

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

September 2023

www.HollisChurch.org

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## *Metamorphosis*

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

(Isaiah 43:19, CEV)



Dear Friends,

I hope you’ve had a fabulous summer, and are looking forward to Homecoming and the upcoming season as much as I am! Don’t forget to bring your backpack for a blessing as we launch the new academic and program year on Hollis Old Home Days weekend, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

By all accounts, we enjoyed our respective sabbatical experiences, praise be to God! I realize that the Scripture quote I used to head this letter is the same one Rev. Bob used in his parting note. It seems apt that the Spirit guided both of us to that particular scripture — because clearly, there’s more to be gleaned from it! I’ve been delighted to hear about the fun things you did with Rev. Bob, and the ways that many of you took initiative, tried new things, and experienced new ways to grow in faith and community. Similarly, during my time away, I moved out of my comfort zone on a number of fronts. I ventured new opportunities, and discovered new ways that my own faith and understanding can continue to grow and deepen. I don’t know about you, but my sabbatical experience was a time of metamorphosis for me.

Because a significant number of you have said you’d like to hear stories and see photos from my time away, I look forward to sharing some of those with anyone interested, following the worship service on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Watch for further details in the bulletin announcements.



One of the most amazing things I did upon my return was to participate in the “Butterfly Adoption” project. I observed the marvel of another metamorphosis, as a couple of almost-invisible eggs hatched into caterpillars; munched through an unbelievable amount of milkweed; became beautifully stout before pupating; then became chrysalises for a while.

*(continued on page 3)*

# From the Faith Formation Office

## CE Book Read

Submitted by Emilee Sattler

This month I am spotlighting a Country Song that I find reminds me to Thank God for the people we have chosen to share and support us in this life.

### Thank God by Kane & Katelyn Brown

Lyrics from [genius.com/Stream](http://genius.com/Stream) on any music application

I was lost, you found a way to bring me back  
Needed forgiveness, you always gave me that  
Girl, I'm a witness of your love 'cause you don't be  
givin' up

And it's crazy how you saved me

Hand on the Bible, Don't know how I got you  
But I couldn't ask for more

Girl, what we got's worth thanking God for

*So thank God I get to wake up by your side  
And thank God your hand fits perfectly in mine  
And thank God you loved me when you didn't have to  
But you did and you do and He knew  
Thank God for giving me you (Hey, yeah)  
Thank God, thank God (Oh, yeah), For giving me you*

Never thought I'd find an angel undercover  
Made a change to everything from my heart to my  
last name, hey,  
Hard to tell when he fell that boy was Heaven sent  
And every night when I close my eyes before I say  
“amen”

*I thank God I get to wake up by your side  
And thank God your hand fits perfectly in mine  
And thank God you loved me when you didn't have to  
But you did and you do and He knew  
Thank God for giving me you  
Thank God, thank God, yeah, yeah  
Thank God, ooh-ooh*

Hand on the Bible  
Don't know how I got you  
I couldn't ask for more  
Girl, what we got's worth thanking God for

## News from *The Flock...*

### Old Home Day Parade ~ Sept 9

We will be marching in the Hollis Old Home Day parade once again this year! This is open to ALL



JOIN THE PARADE!

members of the congregation! Line-up will be at the Hollis Brookline Middle School between 9:30-10:30, and parade starts promptly at 10:30. If you are interested in marching, please email Kim at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org)

*Hope to see you there!*

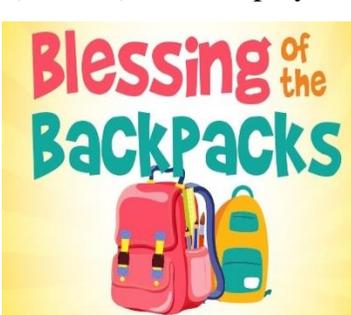
## Homecoming Sunday September 10

### *Welcome back to Sunday School!*

Join us on Sunday, September 10th 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!

Please complete a Sunday School Registration form (last page - this *Chimes*) and bring it with you on September 10!

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



**(and briefcases!)**

is welcome to bring a backpack or briefcase to the 9:30 service on September 10 to receive a special blessing.

