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

Lead Pastor

Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen

Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

Kim Burton and Kim Verrecchia

CE@HollisChurch.org

Director of Christian Music:

Julie Oliver

Technology Coordinator:

Diane Fallier

Church Office

Eileen Widner

ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org

Susan Adams

Sue@HollisChurch.org

Contact us:

Office: 603-465-7797 or 465-7099

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“I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it?”

(Isaiah 39:19, CEV)

Dear Friends,

I hope you’ve enjoyed a restorative summer, whether you’ve had a vacation or not. I’m writing this letter “on the road” of my own summer vacation, which, despite some careful planning, is turning out to be as unpredictable as the previous 18+ months.

Joel and I anticipated an extensive Midwestern road-trip with multiple stops to see most of our family members and some friends, traveling from MI to WI, to KS, and back by way of TN. But the order of our “tour” was completely inverted as we set off, when Joel’s dad required emergency medical care. We wound up starting in KS, and are relying on the grace, flexibility, and good humor of friends and family as we re-write our trip “on the fly.” We’re grappling with the complexities of how the coronavirus, its variants, and our varying convictions about the importance of accepting or refusing vaccination, continues to impact our ability to visit freely with people we love. Joel and I (who are both vaccinated) may be safe if we visit with our unvaccinated relatives, but as we’ve learned, those at each next stop may be vulnerable in ways we’d only exacerbate. It’s had real-time impact on our relationships in much deeper ways than we’d anticipated—and we’d given it a fair amount of thought!

It helps in such moments to remain curious. The global pandemic has revealed many things, including the importance of being inquisitive and open about the things we do and do not know, especially about one another.

On the road, I’ve had a chance to read an outstanding book entitled *High Conflict*. In it, Amanda Ripley beautifully weaves together compelling human stories with observations about our tendency to get stuck in intractable disputes not just because we stubbornly hold to firmly held beliefs, but because we demonize and dehumanize those who disagree with us. She demonstrates how, time and again, a lack of curiosity about our own and others’ “understory” – the reasons why we believe or value what we do – can undermine the connection we long to feel with others.

(continued on page 5)

From the Faith Formation Office



Confirmands will continue on with their Journey to Confirmation this fall with their core classes and a Life Lesson unit on "Slowing Down". Plans for activities during class time include cooking, games, escape rooms, and service projects!



(and briefcases!)

On Homecoming Sunday

We're sending students (and adults) back to school (or work) with our prayers and blessings!

Everyone is welcome to bring a backpack or briefcase to the 9:30 service on September 12 to receive a special blessing.



Homecoming Sunday ~ Sept 12

All classes back in session!

Children of all ages are back to church in-person; in newly-updated spaces for classes, and the littlest churchgoers are being welcomed into the newly furnished nursery right down the hall from the meetinghouse. This is a very exciting time!

All classes and nursery services resume during the Grand Re-Opening on September 12 at 9:30am. Ages of children and room assignments are as follows:

- Infants through PreK: Little Lambs Nursery (upstairs, across from Parkhurst Room)
- PreK through Grade 6: Flock class in Flag Room
- Grade 7+: Journey to Confirmation class in Austin Room



Students in The Flock will begin the year with a unit on the Gospels, which will include many energetic games and crafts! In addition, Kim and Kim will be introducing an all-new charm bracelet/keychain keepsake project to the kids. They will earn charms and beads

for the bracelet/keychain throughout their years in Flock classes; some will commemorate special milestones such as taking part in their first Christmas Pageant, or when they receive their Bible in 3rd Grade. Other beads and charms will be earned in a variety of ways- for memorizing their Bible verses, or exemplifying behavior that would make Jesus proud, just to name a couple! It will be wonderful to see these keepsakes come together!



Join us at the Homecoming Picnic on September 12!

(We promise not to serve what John the Baptist ate in the biblical picnic puzzle below!)

Puzzle!

