

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 48, November 14, 2019

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

## OPPORTUNITIES

### **SOUP AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH – THIS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17**

All are welcome to share an after-church meal **this Sunday, November 17**, at 11:45 a.m. Spend some time with your fellow worshippers, enjoy some good food, and take a minute to share your thoughts about happenings at the church.



This meal is sponsored by the Parish Life Ministry Team. Thank you, Parish Life! Contact Mimi D'Angelo or David Otten – [mimi8386@hotmail.com](mailto:mimi8386@hotmail.com) or [otten@mit.edu](mailto:otten@mit.edu) for more details.

## **COME DECK THE HALLS!**

**FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 6  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7**

It's almost time begin to decorating our sanctuary and entrances for Advent and Christmas –

And YOU ARE INVITED TO HELP!

This year we plan to celebrate the season of preparation known as Advent by letting our glorious Christmas decorations accrue over time. So if you are away over the Thanksgiving weekend and can't help on the 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be two additional opportunities to further deck the halls at 10:00 a.m. – noon on December 6 and 7.

Setting up the Advent wreath and candles ...

Putting the wrought iron candleholders on the pews ...

Adding bows to our wreaths ...

Filling our outdoor planters with Christmas greenery ...

Trimming the tree ...

And more ...

No special skills or talents required - there are plenty of jobs for everybody to help with!

To learn more or to volunteer to help Deck the Halls on Saturday November 30, Friday December 6 or Saturday December 7

contact Nancy Simons [nmsimons@gmail.com](mailto:nmsimons@gmail.com) or 781-237-6552.

OR

Hop onto SignUpGenius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ea4ac2ea3f58-decorating> AND SIGN UP ONLINE NOW!

## **Stewardship Status Report**

To date, 137 households have pledged.

Commitments for 2020 now total about \$690,000.

If you have already pledged, THANK YOU!

If you haven't yet had a chance to pledge, we hope you will take a minute now to either:

Pledge online at [www.hillschurch.org/stewardship](http://www.hillschurch.org/stewardship) or

Fill out your Pledge Card and mail it back to the church today.

Pledges are vital for planning next year's programs and activities.

**Your Pledge Counts!**

**Thank you for pledging.**

**ANNUAL COAT DRIVE**



Coats for the Boston homeless shelters will be collected during November. Clean outerwear in good condition is accepted. All sizes are appreciated.

As you clean your closets this fall, please set aside the warm clothes you don't need. The collection bins will be by the church doors throughout the month of November.

Questions – contact Tina Andersson, TinaAndersson11@hotmail.com

**HAMMERS UP! OUR NEXT HABITAT WORKDAY IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23!**

Join us for a WHCC Habitat workday on Saturday, November 23 (the Saturday before Thanksgiving).

We will be working on the Concord Street Project again, doing a number of different jobs. You do not need any special construction skills, just a willing heart!

We will meet in the church parking lot Saturday morning at 7:20 and return by 5:00. (Must be 16 years old or older) Follow the link to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ea4ac2ea3f58-habitat5>



**TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION:**

**Holy Moments: What Does It Mean for You?**

*“Though we may not live a holy life, we live in a world with holy moments. We need only take the time to bring these moments into the light.”*

*Kent Nerburn, “Small Graces: The Quiet Gifts of Everyday Life”*

Holy moments are different for each of us. For some, it may occur while reflecting with others on a passage from a book. For others, it is in feeling one's spirit rise in response to a beautiful piece of music. And still for some, it is in stocking the shelves at the Wellesley Food Pantry.

