

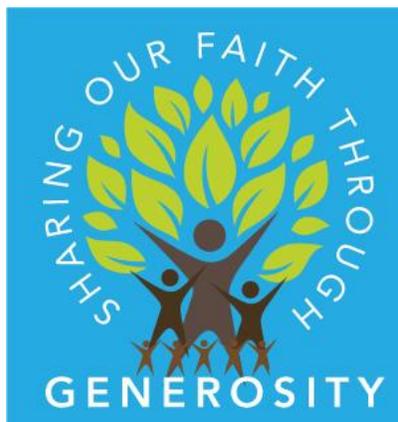
Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 9, November 1, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES



We're part way there!

Following Dedication Sunday, **a total of 125 families have pledged \$688,351 for 2019.**

Thank you for your pledges.

Our goal is to self fund the 2019 budget in a sustainable manner.

If you haven't yet pledged, we hope you will consider supporting the growth of the Hills Church ministries and putting faith in action with a first pledge or a renewed commitment.

You can pledge online at www.hillschurch.org/stewardship or by returning a pledge card by mail or in the offering plate.

Your Pledge Counts!

Thank you for pledging.

• *Ann David* *Caitlin Jonathan*

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

PLEASE UNMARK YOUR CALENDARS!

It has been a very busy summer and fall at the Hills Church, including lots of activity and planning meetings of the Hills Church Master Plan Steering Committee and our architect.

Although we had hoped to have a Master Plan ready to share with the congregation on November 18, it has become clear that more time is needed to do the work well. The Master Plan Steering Committee will continue to work through November and December, with additional input from ministry team and support board chairs, Church Council members, and other stakeholders. Our new goal is to have a plan ready for discussion with the congregation in late winter or early spring.

Thank you for your patience!

Janeen S. Hansen

Judy Nitsch

Co-chairs, Master Plan Steering Committee

SOUP

AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11



All are welcome to share an after-church meal on Sunday, November 11, at 11:45AM. Spend some time, enjoy some good food, and get to know more of your fellow worshippers. We will have two varieties of soup (one vegetarian), with bread, and macaroni and cheese for those who are young at heart.

The meal is sponsored by the Participation and Involvement committee. contact Bill Spencer or Laurie Otten for more details.

notbill.spencer@gmail.com, laurieotten50@gmail.com

DO HOLIDAY DECORATIONS LIFT YOUR SPIRITS?

Would you like to join a team working to prepare the church building for Christmas?

To learn more, contact Karen Gunn at kmgunn@comcast.net or 617-584-7829.

COULD OUR EGOS PLEASE SIT DOWN AND BE QUIET FOR A MOMENT?

Last week at Morning Meditation, we reflected on how our egos can be one of the biggest obstacles to meditating; worrying about our to-do lists, our need to be somewhere, to be somebody, to be in control, all keep us from being still and present to experiencing moments of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our days. Minister and civil rights activist Howard Thurman's poem entitled "I Let Go of My Accumulations" notes how our intention is key to giving ourselves to God and what's more, how God will hold all those things we worry about and strive for while we renew our souls and spirits as we meditate.

So join us if you can on **Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30am** in the Reception Room at the church as we pause to "rest our souls" for just a few moments. Whether you are new to meditation or practice daily, come as you are able, whenever you can...we look forward to seeing you then.

For questions or to receive a copy of the poem, just contact Mary Hill Canavan or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or judy@hillschurch.org.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS!!



Whether you:

Unloaded them ...

Sold them ...

Rolled them ..., or

Counted the money we raised ...

It Took a Village. And the Village Came.

YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT!

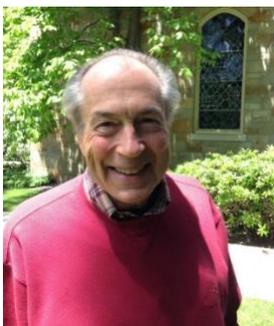
JOIN JOHN FINNEY FOR A PREVIEW OF SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Following the worship service **on Sunday, November 4**, John Finney will lead one of his always-popular periodic seminars focused on the music we will hear on special music Sunday this December: Carols and Lullabies (Christmas in the Southwest) by Conrad Susa. And for those who **sign up by Thursday, November 1**, a light lunch will be available.

Brought to you by your Adult Education Ministry team. (P.S. Volunteers are needed for clean-up after the seminar.)

JOIN JIM MCKINNEY FOR THIS YEAR'S FIRST LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE.

