

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 53, January 9, 2020

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF CELEBRATION

Sunday, January 12, after Worship

CREATIVE GIVING SEMINAR

Monday evening, January 13, at 7:00, in the Reception Room

ANNUAL MEETING PREP. – OPEN FORUMS

2020 Budget Review

2020 Construction Plans

Capital Campaign

and more

Tuesday, January 14 (at 7:00 p.m.) and Sunday, January 19 (at 8:30 a.m.)

ALL-CHURCH SERVICE WEEKEND

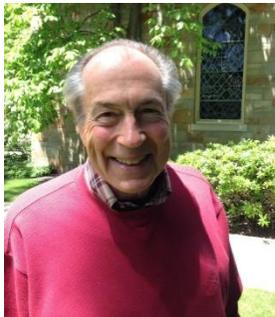
January 18, 19, 20

WHCC 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26 – In the Assembly Room

With refreshments and fellowship.

THE NEXT LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE AND DINNER IS NEXT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15



The essayist Debie Thomas recently wrote “Epiphany stories are stories of ‘thin places,’ places where the boundary between the mundane and the eternal becomes permeable. God parts the curtain, and we catch glimpses of his love, majesty, and power.”

As we come away from the glorious Hills Church Christmas Eve services where thin spaces abound and settle into the bleak mid-winter, we may have to look a little deeper and pay a little more attention to catch those glimpses of God.

Next Wednesday evening January 15, we will complete our series of lay-led services exploring the nature and character of God and, hopefully, gain insight into where we might find and experience those thin spaces.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and 7:00 p.m. for the worship service.

**DON'T MISS THIS SUNDAY'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF CELEBRATION
JANUARY 12 AT 11:15 A.M. IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM**



Enjoy refreshments and fellowship. Listen to inspirational talks. View our campaign brochure and DVD and learn first-hand of our needs, our hopes and our dreams.

**LEARN ABOUT THE MANY WAYS YOU CAN BE GENEROUS
MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 13, AT 7:00 – IN THE RECEPTION ROOM**

There are a whole host of options from which you can choose to make a generous gift or additional gifts to our “Generation to Generation: One in Spirit” campaign. Learn how gifts of stock, mutual funds, real estate, trust arrangements, personal property, insurance, and bequests through your will can make a huge impact in helping us reach our goals.

Please plan to attend this seminar led by Steve Hansen, our Creative Giving Chair. We will offer light refreshments and fellowship along with an overview of how gifts to the campaign might take the form of securities or other property, as well as figure in estate planning.

Please let us know if you will be able to attend by communicating with the Church Office: 781.235.4424 or cynthia@hillschurch.org.

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 7:20 a.m. and returning by 5:00 p.m. You don't need any construction experience to participate, just a willing heart. To sign up contact the church office (781.235.4424) or

click here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoE4EA4AC2EA3F58-habitat6>. You must be at least 16 years old to participate.

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION IN THE NEW YEAR...

“Stepping out of the busyness, stopping our endless pursuit of getting somewhere else, is perhaps the most beautiful offering we can make to our spirit.”

This simple reflection started my day two weeks back when I was experiencing the frenzy of getting ready for the holidays. It was a gentle reminder to slow down and pay attention; to notice the gifts around me in the midst of days that I often fill with busyness, stress, and worry. Starting the day with a simple daily reflection such as this one from gratefulness.org can serve as a reminder of “the transformative possibilities of living life with grateful attention.”

Another way to experience such transformative possibilities is to stop by the Reception Room on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 for Morning Meditation. 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 or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, AT 8:45, IN THE RECEPTION ROOM

The Membership Ministry Team invites you to attend our next Membership Class **on Sunday morning, January 26, before the Worship Service – at 8:45 a.m.** – in the Reception Room. Food will be provided and childcare is available. This class will include information regarding The United Church of Christ (UCC), Baptism, Communion and Confirmation at the Hills Church. We will also discuss the Order of Worship, Church Governance, Children and Adult Educational Programs, Service Opportunities and Community Life.

If you are interested in participating in this class – or just want to know more about membership at the Hills Church in general – please contact Donna Maley at maley15@aol.com so we are able to arrange materials (and childcare, if needed).

CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION

The church is collecting children's books throughout the month of February for the benefit of The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center.

www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm

The children's books you donate will be given to children receiving treatment at the Clinic – or to their siblings who are waiting there to lend moral support.

Collection bins will be inside the church entrances for your new and gently used children's books.

Questions? Contact Donna McCabe dmccabe4@comcast.net



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 six 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 alike) are welcome. Location: Board Room

THANKS FROM THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR!

The Christian Service Board would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of the church's Alternative Gift Fair in December. Your contributions raised slightly more than \$3,500 to support the church's partnerships with the African Indian Alliance, Honduras Hope, and the WHCC Women's Ministry.

