



Volume 4, Issue 18, January 17, 2019

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OPPORTUNITIES

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

The members of the First Congregational Church in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, qualified to vote, are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of said church will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at approximately 11:00 AM, immediately following the Sunday worship service, to act upon the following articles:

Article I. To choose, if necessary, a chairperson to preside over said meeting.

Article II. To hear and act upon the reports of the clerk, treasurer, auditors, Church Council, Support Boards, and of such other officers and governing bodies as may be present.

Article III. To elect a rising moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, auditor, and such other officers and members of governing bodies as the Church may require for the ensuing year.

Article IV. To hear and discuss reports by representatives of the Master Plan Steering Committee and the Office of the Moderator on 1) recent problems with the Church's heating system, 2) the status of the Master Planning process which began last year, and 3) two related line-items included in the 2019 Budget allocating a total of \$55,000 for purposes of assessing the Church's heating system needs and evaluating funding options, including the possibility of a capital campaign.

Article V. To review and act upon the Budget for the Church for the coming year, as presented by the Stewards Support Board and supported by Church Council, to meet the expenses, the benevolences and any indebtedness of the Church, with funds to be raised as indicated.

Article VI. To transact any other business not included in the above which may legally come before the meeting.

Richard J. Sweeting, Clerk
11 January 2019

TRANSITIONING TO ANNUAL MEETING

General Instructions

- 1) **Copies of this year's Annual Report, including additional information about the church's recent heating system problems**, are available in the North and South Narthices, in the foyer just outside the Reception Room, and on the rectory table in the North Mezzanine of the Assembly Room. Please share with those sitting beside you.
- 2) The materials which will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting itself are in white envelopes at the end of each of the pews in the four front sections of the Sanctuary – under the Fellowship Pads. At the end of the Worship Service, please take an envelope if you will be staying for the Annual Meeting.
- 3) The service will be shortened to accommodate those who have after-church commitments. We strongly encourage you to stay for the Annual Meeting.
- 4) Childcare will be provided on the 3rd floor during the meeting.
- 5) We will not have a “regular” Community Hour, but coffee and tea will be available in the Board Room. You will have about five minutes to get your coffee. Please enter the Boardroom through the rear of the Sanctuary and exit through the door to the Narthex. Please bring your coffee or tea with you into the Sanctuary – and to avoid spills in the Sanctuary, please be sure to use one of the coffee cup lids provided.
- 6) When the Moderator calls for you to return to your seat, please do so promptly. We will need to perform a count for a quorum, and we need people in their seats to do so. We will also want people to move forward in the Sanctuary, if possible.
- 7) The meeting will begin when the quorum has been counted and confirmed.

Annual Meeting Procedural Guidelines

- 1) Only members are allowed to vote. Friends of the church are welcome to listen in and participate by speaking. You may sit anywhere.
- 2) The meeting agenda is the Call to the Annual Meeting – reprinted above.
- 3) Each agenda item will be brought to the floor by the Moderator, who will ask for the appropriate person—generally, the committee chair—to make a motion. That motion will be seconded, and then we will have discussion. Generally, the person who made the motion, or a designee, will speak first.
- 4) If you wish to speak to a particular agenda item, you may contact the Moderator in advance, and she will make sure that you are given time to speak.
- 5) Raise your hand to indicate you wish to speak. Before speaking, wait for an usher to deliver a microphone to you. Tell us your name—even if everybody knows you. Speakers should be direct, and to-the-point.
- 6) When all who wish to be heard have been heard, or a motion to “move the question” has been made and passed, we will have a voice vote.



Martin Luther King Jr. Hills Church Weekend of Service – January 19- 21 Everyone is Welcome

SATURDAY: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD

Construction Group: Leaving the church at 7:30 a.m. and returning by 5:00 p.m. We will be doing any number of tasks such as building and insulating walls, clearing debris and possibly some painting. This construction group is limited to ten folks (16 years old and older). **Advance signup required:** Contact Elaine Vildzius via the Church Office.

SUNDAY: ANNUAL ALL CHURCH SERVICE DAY

SCHEDULE

- 10:00 - 10:55 a.m.: Worship Service
- 11:00 - 11:10 a.m.: Group Picture
- 11:10 - 11:30 a.m.: Light Brunch
- 11:25 a.m.: Commissioning and Introduction of Tasks
- 11:30 - 12:55: Service Projects
- 1:00 p.m.: Blessing the Work

After some light refreshments in the Assembly Room, we will head to various sites around the church to work on projects. Projects are designed for young people, old people, and everyone in-between. Most will take about an hour or so. Service Opportunities are varied and for all abilities.

