

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 20, January 31, 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES



Martin Luther King Jr. Hills Church Day of Service THIS SUNDAY, February 3 Everyone is Welcome

**THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, IS OUR ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH SERVICE DAY EVENT
(RE-SCHEDULED FROM SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, DUE TO A WINTER STORM)**

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, February 3**, the church hopes to put together at least ten “Housewarming Baskets” filled with the items below. We will be assembling these baskets right after the Worship Service – 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
- Tall kitchen trash bags
- Kleenex Box
- Toilet brush

- Scissors
- Shower curtain liner
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning items (409 or Comet)
- Like new or new bedding
- Bar of soap
- Can opener
- Small plastic cutting board
- Dish detergent
- 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.

MORNING MEDITATION: LEARNING TO LEAN ON GOD

While reading the UCC's Daily Devotional last week, I was struck by the reflection entitled "Confessions from an All-Nighter" for two reasons; this beautifully thoughtful piece was written by our church's own Kit Novotny, daughter of Judy Swahnberg and Carl Novotny, and now a minister at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, CA. The second reason I paused was her observation on the role that God plays in helping us deal with the "anxious toil" we too often experience in striving to succeed and function in society today. Kit writes:

Our society loves to reward anxious toil. We wear our busyness like status symbols, tote our full calendars as security blankets, proof that we matter, and a ready excuse for all we overlook...When we lean on other forces, like our own ego, achievement, the whirl of our own little chaos, we forget to lean on God. When we binge on the bread of anxious toil—even good toil for things that matter...our labor can become so many spiritually empty calories. (From UCC website, January 24, 2019)

Do you find yourself "binge-ing on the bread of anxious toil" in your day to day? If so, join us in the Reception Room on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 for Morning Meditation, where we put our busyness aside and use this spiritual practice to "lean on God."

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.

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.

CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION

The church is collecting children's books throughout the month of February for the benefit of The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center.

www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm

The books are given to the children when they are receiving treatments or when waiting for a sibling.

Collection bins will be inside the church entrances for your new and gently used children's books.

Questions? Contact Donna McCabe

dmccabe4@comcast.net



THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Many thanks to the congregation and the friends and guests who worshipped with us on Christmas Eve. The Christmas offering totaled over \$14,000 this year! Because of the incredible generosity both the UCC Disaster Relief fund and Lazarus House in Lawrence will be able to help those in need. Below please see a portion of the Thank You letter we received from Lazarus House.

To the Congregation at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church –

Thank you all so very much for your very generous donation to Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence as part of your special Christmas offering last month. We are truly thankful for this outpouring of caring, kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. What a blessing for our guests and our ministry.

We here at Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence are very grateful to count you as our faith partner in service to our guests who live a daily struggle to get the most basic needs met. We provide physical, emotional and spiritual shelter from the hardships suffered in their lives, giving them the opportunity to have choices they otherwise would not have.

As our mission states, Lazarus House is a gospel-based ministry and welcomes all in the name of God. We provide a continuum of care encompassing, but not limited to: food, shelter, clothing, advocacy, education, work preparation, a listening ear, a welcoming heart and the restoration of dignity and self-respect to people who are poor and in dire need. With the recent devastation of the gas explosions and fires we have been able to continue to respond in any way we can to those who have come to us from this crisis, as well as those who are experiencing crises of their own. We will be here not just in the short term but throughout their trauma and pain - to provide for their needs, physical, emotional, or any others that we are able to address.

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.

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>

A HEARTY "THANK YOU" FROM HABITAT



Saturday, January 19, was an intense day of painting for the twelve Hills Church members who traveled to Northborough to paint the basement of a Habitat for Humanity duplex. They cleaned and swept, primed walls and ceilings, and then put on a final finish coat of gleaming white paint. They also did some additional cleaning on other floors of the house in anticipation of families moving in within the next few weeks.

Thanks to everyone who cleaned, primed, painted and swept – and to Carol and Jerry Cole for bringing a hot lunch for everyone!

TRACES OF THE TRADE – THIS SATURDAY – IN WESTON

Slavery has been described as our country's "original sin," arriving in the American experiment in 1619 (400 years ago) and one year before the Pilgrims! And talking about race in this country is difficult.

The Congregational Church of Weston (130 Newton Street in Weston) has invited us to join them in seeking to better equip ourselves for having this conversation, as well as getting our history right.

This Saturday morning, February 2, at 9:00, the Congregational Church of Weston will be showing *Traces of the Trade*, a PBS documentary that follows the pilgrimage of a family as they discover that their ancestors were slave traders, trace the implications for today and explore means of reconciliation. James DeWolf Perry, one of the family members, a historian, and one of the people in the film, will be present to lead a discussion about its broader meaning for interpreting our life together as Americans.

