

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire
An Open and Affirming Congregation
603-465-7797
www.HollisChurch.org



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

The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.
March 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)

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
THE WORK OF IMAGINATION**

“True Allegiance”

The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.

March 22, 2026 9:30 a.m.

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PRELUDE

JULIE OLIVER

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

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 keeping, you who bear the divine image, you who are in this world but not of it, you who feel tested or tried.

In Christ, we gather and we belong.

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

DEACON

God of discernment, you send your Spirit to guide us when the questions seem too difficult or the possibilities seem too limited. Bless us with curiosity and creativity. Show us pathways beyond the binaries of “either/or” and “yes/no.” Give us the strength to live your will, and dedicate our lives to your holy callings of love, mercy, humility, and grace. We do this following the way of Jesus Christ, our leader and our guide. Amen.

*** HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

#477

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DEACON

We confess that our purchases support harmful practices and abusive regimes. We confess that our entertainment choices, at times, center people who mock the weak. We confess that our participation in consumerism and disposability causes destruction of creation. Forgive us for aligning our allegiance with systems and corporations that harm life and cause suffering. Help us resist the temptation to devote ourselves to worldly ways that offend your righteousness. We choose to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, so we might have open hands to serve you better. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

REV. TANYA

* GLORIA

#37

* 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

DEACON

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.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE **Mark 12:13-17 (pg. 824)**

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

Thanks be to God.

CHARACTER NARRATIVE

CHORAL ANTHEM

It is Good

David Lantz III

SERMON

“True Allegiance”

REV. TANYA

“HOW MY FAMILY FOUND HOME HERE”

DOT HYDE

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.

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.

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

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

*** 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**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

#503

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe there is no other object of our allegiance or devotion that compares to the Way of Jesus. This devotion supremely outmatches any allegiance to country, team, or people group. We believe that when we divide our allegiance among other powers, our faith is diluted by lesser ambitions. We lose sight of our calling, and we compromise our values. We believe our allegiance to Christ's way of love and justice informs all other promises, contracts, covenants, and relationships. When forced to choose between Caesar's way and Christ's way, we choose Christ because Christ first chose us. Amen.

*** 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 AMEN

POSTLUDE

JULIE OLIVER

* Please stand if you are able.

Flower Dedication

The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God in honor of our U.S. Armed Forces for their duty, honor, and devoted service during these difficult times. - From Nora Lewis

Announcements

HOLY WEEK Schedule

MARCH 29
9:30 AM

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Join us for Palm Sunday worship with special music and a joyful children's Procession of Palms

APRIL 2
7:00 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Our traditional Maundy Thursday service, including Holy Communion and Tenebrae. The community cross will be draped in black through Holy Saturday.

APRIL 5
6:15 AM

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Join us at Triple Knoll Farm at 11 Pepperell Road, Hollis. The service traditionally begins about 15 minutes before sunrise.

APRIL 5
9:30 AM

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for joyous music from the choir. You are invited to bring cut flowers to adorn the community cross and celebrate Resurrection!



Easter Flower Orders Due Monday, March 30

You are invited to place Easter flowers in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones. A variety of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths will be available for \$8.00 per plant. Flowers may be picked up after the Easter service or donated to be delivered to members of our church family in hospitals or nursing homes. Extra order forms can be found at the entrances. Return order forms with payment to the church office by **Monday, March 30.**

Fellowship Hour Help Needed for April

We're grateful to the Nominating Committee for hosting fellowship hour in April. As a smaller group, they welcome help—please email nominating@hollischurch.org if you can bring food or beverages. Items may be dropped off in Hardy Hall before the service.

Cards for Aaron Etchell

Aaron Etchell is currently in the hospital and would appreciate cards and notes of encouragement from our church family. If you would like to send a card, please contact the church office during office hours for his mailing address.

Volunteers Needed for Vacation Bible Camp (Week of July 13-16)

There's still time to sign up to serve at Vacation Bible Camp! 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.

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

Thursday evenings at 5:30 in Hardy Hall

This Thursday, March 26 marks the last session in our Lenten Series, *Nurturing our Graced Uniqueness*. Come enjoy a homemade meal followed by thoughtful conversation and reflection. Register through this link if you'd like to help prepare meals.

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

Horton Center Virtual Info Session for New Campers

March 26, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Horton Center, the NHCUCC's outdoor ministry in the White Mountains, offers an inclusive place for all ages to build community, experience nature, and grow in faith.

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.

Art Exhibit Featuring Becky Field

April 18, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Hardy Hall

You are invited to join the Immigrant and Refugee Support Team of the Congregational Church of Hollis to view the photographs of award-winning photographer, Becky Field. There will be an artist talk, international foods, and lots of stories that celebrate cultural diversity in New Hampshire.

The opening event will take place on Saturday, April 18, with artist engagement from 2:00–4:00 pm, along with diverse cultural refreshments. The exhibit will also be open on Saturdays (April 25; May 2, 9, 16, and 23) from 10:00 am–2:00 pm. A free-will donation is appreciated.

Finding Home - Exploring Our Roots

The Immigrant & Refugee Support Ministry Team

In preparation for welcoming the photography exhibit “Finding Home: Portraits and Memories of Immigrants,” we will be highlighting our own congregation's immigration stories over the next several weeks. In her exhibit, photographer Becky Field celebrates people who have resettled in New Hampshire by sharing their journeys to find a new home. Virtually all of us have either immigrated ourselves or are descended from immigrants, and we have our own family stories of “finding home.” We invite you to reflect on your own family history as we prepare to welcome Becky Field's exhibit. When did your family arrive in the United States and from what country did they immigrate? What cultural traditions do you still hold from your family roots?

Here are some useful definitions as we continue the conversation about “Finding Home.”

- **Refugee-** A person who has fled their own country due to the risk of serious harm or persecution and who has been legally recognized as a refugee to seek safety in another country
- **Asylum Seeker-** A person who has left their country seeking protection from harm or persecution but who has not yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum case
- **Immigrant-** A person who moves from one country to another
- **Documented Immigrant-** A person who has moved to another country after obtaining a visa
- **Undocumented Immigrant-** A person who has moved to another country without a visa or who has overstayed the authorized period of their visa OR a person undergoing a legal case to obtain a visa such as Temporary Protected Status or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient
- **Migrant-** A person moving within their own country or outside of their own country of origin who may be seeking work, study, or to join family or who feels they must leave due to extreme circumstances of poverty, violence, or natural disaster