

The  **Chimes**

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

June - August 2026

[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)

Volume LXV, No. 5

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***The Chimes is a publication of the  
Congregational Church of Hollis  
[www.hollischurch.org](http://www.hollischurch.org).***

Lead Pastor:

**Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen**  
[Pastor@HollisChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@HollisChurch.org)

Faith Formation (Christian Education):

**Kim Burton**  
[CE@HollisChurch.org](mailto:CE@HollisChurch.org)

Minister of Christian Music:

**Julie Oliver**

Church Office:

**Carli Ford - Communications**  
[Admin@HollisChurch.org](mailto:Admin@HollisChurch.org)

**Eileen Widner - Bookkeeper/Office Mgmt.**  
[ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org)

Contact us: 603-465-7797 or 465-7099

The Chimes is published monthly from September to May with a summer edition distributed in June.

***Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise. ~ Robert Robinson (1758)***

**Dear Friends,**

What a fantastic program year we've just enjoyed . . . though, it's not over! While summertime often goes somewhat quiet at the church, we will be abuzz with celebrative activity deep into the summer. Our annual Music Sunday (usually held in May), will be celebrated on June 7 this year, along with our monthly communion. On June 14, we will celebrate and bless two confirmands (Linnea Bergeron and Hannah Burton) and their faith journeys. Traci Weaver will lead our worship at the church on June 21st, and the Annual Hollis Strawberry Festival happens on the 28th following a worship service led by Matt Kopsler and Beth Harper. (I'll be on vacation those two last Sundays, but I hope many of you will come to support and encourage your fellow members in their leadership!)

In July, especially during the week of July 1-8, there will be several activities and opportunities to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation here in the heart of Hollis. Several of our church members have contributed much time and effort on a town-wide planning committee to highlight this milestone, focusing on the themes of Liberty, Courage, Providence, and Unity. On July 5th, we will hold a memorable worship service designed with the "early days" and these themes in mind; you'll hear echoes of sermons and liturgy from those days, will see some of our church's artifacts, and give thanks for God's faithfulness through thick and thin as this community

*(From the Pastor- continued on p. 2)*

*(From the Pastor - continued from p. 1)*

navigated the highs and lows of our shared history.

But as surely as God's work has continued all these years, the fun won't end with the 250th observations! We're going to hold a special combined worship service at Lake Potanipo, or Brookline Community Church in the event of inclement weather, on July 12th to commission with our blessing the first group of work campers we've had since before COVID-19, and also a prayer of blessing for our annual Vacation Bible Camp, which runs from July 13-16 this year (see page 3 for more details). Our Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will host the annual Rocky Pond Community BBQ on July 15th—all church members are welcome, and encouraged to invite a friend! On July 25th, we'll make our now-annual super-fun church outing to the NH Fisher Cats baseball game in Manchester.

If you have to miss the Rocky Pond BBQ in July, then perhaps you'll be able to join the worship service scheduled to be led by Peggy Gilmour and Ruth Kabel on August 2nd. (To be held at the church, if weather is inclement.) That Sunday, I have been invited to preach at Chocorua Island Chapel on Squam Lake, an honor and privilege I look forward to—and will bring greetings from this congregation! Because I will be away that week, our monthly communion celebration will be held on August 9th.

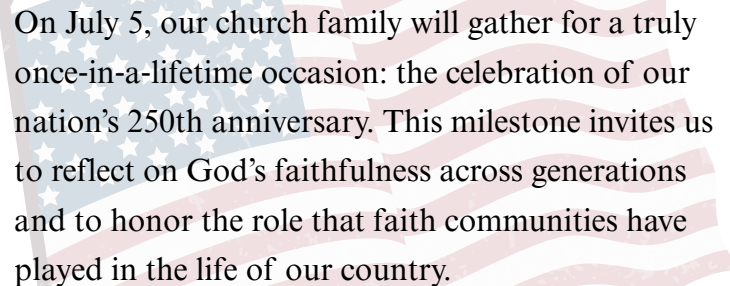
Friends, I hope you'll join in most of these opportunities to celebrate and reflect on the ways God has been and continues to be so faithfully and visibly at work in our lives—personally, communally, nationally, and even globally! If you've got friends or family visiting with you over the summer, consider inviting them to come with you to experience what you find valuable about our community, and the ways our life here at the

Congregational Church of Hollis is connected to the Life that's been here for well more than the 250 years!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

## **A Semiquincentennial Celebration: Our Nation's 250th Anniversary - Sunday, July 5**



On July 5, our church family will gather for a truly once-in-a-lifetime occasion: the celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary. This milestone invites us to reflect on God's faithfulness across generations and to honor the role that faith communities have played in the life of our country.

