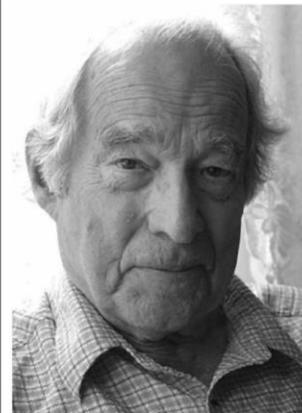




June 18, 2020

STAYING CONNECTED TO YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

**PREACHING VOICES
A FOUR-WEEK DISCUSSION GROUP WITH REV. MATT WOOSTER.
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 P.M.
JUNE 24, JULY 1, JULY 8, JULY 15**



The tradition of Christian preaching is rich with a diversity of gifts. Each preacher seeks to listen to the voice of God at the point where the witness of scriptures meets the witness of our lives. In this initial four-week session, participants will have a chance to discuss the sermons of preachers, some well-known and some not, who have addressed American churches in the past fifty years. All participants will receive a link to an audio or video recording of the sermon to be discussed. Please register in advance, even if you cannot make all four sessions.

Barbara Brown Taylor preached "Sacramental Sky" on February 28, 2010.
Martin Luther King Jr. preached "The Drum Major Instinct" on February 4, 1968.
William Sloane Coffin preached "Alex's Death" on January 23, 1983.
Rebekah Anderson preached on the Good Samaritan on March 16, 2019

PREACHING VOICES – SESSION ONE – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Here are the links you need to prepare for and participate in the first session of Matt's Preaching Voices series – **next Wednesday evening, June 24, at 7:30.**

Click on this link next Wednesday evening to join the zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88523257855>

Click on this link to view the first sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMrGK1JG4GA>

LIVING ALONE DURING THE PANDEMIC

**Facilitated by Rev. Judy Swahnberg and
Co-Senior Deacon Mimi D'Angelo
Next Monday, June 22, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.
VIA ZOOM**

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Psalm 16:11*

- What is working for you on your path? What is not working?
- What gives you joy?
- Let's share insights about living alone, living faithfully and fruitfully during this time of uncertainty.

To participate, just e-mail Judy Swahnberg (judy@hillschurch.org) or Cynthia Gordan (cynthia@hillschurch.org) so that they can send you the Zoom link you need to be part of this dialogue.

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!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS – SUMMER 2020 – THE GOOD NEWS PROJECT!



Is your middle schooler or high schooler doing some good work that will serve to help others this summer? Are they looking for ways to spread the good news of hope and love with those in need?

Let Rev. Anne Marie Holloway know! She would love to share the good news of your young person's good works with our church community by interviewing our teens and their families on ZOOM and featuring these projects of good news, virtually!

Need some ideas? Anne Marie has those, too! There are organizations the Hills Church supports that could use face masks, weekly food donations, diaper and baby supplies, toiletry packs, homemade cookies and more! (All projects can be worked on safely from home!)

Be sure to reach out to Rev. Anne Marie at annemarie@hillschurch.org with your "Good News Project" ideas or

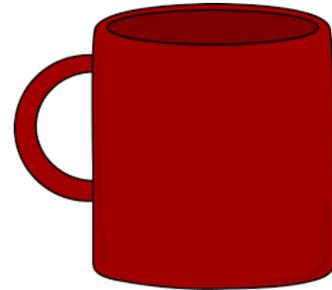
questions!

GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE AND COME TO VIRTUAL COMMUNITY HOUR! EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30!

Every Sunday morning, 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.

Following a brief welcome, separate "breakout rooms" will be randomly generated to allow for conversations in small groups. 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. 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 be emailed to you at 6:45 on Sunday morning.



CUP OF MORNING PRAYER: MONDAY MORNINGS – AT 6:00 – ON ZOOM



You are invited to join Rev. Anne Marie Holloway for a cup of morning prayer – at 6:00 a.m. – on ZOOM, every Monday morning – through July 13.

Begin each week in the quiet presence of God.

Each session will be held in the sanctuary of nature in various outdoor locations (weather permitting). Hills Church friends and families are encouraged to find a quiet outdoor space where they can practice an ancient form of prayer known as breath prayer using a handheld device to access Zoom.

This spiritual practice will include a weekly Psalm to pray and participants are invited to share prayer requests.

Please e-mail your prayer requests – in advance – to Rev. Anne Marie (annemarie@hillschurch.org) so that your personal prayers of celebration and concern can be lifted up each Monday morning and held in gentle care during this virtual small group gathering.

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

ATTEND WORSHIP BY VIDEO

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

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.

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION – FROM 9:30 TO 10:30 WALKING TOGETHER AS WE PRACTICE OUR FAITH

“The world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our feet, and learn to be at home.”

This quote from Wendell Berry resonates with me as it describes the journey of those who have gathered for Morning Meditation over this past year. I have been so moved and enriched by those who came together to practice; we all walked together “inch by inch,” practicing meditation in fits and starts, sometimes with ease, at other times with questions and doubt. And yet, we kept at it –

for as Matt has observed, "Faith is a practice. No one is perfect at it. That's why we keep practicing ... we will find that our spirits are strengthened by a well-practiced attention to God, good relationships with a community, and a depth of compassion for ourselves and for others." And so it has been.

And so it will continue.

Summertime Schedule for Morning Meditation

In gathering for virtual Morning Meditation these past few months, we have come to appreciate the importance of this time to connect with each other during the pandemic-related suspension of our regular Sunday morning church services. So please mark your calendars for Tuesday Morning Meditation throughout this summer as we will be continuing to gather via Zoom every Tuesday – from 9:30 - 10:30am to keep practicing our faith through meditation and soulful conversation, in joy and in prayer.

We hope to see you next Tuesday morning – wherever you are on your faith journey.

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

NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY DURING THE PANDEMIC And Think about Taking Advantage of These Other Sources of Support...

CONNECTIONS

Friday evening, June 19: 7:30 pm-9:30 pm

Meets once a month, usually.

We gather to talk, laugh, share opinions, recommend books and films,
and appreciate where we are in our lives.

All women in the Hills Church are welcome.

VIA ZOOM

SENIOR TEA WITH JUDY

Put the kettle on and take a break!

3 PM-4:00 pm or so...

Tuesday afternoon, June 30

VIA ZOOM

To participate in either of these Zoom gatherings, just e-mail either Judy Swahnberg – judy@hillschurch.org or Cynthia Gordan – cynthia@hillschurch.org – and they will send you a Zoom link to click on when the time comes. It's as simple as that!

GOD OF GLORY AND HONOR – A PRAYER

God of Glory and Honor,

When words are lost, and all but silence fills the air, help us to find comfort in knowing that you hear our prayers.

When our words do find us, O God, and make their way to our lips, may we speak with a love that unites us.

May we speak through your love, a love that lifts up those around us -- a love that calls forth your Spirit!

When words seem to struggle -- to be formed and spoken -- may we break out in song (even if it is through a mask -- safely distanced from others).

Above all things, help us to "seek ye first."

May we travel through these times with great awareness and careful consideration.

Hear the songs of our hearts, hear the words of our hearts spoken, whispered, and sung.

O Lord, hear our prayers this day.

Amen.



OUTREACH UPDATE – CITY MISSION SOCIETY AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FROM YOUR CHRISTIAN SERVICE SUPPORT BOARD

The outreach activity of our church has continued despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The members of the Christian Service Support Board (CSSB) have remained in touch with the organizations which we have supported financially. Here are reports from two of those organizations.

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries maintains an active website and a regular e-mail outreach program. They encourage religious groups to meet while observing pandemic safety and offer to help facilitate those meetings. They operate their vehicle donation program and offered an "alternative gift fair" (choice of three charities) for Fathers' Day. They publish a weekly prayer and they shared messages of solidarity from around the world as the US struggles for racial justice.

African Indian Alliance (AIA) has had to close its schools, resident hostel and the Play Home Program for very young children. Two staff members were given leave. Prior to departure of the children, the sisters added training on the coronavirus and conducted a special prayer service. Students in the lower standards had completed their exams, but exams for the upper standards have yet to be scheduled. The sisters call the parents of the children to check in on the family's health and the student's studies. The Basnal tuition center also had to close and the tutor is on leave. The sisters helped with awareness and education about the virus there. Summer computer training and spoken English classes have been postponed.

SUMMER BIBLE STORY VIDEOS :)

Each month this summer, Mrs. T. and the church staff will be sending out a summer fun Bible story and suggested craft video. Look for them in your inbox on the following Sunday mornings: July 5, August 2, and September 6. (For all ages, like the one below :)

FAITH, RACE, AND CULTURE: FAMILY SUMMER PRACTICE

God made us to be diverse, from our skin color to the expressions of our cultures and families. This three session guided faith practice will help families continue teaching their children about

empathy, culture, race, and prejudice. "Deep Blue Life: Faith and Culture—Anti-Racism" teaches about "Prejudice and Stereotypes," "Curiosity and Empathy," and "Colors and Cultures."

Designed to use at your own pace over the summer weeks. Basic household supplies needed such as markers, tape, glue, pencils, paper, poster board, yarn, paint and paper plates. All can be adapted.

These wonderful materials are FREE – and they are a great starting point for much needed conversations.! Just read them – and adapt them for your family's needs.

Just click the following link to download the study guide:

<https://www.cokesburykids.com/files/uploads/DeepBlueLifeAntiRacism-1.pdf>



A four-session art Zoom camp with Mrs. T. Based on the themes: LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, LOVE YOURSELF AND LOVE CREATION

Join Mrs. T. and church friends for creativity, fun and faith story exploring.

Daily Zoom classes – Monday, June 22 through Thursday, June 25 – from 10:00 to 11:30. For children entering K through 5th grade. These classes are FREE – BUT space is limited to ten families, so please take a minute to register now! (A supply list will be sent out before camp begins.)

Just click this link to register:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eh57jlt6697d0451&oseq=&c=&ch=>

FLAT JESUS FOR EVERYONE!

"Flat Jesus" is based on a children's book called *Flat Stanley*, by Jeff Brown. In the book, a boy named Stanley is accidentally "flattened" – allowing him to be mailed to lots of different places where he has all kinds of exciting adventures.

Because Church School does not meet during the summer, Sally Tomasetti believes now to be the perfect summer for "Flat Jesus" to help our church family stay connected. Flat Jesus also serves as an important reminder that Jesus is always with us and to remember his greatest commandment, which is to love God with all of your heart, your mind and your strength – and to love your neighbor.

Here's how it works: Download a picture of Flat Jesus. Color it and cut it out. If you have a popsicle stick, you can tape your picture of Jesus to that to make it like a puppet. Then take him on your adventures this summer wherever they may take you: your backyard, a nearby sports field, family outings and vacations, day trips to the beach And take pictures of Flat Jesus everywhere you go!

Then ask your mom or dad to email your pictures to Sally (sallyt@hillschurch.org), so that they can be shared on the church's Facebook page with our whole church community.

Just click on this link to download Flat Jesus.

http://ms.wearesparkhouse.org/downloads/SHC/FlatJesus_Spark.pdf?redirected=true

CONSIDER SILVER LAKE'S "SUMMER CAMP AT HOME" BOX FOR YOUR CHILD

Silver Lake Camp in Connecticut is our very own UCC summer camp. Ordering this box from Silver Lake will give you everything you need to participate in a Silver Lake "Summer Camp at Home" experience. The box will guide you through four weeks of camp programming! Designed to inspire the entire family, you can pick and choose how to engage with the material. Follow the prompts and instructions for a self-guided experience, join in a cabin group to share the experience (separate registration required: \$10), add on optional activities from Silver Lake's website, come to the weekly Friday campfires. [Purchase a box from online store](#)*. Sally Tomasetti's children went to Silver Lake and loved it – and Sally believes this would be a wonderful introduction to sleepaway camp.

Each box includes: a Silver Lake journal and pen, a Silver Lake water bottle, wood cookie necklace/mandala, a friendship bracelet kit, butcher paper, markers, a pollinator garden/mini greenhouse kit, recipe cards, journal prompts, activity instructions, and more. **Cost: \$30. For various ages.**

Just click here to register.

<https://www.silverlakect.org/silver-lake-at-home>

THE WELLESLEY FOOD PANTRY HAS MOVED TO TEMPORARY QUARTERS DURING THIS SUMMER'S CONSTRUCTION WORK AT OUR CHURCH



Due to this summer's construction at the hills church, the Wellesley Food Pantry will be operating – on a temporary basis – out of the Unitarian Universalist church (309 Washington Street – across from Green's Hardware) but will be returning to the Hills Church once this summer's construction work is complete.

In the meantime, it is important for all of us to continue to support the vital work being done by The Food Pantry. The Pantry's website is updated weekly to reflect items in short supply, but they can always use your help with white and brown rice (preferably 2 pound bags), vegetable oil, dishwashing liquid, paper towels, 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. Here is the URL - (<http://www.wellesleyfoodpantry.org>).

It is no longer possible to bring your Food Pantry donations to the church, but please continue to drop them in the collection bins at Roche Bros or Whole Foods. OR, you can drop your donations off on Monday mornings – between 8:30 and 10:30 – on the WEST side of the Unitarian Church.

Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

FAMILY PROMISE "FUN RUN" FUNDRAISER CANCELLED REPLACED WITH A VIRTUAL EVENT



An important fund raising run for Family Promise has had to be cancelled and replaced with a virtual run which began last Friday, May 29.

To participate, just find a sponsor or sponsors – and click on the link below to register!

https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/virtual-wonder-run-2020?fbclid=IwAR25piAQ0Ph8AUg9Hgs8SFTWkcj5Jhd_KNFW6DUO_7skDdJggIVfQGen_Mc

**IF YOU HAVE EXTRA KITCHEN UTENSILS,
DONNA MCCABE CAN HELP YOU FIND A GOOD HOME FOR THEM**

The Christian Service Support Board believes NOW would 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 the New Life Furniture Bank – and from there to a good home.

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 |



Donna McCabe has volunteered to help you get your extra kitchen utensils into the hands of people who could really use them. Here is a picture of the bin she has put on her porch for this purpose. All you need to do is to stop by Donna and Gary’s house at 124 Washington Street in Wellesley and place your donations into this bin. Donna and Gary will take it from there – with much gratitude to you from them and from Christian Service for taking the time to extend a helping hand to those in need.

And you won’t even have to back your car out of the McCabe’s driveway. (They have a circular drive!)

Questions? Contact Donna McCabe dmccabe4@comcast.net

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, June 18

- 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**
- 7:00 p.m. Property Management Team Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Service Support Board

FRIDAY, June 19

- 7:30 p.m. Connections – VIA ZOOM
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

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| This Sunday's Scripture Reading Genesis 21:8-21 |
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SATURDAY, June 20

SUNDAY, June 21

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Community Hour – VIA ZOOM
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service*** - **Online**
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, June 22

- 6:00 a.m. A Morning Cup of Prayer – VIA ZOOM
- 7:00 p.m. Living Alone during the Pandemic – (Rev. Swahnberg/Mimi D'Angelo – VIA ZOOM)

TUESDAY, June 23

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation – VIA ZOOM
- 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayers - Rev. Holloway*** - **On FB**
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting – Virtual

WEDNESDAY, June 24

- 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayers - Rev. Wooster*** - **On FB**
- 7:30 p.m. Preaching Voices – Rev. Wooster – VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY, June 25

- 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. Ecclesiastical Council – Betsy Wooster – VIA ZOOM