

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 46, September 28, 2017

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

## Called to COMMUNITY

FALL SERMON SERIES SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 22

The church exists because God calls us to be in community. In community, we enter into a closer union with God. Through community, the mission of God becomes more real in the world. This fall, we are invited to reflect on the value of our community and our participation in God's calling.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| September 24 | Called To Community: Because Life is Difficult     |
| October 1    | Called To Community: Because Life is Good          |
| October 8    | Called To Community: Because We Need to Keep Going |
| October 15   | Called To Community: To Hear God Speaking          |
| October 22   | Called To Community: To Preview God's New Creation |

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 - AT 4:00 P.M.**



**This Sunday, October 1, at 4:00 p.m.** Rev. Judy Swahnberg invites all beloved pets and their "people" to gather outside in the church "garth" near Wallace Chapel for a simple service of Blessing of the Animals.

We'll ask God to care for our animals' health and well-being, and bless the relationship and bond we have with them as part of our common kinship, an aspect of the great glory of Creation.

Please consider what will work best for your animal--bringing dogs on leashes and cats and other animals in comfortable travel containers. Stuffed animals also welcome! Questions? Contact Rev. Judy - [judy@hillschurch.org](mailto:judy@hillschurch.org).



**STAY FOR A SPECIAL EVENT AFTER THIS SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE  
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL OF THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY TEAMS  
DISCOVER WHERE YOUR GIFTS ARE NEEDED**

**COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES**

**Sunday evening, October 29**

Hills Church youth will once again be assembling and decorating care packages for our friends in college and boarding school as they recover from mid-terms and prepare for finals.

**What we need from you now** is your child's name and current mailing address, so we can get them their packages.

It would be helpful if you could also send us their email address and cell phone number, so we can update them on other upcoming events.

If you have a college or grad student or a high school boarder in your family, send us their info, too!

Please email the appropriate information to [carepackages@hillschurch.org](mailto:carepackages@hillschurch.org) or **fill out this form:** <http://tinyurl.com/churchcares>. (The sooner, the better; but please **no later than October 25.**)

**THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING, THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!!**

Fall is here and the wonderful Pumpkin Patch will soon be gracing the front lawn of the church! This event is a longstanding tradition at the church, and it has proven to be a great way to build community, showcase the church at its finest, and raise funds for two groups: the Youth Group and various beneficiaries designated by the Christian Service Support Board. The Youth Group typically uses its share of the proceeds to offset a portion of the cost of its service trips, and annually the Patch team works with the Christian Service Support Board to identify a specific local, national, or international outreach opportunity to receive their share of the Patch proceeds.



This year's pumpkins will be arriving **late Friday afternoon, October 13**, so mark your calendars so you don't miss the chance to help unload the truck and set up the Patch. Once the pumpkins are here, we will need volunteers to staff the Patch during the 18 days leading up to Halloween. Some of the hardest to fill slots are weekdays – so, if you are able, we would really welcome your assistance at those times. Staffing the Patch is a great opportunity to meet new friends and catch up with old ones. It is also a great family activity!

We encourage folks to sign up using SignUpGenius, so please sign up now. You will also be able to sign up during Sunday's Community Hours between now and Halloween. Thanks to everyone in advance. We are looking forward to another great year at the Patch!

*The Patch Team (Dave Thornton, Rob Andrews, Rev. Katherine Blaisdell, and Gintas Vildzius).*

**OUR NEXT FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK BEGINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Please let either Tricia Frank (pdfrank@comcast.net) or Marbo Hansen ([marbo@hansenlink.com](mailto:marbo@hansenlink.com)) know if you would like to help make our guests feel welcome.

