

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 49, November 21, 2019

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

## OPPORTUNITIES

### 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!

## 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](mailto:TinaAndersson11@hotmail.com)

## 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 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!

### **DON'T MISS THE NEXT LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE AND DINNER – DECEMBER 4**

In his book "The future of faith," Harvey Cox, a recently retired professor at Harvard Divinity School, makes a persuasive case that Christianity is on the threshold of a new chapter in its history which he calls the age of the spirit.

In this age, the focus of our faith will not be on doctrines and creeds which must be believed, but on a way of living, living a life centered on God, a life devoted to a loving God as exemplified by Jesus, a life filled by, and directed by God's spirit. I am persuaded that we, as a church, are uniquely positioned to take a leading role in this new age. **On Wednesday evening, December 4**, join us at 6:00 for dinner and at 7:00 for our Lay-Led Service.



### **TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION:**

*"In the breathing, there is peace."*

In his book "Together We are One," the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh describes the importance of mindful breathing and how this focus on the simple act of breathing in and breathing out can bring "calmness to our body" and with it, a sense of peace in the midst of busy days or times of worry and stress.

Looking for a sense of peace in the midst of your day? Please join us on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 in the Reception Room. Whether you are new to meditation or practice it daily, we welcome you - 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).

**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>



**THE HILLS CHURCH'S MISSION IN INDIA**

**On Sunday, December 1**, Pash Obeng, Missionary of the Hills Church, and Jessica (Banks) Gallo will speak about the new and creative ways in which the church's mission is flourishing and expanding in rural Karnataka, India.

The African Indian Alliance (AIA) invites you to a special presentation event immediately after the worship service on December 1, in which Rev. Obeng will give the morning sermon.

**Stewardship Status Report**

To date, 150 households have pledged.

Commitments for 2020 now total about \$732,000.

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.**

**FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

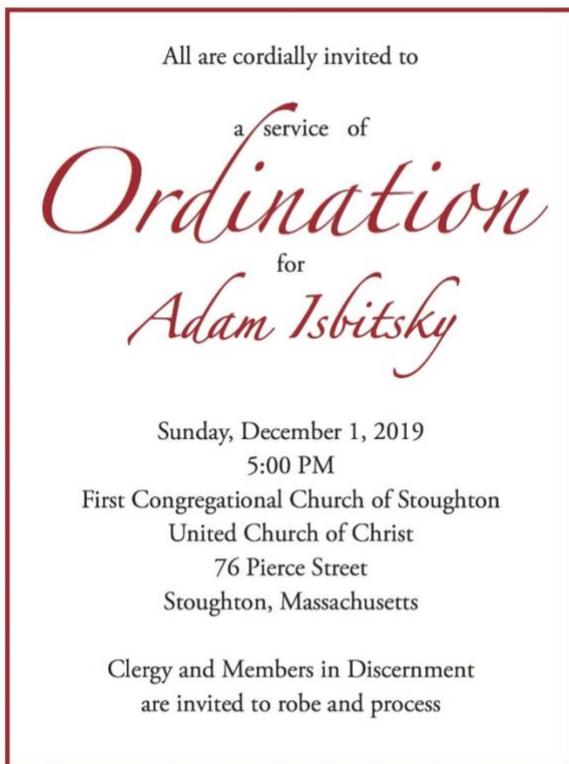
**We need your help for our November Hosting -Thanksgiving Week!**

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.

**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.

**WOMEN IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES  
NEXT MONDAY EVENING – NOVEMBER 25 – FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 – IN THE 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. 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!

**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).

**SOUP AND SERVICE – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019**



# 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

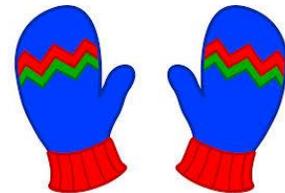
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A44A4AB2BA64-cookies1>  
TO SIGN UP ONLINE.

#### **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 MINISTRY HAPPENINGS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 (MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, CONFIRMATION, HIGH SCHOOL CONVERSATION CIRCLES, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE...)**



**Sunday, November 24:** Our Middle Schoolers will be feeling “Stuffed” on this program evening as they gather for a meal and a whole bunch of pre thanksgiving fun!

**Wednesday, November 27:** Confirmation Dinner and Discussions – at 7:30 in the Reception Room

**Saturday, November 30:** Advent Fun Workshop: Gingerbread House Building Fun 4:30-6:30pm!  
Be Sure to Join US for this Awesome Hills Church tradition!

**Sunday, December 1:** No Youth Group

**Wednesday, December 4:** Confirmation Dinner and Discussions – at 7:30 in the Reception Room

**Saturday, December 7:** Christmas Caroling Fun! Details TBA

**Sunday, December 8:** Following Worship (No evening Youth Group) Help with the Church-wide delivering of Christmas Presents for Those in Need! Details to follow!

**Wednesday December 11:** A Confirmation Christmas Party! Current Confirmands will be joined by Alumni and Hills Church High School Friends. Join us for a Christmas Party like no other!!!

## 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 21**

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings  
Psalm 46  
Colossians 1:11-20

#### **FRIDAY, November 22**

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

#### **SATURDAY, November 23 – Habitat for Humanity Build**

#### **SUNDAY, November 24 – Family Promise Hosting Week begins**

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

#### **MONDAY, November 25**

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

**TUESDAY, November 26**

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation

1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, November 27**

10:00 a.m. Dan McCabe Memorial Blood Drive

6:30 p.m. NAMI Meeting

7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

**THURSDAY, November 28 - THANKSGIVING - (LEGAL HOLIDAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED\_**

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:**

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church newsletter will not be published next week.

The next issue of the newsletter will be released on Thursday, December 5.

**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.**