

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

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

June, July, August 2016

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LIV, No. 6



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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.



*We welcome summer and the glorious blessing of light. We are rich with light; we are loved by the sun. Let us empty our hearts into the brilliance. Let us pour our darkness into the glorious, forgiving light. For this loving abundance let us give thanks and offer our joy.*

Amen.

~ Michael Leunig

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite poet/cartoonist/theologian/cultural commentators is the Australian, Michael Leunig. Although we're still only approaching summer at this writing, this issue of *The Chimes* covers the three months of June, July, and August, so the poem seemed appropriate. In much of his work, he masterfully speaks simultaneously on a straightforward, experiential level and on a profound, theological plane. His books can be hard to find, but are well worth the search!

As we head into the more leisurely days of summer, where we have the opportunity to indulge in God's self-revelation to us in the glorious outdoors, I encourage you to take note of those moments when you feel grateful for the abundance of light in your life. Make note of them (i.e., literally write it down: where you were, what you were thinking!) because sometimes when life feels pinched and dimly-lit, it can be helpful to be called back to moments of not-so-long-ago when we lavished in the light.

I'm looking forward to a less-intense rhythm myself! **Summer Sundays** will have **one service, which will start at 9:30 a.m.** as of Memorial Day Weekend (please note the time change, which the Deacons approved in response to multiple requests for a slightly later start time). We will use a simple form of worship, and for those of you who have missed choosing your favorite hymn, you should come as often as you can on summer Sundays—because every week, we'll have at least one "hymn favorite" being sung!

On **June 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will welcome nine young people who will be making **Confirmation of Faith** in a special service. It's always a moving and memorable moment for these young people and their families, so please try to be present to support and encourage them in their ongoing faith journey!

(Image courtesy of Michael Leunig) —Pastor's message continued on page 5

# From the Christian Education Office

## Confirmation News

**Confirmation Sunday will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 a.m. service.** Please join us on Confirmation Sunday when we welcome the following members of the Confirmation class into full church membership.

Chase Adams	Will Morrissey
Blake Batson	Lilly Ogren
Nicholas Bird	Eli Rasmussen
Austin Etchells	Morgan Sattler
Charlotte Gehan	

Many thanks also go to Rev. Tanya, Rick Guay, Robbin Dunn, Valerie Guay, and Carol Birch who have served so faithfully as class mentors, attending class sessions, and participating in other activities.

*Congratulations Confirmands!*

## **NEW Confirmation Program begins in September!**

The Christian Education Board has decided that, in order to strengthen the Confirmation program of our church, beginning next year (2016-2017), we will undertake **a new approach that spreads the curriculum over three years, starting in 7th grade.** Sunday School teaching will continue for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades with 7th and 8th grades serving as pre-Confirmation class, and 9th grade being the year when final Confirmation instruction takes place, and students may choose to become confirmed in Christian faith.

## **Youth Group – Save the Dates!**

On Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the **Senior Youth Group** will wrap up with a **kayaking/canoeing outing.**



The **Junior Youth Group** will conclude with a **Family Pool Party on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** from 5-7 pm at the Hildreths' home (15 Broad St).

Details about both events will follow via emails.

## **Sunday School Wrap-Up**

We have watched another joyous year of Sunday School come to a close. It has been an eventful year full of spiritual growth and joy. All along the way we have welcomed new children and new teachers to our Sunday School. Thank you to all who contributed and have participated as we look forward to another great year to come.

This year's **children's offering** will be donated to **Build Africa**, a UK based organization that builds schools and assists with issues related to education and poverty in Kenya and Uganda. The children raised \$315.47 this year. Thank



you for helping so that children in Africa can have better educational opportunities.

## **Vacation Bible School is Coming Soon**

Please mark your calendars for **July 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (Monday-Thursday)** from 9:00 to 11:30, and plan to have your children join us as we spend the week reading and learning the stories of Jesus through parables.

Children age four through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend as campers, and we're looking for older kids to assist as well. Please register soon as we have a limited number of openings. Registration form on page 7 or register online today! Simply go to our Church website, [hollischurch.org](http://hollischurch.org), where you will find the registration form.



### ***Volunteers needed!***

If you or an older child are willing to volunteer, please contact Pat Harris at [patharris.hollis@gmail.com](mailto:patharris.hollis@gmail.com).

