

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 42, October 3, 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

DON'T MISS "MY NAME IS 'ŌPŪKAHA'IA"

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



This Sunday, October 13, 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.

Please stay after Worship this Sunday for a commemoration of the bicentennial of the Sandwich Islands Mission Hawaiian with a special performance of "My Name is 'Ōpūkaha'ia," a one-person dramatic portrayal of the young Hawaiian who inspired the ABCFM mission, forever tying New England to Hawai'i.

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 New England throughout this month.

The Hills Church will host this production **this 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.

OCTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH



The theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign is appropriately "To Everything a Season." Making a pledge this fall is particularly important so that the ongoing work of the church can be accomplished: our rich parish life, our broad range of church community activities, local and global outreach, a fine music program, active children and youth programs, and extraordinary ministers.

In early December of this year, a Capital Campaign will be announced: another season - another objective. The Capital Campaign will seek to fund important long-term changes that will ensure that the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church will continue to support and excite those seeking an inspiring and meaningful way to interact with an increasingly impersonal and profane world. But right now, in this fall season, is the time to maintain our growing support for the annual ministries of this church.

Pledge cards will arrive by mail in mid-October – and **on October 27, we will receive new pledges during the worship service and celebrate Dedication Sunday.**

The Strategic Visioning Team will be collecting ideas **through October 15**. We look forward to hearing from you!

**AFTERNOON TEA AT THE HILLS CHURCH
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, AT 1:30 PM – IN THE RECEPTION ROOM**



This month's theme is *"Family Treasures and Their Stories."*

All are invited to bring a treasure or two which tells a story about your family's life: a coin, figurine, watch or piece of jewelry, a drawing, book or photo, or whatever...and share what makes it a treasure.

Please plan on gathering with your church friends on **Tuesday afternoon, October 22, at 1:30 for tea, goodies and conversation.**

If you would like a ride to this event, please contact: Cynthia Gordan in the church office at 781-235-4424.

**TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION
"BEING STILL AND BEING PRESENT"**

Being still and being present is key to the practice of meditation – yet have you ever experienced any of the following when trying to do just that?

- Worrying about our to-do lists;
- Our need to be somewhere;
- To be somebody;
- To be in control.

These thoughts and many more all keep us from being still and being present – to experiencing moments of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our days. Minister, philosopher, and civil rights activist Howard Thurman's poem entitled "I Let Go of My Accumulations" notes how our intention is key to giving ourselves to God and what's more, how God will take care of all those things we worry about and strive for while we renew our souls and spirits as we meditate.

So join us if you can on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Board Room at the church as we pause to "rest our souls" for just a few moments. Whether you are new to meditation or practice daily, come as you are able, whenever you can...we look forward to seeing you then.

If you have a questions or would like a copy of the poem, just contact Mary Hill Canavan at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.

**A NEW BIBLE STUDY: WOMEN IN THE ACTS OF 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).

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 3, we remember those who over the past year passed from this life to the larger life in the nearer presence of God, by reading their names aloud in our worship service. If you'd like the names of your loved ones included, call or email the church office by 5:00 p.m. **on Tuesday, October 29.**

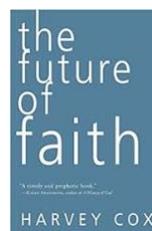
**COMING THIS FALL: FOCUS ON FAITH
A CLERGY-LED BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
CHOOSE EITHER MORNING OR EVENING SESSIONS – WHICHEVER WORKS BEST
FOR YOU**

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.

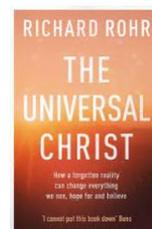
Monday, October 28

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



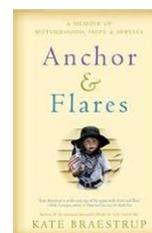
Monday, November 18

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



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.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH 7:30-9PM

We love our new focus, continuing the conversation started by one of our minister's sermons. As you listen to sermons over the next weeks, what moved or intrigued you that would like to talk about some more? We are a group of diverse women, from 6 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. Location: TBD - stay tuned.

LOGISTICS INFORMATION ABOUT CHURCH SCHOOL FOR OCTOBER:

Our Church School children and youth enjoyed being in the Community Center for the month of September! Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to provide alternate sacred spaces for our church school, children and youth, during this time of transition! We are delighted to share with you the news of our plans to begin moving back into the Parish House on October 20th; however, church school will not begin on the third floor of the Parish House until November 3rd!