NEXT WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 7,



I grew up imagining God as a remote deity who sets laws and demands adherence to those laws to gain God's favor. I now embrace an image of a God not so concerned with the beliefs I hold and the rules I obey. A God much like the apostle Paul describes. "The one in whom I live and move and have my being." A God who surrounds me, holds me, and desires to enter into a relationship with me. **Next Wednesday evening, November 7**, we will explore the way we imagine God and the difference it makes.

Join us at 6pm for dinner and at 7pm for the worship service in Wallace Chapel.

Jim McKinney

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

Coats for Boston's homeless shelters will be collected during November. As you clean your closets this fall, please set aside the warm clothes you don't need. Clean outerwear in good condition is accepted. All sizes are appreciated.

Collection bins will be by the church doors **throughout the month of November**. Questions – contact Tina

Andersson, TinaAndersson11@hotmail.com

OUR NEXT HABITAT BUILD IS THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3





Come join us for a Habitat work day this Saturday, November 3rd. We will be working in Northborough converting an old grocery store into two new residences.

We will meet in the church parking lot **at 7:30 this Saturday morning** and return by 5pm. Lunch will be provided. Go to the link below to sign up or email Elaine Vildzius (vildzius@gmail.com) or the church office. You must be 16 years old to participate.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-habitat2>

TEA AT HILL'S CHURCH - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1:30

We hope you will join us for a special November Tea when we will explore the spiritual practice of meditation. Hills Church member Mary Hill Canavan will share how this ancient practice of "resting in God" through simple breathing exercises, stillness, and prayer can lower our blood pressure and enrich our day.

Please join us in the Reception room at 1:30 on Tuesday, November 13, for this special experience. We will enjoy our usual tea and treats as well as conversation in the company of friends.

Please call Cynthia in the church office if you need a ride to and or from the church at 781-235-4424.

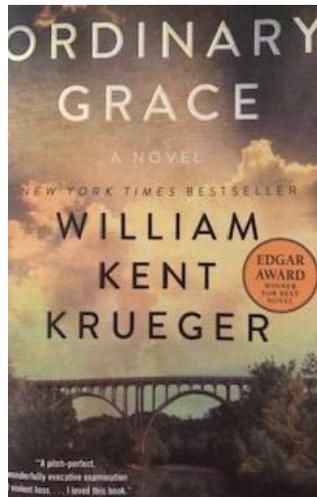


SIGN UP TO TEACH!

Do you feel the call of service? What better way to live out that call than to welcome young hearts to Jesus' teaching. This ministry is fulfilling and fun. If you would like more information contact Sally Tomasetti – sallyt@hillschurch.org.

ADVENT 2018 SPIRITUALITY GROUPS: *ORDINARY GRACE*

Advent Spirituality groups are convening a little early this year. By popular demand, it's "Advent in November."



This fall the Board of Deacons and clergy invite members of the Hills Church to read and reflect on: *Ordinary Grace*, by William Kent Krueger, (Simon and Schuster).

One reviewer called this book, "*Extraordinary...with authentic characters who grow in wisdom and grace and learn to accept what they cannot change.*" Another wrote, "*A beautiful and engaging story...revealing in even the smallest ways how grace inters into brokenness and loss and grief and provides hope.*"

This year we will be hosting two groups for discussions of our reading, prayer, fellowship, and faith reflections.

- The **Sunday evening group** will meet 7:30 pm -9pm on **November 4** at the church in the reception room, and on **November 11 and November 18** at the home of Jim and JoAnna McKinney, 25 Pine Street, Wellesley. Kelly Ford will convene this group.

- The **Tuesday morning group** will meet from 10:30 to 11:30 in the Reception Room on three consecutive **Tuesday mornings, beginning November 6.** Mary Hill Canavan and Rev. Judy Swahnberg will lead this group.

Tuesday's "Morning Meditation" is continuing!

So many of us are appreciating our quiet time that we have decided to continue that practice. **From 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.**

So – **on Tuesday mornings this November, the Reception Room will be the place to be!** Come for Book Group. Come for Meditation. Or come for both! Participating in small groups is a wonderful way to meet people and enliven our faith.

Have Questions? Want to sign up? Email Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org. (A limited number of books will be available for purchase through the Church Office, or you may order your copy online or through your favorite bookstore.)

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL – NENA RADTKE – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, AT 7:00 P.M.

