

new program or ministry you believe would help our church live out this purpose. How might your idea for a new program or ministry affect our church, our community, and the world around us?

The Strategic Visioning Team welcomes your thoughts and ideas. Your responses to these questions will be collected after worship **this Sunday, September 29**, and again during Community Hour **on Sunday, October 6**.

In the alternative, describe your idea in a few sentences and send it to the Office of the Moderator at officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org. The Strategic Visioning Team will be collecting ideas **through October 15**. We look forward to hearing from you!

CALLING ALL PUMPKIN PATCH-LOVERS!!



The Pumpkins Are COMING! The Pumpkins are COMING!

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Friday, October 11!**

We will need all hands on deck to help unload pumpkins this day!

We are also going to need lots of volunteers to staff the Patch after the pumpkins are delivered. To volunteer, just go to the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-pumpkin3>

Everyone is invited to join in this AWESOME annual Fall fundraising tradition, when we will, once again, be raising money for our Youth programs and for a second beneficiary to be designated by the Christian Service Support Board.

Be sure to stay tuned for more Patch details!



CONFIRMATION CLASS “DINNERS AND CONVERSATION” BEGIN OCTOBER 9

Confirmation 2020 Class Dinners and Conversations begin **on Wednesday evening October 9** at 7:30 in the Board Room (located directly off the Sanctuary)!

If you were unable to make it to our Orientation on September 25 ,please be sure to reach out to Rev. Anne Marie Holloway to let her know that your teen will be participating in this year’s Confirmation Program!

A BIG “THANK YOU” TO THE LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY GROUP AND ALL OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNITY HOUR

Providing coffee, tea, and sweets is an act of love by members of the Community Hour Ministry Team and members of the congregation. It works because, each week, we have a team leader and helpers (organized through Sign-Up Genius) for set-up, serving, and clean-up.

For a while this program year, we had no leader for the third Sunday of each month. This problem is now behind us, however, thanks to the Lectionary Bible Study Group, which has stepped up and agreed to fill this coverage gap. Thank you, Lectionary Bible Study Group members! And thank you, Parish Life, Deacons, Karen Gunn, and David Otten, who bring us Community Hour on the other four Sundays of each month!

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION:

“He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul.” Psalm 23.

Whether you are new to meditation or practice it daily...come, be still, and be restored during this time together, Tuesday mornings – from 9:30 - 10:30 – in the Sanctuary.

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

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

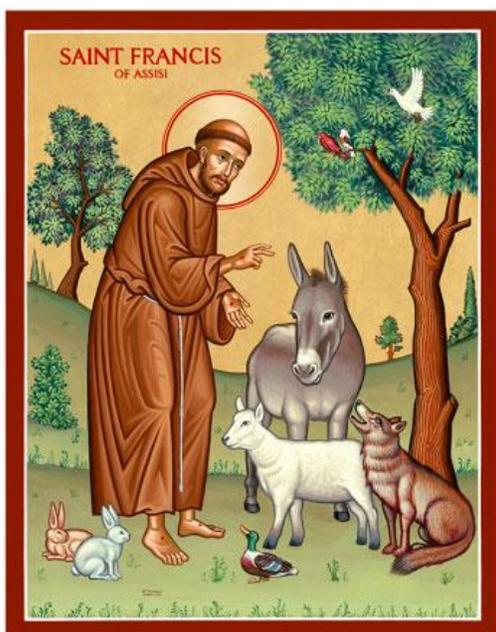
**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN
NOW MEETING ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Matt likes to say that the sermon is the beginning point for a conversation. At the next meeting we will talk about ideas, quotes, topics, which came up in one of his, Judy's or Anne Marie's recent sermons that intrigued or moved you. What would you like to talk about some more?

We are a group of diverse women, from six different countries, Hills Church members and non-members from multiple faith backgrounds who join together to listen and share our traditions, ideas, questions about faith topics. Come and bring your unique voice or just listen. All women of the church (members and non-members) are welcome.

Next meeting: Next Tuesday evening, October 1 – 7:30-9:00 in the home of Beth Ross, 20 Dale Street, in Newtonville.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 6, AT 3:00



On the afternoon of **Sunday, October 6, at 3:00**, Rev. Judy Swahnberg invites all beloved pets and their “people” to gather on the front lawn for a simple service of Blessing of the Animals.

We’ll ask God to care for our animals’ health and wellbeing, and bless the relationship and bond we have with them as part of our common kinship, an aspect of the great glory of Creation.

Please consider what will work best for your animal -- bringing dogs on leashes and cats and other animals in comfortable travel containers. Stuffed animals also welcome!