In the meantime, our plans for October are to hold our church school classes and events in the Assembly Room, Wallace Chapel and the Preschool wing.

After worship, our volunteers and staff will bring our children and youth in grades K-8 back to the Assembly Room, where families can pick up their children and then enjoy a time of fellowship. Our pre-K children can be picked up directly from their preschool classroom location!

Please take a look at the October Church School Schedule below:

10/13- All ages invited to remain in worship. No church school. Childcare and Pre- K class available.

10/20- Serve Sunday, an all church school mission project held in the assembly room during worship.

10/27- An all ages Worship Service held in the Wallace Chapel. **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 together.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

EXPLORE. CREATE. WONDER. SERVE.

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR - PRACTICES 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.

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 November 17 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 **tomorrow night, Friday, October 11**, in conjunction with this year's Pumpkin unloading – which begins at 3:00. All children participating in this event will have the opportunity to paint their very own pumpkin!

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS – OCTOBER 2019:



SPECIAL NOTE: THIS YEAR'S PUMPKINS ARRIVE TOMORROW, FRIDAY OCTOBER 11! Please be sure to sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer and help cover the front lawn with pumpkins! Pumpkins proceeds go toward supporting our youth ministry programs and local organizations supported by our Christian Service Support Board! Be sure to join us for this awesome event! **(This will take the place of our Middle School Youth Group Program this Sunday, October 13.)**

YOUTH LEADER VOLUNTEERS: 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.

Here are some Middle School Youth Group **SPECIAL OCTOBER DATES** to mark on your calendars:

October 13 Feeding the Homeless with the Outdoor Church (Both Middle School and High School Youth can join us!)

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

A SPECIAL YOUTH SERVICE TRIP 2020 ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

Please reach out to the Rev. Anne Marie Holloway for more information!

Email: annemarie@hillschurch.org

Cell/text: 508-404-0287



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 Confirmands for "Dinner and Conversations!" The location, menu and topic of discussion will vary from meeting to meeting – so be sure to check the church newsletter each week for up-to-date information about each 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.

(MORE!)

**JOIN THE HILLS CHURCH RUNNERS THIS THANKSGIVING FOR
THE WELLESLEY TURKEY TROT!**

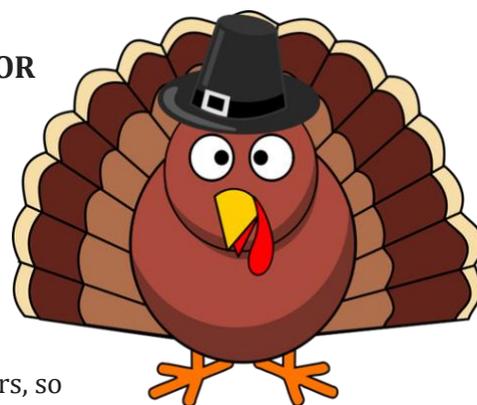
Join the Hills Church Runners for the Wellesley Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, November 28.

This is a 5K fun run/race held right in Wellesley. The event, which features up to 2,000 runners, starts at 8:00 am. Everyone runs at their own pace. Children are welcome (but no pets or strollers allowed). T-shirt and bib number provided for required entry fee.

The course starts and ends at Linden Square in front of Roche Brothers, so there is plenty of free parking. It's both fun and a great way to start the day! Importantly, the event raises funds for good local causes. As the Wellesley Turkey Trot Foundation states, "Our goal is to engage the community in the event and to support local charities in the areas of cancer, medical research, education, and community service."

For details and registration here - be sure to register for the team "Hills Church Runners" - <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=10901> Space is limited so *you are encouraged to register soon* if you are interested.

Questions? Contact Anne Marie Holloway, annemarie@hillschurch.org. Hope you can join us! More info at wellesleyturkeytrotfoundation.org



HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, October 10

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. North Hill Tea
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Luke 17:11-19

FRIDAY, October 11

- 3:00 p.m. Pumpkin Unloading
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, October 12

SUNDAY, October 13

- 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. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. "MY NAME IS 'ŌPŪKAHA'IA" – A one-man, one-act play presented by the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives/Congregational Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, October 14 – Columbus Day (Legal Holiday – Church Office Closed)

TUESDAY, October 15

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting

WEDNESDAY, October 16

- 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group/Confirmands – "Dinner and Conversations"
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, October 17

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmands Alumni Reunion
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Service Support Board Meeting

PUBLICATION DEADLINE - HILLS CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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.

Submissions are due Fridays, by 5:00 p.m.