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The Chimes is a publication of the Congregational Church of Hollis www.hollischurch.org

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"...knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

(Romans 5:3b-5)

Dear Friends,

Usually in September, we're all feeling refreshed after our summer adventures and relaxing, eager to greet each other, catch up with those we've missed for a time, and resume our "term-time rhythms". But obviously, there's nothing "usual" about this entire year, whatsoever. Life with COVID-19 continues to challenge nearly every aspect of our lives, disrupting us at every level of existence. Although some good and important things are happening amidst the unraveling effects of this pandemic, the suffering is real and undeniable especially for the most vulnerable.

Among the blessings I've observed in our church community has been an ability — in spite of the virus — to gather in greater numbers and far more from distant places than usual for summer Sunday worship. Granted, we're all in tiny boxes and we have to stare at a screen instead of looking into each other's eyes, and many are starved for the physical contact of others in close proximity. Nonetheless, we are "together" and learning to share in new ways. Some have commented that they're delighted to be learning names, faces, and personalities that were previously unknown to them, though they've all been members of this community for many years. And, with enormous thanks to our Music Minister, Julie Oliver, and our choir, we have had new music every Sunday across the entire summer! These are just a few examples of hope and blessing being delivered amidst the suffering of required distancing. (continued on page 3)

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From the Faith Formation Office



Journey to Confirmation

Our wonderful incoming 7th and 8th grade confirmands will have some in-person classes outdoors, and will

participate in completing service projects throughout the semester. This funloving group with continue their personal faith journey, as well as try out their new job as role models for the younger kids! They will be encouraged to take a leadership role in Sunday School and help lead activities and games at times via zoom.

Bingo is back - Outdoors!



~ Saturday, September 19 from 4:00-5:00 pm (dependent on good weather)

- All ages are welcome!
- Bring a blanket, a friend, and a snack! Everything else will be provided!
- Social distancing will be maintained, and sanitizing precautions will be taken

Welcome back to class!

~ Many adjustments have been made for how classes will take place during the pandemic. Please see below for updates ~



Sunday School... now on Tuesdays!

Children in PreK through Grade 6 are welcome to attend lively Zoom Sunday School classes! These classes will take place on **Tuesdays at 4:30pm.** Each week, children will learn a lesson from the Bible, and this fall the theme is EMOJIS . Following the lesson, Kim and Kim have some very exciting games and crafts planned for children to participate in! In addition, students will complete some fun and meaningful community service projects throughout the semester.

Parents will be asked periodically to pick up supplies for lessons, activities, and projects at church outside in a bin by the handicap entrance.

New this year- a focus on bridging the gap



between all generations in the church community. We are looking for adult volunteers to share their faith journey with the students during an "interview" at class time. All questions will be provided ahead of time for prep-

aration. What an easy and fun way to connect with the kids! Please email <u>ce@hollischurch.org</u> for the Sunday School registration form or if you'd like to volunteer to be interviewed!

New this year ~ A sequence of "Life" lessons.

These lessons will focus on topics that kids deal with in everyday life these days. The first unit will focus on...

What better place to gather support and guidance through life's tough times than from peers at church?

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

Still, I have heard and deeply felt the growing cries of detachment, loneliness, and anguish from some of our members who cannot connect online or "virtually" for whatever reason. One of the greatest challenges for church leaders has been discerning the right balance between tending to the *physical* health and safety, and caring for the *emotional* and *spiritual* health and wellbeing of our communities, and especially of the most vulnerable. At times, it's seemed like they're in conflict: human beings are created to be in community with each other, to delight in the communion of God-with-us as our spirits connect as we share space and time together. ("For where two or three are gathered in my name," said Jesus in Matthew 18:20, "I am there among them.")

But the coronavirus doesn't seem to pay attention to our personal needs or preferences; and because it's impossible to predict how or whether it will ravage any given individual, it is up to us to act responsibly with this understanding, and establish the value of every life by providing for and protecting the most vulnerable as our guiding impulse. Of course, this is just another way of saying we remain committed to living and acting as Christ Jesus would.

Because we understand these needs and concerns, and in response to the fantastic feedback to the July survey about the issue, the Church Council (with advice from the COVID-concerns Task Force and the Deacons) has decided that we will continue to hold Zoom/online worship services at 9:30 a.m. through the end of November, at least. We live in deep hope of holding in-person services in the Meetinghouse during Advent, but we will assess further in October.