Use the code to find out what these biblical people may have taken on a picnic.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

(Genesis 3:6)

Adam and Eve 6 18 21 9 20

(Genesis 25:28)

Isaac 23 9 12 4 7 1 13 5

(Genesis 25:34)

Esau 19 20 5 23

(Numbers 11:5)

Israelites in Egypt 3 21 3 21 13 2 5 18 19

(Ruth 2:1-4)

Ruth 7 18 1 9 14

(1 Samuel 14:2)

Saul 16 15 13 5 7 18 1 14 1 20 5 19

(1 Samuel 14:29)

Jonathan 8 15 14 5 25

(Daniel 1:12-16)

Daniel and friends 22 5 7 5 20 1 2 12 5 19

(Matthew 3:4)

John the Baptist 12 15 3 21 19 20 19

(Matthew 14:17)

The 5,000 people 2 18 5 1 4 & 6 9 19 8

Answer: fruit, wild game, stew, cucumbers, grain, pomegranates, honey, vegetables, locusts, bread & fish

BUMBLE BEE BALLS

Make these yummy treats as a summer snack.

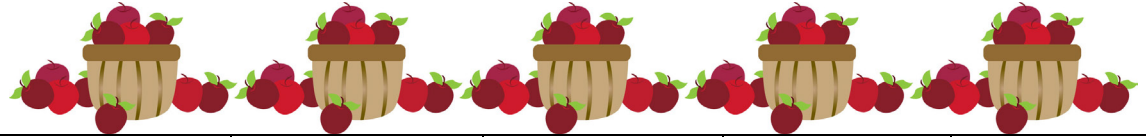
What you need:



- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ oz. instant oats
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup instant milk powder
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 40 mini chocolate chips
- 20 slivered almonds
- 40 sliced almonds
- Adult help

What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, oats, honey and instant milk powder into dough. If too dry, add more peanut butter or honey.
2. Roll dough into 20 long balls. Place them on a cookie sheet and refrigerate.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips and place them in a zippered baggie. Cut a tiny bit off one corner.
4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Squeeze thin lines of chocolate as stripes onto the bee bodies.
5. Use two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a slivered almond for a stinger and two sliced almonds as wings. Enjoy!

September 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div></div> <div>September Items of the Month: Cold Weather Wear for men, women and children ● Sweaters ● Coats ● Jackets ● Sweatshirts ● Vests ● Mittens & Gloves</div>			10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 1	2	3	4
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and Zoom) 5	Labor Day 6	6:30 pm – Music Board meeting 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 7	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 8	7 pm - Choir 9	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 10	GRAND RE-OPENING Open House and Renovation Tours 9:30am – 2:30 pm 11
HOMECOMING SUNDAY 9:30 am – Worship (In Person and Zoom) 9:30 am – Sunday School begins! Blessing of the Backpacks (and briefcases!) 11 am – Re-Opening Celebration 11:45 am – Homecoming Picnic 12	7 pm – CE Board meeting 7 pm – Deacons meeting 13	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 14	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 15	7 pm - Choir 16	17	18
9:30 am – Worship (In Person and Zoom) 19	7 pm – Trustees meeting 20	7 pm – Church Council meeting 21	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 22	23	24	25
9:30 am – Worship (In Person and Zoom) 26	27	28	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 29	7 pm - Choir 30	<div></div>	
<div><div><div>Celebrate Our Grand Re-Opening!</div><div>Saturday, September 11: Open House ~ fellowship on the patio and tours of the church - 9:30am to 2:30pm</div><div>Sunday, September 12: Homecoming Sunday worship at 9:30 am Re-Opening Celebration at 11:00 am Homecoming Picnic at 11:45 am</div></div></div>						

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

From divorcing couples to gang rivalries, to small-town and national politics, the ways we view and deal with conflict can make or break our potential for healthy, harmonious life in community – life as God intended.

As we look forward to re-engaging our church's life in community more fully in September with our "Grand Re-Opening" and Homecoming weekend, where we'll celebrate the completion of Building our Vision and move into Living our Vision more intentionally and actively, I expect to remain curious, as we necessarily need to remain open and flexible with regard to what can and cannot happen. None of us knows for sure how the virus, and the choices people make about vaccination, and ongoing mutations of the virus, will continue to inform our ability to gather safely. We know already, for example, that we're having to postpone for at least a month or two our much-anticipated "Dinner Church" (though we're still developing plans—e.g., it's going to be called "Wednesday Welcome", and it will take place on the second Wednesday evening of each month—just not starting in September anymore!).