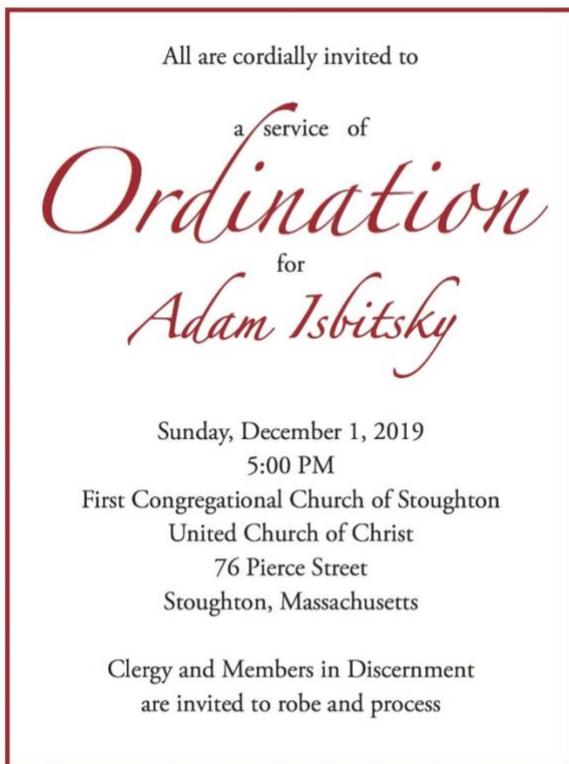
Tuesday Morning Meditation is an opportunity to experience such holy moments *by just being*; being present to God's grace in our lives through stillness, meditation, and prayer.

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 - 10:30am in the Reception Room.

Come as you are able, just as you are.

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).

**ALL ARE INVITED TO ADAM ISBITSKY'S ORDINATION – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 – AT 5:00**



All are invited to attend a service of ordination for Adam Isbitsky, who served as WHCC'S seminarian from 2015-2017 and as interim associate minister during Rev. Judy's sabbatical in spring 2018.

Adam's Ordination Service will be held at 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 1, at the First Congregational Church of Stoughton, 76 Pierce St in Stoughton, MA.

Rev. Matt, Rev. Judy, and John Finney will all be participating, so the service will feel quite familiar!

If you would like to sing in the choir for the ordination, please get in touch with Adam directly at [aisbitsky@gmail.com](mailto:aisbitsky@gmail.com) and he will give you the details about music and rehearsal.

#### **FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING**

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

##### **We need your help for our November Hosting -Thanksgiving Week!**

Our next hosting week is November 24 through December 1. We have four very busy families coming to stay with us: five adults and ten children! Sign ups are live on CERVIS. Link for volunteers is: <http://cerv.is/m?0002>

Any questions, please contact: Tricia Frank [pdfrank@comcast.net](mailto:pdfrank@comcast.net) or Neely Dodge [nadodge@me.com](mailto:nadodge@me.com)

Many Family Promise volunteer positions require training - but not all.

#### **SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN**

##### **NEXT MEETING - NEXT TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 - 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: At the home of Marilyn Nutting, 144 Washington Street, in Wellesley.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES ~ AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OTHERS



For many years members of this congregation have generously provided Christmas gifts for low-income families in Waltham that are identified by THOM Charles River Early Intervention clinicians. All of the families on our list have at least one child under 3 years old who has developmental challenges due to a diagnosed disability or whose development is at risk due to certain birth or environmental circumstances.

If you can help, sign up to shop for an individual, or a family (or more) at Community Hour **this Sunday November 17 or November 24**. We'll provide gift suggestions and instructions. Wrapped gifts should be delivered to the church **on, or before, December 8**. Questions? Call Sue Spencer at 781-893-2972. Thanks!

### WOMEN IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

#### MONDAY EVENING – NOVEMBER 25 – FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 – IN THE ADAMS BOARD ROOM

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!

### DON'T MISS THE FINAL TWO CLERGY-LED BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

**CHOOSE EITHER MORNING OR EVENING SESSIONS –  
WHICHEVER WORKS BEST FOR YOU – NOVEMBER 18 AND JANUARY 27**

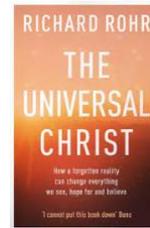
**Next Monday, November 18**

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr

Led by: Rev. Judy Swahnberg



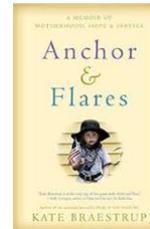
**Monday, January 27, 2020**

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: *Anchor and Flares* by Kate Braestrup

Led by: Rev. Anne Marie Holloway



**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER!**

For the past few years we've joined the Hills Church members and friends Thanksgiving dinner at the home of the Tomasetti family. This year, we are opening our home to continue the tradition while the Tomasettis are traveling. Many of you, like us, do not have extended family in the area, making it a special treat to celebrate a holiday with church family.