Also, I will lead a size-limited (max. 36), physically distanced (6' apart except family units), outdoor service at 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of September and October. Attendees will need to sign up in advance, bring their own chair, wear a mask, and agree to sit in the pre-configured "pods" (chalked-out spaces) assigned to them. Because singing and loud public speaking has been scientifically proven to be a "super-spreader" by aerosolizing droplets even when masks are utilized, we will not have singing at these services and speakers will be limited. BUT — we will be together! We will be able to share prayers and (safely-distanced) fellowship and communion in shared physical space. An all-church email will be sent out with further details; please contact the church promptly if you wish to receive the information by other means.

Finally, having not had a vacation this summer, I will be away for the week of August 31-Sept. 7 (Labor Day). I have thoroughly enjoyed the "Unraveled" summer sermon series, and I'm enormously grateful to Cindy Ryherd and Diane Fallier, who have done so much behind-thescenes orchestration to make our Zoom services run smoothly! On Homecoming Sunday, September 13, we will take up a new Holy Habit: Gladness and Generosity. Although there isn't regular artwork included with this series, I intend to continue using some of the more creative elements we've been able to engage on this virtual platform.

On Sunday, Sept. 6th, an active member of our church community, Bryar Trent, will be preaching and leading the service. I hope you'll Zoom in and support him as he preaches on Jesus' timely counsel in Matthew 6:25-34 to set aside worry about tomorrow, and be fully present to the challenges and blessings of today! Please note that we will *not* celebrate communion that day, but instead on the *following* Sunday, Sept. 13th.

The apostle Paul wrote letters to some of his communities expressing the pain he felt at not being able to be with the people he loved and served, the people who supported him and prayed for him, as they all ministered together in Christ's name. But he also reminded the people to give thanks to God for their countless blessings, and to recognize that God would ultimately transform their sacrifices and suffering to produce further blessing, including abiding hope. His sentiments resonate deeply for me these days: I miss you, and long to be with you all again ... And, I look forward with hope and confidence to the day when we will all be blessed to share the delight of God's presence in the same (excitingly transformed) space!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya



	TO THE TANK	SEN KON										
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
Zoom Sunday worship services and fellowship continue on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Church boards resume meetings via Zoom.												
* Canned high-protein foods (tuna, be Boyardee) * Soups * toilet paper * toothpaste * bars of soap * Gift cards – Target, Market Basket,	6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom	7pm - Choir									
For the Nashua High School's M	1	2	3	4	5							
9:30 am –Worship on zoom	7 pm – CE Board meeting	4:30 pm – Sunday School on zoom 7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom	7pm - Choir	Our church volun- teers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12						
Homecoming Sunday 9:30 am – Communion Worship on zoom 11:00 am – Outdoor worship (weather permitting) – advance sign-up required	7 pm – Deacons meeting	4:30 pm – Sunday School on zoom	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom	7pm - Choir		4-5 pm BINGO! (outdoors – weather permitting)						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
9:30 am – Worship on zoom	7 pm – Trustees meeting	4:30 pm – Sunday School on zoom 7 pm – Church	10 am – Coffee Hour on zoom	7pm - Choir								
20	21	Council meeting 22	23	24	25	26						
9:30 am – Worship on zoom 11:00 am – Outdoor worship (weather permitting) – advance sign-up required		4:30 pm – Sunday School on zoom	PEA STANDARD	 More September Mission Items of the Month Pasta/Sauces/Rice * Condiments/Sauces Canned Vegetables * Soups * Canned Fruit Dry Goods/Baking Supplies * Snacks Proteins/Beans 								
27	28	For the Br	ookline Food Pantry									

BoV Update!

What an exciting and rewarding summer for the church! It has been remarkably fulfilling to see our congregation's vision finally come to life. We hope you have



been able to join in this journey through the videos and photos we have posted and perhaps even taken a peek at the patio from time to time.

As of this writing we are slightly over the halfway mark and hope to be finished in November.

