

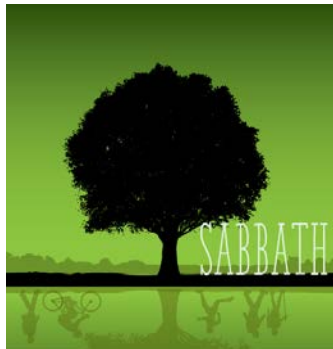
Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 26, March 16, 2017

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 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 (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

From *Sabbath in the Suburbs*, by MaryAnn Mckibben Dana:

Our calendars are spiritual documents. To-do lists and Google Calendars are statements of faith. Our statement of faith said, “we are busy with good and important things but have no time to stop and enjoy God’s creation. We believe in our own self-importance. We believe in our need to keep up appearances of having it all together. We believe that we are in control of our own lives.”

So a weekly Sabbath provides some intentionality to our life together. Sabbath puts the focus on God and God’s gracious invitation to rest from one’s work.

Sabbath is a day of trusting that, as my mother likes to say, “everything everywhere is all right already.” And if it isn’t all right, to let it be not-all-right.

Sabbath in the Suburbs and the following books are available at the church.

The Sabbath, by Abraham Joshua Heschel

Keeping the Sabbath Wholly, by Marva Dawn

Sabbath as Resistance, by Walter Brueggemann

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

We hope you will join the Seniors Ministry Team for tea and other goodies next 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.

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.

BIBLE AND THE NEWS – A WEEKLY STUDY WITH REV. MATT WOOSTER

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Church Library.
During Lent, we will discuss scripture related to keeping Sabbath:
Mark 6:30-32 on March 15; Isaiah 40:28-31 on March 22.

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 next 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): -----

Are you interested in learning more
about the Hills Church?

Please join us at an Inquirers' Gathering
Sunday, April 2

After Worship in the Reception Room
Please RSVP to the church office TODAY

Would you like to become a member of the Hills Church?
The next Joining Sunday will be May 21, 2017.

Please join clergy and church members in the Reception Room for an evening Membership Class on May 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided, and child care will be available on request.

This class will include information regarding Educational Programs, Service Opportunities, The United Church of Christ (UCC), Baptism, Communion and Confirmation at the Hills Church, and Community Life. We will also discuss the Order of Worship, Church Governance, the Membership Covenant and Stewardship.

If you would like to participate, please RSVP to the church office at 781-235-4424, ext 210 or via email to cynthia@hillschurch.org.

UPDATE ON SEARCH FOR SETTLED ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Most of the positions on the search committee have been filled, and the committee members will be introduced to the congregation soon. The search committee is being formed to complete the process of calling a settled Associate Minister for Youth and Families. In the fall, Rev. Katherine Blaisdell was hired to a short-term acting position in order to meet an immediate need. A settled minister is called by the congregation, voting on the recommendation of a search committee, and this is the process the church is following now. The search committee will conduct a formal search process, and it is possible for an acting minister to become a settled minister at the end of that process.

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 or Judy Swahnberg at 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) if you are able to help.

May:

Preschool teacher

Brains and Games (activity leader)

Lead teacher – Bible Study Grades 5/6

HILLS CHURCH EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter is coming and this year's Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 8, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.! Enjoy breakfast, a petting zoo, the Easter Bunny, crafts, and of course THE HUNT (with prizes!) To register, e-mail the Church Office (cynthia@hillschurch.org) by Tuesday, April 4, so we can provide food and prizes...then, HOP ON OVER! Rain or shine.



EGG HUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Participate in the joy and warmth of the day! Signup at www.tinyurl.com/besthuntever or e-mail Erin Johnson at emmetcalf@gmail.com.

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 or call her at [617-669-6512](tel:617-669-6512).

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 to kkcanning@comcast.net, if you would like to attend.



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.



ICB WAYLAND INVITES

*Family Promise
Metrowest
Congregations*

TO A DINNER GET-TOGETHER IN
SUPPORT OF OUR
INTERFAITH COMMUNITY

DATE THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2017

TIME 7PM-9PM

RSVP BY MARCH 8:

JUDY MONGIARDO

judy@familypromisemetrowest.org

OR (ICB) GHAZALA ALAM

fpm-coordinator1@icbwayland.org

ISLAMIC CENTER OF BOSTON (ICB)

126 BOSTON POST ROAD,

WAYLAND, MA 01778



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





8th Annual ***Walk Away Homelessness*** Walkathon

SATURDAY, April 8, 2017 at the Natick Community Senior Center, 117 E. Central Street
at 9:00 am, registration opens at 8:00am

Join WROR 105.7 FM radio personality LBF and hundreds of walkers of all ages for fun, music,
food, face painting, prizes and more!

Special Guest Laura Vecchione

TOGETHER WE WILL WALK to End HOMELESSNESS!

All proceeds from the walk will help Family Promise Metrowest end the cycle of homelessness
by providing families with shelter, meals and professional services. Walkers raising over \$100
will be entered into a raffle to win Amazon Fire HD10 tablet, Red Sox tickets, American Girl
Dolls, Bose wireless speaker and a Authentic Autograph baseball from Jason Varitek!

The first 400 registered walkers receive a newly designed long sleeve t-shirt.

Be the first 100 walkers to raise \$500 and receive a Family Promise Metrowest embroidered
Pack N Go Jacket from Charles River Apparel

Remember to qualify for the VIP raffle and the Pack N Go Jacket all donations must be in to
Family Promise by Friday, April 7 at 5:00pm.

<http://walkawayhomelessness.familypromisemetrowest.org>

or call 508-318-4820.

Adult Education at the Hills Church – Winter 2017

THIS 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) 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,
Seminary 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 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

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 16

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:
Psalm 121
Mark 6:30-32

FRIDAY, March 17

- 7:30 p.m. Connections (at the home of Susan Whittaker, 47 Colburn Road in Wellesley)
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, March 18

- 9:00 a.m. NAMI Reunion Group
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Ed. Event - Gardner Art Museum Tour

SUNDAY, March 19

- 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. Event - Conversation Starter Project
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class
- 11:30 a.m. Teaching Parish Ministry Team
- 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 20

- 7:00 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations

TUESDAY, March 21

- 1:30 p.m. Tea with Ministers
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers

WEDNESDAY, March 22

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Lenten Dinner and "Wednesday Workshop"
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 23

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:00 p.m. Music Ministry Team

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.