Choose your favorite community service project from among the following opportunities: Making Meals and Baking Cookies for the Wellesley Food Pantry, the Wellesley Fire Department, the Wellesley Police Department, and our own Care Team Ministry; Assembling Tables and other furniture – and sorting donations – for the New Life Furniture Bank; Writing letters of support, gratitude, friendship, and love to our older members, local heroes, other area churches and institutions with missions consistent with our own, and; Making fleece scarves for underprivileged children.

Individuals and families coming out of homelessness have little or nothing to get started in a new apartment. New Life Furniture Bank can provide them with gently used furniture and housewares like sheets, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, glasses. But that first trip to the store to buy basic essentials can be very expensive. Clients really appreciate a plastic laundry basket filled with practical everyday living stuff. This Sunday, the church hopes to put together at least ten “Housewarming Baskets” filled with the items below. We will be assembling these baskets on Sunday – so, please either bring your donations on Sunday or leave them on the Assembly Room stage during the week.

- Toilet paper
- Sponges/scrubbers
- Laundry detergent
- Shower curtain liner
- Paper Towels Scissors
- Cleaning items (409 or Comet)
- Like new or new bedding
- Tall kitchen trash bags
- Kleenex Box
- Toilet brush Can opener
- Small plastic cutting board
- Dish detergent Bar of soap
- Small Flashlight
- Like new or new towel sets

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!

And please: Don't come empty handed! Bring a can of food, gently used bedding, towels or toiletries for someone in need. Child Care will be provided from 9:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the upstairs nursery for those too young to serve.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Holloway or Sally Tomasetti - AnneMarie@hillschurch.org or Sallyt@hillschurch.org.

MONDAY: DAY OFF-DAY ON

Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Day of Service at Brandeis University

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Honor and learn from the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), pack meals for food pantries and congregations that serve the homeless, and participate in social justice discussions with Brandeis clubs and local non-profits. Many workshops available to attend with activities for younger children too. All ages are welcome. Donations would be gratefully received. Serve in projects and/or attend workshops on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. More information on the Brandeis University website.

**WALKING TOGETHER AS WE PRACTICE OUR FAITH:
MORNING MEDITATION IS BACK - TUESDAYS, AT 9:30AM**

“There are no expectations, no obligations; just come as you are able, just as you are.”

And with that note, the Reception Room has been open this past year to anyone who stops by for Morning Meditation on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

This time provides an opportunity to step aside from the busyness of our days and pause for an hour to explore the spiritual practice of meditation; to experience how this ancient practice of “resting in God” through simple breathing exercises, stillness and prayer can lower our blood pressure, enrich our days and deepen our faith journeys. And as observed by Matt, this faith journey takes practice: “No one is perfect at it. That's why we keep practicing.” And as we do, “we will find that our spirits are strengthened by a well-practiced attention to God, good relationships with a community, and a depth of compassion for ourselves and for others.” For those who have walked through the door and into this time together, it has been a rich experience of community, compassion, and glimmers of God's Word in this stillness.

And so what better way to start the New Year than to stop by for an hour and give it a try? Whether you are new to meditation or practice it daily, we welcome all 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.

HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET?

If you have not yet submitted your 2019 pledge, please take a minute to complete your pledge card and mail it back to the church today or hop onto the church website, hillschurch.org, and click on the “Donate” button in the upper left hand corner of the home page. Thank you.

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.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our next two weeks of hosting are **February 24 through March 3** – and **May 5 through May 12**. Both sign ups are live on CERVIS. Link for volunteers is: <http://cerv.is/m?0002>

Any questions, please contact: Tricia Frank pdfrank@comcast.net or Neely Dodge nadodge@me.com



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.

Thursday, Jan. 24	TBD	
Tuesday, Feb. 5	Cong. Or Atid	<u>97 Concord Rd., Wayland</u>
Thursday, Feb. 21	TBD	
Tuesday, March 5	TBD	
Thursday, March 21	St. Paul's Church	<u>39 East Central, Wayland</u>

WHAT'S UP WITH THE WHCC HEATING SYSTEM? – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As many of you are aware, the performance of the church's heating system has been less than 100% of late. Here is a brief summary of the situation. (For more information about this important topic, please be sure to attend this year's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27, right after the Worship Service.

