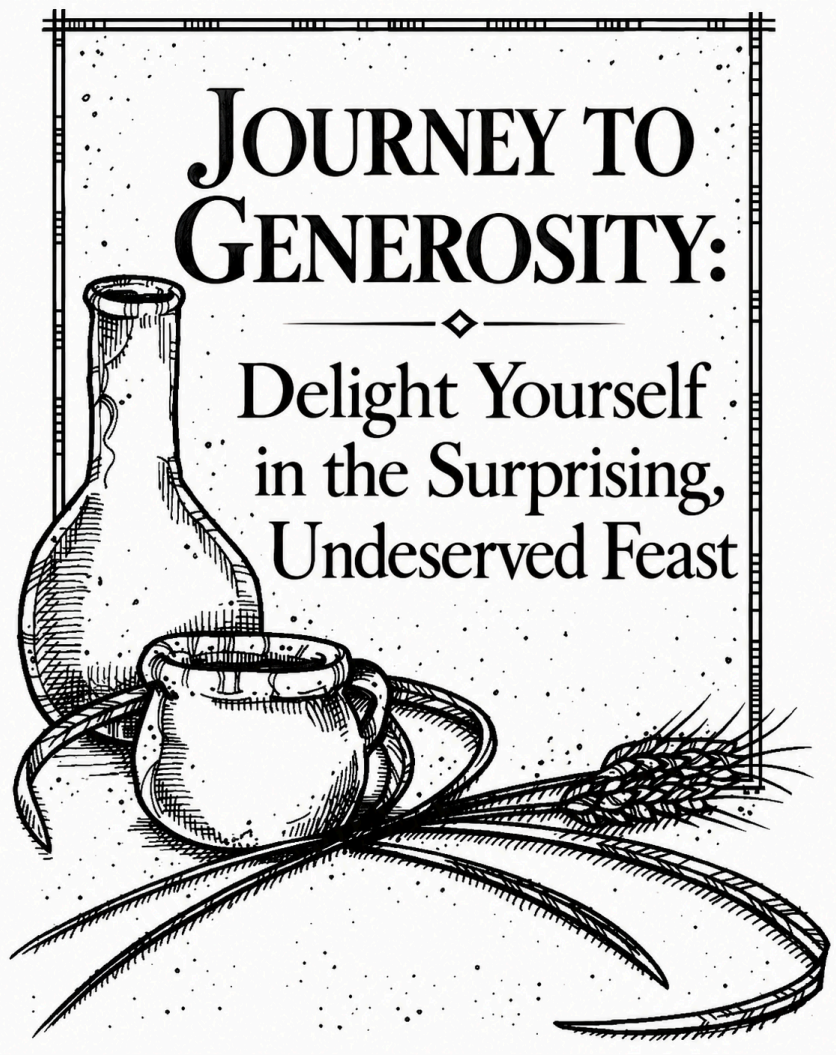
The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire
An Open and Affirming Congregation
603-465-7797
www.HollisChurch.org



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

The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.
October 18, 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)

JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY

Delight Yourself in the Surprising, Undeserved Feast

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

October 18, 2026 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor & Teacher

Julie Oliver, Minister of Music

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PRELUDE **JULIE OLIVER**

GOD'S LIGHT AND WORD PRECEDE OUR WORSHIP **DEACONS**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **REV. TANYA**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The King has prepared a grand feast; the banquet hall is open wide!
We are gathered from the streets and crossroads, welcomed by extravagant grace.
God calls us to step out of our routines and embark on a journey of discipleship.
We continue our journey to generosity, learning to give as freely as we have received.
Come, let us celebrate the feast of God's abundant goodness!
Let us worship the Lord with joyful, open, and generous hearts.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION **DEACON**

Generous God, divine Host who welcomes all to Your table: open our eyes to Your boundless grace as we gather today. Dispel our fears of scarcity and kindle within us true gratitude. Guide our feet on the path of generosity, so our worship may overflow into cheerful giving and hospitable love. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord and host. Amen.

*** HYMN** ***Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*** **#250**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **DEACON**

Merciful God, You offer us a banquet of love and purpose, yet we confess our excuses. We cling to our possessions, hoard what was meant to be shared, and measure our gifts out of fear rather than faith. Forgive our small-heartedness in the face of Your boundless hospitality. Soften our hearts, renew our spirits, and lead us into openhanded generosity. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS **REV. TANYA**

*** GLORIA** **#36**

*** SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** **REV. TANYA**

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.**

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **DEACON**

Generous God, you bless our lives with abundance. Among your gifts is the feast of wisdom and truth you spread before us in your Holy Word. As we listen to the words of Scripture now, tune our ears and hearts to hear your grace and goodness rising even from words that might challenge our understanding. Keep our minds and spirits receptive to the gospel message our hearts long for. Amen.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE **DEACON**

Matthew 22:1-14 (pg. 803)

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

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM ***Total Praise*** (setting by Joel Raney)

SERMON **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.

