

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 15, December 13, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, IS SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY!

This 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 this Sunday 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!

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) this Saturday, December 15, by 1:00 p.m.**, so that we may package them attractively for display **at the sale this 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, THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

The annual Bake Sale Plus will be held **this 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.

Hills Church Christmas Eve Services

3:30 p.m. Family Christmas Pageant
(Children should plan on arriving between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. to choose their costumes for the pageant.)

6:00 p.m. Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols

9:30 p.m. Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols

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	

**SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 6, 2019
FOR AN UPDATE ABOUT WHCC'S ACTIVITIES IN INDIA
FROM OUR MISSIONARY, REV. PASH OBENG**

On January 6, WHCC's Missionary, Rev. Pash Obeng, will preach during the worship service and immediately afterwards share an update with the congregation about the church's work in Karnataka, India with the African Indian Alliance (AIA).



Pash will discuss the educational support that the church is providing through the AIA to severely disadvantaged students in India and related matters.

He'll also share with you a National Geographic short video that will provide you with insights into the challenges faced by the people we are helping. Joining Pash will be Fiona

Jamal and Pete Pedersen who also traveled to Karnataka last summer.

The presentation will begin immediately after the service in the Reception Room. Light snacks will be served. We hope you will be able to join us. Questions? Please feel free to contact Sarah Pedersen for additional information at pedersenfamily6@verizon.net.

THANK YOU FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL COAT DRIVE



You donated 175 coats during the month of November! Most of the coats were delivered to Circle of Hope in Needham. Their mission is to provide 21 area shelters with clothing and other necessities throughout the year. Some of the coats were donated to Seafarer's Friend in Chelsea. They extend the ministry of churches to meet the needs of the maritime community. Learn

more at circleofhopeonline.org and seafarersfriend.org.

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. Envelopes, for those who have ordered them, will be available for pick-up in the Board Room on and after, December 13.

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): _____

SCHEDULING NOTE: Events at the Hills, the church newsletter, will not be published Christmas week or the following week.

TEACH CHURCH SCHOOL THIS WINTER!

We have an awesome opportunity in our Children’s Ministry for new teachers and shepherds. Teachers get to pray with the kids and introduce them to Jesus, and get a front-row seat to watching a child’s life change forever as they follow Christ. My life was changed by a Sunday School teacher. Would you consider taking on this awesome, important role in 2019?

The commitment requires four Sundays or one month, and an hour each week of preparation time. Preparation is important because the material you’re teaching is important. Teaching for a whole month is important because important relationships are formed.

We train. We provide materials. You supply the care. We all grow in our Bible knowledge together!

The Children’s Ministries Team invites leaders of every generation to teach our children, as this creates the best possible environment for them. Jesus himself says that those who become like children are among the greatest in heaven, and one of the greatest gifts of being a Church School teacher is to be among children, and to learn first-hand what Jesus meant when he said this.

Contact Sally Tomasetti (Sallyt@hillschurch.org) for more information or visit signup genius through the church newsletter. See the opportunities to serve available in the table below:

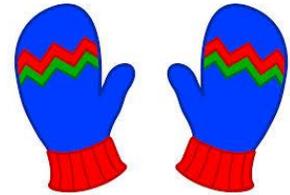
Month	January	February	March	April- No class Easter	May	June
Nursery Caregiver	Susan and Jim Walton Tina Andersson	1. _____ 2. _____				
Pre-K Room Co-leaders	Patty Sibanda Ntonhle Kekana	1. Nick Bahns 2. _____	1. _____ 2. _____	1. _____ 2. _____	1. Kirstin Sheen 2. _____	1. _____ 2. _____
Storytelling Leader		Margot Phillips		Jack Morgan		Shepherds needed for the first two Sundays of June, to help with Celebration Sunday. See Sally for details.
Games Leader		Pamela Broderick				
Art Leader	Kristin Toffer		Karla Pastore			
Shepherds (Assistant)	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	
5 th & 6 th Grade leader	Bruce Dishman					

Winter/Spring 2019

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.



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: “The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it.”
~ Thich Nhat Hanh

OUR YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

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

12/23/18 No Youth Groups! Merry Christmas!

Join us for our Christmas Eve Services at 3:30, 6:00 or 9:00pm!

**If you or your teen is interested in helping with the Christmas Pageant at 3:30 be sure to see Rev. Anne Marie!

1/6/19 Youth Group Meetings start up again in the New Year for our program titled, “See the light!” Both youth groups meet at regular times.

1/13/19 Both youth groups meet together from 6-7:30 pm for our first annual “Youth Group Winter Sports Competitions!”

1/20/19 Day of Service at WHCC! Youth will gather together to participate in service projects offered at the church following worship on Sunday! Details TBA.

1/27/19 Youth Groups meet at regular times for program titled, “If not you – Then who?”

******The Complete Winter Program Season Youth Group Calendar will be coming your way soon! Stay tuned!!!**

Our middle schoolers meet for church school on December 23rd, and on January 13th and 27th (the second and fourth Sundays).

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, December 13

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

FRIDAY, December 14

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, December 15

-8:30 a.m. Bake Sale Set-up and Delivery
- 9:00 a.m. NAMI Reunion
- 12:00 p.m. Special Music Sunday Rehearsal

SUNDAY, December 16 – Special Music Sunday – Third 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 – Women’s Ministry Bake Sale Plus
- 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 17

- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Team

TUESDAY, December 18

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday morning Meditation Group

WEDNESDAY, December 19

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

THURSDAY, December 20

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Church Staff Holiday Luncheon
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 2:1-5

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.**