

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

September 2018

www.HollisChurch.org

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

*“We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things. Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord’s coming is getting closer.”*  
(Hebrews 10:24-25, *Contemporary English Version*)



Dear Friends,

As the sights and sounds all around are buzzing more vigorously with back-to-school and harvest time, I hope you’ve enjoyed a restful and restorative summer!

My entire family (including siblings, spouses, and children) enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Alaska—stunning views of God’s amazing, diverse creation: glaciers and rainforest, mountains and waterfalls, creatures of the sea, air, and soil, not to mention the variety of folks on the cruise ship! It was a gift from my mother. Part of the gift (though perhaps not by design) was the spiritual reminder that we’ve been entrusted with all this beauty — earth, sea, sky, creatures of all sorts — by the Creator of all, to be partners with God in nurturing and tending to all these things. It’s important to be periodically reminded of, and re-grounded in, this fundamental truth about our purpose, our calling.

Happily, our community will help all of us remember this purpose and calling through the programs and community events planned for the unfolding year. Our children’s Sunday School program has exciting new curriculum (written for our church by our own Pat Harris). There are engaging new youth activities being planned, and adult education opportunities will help you to find deeper meaning and connections in your daily life in faith: there will be offerings of the popular **Bible 101** class (a 2-session quick-but-inspiring overview of the Bible), and **Exploring Neighboring Faiths**, a new opportunity to learn about our “faith neighbors” by visiting with Jewish, Muslim, and Orthodox faith leaders. (See pp. 3-4 for more info) And/or I invite you to consider participating in **Embracing an Adult Faith**. (See p. 4 for more details.)

*(continued on page 4)*

# From the Faith Formation (Christian Education) Office



**The Confirmation year** begins on Sunday, September 23 with class for all students in grade 9 and above who want to engage in a nine-month exploration leading toward a decision on confirming their Christian faith and becoming active members of the church. Following the 10:30 class, parents and students will meet for a brief orientation session in Emerson Chapel.

Confirmation class meets again on Sept 30 at 10:30 am.

Anyone interested in the Confirmation program who has not registered may contact Pat Harris for information: [confirmation@hollischurch.org](mailto:confirmation@hollischurch.org).

## Pre-Confirmation

Grade 7 and 8 students participate in Pre-Confirmation classes and field trips, 2 - 3 Sundays each month. The first session is Sunday, September 9. Students will join their families for worship at 10:30, leaving for class in the Austin Room (downstairs, next to the kitchen) after the Introduction to the Theme. The first field trip takes place on Sunday, September 23 when pre-confirmands and adult chaperones venture to the Canterbury Shaker Village to experience the fascinating story of the history and culture of the Shakers.

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## Mission Trip Sunday – Sept 16

Everyone will have an opportunity to see slides and hear stories of the 2018 Wallingford, CT work camp experience when some of the 42 participants lead worship on Sunday, September 16, at 9:00 and 10:30am. Cindy Ryherd, one for the adult chaperones, has developed a wonderful slide presentation and Naomi Kopser, a senior at HBHS and veteran of many work camps, will share stories of her hands-on experiences serving others.

## Calling all Sunday Schoolers! Homecoming Sunday is Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>!

September 9th at 10:30 a.m. marks the beginning of a new program year and once again the classrooms will be filled with laughter and learning! Children ages PreK-Grade 8 will start upstairs with their families at the service, and be dismissed downstairs by Reverend Tanya after a dedication of our Sunday School teachers. Nursery will be staffed beginning at 10:20 a.m. for drop-off.



The Christian Education team has been hard at work this summer planning new and exciting lessons, games, service projects, and celebrations. Activities will include cooking, scavenger hunts, and music, just to name a few!

In September, all classes will learn about the importance of demonstrating good stewardship in our everyday lives, as well as how to practice this at church. Even the smallest members of the church can contribute in numerous, meaningful ways! On Sept. 16, children in grades 3-6 will be trained by a Deacon on how to be an acolyte. A sign-up genius schedule will be emailed following the training if your child wishes to participate during a service in this special way.

If you are planning to enroll your child(ren), **please complete and return the registration form enclosed in this edition of the Chimes**. Any questions please email [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org).

## Orientation for Sunday School and Nursery Volunteers

An important orientation for all Sunday school teachers and assistants, as well as all nursery volunteers is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, in Hardy Hall, as follows:

6:30pm Refreshments, Tour of new Class Spaces, and Safety Protocol update

7:00pm Plenary session for all Sunday school and Nursery staff

7:20pm Curriculum training

7:45 Team Schedule planning \*

\*All volunteers are reminded to bring their calendars for schedule planning.