Questions? Contact Rev. Judy Swahnberg judy@hillschurch.org

THE APOSTLES

MONDAY EVENINGS THIS FALL – FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 – IN WALLACE CHAPEL

Emerging from Jewish tradition and the patriarchal culture of the time, a new generation of women uses their hands, hearts, and voices to continue Jesus’ ministry. Let us enter the world and times of the Acts of the Apostles, including some of these women:

- A sudden, shocking death.
- An unlikely leader of a house church that provides fellowship, prayer, and shelter.
- A disciple raised from the dead.
- A prophetic slave.
- Another slave who recognizes Peter’s voice and lets him in.
- A respected preacher.
- Faithful tenders of the sick and hungry.
- Prisoners of the Roman constabulary.
- A member of the nobility who sits mute at Paul’s hearing.

Bearing witness, preaching salvation, living the faith – but also sometimes fearful, persecuted, burdened by human weakness, these women were emboldened by Jesus’ message and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Join with others in the congregation to learn about these early believers. Yes, the focus of this Bible Study will be on women, but it is an opportunity for anyone with curiosity about how the early Church struggled and grew, spreading The Word of God throughout the trials and challenges of two thousand years of history. All are welcome!

In Wallace Chapel, on Monday evenings: October 7 and 21; November 4 and 25 – from 7:00 to 8:30.

Please email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway annemarie@hillschurch.org if you are interested in attending.

CONSIDER BECOMING A NEW MEMBER AMBASSADOR

Do you enjoy meeting people and making others feel welcome? Please become a “New Member Ambassador” and help us extend warm hospitality to the newest members of our church family.



Together, we’ll devise strategies to integrate new members into our congregation while enjoying their company and making new friends. New members, you are warmly invited to join us too!

For more information, please contact Sarah Howe (sarfair@gmail.com) or Sarah Pedersen (pedersenfamily6@verizon.net).

LOGISTICS INFORMATION ABOUT CHURCH SCHOOL THIS FALL – A REMINDER

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. More specifically, throughout the month of September, all Sunday morning Church School classes and all Youth Group meetings will be held just across the ‘big’ parking lot at the Wellesley Community Center.

After worship, 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.

MAKE VOLUNTEERING IN CHURCH SCHOOL YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!

Volunteering in Church School is an opportunity:

- To have fun,
- To discover abilities you didn't even know you had,
- To strengthen your own faith, as you strengthen the children’s,
- To get to know more people in our church – adults and children, alike,
- To build friendships with the other Church School teachers, and
- To help to keep our church community healthy and strong.

Volunteers make a big difference in a child's life.
Please consider teaching. The children are waiting for you.

Don’t be afraid. We make teaching easy! To support our Church School teachers, we provide:

- Curriculum materials for all classes.
- Teacher training and orientation before your teaching month begins.
- Ongoing support and guidance – on an as-needed basis, from both the clergy and Sally Tomasetti, Coordinator of Children’s Ministry.

And don't worry. You won't have to miss hearing the Sunday morning Worship Service. Church School volunteers are able to attend the first 15 minutes of Sunday Worship with their children – and all Worship Services are recorded, making it possible for you to enjoy the balance of the service at your convenience.

Visits to current Church School classes can be arranged, so that anyone thinking about teaching can observe and talk to current teachers and shepherds.

For more information, contact Sally: Sallyt@hillschurch.org, or sign up to help at the Children's Ministry table.

“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.

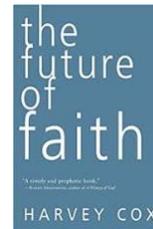
**COMING THIS FALL: FOCUS ON FAITH
A CLERGY-LED BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
CHOOSE EITHER MORNING OR EVENING SESSIONS – WHICHEVER WORKS BEST
FOR YOU**

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.

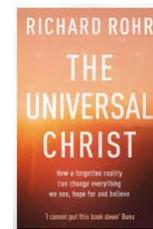
Monday, October 28

Morning: 10-11:15 am,
Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm
Text: *The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox
Led by: Rev. Matt Wooster



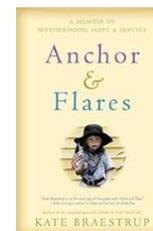
Monday, November 18

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



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

EXPLORE. CREATE. WONDER. SERVE.

CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE will be attending Church School classes in their temporary classrooms at the Wellesley Community Center, which is just next door to the church. Additional information about the logistics of this temporary arrangement will be shared each Sunday morning, right before the Passing of the Peace.

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR - WILL PRACTICE SUNDAY MORNINGS - 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.