*And back by popular demand, Prayer Squares will also be available!*

## Nursery/Flock volunteers are welcome!

Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet the children in the congregation, as well as build relationships with them as they go through their faith journeys. If you have any special talents (e.g. STEM, cooking, crafts, or another interest you are willing to share), this could be a great way to get involved.

You may sign up for as many or as few days as you'd like — whatever fits your schedule. All instructions will be sent to you the week of your signup date.

If snuggling littles, coloring and playing are more your interest, we have a great nursery to play in, too. This is for infants through age 3. A laptop is always in the nursery to listen to the service!

Please email Kim at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org) for any questions and/or to be added to the volunteer list.



## Old Home Day Community Outreach

The Stewardship committee will be doing a COMMUNITY OUTREACH event on Saturday, September 9th during the Old Home Days Parade — between 10:00-11:30 on the front lawn of the church. We will have posters and displays showing the numerous ways our

church is reaching out to help people in need in our own community. *There will be free lemonade and cookies!*

## Homecoming Brunch

Stewardship (and F&H) will once again sponsor a brunch on Homecoming Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our 9:30 worship service.

We welcome all to gather in Hardy Hall/Squires patio for good food and fellowship. Please join us and celebrate the beginning of a new church school year!!!

Your Stewardship committee,  
Chris Hyde  
Allison D'Ambrosio  
Beth Harper  
Dee Wagner



*(From the Pastor – cont'd from p. 1)*  
Eventually, they both emerged as glorious monarch butterflies! It was a truly mesmerizing experience, and it (along with the sabbatical experience) inspired the spiritual theme of *metamorphosis* that we're going to be working with this fall.

Did you know that that butterfly has long been a symbol of Jesus' resurrection—as well as our own resurrection, as we emerge from the power of fear and death? We all know that fear (fear of change, fear of difference, fear of the unknown and uncontrollable, fear of danger, etc., etc.) is one of the most debilitating forces in this world, leading to all sorts of “mini-deaths.” Surrendered opportunities, squelched potential. And, we also know that Christian faith is all about overcoming fear and death. But we have to keep reminding ourselves, re-learning in ever-deeper ways, the truths that shape such an understanding and engagement with the world.

So, I invite you to “Emerge” with me. As we begin a new program year, we'll explore some of the most fundamental aspects of our Christian understanding. We'll find parallels between the caterpillar's instinct for cocooning and Christ Jesus' (aka, God-in-the-flesh) birth from the womb of Mary, and the imagery of the burial tomb from which he emerged and our own willingness for transformation. We'll be talking about “trusting the dark”; “leaving comfortable places”; and “opening into the light”. I wonder what we might discover together?

