

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

September 2022

www.HollisChurch.org

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... Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water [from the well] will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'



(John 4:13-15)

Dear Friends,

God knows we get thirsty. That's what the story recounted in the first part of John Chapter 4 is all about. Actually, it's what the entire Gospel is about . . . but it's about more than just extracting water from a well, or figuring out how we're going to hydrate ourselves in the midst of a drought. It's about *deepening our vision*, and finding deeper connection. With God; with our truest self; with others; with our past, present, and future.

Deepening Our Vision is going to be the theme of our life together in the 2022-2023 program year. As I write, we mark the seven-year anniversary of our joint ministry. And goodness, have we been busy! (And God has been busy with and through us.) As many of you are already aware, I will be taking a sabbatical leave from March—June, 2023. In the months leading up it, we will have opportunities to begin reflecting on what we've accomplished together, and plan for what we intend to do while we're apart. Part of the point of the sabbatical is for me to quench my personal spiritual thirst and need for deep refreshment. But it will also be a time for this congregation to drink deeply of the Spirit. After which, the promising hope is that we will all feel renewed energy and deeper vision for our next chapter together.

In the immediate foreground, though, as we regroup post-summer, there are a few activities to look forward to, starting with our annual **Homecoming Celebration on September 11th**. I hope you'll come (and invite a friend, or someone who's not been back to church for a while!) to celebrate the gift of our faith community, and the joy of being together for worship and fellowship.

(continued on page 3)

From the Faith Formation Office

Confirmation



Confirmation Sunday is September 18!

Please join in celebrating with this year's Confirmands in what will certainly be a memorable and special day in their lives. They look forward to their next chapter in their faith journey as they become adult members of the church!

CE Book Read

Adult Education: What is the Christian Ed Board reading?

This month we offer the suggested reading below from one of our CE Board members.

We would also enjoy hearing what the congregation is reading and if you would like to share with others in a book club session. Please reach out to

ce@hollischurch.org with your suggestions or inquiries on a book club session or other CE Adult Education idea.



The Women of the Bible Speak by Shannon Bream
The author is the host of Fox News @Night and her third book, **Women of the Bible Speak** reached the top spot on the New York Times Bestseller List.

Women of the Bible's stories come to life as each lesson details a pair of women's lesson in a story. These stories remind us how important women are in the Bible and continue to be in Faith and Community today.

Homecoming Sunday ~ Sept 11

Welcome back to Sunday School!

Join us on Sunday, September 11th at 9:30 a.m. to mark the beginning of a new program year. Once again the classrooms will be filled with laughter and learning!



(and briefcases!)

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 11 to receive a special blessing. *And back by popular demand, Prayer Squares will also be available!*



Dear church members,

I need to pass along the news that will be stepping down from my role as co-CE director. I've truly loved teaching and spending time with all the children and walking alongside them on their faith journey for the past 4 years. I'm so very grateful for the immense support that the families, CE Board, staff, and church members have shown for not only the CE programming I've been a part of, but also for me personally.

With hope, peace, and love,

Kim Verrecchia

(From the Pastor – cont'd from p. 1)

Bring your backpacks and briefcases — we'll bless those at the beginning of the service as we pray for God's blessing on the year of learning and growth we're about to undertake. Immediately following the service, we'll be treated to brunch on Squires Community Patio, unless inclement weather keeps us inside (but there's plenty of welcoming space in Hardy Hall and elsewhere in the building).

On September 18th, we will celebrate the rite of Confirmation. Historically, confirmation has happened in late May/early June, but the Christian Education/Faith Formation Board decided to try moving the ceremony into the new program year in order to support getting our newest members involved immediately (as opposed to folks widely dispersing across the summer months, losing all momentum). During that service, we'll also **express our gratitude and appreciation for Kim Verrecchia's four years of fabulous and faithful leadership** as Co-Director of our Faith Formation program, as she relinquishes that role to focus on other things; she deserves our blessing as she embraces what she's discerned God calling her to tend to now.

Beloved friends, the world and our community continue to change and challenge us in new ways—sometimes faster than we feel we can cope with, and often in ways that test our ability to focus. But my hope-filled prayer is that, in the unfolding program year ahead, each and all of us will train our eyes upon Jesus the Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith; and that through that practice, we'll be Deepening Our Vision of God's purposes for us, one and all.

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya

Caring Connection and Caring Cooks Ministry Teams: We Care, and We Deliver!

Could you, or someone you know, benefit from contact or a visit, or from a meal delivery due to a life event making meal preparation and/or the ability to leave home difficult? The **Caring Connections Ministry Team** (visits and meal delivery), along with the **Caring Cooks Meal Ministry Team** (meal preparation), are here to help!