- African Indian Alliance: Your purchase of our educational notecards will help cover scholarship expenses (school fees, uniform, books, boarding, and toiletry expenses) to educate 15 economically disadvantaged Siddi primary and secondary school students in SW India and help offset teacher and staff salary expenses for even more students. In addition, five students are pursuing advanced education with your assistance – either post-secondary academic education or technical training, such as tailoring, which will provide them with a livelihood so that they may provide for their families. In the past, AIA has sponsored nurses, teachers, lawyers, social workers, and Christian religious leaders. Our understanding with the recipients is that once they have completed their education they will return to the Siddi community to help others advance economically and socially. We are excited to begin putting your gifts to good use and we thank you for your generosity!
- Honduras Hope: Your purchase of the handcrafted pine needle baskets and additional donations will help Honduras Hope continue its important work with economically and politically marginalized families in Honduras. The baskets were made by members of the Women's Cooperative in Plan Grande, a reservation for the indigenous Tolupan people. Honduras Hope purchases the baskets from the women for a fair-trade value and sells them in the US. The women are also pursuing local markets for their baskets. In addition to generating income for their families, this micro-business teaches small business skills, brings lasting economic change to the entire community, and empowers the women who participate. This is important work, for as a 2006 UNICEF report notes, "When women are empowered to lead full and productive lives, children and families prosper." Thank you for your support...and enjoy the beautiful baskets!
- Women's Ministry: Your purchase of potholders, aprons and other handmade items raised funds that will be donated to charities that support women and families in need, both locally and internationally. Recently, we have made gifts to Honduras Hope to support a nutrition program, and to Help Kids India to support Little Lillie's Creche which serves marginalized children in rural Tamil Nadu, S. India. In addition, you have supported a thriving group within the Hills Church community, the Hills Quilters. We repurpose donated fabric and supplies and learn about sustainable textile practices as well as enjoying fellowship and creativity.

Thank for your support!

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.

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



What better way to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. than to join with the church community to lend a hand in service.

Join us Martin Luther King weekend for three special opportunities to serve. An opportunity to stir your heart for the way God is calling you to reach your church, your family and your city.

“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know about Plato and Aristotle... or Einstein’s Theory of Relativity ... or the Second Theory of Thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Saturday January 18

At Habitat for Humanity, they build. They build because they believe that everyone, everywhere, should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. Please join other Hills friends at either;

- A building site: Help the construction group build a new home for a family in need. The group leaves church at 7:30 a.m. and returns by 5:00 p.m. Up to ten volunteers needed. Must be 16 or older.
- Restore: Restore is a home improvement store full of donated furniture and building materials. Help organize shelves. The profits from what they sell are used to finance the Habitat houses. Leaving the church at 9:00 a.m. and returning by 1:00 p.m. Up to ten volunteers needed. Must be 16 or older.

Contact Elaine Vildzius-vildzius@gmail.com

Sunday January 19

One hour of service. After worship we will gather as a church family, have light refreshments then go forth for an hour of service. There are many projects designed to help the church and others in the wider community. All projects are on site and stationed around the church. Projects are designed for young people, old people, and everyone in-between. After the hour or so, we will regather, review and close with prayer. There will be many hands-on projects. All will start in the Assembly room at 11:30 Sunday morning. Donations will be collected for some projects. Please see posters in the Assembly room.

Monday January 20, 2020

Participate in the annual Cambridge MLK Day of Service – from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Central Square, Cambridge. Meet at City Hall

.Join other families for an afternoon of hands-on service projects! Make fleece scarves and blankets for homeless children and adults. Make Valentines for elders and veterans. Sort food, winter clothing, books and toiletries for people in need and more.

And please don’t come empty handed! Bring a can of food, gently used winter clothing or a children’s book for someone in need. A great family day to serve. All ages welcome. For tickets contact:

Sallyt@hillschurch.org

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS FOR JANUARY

(Middle School Youth Group, Confirmation, High School Conversation Circles, Service Opportunities and MORE...)



Sunday, January 12: Senior High and Eighth Graders are invited to join Rev. Anne Marie to serve with the OutDoor Church from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

No Middle School Youth Group this night!

Wednesday, January 15: Conversation Circles: Our Confirmation Alumni are invited to join our Confirmation Class for dinner and conversations. Our Alumni share their experiences (and a few laughs) as they help lead small group discussions.

Sunday, January 19: MLK Weekend of Service! Join us for worship then participate in one of the many on-site service projects offered! (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Lunch is included! All Youth and Families Invited to Participate!

3:00 p.m.: High Schoolers are invited to serve offsite at Rosie's Place.

Wednesday, January 22: A Confirmation Dinner and Discussions Class focused on the topic of "Service."

Friday, January 24: Middle School Youth Group Game Night! Join us for Pizza and Board Games from 6:30-8:30 p.m.!

Sunday, January 26: Hill Church Annual Meeting – No Evening Middle School Youth Group Meeting.

Wednesday, January 29: Confirmation Class Night Out! Details TBA

Please reach out to Rev. Anne Marie if you have any questions!

Email: annemarie@hillschurch.org or Cell: 508-404-0287

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 9

- 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 42:1-4
Matthew 3:13-17

FRIDAY, January 10

- 10:00 a.m. Memorial Service (Stanley Edward Pratt)
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, January 11

- 9:45 a.m. Visiting Hours – Stalzer Family
- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service (Carol Louise Barrett Stalzer)

SUNDAY, January 12

- 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 – Capital Campaign Kick-Off Event
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, January 13

- 7:00 p.m. Creative Giving Seminar

TUESDAY, January 14

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting Prep – Open Forum

WEDNESDAY, January 15

- 6:00 p.m. Lay-led Worship Service and Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. NAMI Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, January 16

- 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, or call the Church Office at 781-235-4424.

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