

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 50, December 5, 2019

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

## OPPORTUNITIES

### *The Joys of Advent at the Hills Church*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30	4:30 PM	• Advent Fun Workshop
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1	10:00 AM	• Advent I - HOPE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7	10:00 AM	• Decking the Halls
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	• Advent II - PEACE • Alternative Gift Fair/Mini-Bake Sale
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14	9:00 AM	• Cookies with Santa
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15	10:00 AM	• Advent III - JOY Special Music Sunday
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17	11:00 AM	• Weekday/Seniors Christmas Concert
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21	4:00 PM	• Hills Church Chancel Choir/Bells Concert
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	• Advent IV - LOVE • Women's Ministry Bake Sale
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24	3:30 PM 6:00 PM 9:30 PM	• Family Pageant • Lessons & Carols • Lessons & Carols



### COMMON CATHEDRAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Fellow worshippers, WHCC has accepted an invitation to serve lunch and worship at **common cathedral** on Sunday, December 15. An outdoor congregation, **common cathedral** shares God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

We need volunteers to help us to prepare lunch for the service. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Nana Poku at [poyaw@hotmail.com](mailto:poyaw@hotmail.com).

You will be able to choose from among the following tasks:

- Food shopping **on Saturday, December 14**. Start time will be announced soon.
- Food preparation at the WHCC kitchen **on Sunday morning December 15**, at 8:00 a.m.
- Leave from WHCC at 11:00 a.m. and serve lunch at **common cathedral at 12:30**. Set up, serve lunch, participate in 1:00 p.m. worship service (optional) and help clean up after the service.
- Leave Boston Common at 2:30 to return to WHCC.

Menu: 150 sandwiches (turkey, ham, and veggie), with chips, water, oranges and warm apple cider – and cookies for dessert.

The Hunger Outreach Ministry Team would be grateful for your contribution towards this mission.

**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 have signed up to shop for an individual or a family this Christmas, please remember that your wrapped gifts should be delivered to the church **on, or before, this Sunday, December 8**. Questions? Call Sue Spencer at 781-893-2972. Thanks!

### **WHCC ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, DURING COMMUNITY HOUR**

Puzzled about how to select meaningful gifts this holiday season? Consider supporting the church's Christian Service ministry outreach teams through our Alternative Gift Fair. Your purchases will advance the work of the church's partnerships with the African Indian Alliance and Honduras Hope, and the programs supported by the WHCC Women's Ministry.

- **African Indian Alliance (AIA)** will sell note cards and watercolor artwork to support the education of economically and socially disadvantaged students of African descent in SW India. Your purchases will fund school fees, books, and incidental expenses and post-secondary scholarships. WHCC supports the children of these communities through the efforts of our missionary, Pash Obeng, and fellow church members.
- **Honduras Hope** will sell beautiful pine needle baskets crafted by the Tolupan Indian women of Plan Grande who are paid a fair wage for their handiwork, enabling them to support their families. Sales of these baskets support our work with economically and politically marginalized families in Honduras. Dangerous conditions prevail in Honduras, which only highlights their need for our continued support.
- **WHCC Women's Ministry** will sell more of their popular potholders, aprons, and bags. We repurpose donated fabric including draperies and upholstery samples, reducing textile waste. (Did you know that the textile industry is the second most polluting industry worldwide and that recycled textiles help alleviate this major problem?) Proceeds will support charities for women and families, locally nationally, and internationally.

Can you think of special individuals in your lives who would appreciate these gifts of love? If so, please join us **during Community Hour on December 8**.

For further information, please contact Sarah Pedersen ([pedersenfamily6@verizon.net](mailto:pedersenfamily6@verizon.net)) about the African Indian Alliance, Sue Spencer ([suespencer42@gmail.com](mailto:suespencer42@gmail.com)) about Honduras Hope, or Laurie Otten ([laurieotten50@gmail.com](mailto:laurieotten50@gmail.com)) about the WHCC Women's Ministry.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 15!**

**On Sunday morning, December 15, during our regular 10:00 a.m. worship service**, our Chancel Choir and soloists will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra in presenting Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore* (Solemn Vespers). Though the term "solemn" is indeed part the work's title, the music Mozart's "Solemn Vespers" is exuberant, joyous, and virtuosic, and includes a splendid setting of the *Magnificat* (the "Song of Mary"), complete with trumpets and timpani. Mark your calendars, and invite your friends and neighbors to be with us on December 15 for this joyful music!

**THIS YEAR'S MID-WEEK CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND LUNCHEON IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

All are welcome at our annual Christmas Concert and Luncheon **on Tuesday, December 17**, when our own Laurie Stewart Otten and John Finney will perform special music of the Christmas season, including traditional favorites such as "O Holy Night" and a Christmas carol singalong. Set aside your "to-do" list and allow the glorious music of the season to lift your spirits and surround you with joy! The concert is at **11 o'clock** in the Sanctuary, followed by a catered luncheon in the Reception Room for those who are able to stay.