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!

This Sunday, February 3: (Middle School and High School Youth)

Super Sunday Service Day! There will be opportunities to serve for all ages! We will also be raffling off Superbowl Snack Baskets!! Don't miss a chance to win some tasty goodies to be taken home and enjoyed during the BIG Game! 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 **THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**, to help fill as many baskets as we are able. Items needed to be collected are listed in the All Church Service Day general notice above and include: detergent, shower curtains and rings, scrub brushes, soap, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, kitchen items, bathroom items. We invite each of our teens to bring enough items to fill at least one basket!

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 Sunday, April 7.

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

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS



YOUTH GROUP

At The Hills Church

2019 Winter Season (January- March)

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 and Senior High Youth Groups meet in the Youth Room!

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

Quotable Quote: "If you can dream it, you can do it..." ~ Walt Disney

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

2/3/19 (Sunday) 11 am – 1 pm Super Sunday of Service!!!

Join us for a Super Sunday Service Day! There will be opportunities to serve for all ages! We will also be raffling off "Superbowl Snack Baskets"!! Don't miss a chance to serve your community, and also win some tasty goodies to be taken home and enjoyed during the BIG Game!

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

2/17/19 Youth Groups meet at regular times for program titled, "If not you than who?"

2/24/19 Youth Groups meet at regular times for program titled, "And who do you say I am?"

3/3/19 Middle School Youth Group meets from 5-7 pm for a **Bowling Party** at Needham Bowlway! There will be NO High School Youth Group on the 3rd.

3/10/19 Sr. High School Youth Group and Confirmation Class serve **at Rosie's Place**. Details TBD. There will be NO Middle School Youth Group on the 10th.

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

*Our **Middle Schoolers** meet on the third floor for church school on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.*

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 31

- 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, February 1

- 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, February 2

SUNDAY, February 3 – All-Church Day of Service

- 8:30 a.m. Membership Class
- 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 Day Event
- 12:00 p.m. Property Maintenance Team – Building Walk-through
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, February 4

- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:15 p.m. Board of Deacons

TUESDAY, February 5

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation

WEDNESDAY, February 6

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class and Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, February 7

- 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.**

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers of sympathy for:

Judy Nitsch and her family on the January 22 death of Judy's brother, **Charlie Nitsch**. A Memorial Service celebrating his life was held on January 27 in Southwick, Massachusetts.

JoAnne and Tamara Schultz on the death of **Martin**, husband and father, on January 25 after a long illness. Plans for a Memorial Service celebrating his life will be announced soon.

Prayers of health and healing for:

Zoe Dodge, recuperating from a concussion.

Emily Gauthier's daughter, **Sophia Gauthier**.

Mary Hays's sister, **Marnie Lawlor**, in rehab after being hospitalized.

Lynn Perry.

Patty Sibanda's mother, **Melody Sibanda**, healing from an injury.

Brad Tomlinson, recovering at home following knee replacement surgery.

Mariela Vargas's sister, **Cristina**, coping with complications of lupus.

Prayers for those who are in hospice care and their families:

Susan Hoffmann's mother, **Marge Magnuson**, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Donna Kent, in Wisconsin.

Nancy Fraser's sister, **Sally Hawthorne**, in Florida.

Continuing prayers from our congregation for:

Sue Boller, recovering from a broken arm.

Stephanie Coughlan's mother, **Charlotte Stifel**.

Angie Hemmerle's parents, **Dick and Jane Spencer**, recovering from falls.

Susan Hoffmann, recovering from foot surgery.

Maryanne "Burkey" Pratt, recovering at home.

Greta Sarginson, at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Dedham.

Matt Schuler, son of **John and Dwin Schuler**, in Pennsylvania.

Martha Spencer, **Bill Spencer's** sister.

Sharon Stehman's mother, **Shirley Stehman**, in Irving, Texas, with health concerns.

Dan Tierney's brother, **Paul Tierney**, in recovery after a stroke.

Rob Ann Tomlinson, at home with health concerns.

Prayers for those continuing in treatment:

Carol Cole's brother and **Sarah Cole's** uncle, **John Shroyer**

Anne Coursey's nephew, **Trevor Moynihan**

Jeremy "JJ" Demers

John David Ferrer's friend, **Carlos Marin**

Kirby Green Grochal

Barry Jacobson

Rob Jaczko

Gerry Murphy

Felicia and Burt Payne's daughter-in-law, **Anna Payne**

Nancy Simons's brother in law, **Harry Kahnhauser**

Becky Williams's cousin, **Tami Blais**

Matt Wooster's mother, **Donice Wooster**.