

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 71, March 29, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 8:00 p.m. service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae, the service of "shadows."

Good Friday, March 30, 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 1, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Matt Wooster will give the Easter sermon at both services.

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.



An 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, Co-SeniorDeacon

A BIG "THANK YOU" FROM THE GROW CLINIC IN BOSTON

Thank you for the many children's books donated this past February. Dr. Al Persson and Donna McCabe delivered ten good size boxes of children's books to the Grow Clinic at Boston Medical

Center. www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm. The books are given to the children and their siblings when they come to the clinic for treatment.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Our church has had a long history of feeding the homeless through the Woods Mullen shelter. However, when the Long Island bridge needed repair and the shelter was permanently closed this ministry came to an end for us. Unfortunately hunger did not end as well. There is interest among some members of the congregation to restart a ministry to feed the homeless and those suffering from food insecurity. If this is something that tugs at your heart or you believe you could be helpful, please join us to explore how our church could help to meet this important need. We will have a conversational meeting in the Board Room after worship on Sunday, April 22. All are welcome.

RUMMAGE SALE 2018: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The WHCC rummage sale is an annual event that will take place this year **on Saturday, April 7, 2018**, from 8:30 a.m. till noon. If you would like to help - with collection, sorting, or set up the week before sale day - or with take down and cleanup afterward - please contact carolacole@verizon.net. You don't need to commit to an entire day, and there are even times you can bring your kids! Thank you!

Carol Cole & Monica Garfield, 2018 Rummage Chairs

DOES YOUR HEART YEARN TO REACH OUT? THEN JOIN THE CARE TEAM MINISTRY!



We welcome anyone with an empathetic heart who would like to reach out to members of the congregation who are experiencing health, bereavement or other challenges.

You will be assigned a team and then every fourth week the ministers will notify your team via email about individuals needing more care or celebration. Team members then respond as their heart guides them.

You are asked to serve at least a year, but may sign up or resign at any time. Our new calendar starts with Easter, so if you are interested, please email Rev. Judy Swahnberg: judy@hillschurch.org or call Judy at the church.

JOHN FINNEY CONDUCTS AT SYMPHONY HALL

On Saturday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m., our Director of Music, John Finney, will conduct the University Chorale of Boston College and the Boston College Symphony Orchestra in a concert at Symphony Hall in Boston ([301 Massachusetts Avenue](http://301MassachusettsAvenue)). This is in honor of John's 25th year as Conductor of the Boston College Chorale. The concert will feature selections from Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Orff's "Carmina Burana," along with other choral and orchestral favorites. Tickets (extremely reasonably priced!) will be available through the Symphony Hall Box Office beginning soon. For up-to-date ticket information, visit the website of the University Chorale at <https://choralebc.com/>



Rev. Judy Swahnberg's Sabbatical

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Judy Swahnberg will be taking a well-earned three-month sabbatical **beginning April 16 and continuing through July 15**. Sabbatical leave is a regular practice for clergy who serve in congregations, recognizing the benefit of this time for rest and restoration. Please join us in offering her our prayerful hope and trust for this time of refreshment and spiritual renewal.

At the Hills Church, a three-month sabbatical is typically scheduled after six years of ministry, and Rev. Swahnberg is in the middle of her seventh year as a called minister with us. The schedule for this sabbatical has been carefully planned in consultation with the Rev. Matt Wooster and the Board of Deacons. The last clergy sabbatical was taken by Rev. Pash Obeng in 2014.

We are also pleased to announce that Adam Isbitsky has agreed to serve as an interim part-time associate minister during Judy's time away. In this capacity, Adam will take on many of the weekly ministerial responsibilities, including worship leadership and pastoral care. Adam knows the congregation very well from his two years as a seminarian here, and he is now a licensed minister in the United Church of Christ. We look forward to welcoming Adam in this new role.

Look for more information about this sabbatical time in early April, right after Easter

FAMILY PROMISE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our next hosting is May 20-27. Some Family Promise volunteer opportunities require the completion of a two-hour training course. Information about upcoming training sessions follows. All classes start at 7:00 p.m. and typically finish around 8:30. Please contact Tricia Frank at pdfrank@comcast.net or Neely Dodge at nadodge@me.com with any questions. They can also help you sign up for training classes.

