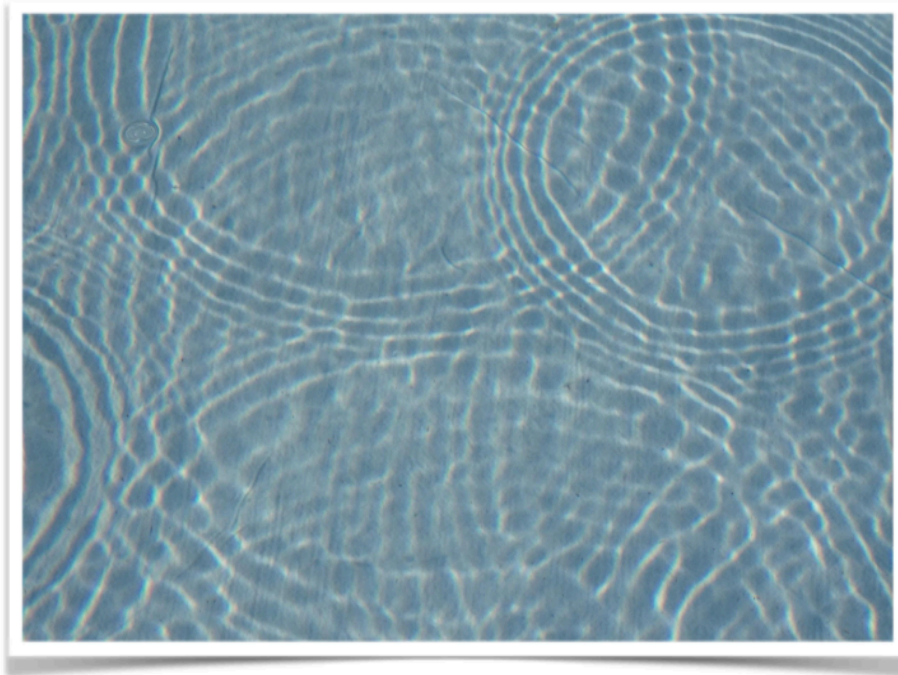


The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire
An Open and Affirming Congregation
603-465-7797
www.HollisChurch.org



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

**The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.
April 12, 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)**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

“Draw the Circle Wide: A Service to Welcome the Stranger”

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

April 12, 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

NORA LEWIS

INTRODUCING BECKY FIELD

NORA LEWIS

CHORAL INTROIT

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Mark A. Miller

CALL TO WORSHIP

NORA LEWIS

Jesus said, “Follow me. Be my disciples and do what I do.”

“But,” we say, “Jesus – you spent most of your time healing. How can those of us who are not doctors or nurses heal like you?”

We can heal those who come to our borders. They are in such desperate need of our healing— terrified, starving, blistered from walking in the heat, desperate enough to chance drowning. They are like the desperate crowds that followed Jesus.

They run to us from dangers so terrible we can’t even imagine what it’s like—no way to get work, farms that no longer produce crops, gangs that pursue children unless paid by their families not to do so.

Having no other option, they run to us: a nation they thought cared for all people, longing to be healed from past terrors, longing for just a little kindness, only to have that hope crushed, their current situation as terrible as the one they ran from.

They are like the crowds who ran to Jesus, alienated even by friends and family who feared their wounds and pain were contagious and would make them imperfect before God.

But Jesus showed the people of his time—and ours—that the perfection God wants is only compassion and the healing that comes when we draw the circle wide enough to include those who have been pushed out, and demand justice for those who are denied it. So, let’s do as Jesus did and welcome the stranger and the immigrant into our midst.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

DIANE FALLIER

Loving God, your son Jesus said your Kingdom is like a banquet: a festive gathering for all people of every race and color, a table at which the lonely find company, the hungry savor rich foods and fine wine, and strangers enjoy warm family ties.

Jesus reminds us your vision is for us to build this Kingdom here on earth.

