

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

**The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)**  
3 Monument Square Hollis, NH 03049

April 2016

www.HollisChurch.org

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Church of Hollis  
(UCC)**

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*The Chimes* is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and God will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:3-5)



**I AM MAKING  
EVERYTHING  
NEW!**  
REVELATION 21:5

Dear Friends,

**Happy Eastertide!** Each year at Easter, following the Lenten discipline of examining our habits and thereby acknowledging our constant need for God's grace and fresh starts, we recommit ourselves to looking at the world differently, to living differently. We hear the story of how the first disciples confronted what *seemed* impossible and began living into the truth that for God, *nothing* is impossible. And it changed their lives — and world history — forever.

For that reason, every Easter our challenge is renewed to commit ourselves yet again to living more courageously — more deeply from our convictions; less reactively from our fears and anxieties (about loss, or sacrifice, or change, or how others might judge us, etc., etc.).

The **Strategic Planning Task Force** has been working hard to discern and articulate what new thing God is doing with us and through us at the Congregational Church of Hollis. The team has identified several key areas that we're eager to get congregational input and feedback on. So, on April 10 and April 17, there will be **after-church discernment sessions** that everyone is invited to participate in. You may come to one, or to both. We realize that inevitably some won't be able to participate in either, but we really want to encourage the broadest possible participation (it doesn't matter if you're not a member)!

**On April 10**, we will be engaging *questions of welcome* (e.g., How welcoming are we? How can we expand or deepen our welcome of all people?), and *growth* (e.g., What kind of growth is most important to us? Do we want to grow spiritually, or numerically, or both—and are we individually and collectively willing to endure the sacrifices entailed in achieving such growth? Are there other ways we might be growing?)

*(Pastor's message continued on page 3)*

# From the Christian Education Office

## **Confirmation News**

In March, the Confirmation students attended a Shabbat service at the Temple Beth Abraham. They will also be attending worship services at the Unitarian Universalist church on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Confirmation Class packed Easter food boxes at Brookdale on Palm Sunday. They also attended the Maundy Thursday service on March 25<sup>th</sup> and they led the Easter Sunrise Service on Easter morning. After the Sunrise service, many attendees enjoyed a lovely Easter breakfast.

## **Confirmation Calendar**

**April 6 (Wed)** - Class 5-6:15 pm

*Faith Statements*

**April 10 (Sun)** – 10am service - visit

Unitarian-Universalist Church, 58 Lowell St, Nashua

**April 20 (Wed)** – Class 5-6:15 pm

*Our church's history*

*Cemetery/Monument Square*

## **The CE Board Welcomes New Members and Thanks Outgoing Members**

The CE Board would like to extend a warm welcome to its new members: Elka Torpey, Laura McCarthy, and Amy Kucera. A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing members: Tanya Tenkarian, Ruth Kabel, Kathryn Hildreth, Matt Spooner, Peter Spooner, and Joddy Mitchell. We appreciate all of the work you have done and we look forward to another great year!

## **Fourth Grade Communion**

On Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade class ended their Communion Unit by celebrating the Sacrament of Communion in the Maundy Thursday service. They will be joining the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes in their monthly communion celebration. Congratulations to the fourth grade class.



## **Lenten Service Project Thanks**

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class would like to extend their sincere thanks for your support of their Lenten Service Project! Throughout the month of March, they collected many items for the Church World Service's Hygiene Kits program from the congregation.

These donations will be passed along so they can be shipped around the world. These kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. Thank you for supporting the class and making their project a success!

## **Come Celebrate with Us!**

The CE Board would like to remind members of the congregation who have food allergies that **all events hosted by the CE Board, and many other church community events, do offer allergy friendly food options.** Before deciding not to attend an event due to concerns surrounding allergies, please contact the person running the event and ask what will be available. We try our best to be sure all are taken care of and all will enjoy their time at church events.

## **JYG/SYG**

## **Food, Fun & Service**

Both Junior & Senior Youth Groups will be meeting on **Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 - 9 pm** for fun, food and service



We'll create **Make-Your-Own tacos and ice cream**, decorate canvas bags and **prepare CWS education kits**, play some **games** and watch the **Pixar movie *Inside Out***. Sign-up with email to **YouthGroup@hollischurch.org**.



**Work  
Camp**

## Mission Trip News

*Thank you* to all who helped support our **Annual Spaghetti Supper** on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Those of us preparing and serving had a

wonderful time connecting with our church family and their guests. We appreciate the donations, ticket purchasers and placemat sponsors. Please know that we continue to accept donations in support of our trip.

Again this year, we received a beautiful handmade quilt for the Mission Trip **Quilt Raffle**. **Rick Guay** was the lucky winner!

Thanks to all who joined us at our Dough-Raiser at Uno's. *And if you've received this newsletter before our fundraiser, come to Uno's on Amherst Street on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>!* Enjoy an eat-in or take-out meal. A portion of your bill will be donated to the Mission Trip. Just be sure to mention the Mission Trip or bring your coupon from recent Sunday bulletins.