Whether it's just you or a whole family unit, consider joining us for fabulous food and great conversation. We have a foosball table too! We'll make the turkey (already reserved at the Natick Organic Farm), dressing, cranberry sauce and my famous pumpkin pie. You bring the rest of the desserts, vegetables and salads. We particularly love something special from your own culture/family tradition.

**Thanksgiving Day - Appetizers @ 2:00 p.m. Dinner @ 3:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP to Becky and Robert Williams [williams.becky.m@gmail.com](mailto:williams.becky.m@gmail.com).

# MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

A Day of Giving to Honor the Memory of  
Dan McCabe



## Red Cross Blood Drive

**Wednesday November 27, 2019**

**10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Wellesley Hills Congregational Church  
207 Washington St.

Co-Sponsored by; the Hills Church Youth Fellowship  
& Boy Scout Troop 182

As a 17-year old Dan gave blood 3 times. He also encouraged his friends to donate blood to the Red Cross. Please help us honor Dan's memory by joining his family, friends, and fellow travelers by giving the gift of life.



**American Red Cross**  
*Together, we can save a life*

Appointments are encouraged.  
Please call 1-800-733-2767  
or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

# **DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S – ADVENT FUN WORKSHOP!**



**You are invited...  
Advent Fun Workshop  
Saturday, November 30**

The Hills Church has a great tradition of starting the Advent Season with Gingerbread House making, Tree Lighting, and Christmas Carols. All are welcome!

**Gingerbread House Making  
4:30-5:30 p.m.**

This is always a huge success, so we're bringing them back again. Houses can be reserved in advance for \$15 each. Buy one for each person in the family, or just buy one for your whole family to decorate together. Every year sees new advances in home decorating, so bring your ideas, creativity, and extra supplies (frosting, candy, and more will be provided). Gingerbread Houses are \$15:00

**Carol Singing and Advent Fun  
5:30-6:15 p.m.**

We move to the Sanctuary for a time of seasonal fun and carol singing led by John Finney.

**Hot Chocolate and a Snack in the Assembly Room  
6:15 p.m.**

Grab a snack and a hot drink – and then head for ....

**Tree Lighting on the Front Lawn  
6:30 p.m.**

For more information or if you would like to register for the evening:  
Visit the Advent Workshop sign up table during next Sunday's Community Hour, Check the *Events at Hills Church* online newsletter, or  
Contact Cynthia – [Cynthia@hillschurch.org](mailto:Cynthia@hillschurch.org)



## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **EXPLORE. CREATE. WONDER. SERVE.**

#### **SANTA NEEDS OUR HELP!**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 – FROM 9:00 A.M.- 11:00 A.M.**



The big guy is almost here; that's right Santa is coming to Hills Church!  
However, he needs a little help. Close to 70 kids come to decorate cookies and sit on his lap, and Santa is marvelous but even Santa can't greet that many kids alone. He needs church helpers to lend a hand.

Can you spare an hour or two on December 14<sup>th</sup>?

Contact Sally or go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A44A4AB2BA64-cookies1>  
TO SIGN UP ONLINE.

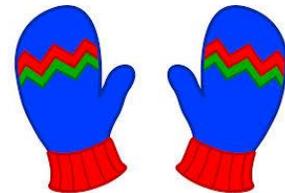
#### **THE MITTEN TREE IS COMING SOON...**

#### **DO YOU WANT TO KNIT A HAT OR A SCARF FOR THE MITTEN TREE?**

Every year we collect hats, scarves and mittens for the Advent Mitten Tree. So, why not knit one this year?

The Women's Ministry is available to get you started, to provide guidance and to set you on your way. They have yarn and needles (or you can bring your own) and they really know how to knit!

Contact [Sallyt@hillschurch.org](mailto:Sallyt@hillschurch.org) if you are interested. This is a very fun way to learn a new skill while serving others.



#### **BIBLE PRESENTATION FOR 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS**

#### **THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 – DURING WORSHIP**

A special day in their walk of faith! We are excited to give the church's 4th and 5th graders their own (more grown-up) children's Bible in the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation. We hope this gift will journey with them through the years of Church School and hopefully a lot longer!

All 4th and 5th graders will be encouraged to bring their new Bibles to class, dog-ear verses, write their thoughts and prayers on the pages, and learn and grow with their Bibles by their side. The ceremony is a time when the 4th & 5th graders are honored and commissioned to their work studying the Bible and exploring what it means to them.

