

**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.**

**March 15, 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)**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
THE WORK OF IMAGINATION**

**“Accountable Leadership”**

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

**March 15, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

**The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor & Teacher**

**Julie Oliver, Minister of Music**

**Kim Burton, Minister of Faith Formation**

**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 embrace, you who seek a good shepherd, you who long to be known and protected, you who are far off and you who are near.

**In Christ, we gather as one flock.**

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 love, you demonstrate your care for us by coming among us as Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Tend to us with mercy, gather us when we wander, protect us from the perils of this world, and bring all people together into one fold. Help us to recognize Christ’s voice and Christ’s calling. Remind us we are known. We are loved. We are invited to follow. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**\* HYMN**

*He Leadeth Me*

**#S9**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows how we struggle to discern good leadership, sometimes choosing to follow people because of their charisma or power, rather than their integrity and wisdom.

God, our Good Shepherd, we confess we often look to unwise leaders to guide us, whether in work, play, government, faith, or daily living. We overlook poor choices and bad boundaries, and we find ourselves enamored by personalities and power.

**Forgive us for pursuing folly over wisdom. Forgive us for choosing flashy leaders over leaders you have gifted with experience and discernment. Forgive us for not holding our leaders accountable. Help us keep firm boundaries with leaders, encouraging them to make hard choices. And when you call us into leadership roles, help us rise to the occasion with integrity and faithfulness. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

REV. TANYA

### \* GLORIA

#37

### \* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As we walk through the wild wilderness of Lent, we imagine a world where all creation is at peace. We imagine a world without war, where creation flourishes and children are safe. Let these dreams of peace begin here as we share the peace of Christ with one another.

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.

## READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

**EZEKIEL 34:1-10 (pg. 702)**

**JOHN 10:1-18 (pg. 872)**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

arr. Virgil Thomson

## CHARACTER NARRATIVE

MATT KOPSER

Today, we'll hear from someone who was there when Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd—someone who knows what it's like to care for sheep and face danger. Let's listen to their story.

## SERMON

**"Accountable Leadership"**

REV. TANYA

## "HOW MY FAMILY FOUND HOME HERE"

DAVID GILMOUR

## 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.

## 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

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

#429

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

We believe the mantle of leadership is serious, requiring wisdom, integrity, and humility. We believe Jesus showed us how to lead with love, justice, and advocacy for those who are weak or cast aside. We believe God calls leaders to accountability. We believe leaders must be removed when necessary for the safety and protection of the flock. We believe leaders must seek to learn and grow; they must acknowledge that they, too, are pilgrims of faith. We believe good leaders are not defined by their ability to speak eloquently or attract followers, but by their wisdom and compassion. We believe leaders must maintain healthy boundaries, respectful communication, and excellent listening skills. We believe we are all called to lead at times, but we choose some leaders for more responsibility because they have proven themselves wise and ready. We believe it is essential to encourage and support our leaders, so they do not exhaust themselves. We believe that our one great leader is Christ, and he guides us through the power of the Holy Spirit, who speaks to all of our hearts.

### \* 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.

# 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

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. Please complete the order form at the end of the bulletin and return it with payment to the church office by **Monday, March 30**.

### 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](mailto:ce@hollischurch.org).

## April *Chimes* Deadline – March 15

April *Chimes* submissions are due **Today!** We would love to share your announcements and news in the upcoming edition.

Please email submissions to [admin@hollischurch.org](mailto:admin@hollischurch.org).



### All-Ages Lenten Lesson - Thursday, March 19 at 5:30 in Hardy Hall

This Thursday, March 19 at 5:30 pm, join us for a special combined Loaves & Lessons and Flock Family Pizza Night (courtesy of Faith Formation) as we continue our *Work of Imagination* Lenten series. Come enjoy meaningful discussion, good food, and time together as a church family.

Register through this link if you'd like to help prepare meals:

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

### What's Your Favorite Hymn?

Do you have a hymn that really speaks to you and would like the congregation to join in singing it? Browse the pew hymnal and write down your favorites on the slips of paper found in the pews. Then place your slip in the offering plate to have your request added to our pool of community hymn selections!

### Flock Spring Service Project: Easter Baskets for Marguerite' Place

The Flock has chosen to build Easter baskets (and an egg hunt) for Marguerite's Place. They are collecting egg-filler items to help make the celebration extra special! All items can be dropped off in the CE bin outside the church front doors or in the CE office by March 22. Suggested donation items include wrapped candy, small toys or balls, stickers or bracelets.

### 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).

### 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 ([nominating@hollischurch.org](mailto:nominating@hollischurch.org)).

- **Board of Deacons** - Help with liturgical leadership during worship services, and lay pastoral care of our congregation.
- **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.

## **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