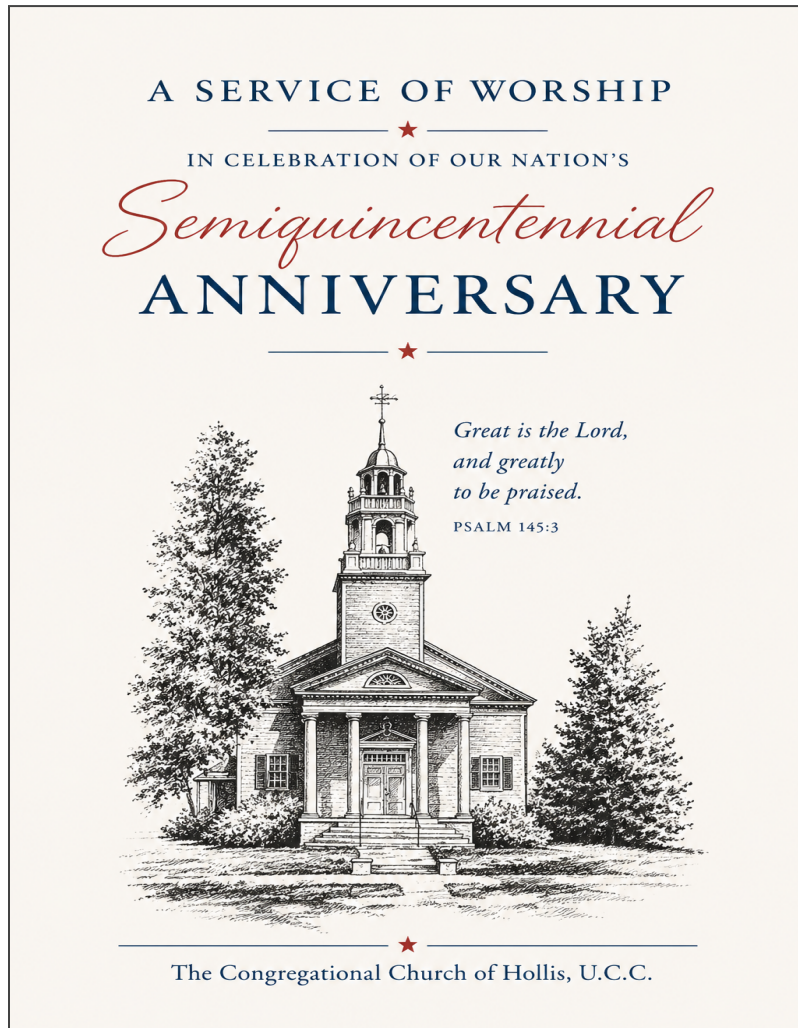


The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire
An Open and Affirming Congregation

603-465-7797

www.HollisChurch.org



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

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

July 5, 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)

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
IN CELEBRATION OF OUR NATION'S
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.

July 5, 2026 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor & Teacher
Julie Oliver, Minister of Music
Kim Burton, Minister of Faith Formation

THE BELL INVOKES SILENCE: THE LIGHT & WORD PRECEDE OUR WORSHIP

GREETING

REV. TANYA

CALL TO WORSHIP

DEACON

Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers and disciples of love,

God is close to the outcast and faithful to all.

Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the winds of hope,

God is everywhere at all times, compassionate to all.

Calling all travelers between worlds, who translate compassion into peace,

God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the forgotten.

Come to worship and be renewed for this long journey.

As citizens of heaven, we are strangers in a strange land, yet sojourners in this land, where we continue to endeavor to be one nation under God after 250 years: we have come to worship the Creator-Redeemer-Sustainer of all.

* HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#57

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

DEACON

Christ is with us.

Yes: Christ is in our midst.

Let us pray.

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. We ask you to make your presence known here among us today. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us as we strive to expand our vision and diminish the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. May we humbly receive and recognize your many gifts, and faithfully use them to accomplish your work. May your spirit so inspire our worship and work that it has energy and integrity, always manifesting your holy presence in our lives. We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal One, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE GRACE

REV. TANYA

A MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

(Young children are invited to come forward if they would like to join Rev. Tanya at the front.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

DEACON

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

DEACON

Scriptures in the version familiar to those who gathered 250 years ago

Psalm 145 (King James Version) (pg. 506 in pew Bible)

Romans 13:1-14 (KJV) (pg. 923 in pew Bible)

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“In Order to Form a More Perfect Union”

REV. TANYA

*** HYMN**

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

#536

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

A LITANY FOR FREEDOM

***Ring the Bells for Freedom:** A litany of acknowledgement for the 250th anniversary of the 13 colonies of America and their Independence from Great Britain's Kingdom. For use on the weekend of July 4th, 2026. Written by Rev. Dr. Chris Davies.*

Ring the Bells for Freedom! Ring for hope, for joy; ring for the dream of our forbearers and the liberation of our children. Ring the bells!

Ring for Freedom!

Ring the bells for those that have fallen in the name of the dream. Those who held the candle on the shore, inviting more; the city on the hill built to demonstrate the Way. Ring the bells!

Ring the bells for Freedom!

Ring the bells for those who came, and those who come, seeking the dream: The tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free.¹ Ring the bells!

