

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 61, March 5, 2020

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES



Wednesday, February 26	Ash Wednesday Services at noon and 7:00pm
Sunday, March 22	Special Music Sunday
Saturday, April 4	Easter Egg Hunt 9am - 11am
Sunday, April 5	Palm/Passion Sunday 10am service
Thursday, April 9	Maundy Thursday 8:00pm service
Friday, April 10	Good Friday Noon service. Followed by silent prayer until 3pm
Sunday, April 12	Easter Sunday Services 9am and 11am

COME LEARN, REFLECT, AND BE INSPIRED BY OLA GJEILO'S REMARKABLE SUNRISE MASS SUNDAY, MARCH 15, FROM 11:30 TO 1:00 – IN THE RECEPTION ROOM

“What you should know about Gjeilo’s Sunrise Mass” Enjoy a light lunch sponsored by the Chancel Choir and be transported by John Finney’s fascinating presentation. Ola Gjeilo is a gifted Norwegian composer and a 2006 graduate of the Julliard School. Gjeilo says, “I wanted the musical development of the Mass to go from the most transparent and spacey, to something completely earthy and grounded; from nebulous and pristine to more emotional and dramatic, and eventually warm and solid, as a metaphor for human development from child to adult, or as a spiritual journey.” Find out how he succeeds in this goal!

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, IS SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY

The Hills Chancel Choir and John Finney are pleased to present Ola Gjeilo’s remarkable Sunrise Mass (subtitled Symphonic Mass for SSAATTBB Chorus and String Orchestra). The familiar texts of the Ordinary of the Mass are set by Gjeilo in most unusual ways, the eight-part chorus often producing waves of beautiful sound which swell and diminish; sections of the text are declaimed by the chorus over exuberantly active playing from the string orchestra. The final words of the Mass, “*Dona nobis pacem*” (“grant us peace”) are sung by the chorus in long-held chords, creating an atmosphere of utter serenity.

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 8, IS COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, March 8, is Commitment Sunday for our critically important “Generation to Generation: One in Spirit” campaign. Our Community Gift volunteers have been recruited and tasked with visiting our next wave of members starting this Sunday, March 8.

During these conversations our volunteers will more fully explain our campaign effort, answer questions, and invite everyone to make an gift. When you are called on, please open your hearts and homes to this dedicated group. Listen thoughtfully to their case and request. Then, please do your part to help make our campaign a success by doing your very best in the way of a gift.

If you’d like to save us a call, you are invited to stop by the Assembly Room **after this Sunday’s worship service**. Volunteers will be on-hand to visit with you there about our campaign and your possible commitment.



PRAYER VIGIL – THIS SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 8 – BEFORE WORSHIP

We will be hosting a special Prayer Vigil at church this Sunday morning, March 8, beginning at 9:00 to pray for everyone’s generous response to our campaign effort starting on Commitment Weekend.



If you would like to join us in prayer, please come to Wallace Chapel a few minutes before the Prayer Vigil’s start to receive your prayer guide. It will direct you through this special hour of quiet prayer that will lead up to our Commitment Sunday worship service at 10:00 that day. Your prayers are very much needed to assure our campaign effort’s overall success.

DON’T MISS THIS YEAR’S GRACE KNIGHT BABSON EVENT THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 8, AT 4:00



The Hills Ringers, in conjunction with other young actors and narrators of the church, are happy to announce their upcoming performance of the story of Jonah and the Whale at the Grace Knight Babson event on Sunday, March 8. **This event is held every year on the campus of Babson College, and this year it will begin at 4:00 – in Babson’s Richard Knight Auditorium.**

Guests from our Hills Church family are encouraged to attend!

The version we are presenting is part of a Ring-a-Story Series and is arranged by the handbell composer, Tammy Waldop. We have taken a bit of poetic license to the narration and brought a lot of creativity and ingenuity to the props! If all goes well—and we are working hard to ensure it will—our dress rehearsal will be presented to the congregation as part of “A Word for All Ages” during this Sunday morning’s worship service. You will not want to miss this event!

Our Ringers: Emmeline Fichot, Alex and Kathryn Bonnette, Abby and Ellie Kranker, Marie Liebenberg, and Trent, Maggie, and Lexi Sturtevant.

Narrators and Actors: Julia Andersson, Viktor Davidsson, and Faith and Liam Holloway.

Invaluable Assistant to the Director of the Hills Ringers: Lucy O’Mara

For more information, please contact Martha Stowell: cpbranwell@gmail.com or Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org

HOEDOWN AT THE WHCC RANCH

This Saturday, March 7
5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Assembly Room



Hey, buckaroo, come have your photo taken (props provided), eat a delicious supper, dance, and have fun with new and old friends!