This year, we are joyfully inviting the wider community to join us for a special worship service centered on gratitude, remembrance, and hope.

Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for a church-wide community potluck luncheon. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather around the table, enjoy good food, and connect with neighbors and friends. Whether you bring a favorite dish or simply come as you are, your presence will make the day complete.

As we prepare for this special Sunday, we give thanks for the generations who came before us and for the community we continue to build together. We hope you will join us as we celebrate 250 years of faith, freedom, and God's enduring goodness.

# FAITH FORMATION

## Summer Adventures

### Adventure Days - July 5 & August 9

Adventure Days will take place during the 9:30 worship service.

### Church BBQ - July 15 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Join us at Rocky Pond for a relaxed evening of good food, great company, and summer community fun at our church BBQ!



### Caterpillar Adoption Day - July 16 | 12:00 PM

This is a fun tradition our Flock families enjoy! If you're interested in reserving a kit, email Kim at [CE@hollischurch.org](mailto:CE@hollischurch.org) to get on the caterpillar adoption list. The cost is \$10/kit if you need a cage (no cost if you already have a cage).

### Faith & Family Night at the Fisher Cats Game - July 25 | 6:30 PM

The whole church is invited to join us for a Faith & Family Night at the Fisher Cats! Tickets are \$13 each. Please see Kim at [CE@hollischurch.org](mailto:CE@hollischurch.org) to reserve your seats.



### National Night Out (Hosted by Hollis PD) - August 4 | 4:00 PM @ Nichols Field

Come spend the evening with the Hollis community and stop by the church booth for fun children's activities!

## Join us for Vacation Bible Camp July 13 - 16 | 9 - 1 PM



### Registration closes June 14!

VBC will be a fun-filled week of adventure, lessons, crafts, STEM, games, snacks, & more!

This program is open to children ages 4 years through Grade 6. Participants must be able to attend all four days. The cost is \$10 for church members and \$20 for members of the HB community. To register, contact Kim at [CE@hollischurch.org](mailto:CE@hollischurch.org).

*We're still in need of volunteers!* Adults and youth entering Grade 7 and up are warmly invited to volunteer. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for as many days or hours as their schedules allow. Opportunities to help include serving as a group leader, leading a station such as crafts, games, STEM/service projects, or sharing a special talent or skill. Additional ways to volunteer include baking snacks, helping with setup on Sunday, July 12, assisting with cleanup on Thursday at 1:00 PM, or serving as a floater to help with miscellaneous tasks and fill in where needed.

## All-Boards Meeting Sunday, June 7 (after church)

ALL BOARDS (& Committees & Ministry Teams!) MEETING will take place on Sunday, June 7, 11:30 a.m.

In the past, we've held an All Boards Meeting on a weeknight in June in place of Church Council. It's when we gather to celebrate and thank God for the highlights of our community's activities across the past year--and plan for (i.e., calendar) activities in the upcoming program year. This June, we're trying something new; we'll hold the All Boards Meeting following our worship service on Sunday, June 7th, at 11:30 a.m.

ANYONE serving on a Board, Committee, or Ministry Team is invited and encouraged to attend--and anyone who's curious about the upcoming year and where they might like to get involved if they're NOT a member of a team yet is also welcome. So, come and enjoy participating in our Music Sunday worship, then stay for a time of fellowship, before you help us to celebrate, vision, and plan for 2026-27 program year!

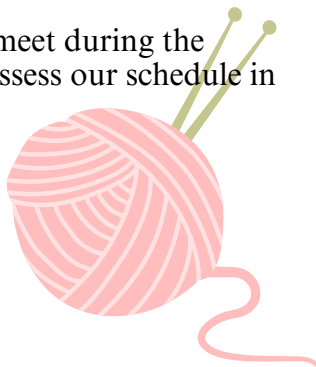
## Thank you - Yard Sale

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Community Yard Sale and Church Bake Sale! We are grateful for your generosity and the spirit of community you helped create.

