

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 14, December 6, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

DECEMBER 16 IS SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY!

On Sunday morning, December 16, our 10:00 a.m. worship service will be enlivened and enhanced by a presentation of Conrad Susa's *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*. Our Chancel Choir and soloists will be accompanied by a chamber ensemble and conducted by Director of Music John Finney.

American composer Conrad Susa (1935-2013) created this delightful collection of traditional Spanish, Puerto Rican, Mexican, and Catalonian carols (all popular in the American Southwest), arranging the accompaniment for harp, marimba, and classical guitar to create a magical texture over which the carol melodies sparkle and dance.

The carols, which will be sung in the original languages (Spanish and Catalan), include the Spanish lullaby "A la Nanita Nana" and the immensely popular Puerto Rican carol "Alegría."

Soloists in the presentation on Sunday morning, December 16, will be Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano; Shannon Lebrón, mezzo-soprano; Christian Figueroa, tenor; and Stephen Lebrón, baritone. The service will also include an anthem by our Children's Choir, conducted by Kirsten Oberoi.

You won't want to miss this indescribably lovely music – and we hope you'll invite your friends and neighbors to share this special presentation with you!

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT – THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT 4:00



This year's Concert of Christmas Music – featuring The Hills Bells and the Children's Handbell Choir (conducted by Martha Stowell), and the Chancel Choir (conducted by John Finney) – is **THIS SATURDAY, December 8, at 4:00 p.m.**

Wrap yourself and your family in the spirit of the season – and let the afternoon's beautiful music quietly surround you. This concert, which has become an annual "must-attend" tradition at the Hills Church, is free – and open to the public. So, please come – and be sure to bring your family and friends with you.

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND LUNCHEON IS NEXT TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

All are welcome at our annual Christmas Concert and Luncheon **next Tuesday, December 11**, when our own Laurie Stewart Otten and John Finney will perform special music of the Christmas season, including traditional favorites such as "O Holy Night" and a Christmas carol singalong. Set aside your "to-do" list and allow the glorious music of the season to lift your spirits and surround you with joy! The concert is at **11 o'clock** in the Sanctuary, followed by a catered luncheon in the Reception Room for those who are able to stay.



If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to Cynthia in the church office by **TODAY**. And please also let us know if you would like a ride – we can easily provide one.

WHCC ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR – DURING COMMUNITY HOUR THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Puzzled about how to select meaningful gifts this holiday season? Consider supporting the church's Christian Service international ministry outreach teams through our Alternative Gift Fair. Your purchases will advance the work of the church's partnerships with the African Indian Alliance and Honduras Hope.

- **African Indian Alliance (AIA)** will sell handsome gift cards of varying amounts to support the education of economically and socially disadvantaged Siddi students in SW India. This is the community we support through the efforts of our WHCC missionary, Pash Obeng.
- **Honduras Hope** will sell beautifully crafted baskets to support its work with economically and politically marginalized families in Honduras. Dangerous conditions necessitated postponing a planned WHCC outreach service trip here, which only highlights their need for our support.

Can you think of special individuals in your lives who would appreciate these gifts of love? If so, please join us this Sunday. For further information, please contact Sarah Pedersen (pedersenfamily6@verizon.net) about the African Indian Alliance or Sue Spencer (suespencer42@gmail.com) about Honduras Hope.

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND CANDY MAKERS!



Please consider making extras of your best Christmas treats to sell at the annual Bake Sale sponsored by Women's Ministry. **Bring your goodies to the big kitchen (downstairs) next Saturday, December 15, by 1:00 p.m.**, so that we may package them attractively for display **at the sale on Sunday, December 16**. Also, please note on your donations of baked goods and candies if nuts are among the ingredients. Thank you!

BAKE SALE PLUS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

The annual Bake Sale Plus will be held **Sunday, December 16 during Community Hour**. Cakes, cookies, candies and other treats make great hostess gifts for those upcoming holiday parties. Copies of the Hills Church Cookbook (which includes the recipe for that great Italian Sausage and Spinach Soup that was served at our most recent Sunday Soup Lunch) will also be available for purchase, as will charming aprons and potholders made by the Hills Quilters. All make great gifts!