Ring for Freedom!

Ring the bells for dreams deferred,² placed asunder and left to wander. Ring the bells for when freedom has been distant. Ring to witness the stoney road, the bitter rod, the moments where hope couldn't be. Ring with the harmonies of liberty.³ Ring the Bells!

Ring the bells for Freedom!

Ring the bells for those who were here before the colonies. Ring the bells for the neighbors who were not asked, not invited, not included in the dream. Ring the bells until the dream is wide enough to hold them. Ring the Bells!

Ring for Freedom!

Ring for those who do not know freedom today. Those incarcerated, in internment camps and detention centers, or confined without consent. Ring for the hope that there WILL be a day when all people are free!

Ring the bells for Freedom!

Ring for those who fought and continue to fight for our freedom. Ring for those who paid a price beyond comparison for the lives we lead today. Ring the bells in honor and witness!

Ring for Freedom!

Ring the bells for those who love this country enough to tell the truth about it. Those who fight for the dignity of all, the future of who we can be, with liberty and justice for all,⁴ where all may be free.

Ring for Freedom!

Ring the bells that we may hold these truths to be self-evident,⁵ that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Ring the bells, that we may join together, *because* of our faith, to ring the bells and work for liberation, in the footsteps of those that came before, holding the wide welcome, loving our neighbors, and following Jesus Christ in the best way that we know how. Ring the Bells!

Ring the Bells for Freedom!

Citations:

1. From "The New Colossus," Emma Lazarus, 1883
2. From "Harlem," Langston Hughes, 1951
3. From the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," James Weldon Johnson, 1900
4. The Pledge of Allegiance
5. Declaration of Independence, 1776

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR WORLD

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



*** DOXOLOGY**

#45

Praise God for love we all may share.

Praise God for beauty everywhere.

Praise God for hope of good to be.

Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

REV. TANYA

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you,
And also with you.
Open wide your hearts!
We open them up to God.
Let us give thanks for this time and space,
Giving praise to God for this meal we will share.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

We celebrate our gratitude, Divine Companion through all the ages. As this spiritual meal has nourished us, inspire us to feed our neighbors and journey with the lonely. Through our co-creation together, may we fearlessly spread love throughout our nation and world, extending your hospitality to people in need as so many before us have done, so that all might know the liberty you long for every one of us to enjoy. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

#531

* 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

Flower Dedication

The flowers this morning are presented by Nora Lewis to the glory of God, in celebration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial. Heartfelt thanks are given for the religious freedoms enjoyed today, honoring the legacy of our own congregation, which has faithfully worshiped in this community since its founding in 1741.

Note on the Antique Vessel: This 1800's dry measure, crafted by S. Farrar of West Royalston, Massachusetts, is uniquely shaped like a side drum, honoring the Revolutionary War tradition of drums used for communication, organization, and morale.

Before church bells, side drums also called men to town meetings and worship. During the Revolution, Hollis's original meetinghouse—the Second Church of Dunstable (now the Congregational Church of Hollis)—had neither a bell nor belfry. Instead, residents relied on a clock on Deacon Hardy's barn until the town's first church bell was installed in 1821.

Announcements



A Semiquincentennial Celebration: Our Nation's 250th Anniversary - Sunday, July 5, 9:30 AM

We happily welcome the community for this special worship service as we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary!

Children are welcome to join us in the Flock for special activities after being dismissed during the Message for All Ages.

Please join us after the service for a potluck luncheon. All are welcome!

Descendants of early Hollis families are being recognized with special carnation corsages. We wish to recognize the contributions their families, along with others in our historical district of Hollis, have made toward the growth of our community.

To further your research on our church's history, read [*Congregational Church of Hollis Celebrates 250 Years of Faith and Freedom*](#), by Kimber Harmon, or the various handouts found with your bulletin.

<https://hollisbrooklinenews.org/congregational-church-of-hollis-celebrates-years-of-faith-and-freedom-p12478-692.htm>

Special Worship Service at Lake Potanipo - Sunday, July 12, 9:30 am

Come worship with us at the lake! Join us for a joint service with Brookline Community Church on Sunday, July 12 at 9:30 am. We will also have a special blessing for those going on the Mission Trip to Hazlet, NJ and for Vacation Bible Camp.

2026 Horton Center Pen Pal Program

This summer, we're participating in Horton Center's Summer Staff Pen Pal Program! We'll receive weekly postcards from Julia, a member of the Program Staff, sharing her camp experiences. We invite you to sign up to send Julia a postcard of encouragement, a prayer, church news, or a note about your own summer adventures. See the office bulletin board for more details!

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549AEAB2FA5FFCE9-64579288-sign>

Or Scan QR Code:



Mail Your Postcard to:

Horton Center
PO Box J
Gorham, NH 03581



Summer Office Hours

The office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 - 12:00 pm from now until the week of August 24. Please remember that hours are subject to change to accommodate holidays, vacations, and staffing fluctuations. Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).

Summer Sunday Fellowship Hour

We always enjoy fellowship time with one another after Sunday services. During the summer, we invite families to help by providing simple refreshments. If you'd like to sign up for a specific Sunday, please email admin@hollischurch.org.