

**The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC**  
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
603-465-7797  
[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)



*Four Pillars of Our Mission:  
Welcome, Worship, Learn, Serve*

**The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.**  
**February 22, 2026 9:30 a.m.**  
**The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor & Teacher**  
**Julie Oliver, Minister of Music**  
**Kim Burton, Minister of Faith Formation**  
**(Services are recorded)**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
THE WORK OF IMAGINATION  
“ROOTED RESISTANCE”**

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February 22, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

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*This is the First Sunday of Lent. To mark the beginning of this important season of penitence and preparation, we are joining congregations around the country in singing our music a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment). By singing a cappella, we offer ourselves to God in our most basic form.*

*Soli Deo Gloria.  
To God alone be the glory.*

**PRELUDE**

**CHOIR**

**GOD’S LIGHT AND WORD PRECEDE OUR WORSHIP**

**DEACONS**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**REV. TANYA**

*Please take a moment to review the announcements in your bulletin.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**CHOIR**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**DEACON**

Come into God’s presence,  
you who imagine and you who seek,  
you who disrupt and you who repair.

**By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God’s presence,  
you who live in this wide and wild world,  
navigating beauty and uncertainty, temptation and trial.

**In Christ, we gather as children of God.**

Come into God’s presence,  
singing for joy and for justice;  
bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION**

**DEACON**

**God of the wildness, you claim us and embrace us in love: we are yours. When we face uncertainties and temptations that cause us to question your provision, doubt our belovedness, or exploit our faith for worldly gain, lead us back, again and again, to words of scripture, and to the living Word, Jesus Christ. May we hold fast in faith and serve you with our whole hearts, this day and always. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, we confess that when the wildness feels too chaotic, and the earth beneath our feet seems to shift with change, we fall easily into despair. We forget to hope. We neglect to dream. We imagine paths of doom instead of journeys to glory. We panic, even as your Spirit holds steady within and around us. Help us to trust, to hope, to dream, and to walk forward in faith. And when the fears set in, help us to find support in the strength of community. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**REV. TANYA**

**\*GLORIA**

**(echo the soloist)**

**\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES**

**REV. TANYA**

*Children are invited to come forward to join Pastor Tanya at the front. At the conclusion, we bless them as they depart with the words...*

And now as you depart to continue your learning and worship somewhere else, we offer you our blessing:

[Congregation]: **God's love be with you.**

[Teachers and Children]: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God who breathes meaning and inspiration into our sacred scriptures, who crafts stories of redemption, liberation, and love, may these words help us imagine the world you intended. May we receive the challenge to join you in this holy work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow Jesus in love and justice. Amen.

**CHARACTER NARRATIVE**

**Chris Hyde, Podcast Host  
Mike Secules, Jesus**

**READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**

**Jeremiah 29:1-9 (pg. 638)**

**Matthew 4:1-11 (pg. 785)**

Through these ancient words of Holy Scripture, God still speaks to us today.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*God So Loved the World*

**John Stainer**

**SERMON**

**“The Work of Imagination...Rooted Resistance”**

**REV. TANYA**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

DEACON

*For privacy reasons, we are not publishing our prayer list names on our website. If you are worshiping virtually and would like a copy of the prayer list, please send a request to the church office at [admin@hollischurch.org](mailto:admin@hollischurch.org).*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## PRAYER RESPONSE

*Kyrie (Lord, have mercy)*

Dvorak

## OFFERING AND PLEDGES—SHARING GOD'S GIFTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR WORLD

To initiate online giving, go to <https://hollischurch.org/donations/>

## OFFERTORY

*Seek Ye First*

ARR. JOHN F. WILSON

## \* DOXOLOGY

#46

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

REV. TANYA

## \* HYMN

*Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*

#401

## \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination:

**We believe no wilderness is so dense that the Good Shepherd cannot find us.**

We believe no ocean is so vast that we cannot be saved from its depths.