We'll have to continue to be flexible and inquisitive in our efforts to express our faith in community. Regardless of what form our faith life takes, I'm eager to discover: What will we learn about each other? About the ways we are, and are *not*, in control? How much do we truly know about our neighbors, family members, and ourselves – about who we are? About the "what's" and "why's" of what matters to us most deeply?

It can be easy to forget how powerful and transformational asking questions can be. This autumn, "I've Been Meaning to Ask: A Series for curiosity, courage, and connection" will frame our worship and communal reflections. Together, we'll get to know ourselves and others more

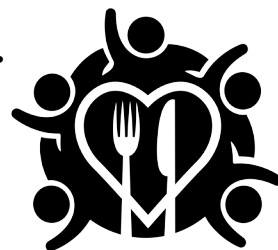
deeply as we consider the questions, "Where are you from?"; "Where does it hurt?"; "What do you need?"; and "Where do we go from here?" Hopefully, as we entertain these questions in a variety of ways, we'll come to a deeper understanding of our own and others' identities, values, and points of connection as we explore these questions together.

In the rest of this newsletter, you'll discover many exciting activities planned for Homecoming Weekend and through September: events that represent the culmination of much hard work by a relatively small but dedicated team of people. I hope you'll participate in as many as you feel you safely can, and that we'll all find ways of appreciating and praising God for the countless ways we've observed divine activity manifesting across the past number of years—with great anticipation for what will unfold in the years to come!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Update on Dinner Church... creatively renamed Wednesday Welcome!



Given the uncertainty surrounding how things will play out this fall for church programming, the *Wednesday Welcome* kickoff event is now **tentatively scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 13th.**

What we DON'T know: The exact month we will be able to have our first Wednesday Welcome gathering

What we DO know: The team is hard at work planning ahead so that when this program *is* ready to be launched, it will be a wonderful gathering consisting of friends, food, fellowship and FAITH.

Please be on the lookout for more updates soon!

New Church Office Hours

Office hours for this program year (September-May) will be:



Monday - Closed
Tuesday 8am-3:30pm
Wednesday 12:30-3:30pm
Thursday 8am-3:30 pm
Friday 8am-12pm

September Music Notes ♪ ♪



As summer slowly fades and fall starts to make its colorful approach, it is time to invite anyone who loves to sing, to **join our choir**. We will continue to work to keep everyone safe and will use the various tools to gather and begin to work on new music for the holidays. If you have an interest in learning more about joining our choir, please contact us at Music@HollisChurch.org.

Do YOU have Music Programming Ideas?

The music board would like to hear from you! **We are working on special music programs for 2021/2022 and would love to get some new ideas from the congregation.** Please let us know if you have some thoughts about how music can continue to play an important role in bringing God's love to our congregation and to our community. Please email your suggestions to Beth Harper at Music@HollisChurch.org.

Coming in October...

A New Face Lift

The Landscaping Committee is planning to have a **DIG IT UP PARTY** on Saturday, October 16th. We will need strength, gloves, shovels, picks, and moving equipment

to dig up existing plant material and dig in new material including rocks, landscaping cloth, shrubs, perennials. If you are not able to contribute your time, maybe you would like to sponsor a plant.

If interested in the new look for the front of the church building or interested in helping, please contact Kimber Harmon at KimberHarmon106@gmail.com or Nora Lewis at TheLewis4@msn.com.



Saturday, October 16

Our Church Records

Weddings

June 26, 2021

Jean Marie Scire and Stephen Olive

July 3, 2021

Jenna Gloria Zullo and Sandro Dakalovic

Deaths

January 11, 2021

Leo Lutz

Memorial Services

July 17, 2021 ~ Pat Petrasek

July 25, 2021 ~ Thelma Pollard

July 31, 2021 ~ Frank Whittemore

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of Pat Petrasek by:
Shirley and Glen Turgiss

The AmazonSmile logo, featuring the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with a curved orange arrow pointing from the "a" in "amazon" to the "i" in "smile".

You shop. Amazon gives.

Shopping on Amazon?

Turn your online purchases – all year long -- into dollars for the church *without costing you a penny* at **AmazonSmile!**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to **support our church** every time you shop, at no cost to you.