If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to Cynthia in the church office by **Friday, December 13**. And please also let us know if you would like a ride – we can easily provide one.

**TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION**

*Watching for the Light*

In the introduction to the book *Watch for the Light*, the editors note that although Advent has been observed for centuries as a time to contemplate Christ's birth, most people today experience it as a flurry of activities and a time of contrasting emotions, all of which can turn these days into the most stressful time of the year.

If you see yourself in this experience, **stop by the Reception Room from 9:30 - 10:30 on Tuesday mornings** where we will pause and reflect together on the hope and peace and light of the Advent season.

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).

**DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, AT 4:00**



This year's Concert of Christmas Music – featuring The Hills Bells and the Children's Handbell Choir (conducted by Martha Stowell), and the Chancel Choir (conducted by John Finney) – is **SATURDAY, December 21, at 4:00 p.m.**

Wrap yourself and your family in the spirit of the season – and let the afternoon's beautiful music quietly surround you. This concert, which has become an annual “must-attend” tradition at the Hills Church, is free – and open to the public. So, please come – and be sure to

bring your family and friends with you.

**CALLING ALL BAKERS AND CANDY MAKERS!**

Please consider making extras of your best Christmas treats to sell at the annual Bake Sale sponsored by Women's Ministry. **Bring your goodies to the big kitchen (downstairs) on Saturday, December 21, by 1:00 p.m.,** so that we may package them attractively for display **at the sale on Sunday, December 22.** Also, please note on your donations of baked goods and candies if nuts are among the ingredients. Thank you!



**BAKE SALE PLUS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

The annual Bake Sale Plus will be held **Sunday, December 22, during Community Hour.** Cakes, cookies, candies and other treats make great hostess gifts for those upcoming holiday parties. Copies of the Hills Church Cookbook will also be available for purchase, as will charming aprons and potholders made by the Hills Quilters. All make great gifts!

The **Bake Sale Plus** is sponsored by the Women's Ministry. All proceeds are used to support the work of the Women's Ministry, including the purchase of fabric and yarn for quilts, prayer shawls, baptismal blankets, and graduation scarves.



**GINGERBREAD HOUSES WERE THE NAME OF THE GAME AT THIS YEAR'S ADVENT WORKSHOP**

## **SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN**

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 - FROM 7:30 TO 9:00PM**

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 you 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: Board Room

### **COME DECK THE HALLS!**

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

It's almost time to begin 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 were away over the Thanksgiving weekend and couldn't help on the 30<sup>th</sup>, there are still two additional opportunities to further deck the halls **from 10:00 a.m. – noon – tomorrow, December 6 and Saturday, December 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 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!**

### **IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE**

This church has a Fire Safety/Building Evacuation Plan in place. In the event an evacuation of the church is ordered, please exit the building quickly – and quietly – and heed all instructions provided by church staff and others familiar with the layout of the building.

All children in the building in church school – or otherwise in the care of others – will be led outside by their caregivers and will be waiting on the front lawn for you.

### **IT'S SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING TIME!!**

Yes, the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley is again ringing the bell at Roche Bros. on Linden Street to raise funds for the Salvation Army! Most years, this one bucket raises over \$25,000 to help our neediest neighbors with food and rent vouchers, counseling and other services.



If you can help ring, please use the following Sign up Genius links:

To help from now through Friday, December 20:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4EA5AD2DA3FF2-salvation>

To help from Saturday, December 21 through Christmas Eve:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4EA5AD2DA3FF2-salvation1>

You may also phone Dwin Schuler at 781-235-5615 to sign up for a one hour slot from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through December 24 . You'll be joining neighbors from all over town including fellow Hills Church friends, employees at the Municipal Light Plant, other Town of Wellesley employees, and elected representatives, members of the Wellesley High School Key Club and anyone else who wants to volunteer.

### **TAKE HOME WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:**

We hope that you will take home an advent devotional following worship this Sunday. You will find them on tables by the entrances of the sanctuary. You will also be able to find extra devotionals on a table in the Assembly Room!

Our weekly take home devotionals include a table top paper tent that includes that particular week's Advent theme (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love), scripture, reflection questions, a prayer and a suggested practice of Hygge (pronounced hue-guh). Hygee ( hue-guh) is a Danish and Norwegian word for a mood of coziness and comfortable conviviality with feelings of wellness and contentment. Hygge is an intentional practice of creating sacred spaces in the home that encourage relaxation, gratitude and space to be mindful about celebrating the ordinary moments of life as if they were extraordinary! Please be sure to take a small LED tea light candle to go with your devotional. It is our hope that you will be inspired and delighted by our weekly Advent Devotionals.