Our next fundraiser will be **help with your spring yardwork & cleanup**. See page 8 for details about how to make this year's yard clean-up a cinch!

We are all looking forward to more fundraising and more events leading up to our amazing week of service in July!

## Workcampers!

For those of you attending the Mission Trip in July, we have an **extremely important meeting** scheduled for **Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** at **6pm** in Hardy Hall. We will be reviewing forms and safety at this meeting. Prior to that meeting, you will be receiving instructions for the online registration format.



*From the Pastor* — cont'd from p. 1

**On April 17**, we will be engaging *questions of community outreach* (e.g., What social issues matter to us for purposes of outreach? How are we defining community and outreach?); *worship* (e.g., What's working and not working in our present worship service pattern? Is there anything we can/should be doing differently to foster more meaningful worship [which, incidentally, will tie into last week's questions of welcome and growth]?); and *Christian Education/faith formation & nurture* (e.g., What's working and not working in our present Christian Education format? What's most important to you in terms of Christian Education provision through our church?).

These conversations are information-gathering sessions for purposes of discernment. We're all going to be listening carefully for what God saying to us and through us — so we need to come with open minds and playful spirits. Change is never easy, and it is very stressful for some people; we understand this. But Scripture and history shows that the Holy Spirit doesn't really enjoy the straightjacket of a closed mind or resistant heart. So, it may be helpful to identify what will be most stressful to *you*, personally, to think about changing — and then dig around a little bit to figure out why. It may be that there's a good reason why you don't want to give up certain ways of being; but it may also be that holding too tightly to certain ways of doing things inhibits a fuller experience of life for yourself and for the wider community. That's what we need to figure out together.

God never invites us to change in ways that diminish ourselves or our experience of love and abundant life; in Christ, we have been assured of resurrection life — new life that manifests in completely unexpected ways . . . ways that seem impossible, inconceivable just now! But Easter is about remembering that for our God, nothing is impossible.

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*



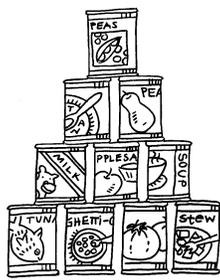
# April 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>Mission Items of the Month:</b>  <b>Canned Goods and Non-Perishable Food Items</b>            for our Mission Trip crew to take to Woonsocket RI food pantry</p>		 <p><b>Canned-Food Drive</b>            for the 2016 Mission Trip</p>			1	2
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship/Sunday School 3	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8:00 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 7pm – CE Board meeting 4	7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting 5	10 am – Staff meeting 9-11:30am – Bible Study class 5-6:15 pm – Confirmation class 6	7 pm – Choir 7 pm – Strategic Planning Task Force 7	5-9 pm - Youth Groups Dinner & Movie Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 8	9
9:00 am – Worship 10 am – Confirmation class visit to Nashua Unitarian-Universalist Church 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:30 am – All-Church Discernment Discussion 6 pm – Mission Trip <b>mandatory</b> meeting 10	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8:00 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting 11	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 12	5 pm – Facilities Committee 13	7 pm – Choir 8:15 pm – Music Board meeting 14	May Chimes deadline 15	16
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:30 am – All-Church Discernment Discussion 2:00 pm – Naomi Circle 17	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8:00 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 7 pm – Trustees meeting 18	7 pm – Church Council meeting 19	5-6:15 pm – Confirmation class 20	7 pm – Strategic Planning Task Force 21	<i>Earth Day</i> See page 7 for kids’ activities for this special day! 22	23
9:00 am –Worship 10:30 am – Worship / NO Sunday School 24	7:15 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 8:00 am – Ladies’ Breakfast at Joey’s Diner 25	26	27	7 pm – Choir 28	29	30

# Mission & Action News

## **April Item of the Month: Canned Goods and Non-Perishables**



for the 2016 Mission Trip to Woonsocket RI. Please support our annual Mission Trip and our workcampers by donating canned goods and non-perishables (no glass containers). All food items may be placed in the shopping cart in front of the office. These will be delivered by the workcampers to food pantries in Woonsocket, RI. Items may be donated until the workcampers leave in July. Thank you!

## **Home Heating Assistance**

We may yet have some cold weather ahead of us. We have funding available for oil, propane and kerosene heating fuel, including that needed for hot water. If you know of anyone needing this assistance, please contact Coleen Brady at cbrady27@comcast.net or 603-598-8049.

## **Ash St. Shelter Dinners**

The church provides a dinner for the Ash St. Shelter on the 2nd Friday of every month. The volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the pastor's office is filled through August! Thank you for your ongoing support!

## **Get Outside, Run/Walk and support Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter!**

Registration is open for the NSKS 23rd Walk and Run for Food and Shelter on Sunday, April 10 Starting at Muldoon Fitness Center at Rivier College, the NSK offers a 10K and 5K run. There is also a 3K Walk and Kids Sprint.

