

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 39, September 5, 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

**RALLY DAY IS THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS!
COME FOR WORSHIP!
STAY FOR ICE CREAM!**



The Hills Church celebrates the beginning of a new year of program ministries **this Sunday, September 8**. The Chancel Choir will return to lead worship – Parish Life will host the annual Ice Cream Social on the front lawn after worship – and Children and Youth in new grades will be welcomed to their new interim classrooms at the Wellesley Community Center next door to the church! (Please see below for more information about this.)

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| 9:00 a.m. | Church School Open House |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service - with a sermon by Rev. Matt Wooster |
| 11:00 a.m. | Ice Cream Social on the front lawn. |



RALLY DAY 2018

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHURCH SCHOOL ON RALLY DAY

Our Church School children and youth will be in a new space until the current renovation work on the second and third floor of the Parish House is complete. **THIS SUNDAY**, during worship – and following a "Word For All Ages" – our Hills Church staff and volunteers will lead all Church School children – and youth – across the “big” parking lot to the Wellesley Community Center to view our temporary church school space.

This space will hold our classrooms and meeting space during the month of September. **After worship this Sunday**, our volunteers and staff will bring our children and youth back to the Assembly Room, where families can pick up their children and then enjoy a time of fellowship and some “Welcome Back Ice Cream Sundaes” on the front lawn.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH MINISTRY FALL PROGRAMS EXCITEMENT EXPLORE! CREATE! WONDER! SERVE!



Sally Tomasetti and I have been busy planning ahead for the upcoming Church School and Youth Ministry program year! We are so very excited to see your wonderful faces again as we gather together to celebrate the beginning of a new church program year on Rally Day. We cannot wait to hear all about your summer adventures!

There are some exciting changes in store for our children and youth ministry programs that we would like to share with you as we journey ahead through these next few weeks. (And we will be revealing more detail as we get closer to the start of our Fall program year.

We know you will be just as excited as we are about the upcoming changes, and so here is a preview of what lies ahead!

- 1) This Sunday’s Worship Service will include a “blessing of the backpacks,” so be sure to bring your bags and backpacks to church with you. (And don't worry if you forget. We have special backpack tags we will be including in this blessing!)
- 2) We are introducing a new “Godly Play” curriculum into our program for Sunday mornings that highlights the stories of our Faith and opens a space for all our children and youth to explore the Bible in new and relevant ways. We are incorporating multiple opportunities for our children and youth to discover the gifts and talents God has uniquely blessed each of us with. We will wonder

in God's amazing love as we encourage our children, youth, and their families to join us as we go out into our communities to serve and help those in need!

- 3) We have several new part-time Church School teachers joining our Church School team this Fall! We will also continue to enjoy having our parents serve as shepherds and assistants alongside our Church School program teachers. We hope you will consider volunteering to help!
- 4) We have secured temporary space for the month of September at the Wellesley Community Center (located right next door to the church and just across our "Big Parking Lot"). We will be using this temporary space for our Sunday Church School, Youth Group, and Confirmation Programs until this first phase of the HVAC Construction Project is complete, which is expected to be late next month.

Please be on the lookout for more news about our programs and plans for our children, youth, and families in the weeks ahead!

What a gift it is to walk among you and serve as a minister of the Hills Church!

Blessings to you on all your summer adventures,
Rev. Anne Marie Holloway
Associate Minister for Youth and Families

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 – AT 7:30 Spiritual Conversations for Women will start up again this fall on **Tuesday evening, September 10**, at the home of Elaine Vildzius (29 Royce Road in Newton). We are a group of diverse women, from five different countries and multiple faith backgrounds, who cherish the chance these meetings provide to listen and to share our traditions, our ideas, and our questions about faith topics. The topic for this program year's first meeting is Worship: What does it mean to worship God? Is it important? Why? How do you worship? This is a drop-in group. All women of faith are welcome, and it doesn't matter whether you are a member of the Hills Church or not. Come and bring your unique voice or just come to listen. Future meetings will take place on the **second Tuesday of each month** and will be held in the homes of those participating.

WHAT MIGHT YOU TAKE AWAY FROM MORNING MEDITATION ON TUESDAY MORNINGS THIS FALL?