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, just designate the Congregational Church of Hollis as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Since our church joined the AmazonSmile program in 2014, the total given to the church is \$1,597.43. ***Join the more than 80 families who have supported our church through Amazon Smile and help us grow!***



...And the Rest is History

Our Church's History Highlights

Room Names, Part I

by Cindy Ryherd

September is “Homecoming” month! Hopefully everyone will be back to see the results of the amazing transformation the church has undergone as a result of the completion of the 2020-2021 renovations. Tours and the grand re-opening will take place over Saturday and Sunday, September 11 & 12 (see separate Chimes announcement for details).

This seems like a good time to tell the history of the various named rooms and spaces we now have since two new named spaces resulted from the 2020-2021 renovation. It was the simple question from my husband, Eric, “Who are all these rooms named after?”, and me not knowing the answer, that started me on this *...And the Rest is History* journey! Because we have a total of seven such spaces (see table below), this will be a multi-part series starting with the newest named room: the Saunders Room.

After completion of the 2020-2021 renovation, we have seven named rooms/spaces:

Room/Space	Year Dedicated	Location	Named in Honor or Memory of:	Primary Purpose
Saunders Room	2021	Northeast corner of the upper level of church, off Meetinghouse chancel (previously known as the “counting room”)	Roger & Addie Saunders	Groom’s room, quiet sitting or meeting area for two
Squires Community Patio	2021	East lawn off of Hardy Hall	Jim & Jan Squires	Outdoor church and community gatherings/events
Austin Room	2000	North side of lower level of church, just before entering Hardy Hall from the lower-level hallway	Genevieve Hunt Austin	Teen space, storage
Flagg Room	1965	West side of the lower level of church	Etta P. Flagg	Children’s Christian Education (CE) space
Parkhurst Room	1965	West side of the upper level of church	Nelson & Hazel Parkhurst	Music room, meeting/conference room
Hardy (Parish) Hall	1925	East side of the lower level of church, directly below the Sanctuary	Phineas Hardy	Indoor church and community gatherings/events, fellowship
Emerson Chapel	1925	North side of the upper level of church, between Sanctuary and Admin offices	Reverend Daniel Emerson	Quiet reflection space, meeting area for church and outside groups, historical items display and information, reading room

The Saunders Room



The Saunders Room is located in the northeast corner of the upper level of the church, just off the Meetinghouse chancel. Some may remember it being called the “counting room” prior to the renovation as for many years, it was used to count offerings after Sunday services. It was originally designed as a “vestry” – the room in which clergy and other officiants in the service would “vest” or put on their vestments/worship garments and pray prior to leading worship. It is now a beautiful space to be used as a groom’s room for weddings, and as a quiet sitting or meeting area. Take the opportunity to go into this transformed room and in addition to a wonderful space, you’ll be treated to two historical pictures of the third Meeting House displayed one above the other.

About the Third Meeting House Pictures in Saunders Room:

When you stand in the Saunders Room looking at the photos, you’ll notice the top picture shows the third Meeting House as it looked when it opened in 1804. The bottom picture was taken and colorized c. 1910 – 1923 by M.A. (Addie) Eastman of Hollis. Compare the two pictures of the third Meeting House and you will notice they face different directions!

The long sides of the third Meeting House were originally oriented to face north/south. In 1849, the church underwent a major renovation which included turning the church 90°, resulting in the long sides facing east/west. The belfry, cupola and steeple (previously on the west side of the building), was repositioned to the front (south side) above the main entrances. Imagine lifting and rotating a 68’ x 54’ building with no cranes or motorized equipment!

Why did the third Meeting House have two front doors? As was common at the time, construction of the third Meeting House was funded by parishioners buying/owning pews. For attendees who did not own pews, men and women entered separate doors and sat in gender-dedicated gallery seating. When the third church burned down in 1923, the church was rebuilt with the same orientation and removed paid pews and the gallery, allowing for the single, main entrance we have today.



About the Saunders:

The Saunders Room, in honor of Roger and Addie Saunders, was named as part of the 2020-2021 renovation. Roger joined the church at age 10 in 1942 when his family moved to Hollis. Addie joined when she married Roger in 1959. Their two children were baptized and participated in Sunday School in the church.

