

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 38, August 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER 2019 ECUMENICAL SERVICES SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 11 The Hills Church (UCC), 207 Washington St., Wellesley

August 18 The Village Church (UCC), 2 Central Street, Wellesley

August 25 All churches resume normal schedules

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:00

RALLY DAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 COME FOR WORSHIP! STAY FOR ICE CREAM!



The Hills Church celebrates the beginning of a new year of program ministries **on 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.)

10:00 a.m.

Worship Service - with a sermon by Rev. Matt Wooster

11:00 a.m.

Ice Cream Social on the front lawn.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHURCH SCHOOL ON RALLY DAY

Our Church School children and youth will be in a new space while our church building is under renovations. On Rally Day, 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 on Rally Day, 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!"

More information will be available in our "WHCC Children and Youth Ministry Weekly Newsletter" the first week of September – so please stay tuned!

CHURCH COUNCIL: CHANGE AND OPPORTUNITY

This summer's renovation in the Parish House has often meant a change in how and where church activities were held. And these changes have often also created an opportunity to experience a new way of living out our church life – and in doing so, to be re-energized by new ideas and possibilities. Such was the case for our July Church Council meeting.

As the church Reception Room was under renovation, the opportunity came in holding our July Church Council meeting at the Day Center of Family Promise in Natick.

A little over a year ago, the Day Center moved from a very small office space provided by a local church to a beautiful, spacious building near the Natick town center. Included in this new facility is a wonderful

conference room where we met with Executive Director Sue Crossley who provided us with a tour of the Center and an update on how our church's support has helped Family Promise grow and thrive.

It was amazing to see the space the staff and families now use – particularly in comparison to where they were before. The Center's new space is bright and beautifully designed – allowing the space itself to help convey the great respect Family Promise has for the families they serve – and for the dignity and worth of each of those families.

Most striking was Sue's reminder about the scope of Family Promise's mission, as well as the broad support the program has in the community. As a host church, we experience one component of the program, and yet, as Sue shared with us, there is so much more involved in living out the vision and mission of this program. We were grateful for the opportunity to meet with Sue and to learn more about this vital work in support of families in our communities.

So yes, this very small change in where Church Council held its meeting led to an inspiring experience that served as an important reminder about why we are here as a church. We came away with a renewed appreciation for our role in helping to transform the lives of others as well as our own, neighbor to neighbor. Who knows what other small changes might lead to new and inspiring opportunities for us?

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

CELEBRATING WHY WE ARE HERE

Thank you all for providing input via Post-It notes, e-mails, and one-on-one discussions. We received over 130 responses to the question: "Why are we here as the Hills Church?"

As the Strategic Visioning Team reviewed all of the comments, a few key themes emerged with a high-level of consistency.

While each individual has unique reasons for attending church services or participating in community activities and service projects, we all have a deeper calling that brings us to the Hills Church.

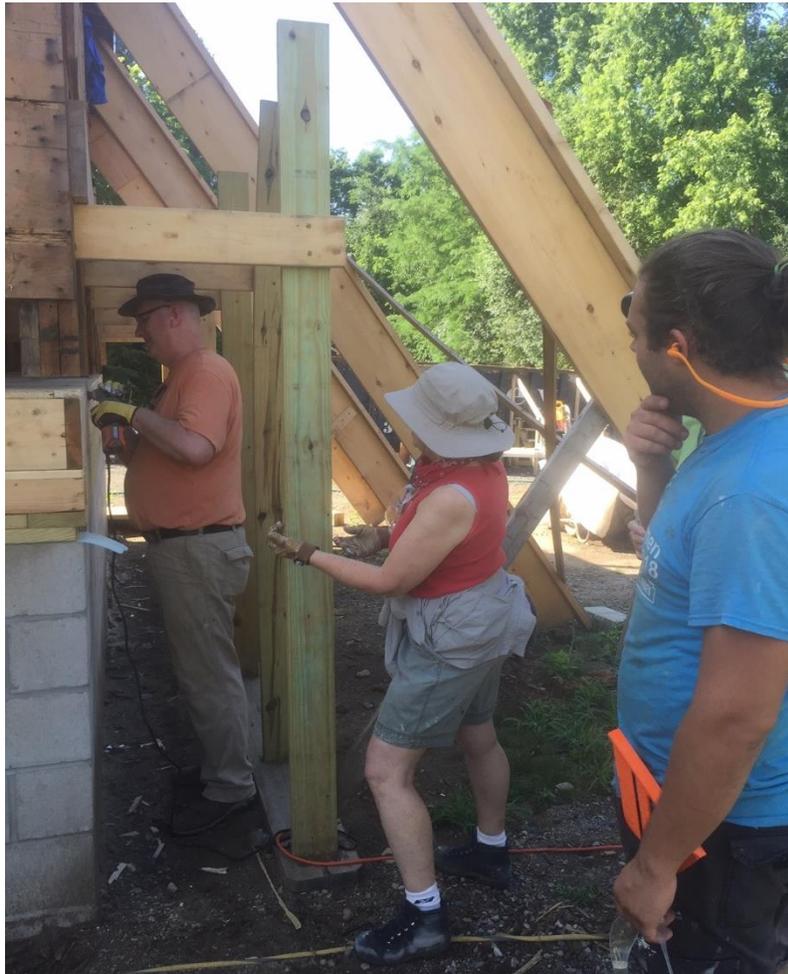
So, why are we here as the Hills Church?

