

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES



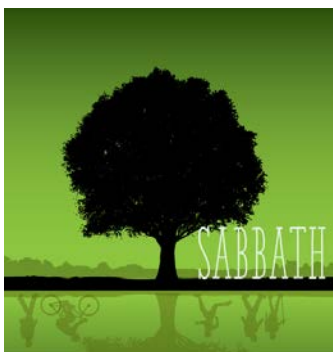
ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1

Worship will be offered at two times:

Noon and 7:00 p.m.

In the Wallace Chapel

Join us for ancient ritual and new insight as we begin
the journey of Lent.



THE SABBATH

AN INTEGRATED SERIES OF LENTEN SERMONS AND SPIRITUALITY GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Jesus taught that the Sabbath was made for people, and yet the commandment to remember the Sabbath day for rest may be the commandment that is least practiced by Christians in our time and place. In the season of Lent, we will explore the concept of Sabbath for our time. Sabbath is God's gift for all who are weary of work, busy schedules, demands, or worry.

- Sunday, March 5 Sabbath Remembers. *Exodus 20:8-11*
- Sunday, March 12 Sabbath Restores. *Psalms 23*
- Sunday, March 19 Sabbath is Quiet. *Mark 6:30-32*
- Sunday, March 26 Sabbath is Prayerful. Special Music Sunday.
- Sunday, April 2 Sabbath is Noisy. *1 Kings 19*
- Palm Sunday, April 9 Sabbath is Just. *Isaiah 56:1-7*

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY GROUPS BEGIN MARCH 7



This year's Lenten Spirituality Groups will continue the exploration of Sabbath with small group discussions based on two books:

The Sabbath, by Abraham Joshua Heschel
Keeping the Sabbath Wholly, by Marva Dawn

Groups will meet on:

Tuesday mornings, March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.,
Sunday evenings, March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

If you would like to organize a discussion group at a new time, we will support you! Please contact Rev. Judy Swahnberg: judy@hillschurch.org (or call the church office) to join a group or start a new one, or to obtain books from the church.

RECOMMENDED READING ON THE SABBATH

Copies of the following books are available at the church.

The Sabbath, by Abraham Joshua Heschel

As a rabbi and a professor, Heschel is an important voice of the 20th century. This book is a beautifully written account that combines scholarship of the scriptures and Jewish tradition with personal reflection.

Keeping the Sabbath Wholly, by Marva Dawn

Dawn offers a Christian theology that builds on the work of Abraham Heschel. This book organizes reflections around the themes of ceasing, resting, embracing, and feasting.

Sabbath in the Suburbs, by MaryAnn Mckibben Dana

Dana is a minister who writes about her family's journey to keep a Sabbath day over the course of a year. With active children and two working parents, she is honest about the successes, mistakes, and difficulties of spiritual practice. Published in 2012, this book is recognizable.

Sabbath as Resistance, by Walter Brueggemann

A great scholar of the Hebrew Scriptures, Brueggemann's book is rooted in the texts that describe the importance of Sabbath for the Hebrew people following the Exodus. He begins to draw connections to contemporary life as well.

UPDATE ON SEARCH FOR SETTLED ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The formation of a Search and Call Committee for a settled Associate Minister of Youth and Family Ministry is proceeding. Thanks to the response from the congregation, many good nominations have been received. The selection of a representative committee is underway. When all members have been identified, the committee will be introduced to the congregation.

BIBLE AND THE NEWS

A Weekly Study with Rev. Matt Wooster

Wednesdays, through April, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Church Library

The goal of this hour is to bring the scriptures into dialogue with the news of the world and the news of our lives. Each week is a stand-alone discussion of the Biblical passage to be read at an upcoming worship service. Come every week or drop in when you can.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Saturday, March 18

All-Church Game Night!

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

In the Assembly Room



Whether you are 5 or 95 – Come Get Your Game On!

Game Night is lots of fun.