....Being present to God's grace in our lives through stillness, meditation, and prayer... Time spent talking about our experiences with our spiritual practices ... The opportunity to talk a bit about whatever is on our hearts and minds....Peace.

Whether you are new to the spiritual practice of meditation or looking for others to share in this experience with you, please join us on Tuesday mornings – **beginning Tuesday morning, September 17** - from 9:30 - 10:30 in the Board Room at the church for Morning Meditation. Questions? Email Mary Hill Canavan at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.

Come as you are able, whenever you can...we look forward to seeing you then.

FALL MINISTRY SHOWCASE – AFTER WORSHIP, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 (SPONSORED BY PARTICIPATION & INVOLVEMENT)

On Sunday September 15, come ready to explore the many opportunities our church offers for growing our faith, serving others, enjoying fellowship, and helping to lead and manage our church organization. There will be tables, posters, balloons, and invitations for people to discover God at work in and through the Hills Church.

Come with an open heart and mind, ready to ask questions and explore options where you can put your spiritual gifts to use and grow in your faith.

If you are a leader of a ministry team or board member, you have an opportunity to help explorers know more about opportunities to join your area of service, fellowship or study. We will be creating table posters at the church **on Saturday afternoon, September 14, from 1:00 to 4:00 in the Assembly Room.** We encourage you to join us. After the event, the posters will form a “Mural of Opportunities” to be displayed in the Assembly Room this fall.

Contact Bill Spencer, Laurie Otten, or Becky Williams for more details.

TEA AND CONVERSATION AT THE HILLS – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - AT 1:30 PM



Please join church friends **on Tuesday afternoon, September 17, at 1:30** to catch up on your summer activities and any plans for the fall. Did you read a good book? Travel someplace fun or educational, or both? See family?

In addition, we will catch up with what has been happening around our church building – what renovation work has been done, what is still in process, and what happens next.

And because of the ongoing construction, we will gather in the Assembly Room, instead of the Reception Room. Please call Cynthia Gordan in the church office at 781-235-4424 if you would like a ride to or from the tea. We will be happy to pick you up – and get you back home again safely!

“MY NAME IS ‘ŌPŪKAHA‘IA”

SPECIAL PROGRAM SUNDAY OCTOBER 13, 11:30 A.M. IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM



The Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives will present a cultural and theatrical program in association with the bicentennial of the departure of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions’ (ABCFM) Pioneer Company from New England to the Sandwich Isles (Hawai‘i) in 1819.

The story of ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia is instrumental in understanding the history of 19th century Hawai‘i and its connection to New England. Moses Goods, one of Hawai‘i’s finest actors, presents a theatrical performance which portrays the personal journey that Henry Obookiah experienced and the long-reaching influence this journey had on the history of Hawai‘i. His performance has reached wide audiences in Hawaii and will be touring throughout New England during the month of October 2019.

The Hills Church will host this production **on Sunday, October 13, following worship**. A light lunch will be provided, and there will be time for dialogue following the 30 minute performance by Moses Goods.

COMING THIS FALL: FOCUS ON FAITH

A CLERGY-LED BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

CHOOSE EITHER MORNING OR EVENING SESSIONS – WHICHEVER WORKS BEST FOR YOU

This fall, Matt, Anne Marie, and Judy will focus on books that illuminate faithful living, whether through the study of theology, spirituality, or pastoral care.

Due to the renovation work currently underway, we are waiting until October to begin this series – allowing plenty of time for reading and reflecting on the selected texts in advance. So, here is a preview of the books we will be discussing.

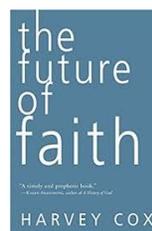
Monday, October 28

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: *The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox

Led by: Rev. Matt Wooster



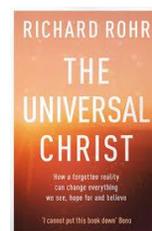
Monday, November 18

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr

Led by: Rev. Judy Swahnberg



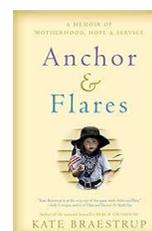
Monday, January 27, 2020

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: *Anchor and Flares* by Kate Braestrup

Led by: Rev. Anne Marie Holloway



NEW FACES IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

John Dooley, has joined the church staff as our new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). John brings over twenty-five years of CFO experience to our finance team. He has built a career around providing advice and counsel solely to non-profit organizations, working on everything from start-up operations and financial turnarounds, to accounting and finance department restructurings. John will be working with us as a part-time member of the church staff, and it is anticipated that he will be spending about ten hours per week on Hills Church matters. John is also currently the part-time CFO for the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Rhode Island, and he serves in the same role with Healthcare Without Walls in Wellesley. We are fortunate to have found John and are thrilled to welcome him to the Hills Church team.