Please remember that while no training is needed for most volunteer positions, training is required for individuals wishing to serve as overnight or meal hosts. Please email Marbo or Tricia if you would like to attend any of the following six (6) training sessions so we can let the FPN training coordinator know – or just show up! All training sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. and run about an hour and a half.



|                    |                    |                      |                                  |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>October 3</b>   | Wellesley College  | Lulu Wang Center     | 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor – Room 413 |
| <b>October 19</b>  | TBD                |                      |                                  |
| <b>November 7</b>  | UU Area Church     | 11 Washington Street | Sherborn                         |
| <b>November 30</b> | TBD                |                      |                                  |
| <b>December 12</b> | St. Andrews Church | 3 Maple Street       | Framingham                       |

Also, Tricia and Marbo are in need of an Occasional Shopper. This can be a one-time opportunity, or an ongoing one. You would shop for the food and supplies needed for our Family Promise hosting week and be reimbursed by the church. Please contact Tricia or Marbo (e-mails above), if you want to learn more about this position. No training needed. And finally, if anyone has extra air pumps they would like to donate to Family Promise for use with their inflatable mattresses, we would really appreciate it! Drop off to small kitchen or let Tricia or Marbo know. Thank you!

**BIBLE AND THE NEWS – WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.**



A Weekly Study with Rev. Matt Wooster  
 Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Church Library.  
 Discussion on how the scriptures relate to the news of the day and the news of our lives. Each week will be stand-alone discussion of the Biblical passages to be read in worship. Come every week or drop in when you can.

**UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

“Hot off the press” Church Directories - with updated member addresses and phone numbers, as well as current information about the missions and members of the church’s Support Boards, Standing Committees and Ministry Teams – are now available in the Church Office. Stop by to pick yours up – or e-mail the Church Office, [cynthia@hillschurch.org](mailto:cynthia@hillschurch.org), if you would like one mailed to you.

## HONDURAS HOPE



Participants will be commissioned and sent to Honduras in June of next year to work with our mission partner, Honduras Hope. Mission Trip applications are available outside the Church Office. **Applications are due October 31.** Email [katherine@hillschurch.org](mailto:katherine@hillschurch.org) or [suespencer42@gmail.com](mailto:suespencer42@gmail.com) for more information.

## IMPROVED LIGHTING IN THE SANCTUARY IS ON THE WAY

At a meeting of the Stewards Support Board held on September 14, the Hills Church Property Maintenance Ministry Team, sought and received approval to move forward with work designed to address a number of current lighting deficiencies in our Sanctuary. This project, which is expected to be completed by the beginning of Advent, will result in substantially improved lighting throughout the Sanctuary – including both narthices, over the pews, and in the Chancel area – with particular attention to the effectiveness of the lighting over the choir, organ pipes, communion table, and lectern/pulpit areas. In addition to these improvements, this work will also result in our use of more energy efficient and sustainable lighting (both fixtures and lamps/bulbs) going forward, reducing our maintenance costs in the years ahead. As this project moves forward, we will provide periodic updates.

*Your Hills Church Property Maintenance Committee*

*Tia Pinney, Chair, Betty Ule, Herb Ule, Gintas Vildzius, Kim Whittemore, and Harold Wilkinson*

### SEARCH AND CALL ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES **HOW ARE WE DOING?**

We are pleased to let you know that both the Church Profile and description of our ministry opportunity have been completed and submitted to the Mass Conference of the UCC. The job posting now appears on the UCC Ministry Opportunities page, and we eagerly await receiving profiles from all interested candidates.

In preparation for this next step, Associate Conference Minister Wendy Vander Hart arranged for the committee to engage in a mock interview with a candidate who had recently been called to a local church. These processes continue to help us discern the best minister for our children and the entire congregation.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact any member of this committee.

*Mimi D'Angelo and Josh Waetzig, co-chairs,  
Nick Bahns, Daniel Bruchez, David Otten,  
Jennifer Rossetti, David Thorton, and Matt Wooster*

### **SEPTEMBER IS A PERFECT TIME TO JOIN THE BELL CHOIR!**

If you have ever played a musical instrument and can follow the notes on a piece of music, consider giving bell ringing a try. The bell group would welcome high school and middle school students, and adults alike. We will provide introductory lessons to anyone who is interested. To learn more about The Hills Bells, please contact Martha Stowell at [cpbranwell@gmail.com](mailto:cpbranwell@gmail.com) or the Church Office.