Exciting highlights include:

- **Patio:** Almost complete! It has exceeded expectations. We can't wait until we can all gather on this beautiful new addition to our community!
- **Kitchen:** Demolition is complete. Does anyone want a grease trap? Lowest bidder wins.
- Hardy Hall: Big changes here including new doors and windows and the removal of the stage. The amount of added sunlight and extra room is astonishing! What a happy and welcoming space this is sure to be.
- **ADA Bathroom:** Has been framed. Very accessible.
- New stairs off HC entrance: A much more welcoming entrance! It will make it so much easier to navigate the church.

We have almost reached our fundraising goal but could still use assistance getting us to the top. We know these are difficult times for many, but if you or anyone you know would like to participate financially in this exciting project, donations are still greatly appreciated. Even just spreading the word is helpful! As always, all are welcome to enjoy our new space.

We hope we are able to join together soon to celebrate this amazing project.

With Joy,

The BoV Team

Packed in the Pod

On behalf of the BoV Logistics Team, a huge THANK YOU once again goes to the members of Boy Scout Troop 12 who made short work of moving furniture and packed-up boxes (including innumerable boxes of books from the pastor's office!) from the church to the storage pod in the parking lot.

When God Crosses our Paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions."

Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and

petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).



Stewardship Sunday October 18th "Beloved, Love"

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

(1 John 4:7)

Our Stewardship theme this year is "Beloved, Love". God calls us to **Three Great Loves:** Love of **Neighbor.** Love of **Children**. Love of **Creation**. Love becomes trite when we quote it but don't work for its realization in our lives. As followers of Christ we give ourselves to answering God's call to love.

Martin Luther King once called love "the most durable power in the world." As he explained, "Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

We are grateful for all those who give gifts to our church as an expression of their love and faith. The challenge before us is how best to inspire you to grow spiritually as you deepen your love for our church and the greater Christian community. Our gifts represent one way we can respond to God's call to love. They can do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission. Our gifts impact people's lives by spreading the message of love through the support of worship, education, caring and community. Your gifts support the foundation of our faith and our discipleship.

In the coming weeks, we will talk about the ways God calls us to love **children**, our **neighbor**, and **creation**. Generosity to the annual campaign assures that our congregation can faithfully answer God's call to love.

We have on-line pledging through the church website at https://hollischurch.org/annual-pledge/ On-line pledging communicates your intentions for 2021 giving but no financial transactions are done. You can also fulfill your pledge through on-line giving options at http://hollischurch.org/giving/. On-line giving creates one-time or on-going financial transactions towards your pledge. We will continue to provide more information on these options as well as how your pledge can make a difference.

Your Stewardship Team

Pledging & Proportional Giving...

The Biblical instruction to tithe (give 1/10th of one's income) feels impossible for many people today. But, it can be rewarding and satisfying to commit a percentage of our income (sometimes called "proportional giving") with an aim to grow that percentage over years to come. If this is something that appeals to you, here is a chart that might be helpful in your prayerful consideration:

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2 %	4%	6%	8%	10%	15 %
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

Women's Fellowship

Like most of you, I was looking forward to our September potluck luncheon, but it will have to be postponed for now. Many thanks to all who contributed to our health kit project. We were able to put together more than 50 kits. A special thanks to Sibyl and Sarah Cushman for gathering items and putting the kits together. Hopefully we will be able to meet together in October.

Dot Pitman

Virtual Coffee Hour Open House

Virtual Coffee Hour Open House will continue every Wednesday at 10:00am. If you're looking for a mid-week break and opportunity to connect, please join in! You can come and go any time during the 10-11am coffee hour. It's as informal as it gets: no agenda, just free-flow conversation with other church family that want to stay connected.

Mission & Action News

September Items of the Month will benefit TWO organizations:

Meals Matter - This program helps the needs of students at the Nashua High Schools who are food insecure. Many students do not have money for lunch and this program gives them access to food and little needs like socks, underwear, toiletries as well as other personal care needs. They are in need of ...

- ♦ Canned Proteins (tuna, beef stew, beans, Chef Boyardee)
- ♦ Soup ♦ Toilet paper
- ♦ Bars of Soap ♦ Deodorant ♦ Toothpaste
- ♦ Or you can purchase Market Basket, Hannaford, Walmart or Target gift cards.

Donations are also accepted at https://app.mobilecause.com/form/yBydpw?vid=am0r1.