The **Caring Connections Ministry Team** reaches out to anyone who might like a phone call, an email, a hand-written note, a visit, and for any reason: a happy occasion, a simple reminder our church cares about them and wants to stay connected, a loss, an illness, and on, and on.

The team can also provide meal delivery (prepared by the **Caring Cooks Meal Ministry Team**) to congregants and the local community when a life event makes meal preparation and/or the ability to leave home difficult (go to <https://hollischurch.org/caring-cooks-meal-request/> and submit form to request meal delivery).

If you or someone you know might appreciate contact from a member of our Caring Connections Ministry Team, please contact us at caringconnection@hollischurch.org.



Will there be a Christmas Fair this year?

We do not currently have a lead person(s) to coordinate the fair. It's only August, but the holidays will be here before you know it! Our *Country Christmas Fair* has been a longstanding community event and we want to be able to continue it, but we will need volunteers. Many of our volunteers have "retired", and we are in dire need of help! If anyone is interested in coordinating the fair, heading up a specific area or supporting in any way, please email sue@hollischurch.org as soon as possible.

September 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>September Items of the Month: Cold Weather Wear for men, women and children • Sweaters • Coats • Jackets • Sweatshirts • Vests</p>				7 pm - Choir		
				1	2	3
9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and Livestream)	Labor Day	6:30 pm – Music Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour	7 pm - Choir	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter	Red Cross Blood Drive Hardy Hall Donors 10am-3pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HOMECOMING SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – Sunday School begins Blessing of the Backpacks (and briefcases!) 11 am – HOMECOMING BRUNCH	7 pm – Deacons meeting	7 pm – Mission & Ac- tion Board meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting	6 pm – Caring Connections 7 pm – Choir October <i>Chimes</i> deadline		HOLLIS OLD HOME DAY
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Confirmation Sunday 9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream)	7 pm – Trustees meeting	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting			Art Show & Sale of Ken Fiery’s paintings 12-6pm Hardy Hall
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am – Worship (In Person/Livestream) Art Show & Sale of Ken Fiery’s paintings 11am - 4pm in Hardy Hall			10 am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Church Council meeting	7 pm - Choir		
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Mission & Action News

September Items of the Month



Time to clean out those closets and donate your unneeded sweaters, jackets and coats! The Davis Funeral Home in Nashua is conducting its annual *Sweater Weather Recycling Campaign* and your donations of new or gently-used clean **sweaters, jackets, and**

coats of all sizes are greatly needed. The items are collected and donated during the fall months to various Nashua area agencies, and will be distributed to individuals and families in need. The deadline is Sunday, October 2. Please leave your donations after hours, in the gray Mission & Action collection bin at the center entrance, or in the rolling cart inside that entrance, during office hours.

**Red Cross
Blood Drive
Saturday, Sept 10
10am - 3pm
Hardy Hall**



The need for blood and platelets is urgent and constant! Please consider being a blood donor and sign up online for this drive at redcrossblood.org. Every unit donated could save a life!

Food & Fuel Assistance

Our annual Christmas Eve offering funds M&A's Food and Fuel Assistance program. Your donations help those in need in our community as we steadily give away food and fuel vouchers and cards throughout the year.

If you know anyone needing assistance in paying for food or heat, please ask them to contact Lee Harper at missionandaction@hollischurch.org.



Ash Street Shelter Meals

On the second Friday of the month, we provide a dinner for 20-30 people for the Ash Street Shelter. We provide you with a \$75 Market Basket gift card to purchase the ingredients for the meal. We just need you to prepare the meal and deliver it to the Ash Street Shelter in Nashua after 6 PM on the Friday date.

We have volunteers for all 2022 dates (thank you!), but the 2023 calendar is wide open! If you or a group you are part of would like to cook a meal for Ash St Shelter, sign up on the calendar posted on the Mission and Action bulletin board outside the church office or contact Lee Harper at missionandaction@hollischurch.org.



**Volunteer Chefs
Needed**

Your Dollars at Work

Mission & Action's summer donations helped to support:

- *Save the Children* Kentucky Flood Relief
- *The Upper Room* daily devotional in large print
*Regular and large print booklets are available free in the narthex and in the literature rack outside the church office
- Grocery gift cards for Ash St Shelter dinner volunteer chefs

Ongoing Collections...

