

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 28, March 28, 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH: ONE SPIRIT, MANY GIFTS

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING MINISTRY TEAM - "DREAM, PLAN, ACT"

At the Special Meeting held on March 3rd to approve the replacement of the church's heating system, Chris Guiffre raised a concern shared by others in the congregation; yes, we need to take care of our building, but what are we doing to address changes taking place in faith communities today that are impacting membership and participation in the life of our church? How are we planning to meet these challenges?

Making plans to address the needs of this sacred building is only half the task before us as a congregation; the other task is for us as a community to develop strategies to answer this question Chris and others raised on that Sunday morning. And that is why a Strategic Planning Ministry Team has been called together to serve in this role.

Six members of the congregation along with two of our clergy have been working to broadly outline the steps we will take in this process. They include: Rob Andrews, Mary Hill Canavan, Anne Marie Holloway, Nancy Simons, Jessica Sturtevant, Kristen Toffer, Gintas Vildzius, and Matt Wooster.

In the coming weeks, they will be reaching out to you with ideas and possibilities for your input and feedback to begin to identify specific programs and ministries that will help our church community live more fully into the five Hallmarks of our church ministry:

- Deepening Our Spiritual Journeys
- Fostering Authentic Relationships
- Investing in Children and Youth
- Welcoming, Inviting, and Involving Our Neighbors
- Caring for Others through Christian Service

Whether your connection to this church is old or new, your participation and voice matter - as it is our collective discernment that determines the next step on our church journey and in our life as a faith community.

To keep everyone up to date on the Master Planning process, we will report to you periodically through "Events at the Hills." And at any time, do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns. E-mail officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org to share them with Mary Hill Canavan, Gintas Vildzius, and Chris Stowell or reach out to any of them individually.

In service and faith,
Mary Hill Canavan, Gintas Vildzius, Chris Stowell
Office of the Moderator

SOUP AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH – SUNDAY APRIL 7



All are welcome to share an after-church meal on **Sunday, April 7**, at 11:45AM. Spend some time, enjoy some good food, and get to know more of your fellow worshippers.

The meal is sponsored by the Parish Life Ministry Team. Contact Mimi D'Angelo or David Otten – mimi8386@hotmail.com or otten@mit.edu for more details.

EASTER EGG HUNT



This year the Big Hunt will take place **on Saturday, April 13, from 9-11a.m.** Enjoy breakfast, a petting zoo, an appearance by the Easter Bunny, crafts, and of course the Hunt (with prizes)! Just e-mail egghunt@hillschurch.org **TODAY**, with the number of adults and children, so we can provide food and prizes...then, HOP ON OVER! Rain or shine. (The Hunt is indoors in the event of cold or inclement weather.)

VOLUNTEER AT THE EGG HUNT... SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 9:00 - 11:00

Check out the sign up genius for fun volunteer opportunities that include:

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

- Week leading up to the Egg Hunt: Purchase items, prepare food.
- Friday night, April 12, set up: 4:30-6:30 at the Church. Many hands make light work!
- **THE MORNING OF THE HUNT** - 8:30 to 11:00: Help monitor the egg hunt, bouncy house, face painting, animal care, Easter Bunny helper, serve food, play games with kids.
- THE DAY OF THE HUNT – 11 to Noon. Clean-up



Or visit our sign up table on **Sunday, March 24th** during fellowship.

The Easter Bunny will be hopping with Joy!

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.

PLANT FAITH THIS SPRING!

Working in children's ministry is an awesome opportunity to make a difference. To plant a seed of goodness that grows.



Be a part of this ministry, and you will see what we're talking about.

We have changed the schedule of church school team member needs a little:

- **K-6 Sunday, April 7 only** – Easter workshop with Rev. Anne Marie Holloway
- **K-4 Sundays – April 28, and May 12 and 19** – Three Sundays of rotation class. Sign up to teach all three Sundays. NOTE THE DATES.
- Nursery and Pre K class – All Sundays in April and May.
- June helpers – June 2 assisting in Church School and June 9 in the Worship service.