The Dover Church	17 Springdale Ave., Dover	Tuesday, April 3	kkcanning@comcast.net
UU Wellesley Hills	309 Washington St, Wellesley	Thursday, April 19	lmartinsen@verizon.net
WHCC	207 Washington St. Wellesley	Tuesday, May 1	Laurieotten50@gmail.com

Also, please mark your calendars for future 2018 hostings:

- September 9-16
- December 23-30 (We will have help from other congregations.)

PLEASE CONSIDER TEACHING CHURCH SCHOOL THIS SPRING

We need church school teachers this spring. Please consider teaching our children about God. Each Sunday we need twelve volunteers to run the school, could you be one?

Sign up sheets are available on each Church School floor. For more information, please contact: Sally Tomasetti - sallyt@hillschurch.org or visit the church website.

SHARE YOUR GIFT OF HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME

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.

BIBLE AND THE NEWS



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.

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.

WHCC Rummage Sale 2018 Saturday April 7 8:30-noon!



207 WASHINGTON STREET, WELLESLEY HILLS, MA 02481

All proceeds from the sale are donated to local charities, with an emphasis on supporting organizations that help meet the needs of women and children. Known for its many bargains, the sale is one of the largest in the area.

This year, the sale will take place Saturday, April 7, but behind the scenes preparation will begin on Monday, April 2, and continue throughout the week.

Here's how you can help! (It's fun, and you get the first look at the items being donated for sale!)

- Donate items: Bring your rummage to the church during the week before the sale. Drop offs are from Monday, April 2 – Thursday, April 5 (typically from 8-2 but email mgarfield@bentley.edu if you need alternative times).
- Help get the donated items ready for sale 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. This includes:
 - Receive and sort donations
 - Stage articles for sale
 - Price items.
 - Even if you only work a couple of hours, your help can make a difference. Sign up below.
- Staff the sale itself on April 7, 8:30 to noon. Cashiers, sales assistants, clean-up, and food staff are all needed. Plan to arrive half an hour early to get your assignment and stay half an hour late to help clear any leftover items into trucks so they can be donated to other charities.
- Workers are also needed on **member's night, Friday, April 6, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Please let Monica Garfield, mgarfield@bentley.edu, or Carol Cole carolacole@verizon.net, know if you would like to help – and please be sure to indicate which days you are willing to work, and what kind of assignment you would like to have.

Or use our

[Signup Genius](#)

Organized by: WHCC Women's Ministry

Sorry we cannot accept: Cribs, car seats, computers, televisions, stained or ripped clothes, large pieces of exercise equipment.

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH GROUP THIS MONTH



With so many incredible stories to explore in the Bible, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that God has been telling one story since the beginning of time, from creation and suffering, to the good news of Jesus and our mission today.

In this four-week series, we'll discover **the big story of God, our place in that story, and how we can share that story with others.**

Sundays - April 8, 15, 22, & 29. From 5:00 to 7:00 – with Dinner!

SIGN UP NOW! SPRING WEEKEND

May 4-6 @ Craigville Center, Cape Cod
Grades 7-12

Email katherine@hillschurch.org for more information and to sign up.



HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, March 29

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

FRIDAY, March 30

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

SATURDAY, March 31

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Elizabeth Briggs (at North Hill)

SUNDAY, April 1 – Easter Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, April 2 – Rummage Sale Drop Off begins at 8:00 a.m.

- 7:15 p.m. Board of Deacons

TUESDAY, April 3

- 7:30 p.m. Search Committee

WEDNESDAY, April 4

- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, April 5 – Rummage Sale Drop Off ends at 5:00 p.m.

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Master Plan User Group Meeting - Clergy
- 6:30 p.m. Master Plan User Group Meeting – Stewards, Church Council, FCAP, PMC, RPC
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:45 p.m. Church Council

FRIDAY, April 6

- 5:30 p.m. **Members' Night at the Rummage Sale**
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, April 7

- 8:30 a.m. **Rummage Sale**

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
Isaiah 25:6-9
Mark 16:1-8

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.**