

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 43, October 17, 2019

[www.hillschurch.org](http://www.hillschurch.org)

## OPPORTUNITIES

### OCTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

#### *To Everything a Season*

The wisdom found in Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. The annual stewardship campaign is a season for support of the ongoing mission of the church.

Pledge cards will arrive this week, and pledges may also be made online at <https://hillschurch.org/stewardship/>. In preparation for Dedication Sunday on October 27, Rev. Matt Wooster will present two sermons on the Christian understanding of generosity.



#### **October 20 "Take Care of Them" Luke 10:25-37.**

The parable of the Good Samaritan includes one character who is often overlooked: the innkeeper. Saint Augustine said that the innkeeper is an image to help us understand the church, whose mission it is to take care of people.

#### **October 27 "The Gift of Outward Focus" Psalm 65 and Luke 18:9-14.**

God's Spirit moves us from an unhealthy tendency toward narcissism, like the religious leader Jesus observes in the gospel reading, toward the joy of a healthy outward focus, like the psalmist who is able to see the goodness in the world.

All are asked to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider making a generous pledge to this year's annual Stewardship Campaign.

### CALLING ALL PUMPKIN PATCH-LOVERS!!



THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!

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Thank you so much for your help with unloading them!

We continue to need lots of volunteers to staff the Patch.

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!

## WHAT'S THAT BIG RED FENCE IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH ALL ABOUT?

Completion of the Parish House's new fire protection/sprinkler system requires the installation of an additional water line running from Washington Street to the church, right through the center of the front lawn! This is the last step in the current construction process.

The big red fence - which does seem to have sprung up overnight - is intended to make sure excited children buying pumpkins with their parents - can't see - or try to hop into - the exciting hole being dug on the other side of the fence!

## AFTERNOON TEA AT THE HILLS CHURCH

**NEXT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, AT 1:30 PM - IN THE RECEPTION ROOM**



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

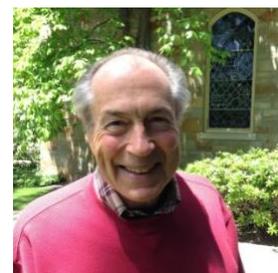
All are invited to bring a treasure or two which tells a story about your family's life: a coin, figurine, watch or piece of jewelry, a drawing, book or photo, or whatever...and share what makes it a treasure.

Please plan on gathering with your church friends next **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.

## WEDNESDAY LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE - NOVEMBER 6

Last year, during one of our Lay-Led services, I spoke to you about the nature of God, and the fact that God is first and foremost a divine Lover, a lover of the world, a lover of you, a lover of me. And I would not recount a single a word I said. And yet, the Hebrew Bible and our New Testament also reveal that because God's love is extended to those who suffer oppression at the hands of other people and the systems they create, it is also in God's nature to demand truth and justice.



**On Wednesday evening, November 6,** we will begin our 2019-2020 season of Lay-Led services, and we will wrestle with what it means to live a life following a loving God who also requires truth and justice. Join us at 6:00 for dinner and 7:00 for the worship service in Wallace Chapel.

## TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION

*"In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair."* ~ Howard Thurman

This reflection from the theologian Howard Thurman captures for me what often takes place during Morning Meditation for those of us who gather together for an hour "in the stillness of the quiet." Or maybe it is just the opportunity to catch one's breath, or to be in community with others, or to share the bounty of someone's summer vegetable garden.

Whatever resonates with you, whether you are new to meditation or practice daily, please join us on Tuesday mornings as we gather in the Board Room from 9:30 - 10:30.

Come as you are able, whenever you can...