The **Bake Sale Plus** is sponsored by the Women's Ministry. All proceeds are used to support the work of the Women's Ministry, including the purchase of fabric and yarn for quilts, prayer shawls, baptismal blankets, and graduation scarves.

ORDER YOUR 2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES TODAY

If you would like to order a complete set of 2019 offering envelopes, please contact Hills Church Financial Coordinator Jelena Kovrlija at jelena@hillschurch.org, or call her at 781-235-4424.

TEACH CHURCH SCHOOL THIS WINTER!

We need teachers in 2019. Please consider sharing your time with our children. Are you new to the church and are unsure about what to do? We train and support you! Or are your children grown? Then please come share your well-earned knowledge. Each Sunday we need 12-14 teachers to run the program, could you be one?

We need your caring support, your time and your grace for one month. **Contact: Sally Tomasetti** - Sallyt@hillschurch.org - **or sign up here -** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-teacher1>

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES - AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OTHERS



For many years members of this congregation have generously provided Christmas gifts for low-income families in Waltham that are identified by Early Intervention clinicians. All of the families on our list have at least one child under 3 years old who has developmental challenges due to a diagnosed disability or whose development is at risk due to certain birth or environmental circumstances.

Please remember to bring your wrapped gifts to the church on, or before, this Sunday, December 9. Questions? Call Sue Spencer at 781-893-2972. Thank you, Hills Church!

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION...

Watching for the Light...

In the introduction to the book *Watch for the Light*, the editors note that although Advent has been observed for centuries as a time to contemplate Christ's birth, most people today experience it as a flurry of activities and a time of contrasting emotions, all of which can turn these days into the most stressful time of the year. If you see yourself in this experience, stop in to the Reception Room from 9:30 - 10:30 on Tuesday mornings during this month of Advent, so that we can pause and reflect together on the hope and peace and light of the Advent season.

Come as you are able, just as you are.

Questions? Email Mary Hill Canavan at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our **2018 CHRISTMAS WEEK HOSTING** is rapidly approaching! It is December 23 thru December 30.

We are responsible for set up on December 23, breakdown on December 30, and laundry.

On December 23 we need one dinner provider, two dinner hosts and two overnight hosts from WHCC.

Each night, we need a greeter from WHCC – to greet volunteers from other congregations and orient them to our church and our Family Promise set up. **Nights still needed: December 24, 25, 26, 27, and 29.**

Other congregations have taken a few of the other dates – and sometimes guests are away on Christmas Eve and Christmas.

The schedule for upcoming Family Promise training sessions follows. All classes start at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Tricia Frank at pdfrank@comcast.net or Neely Dodge at nadodge@me.com with any questions.

Tuesday, Dec. 11	FPM Day Center	<u>6 Mulligan Street, Natick</u>
Tuesday, Jan. 8	TBD	
Thursday, Jan. 24	TBD	



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - REMINDERS



This year's theme: "Sharing our Faith through Generosity"

Our goals: To increase last year's pledges by 5%, 10%, 15% or whatever is personally comfortable for each family – AND – to add new pledgers to the roster in order to make Hills Church programs self-funding in a sustainable manner.

What are the Hills Church sources of revenue? Stewardship is the largest source of revenue for the Church – followed by income from the nursery school – and a planned 4% draw from the endowment annually.

What do our pledge dollars make possible?

- Talented ministers and staff to teach, inspire and support us
- Worldwide outreach
- Beautiful chancel music
- Faith formation opportunities for our children and youth
- Building maintenance and repair

Why pledge versus just donate? The Stewards Support Board uses the results of each year's Stewardship Campaign as a major source of data when putting together the church's annual budget.

Thanks to all who have pledged. If you haven't yet pledged, please consider a pledge to make Faith in Action possible in this special place. Pledge online at www.hillschurch.org/stewardship or fill out your Pledge Card and mail it back to the church today.

Faithfully, Your Stewardship Committee,
Ann and David Ingram and Caitlin Baron and Jonathan Donner, Co-chairs
Jim McKinney, Bob Minetti, Steven Patrick, Gintas Vildzius, Scott Wells, Susan Whittaker, Andy Wilson

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to make a contribution for the poinsettias which will decorate the church this Christmas in *memory* of, or in *honor* of, a loved one or loved ones please fill out the form and return it to the church office by Tuesday, **December 18**. Donations—in whatever amount you wish—should be payable to the *Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*. (Please note “Christmas Poinsettias” on your check.) A list of names in honor/memory will be included in the Sunday Order of Worship on **December 23**.



