

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 30, April 13, 2017

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 8:00 p.m. service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae, the service of “shadows.”

Good Friday, April 14, Noon worship, followed by silent vigil in the sanctuary and a liturgy for the end of the vigil at 2:45 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Matt Wooster will give the Easter sermon at both services, and both services will also include the Hills Bells and the Chancel Choir, accompanied by organ, brass and timpani.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 11:00.



Invitation to Maundy Thursday
Worship 8:00 p.m.

I'll never forget my first Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service. The tone of worship was quiet and contemplative but its cumulative power has never left me. On the anniversary of that first Communion, I heard Jesus' familiar call to remembrance and discipleship with fresh ears, as if addressed to me personally. The readers arrayed at the long table in the chancel evoked da Vinci's rendering of the Last Supper, wordlessly conveying the mystery of God's abiding love in the upper room and in all our trials. The scripture passages interspersed with Bach chorales, the flickering candles and the encroaching darkness joined to create for me one of those thin places where God's presence becomes palpably real.

As Christmas Eve's Lessons and Carols combine with the darkness and candlelight to declare God's incarnation in the miracle of birth, the lesser known Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service illumines the great mystery of God with us even in times of betrayal and death. I treasure revisiting this service every year, not to dwell on Jesus' suffering but to more fully know his presence in mine. Whether it's your first time or your sixty-first, I hope you will join me.

Nancy Simons, Deacon

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

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

Upcoming texts: John 10:1-10 on April 19. John 14:15-21 on April 26.

TEA WITH A MINISTER - NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 18 AT 1:30



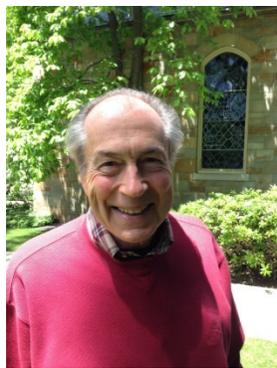
It is time to welcome spring! And our April Tea presentation is just the ticket when it comes to helping us think about the wonders of this season.....

.... *“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches on the soul”*

Tia Pinney will talk with us about backyard birds and even may bring along a “feathered friend”! Please join us next Tuesday, April 18 at 1:30 in the Reception Room for a very special presentation. We can provide rides for anyone to

and or from the church. Call Cynthia, 781-235-9838, in the church office if you need transportation.

THE NEXT LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE AND DINNER IS NEXT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19



Our Lay-Led Service for March addressed the threat posed to our Judaeo Christian heritage and our American democracy by alternative facts and what George Orwell described as “doublethink” (the ability to use conscious deception while retaining the firmness of purpose that goes with complete honesty.)

Our Lay-Led service for April will address the faith found in our heritage that has brought joy and completeness to believers, even in the midst of turbulent times when doublethink reigns supreme. This faith does not allow us to ignore evil, but it does give us the ability to recognize that God (the very ground of our being) is with us in the midst of the turmoil, providing the

strength to withstand and confront the evil. Join us next Wednesday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and 7:00 p.m. for worship in the chapel.

HABITAT VOLUNTEER TIME

Want to volunteer for a day with Habitat for Humanity?

Join us on May 20 for construction work or ReStore sorting in Lawrence.

May doesn't fit your schedule? This year we will also have three summer volunteer days in Holliston! We will be helping to build a house for one of our former Family Promise guests. Mark your summer calendars now for July 22, August 19, or September 16. Contact Elaine Vildzius, Vildzius@gmail.com for more information or to sign up for any of these dates.



EGG HUNT THANK YOU!

We offer our deep and enthusiastic gratitude to all those who made this year's Egg Hunt a tremendous success. We welcomed more than 400 children and adults into our space - more than

two-thirds of whom were visitors – to hunt eggs, treasure baby animals, and have fun. And we had several conversations with folks looking for a church home in a place like this -- that welcomes children and youth into the heart of the congregation. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 14

You are cordially invited to take part in this special celebration of welcoming our confirmands as they make their public commitment to this faith and the Church!

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. Contact Anne Leland for

more info.

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. Refreshments 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.

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 contact Cindy Jaczko – cindy@jaczko.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)

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.

Adult Education at the Hills Church – Winter 2017

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

THE CONVERSATION STARTER PROJECT – PART II

Harold Wilkinson, M.D. and Rev. Judy Swahnberg, Facilitators

11:30 am – Reception Room

If you found the March 19 Conversation Starter Project discussion helpful, you won't want to miss the additional support provided during this follow-up session.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

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

Adam Isbitsky, M.Div. candidate, 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.



Progressive Dinner

*An Annual, Adult Event
Sponsored by Parish Life
Saturday, April 29, 2017*

This year's dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Assembly Room for hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and soft drinks. (Each guest is asked to bring an appetizer to this cocktail hour at the church.) Then, we will progress to various members' homes for dinner!

What's on the menu, you ask? Chicken Pot Pie. In 2007, Kevin Weeks wrote an article for NPR entitled, "Restoring Humble Potpie to Its Rightful Place". He wrote the following:

"The humble potpie was once the height of culinary style. Filled with four and twenty blackbirds, for example, it was, at least in the nursery rhyme, a dainty dish to set before the king.

During the Elizabethan era, these savory pastries – decorated with flowers, fanciful designs and heraldic devices – were elaborate assertions of the chef's skill in the royal households of France and England. Among the lower classes, potpies were popular because the addition of a crust helped feed another mouth or two, while individual pies such as pasties, empanadas and pierogies were well-suited for sale by street vendors as portable meals."

A refreshing salad will complete this course.

We will make all appropriate substitutions for our vegetarian and gluten free friends.

The main course, salad, and wine are provided by the Parish Life committee and delivered to the host houses in the afternoon. We ask hosts to provide a dessert for their guests but they are excused from providing an appetizer for the cocktail hour.

The cost of the event is \$20.00 per person, payable at the door.

The Progressive Dinner is a WONDERFUL way to get to know the members of our church family a bit better!!

In addition to sharing a meal with our church friends, we ask you to share a meal with our community by bringing to the cocktail hour a canned food item for the food pantry.

If you are interested in attending or hosting, please contact
David Otten at otten@mit.edu.
Or you may sign up at Community Hour.

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

Fun
Science
Games
Arts
Field Trips
Service

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Hills Church Youth Retreat



April 28-30 — Cape Cod

Who: Grades 7-12

Where: Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod

What: Bible study, beach time, and board games.

Register now!

Registration forms and family contributions of \$100 per youth are requested by April 17.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, April 13 – Maundy Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 8:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
Isaiah 56:1-7
Matthew 21:1-13

FRIDAY, April 14

- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service and Vigil
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, April 15

- 9:00 a.m. NAMI Reunion Group

SUNDAY, April 16 – Easter Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service, with Communion
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, April 17 – Patriots' Day and Marathon Monday (Church Office Closed)

TUESDAY, April 18

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

WEDNESDAY, April 19

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 6:00 p.m. Lay-led Worship Service and Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. NAMI Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, April 20

- 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, 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.