## Coming at Summer's End...



### WELCOME BACK!

Let's kick off the new school year with an

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>  
starting at 2 p.m.

We will say goodbye to summer and hello to a new school year. Join us at the Hollis Congregational Church for an open house ice cream social. You and your friends are welcome to create your favorite sundae.

*Everyone is Welcome!*

## Rally Day and the All-Church Picnic

*Save the date!* Sunday, September 11, 2016

Rally Day marks the beginning of the new Sunday School year. We will offer Sunday School classes for **Pre-K through 8th grade** during the 10:30 services.

## We Appreciate Our Teachers!!

Thank you for responding to God's call to serve. We appreciate all the time, effort, and dedication you've given to enrich the lives of our precious children throughout the school year. Thank You!!

**Nursery** - Amy Kellner, Kim Verrecchia, Jen Squires, Claire Seddon, Caroline Daigle, Liz Gilbert, Laura McCarthy, Allison D'Ambrosio

**Pre K and K** - Sarah Burns, Kim Burton, Maddie Kuchta, Emily Babcock, Eli Rasmussen, and Amy Kucera

**1<sup>st</sup> grade** - Jess Scapicchio, Charlotte Gehan, Morgan Wright, and Emily Mitchell

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade** - Tanya Tenkarian, Joddy Mitchell, Amy Kucera and Becky Stelmack

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade** - Kathryn Hildreth, Finny Rasmussen, and Daniel Fallon

**4<sup>th</sup> grade** - Kristen Berry

**5<sup>th</sup> grade** - Peter Spooner and Emily Spooner

**6<sup>th</sup> grade** - Martha Daigle, Chris Adams, Michelle Gehan, and Bobby Drouin

**Substitutes** - Pat Harris and Shirleen Duquette

## Teacher Appreciation & Anticipation Gathering

On Sunday, May 15th, members of the CE board and Sunday School teachers, past and present, gathered at Rev. Tanya's home to discuss celebrations and struggles of this past school year. Snacks and sweet treats were enjoyed while productive conversations were had regarding how we could make this upcoming school year great! The same group plans to meet again in early November to discuss how the school year is progressing and to determine what support teachers would like in order to better meet the needs of our Sunday School children.

Thank you to all who attended and to all who contributed snacks and beverages. Also, much thanks to Pat Harris who provided a door prize and "signing bonuses" for those who committed to the very important job of teaching the youth of our church. We look forward to our next gathering in November!

## 2016 Woonsocket RI Mission Trip News

### Canned Goods Collection:

We continue to collect canned goods to bring with us to Woonsocket, RI.

Please leave any donations on the counter in the

church office. Remember to check those expiration

dates ... travel to Woonsocket isn't until late July. Thank you for your continued support.



## Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will meet for their end-of-the-year Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, June 5, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Ginny Brooks, 12 Mendelssohn Drive, Hollis. Come with your ideas for planning our programs for next year!

# June 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Mission Items of the Month ~ June, July &amp; August (thru Sunday, Aug 7):</b> <b>School Supplies</b> for the Nashua Soup Kitchen's <i>Backpacks for Back to School</i> Project 24-count boxes of Crayola crayons   New backpacks for boys & girls Handheld Pencil Sharpeners   Boxes of #2 pencils (12 or 24 count) Colored pencils (bright or bold)   Glue Sticks   8GB flash drives						
						