See the updated sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-spring> or see Sally.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 8:00 p.m.

Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae, the service of "shadows."

Good Friday, April 19, Noon worship, followed by silent vigil in the sanctuary and a liturgy for the end of the vigil at 2:45 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

We will celebrate Christ's resurrection with the joyful music of choir, brass and timpani, handbells, and our magnificent pipe organ.

Rev. Matt Wooster will preach the sermon "The Life of Hope."

Communion will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.

TOWEL DRIVE TO BENEFIT NEW LIFE FURNITURE BANK IN MARCH

A towel drive for New Life Furniture Bank of Massachusetts will take place throughout March at Hills Church. A charitable organization staffed by volunteers, New Life accepts donations of furniture and household items, and makes them available at no charge to those in need.

<https://www.newlifefb.org/>

The goal is to provide a new or gently used towel and washcloth for each member of the families New Life serves. Collection bins will be located by the choir room, at the front and back narthex, and at the east entrance by the nursery school.

For more information, contact Donna McCabe at dmccabe4@comcast.net.

**TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION – 9:30 TO 10:30 –
AWAKENING THE HEART AS WE MAKE SPACE FOR GOD**

If you have ever read anything about Christian spiritual practices, you may well have come across one of many books written on this subject by the theologian Fr. Thomas Keating, a central figure in the development of the contemplative Christian practice of Centering Prayer. In the season of Lent, as we are invited to step back from our day to day busyness and become aware of God's presence in our lives, this practice of Centering Prayer can help us create such a space for God.

Fr. Keating talks about viewing Lent "as an artful preparation to a slow and sustained intentional journey where the heart is awakened into a new life in and through divine love." Join us on this journey of awakening the heart as we learn about this practice during Tuesday Morning Meditation from 9:30 - 10:30am in the Reception Room.

Come as you are able, just as you are....

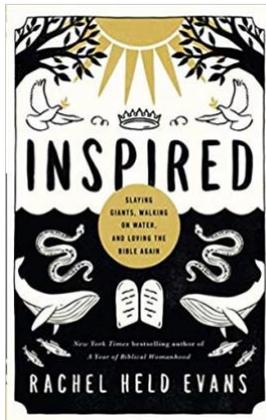
Questions? Email Mary Hill Canavan at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN – TONIGHT, MARCH 28 – AT 7:30

We will meet in the Third Floor Youth Room on the **second Tuesday** and **fourth Thursday** of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. **Our next meeting is tonight Thursday March 28.** Our current topic: Our Faith Stories. This is an ongoing, open group which embraces you *wherever you are in your faith journey*. Come and participate by sharing or just listening. Sponsored by: Patty Sibanda, Jessica Sturtevant, Elaine Vildzius, Becky Williams, Kristen Toffer, Ntonhle Kekana, and Judy Marth.

BE INSPIRED AND BECOME WISE THIS LENT

Just as the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for a period of reflection and prayer, we invite you to be led on a Lenten journey through the pages of these written works:



INSPIRED, by Rachel Held Evans, a New York Times best-selling author, who has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Christianity Today*, *Slate*, *The Huffington Post*, *The CNN Belief Blog*, and on NPR. Evans served on President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Evans asks the question, "What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired?"

One reviewer wrote: "Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The Bible...is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world."

Led by Rev. Anne Marie Holloway and Betsy Wooster. **Monday evenings, from 7:00 to 8:00, March 18-April 8** – in the Third Floor Youth Room (March 18 and April 1) and the Reception Room (March 25 and April 8).

Led by Kelly Ford **at 7:30 on Sunday evenings:** March 17, March 24, March 31, and April 7 - in the Reception Room.