### **MAKE VOLUNTEERING IN CHURCH SCHOOL YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE! SHEPHERDS NEEDED FOR ALL THREE REMAINING SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER**

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.

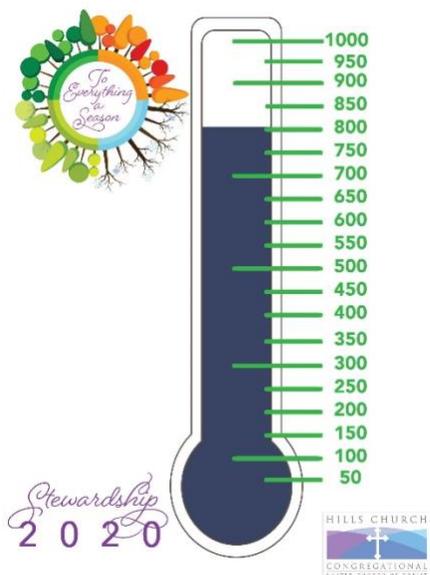
Don't be afraid. We make teaching easy! To support our Church School teachers, we provide:

- 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.

### ORDER YOUR 2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES TODAY

If you would like to order a complete set of 2020 offering envelopes, please contact Hills Church Financial Coordinator Jelena Kovrlija at [jelena@hillschurch.org](mailto:jelena@hillschurch.org), or call her at 781-235-4424.



### Stewardship Status Report

To date, 164 households have pledged.

Commitments for 2020 now total about \$800,000.

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.

### POINSETTIAS

If you would like to make a contribution for the poinsettias which will decorate the church this Christmas in **memory** of, or in **honor** of, a loved one or loved ones please fill out the form and return it to the church office by Tuesday, **December 17**. Donations—in whatever amount you wish—should be payable to the *Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*. (Please note "Christmas Poinsettias" on your check.) A list of names in honor/memory will be included in the Sunday Order of Worship on **December 22**.



Name(s) as you want them to appear in the Order of Worship

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)*

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory *or* honor of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 Saturday morning, December 14<sup>th</sup>**?

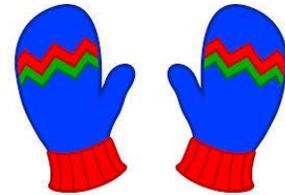
Contact Sally or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A44A4AB2BA64-cookies1> TO SIGN UP ONLINE.

**THE MITTEN TREE IS HERE!**

**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.

**COSTUME PICK UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT...SPREAD THE WORD.**

Children wishing to wear a costume and be part of the fun during this year's 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve family pageant will be invited to choose their costumes as they enter the Sanctuary – and then listen to the full Christmas story with their families until they are called forward to join the Holy Family in the chancel area later in the service. All are welcome to take part. Characters will be called forward at the appropriate time. Come early to hear the Preludial music and help your child choose their favorite costume.

**YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS FOR DECEMBER**  
**(Middle School Youth Group, Confirmation, High School Conversation**  
**Circles, Service Opportunities and MORE...)**



**This Saturday, December 7:** Middle School Youth Group from 4:00-5:30. Christmas Caroling Fun!  
Details TBA

**This Sunday, December 8:** Following Worship, Middle School Youth are invited to help with the Church Wide delivering of Christmas Presents for Those in Need! Details to follow! (No evening Youth Group.)

**This Sunday, December 8:** From 2-5:30 - Confirmation Crew/High School Volunteers needed to serve with the Outdoor Church.

**Wednesday, December 11:** Conversation Circle: A Confirmation Christmas Party! Our Current Confirmands will be joined by Alumni and Hills Church High School Friends. Join us for a Confirmation Class (Past and Present) Christmas Party!!!

**Sunday, December 15:** Middle School Youth Group at 4:30 – “Where The Heart Finds Christmas” (Discussions around the Spirit of Christmas).

**Sunday, December 22 :** Middle School Youth Group Christmas Party/Yankee Swap from 4:30-6:00 – in the Youth Room!

***Please reach out to Rev. Anne Marie if you have any questions!***  
***Email: [annemarie@hillschurch.org](mailto:annemarie@hillschurch.org) or Cell: 508-404-0287***

## HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

### **THURSDAY, December 5**

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings  
Isaiah 11:1-10  
Luke 1:46-55

### **FRIDAY, December 6**

- 10:00 a.m. Decking the Halls
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **SATURDAY, December 7**

- 10:00 a.m. Decking the Halls

### **SUNDAY, December 8**

- 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 – Alternative Gift Fair – Mini-Bake Sale (Hills Church Quilters)
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **MONDAY, December 9**

### **TUESDAY, December 10**

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council

### **WEDNESDAY, December 11**

- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Christmas Party
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **THURSDAY, December 12**

- 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.**