Unplug and connect with family and friends or meet new people.

Bring a board game. Play the team games.

Test your trivia skills. Share a potluck dinner.

Potluck suggestions:

A-L: Entrée

M-Z: Salad or Dessert

Hosted by Parish Life and Children's Ministry.

RSVP to Sally Tomasetti – sallyt@hillschurch.org.

WANT TO MEET FOR COFFEE?

We do too! We are looking for a few folks to do some small tasks on Sunday mornings....for the second, third or fourth Sundays of the month. You may do any of the jobs – for any or all of the weeks.

You can:

- Set Up (before church): Cut up cakes and set the main table – 2-3 folks
- Serve: Pour the coffee, tea, etc. (including apple juice and cookies for the kids table) – 4-5 folks
- Clean Up: Put the serving table and kitchen back as it was – 2 folks



You may go to Sign Up Genius or you may email me at akoteen@gmail.com or call me at [617-669-6512](tel:617-669-6512). Training is available for any job, so don't let "never having done this" hold you back. You'll love it!!

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY IS MARCH 26

On Sunday morning, March 26, 2017, our Chancel Choir and soloists will be joined by a full orchestra to present the magnificent oratorio “The Seven Last Words of Christ” by Théodore Dubois. Presentations such as this are made possible through our Special Music Fund. If you would like to make a donation to the Special Music Fund in *memory* of, or in *honor* of, a loved one or loved ones please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Tuesday, March 21. Donations should be payable to the *Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*. (Please note “Special Music Fund” on your check.) A list of names in honor/memory will be included in the Sunday, March 26, Order of Worship .

Name(s) as you want them to appear in the Order of Worship

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Given by: -----

Daytime phone number: -----

In memory or honor of (circle one): -----

CHILDREN’S BOOK COLLECTION



The church is collecting children’s books throughout the month of February for the benefit of The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center. Collection bins will be inside the church entrances for your new and gently used children’s books. At the end of February, all books collected will be donated to The Grow Clinic – where they will be given to children who are either receiving treatments at the Clinic – or waiting for a sibling who is in treatment.

This picture was taken after our donation last year. For more information about the Clinic, visit www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm. Questions? Contact Donna McCabe dmccabe4@comcast.net

NEW OR GENTLY USED PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

One of our Family Promise Guests will be starting a new job next week and is in need of professional clothing. We are looking for any new or gently used:

- Blouses, blazers, sweaters: size L to XL
- Pants: size 13-14
- Dresses: size L
- Dress boots: size 8.5 wide



- Dress flats: size 8.5 W

Please contact Marbo Hansen (marbo@hansenlink.com) or Tricia Frank (pdfrank@comcast.com) if you can help. Our next Family Promise Network hosting week begins Sunday, May 14. Thank you. HELP EDUCATE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE – BE A CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER THIS SPRING!

We still need a few more willing volunteers to help us fill out the balance of this program year's church school teacher calendar. Please look at the list of open positions below, and then contact Sally Tomasetti (sallyt@hillschurch.org) if you are able to help.

March:

Shepherd-3 needed (chaperone)
 Brains and Games (activity leader)
 Lead teacher – Bible study Grades 5/6

May:

Preschool teacher
 Brains and Games (activity leader)
 Shepherd (chaperone)
 Lead teacher – Bible Study Grades 5/6

To the Congregation of the Hills Church –

Please consider this an invitation for all to stop by the Reception Room in the Parish House. Over the past six months a small group has worked to refurbish this wonderful space, and the final installation was the week before Christmas.

Out of a love for the church and a desire to support its beautification from its members, the Hills Church has been blessed with many gifts over the years in the form of antiques and artwork. The Committee's goal has been to honor these past gifts and incorporate them into the room, along with new furniture, carpet and window treatments.