*Becoming Wise
An Inquiry into
the Mystery and
Art of Living
Krista Tippett*

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



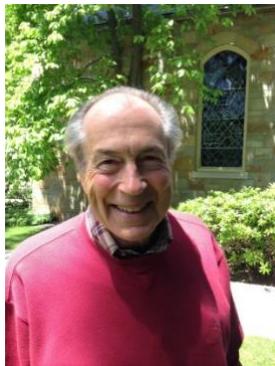
BECOMING WISE, by Krista Tippett, winner of the National Humanities medal for “thoughtfully delving into the mysteries of human existence” and host of the NPR program and podcast, *On Faith*.

In her book, Tippett reflects on what she calls the “breeding ground of wisdom: words, flesh, love, faith and hope.” We’ll wrestle with big questions: what does it mean to be human? What matters in life? How can we be of service to one another?”

Led by Rev. Judy Swahnberg and Mary Hill Canavan **at 10:45 on Tuesday mornings:** March 19, March 26, April 2, and April 9 - in the Reception Room.

Contact Rev. Judy Swahnberg (judy@hillschurch.org) or Rev. Anne Marie Holloway (annemarie@hillschurch.org) or the Church Office (cynthia@hillschurch.org) if you are interested in participating in either of these Lenten studies.

THE NEXT LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE AND DINNER IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10



In the twenty-first century, we seldom hear sermons which focus on the Holy Spirit, or the difficult concept of the triune God which we profess in the sacrament of baptism. And yet, the most cursory reading of Luke’s gospel and the book of the *Acts of the Apostles* reveals that the presence of the Holy Spirit was of vital importance to the earliest Christian communities. Indeed, the presence of God’s spirit in the church may have been the primary factor in setting the community apart from the rest of society and enabling the community to grow and flourish. **On Wednesday evening April 10**, we will try to make some sense out of this very difficult concept and its importance for our individual lives and the mission of our church. Join us for dinner at 6:00 and the service at 7:00.

MARCH MISSION SUNDAY - THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – KID FOOD NEEDED! This Sunday, during Church School, all children in grades K - 6th grade will serve others.

We will learn about food insecurity and how children can also make a difference in the fight against kid hunger.

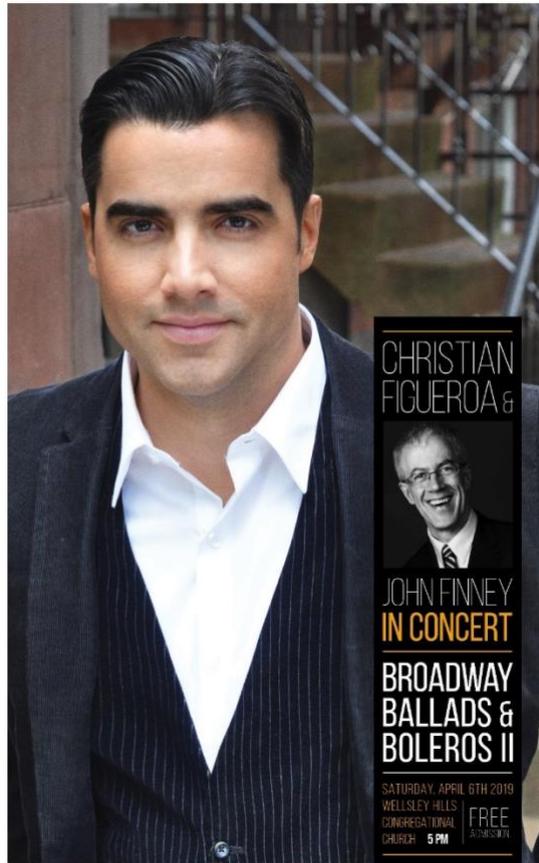
- Do they know how it feels to be hungry?
- Do they have a favorite “quick and easy to make” food? Have them bring it to church. We will collect food again for Chittick Elementary School's backpack program, run by Rose's Bounty Food Pantry, a program that helps to feed local children when they are out of school.
- We will pack 40 bags with the food that you bring and some supplied by the church, and then write friendly notes to the children attending Chittick school.