**We believe no enemy is so strong that we cannot be rescued from its grasp.**

We believe no shame is so great that our liberator cannot free us.

**We believe no law is so rigid that it keeps us from grace.**

We believe no person is so powerful that they can rob us of our dignity.

**We believe no situation is so dire that we cannot find hope together, in community.**

We believe we are wholly loved, worthy of care, and safe in the palm of God's hand.

## \* OUR COMMON COMMISSION

**Let us now go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## \* BENEDICTION

REV. TANYA

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

\* Please stand if you are able.

## **Flower Dedication**

The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God in appreciation for our church staff members—Rev. Tanya, Kim, Eileen, Carli, Julie, and John—by a friend of the church.

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# **Announcements**

## **Annual Meeting - March 1, 2026, at 10:45 AM**

Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 1, at 10:45 a.m. in the Meetinghouse. Warrant articles will be posted at the entrances to the Meeting House, bulletin boards, and near the elevator. Please email [admin@hollischurch.org](mailto:admin@hollischurch.org) if you would like an electronic copy of the annual report.

## **Volunteers Needed for Vacation Bible Camp (Week of July 13)**

Vacation Bible Camp is coming up the week of July 13, and we need volunteers! Can you help for one day—or all week? Would you be willing to serve as a floater where needed? If you're interested in supporting this important ministry, please email Kim at [ce@hollischurch.org](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org).

## **Board and Committee Service Opportunities**

We value your gifts and invite you to consider serving in a Board or Committee role as we shape the future of our church together. A few positions remain open; full summaries are available from the Nominating Committee upon request.

- Board of Deacons
- Stewardship Board - Help with the spiritual understanding of tithing and pledging in support of church ministries.
- Nominating Committee - Help welcome visitors and new members, find ways to serve the congregation and wider community.

Feel free to contact the Nominating Committee with any questions you may have at [nominating@hollischurch.org](mailto:nominating@hollischurch.org).

## **No Flock or Nursery February 22**

Remember, there will be no Flock or Nursery today for Winter Vacation Break.



### **Loaves & Lessons Lenten Series: “The Work of Imagination”**

**Join us Thursday evenings at 5:30 in Hardy Hall, February 26 - March 26**

This Lent, we invite you to gather for a meaningful series centered on “The Work of Imagination.” Each session will include a homemade meal—with vegetarian and gluten-free options available—followed by thoughtful conversation and reflection grounded in our Lenten theme. Come share food, faith, and imagination as we explore how God invites us to see, wonder, and live more deeply during this season.

Register through this link if you’d like to help prepare meals.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849ACAC29A7FF2-61796938-loaves#/>

### **Blood Drive**

Our church will be hosting a Community Blood Drive on Saturday, February 28, from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to support a lifesaving effort that directly benefits our wider community. Make your appointment by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), using sponsor code **HOLLISNH**. Thank you for helping us share the gift of life.

### **Prepared to Serve 2026 — You’re Invited!**

**Saturday, February 28, at Pembroke Academy, 209 Academy Rd, Pembroke, NH**

The congregation is invited to take part in Prepared to Serve 2026, a one-day event filled with engaging workshops designed to inspire and equip us for faithful living and ministry. The event will be held at Pembroke Academy and offers a wide variety of sessions throughout the day.

Whether you’re seeking new ideas, deeper connection, or fresh energy for ministry, there’s something for everyone. You may pre-register online at

<https://www.nhcucc.org/events/pts-2026>, or register in person on the day of the event.

### **Horton Center Virtual Info Session for New Campers**

**March 26, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

Horton Center, the outdoor ministry of the NHCUCC, is located in the heart of the White Mountains. It offers a welcoming setting for people of all ages to build friendships, experience inclusive community, enjoy the beauty of God’s creation, and grow in faith together.

Curious to learn more or plan a camping trip? Join them for an informative session on March 26 at 6:00 PM! Fill out the RSVP form here: [tinyurl.com/newcamperinfo2026](https://tinyurl.com/newcamperinfo2026).