## Vacation Bible School: Cooking! Construction! Caterpillars!

Can you name the nine Fruits of the Spirit from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians? 72 children, teens and adults who participated in Vacation Bible School this summer can not only name them, they can sing them for you!

*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control* rang from the rafters and permeated the building as children scampered from crafts to science, woodworking, outdoor games, cooking, dance and bells. Jack Duquette and JJ Leach, as Duke and Robbie, began each morning with a skit on one of the Fruits of the Spirit, as Everett Burton and Luke Verrecchia ably acted it out in a puppet show. Abby Adasczik, Kathryn Hamilton and Adrianna Leach led the daily worship service in spirit-filled singing.

Highlights of the week included Lee Harper's presentation on caterpillars and butterflies, a must-see for all ages. A new tradition began when an end of the week program was held for parents. In addition to everyone singing the songs of the week, Janet Sterritt led the grade 5 and 6 class in playing two bell pieces, leaving the audience in awe. It was amazing to see and hear what twelve young people could learn in four short 20-minute sessions when none of them had ever held a bell before.

35 children, 16 teens and 21 adults participated in VBS from Hollis, Brookline, Merrimack, Nashua and Amherst. Some adults came every day and others gave their time as they were able, perhaps one or two days, or perhaps an hour each day. This allowed the children to experience many adult role models they otherwise might not encounter, especially the men who led woodworking: Charlie Seddon, Nate Armstrong and Thom Davies, and kitchen crew Joyce Toli and Debbe Shipman. Many thanks to all the wonderful, cheerful and responsible teen leaders who gave generously of their time and love, as well as the adult volunteers who gave hours of creativity, patience and caring.

**VBS 2019 is scheduled for July 15-18, 9:00-11:30am.** Mark your calendar and plan to participate in this joyful program. Everyone is welcome.

## For Teens...

### **High School Youth Group Pizza Party**

An evening of pizza and games will launch the new program year for all high school teens on Saturday, September 22, 6pm in Hardy Hall. Save the date and watch for details. Friends are welcome. There will be plenty of food and fun for everyone.

### **Progressive Dinner for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a progressive dinner on Friday, October 12, 6:00-7:30pm. Meet at the church and walk to neighboring homes for appetizers, dinner, dessert and fun. Return to church for pick up at 7:30. Sign up at [preconfirmation@hollischurch.org](mailto:preconfirmation@hollischurch.org).

## For Teens and Adults...

### **Workcamp in Dexter, Maine**

Group Mission Trips offers a workcamp in Dexter, Maine, July 21-27, 2019.

**September 30 is the deadline for registration** and a non-refundable deposit of \$75 per person, payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis. Students in grade 8 and over, as well as adult chaperones are encouraged to register early. The trip is limited to 25 teens and 5 adults on a first-come basis.

Those who sign up for the Dexter trip 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 and in the church office, or by emailing [workcamp@hollischurch.org](mailto:workcamp@hollischurch.org).



## For Adults...

### **Bible 101**

This popular, 2-session overview of the Bible is offered at various times throughout the year to everyone interested in learning or refreshing their memory on the stories and themes of the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation. Led by Minister of Faith Formation, Pat Harris, the emphasis is on the history, stories and events of the Old and New Testaments in a lively, discussion format where everyone is free to ask questions and contribute viewpoints. *(continued next page)*

## **Bible 101 - continued**

Two sessions of Bible 101 will be offered in the Parkhurst Room during September:

Mondays, Sept. 10 and 17, 10:00-11:30am  
Wednesdays, September 12 and 19, 7:00-8:30pm.

## **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 will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parkhurst Room, Sept. 26, and 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.

## **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 to participate in a five-week course of Exploring Neighboring Faiths. Sessions will be held on Monday mornings, September 24, and October 1, 15, 22 and 29. The series begins with a trip to Canterbury Shaker Village on September 24. On October 1, we will meet right here at our church for a discussion on the United Church of Christ by Associate Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Richard Slater. In the weeks to follow, we move on to Nashua for tours and presentations at the Islamic Society, and St. Philip Greek Orthodox Church, concluding at Temple Beth Abraham.

Be sure to **sign up no later than September 10** so carpools and other logistics can be in place for each week. There is a fee for Shaker Village ( \$19); all other programs are free. Pat Harris will facilitate this course.