			1	2	3	4
<b>Confirmation Sunday</b> 9:30 am – Communion Worship 1:00 p.m. – Naomi Circle Potluck Luncheon at Ginny Brooks' home 3:30 pm – Granville OH Angel Choir concert 4pm – Choir party at Diane Fallier's home   5	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's Diner 7 pm – CE Board meeting   6	7pm – Stewardship Board meeting   7	5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting   8	9	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter   10	11
9:30 am – Worship   12	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's Diner   13	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting   14	15	16	17	Senior Youth Group Year-kayak/canoe outing   18
<b>Father's Day</b> 9:30 am –Worship <i>at Rocky Pond</i> (weather permitting)   19	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 am – Ladies' Breakfast at Joey's Diner 7 pm – Trustees meeting   20	7 pm – Church Council meeting   21	22	23	24	25
9:30 am – Worship 2-4 pm <b>Strawberry Festival</b> - town common 5-7pm – JYG Pool Party at the Hildreths' home   26	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast 8 am – Ladies' Breakfast   27	28	29	30		
<b>July 2016</b> July 3 – Communion Worship at 9:30 am July 10 – Worship at 9:30 am July 17 – Worship at 9:30 am July 18-21 – Vacation Bible School July 24 – Worship at 9:30 am July 24-30 - Mission Trip to Woonsocket, RI	<b>August 2016</b> August 7 – Communion Worship at 9:30 am August 14 – Worship at 9:30 am August 15 – September <i>Chimes</i> deadline August 21 – Worship at 9:30 am Mon, Aug 22 – Deacons meeting at 7:15 pm August 28 – Worship at 9:30 am Teacher Training at 10:30 am (tentative) Mon, Aug 29 – CE Board meeting at 7 pm (tentative) Wed, Aug 31 – Ice Cream Social at 2 pm4		<b>September 2016</b> <b>Church Boards resume regular meeting schedule</b> Thurs, Sept 1 – Teacher Training at 7 pm (tentative) Sept 4 – Communion Worship at 9:30 am Sept. 11 – <b>Rally Day &amp; Picnic</b> - Sunday School begins Worship at 9 am / Worship and Church School at 10:30 am Sept. 18– 9 am Worship; 10:30 Worship/Sunday School Sept. 25 – 9 am Worship; 10:30 Worship/Sunday School			

*From the Pastor* — continued from p. 1

And on **June 19<sup>th</sup>** (also known as Father's Day), I'm very excited about our first annual **outdoor worship service at Rocky Pond**. It will start at our normal 9:30 a.m. summer start time. We're making solid plans, but acknowledge up-front that this will be a year for learning how to make it go well for years to come! We'll have chairs already there for seating. Ideally, people will carpool over to the Scout Lot (we'll have maps available in the church office and in the bulletin on the first two Sundays of June) and/or park and walk up from the wider parts of Rocky Pond Road so that there's space for those who may be less physically able to make the ¼+-mile trek into the site. And, we're investigating the need and possibilities for spraying for ticks prior to our arrival — obviously, given our location and the season, it makes sense for people to take their own precautions prior to coming, but we'll do our part on behalf of the group as well.

I'm excited about **VBS**, happening the week of **July 18-22<sup>nd</sup>**; if you're able to get involved even just for a day or two, I promise you won't regret it—and you will be helping to make big difference in the life of the children who participate!

On **July 24<sup>th</sup>**, we're going to have a special ceremony of **blessing and commissioning** over the young people and adults departing for Woonsocket, R.I. for the **annual Mission Trip**, at the end of our worship service (so, around 10:30 a.m.). Do try to come and bless them on their way—these mission trips are such life-changing experiences for so many people!

Finally, if you haven't already completed the **Strategic Planning Task Force's questionnaire**, please take a moment to do so with the one that's enclosed in this *Chimes*. We really want as much input as possible and are grateful for your participation. **Return the completed questionnaire to the church by the end of June.**

May God bless your summer with light and life, and may your light and your life be a blessing to all those you engage with in the months to come!

Yours in faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

**Summer Worship Schedule continues through Labor Day weekend**, with a single worship service at **9:30 a.m. for the summer months**. Our two-service schedule resumes on Rally Day, September 11, with worship at 9:00 am and worship/church school at 10:30 am.

### Help Needed for Summer Fellowship

Are you willing to provide punch & cookies after worship one Sunday this summer? Contact Carol Birch (465-7622 or birchew@yahoo.com) or Kristen Berry (465-7447 or kbellep@aol.com) if you can take a Sunday in July or August!

### Calling All Musicians!



Adults and young people, individuals and groups — all are encouraged to **sign up to provide music for summer worship services**. There are plenty of opportunities available on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Contact Kirsten Szczeszynski with questions: 465-2324 or kirsten@electriceng.com.

### Financial Update:

	<u>As of May 15</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>
2016 Pledges	\$ 92,236	\$ 248,141
Loose Offering	\$ 11,542	\$ 19,000
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 108,957	\$ 347,128

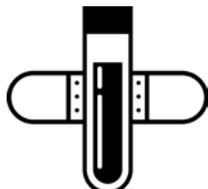
### Away this Summer?