- Eyeglasses
- Used Cell Phones
- Travel size Toiletries
- Items for the **Brookline Food Pantry** including these Urgent Needs:
 - Toilet Paper
 - Paper Towels
 - Tissues
 - Ground Coffee (decaf & regular)
 - Cereal - Adult/Non-sugary
 - Laundry Soap
 - Luvs Size 4 Diapers
 - Pull Ups Girls 2T

Our Church Records

Baptism ~ May 29, 2022

Ren Liilia Hertenstein Perez,
daughter of John and
Audrey Hertenstein Perez

New Members ~ May 29, 2022

Janice Durgee
Mildred Bellman Lyford
Julia Faye Oliver
Audrey Lela Hertenstein Perez
John Sheble Hertenstein Perez

Deaths ~ June 26, 2022

David R. Gibson

Memorial Gifts

In memory of David Gibson by:

Bob and Dayna Anderson
Brenda and Mark Gibson

In memory of Eleanor Whittemore by:

Karen and Warren Coulter and
Laura McCarthy



A Sincere Note of Thanks...

To everyone who sent cards and well wishes, said lots and lots of prayers, made phone calls of encouragement and offers of help both before and since my surgery. I am happy to report it was very successful and I am continuing to heal as quickly as can be expected, but which is never quickly enough! For Dave Gilmour's wise counsel, Lee and Beth Harper's insight and assistance, and the lovely prayer shawl that keeps reminding me how caring our church community is, I am forever grateful.

Debbe Shipman

Art Show and Sale of Rev. Dr. Kenneth Fiery's Paintings

Many of you knew Ken Fiery as a regular attendee of our church. You may also have known him as a retired pastor, a pastoral counselor, or as a clinical psychotherapist. He was an asset to our congregation in many ways, including as a resource for the search committee that brought Pastor Tanya to our church seven years ago.

What you may not have known was that Ken was an accomplished artist. Painting was a hobby for Ken for most of his life until about twenty-five years ago when he was irresistibly drawn into it as a professional adventure. Painting for Ken was a deeply emotional experience that was beyond any words to describe. For him, painting was an effort to express the emotional experience that captured him in the first place, an elusive effort that didn't always come together as he hoped; but when it did, he described it as "a beautiful mystery that stirs the soul". This experience was what he wished to share with others.

Ken specialized in capturing familiar local scenes in his paintings. Robert Frost was also a recurring theme.

Ken passed away on April 3rd. There will be an **art show and sale of his paintings in Hardy Hall on Saturday, Sept 24 from 12 until 6pm and on Sunday, September 25 from 11am until 4pm.** Please come and enjoy Ken's wonderful art and meet his son and daughter in law, John and Danielle Fiery.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you shop 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 \$1,916.41. ***Join the more than 90 families who have supported our church through Amazon Smile and help us grow!***

With Gratitude from the Widening Our Vision Team...

The *Widening Our Vision* team was formed in the spring of 2021, with the blessing of the Church Council, to explore becoming an Open and Affirming church. This Open and Affirming (ONA) initiative provided an opportunity for our church to deepen and expand our welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions by formally adopting a statement of welcome and declaring our church an Open and Affirming congregation. Our ONA designation reflects a spirit of hospitality, a commitment to full inclusion and human rights, and a willingness to live out that welcome in meaningful ways. It is consistent with the Welcome pillar of our strategic plan.



On June 12, 2022, our congregation voted overwhelmingly to adopt the Welcome Statement (below) as our Open and Affirming Covenant. On June 28, 2022, the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ certified our ONA status, making our church the 63rd ONA church in the New Hampshire Conference, UCC.

The *Widening Our Vision* team thanks the congregation for their support of our journey to Open and Affirming, and challenges each of you to find meaningful ways to live out our commitment to welcome all persons into the life of our church... ***for no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***

OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 15:7

We, the members of the Congregational Church of Hollis, United Church of Christ, believe that all people are created in God's image and are loved, valued, and blessed by God. Understanding that repression and discrimination of any kind are incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are committed to the on-going work of inclusivity and discovering ways to live out our support and respect for all of God's beloved children. This community of faith is an Open and Affirming congregation which welcomes persons of all races, ethnic backgrounds, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, physical and mental abilities, family structures, marital status, and socio-economic backgrounds. All are invited to fully share and participate in all aspects of our church life and leadership. For no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Our COVID-19 Safety Policy as of September 2022

We continue to encourage people to exercise care for the other, caution, and common sense. Please refrain from in-person activities if you're sick; wear a mask if you know you've recently been exposed, and/or if it makes you feel more comfortable even if you've not been exposed. Please respect social distancing guidelines, especially for those who are masked and indicating a desire for extra caution.

For those who would like to participate in communal worship but don't feel comfortable in the spaces where folks are un-masked, you are welcome to gather in Emerson Chapel, where we have a large-screen TV monitor set up to project the service. We will ask that everyone who gathers in there remain masked and distanced.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Homecoming Brunch



Homecoming Sunday All-Church Brunch

Sunday, September 11, following 9:30 worship

Join us for food and fellowship on the Squires patio (weather permitting) as we start our fall season. Bring the whole family and/or bring a friend who might be interested in exploring our church.

Everyone's invited!