Questions? Email Mary Hill Canavan at [mhillcanavan@gmail.com](mailto:mhillcanavan@gmail.com) or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at [judy@hillschurch.org](mailto: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 21 – AND November 4 and 25 – from 7:00 to 8:30.**

Please email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway [annemarie@hillschurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:sarfair@gmail.com)) or Sarah Pedersen ([pedersenfamily6@verizon.net](mailto: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.**

## **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.

## **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.

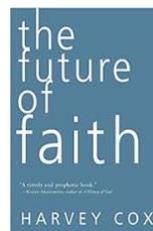
### **Monday, October 28**

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: *The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox

Led by: Rev. Matt Wooster



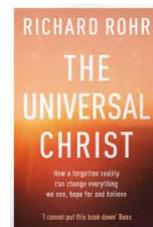
### **Monday, November 18**

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr

Led by: Rev. Judy Swahnberg



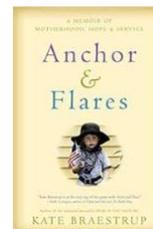
### **Monday, January 27, 2020**

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](mailto:Sallyt@hillschurch.org), or sign up to help at the Children's Ministry table.

### **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 21; 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.

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

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.

## **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](mailto:annemarie@hillschurch.org). Hope you can join us! More info at [wellesleyturkeytrotfoundation.org](http://wellesleyturkeytrotfoundation.org)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS – OCTOBER 2019:**



**SPECIAL NOTE: THIS YEAR'S PUMPKINS HAVE ARRIVED!** Please be sure to sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer and help sell them! 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!

**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](mailto:annemarie@hillschurch.org).

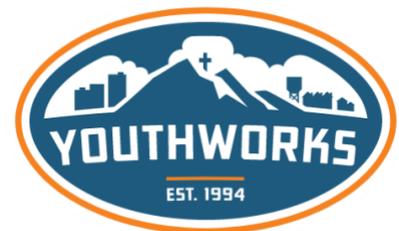
Here are some Middle School Youth Group **SPECIAL OCTOBER DATES** to mark on your calendars:

**October 19** Boda Borg Adventure Trip at 6:30 p.m. **No October 20 Youth Group meeting.**  
**October 27** Please bring with you a pair of socks to be distributed to the homeless through our ministry with the outdoor church! This will be an evening of Fall Fun! Wear a costume and earn raffle tickets for some cool prizes!

#### **YOUTH SERVICE TRIP 2020**

##### **INFORMATIONAL GATHERING #2 – IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, AFTER WORSHIP**

**After worship on Sunday, October 27**, we will have a table set up downstairs in the Assembly Room for all parents and youth to visit and learn more about this life changing service trip opportunity!



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.**

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](mailto:annemarie@hillschurch.org)

Cell/text: 508-404-0287



**OUR SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet as a whole group again on Wednesday evening, October 16, from 7:30-8:45 for our first "Dinner and Conversation Circle Gathering."**

At each of our monthly meetings (typically on the second Wednesday of each month), our Senior High Youth Group members will join with our new Confirmands for "Dinner and Conversation Circles!" The topics discussed at each of these meetings will be specifically tailored to current events in our teens' lives – and the location and menu 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/EVENTS ARE ON YOUR CALENDARS ...**

**October 11-31** The Pumpkin Patch is in operation. Come help and earn volunteer hours/credits. Sign up [HERE!](#) Or go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ea4ac2ea3f58-pumpkin3> and sign up to take a shift to help with pumpkin sales during the hours of noon to six weekdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the weekends! Proceeds go to supporting our youth ministry programs and a secondary designee chosen by the Christian Service Support Board!

**October 20** 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! FIND PERMISSION FORM [HERE!](#)

**November 2** 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](mailto:annemarie@hillschurch.org).

## HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

### **THURSDAY, October 17**

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
Luke 10:25-37

### **FRIDAY, October 18**

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

### **SATURDAY, October 19**

### **SUNDAY, October 20**

- 9:00 a.m. Hills Ringers Practice (Children's Bell Choir)
- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Church School (in the Assembly Room)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **MONDAY, October 21**

- 7:00 p.m. Women in the Book of Acts

### **TUESDAY, October 22**

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Tea at the Hills
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers

### **WEDNESDAY, October 23**

- 6:30 p.m. Women's Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Group
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **THURSDAY, October 24**

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

### **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](mailto:cynthia@hillschurch.org), or call the Church Office at 781-235-4424.

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