Q1. What's the problem?

A1. The heating system and all of its component parts, i.e., boiler, valves, steam pipes, radiators, need to be replaced because they have failed several times already this winter.

Q2. Why now?

A2. The system is reaching the end of its useful life. Recent component failures alerted us to the need to attend to it over the summer of 2019 prior to the next heating season. It is imperative that we maintain our church buildings in a manner that sustains and facilitates the important work of our church community.

Q3. What will it cost?

A3. We don't know. The cost will depend on several factors, including what equipment we choose to repair/replace/install.

Q4. Who will decide what to do?

A4. The congregation will decide. There is a team of professionals working with church leaders to identify alternative solutions. After review of the need and preparation of a report, this team, including church leaders, will bring a recommendation to the congregation for approval of the work and the related cost.

Q5. How will we pay for it?

A5. There is a team of church leaders who will identify funding alternatives, including a possible capital campaign or borrowing.

Q6. How will the construction work affect church and nursery school operations?

A6. Church leaders, church staff, the consultants, and the contractor will work closely with church and nursery school staff to minimize disruption to church and nursery school operations. The plan for summer time construction is aimed specifically at minimizing disruption.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES!

Below, you will find a tentative schedule of some monthly service opportunities for our teens to participate in together. Some are more geared to High School-aged teens, and others are open to both Middle School and High School youth!

If you are interested in serving with us for any of these local service opportunities, please reach out to Rev. Anne Marie Holloway – annemarei@hillschurch.org ! We encourage our teens to invite their friends!

As we approach each month, we will reach out to those who wish to participate and share additional details for each event!

January: (Middle School and High School Youth)

MLK All Church Service Weekend! Our teens suggested that they help with the collection of items needed to fill Housewarming Baskets for those in need to be distributed by The New Life Furniture Bank). Our teens are asked to join us after church on Sunday to help fill as many baskets as we are able. Items needed to be collected are listed in the attachment below. We invite each of our teens to bring enough items to fill at least one basket !

February: (High School Youth)

Serve at the New Life Furniture Bank in Walpole on Saturday, February 2, leaving church at 8:00 a.m. <https://www.newlifefb.org/>

March: (High School Youth)

Make and serve a meal at Rosie's Place on Sunday, March 10, leaving the church at 2:00 p.m. <http://www.rosiesplace.org/volunteer/groups>

April: (Middle School and High School Youth)

Alongside the members of our Parish Life Ministry team, our youth will have the opportunity to make soup and cookies for our church family to enjoy following the April 7 Worship Service. Preparations and cooking to be done on Saturday April 6, at 9:30 a.m. Soup to be served following worship on the 7th.

May: (High School Youth)

Feed the homeless with the Outdoor Church details TBA. <https://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/outdoor-church-0>

We are so very excited about the ways in which our teens wish to work together to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in the world!!

Rev. Anne Marie Holloway

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS



YOUTH GROUP

At The Hills Church

2019 Winter Season (January- March)

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

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

*Programs meet every Sunday evening unless otherwise indicated

Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups meet in the Youth Room!

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

Quotable Quote: "Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

— Maya Angelou

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

1/20/19 Day of Service at WHCC! Youth will gather together to participate in service projects offered at the church following worship this Sunday! (**There are no Youth Group meetings this Sunday evening.**)

***1/27/19 No Youth Groups This Sunday (Confirmation Retreat Weekend)**

2/3/19 Youth Groups meet at regular times for program titled, "If not you – Then who?"

2/10/19 Tentative "road trip" to Gunstock Mountain Resort for Snow Tubing Fun! Details TBA!

Our Confirmation Class meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm in the Reception Room.

Our Middle Schoolers meet on the third floor for Church School on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. The next Middle School Church School classes are on January 27.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 17

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

FRIDAY, January 18

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, January 19 – Habitat for Humanity Build

- 9:00 a.m. NAMI Reunion

SUNDAY, January 20

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 9:15 a.m. Hills Ringers Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. All-Church Service Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, January 21 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Legal Holiday – Church Office Closed)

TUESDAY, January 22

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers

WEDNESDAY, January 23

- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class and Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Group
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, January 24

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

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.**