Children can make a positive difference in the lives of other kids in need. It’s important to talk to children about hunger, and inspire them to help. We will also watch a video. Here’s the link:

<https://youtu.be/OwIuOVJAn-0>

If you would like to do more as a family, this Family Action Plan contains fun activities that will help you talk to your child about hunger and ways to take action in your community. [Download your free Hungry to Help Family Action Plan.](#)

Link- <https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/feeding-america-family-action-plan.pdf>



CHRISTIAN FIGUEROA AND JOHN FINNEY IN RECITAL. SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.

An evening of Broadway, Ballads, & Boleros!

Songs Like: *Maria, Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Impossible Dream, La Vie En Rose, Amapola, La Flor De La Canela, Preciosa, En Mi Viejo San Juan* and others!



10th Annual Family Promise **Walk Away Homelessness** Walkathon
SATURDAY, April 6, 2019 at the Natick High School
15 West Street, Natick
Registration opens at 8:00am

Join hundreds of walkers of all ages for fun, music, food, face painting, prizes and more!

TOGETHER WE WILL WALK to END HOMELESSNESS!

Help us celebrate our 10th Annual Walk to End Homelessness. This year Family Promise is hoping for 100% participation from all of its congregations as it marks this special 10th year anniversary.

All proceeds from the walk will help Family Promise Metrowest end the cycle of homelessness by providing families with shelter, meals and professional services.

<http://walkawayhomelessness.familypromisemetrowest.org> or call 508-318-4820.



EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to give Easter lilies in memory of—or in honor of—a loved one, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office by **Monday, April 15**.

You may donate whatever amount you wish. Checks should be made payable to the *Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*. Please note *Easter Flowers* on the memo line of your check.

My donation for Easter Flowers is given (PLEASE PRINT)

In memory of: _____

or

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Mail your check to:
Wellesley Hills Congregational
Church
207 Washington Street
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

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.**

[YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS](#)



YOUTH GROUPS
At The Hills Church

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

Senior High YG meets: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

*Both programs meet every Sunday evening in the Youth Room unless otherwise indicated
For more information email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org.

Quotable Quote: *"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."* ~ Leo Buscaglia

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

03/31/19 (SUNDAY - NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE) Both Youth Groups meet at regular times for "Tin Canny Voting" and the "Board Game Challenge".

04/07/19 (SUNDAY) Both youth groups meet Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 for an "Around the Town" scavenger hunt!!! Weather permitting. More TBA. Parent volunteers needed!

04/13/19 (SATURDAY) Easter Egg Hunt help and fun from 8:30am-12:00pm!!! All youth are invited to volunteer as Bunny Helpers! Join the fun! (No regular Sunday Youth Group Meetings)

04/21/19 (EASTER SUNDAY) - No Sunday Youth Group Meetings.

04/28/19 (SUNDAY) - Both Youth Groups meet Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:15 for a Shaving Cream Wiffle Ball Tournament.

05/05/19 (SUNDAY) - Confirmation Sunday! Join us for our worship service at 10:00 a.m. as we confirm and celebrate alongside our 2019 Confirmation Class! Youth Groups meet at regular times for program titled, "Dear Future Self ..."

*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, March 28

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Conversations for Women

This Sunday's Scripture Reading
2 Corinthians 5:16-17
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

FRIDAY, March 29

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Connections (at the home of Laurie Otten, 58 Grove Hill Park, in Newtonville)

SATURDAY, March 30

SUNDAY, March 31

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 9:15 a.m. The Hills Ringers Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Care Team Luncheon
- 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
- 7:30 p.m. Sunday Night Lenten Book Group

MONDAY, April 1

- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Lenten Book Group
- 7:00 p.m. Egg Hunt Planning
- 7:15 p.m. Board of Deacons

TUESDAY, April 2

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 10:45 a.m. Tuesday Morning Lenten Book Group

WEDNESDAY, April 3

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

THURSDAY, April 4

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Planning Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings