



May 21, 2020

STAYING CONNECTED TO YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

A NEW WAY TO STAY CONNECTED!

GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE AND COME TO VIRTUAL COMMUNITY HOUR!

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30!

On Sunday mornings, you are invited to visit with our clergy and other members and friends in a “Virtual Community Hour” from 9:30 Sunday morning until the virtual worship services begin to stream at 10:00. We did a trial run of this new opportunity to connect and it worked like a charm! Regrettably, when we did full roll out of it last Sunday, Zoom (the platform we are using) experienced some technical difficulties that affected not only our first ever virtual community hour but also worship services and other Sunday morning programming at many other churches as well. These glitches even made the Globe! So, we at least felt better knowing it wasn’t “just us” – and we are boldly going to take another run at “coffee and connections” this Sunday! So, here is what you can expect this week at 9:30.

Following a brief welcome, separate “breakout rooms” will allow for conversations in small groups which will be randomly generated. The only agenda is to connect with familiar faces and meet new friends, so feel free to bring your coffee and stop in for a quick hello or stay for the full half hour. The dress code is casual. (PJs encouraged!)

Virtual Community Hour will be hosted as a Zoom conference, which can be joined using a computer, a smart phone, or a standard phone. If you’re not already a Zoom veteran – don’t worry. Zoom is very easy to use. To participate in this Sunday’s Virtual Community Hour by computer, just click on the link you will see in the community hour notice that will arrive by email on Sunday morning.

BLESSING OUR GRADUATES OF 2020:

Our hearts go out to all of our graduating High School and College Seniors as they adjust to the reinvention of their high school and college graduation ceremonies and celebrations.

Please know that we continue to hold all of our graduates in prayerful loving care – and so during worship this Sunday, May 24, we will be celebrating and honoring all of our 2020 Hills Church graduates.

This will include the offering of a special blessing for all of them – and the presentation of the beloved hand-knitted Hills Church “red scarves” to our high school graduates.

We also invite families with college graduates to send along a photo of their graduates – along with the name of their university. These photos will be featured in our June newsletter so that our church family can prayerfully lift up and celebrate the accomplishments of all our Hills Church graduates!

A PRAYER FOR OUR 2020 GRADUATES



Loving God,

We pray for our graduates.

We ask that you pour out your blessings upon them. We ask that you continue to serve as their compass -- a guide for their journey forward.

We thank you for their presence in this world and for the work you are continuing to do in their lives. May they know how

treasured they are.

During this unique season of waiting, worry and new beginnings, we ask that you sustain them with hope and forward thinking. We ask you to remind them to be gentle with themselves as they focus on both the task before them and on the journey ahead. We ask that you give them courage and wisdom and that you keep their footsteps firm. May they know that you are with them always. May they sense the freshness of your Spirit throughout their lives in amazing new ways. May they be strengthened, and instilled with hope, as they look towards the new adventures you have in store for them.

Fill their days with your light and love, joy and hope... Now and always.

Amen.

ALL WALLACE CHAPEL PEWS NEED NEW HOMES IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE OF THESE BEAUTIFUL PEWS

This summer's renovation work at the church is slated to begin very soon. This work includes the installation of sprinklers in Wallace Chapel – and requires the removal of all of the wooden pews currently in the Chapel.

Back in March, Church Council, with input from the congregation and the Board of Deacons, decided to replace the Wallace Chapel pews with modular seating.

If you would like to have one of those beautiful pews please contact the church office (office@hillschurch.org) by the end of this month. Anyone wishing to have one must provide their own means for removing it from the church parking lot. Each pew is about from ten to twelve feet long.

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE AND A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE



The COVID-19 crisis has placed particular challenges on the work of Family Promise Metrowest (FPM), which has closed its Natick day center and offices. On March 17, the four families who had been in shelter within the congregational rotation moved to an extended-stay hotel, to allow the families and volunteers to observe physical distancing. Since then, one family has moved into an apartment.

The FPM shelter case manager is meeting remotely with all families each week to help them continue to work toward their goals, including managing their fluctuating budgets due to employment changes. When the hosting week at the Hills Church was canceled, a number of Hills Church members came forward to make special donations to help FPM adapt to new practices.

Following which, FPM sent the following Message to our church.

Family Promise Metrowest (FPM) offers its deepest gratitude to Wellesley Hills Congregational Church for your generosity. Your congregation, which regularly assists our

shelter families with host and volunteer support, has also provided much-needed financial funding.

That support has become even more important to FPM's ability to provide for vulnerable families in the time of COVID-19. Our member congregations are the foundation of Family Promise, and you contribute to our success year after year in countless ways. We are ever grateful.

WANT TO SEND A CARD OR A NOTE TO ANOTHER MEMBER? JUST MISSING THEIR ADDRESS?

In a recent Voices piece, Matt writes that this crisis has changed our perceptions about our neighbors. It has also made the loss of our church neighbors and friends that much more painful. While we cannot be together to offer our condolences to those who have lost loved ones, we can reach out the old fashioned way, with notes and letters.

And if you would like to do that – and the only thing you are missing is an address – here's an easy way to use the church website to fix that problem:

1. Go to the church website, hillschurch.org
2. Click on “Welcome” on the left-hand side of the navigation bar at the top of the Home page.
3. Click on “Database and Documents Login” (at the bottom of the drop down menu)
4. Click on “Database Login”
5. Enter your e-mail address – and password – and YOU'RE IN! (If you can't remember your password – or need a login – click where indicated.)
6. Click on “Directories” on the navigation bar at the top of this page.
7. Click on “Locate Individual” (on the drop down menu.)
8. Enter the name of the person whose address you want – and HIT “Run Search”
9. And there you go! The address of the person you want to write to is right there on your screen.

And while you're in the church database, do take a minute to explore it. Just click away – watch what happens – and don't worry. You can't break anything.

In the alternative, you could, of course, just e-mail Cynthia in the Church Office – but the website/database approach definitely provides faster responses – particularly in the middle of the night!

ATTEND WORSHIP BY VIDEO

Worship services have moved online during the building closure, with worship leaders recording their parts from different locations.

All members of the church are invited to submit a short video for use during the Passing of the Peace.

Worship services will be available on the website (hillschurch.org) early Sunday mornings. The services will also premiere on Facebook beginning at 10:00 every Sunday morning, so that people can worship together at the usual time.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE CHURCH'S FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Also, visiting the church website will allow you to access the Order of Worship for each Sunday morning's 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.

NOON PRAYERS FROM THE HILLS

Did you know you can tune into the church Facebook page at noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for a brief time (5-15 minutes) of reflection and prayer with one of the ministers. These prayers are accessible for viewing later as well.

Tuesdays: Anne Marie Holloway

Wednesdays: Matt Wooster

Thursdays: Judy Swahnberg

CONTACT YOUR MINISTERS

Although we are not regularly in our offices at the church these days, you can still reach your ministers by phone and email. Please use the contact information below to be in touch with any of your ministers and know that they will be there for you if you want to:

- Share a prayer request,
- Have a conversation for pastoral care, or
- Simply share updates and receive a prayerful blessing by phone.

Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org

Judy Swahnberg: judy@hillschurch.org

Rev. Matt Wooster: mattw@hillschurch.org

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Confirmation Class, church support boards, WHCC ministry teams, and other small group meetings will be held “virtually” – using Zoom, teleconferences, and other online platforms - until further notice. Information for joining these virtual meeting will be shared directly with meeting participants.

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION – FROM 9:30 TO 10:30

CONNECTING TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD...

As Matt has reflected in his sermon series Spirit Days, *“The good news is that there are spiritual practices to help us connect to the Spirit of God.”*

One such place you can gather with others to learn to perceive God’s Spirit is Tuesday Morning Meditation. Whether you are new to meditation or practice it daily, please join us via Zoom as we connect to the Spirit of God from our homes on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30.

Zoom is a service that enables groups to connect either by video using your computer or by audio using your phone. And it is VERY easy to use. To participate, just e-mail Mary Hill Canavan (see below) and she will send you an official Zoom "invite" and tell you how to CLICK and Zoom in! (And if you have been meditating via Zoom for a while now, there is no need to e-mail Mary - as she will automatically send you a Zoom invite weekly).

Then at 9:30 next Tuesday morning, find a comfortable place to sit with your computer or phone and get ready to meditate with your friends - virtually!

Help us sustain a sense of community together in the midst of being apart.

Come as you are able, just as you are....

Peace to you all,
Mary and Judy

P.S. Questions? Email Mary Hill Canavan at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.

THE WELLESLEY FOOD PANTRY COULD USE YOUR HELP



**Wellesley
Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry is keeping its website updated with items in short supply, but they could definitely use your help now with white and brown rice (preferably 2 pound bags), vegetable oil,

dishwashing liquid, and paper towels. And of course, the Pantry can always use Kleenex, toilet paper, diapers in sizes 5 and 6, shelf-stable almond and soy milks, and jars of jelly/jam.

For more information about how you could help the Food Pantry at this time, you can always go to their website, which they update weekly. Here is the URL - (<http://www.wellesleyfoodpantry.org>).

Please bring your Food Pantry donations to the church on Monday mornings, between 9:00 and 10:30, and leave them in the Food Pantry bin, just outside the west entrance door – or drop them in the collection bins at Roche Bros or Whole Foods.

Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

IF YOU HAVE EXTRA KITCHEN UTENSILS, THE NEW LIFE FURNITURE BANK COULD USE THEM

While you are practicing social distancing, this might be a great time to clean out your kitchen drawers and take steps to ensure that any extra kitchen utensils you have make their way to a good home.

As soon as the church reopens, the Christian Service Support Board will be collecting kitchen utensils for the New Life Furniture Bank. www.nelifeb.org – and collection bins will appear at each church entrance.

The New Life Furniture Bank provides furniture and household goods to individuals and families who are transitioning from a homeless environment, victims of fire, military veterans and refugees – and here are some things these individuals and families could use:

Potholders	Serving Spoons
Kitchen Towels	Flatware
Can Openers	Measuring Cups & Spoons
Cutting Boards	Metal Flippers
Vegetable Peelers	Rubber Spatulas

Questions? Contact Donna McCabe dmccabe4@comcast.net

Youth Ministry MAY 2020: Events Newsletter

2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS ZOOM GATHERINGS:

Our Confirmation Crew will continue to touch base on the second Wednesday of each month in June, July and August. We look forward to the Fall when we can celebrate their confirmation journey -- in person and in our sanctuary!

CONTINUED PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH/FAMILIES IN MAY:

6, 7, 8 Church School will continue to gather on ZOOM each Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

Middle School Youth Group will continue to meet via Zoom at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons!

Prayerful Parent Group meets weekly – via Zoom – on Thursday evenings, beginning at 7:30.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP – FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

This group will be continuing to meet each Wednesday evening at 7:00 – for the next three weeks.

At each of the Zoom-based gatherings, our youth will be invited to engage in conversations about fear, doubt, and hope – and Rev. Anne Marie Holloway and Mimi D'Angelo will explore ways in which our Faith can serve both as a compass and a guide as we continue to journey through this time of COVID-19 together.

Please be on the lookout for more information in a separate email.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, May 21

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning - Virtual
- 10:30 a.m. Church Staff Meeting - Virtual
- 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayers - Rev. Swahnberg*** - **On FB**

FRIDAY, May 22

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, May 23

SUNDAY, May 24

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Community Hour - Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service*** - **Online**
- 11:00 a.m. Church School
- 11:15 a.m. 6, 7, 8 Church School
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

<p>This Sunday's Scripture Readings Acts 1:6-14</p>

MONDAY, May 25 – Memorial Day – (Legal Holiday – Church Office Closed)

TUESDAY, May 26

- 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayers - Rev. Holloway*** - **On FB**
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting - Virtual

WEDNESDAY, May 27

- 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayers - Rev. Wooster*** - **On FB**
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Discussion Group – Faith in Uncertain Times - Virtual

THURSDAY, May 29

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning - Virtual
- 10:30 a.m. Church Staff Meeting - Virtual
- 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayers - Rev. Swahnberg*** - **On FB**
- 7:30 p.m. Prayerful Parents Check-Ins