### **SIGN UP TO TEACH CHURCH SCHOOL THIS FALL**

**Teaching in the Church School is fun and rewarding – and it's NOT HARD!** It is a four week commitment, and full job descriptions for each role are available on the church website. If you are new to this role, the Children's Ministry Team will teach you everything you need to know, pair you with an experienced teacher, and cover for you if you need to miss a Sunday. To sign up, go to the Children and Youth page on the church website or e-mail Sally at [sallyt@hillschurch.org](mailto:sallyt@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, please contact Rich Sweeting – [rich@sweeting.us](mailto:rich@sweeting.us).

### **THE COMMUNITY HOUR MINISTRY TEAM IS RAMPING UP**



Consider sharing your gift of hospitality and welcome by volunteering to help! Five or six people are needed each week to ensure that each Sunday there are beverages, pastries and fruit waiting for our members and guests to enjoy after worship – while they catch up with friends (old and new).

The Community Hour Ministry Team already has a Team Leader in place for each week – to guide, help or train anyone interested in helping – and is seeking volunteers to fill out each of its weekly team rosters. Call or e-mail Anne Leland for more information or to volunteer - 617-669-6512 or [akoteen@gmail.com](mailto:akoteen@gmail.com).

## HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

### **THURSDAY, September 28**

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

### **FRIDAY, September 29**

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

### **SATURDAY, September 30**

### **SUNDAY, October 1 – World Communion Sunday**

- 8:30 a.m. Membership Class
- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour – Time, Talents, and Tacos!
- 11:30 a.m. Children’s Choir
- 4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals – In the Chapel/Church Garth
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **MONDAY, October 2**

- 7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons

### **TUESDAY, October 3**

- 7:30 p.m. Search Committee

### **WEDNESDAY, October 4**

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 6:30 p.m. NAMI Basics Training Class
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **THURSDAY, October 5**

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:30 p.m. Church Council – Special Meeting with Ministry Team Leaders

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings  
Habakkuk 2:1-3  
Luke 22:14-20

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## YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### PLEASE TAKE OUR ANNUAL SURVEY!

#### Parents:

<https://goo.gl/forms/D6gPPAgWksDs0ZnL2>

Or scan code:



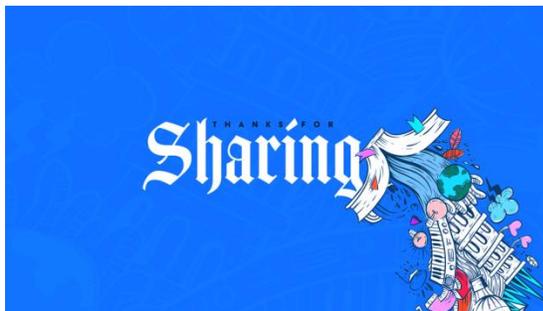
#### Youth:

<https://goo.gl/forms/E2AejKMu22a5LgAv1>

Or scan code:



### OCTOBER YOUTH GROUP INFO



Youth Group is from **5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on October 15, 22, and 29** -- culminating in Care Package Night! This Month's Topic is: **THANKS FOR SHARING: A Series on Loving Others**

When you were a kid, you probably had to be reminded to share some things. Your toys. Your cookies. Your video games. But learning to share isn't just for kids. Jesus had to remind His followers to share a few things, too. In our October series, we'll

explore passages from the Gospels and the Book of Acts through the lens of community. Each week, we'll look at one passage about Jesus and one story about how some of His first followers put His teachings into practice in the days of the early Church. As we do, you'll learn to better love and care for each other by sharing what you have: your stuff, your ideas, your life, and your stories.

Then, on October 29, we'll practice what we've learned by making Care Packages for our friends in college!

### NOVEMBER 4-5: FALL RETREAT

We're kicking off this school year with a weekend retreat designed to help you connect with God and with each other. Get the details at <https://www.facebook.com/hillschurchofthehillsyouth/>



### YOUTH GROUP SHIRTS!

As are walls will soon say, **"Everyone's welcome, because nobody's perfect, and anything is possible."** T-shirts and sweatshirts both available. Order at [tinyurl.com/hillsyouthshirt](http://tinyurl.com/hillsyouthshirt)