#### **MAKE VOLUNTEERING IN CHURCH SCHOOL YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!**

#### **SHEPHERDS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER 8, 15 & 22**

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.

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

## **YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS – NOVEMBER 2019:**

### **Calling all Children and Youth Ministry VOLUNTEERS Join our "Pop-up" Advent FUN Workshop Ministry Team!**

Join us, as we gather together as a ministry team to serve our community and bring great JOY to so many as we celebrate the kick off of the Advent Season with our beloved annual Gingerbread House building, carol sing and tree lighting!

Our **Pop-up Ministry team** serving opportunity is one for the whole family – and designed to allow for flexible volunteer schedules and short-term adventures in serving others!

Won't you join us?

Be on the lookout for our Sign up Jesus (oops Genius)!!

We invite parents, youth, college students, grandparents – in short, EVERYONE! – to join us in preparing for the Advent Fun Workshop - which will be held this year **on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30.**

For more information please email: Sally Tomasetti: [sallyt@hillschurch.org](mailto:sallyt@hillschurch.org) or Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: [annemarie@hillschurch.org](mailto:annemarie@hillschurch.org).

And, here are some more Special November Dates for members of our **Middle School Youth Group** to mark on their calendars:

**This Saturday November 16 @ 6:30 pm** – BODA BORG Adventure (Rescheduled from October 19) Sign up [HERE](#).

**This Sunday November 17 at Noon** – "Birthday Parties in a Box" Service Project. After Community Hour Soup Lunch! Come assemble birthday party boxes for children living in homeless shelters! (Middle School Youth Group is invited to gather at noon -- there will be no additional Sunday evening meeting!)

**Sunday November 24: "Stuffed"** -- a fun evening of pre-thanksgiving fun from 4:30-6:00pm!

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS AND EVENTS

**CONFIRMATION NEWS:** Our Confirmation 2019/2020 Crew will be celebrated and blessed by the congregation **on November 24 during the Sunday morning Worship Service!** All Confirmands and their families are all invited to attend this special service!

Our class will continue to meet weekly – on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 – most likely in either the Reception Room or the Third Floor Youth Room – but please always be sure to check your e-mails and Confirmation Calendar for class schedules and meeting locations, as they do vary from time to time. Our next larger group meeting (with past and present Confirmands) will be **next Wednesday, November 20.** (See below for more info.)

**NOVEMBER CONVERSATION CIRCLES** (Confirmands Past/Present and Friends!)

Our High School Youth will meet as a whole group again **next Wednesday NOVEMBER 20** in the Youth Room for Qdoba as we gather together for our second Dinner and Conversation Circle Gathering! Don't worry if you have not been able to join us for a gathering before! Come when you can! And your friends are always welcome, too! There is always room at our table for all!

At these monthly meetings, our Confirmation Alumnae (and friends) are invited to join our new Confirmation Crew on one designated **Wednesday a month** for dinner and conversation circles! These once a month Senior High gatherings will run from 7:30-8:45 pm and will be specifically tailored to current events in our teens' lives!

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:**

**THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 FROM NOON TO 1:30**

Our youth in grades 6-12 are invited to help with our "Birthday Parties in a Box" Service Project after the Community Hour Soup Lunch this Sunday! Come assemble birthday party boxes for children living in homeless shelters! There will be no additional Sunday evening middle school or senior high youth group meetings!)

### **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)

**HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR**

**THURSDAY, November 14**

- 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 Isaiah 65:17-25 Luke 20:45-21:4
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**FRIDAY, November 15**

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Connections – at the home of Lucy Sur, 19 Eliot Hill Road, in Natick

**SATURDAY, November 16**

**SUNDAY, November 17 – Fifth Grade Bible Presentation**

- 9:00 a.m. Hills Ringers Practice (Children's Bell Choir)
- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour – Parish Life Soup Luncheon
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

**MONDAY, November 18**

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Book Group – Judy Swahnberg – *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr
- 7:30 p.m. Clergy Book Group – Judy Swahnberg – *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr

**TUESDAY, November 19**

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers
  
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Conversations for Women (at the home of Marilyn Nutting, 144 Washington Street, in Wellesley)

**WEDNESDAY, November 20**

- 6:30 p.m. NAMI Meeting
  
- 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**THURSDAY, November 21**

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

**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.**