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 GENEROSITY **REV. TANYA**

*** 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** *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* **#259**

*** 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 celebration of 37 years of marriage for Lee and Beth Harper.

Announcements



Adults Revisiting Confirmation (ARC), Virtual Class
First & Third Thursdays of the Month at 7:30 PM
Nov. 5 Topic: *Heretics We Have Known*

Join Rev. Tanya for *Adults Revisiting Confirmation* (ARC), a virtual adult faith formation course designed for grown-ups who want to revisit and explore some of the faith content traditionally covered in our church's confirmation program for teens. Come as you are and take this opportunity to deepen your connection with God, yourself, and one another. Whether you're revisiting familiar ideas or discovering something new, all are welcome!

Borderlands Journey Trip - November 7–15, 2026

A few members of our Immigrant and Refugee Support Group will soon embark on a journey to the Borderlands of Arizona and Mexico. The delegation includes Amos Ponga-Fou (Delegation Coordinator, Māori Storyteller, and Lay Leader), Andrea Seddon (Educator, Language Specialist, and Lay Leader), and Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen (Pastor, Faith Leader, and Community Advocate).

As they prepare for this journey, we invite you to support them in their mission to listen, learn, and deepen their understanding of the challenges faced by immigrants and refugees. Their goal is to return with a fuller perspective and a deeper capacity to stand alongside individuals and families in our community who may be facing difficult realities.

To follow their journey, learn more about this important mission, or support the delegates, please visit hollistotheborderlands.netlify.app.



Christmas Fair - Saturday, November 21 (Volunteer & Donation Opportunities)

Our beloved Christmas Fair is coming up, and we need your help to make it a joyful success! There are many ways to participate:

Christmas Raffle Baskets
Jenn Millen will be collecting donations for the raffle baskets. She is willing to do the shopping for you! Please send financial donations to her Venmo, @Jennifer-Millen-1, along with details on what you would like the theme to be. Any leftover money will be donated directly to the church.
If you plan to make your own basket, please email admin@hollismontessori.org and we'll send you the details.

Donate Items:

- Angel Loft – new or gently used trinkets, small gifts, and toys for children to purchase for their families.
- Bake Sale – homemade breads, cookies, candies, and treats (please label ingredients).
- New-to-You Room – upscale, gently used home décor, jewelry, and collectibles.
- Silent Auction – provide tickets, services, gift cards, special items of value, new merchandise, special experiences, travel/vacation getaway opportunities, etc.-- be creative!
- Crafts Table – handmade items, art, and seasonal gifts are always welcome.

Volunteer Opportunities:
We're looking for helpers to set up, run tables, welcome visitors, assist Santa, perform music, cook and/or serve lunch, and clean-up afterward. All are welcome, there's something for everyone! Not available on 11/21, that's okay; we have ways to assist days before or after the event, too.

Drop-Off Information:
Donations can be dropped off on Sundays, during church office hours, or placed in the CE box outside the church's front door. For special arrangements, contact Carol Birch or email christmasfair@hollischurch.org.

Let's make this year's Christmas Fair another wonderful time of community, joy, and generosity!



Community Christmas Chorus Rehearsals Begin October 21!

On December 12, the Hollis Town Band and Community Christmas Chorus will present a holiday concert benefitting our church's holiday food basket project.

Come and join the Community Christmas Chorus! The chorus is a short-term commitment (only 8 weeks) for anyone who loves to sing. *No auditions* - all voices needed! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30 - 8:15 pm at Hollis Brookline High School. First rehearsal is Wednesday, October 21, but please join even if you can't make the first gathering. Come when you can!

Halloween Helpers Needed!

Our church has been invited to join the community's Halloween festivities near Monument Square! We're looking for volunteers to hand out candy to trick-or-treaters near the church. Interested in helping us provide a fun and welcoming presence in our community? Please contact ce@hollischurch.org to volunteer!

Blood Drive - November 7, 9:30 - 2:00 pm

Our church will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Saturday, November 7, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm** in Hardy Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to support a lifesaving effort. Give blood for a $10 gift card. Successful donations get free A1C testing. To schedule an appointment, visit redcross.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS and use sponsor code **HollisNH**.

Beautify our MeetingHouse with Flower Dedications



We invite you to celebrate or remember a special person/occasion with flowers during Sunday worship. To participate, sign up on the bulletin board outside of the office and identify which Sunday you would like to bring a floral arrangement or plant, along with details for what you are celebrating or who you are memorializing. Submit your flower dedication request the Tuesday prior to your chosen Sunday (call the office at 603-400-1515 or email admin@hollischurch.org).

Floral arrangements need to be delivered to the church by 9:15 am on Sunday. You may also request a floral arrangement through Wendy Hills Longland at 603-465-3466 at least one week prior to your chosen Sunday.

This is a lovely way to share your memories and celebrations with your church family!