SECOND AND THIRD GRADE COMMUNION CLASS

In preparation for World Communion Sunday on October 6, all children in Grades 2 and 3 are invited to learn about why and how we take Communion, and what this sacrament means. This class will meet during Church School this Sunday, September 29. If your child has missed this in previous years they are also invited to attend. We offer this class so our upcoming Second Grade class is able to recognize the significance of this sacrament. Third graders who took the class last year are also invited to remember and revisit. In fact, we like the idea of children taking this class twice. (There is a lot to think about.)

BIBLES

How cool is it to get your own Bible? This year we present all fourth and fifth grade students with an age-appropriate Bible of their very own. The presentation of these Bibles will take place during the October 20 Worship Service before the children leave the service for their Church School classes. We would dearly like your fourth or fifth grader to be there. Please contact Sally if they can attend.

CLUBNIGHT

This is a fun night time gathering for kids in Grades 3 through 5 – and it is always a big hit with the kids. For this night to happen this year, we are looking for two helpers willing to form a team with Sally. If you are a young adult, a dad, a mom, or a fun loving older adult, we hope you will volunteer to share God's joy with this age group. We do games, we play sports, and we get messy – but mostly we build relationships.

Can you help? Our first gathering is **on Friday, October 11**, in conjunction with this year's Pumpkin unloading.

Youth Ministry Happenings – Fall 2019:



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meets **this Sunday afternoon, September 29**, in the Wellesley Community Center from 4:30 to 6:00.

Don't miss "Ping Pong Panic" – an evening of games – fun – and 1,000 ping pong balls!

YOUTH LEADERS NEEDED: We are looking for additional Youth Leaders to join us! If you are interested in walking alongside this awesome group of teens as they learn, grow and faithfully gather, please email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org.

BE SURE THESE SPECIAL DATES ARE ON YOUR CALENDARS ...

October 11th Pumpkins Arrive! Help the Hills Church team cover the church's front lawn with pumpkins. From 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Stay for the whole time – or just as long as you can – but do try to hang out long enough to enjoy some pizza and pumpkin carving fun too. Funds from our pumpkin sales support our youth groups and our ministry of service to others!

October 13th Feeding the Homeless with the Outdoor Church. (Both Middle School and High School Youth can help!)

October 19th Boda Borg Adventure Trip – begins at 6:30 p.m.



ANNOUNCING A SPECIAL YOUTH

We are excited to offer all Hills Church Youth in grades 8-12 an opportunity to participate in a week-long service trip to Alamosa Colorado – Sunday, June 28, 2020 through Friday, July 3.

We will be teaming up with Youth Works, a wonderful organization that specializes in working with churches to provide teens with Christ-centered youth service trips.

Our Pumpkin Patch Fundraising efforts over the past few years have made it possible to offer this service trip at minimal cost to our youth and volunteers. The Hills Church will cover 90% of the cost of our trip!

(How awesome is that?)

Our group will work the entire week side by side with other organizations to meet the ongoing needs of those facing food insecurity and homelessness.

We will also have a day on our trip when our teens will be able to visit some of the natural wonders of the area, including Colorado's Sand Dunes National Park and a local hot springs.

LEARN MORE! COME TO AN INFORMATION SESSION THIS SUNDAY

4:00 PM – AT THE WELLESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER!



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet Wednesday evening, October 16, from 7:30-8:45 for our first “Dinner and Conversation” YG meeting.

At each of our monthly meetings, our Senior High Youth Group members will join with our new Confirmants for “Dinner and Conversations!” The location, menu and topic of discussion will vary from meeting to meeting – but for this one, you can count on pizza and a yummy dessert – in the WHCC Board Room.

If you cannot make our once a month Wednesday evening gatherings, do not fear! There will be multiple local service opportunities and fun events scheduled each month for our youth group members!

AND BE SURE THESE SPECIAL DATES ARE ON YOUR CALENDARS ...

October 11th Pumpkins Arrive!

October 13th Feeding the Homeless with the Outdoor Church

October 20th Serve at Rosie’s Place at 3:00. We had an awesome turnout last year! Please reach out to Anne Marie if you are able to serve with us again!

November 2nd Trip to Boston to see Blue Man Group

**For more information about Youth Group Programming at the Hills Church, please contact the Rev. Anne Marie Holloway – annemarie@hillschurch.org.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, September 26

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

FRIDAY, September 27

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, September 28

SUNDAY, September 29

- 9:00 a.m. Hills Ringers Practice (Children's Bell Choir)
- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Master Plan Presentation
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, September 30

TUESDAY, October 1

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Conversations for Women (at the home of Beth Ross, 29 Dale Street, Newtonville)

WEDNESDAY, October 2

- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, October 3

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 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.**