## **From the Pastor** (cont. from p. 1)

Also, the United Church of Christ has launched an initiative called "**3 Great Loves**", which fits in well with the work we're already engaged in here at the Congregational Church of Hollis. The aim is to help us be more intentional in expressing our love for God, and God's love for us, as we engage in acts of love and compassion for: 1) Neighbor, 2) Children, and 3) Creation. According to the ucc.org website, "The hope of this initiative is to . . . share the story of how individuals, churches, and organizations of the UCC are impacting and transforming the world as covenantal partners united in our common purpose, vision, and mission. Work that lives out the love of God and leads to creating a just world for all." So in the unfolding program year, you'll be invited to participate in this as one way to grow in your personal faith and life understanding.

And, we'll continue to focus on **Building our Vision** for this church's future. As we take inspiration from those who had the vision and courage 275 years ago (and multiple times in subsequent generations) to give extravagantly of their own resources for unseen future generations, so we are being invited with the life-giving challenge to dig deep for the sake of God's beloved that we've not met, nor known how to dream of (yet)! The vision is taking shape as we continue our conversations—soon, we'll vote to express our convictions about God's invitation and our response.

Looking forward to welcoming you "home" from summer adventures if you've been away, and to sharing our adventure in faith as our 2018-19 year unfurls!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

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## **From the Church Office**

A BIG Thank You to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your summer *Chimes* for mailing.



# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Homecoming Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>!</b> Sunday School for Pre-K thru 6 <sup>th</sup> grade and 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Confirmation classes begin						1
9:30 am – Communion Worship  End Summer Worship Schedule  2	Labor Day (church office closed)  3	7pm – Teacher Training (6:30pm – refreshments/tours) 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting  4	5	7 pm - Choir  6	7	8
<b>Homecoming Sunday</b> 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School Sunday School begins for Pre-K - 8 <sup>th</sup> grade 11:30 am – Homecoming All-Church Picnic 7pm – Community Prayers  9	7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 10 am – Bible 101 7 pm – Deacons meeting  10	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 7:30 pm – Music Board meeting  11	9:30 am - Christmas Fair workshop at Deb Shipman’s 10 am – Staff meeting 5 pm – Facilities meeting 7 pm – Bible 101  12	7 pm - Choir  13	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter  14	October <i>Chimes</i> deadline  <b>HOLLIS OLD HOME DAY</b>  15
<b>Mission Trip Sunday</b> 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:30 am – Acolyte Training 1:00 pm – Women’s Fellowship potluck luncheon at Doris Rafferty’s home  16	7:15am – Men’s Breakfast 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 10 am – Bible 101 7 pm – Trustees meeting  17	7 pm – Church Council meeting  18	7 pm – Bible 101  19	6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm - Choir  20	21	6pm – Senior Youth Group (High School) Pizza and Games  22
9:00 am – Worship 9:30am – Pre-Confirmation trip to Shaker Village 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am – Confirmation class 11:45 am – Confirmand/Parent Orientation  23	7:15am – Men’s Breakfast 8 am – Ladies’ Breakfast 9:30am – <i>Exploring Neighboring Faiths</i> - trip to Shaker Village  24	25	7 pm – <i>Embracing an Adult Faith</i> (Class #1 of 5)  26	7 pm - Choir  27	28	29
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School ** FIRE DRILL during 10:30 worship** 10:30 am – Confirmation Class  30	 <b>Mission Items of the Month: Sweaters, Coats, Jackets (new or clean, gently-used)</b> Supports annual <i>Sweater Weather Recycling Campaign</i> sponsored by Davis Funeral Home					



## Christmas Fair Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 2:30 pm

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.

**A Fair Workshop** for the Gifts & Crafts table will be held on Wednesday, September 12 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.

**Christmas Fair Fashion Boutique** – Ladies (and gentlemen): If you have “gently used” but still stylish garments, purses, shoes, or accessories of any vintage which you no longer have a use for and would like to donate them to this year's church fair fashion boutique please drop them off during church office hours.

**Christmas Fair Raffle Baskets** – Donations for Christmas Fair raffle baskets are now being accepted! **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. As always, thank you for your generous donations!



**Theme Baskets**

- This year's themes include, but are not limited to:
- ◆ Hollis     ◆ Guys     ◆ Ladies     ◆ Gift Wrap
  - ◆ Family Fun     ◆ Gift Cards/Scratch tickets
  - ◆ 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!***

## Mission & Action News

### **September Items of the Month: Sweaters, Coats & Jackets**

Cold weather is coming! Time to check your closets for sweaters and coats that you don't need anymore! The Davis Funeral Home in Nashua is collecting new or CLEAN used sweaters and coats in good condition for men, women and children. They will be given to area agencies for those who don't have enough warm clothing in the winter months. Those in need will be grateful for your concern and thoughtfulness! Even though it's still warm, dig through those closets and drawers and support this terrific program. Please place your donated sweaters and coats in the cart at the top of the stairs.

**Thank You** for your generosity for the Nashua Soup Kitchen's *Back to School* program. We delivered more than 380 school supplies items to them in August!

### **Your Mission Funds in Action:**

- We were able to assist *Bridges* with the purchase of a much-needed laptop. Their current computer was on its last legs and in dire need of a replacement.
- Funds were given to buy supplies for Church World Service Disaster Kits, which will be assembled by our Sunday School children. These kits are warehoused by CWS then shipped at a moment's notice in times of hurricane or other disaster.

### **Coming October 20 ... Red Cross Blood Drive**

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

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### **Women's Luncheon**

All women are welcome to the annual Women's Fellowship potluck luncheon at 1pm on Sunday, September 16. Doris Rafferty has graciously offered her home at 53 Deacon Lane in Hollis. Bring a main dish, salad or dessert and join the fun. Plans for the coming program year will be shared.

## Our Church Records

June 3, 2018

### Child Baptisms:

Sydney Rose Earl  
Adam Michael Verrecchia  
Luke David Verrecchia  
Josie Claire Verrecchia

### Adult Baptisms:

Joel Johnson Verrecchia  
John James Leach  
Andrew Douglas Watson

### New Members by Rite of Confirmation:

Emma Claire Armstrong  
Henry Lane Burns  
Lucy Margaret Daigle  
Jack Robert Duquette  
Joshua Eli Gilbert  
Devon Elyse Kuchta  
John James Leach  
Sean Robert Morrissey  
Lindsay Faith Rolls  
Melinda Hope Rolls  
Andrew Douglas Watson  
Kiyra Elizabeth Weaver-Bartis  
Bryan Joseph Wright

### New Members by Confession or Reaffirmation of Faith:

Valerie Rose Earl  
Rebecca Loud Stelmack  
Joel J. Verrecchia  
Kimberly S. Verrecchia  
Robert Michael Vartabedian

July 15, 2018

### Child Baptisms:

Heidi Olivia Stathos  
Vincent Bruce Stathos

### Adult Baptism:

Lindsay Kathleen Stathos

### New Members by Confession or Reaffirmation of Faith:

Alexander William Stathos  
Lindsay Kathleen Stathos

### Deaths:

Dorothy Keeler Stickney 5/16/18  
Mario Dakalovic 6/5/18  
David Wayne Cadman 6/12/18



## Music Notes

### Join Our Music Ministry!

As part of our Church vision and Mission, we would like to expand our music ministry by adding a **small ensemble of musicians** (singers, guitarists, pianists, percussionists, etc) to provide music once a month at our 9:00 service. This is a real opportunity to introduce some new music presented in a different way. If you or someone you know may be interested in getting some more information about this creative opportunity to add to the spiritual nature of our Sunday services, please contact Beth Harper at [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net)

### Welcome Back, Ringers!

#### Youth Bells (5<sup>th</sup> grade and up):

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

#### Youth Chimes (up to 4<sup>th</sup> grade):

We will practice during Sunday School during September and 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](mailto:janetsterritt@gmail.com)

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### 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](mailto: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...

**Office Hours:** The church office is open each week **Tuesday - Friday, 8am - 12 noon**. The office is **closed on Mondays**.

**facebook volunteer needed:** Please help us maintain and update the church's facebook page! Contact the church office if interested.

**Happy Birthday Thanks!** Bob Cushman sends his thanks to all who showered him with cards as he celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 1<sup>st</sup>!



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

Non-Profit Organization  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Homecoming Sunday All-Church Picnic**

**Sunday, September 9, 2018 following 10:30 worship**

Join us for our annual All-Church Picnic after our Homecoming Sunday service that kicks off the Sunday School year. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. with the picnic outside in the parking lot immediately following the worship service. The grills will be filled with hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone! The church provides the hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks. To make our picnic a fabulous smorgasbord, please provide your favorite summer dish to pass — salads, casseroles and desserts are all appreciated.

Bring your favorite dish, your appetite and, if the weather is nice, a lawn chair and your baseball mitt or Frisbee so we can enjoy our picnic outside!

**Everyone's  
invited!**