Roger served the church over many decades, most significantly as trustee and on renovation committees. He co-managed the 1964-1965 renovation to add the west wing. Later, he negotiated the purchase of 10 acres of land for future church needs, and led a team to design and build the present Parsonage on a portion of that land. From 2018-2021, Roger served on the Building Our Vision team which oversaw the design and construction of safety and functional improvements. He also taught Sunday School and was thrilled to see one of his pupils go on to become a minister.

Addie also taught Sunday School and was a Trustee. Her favorite board on which she served, however, was the Mission and Action Board where she really got to participate in, and see the impact of, our community outreach programs. She also enjoyed working with Fellowship and Hospitality since its inception, preparing special events for the congregation, and being a member of Women’s Fellowship.

The BoV team was proud to honor the Saunders with the naming of this room.

BoV Time Capsule Input Wanted...

DEADLINE: Monday, September 6th

Notes from you about “My thoughts, concerns, advice, hopes, and prayers”

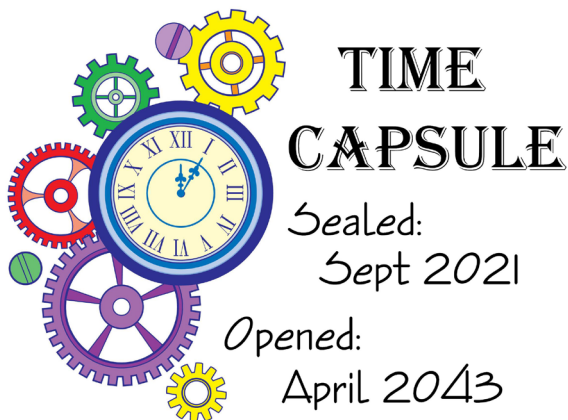
The 2020-2021 renovation time capsule box will be sealed for Homecoming Sunday, September 12th. It is built from the east lawn maple tree brought down in March 2020 in preparation for construction of the new fellowship stairs from the Sanctuary to Hardy Hall. The box will be opened in April 2043 for the 300th anniversary of the ordination of the Reverend Daniel Emerson, the church's first minister.



The time capsule box will be displayed inside the church (as a locked box) rather than buried. **A variety of items will be placed inside the box, including pre-printed cards/paper for each of us to fill out, sharing our thoughts, concerns, advice, hopes, and prayers at this 2021 moment in time.** We would love to get note cards to put inside the time capsule from as many individuals as possible (children included!) Tell your 2043-self and others (some not yet born) all about you, your community, and the world as you see it.

We sincerely hope everyone will partake in this activity so in 2043, parishioners at that time (including some of us, our children, and grandchildren) can get a wonderful sense of how we were feeling at this time. All input will remain unread – the time capsule team recognizes and respects that these documented thoughts are for the eyes of our future selves, as well as for parishioners unknown at this time. Things are changing at lightning speed, so it's quite certain that in 2043 things will be very different and those reading the cards will very much enjoy hearing about our thoughts today!

Time Capsule Input Time Line



Before Sept 12 - Complete the form on the next page before Homecoming Sunday (ideally by Monday, Sept. 6th)

- **Bring it** to a Sunday service in a sealed envelope marked "Time Capsule" on the outside. You can give it to a Deacon or Rev. Tanya.
- **Mail it** to the Congregational Church of Hollis, 3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049 Attn: Time Capsule
- **Email it** (ideally as an attachment) to timecapsulein-put@hollischurch.org and it will be printed and put in an envelope to be put in the time capsule.

September 12th Homecoming Sunday – Time Capsule dedication and sealing/locking

April 2043 – Time capsule opened (300th anniversary of the first pastor being ordained)



Age _____

Share your thoughts, hopes, prayers, a drawing or doodle, or whatever else you would like people to know about you at this 2021-moment-in-time when the time capsule is opened and this is read in 2043.

[illegible]

Mission & Action Ongoing Collections...

- Items for the **Brookline Food Pantry***
- Eyeglasses ▪ Used Cell Phones ▪ Travel size Toiletries

Please Note: *We are no longer collecting Greeting Cards and Stationery.* A drop box for Holiday Cards 4 Our Military is located outside the Hollis Pharmacy. They will accept cards and stationery.

