

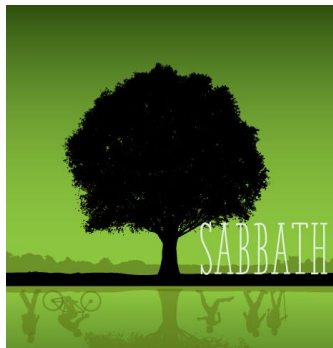
# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 25, March 9, 2017

[www.hillschurch.org](http://www.hillschurch.org)

## OPPORTUNITIES



### 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.

- **This Sunday, March 12** Sabbath Restores. *Psalm 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 Hungry. *1 Kings 19:1-8*
- **Palm Sunday, April 9** Sabbath is Just. *Isaiah 56:1-7*

## LENTEN SPIRITUALITY GROUPS



This year's Lenten Spirituality Groups are also exploring the concept of Sabbath, with small group discussions based on two books:

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

Groups are meeting on Tuesday mornings, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. – and on Sunday evenings, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Please contact Rev. Judy Swahnberg: [judy@hillschurch.org](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

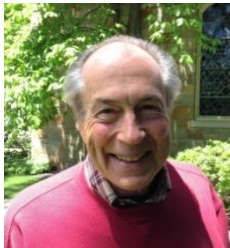
A great scholar of the Hebrew Scriptures, Brueggemann's book is rooted in the texts that describe the importance of Sabbath for the Hebrew people following the Exodus. He begins to draw connections to contemporary life as well.

### **RUMMAGE SALE TOWN HALL MEETING – RIGHT AFTER THIS SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE**

All are invited to participate in a brief, but important, discussion immediately following this Sunday's Worship Service.

This meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Reception Room. Stop by Community Hour first. Pick up a cup of coffee. And then come on up.

### **DON'T MISS THE NEXT LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE AND DINNER – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**



In his classic science fiction novel, *1984*, George Orwell describes a world of the future where the government remains in power by means of "doublethink." He defines the term as follows: "To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies."

As people of the Judeo-Christian tradition, we must take a stand against this kind of thinking. We must take seriously Jesus' statement, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Pilate's question, "What is truth?" and the Hebrew Bible's example of Nathan speaking truth to power.

**Next Wednesday evening, March 15**, we will wrestle with the relevance of these scripture verses and what is at stake for the living of these days. Join us at 6:00 p.m. for dinner – and 7:00 p.m. for the service in Wallace Chapel.

**JOIN US FOR THE NEXT TEA WITH MINISTERS – TUESDAY, MARCH 21 – AT 1:30**

We hope you will join the Seniors Ministry Team for tea and other goodies **on Tuesday, March 21, at 1:30**. Help us welcome Vida Obeng back to the U.S. following her recent trip to Ghana – and learn more about what everyday life is like halfway around the world! We will meet in the newly decorated Reception Room – and if you haven’t already had the chance to see this room’s exciting new look, you have a treat ahead of you!



It will be wonderful to gather once again after several winter months for good conversation and an interesting talk with Vida. We are happy to provide a ride to and or from the church. Please call Cynthia in the church office, [781-235-4424](tel:781-235-4424), if you need transportation.

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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, serve during Community Hour itself, or whistle while you work (and make new friends!) cleaning up afterwards. Training is available for any job.

For additional information, contact Anne Leland at [akoteen@gmail.com](mailto:akoteen@gmail.com) or call her at [617-669-6512](tel:617-669-6512).

**CROSSING BORDERS: A STORY OF A MONK, A SCHOOL, AND A VISION – MARCH 26**

Mary Hill Canavan’s trip to the South Asian country of Myanmar was inspiring for many reasons but in particular, for the opportunity she had to stay at one monastery and witness the work being done there to educate children and to help build the country’s emerging democracy. She traveled to Myanmar in January along with 11 students, faculty and staff as part of Andover Newton Theological School’s Border Crossing Immersion Program.

What might it mean for us as a faith community in this season of Lent? Please join Mary **after church on Sunday, March 26, at 11:30 a.m.** for conversation as she shares her experiences in Myanmar and her encounters crossing borders of religion, culture, and politics.

### **JOIN THE HILLS CHURCH CARE TEAM!**

Every March our Hills Church Care Teams welcome new members. Four Care Teams rotate weeks of the month, with different opportunities to reach out to members of the congregation with a card, a visit, a meal--or other kindness, always depending on your own schedule. There are no meetings, just ministry. To sign up, contact Luree Jaquith at [fluryj@comcast.net](mailto:fluryj@comcast.net) or Judy Swahnberg at [judy@hillschurch.org](mailto:judy@hillschurch.org).



