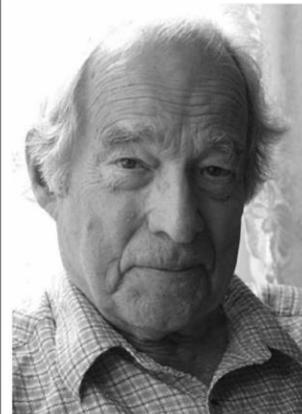




July 9, 2020

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 FOUR – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rebekah Anderson preached on the Good Samaritan on March 16, 2019. **Next Wednesday evening, July 15, at 7:30**, during the final session of his Preaching Voices series, Hills Church Senior Minister Matt Wooster will be leading a discussion of this sermon.

Watch the video recording here:

<https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/2019-super-saturday-keynote-bekkah-anderson-12795571>

And to participate in Matt's discussion group, please use the link in the notice above to register.

BETSY WOOSTER AUTHORIZED AS A CANDIDATE FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

We want to share the exciting news that last Thursday, June 25, the Metropolitan Boston Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ held an Ecclesiastical Council at which Elizabeth "Betsy" Wooster was formally authorized as candidate for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This marks the final step in Betsy's Discernment and Formation process, and Betsy has now completed all the requirements of this multi-year program.

Ecclesiastical Councils are a traditional and important part of our congregational polity as in our denomination the association of member churches holds the authority to ordain ministers. Betsy's Ecclesiastical Council was nontraditional in that it was conducted via Zoom, an innovation in the gathering process prompted by the physical closures of MBA UCC churches due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councils offer delegates from member churches an opportunity to meet candidates for ordained ministry, review credentials and hear a candidate's statement of faith, knowledge and experience, and then hear responses to an examination of questions. After the examination, delegates from member churches within the MBA vote to authorize a candidate to seek a call. And this is the next step in Betsy's path to ordination in the UCC. After the MBA's Committee on Ministry approves a call, the Hills Church will be honored to hold a service of ordination for Betsy.

Betsy's credentials include her Master of Divinity degree, Summa Cum Laude, from Boston University School of Theology in 2019, her training in Clinical Pastoral Education as a Chaplaincy intern at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2019, and her contextual education as she served as seminarian at Old South Church in Boston and as Chaplaincy Fellow in the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Wellesley College.

Betsy has a deep faith and a rich background in church life, including serving for over a decade as a professional Christian educator and Director of Spiritual Formation with churches in Ohio.

Betsy's discernment and formation process was overseen by the Committee on Ministry of the MBA. She has been accompanied on her journey by a team appointed in 2017 by the then Senior Deacon Mark Fraga, including Kevin Groppe, Beverly St. Clair, Rev. Deborah Thornton, and Mary Hill Canavan, and I have been honored to serve as her ministerial advisor.

I want to congratulate Betsy, and thank all who have supported her as she responds to the call to serve God's church.



*Rev. Judy Swahnberg
Associate Minister*

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM BETSY WOOSTER – JULY 2020

Dear Hills Church Family,

Having been approved for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ, I write to you with a heart full of gratitude for the support and enthusiasm you have given to me these past four years: three years of seminary education and a final year to complete the stages of examination within the Metropolitan Boston Association of the UCC.

And while words like “support” and “enthusiasm” beautifully reflect the kindnesses you have shown to me, they cannot adequately describe the gifts you have given. Your generosity of heart and spirit, collectively and individually, your bright smiles, inquisitive interest, and words of encouragement were, and are, more than support. They are more than enthusiasm. You, my church family, have been my rock when I needed steadied and my lantern when I needed light. You have personified hope when the way seemed long, and you have laughed and celebrated with me during moments of joy and achievement. You have given me the greatest of gifts – the gift of belonging.

I would like to thank all of the Deacons who joined me in discernment along the way, and I am especially grateful for the Hills Church discernment team who met with me often throughout this process with love and care. These individuals are Mary Hill Canavan, Mark Fraga, Bev St. Clair, Kevin Groppe and Rev. Debbie Thornton. They are bright, thoughtful, supportive and deeply kind. Rev. Judy Swahnberg, who has served as my ministerial advisor, has selflessly given her time, her love, and her prayerful encouragement. I am eternally grateful to Judy for her wisdom, her mentoring, and her friendship.

Finally, I thank all of you for holding Matt and me together in your care as we each focused on different settings of ministry in these past few years. We have felt the full measure of your love.

In the Grace and Peace of Christ,

Betsy

ECUMENICAL WORSHIP POSTPONED, ONLINE WORSHIP TO CONTINUE

A wonderful tradition among Protestant churches in Wellesley has been the chance to worship together on Sundays in August. In consultation with the clergy of St. Andrews Episcopal Church and Wellesley Village Church, we have decided to suspend this tradition this year.

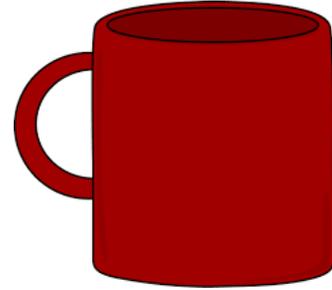
Each of our churches is conducting virtual worship during the summer, and we will continue to worship online every Sunday in August. One of the aspects of ecumenical worship services is the chance to be present together in the pews of each church on alternating Sundays. We look forward to resuming this tradition in future summers, when our church buildings are open for worship.

Here at the Hills Church, worship services will continue to be online every Sunday. The Reopening Task Force is developing a plan for in-person worship to resume in phases, as conditions allow, but no earlier than September.