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

# September 2023



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>September Items of the Month:</b><br/> <b>Cold Weather Wear</b> for men, women and children<br/>           ● Sweaters ● Coats ● Jackets ● Sweatshirts ● Vests</p> </div>  </div> |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| 9:30 am – Communion Worship<br>(In Person and Livestream)<br>Deacons Fund donation plate<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">3</div>   | <div style="text-align: right;">4</div>                                       | 6:30 pm – Music<br>Board meeting<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">5</div>  | 10am – Zoom<br>Coffee Hour<br>6:30 pm –<br>Stewardship<br>7pm – Church<br>Council meeting<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">6</div> | 7 pm - Choir<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">7</div>                                  | Our church volun-<br>teers provide<br>dinner at Spring<br>St. Shelter<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">8</div> | <b>HOLLIS OLD HOME DAY</b><br>10-11:30 am -Stewardship<br>Outreach on front lawn<br>10:30 am – All kids, teens and<br>adults invited to join the<br>church group in parade<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">9</div> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOMECOMING SUNDAY</b></p> 9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream)<br>Blessing of the Backpacks<br>9:30 am – Sunday School begins<br><p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOMECOMING BRUNCH</b></p> Immediately following worship<br>Hardy Hall & Squires patio<br>Sponsored by Stewardship Board<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">10</div>  | 7 pm – Deacons<br>meeting<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">11</div>     | 7 pm – Mission & Ac-<br>tion Board meeting<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">12</div>   | 10am – Zoom<br>Coffee Hour<br>12 noon – Facili-<br>ties meeting<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">13</div>                          | 6 pm – Caring<br>Connections<br>7 pm - Choir<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">14</div> | October <i>Chimes</i><br>deadline<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">15</div>                                    | <div style="text-align: right;">16</div>  |
| 9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream)<br>9:30 am – The Flock<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">17</div>   | 5:30 pm –<br>Trustees meeting<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">18</div> | 10 am – Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry meeting<br><p style="text-align: center;"><b>Red Cross Blood<br/>           Drive</b></p> Hardy Hall<br>Donors 12-5pm<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">19</div> | 10am – Zoom<br>Coffee Hour<br>6:30 pm –<br>Stewardship<br>Board meeting<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">20</div>                  | <div style="text-align: right;">21</div>   | <div style="text-align: right;">22</div>   | <div style="text-align: right;">23</div>  |
| <p><b>Church World Service Blanket Sunday</b></p> 9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream)<br>9:30 am – The Flock<br>After worship – Rev Tanya’s sabbatical<br>sharing time<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">24</div>   | <div style="text-align: right;">25</div>                                      | <div style="text-align: right;">26</div>   | 10am – Zoom<br>Coffee Hour<br><b>7pm – All<br/>           Boards meeting</b><br><br><div style="text-align: right;">27</div>             | 7 pm - Choir<br><br><div style="text-align: right;">28</div>                                 | <div style="text-align: right;">29</div>   | <div style="text-align: right;">30</div>  |

# Mission & Action News



## Mission Items of the Month

It's time to clean out those closets and donate your unneeded sweaters and coats! The Davis Funeral Home in Nashua is conducting its annual "Sweater Weather Recycling Campaign", and your donations of **new or gently used sweaters, jackets, and coats of all sizes** are greatly needed. The items are collected and donated each fall to various Nashua area agencies, and families and individuals in need.

**Our donation deadline is October 15.** Please place your donated items in the bin by the center entrance or inside in the shopping cart.

## Ongoing Collections...

We are *always* happy to accept your donations of:

- *Diapers, Diapers, Diapers* – especially in larger sizes!
- Eyeglasses
- Used Cell Phones
- Travel size Toiletries

## Spring Street Shelter Meals

Spring Street Shelter needs volunteers for September and December meals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. Certificates are provided to cover the cost of the meal ingredients. Please contact Lee Harper for details and instructions at 603-320-1500 or [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net).



## Church World Service Blanket Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>

*Be a part of the miracle and help blanket the world with love!*

**Church World Service Blanket Sunday is September 24<sup>th</sup>.** This is our congregation's opportunity to reach out to neighbors in need and share love through a simple act of kindness. A blanket to provide warmth and comfort for someone spending the night in a shelter is a wonderful gift! Through the simple gift of a blanket, we bring hope to those that feel hopeless, and hope to those who feel disenfranchised. A \$10 donation provides a blanket to a person in need. A \$50 donation blankets an entire family. And a donation of \$250 provides blankets for five families left homeless by economic hardship or by natural disasters. Checks should be payable to Congregational Church of Hollis with **CWS Blankets** noted in the memo line. They can be mailed ahead of time, brought to the church office, or deposited in the collection plate that morning. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, please help our congregation blanket the world in love!



**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Tuesday, Sept 19**  
**12pm - 5pm**  
**Hardy Hall**



**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Thursday, Nov 9**  
**12pm - 5pm**  
**Hardy Hall**

We have two more blood drives scheduled for this fall so please go to [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) to schedule your next donation. First time donors are always surprised how quick and easy it is to give blood! The process itself only takes about 10 minutes. The check in and screening take about 30 minutes total so that's not a lot of time from your day to make this lifesaving gift! Our next drives here in Hardy Hall are on Tuesday, September 19, from 12 -5pm, and Thursday, November 9, from 12 – 5pm. So, please consider being a blood donor, if not at our blood drive, then at any of the many local drives you will find on their website!



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 10, following 9:30 worship**

Join us for food and fellowship in Hardy Hall and 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!**