### **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](mailto:sallyt@hillschurch.org)) if you are able to help.

#### **May:**

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

### **OUR NEXT FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 14**



Please let either Tricia Frank or Marbo Hansen know if you would like to help make our guests feel welcome.

And please remember, while no training is needed for most volunteer positions, training is required for individuals wishing to serve as overnight or meal hosts. The next training class is **on March 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** at the First Parish in Framingham (Unitarian Universalist), 24 Vernon Street in Framingham. RSVP at [kkcanning@comcast.net](mailto:kkcanning@comcast.net), if you would like to attend.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:laurieotten50@gmail.com).



## AN INVITATION TO LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AT HOME

A note from Katherine Blaisdell,  
Acting Associate Minister for Youth and Families

*I love Lent – the forty-days-plus-Sundays of preparation that precedes Easter. I love it more even than the preparation time for Christmas with its bells and lights. Perhaps that's because Lent is quieter than Advent, less busy -- nothing to compete with, unlike Advent alongside the gilded trappings of shopping mall Christmas. But I think it's because of my mom.*

*In my youth group years, my mother was at the height of her career growth. She was a successful pastor with a church that she grew from dwindling to thriving by the sweat of her ministerial brow. But that meant she worked hard. Sunday she taught adult ed classes and preached twice and then came home for rest and introvert time. Monday nights she met with church leaders to prepare for Tuesday night committee meetings. Wednesdays she stayed late at the office to get everything done before her sermon writing day on Thursday, but work usually spilled over into the weekend anyway. So it wasn't always easy for us to find time together.*

*But Lent was different. All the years of my awkward adolescence, for six weeks in the spring, my mother would leave work early to pick me up, take me to dinner, and then take me to Wednesday night's Lenten Bible Study.*

*It wasn't **fun**, per se. It wasn't Disneyworld trips. It wasn't the movies and ice cream. It was Bible study with a bunch of adults talking about temptation and suffering and mortality. But I loved it. It was lighting candles and quiet singing and trying to find God. It was a few hours with my mom every week, reflecting together on what it meant to be human. And I still treasure it.*

*So this is an invitation to find your treasure. For the next six Mondays, you'll receive an email with an opportunity for Bible study and spiritual practice. Gather your family, your walking group, or your spouse for a moment of quiet – not because you have the time, but because you don't. See what Lent has to offer you and yours together. Each week, we'll offer you an application of scripture to a favorite picture book. Each study will have enough of a synopsis that you don't have to buy the book, but if you want to read the books together, here's the list of books for each week:*

- 1) *But God Remembered* by Sandy Sasso
- 2) *Kitten's First Full Moon* by Kevin Henkes
- 3) *In God's Name* by Sandy Sasso
- 4) *Granddad's Prayers of the Earth* by Douglas Wood
- 5) *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- 6) *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky* by Susan Jeffers

*If you don't receive church emails, now is your chance to sign up! Email [office@hillschurch.org](mailto:office@hillschurch.org) and mention your interest in the Lenten devotionals.*

### **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](mailto:williams.becky.m@gmail.com)) or Jeff Thomas ([mr\\_jpt@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cindy@jaczko.com).



## EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to give Easter lilies in memory of—or in honor of—a loved one, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office by **Tuesday, April 11**.

You may donate whatever amount you wish. Checks should be made payable to the *Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*. Please note *Easter Flowers* on the memo line of your check.

My donation for Easter Flowers is given (PLEASE PRINT)

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

*or*

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your check to:**  
Wellesley Hills Congregational  
Church  
207 Washington Street



## Adult Education at the Hills Church – Winter 2017

**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.

Please let the church office ([cynthia@hillschurch.org](mailto:cynthia@hillschurch.org)) know if you plan to attend. Also, be sure to let the office know if you will need child care.

**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,  
Seminarian 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](http://hillschurch.org)

Cost:

\$100.00 first camper - \$75.00 siblings

For more information

[Sallyt@hillschurch.org](mailto: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 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, March 9**

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. North Hill Tea
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:  
Exodus 20:8-11  
Matthew 12:9-13

### **FRIDAY, March 10**

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **SATURDAY, March 11**

- 8:00 a.m. Leadership Retreat

### **SUNDAY, March 12**

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study Group
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Rummage Sale Town Hall Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Youth Groups
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Sunday Night Lenten Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **MONDAY, March 13**

- 7:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Team
- 7:30 p.m. Stewards Support Board

### **TUESDAY, March 14**

- 5:00 p.m. Food Pantry Client Supper
- 5:30 p.m. MACUCC Council Meeting

### **WEDNESDAY, March 15**

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Lenten Dinner and "Wednesday Workshop"
- 6:00 p.m. Lay-led Worship Service and Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. NAMI Meeting

### **THURSDAY, March 16**

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

### **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](mailto: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.**