We now have new collection bins in the coat cubby inside the church's center (handicapped) entrance. Please place your donations of eye-glasses, cell phones and travel toiletries in their new bins. Donations may also be dropped in the M&A collection bin outside the church's center (handicapped) entrance.

*Brookline Food Pantry

Brookline Food Pantry is located on the lower level of Brookline Town Hall. Enter at the back of the building. The Pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10am-12noon and Wednesdays 6-8pm. The pantry needs...

- **Refrigerated items:** milk, eggs, cheese, juice, butter or spread, long lasting produce, cottage cheese, yogurt, lunch meat in packages, cream cheese, and pudding snacks
- **Frozen items:** frozen vegetables and meats
- **Non-perishable foods:** granola bars, cereal bars, juice, instant potatoes, rice, rice-a-roni, ground coffee, cereal, pasta sauce. *Please – no pasta or beans!*
- **Dog food and cat food**
- **Other items:** toothbrushes and other personal hygiene items, toilet paper, paper towels, detergent and dish soap

For the perishable foods please call the Welfare Officer, Rebecca Purdin, at 673-8855 x300 and leave a message. Your call will be returned within 24 hours.

Ash Street Shelter Meals

Volunteers (individuals or families) needed to cook dinner for the Ash St. Shelter on the 2nd Friday of each month. Dates are available in 2022. You will be given \$75.00 to pay for the groceries. For more information and delivery information please contact Lee Harper at Blharper@tds.net.

Your Donations at Work

Thank you all for your generous donations of school supplies and backpacks for the NSKS *Backpacks for Back to School* program. Supplies and backpacks were delivered to NSKS where they were sorted, backpacks were packed, and distributed to grateful children, Kindergarten-grade 12 on August 24th, just in time for the start of school! M&A also made a donation to the Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School's scholarship fund.



CROP Hunger Walk Returns LIVE in 2021

This year's Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk will return on **Sunday October 24**, rain or shine.

The walk begins at 1:30 with registration and kick-off preceding at 12:30-1:30.

We will be outside for both the walk and post-walk celebration. If it rains, we'll find a safe option for the celebration.

To register as a walker and/or raise money go to

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/nashuanh>

We're keeping a close eye on the Delta-variant Covid situation locally and will adjust and advise accordingly. Masks are always a good idea and will certainly be required for the registration and kick off programs if they are indoors. *For those at high risk or uncomfortable with the group walk, we invite you to walk with a small group of family or friends throughout the month of October and raise your monies in that way.*



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, September 12, for this very
special kick-off to our program year!

- 9:30am** **Homecoming Worship Service** in our newly renovated meetinghouse
Sunday School begins with classes for Pre-K through Confirmation age
Nursery Care in our new nursery (upstairs, across from Parkhurst Room)
- 11:00am** **Re-Opening Celebration** ~ blessing our renovated spaces, recognizing
contributions and sealing of the Time Capsule
- 11:45am** **Homecoming Picnic on the Squires Patio** ~ Burgers and more, ALL
food provided by the church (no need to bring dishes to share!). If rainy,
picnic will be moved to our newly renovated Hardy Hall!





You're invited!

Congregational Church of Hollis Grand Re-Opening

SAT. SEPT. 11 & SUN. SEPT. 12

We have renovated our historic church on the common, remodeling our kitchen and gathering spaces, refreshing our meetinghouse, enhancing our meeting rooms, creating a Teen Room, and transforming our outdoor space with the Jim and Jan Squires Community Patio. We can't wait to share our new spaces with you!

Saturday, Sept 11

9:30am-2:30pm

Open House

Join us for coffee and donuts on the patio before the Hollis Old Home Days parade or at any time for fellowship and a tour.

Sunday, Sept 12

9:30am

Homecoming Service

Our first service of the new season in the Meetinghouse, followed by fellowship time.

11:00am

Re-Opening Celebration

We will be blessing our renovated building, rededicating our spaces, unveiling the time capsule, and recognizing contributions.

11:45am

Homecoming Picnic

Burgers and more on the grounds of the church. In case of rain, picnic will be held in the newly renovated Hardy Hall.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

No need to RSVP, just join us.

**Congregational Church of Hollis
The Heart of our Community**

3 Monument Square, Hollis

(603) 465-7797

www.HollisChurch.org