Although many of church family spend time away from home pursuing summer activities, our church in Hollis is open all year around and the church's expenses do not take a vacation. **Please make plans to keep your pledge up to date throughout the summer months** even when you can't attend, by either using your bank's bill pay service or mailing in your offerings. Many thanks, and enjoy your summer holidays.



# Mission & Action News

## Blood Drives



**BLOOD  
DRIVE**

There is a greater than usual need for blood at this time of year. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Most people are eligible to give blood. An appointment is recommended but drop-ins at blood drives are also welcome. **The next blood drive that our church is hosting is on October 22.** If you would like to donate blood before fall, here is a partial list of nearby locations. For

more information visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-red-cross.

- May 31: Amherst Fire Dept., Amherst
- June 1: Clark-Wilkins Elementary School, Amherst
- June 2: The Elks Lodge, Nashua
- June 4: St. John XXIII, Nashua
- June 7: Parish of the Resurrection, Nashua
- June 9: VFW Post 4368, Milford
- June 16: The Elks Lodge, Nashua
- June 20: St. Joseph Hospital, Nashua

## Ash St. Shelter Dinners

The sign-up sheet is filled through the summer months! Many thanks to those who have prepared dinners for the Ash St. Shelter in the past and to those who volunteered to prepare meals for the summer months. The residents are always grateful!

## May M&A Donations

- Hillsborough County Jail program - Thresholds and Decisions
- Bridges Nashua and Milford Agencies which help victims of domestic violence
- Marguerite's Place - a transitional home for women and children in crisis
- Shipping to send 93 hygiene kits and 32 school kits to Church World Service. Kits were prepared by the 5th grade, Jr. Youth Group and Women's Fellowship

## Items of the Month Updates

**May:** Thank you for your generous donations of hygiene items for the Nashua Children's Home during the month of May!

**April: Donations of canned goods** and non-perishables (no glass containers) *are still welcome* until the Mission Trip workcampers leave in July. 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. Thank you!

# Christmas Fair



**Craft workshops** coming this summer! Check weekly bulletins for updates on times and locations.

## We need your help!

Sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the pastor's office. No matter what your talents may be, we can find an area to put them to use! ☺

## Boutique items & Books

Please keep us in mind when you are cleaning out your closets! We are looking for ladies' high end and designer clothing, accessories, and purses. We'll also be looking for books and DVDs for our Book Room.

**Questions?** Please contact Sue Adams at [scadams@charter.net](mailto:scadams@charter.net) or Dee Wagner at [billdee.wagner159@gmail.com](mailto:billdee.wagner159@gmail.com)

## Our Church Records

**Baptism** – May 29, 2016

Caroline Lynn D'Ambrosio,  
daughter of Daniel and Allison  
D'Ambrosio

## Memorial Gifts

*In memory of Barbara Gilchrest by:*  
The Wednesday Night Rug Hookers

## From the Church Office

A BIG *Thank You* goes Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Debbe Shipman, and Joyce Toli, who sorted, labeled, and collated the May *Chimes*. Your steadfastness is deeply appreciated!

NAME (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

CLASS

Vacation Bible School

# Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

July 18-21, 2016

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC



Time: 9:00-11:30 A.M.

Who: Children age 4 through Grade 6 (as of Sept 2016)

Program: Worship, music, crafts, drama, games, dance, friends, snacks

Registration: **Please register by June 30.**

### Vacation Bible School Registration 2016

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (Fall 2016) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Concerns: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Vacation Bible School (VBS) leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor designated above for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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Hollis, NH 03049

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## June-July-August Items of the Month: Support for “Backpacks for Back to School”

During the summer months, please show your support for the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter’s Backpack program – specifically, we are looking for donations of the following items:



- boxes of 24 count Crayola crayons
- boxes of colored pencils (bright or bold)
- #2 pencils in the 12 or 24 count
- small handheld pencil sharpeners
- glue sticks
- 8 Gbyte flash drives



Donations can be placed in the cart near the office **through Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**.

And, certainly, new backpacks for boys and girls of all ages, K - grade 12, are also most welcome. There are other items you can donate too — A complete list of items is available at [nksk.org](http://nksk.org) if you are interested.



**Important Note:**

Donations will need to be dropped off at the church **no later than Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**, so that the NSKS staff and volunteers can properly fill and distribute the backpacks in time for the start of the school year.

Thank you!