In the United Church of Christ, an Ecclesiastical Council is called to examine a candidate to determine her/his fitness to be ordained to the Christian ministry. Our Council is comprised of representatives from at least eight churches in the Metropolitan Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC. We are pleased to invite the members of the Hills Church to attend the Ecclesiastical Council of

Nena Davis Radtke
on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**
at **7:00 p.m.** in the Reception Room

This Council represents one of the last steps on Nena's faith journey toward ordination. We hope you will join the members of her Discernment and Formation Committee in supporting Nena at this important gathering.

*Kelly Ford, chair, Mary Ellen Dinwoodey, Steve Harris, Laurie Otten
Carol Roede, Deb Thornton, and Rev. Judy Swahnberg, Ministerial Advisor*

COMMON CATHEDRAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Fellow worshippers, WHCC has accepted an invitation to serve lunch and worship at **common cathedral** on Sunday, December 2. An outdoor congregation, **common cathedral** shares God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

We need volunteers to help us to prepare lunch for the service. If you are interested in volunteering, please log on to Sign-Up Genius and choose one of the following tasks:

- Food shopping **on Saturday, December 1**. Start time will be announced soon.
- Food preparation at the WHCC kitchen on Sunday morning December 2, at 8:00 a.m.
- Leave from WHCC at 11:00 a.m. and serve lunch at **common cathedral at 12:30**. Set up, serve lunch, participate in 1:00 p.m. worship service (optional) and help clean up after the service.
- Leave Boston Common at 2:30 to return to WHCC.

Menu: 150 sandwiches (turkey, ham, and veggie), with chips, water, oranges and warm apple cider – and cookies for dessert.

The Hunger Outreach Ministry Team would be grateful for your contribution towards this mission.

MADDIE DOWNER(NOW FOSTER), FORMER HILLS CHURCH SEMINARIAN, HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ORDINATION

Maddie Downer(now Foster), former hills church seminarian, has been approved for ordination by the New Haven East Association of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Maddie has been called to serve the Congregational Church of Needham, U.C.C. as assistant pastor. We hope that you can join Maddie at her home church in North Bradford, CT for her ordination service and reception to follow.

Sunday, November 11 at 3:00 pm
 North Bradford Congregational Church
 1680 Foxon Road, North Bradford, CT 06471

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Please mark your calendars for our **2018 CHRISTMAS WEEK HOSTING** - December 23 through December 30. As of now, we are responsible for set up and breakdown. On December 23 we will need one dinner provider, two dinner hosts and two overnight hosts. Other congregations have taken a few of the other dates. Guests are often away on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



The schedule for upcoming Family Promise training sessions is listed below. 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.

Tuesday, Nov. 6	Wellesley Hills Cong. Church	<u>207 Washington Street, Wellesley</u>	<u>laurieotten50@gmail.com</u>
Thursday, Nov. 29	Christ the King	<u>600 Central Street, Holliston</u>	
Tuesday, Dec. 11	FPM Day Center	<u>6 Mulligan Street, Natick</u>	

JOIN THE HILLS CHURCH RUNNERS THIS THANKSGIVING FOR THE WELLESLEY TURKEY TROT!



Looking for something to do Thanksgiving morning? Then join the Hills Church Runners for the Wellesley Turkey Trot on November 22. This annual 5K fun run is held right in Wellesley. The event, which features over 2,000 runners, starts at 8:00 am. Everyone runs at their own pace. Children are welcome (but no pets or strollers allowed). T-shirt and bib number provided for required entry fee (\$40, less for children under 18). The course starts and ends at Linden Square in front of Roche Brothers, so there is plenty of free parking. It's both fun and a great way to start the day. The event also raises funds for good local causes, such as (in previous years) the Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project,

Wellesley Education Foundation, and the Wellesley Field Fund. Details and registration here (be sure to register for the team "Hills Church Runners") - <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=9580> Space is limited so you are encouraged to REGISTER SOON if you are interested. Questions? Contact Doug Eisenhart, douglaseis@comcast.net. See you there!

ENJOY A THANKSGIVING COMPLETE WITH GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



For the past few years my family has had Thanksgiving dinner with members from our church family. It has always been a true moment of thankfulness. The feast and festivities began through a conversation and realization of just how many of us spend this time without extended family, as we do.

This year we are opening our home to all who would otherwise spend the day alone or who would, for many reasons, not be able to have a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal. Whether it's just you or your family unit, we would love to share this holiday with you.

We will prepare together, eat together, feel full together, watch children play, and if you so wish, drink a beer and watch football together.

In order to make it easier for guests without transportation, we will arrange pick up.