Never line danced before?

Well, here are the rules of our renowned teacher, Art Sullivan:

1. Have Fun!
2. Learn the dance
3. When Rule #2 is too complicated, go back to rule #1

Remember: you cannot make a mistake in Line Dancing.

You can only do moves the rest of the crowd has not yet learned!

Need to sit - Art will teach dances you can do right in your chair, so no excuse not to dance.

\$15 per adult, \$5 per child, children 3 and under free
payable at the door

RSVP to mimi8386@hotmail.com TODAY

LAY LED WORSHIP AND DINNER, NEXT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 – AT 6:00



“Want to stay hydrated? Drink before you're thirsty.”

These words from the Mayo Clinic website are a clarion call about our human tendency to forget that water is an essential nutrient to survive. As human beings, we know what it feels like to be parched, and we know the relief that a tall glass of water can provide. During this season of Lent, we will take some time to explore what it means to drink the living water that Jesus offers to all who are thirsty, whether we know we are thirsty or not.

At this month's lay led service, Betsy Wooster will be preaching, and special music will be offered by Sara Johnson and Alice Wilkinson.

Join us at 6:00 for dinner and 7:00 for the worship service in the Chapel.

TEA AT THE HILLS CHURCH – TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 17, AT 1:30



Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day – so wear something green and join with other church friends to celebrate the day and share tea and conversation after our “winter break.” How have you spent these last few months? Did you miss having more snow – or not? Did you travel? Are there any new babies in your family to brag about, or sorrows to share? Do you have Irish roots in your family?

Please join Judy Swahnberg and others in the Reception Room for soda bread and other goodies, tea, and a time of fellowship.

And if you would like a ride to or from the tea, please contact Cynthia Gordan in the church office, at 781-235-4424.

WALLACE CHAPEL SEATING; WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?

As we begin the second phase of our construction project, we are faced with an important decision about seating in Wallace Chapel. In order to do the fire safety and HVAC work scheduled for completion this summer, the pews must be removed from the chapel, and the old flooring replaced. We are very fortunate that a donor has come forward who is willing to underwrite the additional cost of this new floor. As for the pews, now is a good time to consider whether we want to re-install the fixed pews or replace them with modular seating which can be configured in multiple ways, including as rows of pews.

The Deacons are curious about your desires for this important worship space. We would like to hear about your preferences and your concerns. Do you wish to retain the current pews? Why? Do you think modular seating would be better but you want more information?

We will be holding two more listening sessions for you to see some pictures, talk about your desires and ask questions. The next two sessions will be held **next Monday, March 9, between 7:30 and 8:30 pm in Wallace Chapel**, and on **Sunday, March 15, on the north mezzanine before worship and during community hour**. These are all drop in sessions with no formal presentation. They are just a chance for you to come and become familiar with the options and offer your opinions.

If you are unable to stop by any of these sessions you can send your comments to either Mimi D'Angelo mimi8386@hotmail.com or Elaine Vildzius vildzius@gmail.com or to Chris Stowell, Mary Hill Canavan or Sarah Pedersen at officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org



SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN - STARTING A NEW SERIES: THE JOURNEY OF FAITH OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL: FROM ABRAHAM THROUGH JESUS

Tuesday, March 17 - 7:30-9:00 p.m. – in the Board Room

Have you ever wondered how the various Old Testament events and people fit together in the overall storyline? In March, we are starting a series that will put the pieces in place as we follow the Journey of Faith of the people of Israel through the Old Testament, starting with Abraham (circa 1900 BCE) through

the birth of Christ. The stories we read will move and inspire you, and connect with your own journey. Come explore this journey with us! We are a group of diverse women, Hills Church members and non-members, from multiple faith backgrounds and six different countries who join together to listen and share our traditions, ideas, and questions about faith topics. Come and bring your unique voice or just listen. All women of the church (members and non-members) are welcome.

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND REV. NENA RADTKE'S INSTALLATION SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - AT 3:00

All are invited to attend a service of installation for Rev. Nena Radtke this Sunday, March 8, at the Christian Union Church, 37 West Main Street, in Groton, MA.

Nena is a long-time Hills Church member. She was ordained here last June and is currently serving as the Pastor at Christian Union. Nena would love for as many of her Hills Church family members as possible to be there to celebrate this joyful occasion with her. We hope you can make it.

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES: BEFORE WORSHIP DURING LENT



*"We need to find God, and God cannot be found in noises and restlessness. God is the friend of silence...
We need silence to be able to touch souls.
The essential thing is not what we say,
but what God says to us and through us." ~ Mother Theresa*

You are invited on Sunday Mornings throughout Lent to enter into the sacred space of the Wallace Chapel between 9:15-9:45 to prayerfully prepare your hearts, minds and spirits for the week ahead.

