

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 29, April 4, 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

SOUP AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH – THIS SUNDAY APRIL 7



All are welcome to share an after-church meal **this Sunday, April 7**, at 11:45 a.m. Spend some time with your fellow worshippers, enjoy some good food, and take a minute to share your thoughts about an important question being asked by the church's Strategic Planning Team. (Please see the notice below.)

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

YOUR THOUGHTS/IDEAS NEEDED, PLEASE

STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM ASKS: WHY ARE WE HERE AS THE HILLS CHURCH?

The recently formed strategic planning work group members have been discussing important elements of the strategic plan, including the five Hallmarks of our church ministry, in order to discern where we are going as a faith community and how we are planning to meet needs in our church and community. The group has identified a key piece of this process as being able to articulate **why** we are all here as the Hills Church. It is easier to describe **what** the Hills Church does or **how** we practice ministry. For example, we support, reflect, nurture, and learn through community service, musical celebrations, and education programs with children and youth.

We want to hear from the whole congregation about "Why we are here as the Hills Church?" We will use this feedback to help formulate a collective "why statement" which will serve to focus and inspire a strategic plan for the Hills Church.

Please take a few minutes today to think about this question: "Why we are here as the Hills Church?" We welcome **everyone's** response to this question. Your voice matters, as it is our collective discernment that will help to determine steps in our collective faith journey.

This Sunday morning, there will be an opportunity to write your responses and post them to a "**brainstorming board**" during this Sunday's community hour and Soup Lunch hosted by Parish Life. Your response can be words or a statement. It can be anonymous or you can sign your name. You may also email your thoughts, words or statements to the church c/o the office of the moderator: officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org. Thank you for taking the time to think about **why**.

- Strategic Planning Ministry Team
*Rob Andrews, Mary Hill Canavan, Nancy Simons
Jessica Sturtevant, Kristen Toffer, Gintas Vildzius
Anne Marie Holloway, Matt Wooster*

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 hop onto the church website – hillschurch.org - and click the “Register for the Egg Hunt” button on the home page or 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>

- **The 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 during Community Hour.

The Easter Bunny will be hopping with Joy!

POETRY AND AFTERNOON TEA AT THE HILLS – NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1:30 PM



April is National Poetry Month and Judy Swahnberg will bring some of her favorite poems for our reflection and discussion. Please bring some of your favorite poems as well! We will gather **in the Reception Room next Tuesday, April 9, at 1:30.**

We're always looking for more tenderness and grace, right? So please join the Seniors Ministry team in the Reception Room next Tuesday afternoon for tea and cookies, “warm” conversation and the opportunity to exchange stories and thoughts – and a poem or two.

Please call Cynthia in the church office at 781-235-4424 if you would like a ride to or from the church.

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.

Maunder 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 – PRESENT TO PRAYER

One of the foundational practices during Lent is prayer and one way to experience it is through meditation. When we pause, breathe deeply, and quiet our minds from the many thoughts we carry with us through our day, we can become present to prayer and to God's presence in our lives.

Barbara Brown Taylor in her book "An Altar in the World" notes the difference between prayer and prayers; prayers for instance, may be said in community on Sunday or when we rise to greet the morning. Prayer, she adds, is more than saying set prayers at set times: "...It is waking up to the presence of God no matter where you are or what you are doing....When you are able to give yourself wholly to the moment you are in, then you are in prayer....God is happening, and you are in The Midst."

Please join us to practice prayer on Tuesday mornings in the reception room from 9:30 - 10:30am.

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

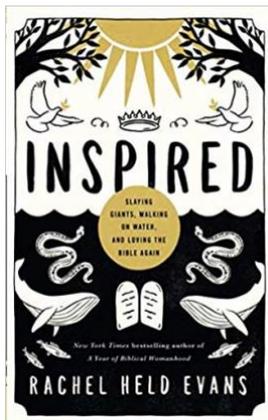
Questions? Email Mary Hill Canavan at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN – NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 9 – 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 next Tuesday, April 9.** 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:



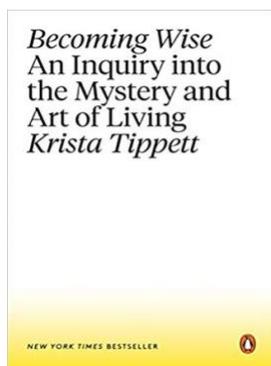
INSPIRED, by Rachel Held Evans, a New York Times best-selling author, who has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Christianity Today*, *Slate*, *The Huffington Post*, *The CNN Belief Blog*, and on NPR. Evans served on President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith Based and Neighborhood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