Please come with a special family dish to share. Of course we'll have pumpkin and apple pie, my favorites, but before I devour those, I hope to have the chance to sample traditional family recipes of yours too. We can never have too much turkey, or can we? And we mustn't leave out corn, so important when celebrating. And there's always squash... We will supply the turkey and coordinate the menu; we look forward to an open full table- and the nap that follows.

To be held at the Tomasetti home or at church – depending on the number of RSVP's received.

Thanksgiving Day - Appetizers @ 2:00 p.m. Dinner @ 3:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Bob and Sally sallyt@hillschurch.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

ARE YOU A NEW FRIEND IN CHURCH?

If your CHILD is nervous about coming to Church School, please come with them! Parents can stay in class as long as they would like to. You are welcome. Please see Sally Tomasetti if you or your child would like a tour of Church School. We strive to help all ages feel comfortable, loved and welcomed at church. We are so glad you are here.

LOVE TO SING? CHILDREN'S CHOIR MEETS AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Does your child love to sing???? Then encourage them to join Director of Children's Music Ms. Kirsten Oberoi – **in the Third Floor Children's Chapel – every Sunday, right after the Sunday Worship Service.** Children's Choir is for children in all grades who want to sing. Try something new. It is a fun time.

CHILDREN'S BELLS

If you have a child in grade 4 or above who is interested in ringing, please contact Martha Stowell - cpbranwell@gmail.com. Meeting times for Bells' practices are flexible but mostly held on the third floor – before each Sunday's Worship Service.

DON'T FORGET THAT 'EXTRA' CANDY!



The Children's Church School is collecting leftover Halloween candy for Operation Gratitude again this year. This foundation collects leftover Halloween candy and sends it along with other care items to thank Troops, Veterans, New Recruits, and First Responders for their service to our country. The candy is highly sought after and considered a necessary boost for our neighbors that serve. Please consider bringing in your unused, individually wrapped and commercially made leftover candy. Donation boxes will be in the hallway near the Reception Room, and by the Third Floor Chapel. We will be collecting candy through Sunday November 11.

Then on Sunday, Nov. 11th we will package the candy and write thank you notes. Thank you in advance for sharing this precious bounty. Any questions, please contact **Sally Tomasetti**.

ADVENT DINNER PLANNING MEETING

Join us for an Advent Dinner Gingerbread workshop planning meeting after church this Sunday, October 28. We will gather in the Third Floor Youth Room. All interested in helping at this year's Advent Workshop and Dinner are welcome to attend. Contact Sallyt@hillschurch.org if you have questions.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS



YOUTH GROUP AND CONFIRMATION

The Hills Church

2018 Fall Season

Middle School YG meets: 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Senior High meets: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

*Programs meet every Sunday evening unless otherwise indicated

Middle School YG meets in the Assembly Room. Senior High YG meets in the Youth Room!

For more information email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org.

Quotable Quote: “Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.”

– Maya Angelou

OUR YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

***11/4 (Note Change) Both Youth Groups meet at regular times** for our program titled “**Attitude of Gratitude**”.

11/11 (Sunday afternoon/evening) “**Can-tucky Derby !!**” A fun-filled canned food drive. **Bring as many canned goods as you can hold** and earn chances to WIN prizes!!!! (Fun and service go hand in hand tonight!) Both youth groups meet at regular times!

11/18 (Sunday afternoon/evening) Youth Groups meet for program titled: “**Difference Makers.**” How can we actively make a difference in the lives of those around us!

11/25 Advent Dinner! Details to follow!

A huge “**SHOUT OUT**” to our Confirmation Class and our Youth Group members for serving alongside folks from The Outdoor Church in Cambridge! Our teens spent almost four hours distributing food and items of comfort and care to the homeless this past Sunday!



HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, November 1

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, November 2

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, November 3 – Habitat Build

SUNDAY, November 4 – All Saints' Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 9:15 a.m. Hills Ringers Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 a.m. Adult Ed. Presentation – John Finney
- 12:30 p.m. Outdoor Church Service Opportunity
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Sunday Night Advent Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, November 5

- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care
- 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee
- 7:15 p.m. Board of Deacons

TUESDAY, November 6

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Advent Group
- 10:30 a.m. Story Time with Mrs. T
- 6:00 p.m. Ecclesiastical Council – Nena Radtke
- 7:00 p.m. Family Promise Training Class

WEDNESDAY, November 7

- 6:00 p.m. Lay-led Worship Service and Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class and Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
Revelation 21:1-6
Mark 12:28-31

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.**