Teach us, Lord, the ways of hospitality. Give us the spirit of joyful welcome and the sensitivity to help people on the move to feel they belong.

Grant that our imaginations, our advocacy, and our efforts at home may create such a culture of divine welcome that our neighbors from other lands are drawn into a loving community where the sacredness of each individual is honored and no one stands alone. Amen.

*** HYMN**

“O For a World”

#500

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DIANE FALLIER

Creator God, we confess that it is easy to feel pity...and hard to take action. We admit that we often care about injustice only in ways that cost us nothing. Forgive us for our reluctance to risk our comfort, our reputations, or our possessions for the sake of our neighbors. Savior, strip away our "hero" complexes and the rose-colored glasses through which we view ourselves. Grant us the humility to listen before we speak and the courage to face our own complicity in the systems that cause pain. Spirit of Truth, empower and inspire us to use our privilege to make room for others. Help us see those we pity not as objects of charity, but as your capable and called servants. Keep us hungry for justice and unsatisfied with "us versus them" until we truly become “we”, sitting together at your shared table. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

DOT HYDE

*** GLORIA**

#36

*** SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

DOT HYDE

The peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

ANDREA SEDDON

Children are invited to come forward to join Mrs. Seddon 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.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

BETH HARPER

Faithful God, open our hearts to the reading of these sacred Scriptures, that they might receive and truly absorb the fresh new word you are speaking to us today. Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

BETH HARPER

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (pg. 147)

Matthew 22:34-40 (pg. 804)

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

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Mark A. Miller

SERMON

“Is it Enough to Love Our Neighbor?”

BECKY FIELD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RUTH KABEL

For privacy reasons, we are not publishing our prayer list names on our website. If you are worshipping 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/>

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

DOT HYDE

* 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

DOT HYDE

Generous God, you are our portion and our cup. In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest. Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges that they may bring the joy of your presence more deeply into the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

* HYMN

"Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor"

#508

* OUR COMMON COMMISSION

DOT HYDE

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

BECKY FIELD

* CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

JULIE OLIVER

* Please stand if you are able.

The beautiful flowers this morning are graciously provided by Donna Roche.

Continue Learning About this Important Ministry...

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 (available until May 25, 2026), 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 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, is now in the US and waiting to receive a decision on their asylum case
- **Immigrant**- A person who has moved to another country with some type of legal documents
- **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

Announcements

In Remembrance: Memorial Service for Roland Modglin Noyes

Tuesday, April 14, 11:30 AM in the Meeting House

A memorial service for Roland Modglin Noyes will be held on April 14 in the Meeting House. We invite you to keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. There will be no reception following the service. Burial will take place at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen.

Reception for Becky Field's Art Exhibit

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, on Saturday, April 18 from 2:00–4:00 pm. There will be an artist talk, a guest immigrant who will tell his resettlement story, international foods, and lots of stories that celebrate cultural diversity in New Hampshire. Becky's two books of her photographs will be available for purchase. 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. 100% of book sales and donations will go to aid refugees and asylum seekers.

May Chimes Due April 15

We would love to share your announcements and news in the upcoming *Chimes*. Please email submissions to admin@hollischurch.org by April 15!

6th Annual Community Yard & Craft Sale with Church Bake Sale!



Help make this special event possible! We are looking for volunteers to assist before, during, and after the event. You can also rent a space to sell your own crafts, spring cleaning items, or gently used treasures, or contribute homemade baked goods to share. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to come out, connect with others, and shop for some great finds! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Carol at YardSale@hollischurch.org.

Updates from the Flock:

- 🍕 **NEW DATE** - Our **final Flock Family Pizza Night** for the school year will be held on **Thursday, April 30 from 5:15 - 6:30pm**. Check your emails for the sign up and come join the fun!
- **No Flock Sunday, April 26** due to Spring Break.
- **Flock Adventure Day registration is due April 19**. Grads PreK through 5 are invited to join the fun on **Wednesday, April 29 from 9:00 - 1:00 pm!** This nature-themed Adventure Day will be like a mini-VBC! We will start with a lesson, followed by outdoor fun, activities, crafts, snack and lunch. Email Kim at ce@hollischurch.org with questions.

Fire Drill - April 19

A fire drill will take place immediately following the service on April 19. The alarm will sound as part of the drill. Volunteers will be available to assist the Flock and help guide the congregation.

Mission Trip Update

The Mission Trip Ministry Team is busy preparing for our trip to Hazlet, NJ this July—and there's still time to join us! If you're interested in joining or would like more information, please call the church to connect with our team. A \$100 deposit is required, and the sign-up deadline is May 1.

Nashua Immigrant Solidarity Visibility

Join neighbors in Nashua in support of immigrant communities. This group meets every third Monday from 5:00–6:00 PM at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (Library Hill). The gathering focuses on:

- Advocating for and standing in solidarity with immigrant neighbors
- Educating the community about the Sheriff's 287(g) agreement to collaborate with ICE (learn more about 287(g) below)
- Building awareness and encouraging compassionate, informed action

This effort is organized in partnership with Granite State Organizing Project. For more information, contact torim@granitestateorganizing.org or visit www.granitestateorganizing.org.

Understanding the 287(g) Program

The 287(g) program is a federal initiative that allows local law enforcement agencies to collaborate with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In practice, this means certain local officers are authorized to perform some immigration enforcement functions.

Concerns raised about 287(g) agreements include increased risk of racial profiling, individuals being detained for minor issues, potential costs to local communities, diverting local resources away from other public safety priorities, limited or insufficient training for officers taking on federal immigration roles, and erosion of trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement.

These agreements are not permanent and can be ended. Community members who wish to express their views can contact the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (call **603-627-5610**, or email brian.newcomb@hcnh.gov) and ask that the current 287(g) contract with ICE be reconsidered. This is an issue that many New Hampshire voters care deeply about.

Horton Center News

Souper Saturday & Campfire Song Madness
April 11, 12:00 - 3:00 pm
149 East Side Drive Concord, NH 03301



Faith-Based Camp & Retreat Center

Horton Center's annual "March Madness" is back, featuring a fun bracket of favorite campfire songs! After close matchups so far, the competition continues as they vote their way toward the finals. The tournament finals will take place during Souper Saturday on April 11th - and they'd love to have you there cheering on your "team"!

RSVP for Souper Saturday and stop by Tad's Place any time between 12pm and 3pm on April 11 for a chance to see camp friends old and new, sing some camp songs, fun camp activities, and eat some delicious homemade soups and breads. RSVP and learn more at tinyurl.com/soupersaturday26

Horton Center Open House w/Optional Overnight Stay - June 13 - 14

New and returning camp families and friends are invited to experience this overnight option, offering a chance to enjoy all the fun and joy of camp together. Learn more and RSVP for the event at hortoncenter.org/camp-sessions/open-house-w%2Foptional-overnight-stay

HC Serves - June 21 - 25

Intergenerational church groups or individual campers are invited to come and explore the themes of Christian service leadership while practicing community service. Church groups are invited to reach out prior to Easter 2026. Learn more by visiting hortoncenter.org/camp-sessions/hc-serves

Antiracism Speaker Series Event:

"The Nexus of Health and Racism"

Sunday, April 12, 3:00 PM at the Congregational Church of Amherst (11 Church St. Amherst, NH 03031)

The NH Conference UCC Antiracism Ministries Group invites you to the Fourth Annual Harriet Ward Antiracism Speaker Series featuring Josephine "Jo" Porter, Chief Strategy Officer at the NH Center for Justice and Equity as she discusses "The Nexus of Health and Racism." RSVP for free here: tinyurl.com/antiracismspkr