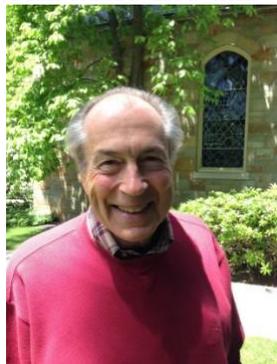
BECOMING WISE, by Krista Tippett, winner of the National Humanities medal for “thoughtfully delving into the mysteries of human existence” and host of the NPR program and podcast, *On Faith*.

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 NEXT 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. **Next 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.



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

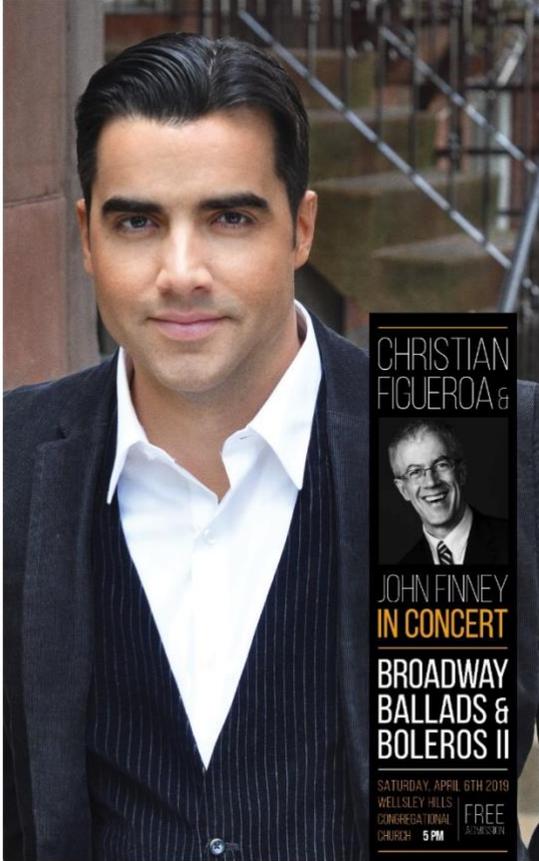
Join hundreds of walkers of all ages for fun, music, food, face painting, prizes and more!

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.



**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!



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.

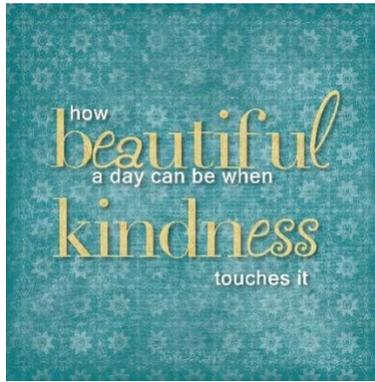
Weekly Newsletters

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: *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."* ~ Howard Thurman

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

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. Alleluia! Jesus has risen!

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 ..."

05/12/19 (SUNDAY) – Mothers' Day. No Youth Group meetings! (Be sure to celebrate and be good to those awesome "motherly humans" in your lives!!)

*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, April 4

9:00 a.m. Staff Planning Meeting

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, April 5

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, April 6

SUNDAY, April 7

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 – Parish Life All-Church Soup Luncheon

1:00 p.m. Honduras Hope Board Meeting

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 8

10:30 a.m. Memorial Service and Memorial Tea (James Dana Walton (Jim))

1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monday Night Lenten Book Group

7:30 p.m. Stewards Support Board

TUESDAY, April 9

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation

10:45 a.m. Tuesday Morning Lenten Book Group

1:30 p.m. Afternoon Tea at the Hills Church

4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Client Supper

6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers

7:30 p.m. Church Council

7:30 p.m. Spiritual Conversations for Women

WEDNESDAY, April 10

10:00 a.m. Bible and the News

6:00 p.m. Lay-led Worship Service and Dinner

7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class and Dinner

8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, April 11

10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. North Hill Tea

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

7:30 p.m. Christian Service Support Board

This Sunday's Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

John 12:1-8