- Connection to God and Community
- Service to the Community
- Faith Formation



- Spirituality - Ritual, Music, Tradition
- Moral Framework
- Diverse Community
- Growth - Open Inquiry into Religious Faith

The team is now drafting a collective “why” statement based on the responses gathered. We will be sharing this with everyone at the Hills Church this fall, as well as looking for input on how we can live out our “Why” in new ways.



WORK CONTINUED THIS SUMMER ON THE HOLLISTON HABITAT BUILD

This Habitat house in Holliston is over 100 years old.

On July 13, our team of Nancy Simons, Paul Bruchez, Rob Andrews, Bruce Dishman, Myralee and Andy Wilson, and Elaine Vildzius, along with some friends and other volunteers helped to reconstruct the back side of the house which was rotting and sagging.

We also finished the insulation on the front, shored up the floor from the basement, framed part of the main staircase and painted some siding boards.

There is still a lot of work to be done, and we will be going back on November 23 to continue the work. Please contact Elaine Vildzius – vildzius@gmail.com – if you would like to pitch in!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING UPDATE

On July 11, campaign consultant Melanie Haddock reported on the findings and recommendations resulting from Walsh & Associates recently completed Feasibility Study. During the third and fourth weeks of June, Melanie conducted 34 interviews – involving a total of 49 individual Church members. Additionally, 29 members completed the questionnaire which was offered, either online and in hard copy.

Ms. Haddock reported that the overwhelming majority of interviewees and respondents (99%) indicated that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the Hills Church and the services and programs the church provides. To similar questions, the interviewees and respondents voiced enthusiastic support for our ministerial team.

Nearly every interviewee or respondent (99%) said that they have “general knowledge” or are “well informed” about the Church’s needs and plans to address facility maintenance and improvements. And, 89% reported that it is “very important” or “important” to address those needs. None responded that the maintenance and improvements were “not needed.” They were aware (100%) of the planned major fundraising campaign, and said that they believed there to be general acceptance among our members for a campaign to address the church’s facility maintenance and improvement needs.

As a result of what she learned through the interviews and questionnaires, Melanie’s firm, Walsh and Associates, informed us that “the study indicates the potential to raise a minimum of \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 over a three-year period for your proposed fundraising campaign.” We are working with our consultant to finalize the overall campaign goal amount given our facilities projects and near term needs; this goal will be communicated as part of the campaign. Walsh also recommended that rather than rush the process in order to finish by Thanksgiving, we consider a special and separate “Pacesetting Gift Phase,” which would allow us to devote extra time to seek and secure some of the more significant lead gifts needed to assure optimal campaign results.

The Church leaders who have been working with Matt Wooster and the campaign co-chairs agreed that we conduct a Pacesetting Gift Phase during the fall, to be followed by the official campaign kick-off in early 2020. The campaign should be completed by late winter 2020. This schedule will also allow for our annual Stewardship Campaign to be conducted between the Pacesetting Gift Phase and the official Capital Campaign Kickoff.

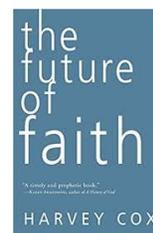
**COMING THIS FALL: FOCUS ON FAITH
A CLERGY-LED BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
MEETING IN BOTH MORNING AND EVENING SESSIONS**

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.

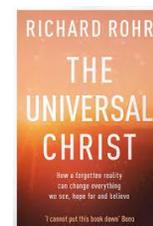
Monday, October 28

In the morning: 10-11:15 am,
And the evening: 7:30-8:45 pm
Text: *The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox
Led by: Rev. Matt Wooster



Monday, November 18

In the morning: 10-11:15 am,
And the evening: 7:30-8:45 pm
Text: *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr
Led by: Rev. Judy Swahnberg



Monday, January 20, 2020

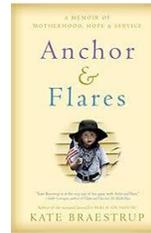
(MLK day?) or Monday, January 27 or 13?

In the morning: 10-11:15 am,

And the 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

The Hills Church is onboarding John Dooley, our new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) < this summer. 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!

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



Summer blessings to all our families with children and youth! 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 of summer. (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) We will include a blessing of the backpacks on Rally Day, so be sure to bring your bags and backpacks to church with you on the 8th. (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 are in the process of interviewing candidates to serve as part-time Church School teachers and hope to have these new teachers joining our Church School team for the Fall! We will enjoy having our parents serve as shepherds and assistants alongside our Church School program teachers, and we will be sending along sign ups in September!
- 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 Program while our beloved Hills Church completes this first phase of the HVAC Construction Project.

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

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, August 11

- 10:00 a.m. Ecumenical Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, August 12

TUESDAY, August 13

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council

WEDNESDAY, August 14

THURSDAY, August 15

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

FRIDAY, August 16

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, August 17

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The first regular issue of the church newsletter for the coming program year will be published on Thursday, September 12.

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.**