Brookline Food Pantry

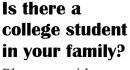
There is a recurring need to locally support the Brookline Food Pantry because of the Coronavirus. We want to keep their shelves full! Their needs include...

- ◆ Pasta / Sauces / Rice ◆ Condiments / Sauces
- ♦ Canned Vegetables ◆ Soups
- ♦ Dry Goods / Baking Supplies
- ♦ Snacks ♦ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Proteins / Beans ◆ Cereal
- ♦ Boxed Cakes / Frostings
- ♦ Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ♦ Ground Coffee ♦ Canned Chicken
- ♦ Dry Baby Formula ♦ Children/Adult Vitamins
- ◆ Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen ◆ Toilet Paper
- ♦ Paper Towels ♦ Personal Hygiene Items

Please drop ALL donations in the plastic bin at the handicapped entrance to the church.

Food & Fuel Assistance

If you know of anyone needing assistance with paying their heating bill or feeding their family, please contact Karen Marino at kmarino360@gmail.com or 603-475-3073. Or if you know of local families in need please contact Tanya at pastor@hollischurch.org



Please provide us with **freshmen** names and addresses (even if



they're attending from home!) and email addresses for newsletters and our freshman care package project.

Update college addresses/emails of upperclassmen so we can send them our monthly newsletters, too. Contact the church office (churchoffice@hollischurch.org or 465-7797) with info.

Diapers, Diapers!

Please help us collect diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6 for Marguerite's Place, the Nashua Soup Kitchen, and Bridges. This is a constant need for our youngest community members! Whenever you can, pick up diapers and we will distribute them to these grateful organizations!

Ash St Shelter Dinners Volunteers Needed

Once a month someone from the church prepares and delivers dinner to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua. We provide a \$75 gift card to help cover the cost of the meal. We need a volunteer for the months of October, November and December! Please contact Lee Harper at 465-5118 if you are able to provide a meal.



From the Church Office...
Many thanks go to Nancy Bell and Sue Adams for prepping the summer edition of *The Chimes* for mailing.



Memorial Garden

With gratitude to God for the gift of Adam Verrecchia's precious life, but also acknowledging our grief in having lost one so young, the church and Verrecchia family have established the Adam Verrecchia Memorial Garden Fund.

The hope is for it to be placed on church property near the back of the parking lot, possibly adjacent to the shed. A team is being gathered to develop plans and work through the necessary procedural steps to ensure that a safe, pleasant, tranquil place is created that will benefit our entire community. The vision is that it should become a space for reflection and connection with God and the memories of loved ones no longer with us. Plans will be shared as they are developed. (Please note, this is *not* a part of the BOV/Building Our Vision project; the funding and development of this are completely separate and unrelated.)

If you would like to make a donation to the Adam Verrecchia Memorial Garden Fund, you may donate online at www.hollischurch.org, or by sending a check made payable to the Congregational Church of Hollis ("Adam Verrecchia Memorial Garden Fund" in the memo line) to 3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049.

Our Church Records

Deaths

May 23, 2020 ~ Steven Toli June 25, 2020 ~ Evelyn Lutz July 18, 2020 ~ Carolyn Hackett August 3, 2020 ~ Adam Michael Verrecchia

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Thelma Pollard by:

Jen and Marc Squires

Phyllis King

Ann Siglin

Karen and Warren Coulter

Laura McCarthy

Robbin and Rachel Dunn

In memory of Nancy Wall by: Susan N. Duffy

In memory of Steven Toli by: Chris Trow

In memory of Evie Lutz by:
Phyllis King
Addie and Roger Saunders
William and Susan Gorham
Eileen and Paul Widner

In memory of Carolyn Hackett by: William and Susan Gorham

In loving memory of Adam Verrecchia to the Adam Verrecchia Memorial Garden Fund by:

Susan Adams John and Helen Balfour Jane and Paul Edmonds Pat Harris Phyllis King Nichole Ledbetter Teresa and Michael Munley Roger and Irene Norian Gudrun and Frank Pfeiffer Cindy and Eric Ryherd Roger and Addie Saunders Lori and Pathik Shah Ann Siglin Anne Tucker Bryan and Kara Tulley Bob and Denise Vartabedian Dee and Bill Wagner Kristen Migliaccio-Walle Eileen and Paul Widner Dawn Willev Sherry Wyskiel Amy and Russell Kellner Paula Michalko Julie Desmarais Davina Couto Susan Fallon Brennan Megan and George Laberis Krista Whalen

Penny O'Toole Gary Mishler Danielle Leclair Ruth and Al Kabel Jacqueline and Brian Wilmot Tanya Tenkarian & Peter Bird Joyce and John Woodrow Jessica Murphy Rachel Rines & Gerald Leach Bonnie Feehan Stephanie Gouveia Andrea Levesque Helen Leeke Benjamin Ming Doreen and Darren Rolls Allison D'Ambrosio Kristen Campbell Peter Hann Karen Marinaccio Dianna Fulreader Lori Giglio James Clark Lorraine Schell Edwin Brown Bob Clark Janet Giaimo James Owens III Andy Verrecchia Parker Hannifin Corporation **Lindsey Garrity** Nik Verrecchia Jessica Davis

Scott Young Colleen Canaway Jenifer Chabot Kelly Busse Debbie Carroll Jane Lyons Anne Bennett Annette Saylor Holly Magner Karen Terella Marcy Chavez Edward and Marie Chuchvara Peter and Anita Clarke Margaret Cochran Roberta Connell Agatha Connelly Thom and Tonda Davies Eileen DiRienzo Jonathan and Lori Fogg Susan Gazerro Mallory Haupert Sarah May & Tom Kuchta Alex and Amy Kutschke Donald and Betty McIntyre Sophie Merrill

Florence Mishler Eric and Amy Thompson Brian and Judith Lacasse James and Judith Owens Karen Piskopanis Mark and Heather Quebbeman Helena Reid Jill Ann Salter Larry and Patricia Stafford Joni Silveria Becky and Brian Stelmack Marc and Jen Squires TNT Precision, LLC Johanne & A. Stephen Verrecchia Tina Langley Susan Lewis Michael Dee family Karen Bradshaw Dot and Chris Hyde Bryan Fairweather Rose Silveria Hollis Primary School Sunshine Sandra Van Sciver Tracy McIntyre Kristen and Kelsey Berry

Carlisle Plumbing & Heating, Inc Mary Church Neil and Colleen Crawford Collin and Sarah Creegan Thomas Denton Kevin and Shirleen Duquette Nancy and Paul Fay Mary and Lynn Freeman Lucia Hsu Hollis/Brookline Cucumber Group David and Cathleen McKie The Magner, Carrol, Hoole, Cataldo, Lyons, Feehan, Brigham, and Struth families Medicine – Pediatrics of Nashua T. Mishler David Moreno New England Industrial Truck, Inc. Anyeny and Michael Souza April and Randy Springfield John R. Sullivan David and Diane Walton Elka and James Torpey Anthony and Susan Tropeano ஒ

How You Can Participate in this year's...

Holiday Cards 4 Our Military Challenge

Our church will once again help out with the annual **Holiday Cards 4**Our Military Challenge. But, in the face of the COVID19 global pandemic, plans for 2020 have been adapted for the times. The primary goal of Holiday Cards for our Military Challenge — the collection and delivery of personalized, signed expressions of respect, caring and gratitude to deployed U.S. troops — remains unchanged. In fact, our Troops will need our support and appreciation *even more this year*, and each one of your Holiday Cards will bring joy and a taste of home.



Participation is easy! This year, instead of gathering together to write cards during our Christmas Fair or Advent Celebration event, you are invited to pick up a Christmas card (or a stack of cards!) from the bin located outside the handicapped entrance to the church. Take one of the guidelines/instructions for card writing (it even includes a few writing prompts to help you with your message!) from the bin, too. Write a newsy holiday message, remembering that our Troops are diverse in their faiths. Sign your first name ONLY, city and state. You can include our church name, too! Then drop your completed cards in the Touch-free drop box outside the Hollis Pharmacy.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 1 Hollis, NH 03049

BETHE CHURCH OPPTERSTURCH
Stay Home. Social Distance. Wash Your Hands.
Check on the Elderly. Live Stream Worship.
Give electronically. Support each other.
Love God. Flatten the curve. Pray Daily.
So we can all enjoy this life.

Join us for ZOOM church every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested in participating in our virtual services and don't already receive church emails, please contact news@hollischurch.org to receive emails with the link to join each Sunday.