annual pledge season. This year, our theme is **“Journey to Generosity.”** Over the coming months, we will reflect on what it means to live generously, faithfully, and joyfully, and how our generosity puts our faith into action.

Generosity is about more than what we give. It is about who we are becoming and how we respond to God’s call to love, serve, and care for one another. As we explore what this means over the next few months during pledge season, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support the ministry and mission of our church.

Two questions naturally come up during pledge season: **Where does my money go, and how much should I pledge?**

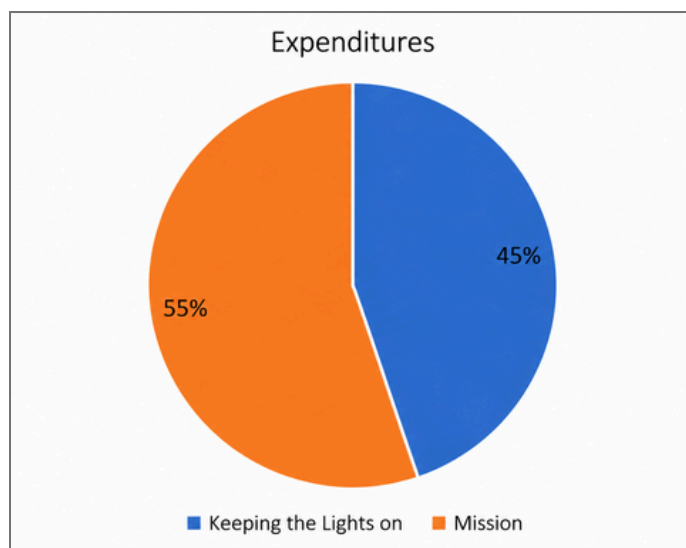
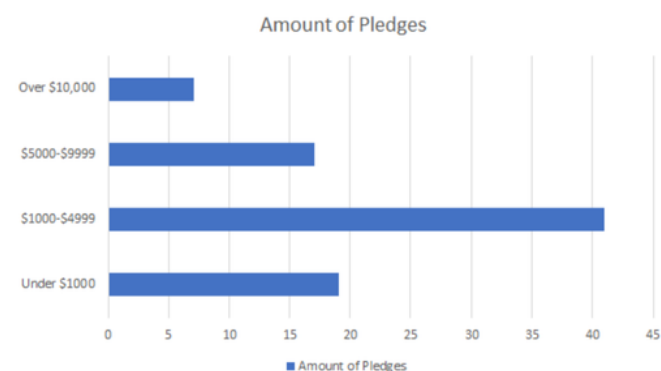
Where does my money go?

In 2025, the church’s total income was \$377,168, with \$322,890 coming from giving, both pledged and loose. Our expenses fall broadly into two areas: **keeping the lights on** and **mission**.

In 2025, \$168,757 went toward keeping our church operating. These expenses include heating, utilities, building and facility costs, staff salaries, and other administrative needs. While they may not be the most exciting parts of church life, they make everything else possible. They allow us to open our doors each Sunday, provide a welcoming home for our congregation, and create a place where ministry can happen.

The remaining \$208,601 supported our mission, which is the work that is at the heart of who we are as a church. This includes but is not limited to Christian Education, Fellowship and Hospitality, Food and Fuel (including food boxes), Mission and Action, Music, and the staff who make these ministries possible.

Every pledge helps make both parts of our journey possible: keeping our church home strong and allowing our mission to thrive.



How much should I pledge?

There is no single answer to this question. Your pledge is a personal decision based on your circumstances, and we recognize that every household’s financial journey looks different.

For some perspective, in 2026, 84 households pledged a combined \$298,632. The average pledge was \$3,555, while the median pledge was \$2,000.

We have also seen over the years that a relatively small number of households provide a significant portion of our pledged income. In 2026, for example, five households pledged a combined \$86,740, or about 30% of the total pledged amount. We are deeply grateful for their generosity, while also recognizing the importance of building a broader and more sustainable foundation for our church.

That is part of our Journey to Generosity: not asking everyone to give the same amount, but encouraging each of us to consider whether there is room to take a step forward in our own giving. For some, that may mean increasing a pledge. For others, it may mean making a pledge for the first time. And for some, it may mean continuing to give what their circumstances allow.

As we begin this journey together, we ask you to spend some time in prayer and reflection. Consider what this church means to you, the ways it has touched your life, and the ministries you want to help carry forward.

Wherever you are on your journey, we invite you to take the next step in generosity and help keep our lights on, our mission strong, and our church moving forward together.

WILLIAM C. SIPES SCHOLARSHIP

For the past year, members of Church Council, the Trustees and By-laws Committee have been wondering about the origin of the Sipes Scholarship.

In the current By-laws, the Sipes Scholarship Fund is overseen by three trustees who are appointed by Church Council. They are given specific guidelines as laid out in the By-laws. In general, the scholarship allows for only the accrued interest of the fund to be dispersed to a student preparing for service in the UCC, parish ministry, mission field, Christian education, pastoral counseling, or other related field.

Over the course of the past year, questions have arisen as to how this Scholarship Fund came to be. The general assumption was that the Sipes Family had donated the initial funds for this Scholarship fund and therefore, the Church could not make any substantive changes to the current guidelines or parameters. Board and Council members with fiduciary and governance responsibilities to the Church wanted some clarity on this initial designation.

Thelma Wigfeld and I spent some time this summer researching this. For background, Reverend William C. Sipes was the pastor of the Congregational Church of Hollis from 1928 until 1941. He died in 1978, but he and his family remained in our community after his time as pastor with our church.

In order to find the genesis of the scholarship fund, we began by assuming that it may have been established after Pastor Sipes' death in 1978. By reviewing Annual Reports beginning with 1980 and working backward we looked to find where the fund began. In the Annual Report from 1967, Daniel Goodwin of the Scholarship Committee stated that the fund had "grown very well since it was started on May 14, 1964".

According to the Annual Report of 1964, the Scholarship Fund was established at a Special Meeting of the church on May 14. The original fund was provided by allocation of the Lenten-Easter Offering and from that point on, there would be a possibility for annual giving and memorial giving from members of the church. Over the next few years, the trustees would also designate funds from the Lenten-Easter offering to be dispersed into the scholarship fund. For some years, the allocation of 500 or 600 dollars would actually cover the annual tuition at Andover Newton Theological School.

The original Scholarship fund that was established by a vote of the Church was not named for any individual or family. According to the January 28, 1978 bulletin for the memorial service for Reverend William C. Sipes, Church Council honored Reverend Sipes on August 9, 1966 when they voted to name the fund after him.

We now know that the Sipes Scholarship Fund and its guidelines were established by a vote of the Congregational Church Members and its name was changed by a vote of Council.

All of this information, will be provided to Church Council, the Trustees and the By-laws Committee for review and there may be possible recommendations to make adjustments to the current language. More research could be done relating to how the language has changed over the years...although the current language is consistent with the December 1982 By-laws. Also, any potential change to the language in the Bylaws would come before the Congregation at an Annual or Special meeting.

Submitted by,

Holly Deurloo Babcock
Church Council Chair

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



October

Church & Community Events



- **Adult Reformation Classes** | Oct 1 and 15 at 7:30 pm
- **Blessing of the Animals** | Oct 4 at 11:45 am
- **Hollis Apple Fest** | Oct 4, 2 – 4 pm
- **Flock Family Pizza Night** | Oct 15 at 5:15 pm
- **Fall Community Square Dance** | Oct 16, 7 – 9 pm
- **3rd Grade Bible Presentation** | Oct 18 at 9:30 am
- **Nashua Crop Hunger Walk** | Oct 18