Separately, it is surprising how fast 25 years goes by. That is how long David Hansen has been serving as Treasurer of the Hills Church. It is with immeasurable gratitude that the Hills Church thanks David for

his decades of service and celebrates his retirement from this volunteer position. Linda Thomas has graciously agreed to serve as Interim Treasurer until our January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting, when a full-time replacement will be nominated to serve.

Thank you to David and Linda, and welcome to John Dooley!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

Church School starts THIS SUNDAY! We look forward to welcoming your child to explore, create, wonder and serve.

Rally Day is here again! Church life kicks back into high gear – and we welcome back all our *church babies!*

If you are new to Hills Church, please let us know. We would love to hear how we can best serve your family.

Nursey: Our temporary nursery – downstairs in the Assembly Room – is open for babies to almost three year old. Drop off starts at 9:45 a.m.

Toddler/PreK: Our usual downstairs classroom is now open for three to five year olds. Children start in the sanctuary, then go to class during the *Passing of the Peace*. Pick up is in their classroom.

Children in Kindergarten through eighth grade have a classroom gathering this Sunday morning in our temporary place over at the Community Centre. They will start their day in the Worship Service and then leave for class during the *Passing of the Peace*. They will return to the Assembly room for pick up and today's Ice Cream Social.

Where in the Church is Mrs. T and the children? While the current renovation work is underway, Church School will look a little different – but the fun will continue on Sunday mornings. During the Passing of the Peace, Grades K-5 will journey over to the Community Center next door. Preschoolers will go to their usual classroom on the first floor of the Parish house. And grades 6/7/8 will join us at the Community Center. All children and youth will be back in the Assembly Room for pick up.

Children & Youth Ministry Information table THIS SUNDAY! Come visit our information table **on Rally Day**. We will be outside on the front lawn during the Ice-cream Social. We would love to chat! Meet Nick, Denise, and Abby – our new teachers. We also need leaders and other helpers throughout the year – so, please consider volunteering.

Children's Bell Choir - Hills Ringers – will begin meeting on September 15 – BEFORE worship

The Hills Ringers will be meeting in Wallace Chapel until the renovation work is complete. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn a new skill and make music with friends! All ages grades 3+ are invited, beginners wanted. If interested in joining please contact Martha @ cpbranwell@gmail.com

If your child has a musical talent and would like to play during worship, we will honor them. Contact John Finney: Johnf@hillschurch.org to schedule.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS



JOIN US FOR THE FALL SEASON OF THE HILLS CHURCH MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: KICK OFF 2019!

Our Middle School Youth in Grades 6-8 are invited to join us for good food, great fun and lots of laughter **from 4:30-6:00 pm THIS Sunday September 8!**

Our Middle School Youth Group will be meeting in the Wellesley Community Center every Sunday afternoon during September! We hope to see you there! For more information please contact the Rev. Anne Marie Holloway annemarie@hillschurch.org.

ATTENTION FAMILIES OF 9TH AND 10TH GRADERS OUR CONFIRMATION PROGRAM WILL BE STARTING SOON!

Our Hills Church Confirmation Class **orientation dinner will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at 7:30 pm in the Board Room!** For more information, please contact the Rev. Anne Marie Holloway annemarie@hillschurch.org.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, September 5

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Church Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:30 p.m. Church School Teacher Training
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, September 6

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, September 7

SUNDAY, September 8 – Rally Day!

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour – Parish Life Ice Cream Social and Church School Teacher Recruitment
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, September 9

- 7:15 p.m. Board of Deacons

TUESDAY, September 10

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council

WEDNESDAY, September 11

- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, September 12

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Church Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. North Hill Tea
- 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.**