The kids sprint starts at 12:30pm while the 10K and 5K start at 1:00pm. Walkers will start 10 minutes behind the runners at 1:10pm. Register at nsks.org



## **Actions by Mission & Action**

- ✓ Donation to the youth group project of creating Easter baskets for the children at the Nashua Soup Kitchen Shelters
- ✓ Donation to Bridges of Nashua and Milford who assist and shelter the victims of domestic and sexual abuse
- ✓ Donation to St John Neumann Food Pantry who serves the community of Nashua with food and household items
- ✓ Our donation of \$500 to Save the Children was matched X10 increasing it to \$5,000!

## **March Item of the Month Update Medical and Dental Supplies for Global Brigades**

The supplies are accumulating in preparation for Mandy Kabel's brigade to Honduras in May. Thank you for supporting Mandy and this effort!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Our Church Records**

### **Deaths ~ March 13, 2016**

Barbara S. Gilchrest at age 102

### **Memorial Gifts**

*In memory of Helen Robinson by:*

Lydia Schellenberg

Thelma Pollard

Susan and William Gorham

Marilyn Wehrle

*In memory of Barbara Gilchrest by:*

Ethel Hills

Eileen Widner

Virginia Holt

Lydia Schellenberg

Debby Fink

Christa Nee

Addie and Roger Saunders

# Christmas Fair News



## Let's Get a Head Start on our 2016 Fair!

### New ideas for this year's fair:

- Opportunity for fellowship craft making evenings to start soon
- More Christmas Crafts/decorations for sale
- Change the hours of the fair to begin at an earlier time
- Have pictures with Santa
- Have silent auction to go along with basket raffle

### What and WHO we need now:

- People to head up Basket Raffle/Silent Auction
- People to head up Ladies Fashion Boutique
- Donations for Ladies Fashion Boutique – as you store your winter clothing, set aside high end or designer purses, accessories, and clothing for our popular boutique!
- More people to work on crafts...and more ideas for craft items to make
- Clear plastic storage bins

For more information, to offer suggestions, or to volunteer in one of the positions above, contact Susan Adams at [scadams@charter.net](mailto:scadams@charter.net), or Dee Wagner at [billdee.wagner159@gmail.com](mailto:billdee.wagner159@gmail.com).



## Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle's April meeting will be two-fold: a **book review** led by Grace Calileo and the **assembling of our Church World Service hygiene kits**. Grace will review and facilitate a discussion of *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. The book's focus is the modern experience of mortality – what it's like to be a creature who ages and dies – and the impact of modern medicine, economics, politics, and our health care system on the reality of our mortality.

The group will meet in Emerson Chapel at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 17. All women of the church are most welcome!

## Spring Gathering of UCC Women



### *Women's Roles in Social Justice Issues*

UCC Women of New Hampshire will be joining together on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in Laconia, NH for an exciting day of discussions about women's roles in social justice issues. The program begins at 9:30 am with registration and coffee. Keynote speaker Leanne Tigert's topic will be "*What Is Your Passion?*" In the afternoon there will be discussion groups on various social issues including the addiction crisis and the refugee situation.

Total cost including lunch is \$12. Registration due by April 8. Call Dot Pitman for more info 465-7672.

*Dot would love to have a car full of Hollis women to ride with her!*

## From the Church Office

A BIG Thank You to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Debbe Shipman, and Joyce Toli for collating, sorting and labelling your March *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.

# Earth Day fun for Kids Only...

## SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



### What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

### What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.



## A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

*Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



The 5 1 18 20 8 is 20 8 5 12 15 18 4 19, and  
5 22 5 18 25 20 8 9 14 7 9 14 9 20, the  
23 15 18 12 4, and 1 12 12 23 8 15 12 9 22 5  
9 14 9 20 16 19 1 12 13 24:1, NIV

Answer: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV

The Congregational Church of Hollis  
(United Church of Christ)  
3 Monument Square  
Hollis NH 03049

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Help the 2016 Mission Trip Crew get to Woonsocket, RI...**

## **Spring Yardwork & Cleanup**

The Mission Trip Campers are providing **yard cleanup on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, to anybody who is interested (first come, first served.) Campers will be working two shifts that day: 9:00am-11:30am, and 1:00pm-3:30pm.

We will rake, pick up, and haul yard debris for you. If you have large tree limbs down, let us know and we will try to make sure the right people and tools are available for you. Reserve your slot early — they are filling up!

Contact: Matt Kopser - matt@kopser.net - (603)-325-5746

### **Special Request Yard Services**

If you would like to take advantage of the yardwork offered but are unable to host a crew on May 14<sup>th</sup>, please let us know if you'd like to set up a time on a different day, and we'll try to accommodate you. Also, we have access to trucks with trailers to haul brush and yard waste to the stump dump – or to take large items to the transfer station. If you have a pile (or if you'd like to create a pile) of yard debris and have it hauled off, let us know and we'll try to arrange a time that works for you.

Contact: Matt Kopser - matt@kopser.net - (603)-325-5746



**Yard Work  
Help Available**