## No Summer Knitting Club

The knitting group will not meet during the summer months. We will reassess our schedule in the fall.

Be well and keep knitting,  
Irene Norian



## Summer Office Hours

Please note our summer church office hours beginning June 15 through August 21. The church office will be open **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 AM–12:00 PM.**



## Our Church Records

### Marriages

*May 18, 2026*

Katherine Walker and Peter Morrison

### Deaths

*May 2, 2026*

Patricia Rosemary Cordell

### Memorial Gifts

*In loving memory of Patricia Cordell by:*

Liz and Al Gilbert

Francine and Charles Howe

Marion Lemire

Ann Siglin

Allison Van Leuven

Julia and James Waterman

Eileen and Paul Widner

## With Gratitude!

Thank you Freddi Olson, Brenda Gibson, Nancy Bell, Debbe Shipman, and Joyce Toli for preparing the May Chimes for mailing! We are grateful for your time!



# MISSION & ACTION

## Quarterly Collection Items for May, June & July: Backpacks for Back-to-School

Our church community is collecting school supplies for the *Backpacks for Back-to-School* program of the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. This program provides new backpacks filled with much needed school supplies to children of vulnerable and low-income families.



For more information about this program, see <https://nsks.org/backpacks-for-back-to-school/>.

**Basics for Everyone**

- #2 Pencils
- Handheld pencil sharpener
- 12" Ruler
- Erasers
- Dry erase markers
- Student scissors
- Pens - 8 pack
- 1 subject wide or college - ruled spiral notebooks

**Elementary School**

- Bottled glue
- Glue Sticks
- Pencil boxes or pouches
- Crayons (box of 24)
- Lunch boxes

**Middle/High School**

- 2" 3-ring binders
- Loose leaf filler paper
- Calculators
- Index Cards
- 8 GB flash drive
- Protractor/ drafting kit
- Colored Pencils
- Washable markers

**Please bring your donations to:**  
**2 Quincy Street**  
**July 28 - August 1**  
**Please do not pack the backpacks!**  
**Questions: magular@nsks.org**

## Mission and Action Donations

The Mission and Action Committee has agreed to support the following organizations with a monetary donation:

- Bridges
- Marguerite's Place
- Nashua Soup Kitchen
- Nashua Children's Home
- Summer Camp Scholarship program at Beaver Brook

If there is an organization whose mission you would like the Mission and Action Committee to consider supporting, please email us at [missionandaction@hollischurch.org](mailto:missionandaction@hollischurch.org).

## UCC Special Collection May 31

SENT FORTH IN  
**LOVE**



The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within your conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries. For more information about this special collection, see <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churches-wider-mission/strengthen-the-church/>.



# Hollis Strawberry Festival

Sunday, June 28

2 - 4 pm on Squires Patio and the Town Common

Rain: Hollis Brookline Middle School



## Sweet Memories of the Hollis Strawberry Festival

*Submitted by Debby Woodard*

Coming from my home in Bloomington, Minnesota, I just signed up to volunteer at the 2026 Hollis Strawberry Festival!

As a happy hybrid of New England and the Midwest, I grew up in Indiana for 3 seasons of each year, and spent summers in New Hampshire with grandparents, the Dutton-Worcesters of Hollis and the Barker-Larrabees of Nashua. One of my earliest memories is eating a sundae at the Hollis Strawberry Festival, circa 1957. I had never before tasted a dessert that delicious; and never since has a strawberry tasted as sweet and quintessentially strawberry.

Moving forward to roughly 1962, our parents were searching for a way to keep my sister Joy and me busy through the summer since we were far away from our Indiana friends. Thanks to my father Russell "Rusty" Worcester's lifelong friendship with Charles Elwin "Stub" Hardy (Brookdale Fruit Farm), Joy and I found ourselves in a strawberry field one hot and humid summer day. Sweat-soaked and bug-bitten in our first job, we picked strawberries for hours, hugely out-picked by the local children who were far more skilled and resilient than these Indiana girls.