**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.

2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS ZOOM GATHERINGS:

Our Confirmation Crew will continue to touch base on the second Wednesday of each month in 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!

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

CUP OF MORNING PRAYER: MONDAY MORNINGS – AT 7:00 – ON ZOOM



You are invited to join Rev. Anne Marie Holloway for a cup of morning prayer – at 7:00 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.

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.

SUMMER PSALMS AND MORNING MEDITATION

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday Morning Meditation throughout this summer as we will be continuing to gather via Zoom every Tuesday morning - from 9:30 - 10:30. Each week, we will meditate using sacred readings from the Book of Psalms.

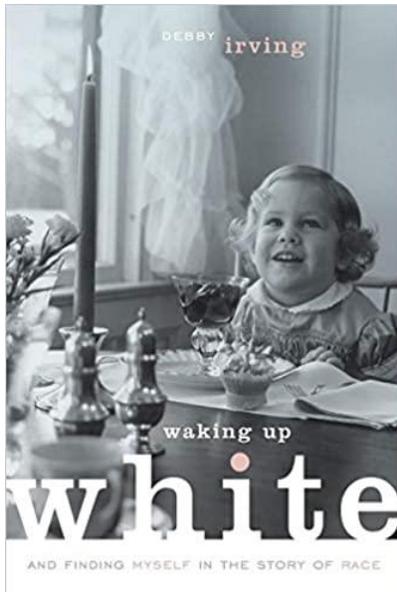
Zoom is a service that enables groups to connect either by video using your computer or by audio using your phone. To participate, just e-mail Mary Hill Canavan (see below) and she will send you an official Zoom "invite" and tell you how to CLICK and Zoom in. (And if you have been meditating via Zoom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

Whether you are new to meditation or practice it daily...please join us and be restored during this time together - from wherever your summer takes you.

Peace to you all,
Mary and Judy

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

**A PARENT/TEEN BOOK STUDY: CONVERSATIONS ON RACE
THIS SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 12, AT 7:00 – VIA ZOOM**



Join Rev. Anne Marie Holloway and Co-Senior Deacon Mimi D'Angelo for a Parent/Teen ZOOM Book Study and prayerful conversations about racism and faith **this Sunday evening, July 12, at 7:00.**

Parents and their teen children (Grades 8-12) are invited to participate in this ZOOM discussion group focused on the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving.

A powerful read on race and personal identity.

Email Rev. Anne Marie for more information AND the Zoom link you will need to participate!

Check out the link to this resource here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Waking-White-Finding-Myself-Story/dp/0991331303>

DEAR LORD, HELP US THROUGH THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES



Dear Lord, all merciful and powerful One,

Please help us through these uncertain and tragic times.

During this period of isolation, boredom, and anxiousness, please guide us properly.

Assist us in staying faithful and dissuade us from Sin.

Now, dear Lord, we need your assistance unlike we have ever before.

Assure that we and our loved ones are protected by ensuring good health, safety, and economic stability.

Amen.

Prayer submitted by: Christopher Bertolini

OUTREACH UPDATE – COMMON CATHEDRAL AND ADOLESCENT WELLNESS 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 is the sixth in a series of CSSB reports, featuring two more of those organizations.

Common Cathedral (Ecclesia Ministries). When so many places chronically unhoused people rely on have closed -- libraries, cafes/coffee shops, and other service providers – Common Cathedral is trying to keep BostonWarm and Common Art open as long as possible. The parish hall at Emmanuel Church in the City of Boston is now a space for no more than 25 people to quietly rest, six feet apart from each other. We are sharing simple food and drink options in the hallway. We are offering use of the restrooms for taking care of our bodies. There are three specific ways that people can help right now, right from where you are: 1) Purchase supplies from our COVID-19 Amazon wish list on our website; 2) Make sandwiches at home and/or purchase soft fruits and granola bars and drop them off. We need these M, W, and F for the foreseeable future. 3) Pray for us!

Adolescent Wellness, Inc. continues its mission to enhance mental health and wellness during the Covid 19 pandemic by collaborating with organizations to expand virtual access. Most recently, a resource piloted by AWI to develop cognitive flexibility was the topic of a Rotary International conference training hosted in Nigeria (formatted for younger children is in the Whyville Wellness Center). A second session during Rotary's international conference was about the curriculum piloted by AWI. The curriculum training is completely online and teletherapy is included in the implementation planning.

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: 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>

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.silverlakeect.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-](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/virtual-wonder-run-2020?fbclid=IwAR25piAQ0Ph8AUg9Hgs8SFTWkcJ5Jhd_KNFW6DUO_7skDdJggIVfQGen_Mc)

[2020?fbclid=IwAR25piAQ0Ph8AUg9Hgs8SFTWkcJ5Jhd_KNFW6DUO_7skDdJggIVfQGen_Mc](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/virtual-wonder-run-2020?fbclid=IwAR25piAQ0Ph8AUg9Hgs8SFTWkcJ5Jhd_KNFW6DUO_7skDdJggIVfQGen_Mc)

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, July 9

- 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, July 10

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, July 11

SUNDAY, July 12

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

MONDAY, July 13

- 7:00 a.m. A Morning Cup of Prayer – VIA ZOOM

TUESDAY, July 14

- 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
- ... 7:00 p.m. Church Council - Virtual

WEDNESDAY, July 15

- 10:30 a.m. Re-Opening Task Force - Virtual
- 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayers - Rev. Wooster*** - **On FB**
- 7:30 p.m. Preaching Voices – Rev. Wooster – VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY, July 16

- 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**

This Sunday's Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:10-13
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