The Committee is grateful for this opportunity to serve the congregation of the Hills Church. We are grateful for the trust and support which was given by so many as well as the enthusiastic response upon its completion. Many thanks to the Congregation, Stewards Support Board, Property Ministry Team, Church Council, Church Staff and Clergy for support and patience. A special note of thanks is extended to Cynthia Gordan for her time and assistance throughout this entire project.

It is the hope of the Reception Room Renovation Committee that the newly redecorated room provides a warm, inviting and welcoming setting for fellowship in the years to come.

The Reception Room Renovation Committee
 Myralee Wilson, Chair, Becky Epstein, Robin Swanberg

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEEDS KNITTERS!

As we welcome with joy the many new babies in our midst, we need to restock our supply of baptismal blankets. These blankets are given as a symbol of the care and love that we as a congregation promise to these new members of our church family. Women's Ministry will be happy to provide you with yarn and a pattern, if you'd like to knit one (or more!) of these blankets. Contact Laurie Otten at laurieotten50@gmail.com.



BEING A HILLS CHURCH GREETER IS SURE TO PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!

Join a Greeter Ministry Team and greet regularly – or just once a year! It’s up to you!

As a greeter, you can help us set the tone for worship, as a place where all are warmly received. The task involves being at one of the doors by 9:40 a.m., with a name tag and a welcoming smile – ready to offer

handshakes and greetings to members and visitors arriving for worship. We especially LOVE children and youth greeters. Your responsibilities end when the worship hour begins.

If you would like to join the Greeting Ministry, please contact Becky Williams (williams.becky.m@gmail.com) or Jeff Thomas (mr_jpt@hotmail.com)

USHERING IS A GREAT WAY TO SERVE YOUR CHURCH

The mission of the Ushering Committee is to provide a staff of ushers who serve and support the Congregation before, during and after the worship service each week. To paraphrase a quote from Rev. Lacy Scott, “An usher ... is so much more than a seat finder. They are the meeters and greeters to our service ... the people who meet our guests and our members alike on a person-to-person basis when they first arrive at church. They are the ones whose smiles and warm welcomes help to set the tone for our worship.” To volunteer to usher at an upcoming service, please [CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK](#) or contact Cindy Jaczko – cindy@jaczko.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE CELEBRATION OR MEMORIAL FLOWERS THIS YEAR?

If you would like to make a Chancel Flower dedication this year, please fill out the form below and send it with a check, in the amount of \$75.00 payable to “Wellesley Hills Congregational Church,” to the church office. (Please write Celebration or Memorial Flowers in the memo section of your check.)

I would like to dedicate Chancel Flowers on Sunday, _____, 2017.

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Special requests and/or comments, e.g., I would like my Chancel flower dedication to read: “In loving memory of _____ . From _____ .”

Adult Education at the Hills Church – Winter 2017

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

A CONTEXT TO BETTER ENJOY THE UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC

John Finney, M.M., Director of Music Hills Church

11:30 am – Reception Room

Join John Finney to learn about “The Seven Last Words of Christ” by Théodore Dubois, which will be performed by the Chancel Choir during the Sunday worship service on March 26. We will explore the historical context as well as the sumptuous sonorities of this rarely-heard masterpiece.

Co-sponsored with the Music Ministry Team.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY AT THE GARDNER MUSEUM – AND LUNCH TOO!

10:15 am to 2:30 pm

Join Hills Church members for a private tour and lunch at one of Boston’s favorite museums, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. We will learn about the indomitable Mrs. Gardner; her creation of this intimate museum; and her interest in religion and spirituality. Our tour will include religious works of art from different cultures and periods displayed in a unique way. We will dine at the Café starting at 11:15 in the new wing and start our tour at 12:30.

