

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 52, December 19, 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
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24	3:30 PM 6:00 PM 9:30 PM	• Family Pageant • Lessons & Carols • Lessons & Carols



### **DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT - THIS 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 **THIS 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) this Saturday, December 21, by 12:00 p.m.,** so that we may package them attractively for display **at the sale this 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, THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

The annual Bake Sale Plus will be held **this 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. 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.

### HILLS CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3:30 p.m. Family Christmas Pageant  
(Children should plan on arriving between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. to choose their costumes for the pageant.)  
6:00 p.m. Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols  
(Preludial music begins at 5:45)  
9:30 p.m. Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols  
(Preludial music begins at 9:15)

## **HAMMERS UP! THE NEXT HABITAT BUILD IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 18!**



Join us in honoring Martin Luther King Jr. with a WHCC Habitat for Humanity work day **on Saturday, January 18.** We will be going to Holliston to work on insulation and drywall installation. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 7:20am and returning by 5pm. You don't need any construction experience to participate, just a willing heart. To sign up click here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-habitat6> or contact the church office. You must be 16 years old to participate.

## **TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION – OVER THE HOLIDAYS**

Tuesday Morning Meditation Group will not meet over the holidays, but will resume on **Tuesday morning, January 7 at 9:30**. In the meantime, may you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas:

### **I Will Light Candles this Christmas**

Candles of joy despite all sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of graces to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,

Candles that will burn all the year long.

From *Meditations of the Heart*

Howard Thurman

## **MAKE VOLUNTEERING IN CHURCH SCHOOL YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE! SHEPHERDS STILL NEEDED FOR 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.

### **THANK YOU FOR ALL THE COATS!**

One hundred and twenty-five coats and jackets were collected during the month of November. The coats were delivered to Circle of Hope in Needham. Their mission is to provide twenty-one area shelters with clothing and other necessities throughout the year. Learn more at [circleofhopeonline.org](http://circleofhopeonline.org).



## **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.

### **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.



#### **PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES**

**Stewards Open Forum  
(2020 Budget Review)  
Sunday, January 12**

**WHCC 2019 Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 26**

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## THE 2019 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

In Advent, we prepare to celebrate the gift of God's grace in the midst of human life. Jesus is called Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

Every year at Christmas time, our church designates a special offering as an act of love for our neighbors. This year, we invite you to join us in making a financial gift dedicated to Helping People in Need Near and Far. More specifically, this year's offering will be divided evenly among Honduras Hope, the Grace House in Framingham, and Friends of Boston's Homeless.

For many years, our Church has supported all three of these wonderful organizations. By providing outreach assistance to these most worthy organizations, we try to fulfill Christ's teaching that we should aid the poor and needy.

Honduras Hope's mission is to empower economically and politically marginalized people in rural Honduras to create stronger and more self-sufficient communities, principally through providing educational opportunities. Again this year we have been advised that Honduras is a conflict zone, and it is not safe to send missionaries. Since we are unable to send people to help people, we plan to send additional financial aid.

Near at home there is great need to help feed and house the homeless and unfortunate. Grace House is a relatively small but robust organization which provides meals and spiritual support to people in need in Framingham and surrounding towns, particularly on weekends when other shelters are not open.

Friends of Boston's Homeless works to help people move from the streets and shelters into safe, dignified housing and to live peaceful, hopeful, fulfilling lives in the community. They are particularly committed to providing housing and other necessary support for the chronically ill homeless and for veterans experiencing homelessness.

Special offering envelopes with the designation "Helping People in Need Near and Far" are available at both of the main entrances to the Sanctuary. All gifts in these envelopes or otherwise clearly intended for "Helping People in Need Near and Far" will be directed toward this effort. Please make your checks payable to the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church (WHCC), and write "Helping People in Need Near and Far" on the memo line. These gifts are tax-deductible.

We hope that all will give as the spirit moves them. Together, we can help extend Christ's promise to the world.

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

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

### **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...)**



**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 19**

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Luncheon
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday's Scripture Readings  
Isaiah 7:10-14  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **FRIDAY, December 20**

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **SATURDAY, December 21**

- 4:00 p.m. Hills Church Christmas Concert

### **SUNDAY, December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent**

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study Group
- 9:15 a.m. Hills Ringers Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour (Women's Ministry Annual Bake Sale)
- 11:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Set-up
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group Christmas Party/Yankee Swap
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **MONDAY, December 23**

### **TUESDAY, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

- 3:30 p.m. Family Christmas Pageant
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
- 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

### **WEDNESDAY, December 25 - Christmas Day - Merry Christmas to All!**

### **THURSDAY, December 26**

- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

**SCHEDULING NOTE: NO CHURCH SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED CHRISTMAS WEEK OR THE FOLLOWING WEEK.**

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE RELEASED JANUARY 9.  
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.**

## PARISH REGISTER

Prayers of sympathy for

**Bob Tomasetti**, on the December 8 death of his uncle, **Silvio Fiordimondo** in Philadelphia, at the age of 102.

**Priscilla and Jim Worrall** on the December 14 death of her sister, **Deborah Frankovich**, in Nashville.

Prayers for those who are in hospice care, and for their families:

**Susan Hoffmann's** mother, **Marge Magnuson**, in Lancaster, PA.

Always in our prayers:

**Greta Sarginson**, at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Dedham.

**Matt Schuler**, son of **John and Dwin Schuler**, in Pennsylvania.

**Martha Spencer**, Bill Spencer's sister.

Prayers for those continuing in treatment:

**Jeremy "JJ" Demers**

**John David Ferrer's** friend **Carlos Marin**.

**Barry Jacobson**

**Rob Jaczko**

**Matt Wooster's** mother, **Donice Wooster**

Prayers of health and healing for:

**Nick Bahns' father, Walter Bahns.**

**Suzy Foster Blodgett**, recovering at home.

**Sam Crowley**, in outpatient treatment for autoimmune condition.

**Christina Dishman**, recovering at home.

**C. J. Fraser**, recovering after surgery.

**Emily Gauthier's** daughter, **Sophia Gauthier**, hospitalized.

**Al Houston**, recovering from a fall.

**Luree Jaquith**, recovering at home.

**Mackenzie Jordan.**

**Anne Leland**, for continued healing.

**Susan Loveland's** husband, **Doug Hodes**, recovering at home.

**Jim and Deb Nicoletti's** daughter, **Gemma**, recovering after surgery.

**Lynn Perry**, recovering at home.

**Elizabeth Robertson**, recovering at home.

**Bob Sechrest**, recovering at home.

**Brad Tomlinson**, in treatment.

**Bob Tomasetti's** friend, **Kristi Withington.**

**Mary Jane Tuohy's** nephew, **Jay Sharman**, in Chicago.

**Mariela Vargas' sister, Cristina**, and father, **Carlos Vargas**, both recovering.

**Mary Wells' father, Dave Kroupa.**

**David Wimberly**, recovering from a fall.