We sisters returned home that evening vowing to never pick another strawberry in our lives. We were exhausted as we ached from the unfamiliar squat necessary for efficient picking. Somewhat embarrassed by our short stint, we did show up for our pay-out on Saturday. I think each pint (or quart?) was worth a nickel, and we watched other workers pocket unbelievable amounts of cash while we happily took our meager one day's compensation home.

Fast forwarding to 2026, in retirement I am enjoying summers and autumns in Hollis at the familiar Worcester homestead on Richardson Road. I am eager to participate in this June's Strawberry Festival as a first-time volunteer. I am fairly certain the festival will look different to my grown-up eyes and mind, but I am banking on the strawberries tasting just the same.

## Calling All Volunteers! YOU Can Help Make Sweet 2026 Festival Memories!

Did you know that the Strawberry Festival partnership 'baton' has been passed to our church this year? We did not want this traditional event to disappear when the Hollis Woman's Club stepped away from their partnership with the Hollis Town Band, so we've stepped up to host this year's festival. But we need YOUR help to make this year's event a success!

### There are many ways to help out ~ everyone can lend a hand!

- **Friday, June 26:** It's "all hands on deck" for the strawberry hulling party in Hardy Hall from 9am-12pm. Not only are 'hullers' needed, but also a team in the kitchen to wash berries and ferry them to the hullers as well as someone with a truck to move the berries between church and Brookdale.
- **Saturday, June 27:** The Shortcake Baking team will make their magic in our kitchen from 9am-12pm.
- **Sunday, June 28,** is Festival Day! The Festival is from 2-4pm on the town common (at HB Middle School in the event of rain), but set-up begins at 12pm. The Town Band handles the set up of tables and chairs in Hardy Hall, on the patio, and on the town common. We'll need volunteer dessert order takers, servers, runners from kitchen to Hardy Hall, and more.

[Use this link to sign up to volunteer](#) or scan the QR Code, and join us in making our own Sweet Memories!

Whether you can give a little time or a lot, your help makes this event possible. Join us and be part of something special!

In addition to volunteers, we are also gratefully accepting donations to help support this year's Strawberry Festival. Contributions will go directly toward the cost of strawberries, shortcakes, whipped cream, and other dessert ingredients. Your generosity helps keep the festival affordable and enjoyable for everyone who attends. If you'd like to support the festival in this way, we welcome and appreciate your gift.

Email [StrawberryFestival@hollischurch.org](mailto:StrawberryFestival@hollischurch.org) or call the Church Office (Eileen), Carol Birch or Kimber Harmon with questions!

# Summer 2026 Calendar



	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
31	9:30am Communion Worship & Graduation Recognition	1 5:30pm Stewardship 6:45pm Trustees	2 4:00pm Mission & Action 6:00pm Music Board	3 4:30pm Caring Connections	4	5	6
7	9:30am Worship & Music Sunday 11:30 All Boards Meeting	8 7:00pm Deacons	9	10	11	12 4:00pm Facilities	13
14	9:30am Worship & Confirmation Sunday	15	16 6:30pm Council	17	18	19	20
21	9:30am Worship Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	9:30am Worship 2:00-4:00pm Strawberry Festival	29	30	1	2	3	4



	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
28	9:30am Worship Communion	29	30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	9:30am Worship Communion Flock Sunday Semiquincentennial Celebration/Poiltuck	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	9:30am Worship at Lake Petanipo (Joint worship with Brookline Community Church & Blessing of the Mission Trip & VBC)	13	14	15 5:30pm Church BBQ Rocky Pond	16	17	18
19	9:30am Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25 6:00pm Fisher Cats Faith/Family Night
26		27	28	29	30	31	1



	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
2	9:30am Worship at Rocky Pond	3	4 4:00pm National Night Out, Nichols Field	5	6	7	8
9	9:30am Communion Worship & Flock Adventure Day	10	11	12	13	14	15 Chimes Deadline
16		17	18	19	20	21	22
22		23	24	25	26	27	28
29		30	31	1	2	3	4

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**SUNDAY HOLLIS 2:00 - 4:00 PM HOLLIS TOWN**  
**JUNE 28 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL COMMON**  
**3 MONUMENT SQ**

Hosted by Congregational Church of Hollis & Hollis Town Band  
Rain: Hollis Brookline Middle School