

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 16, December 20, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

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

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our **2018 CHRISTMAS WEEK HOSTING** starts this Sunday – and runs through December 30.

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

Other congregations are helping us on many days.

Temple Beth Elohim is having a hard time finding two (2) overnight hosts on December 25.

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 25, 26, and 27.**

Many Family Promise volunteer positions require training – but not all! 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, Jan. 8 | TBD | |
| Thursday, Jan. 24 | TBD | |



THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Every year at Christmas time, our church designates a special offering as an act of love for our neighbors. This year's financial gift is being dedicated to **Disaster Relief for our Neighbors Nearby and Afar** – and will be evenly divided between **The Lazarus House in Lawrence, Massachusetts**, and the **United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Ministries**.

This year, the need in Lawrence is particularly great. The residents of Lawrence are largely Hispanic immigrants with a median income well below the national average, and they have suffered greatly from the gas line explosions which destroyed many homes and businesses this fall, deprived

many of their livelihoods for weeks and left many residents with no heat or electricity for a prolonged period. **The Lazarus House** ministry has been active since 1983, providing food, clothing, emergency housing, workforce training and spiritual relief to the residents of Lawrence. Their support has been invaluable to this community and is still sorely needed.

Our neighbors afar have also suffered disasters in this past year, like the hurricane which did so much damage in North Carolina and the unbelievably destructive fires in California. Accordingly, the other half of this year's donations will go to **The United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Ministries**. This ministry coordinates our faith community's outreach of spiritual, physical, financial, and psychological help to vulnerable populations after natural and human-caused disasters, both domestically and internationally. They will direct our gift to where the need is most urgent.

Special offering envelopes for UCC Disaster Relief and the Lazarus House were mailed to all members earlier this month – and will be available at both of the main entrances to the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. All gifts in envelopes marked “UCC Disaster Relief and The Lazarus House” or otherwise clearly intended for “Disaster Relief and Lazarus House” will be directed toward this effort. Checks may be made payable to the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church (WHCC), and these gifts are tax-deductible.

**GRAB YOUR HAMMER – AND GET READY FOR OUR NEXT HABITAT WORKDAY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19**



What do you need to serve? According to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” Join us as we honor Dr. King at our next Habitat for Humanity work day. We will be going on Saturday, January 19, We will meet at the church at 7:20 a.m. and return by 5:00. Please register on Sign Up Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-habitat3> - or email Elaine at vildzius@gmail.com. (Must be 16 years old or older to participate).

SAVE THE DATE...ALL-CHURCH HOUR OF SERVICE – SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 – AT 11:30

We'll start with some light refreshments in the Assembly Room, then head to various sites around the church for work projects. Projects are designed for young people, old people, and everyone in-between. Most will end in an hour or so. Service Opportunities are varied and for all abilities.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Join other volunteers for hands-on service projects that will touch the lives of local people in need. This is a great family service opportunity at church!

Contact AnneMarie@hillschurch.org or Sally@hillschurch.org if you have a service idea to share or know of a need we can fill.

SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 6, 2019

FOR AN UPDATE FROM REV. PASH OBENG ABOUT WHCC'S ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

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.



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.

Please note: Our last gathering for Morning Meditation before Christmas will be on Tuesday, December 18. We will resume on Tuesday, January 15 at 9:30am.

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 Kovrlja 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.

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

FOR THE DONATIONS YOU MADE TO LOCAL CHARITIES

Our church gives out charitable donations each year. These funds come from congregational pledges from this year and also from money donated in past capital campaigns. Here are some excerpts from some of the thank you notes that we received.

- “Your church has given new hope to many around the globe.” **Honduras Hope**
- “Your support will help City Mission extend compassion, dignity and direct assistance throughout the year to many of our community’s most vulnerable members.” **City Mission**
- “Your gift will help more people move beyond homelessness into safe, dignified housing and live happy, hopeful and fulfilling lives...” **Friends of Boston’s Homeless**
- “Having a home gives you a confidence boost, freedom and strength.” Maggie on behalf of **Habitat for Humanity**
- “We want the Fellows to practice dialogue across differences, build meaningful bridges, and ultimately mature into transformative young leaders. This is made possible by your continued generosity.” **Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries**
- “Your generous support enables us to build an intentional, spiritual community with and for unhoused people and their friends in Boston.” **Common Cathedral**
- “We are so grateful for your partnership in helping neighbors in need to access healthy food in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.” **Wellesley Food Pantry**

FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS YOU BOUGHT AND WRAPPED FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES



Every year I am touched by the caring of this congregation. At one of the busiest times of the year, you sign up to shop for Christmas gifts for children and families you don’t even know. This year was no different. Because of your generosity, 82 families (293 children and adults) will have beautifully wrapped presents on Christmas morning. Additionally, we received gifts of cash and gift cards that will be used to meet needs now and throughout the year. The generosity of this church never ceases to amaze me. Thank you!!

It took a sedan, an SUV, a van, the church van and a pick-up truck, all packed full, to transport the gifts to THOM Charles River Early Intervention. Many carloads of gifts had arrived early and were transported previously. Still others were delivered directly to THOM by the shoppers. Thanks to everyone who helped load the vehicles at the church end, and to Jeff McGrew, Peter McGrew, Jack Morgan, Rob Andrews and Bill Spencer who transported the gifts and unloaded them at the office.

Sue Spencer

FOR THE 175 COATS YOU GAVE TO THE HOMELESS



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.

**AND FOR THE BAKED GOODS AND HAND-CRAFTED ARTICLES YOU MADE
TO SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

Thank you to all who donated goodies, made potholders, aprons, etc., and to all those who bought all those wonderful goodies and goods. We made \$1,400 on the Baked/Fabric Goods Sale, which will be used to continue the work of Women's Ministry at the Hills Church. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to you!

Women's Ministry and Hills Quilters

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:

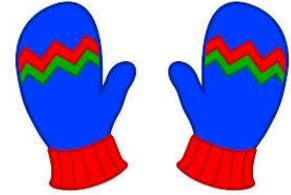
| Month | January | February | March | April- No class Easter | May | June |
|--|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Nursery Caregiver | Susan and Jim Walton Tina Andersson | 1. _____ 2. _____ |
| 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 AND CONFIRMATION

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.

Youth Group Programs meet every Sunday evening unless otherwise indicated

Both Middle School YG and Senior High YG meet in the Youth Room!

*Ninth and Tenth Grade Confirmation Class meets Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm-8:45 in the Reception Room

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

Quotable Quote: *"Joy is the serious business of Heaven."* – C. S. Lewis

OUR YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

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.

***1/9/19** **Confirmation:** Dinner and Class 7:30pm-8:45pm

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

***1/16/18** **Confirmation:** Dinner and Class 7:30pm-8:45pm

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.

***1/25-1/26** **Confirmation Class** overnight Retreat to Craigville. Details TBA (No class the 23rd)

1/27/19 No Youth Group Meetings

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

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, December 20

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
Psalm 80:1-7
Luke 1:39-55

FRIDAY, December 21

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, December 22

SUNDAY, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Family Promise Hosting Week begins

- 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 Practice
- 11:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Set-up
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- 3:30 p.m. Family Christmas Pageant
- 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service – Lessons and Carols
- 9:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service – Lessons and Carols

TUESDAY, December 25 – Christmas Day – Legal Holiday (Church Office Closed)

WEDNESDAY, December 26

THURSDAY, December 27

- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

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

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.**