All prayer services take place before Sunday morning worship, and child care will be available. Come and be in prayer for as little or as long as you need. It is our hope that you will find

renewal in simply spending some uninterrupted time with God in prayer throughout the season of Lent.

LENTEN CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SUNDAYS: MARCH 15, 22, 29 AND APRIL 5

PLEASE NOTE: A special Prayer Vigil is being held **at 9:00 THIS Sunday morning, March 8**, to pray for the generous support of the Capital Campaign.

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION

Awakening the heart as we make space for god

If you have ever read anything about Christian spiritual practices, you may well have come across one of many books written on this subject by the theologian Fr. Thomas Keating, a central figure in the development of the contemplative Christian practice of Centering Prayer. In the season of Lent, as we are invited to step back from our day to day busyness and become aware of God's presence in our lives, this practice of Centering Prayer can help us create such a space for God.

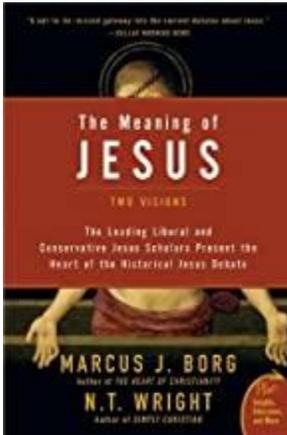
Fr. Keating talks about viewing Lent "as an artful preparation to a slow and sustained intentional journey where the heart is awakened into a new life in and through divine love." Join us on this journey of

awakening the heart as we learn about this practice during Tuesday Morning Meditation from 9:30 - 10:30 in the Reception Room.

Come 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.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT CLERGY-LED BOOK GROUP GATHERING



Text: *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*
Author: Marcus J Borg & NT Wright.
Led by: Rev. Matt Wooster
Date: Monday, March 16 – at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Chose the time that works best for you!
Location TBA.



EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to give Easter lilies in memory of—or in honor of—a loved one, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office by **Monday, April 6**.

You may donate whatever amount you wish. Checks should be made payable to the *Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*. Please note *Easter Flowers* on the memo line of your check.

My donation for Easter Flowers is given (PLEASE PRINT)

In memory of: _____

or

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Mail your check to:
Wellesley Hills Congregational
Church
207 Washington Street
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481



YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS FOR MARCH

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



Sunday, March 8: Grace Knight Babson Event – at 4:00, at Babson

Serving food and distributing supplies to the homeless, with the Outdoor Church. **TENTATIVE**

Wednesday, March 11: Confirmation Alumni Conversation Circle and Dinner – at 6:45.

Sunday, March 15: Middle School Youth Group Meets from 4:30-6:00pm for our program "Facing Giants"
(Conversations on dealing with the challenges life brings).

Wednesday, March 18: Confirmation Dinner and Discussions – from 6:45-8:00pm.

Sunday, March 22: Middle School Youth Group meets from 4:30-6:00 pm for our program: "Water Works." (A fun evening of relay races! Bring a towel!)

Wednesday, March 25: Confirmation Class Dinner and Discussions – from 6:45-8:00pm.

Sunday, March 29: Middle School Youth Group Meets from 4:30-6:00 for program: "Shop – 'Til You Drop." (We will be purchasing together items to be included in Care Packages! Details TBA).



The Hills Church June 27-July 3 service trip to Colorado
is going to be **AMAZING!!** We are **SOOO EXCITED!**

Planning and registration is in **FULL SWING!**

Please email or text Rev. Anne Marie if you wish to participate
or if you need more information!!

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, March 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

Genesis 12:1-4

John 3:1-8

FRIDAY, March 6

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, March 7

- 5:30 p.m. The Big WHCC Hoedown (A Parish Life Event)

SUNDAY, March 8 – Commitment Sunday (Capital Campaign)

- 9:00 a.m. Hills Ringers Practice (Children's Bell Choir)
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil – Capital Campaign
- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Special Commitment Sunday Community Hour
- 4:00 p.m. Grace Knight Babson Event (at Babson!)
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, March 9

- 7:00 p.m. Egg Hunt Ministry Team
- 7:30 p.m. Deacons' Listening Session – Wallace Chapel (Pews v. Modular Seating)
- 7:30 p.m. Stewards Support Board

TUESDAY, March 10

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

WEDNESDAY, March 11

- 6:00 p.m. Lay-led Worship Service (Betsy Wooster preaching)
- 6:45 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, March 12

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. North Hill Tea
- 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, or call the Church Office at 781-235-4424.

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