Name(s) as you want them to appear in the Order of Worship

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Given by: _____

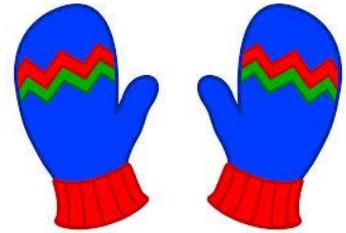
Daytime phone number: _____

In memory or honor of (circle one): _____

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

HATS, MITTENS, AND SCARVES...OH, MY!

The Church School is hosting a mitten tree in the Assembly Room during the Advent season. Leading up to Christmas we will collect mittens, hats, and scarves. Let's cover the tree with warmth to share! This year, the collection will be donated to Boston Cradles to Crayons and Boston's City Reach.



COOKIES WITH SANTA

THIS SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8 - FROM 9:00 TO 11:00

Santa's sleigh will glide into Chapel Place again this season when the Jolly Old Elf returns to the Hills Church.

Take this opportunity to write him a note and smile for a photo.

All ages are welcome to decorate and share a cookie with the big guy.

SANTA NEEDS OUR HELP! - DECEMBER 8 - FROM 9:00 A.M.- 11:00 A.M.

The big guy is almost here; that's right Santa is coming to Hills Church!

However, he needs a little help. Close to 70 kids come to decorate cookies and sit on his lap, and Santa is marvelous but can't greet that many kids alone. He needs church helpers to lend a hand. Can you spare an hour or two on December 8th? Contact Sally or [view the sign up here:](#)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-cookies1>

FOLLOW THE STAR THIS ADVENT IN CHURCH SCHOOL -DECEMBER 2, 9, 16 AND 23

Join us for Sunday Advent exploration on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas - We have a great movie, an app, and a life-sized star hunt. All kids are invited to "Follow the Star" this Advent season.

COSTUME PICK UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT...SPREAD THE WORD.

During the 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve family service Ministers have traditionally invited children to leave the worship service and find a costume in the assembly room while awaiting their turn on stage. **This year, we will have costumes available as you enter the sanctuary.** Children still get to choose their character, wear a costume and be a part of the fun, but will remain seated with family to hear the full Christmas story. All are welcome to take part. Characters will be called forward at the appropriate time. Come early to hear the Preludial music and choose a costume. All are welcome to participate.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS



YOUTH GROUP

At The Hills Church

2018 Fall Season (September – December)

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: *“Be a lamp or a life boat or a ladder. Help someone’s soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd.”* Rumi

OUR YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

12/8 Saturday 9-11am Cookies With Santa! Be sure to sign up to help with this joyous occasion! We need Elves to help out Santa! Email Sally or Anne Marie if you are able to join in the holiday fun!

12/9 Youth Groups meet at regular times. Youth Group Christmas Party! Please bring a small grab gift for our gift exchange! (\$5.00 or less!)

12/16/18 Both youth groups meet at regular times for our program titled, “Silent Night”.

12/23/18 – No Youth Group

Stay tuned for our YG Winter Program Flyer 2019. Coming your way soon!

ADVENT BREAKFAST CLUB

As we enter into our Advent Season here at the Hills Church we begin to reflect on the Hope, Joy, Peace and Love found in celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Throughout the Sundays in Advent our high school aged teens are invited to drop by to see Rev. Anne Marie, before church – around 9:30 a.m. – in her office for an Advent devotional time which includes donuts and hot chocolate!



HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, December 6

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:30 p.m. Church Council

FRIDAY, December 7

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, December 8

- 9:00 a.m. Cookies with Santa
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Church Christmas Concert

SUNDAY, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 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 – Alternative Gift Fair – Part II
- 11:30 a.m. Children’s Choir Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, December 10

- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Stewards Support Board

TUESDAY, December 11

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday morning Meditation Group
- 11:00 a.m. Christmas Concert and Luncheon
- 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Client Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers

WEDNESDAY, December 12

- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class and Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, December 13

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Service Support Board

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings
Isaiah 40:1-5
Luke 3:1-6

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.**