Register in advance through the Church Office. Cost, including lunch, will be \$35. We will carpool and leave the Church parking lot at 10:15.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

THE CONVERSATION PROJECT

A WORKSHOP TO GET US STARTED TALKING ABOUT DYING

Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, Advisor to Faith Communities, The Conversation Project

11:45 am to 1:15 pm – Reception Room (lunch and childcare provided)

The Conversation Project’s goal is to have everyone’s wishes for care through the end of life expressed and respected. This workshop, led by the Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, will introduce participants to The Starter Kit. Through guided reflection and small group sharing, The Starter Kit will support and motivate you to have a values-based, relationship-building conversation about an experience that touches us all. Don’t wait until it’s too late.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

FROM THE LAST GOSPEL TO THE LAST WORD: JOHN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

*Adam Isbitsky, M.Div. candidate, Andover Newton Theological School,
Seminar Hills Church*

Rev. Pashington Obeng, M.Th., Ph.D., Associate Minister, Hills Church

11:30 am – Reception Room

There are several books in the New Testament that seem to claim authorship by one or more men named John. The Gospel of John is distinctive in style and content from the other Gospels and deserves special consideration. We will compare it generally to the Synoptic Gospels and then look at specific passages unique to John. Additionally, the short letters 1, 2, and 3 John will be considered as they relate to John’s Gospel and to Paul’s letters. Finally, we will take a short trip through Revelation, which also bears the name John and holds a unique place in the biblical canon. Please remember to bring your Bible.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Planning for Summer?



Think Big Adventure V.B.S!
The church's summer camp
Registration Is Now Open
Join us for beginning of summer fun!
June 26- June 30
9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
For children entering grades 1-6
Register at hillschurch.org



Cost:
\$100.00 first camper - \$75.00 siblings
For more information
Sallyt@hillschurch.org



YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

LENTEN “WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS”

6:00-8:00 p.m. during Lent

Sure it's a weeknight, but you have to eat, right? For the season of Lent, we're going to have a different workshop each Wednesday. Come for dinner at 6:00, followed by some hangout and discussion time.

March 1	Ash Wednesday - Dinner at 6, Service at 7
March 8	Caring for Yourself: Exploring Sabbath
March 15	Caring for Yourself: Healthy Relationships
March 22	Caring for Your Friends: Relationship Skills
March 29	Caring for Others: Bullying and Bystander Responsibility
April 5	Caring for Others: Footwashing, Justice, and Other Weird Churchy Things

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: MARCH 10-11

Who: Confirmation Class

Where: Prindle Pond

What: Join with the confirmation classes of churches in Massachusetts and New England. This year's theme: “Not That Kind of Christian: Re-articulating Faith for a New Generation.” The mainstream view of Christianity among young people is not very favorable. Many youth and young adults see Christians as hypocritical, judgmental, anti-gay, and out of touch with reality. At our Retreat, we will address some of those stereotypes head on about what it means in our setting to be a follower of Jesus.

COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK: HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

APRIL 28-30

Who: Grades 7-12

Where: Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod

What: Hills Church Olympics, campfires, great food, and music

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, February 23

9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, February 24

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, February 25

SUNDAY, February 26

9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study Group

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Community Hour

11:30 a.m. Adult Ed. Program - (John Finney - Context for this spring's Special Music Sunday)

11:30 a.m. Children's Choir

4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, February 27

7:00 p.m. Pastor-Parish Relations

TUESDAY, February 28

WEDNESDAY, March 1 - Ash Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Bible and the News

12:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service

8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 2

9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. Staff Luncheon

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

Exodus 24:12-18

Matthew 17:1-9

SAVE THE DATE

The next Lay-led Worship Service is:

Wednesday, March 15

Dinner is at 6:00 p.m.

The Worship Service begins at 7:00

HILLS CHURCH PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Need to spread the word about an activity or event?

Email your notice to Cynthia Gordan, Church Administrator,
at cynthia@hillschurch.org, or call the Church Office at 781-235-4424.

Weekly Newsletters

Sunday Orders of Worship

Submissions are due Fridays by 5:00 p.m. Submissions are due Monday by 5:00 p.m.