



September 16, 2020

Dear Hills Church Community,

In person worship is returning, cautiously, to the Hills Church!

Beginning this month, new sacred services will be held for in person worship on the church lawn and in the renovated sanctuary. In person worship will be offered on selected Tuesdays and Sundays, observing the safety protocols announced by the church's reopening task force. Some of these sacred services are for the whole church community, and others are designed mainly for families with children and youth. Dates and detailed descriptions of our new services for September and October are described below.

We trust that these new opportunities for worship will be both meaningful and safe. In the first phase of reopening, participation will be limited to twenty-five people, and services will last about thirty minutes. To manage attendance, all participants must register in advance using the online registration information found in the Events at the Hills newsletter.

Our Sunday 10:00 a.m. worship service will continue to be offered online. Virtual worship allows for hymn singing and safe accessibility for all. To join worship online, or to catch up on past weeks, visit the church [website](#) or our youtube channel, where worship is posted early Sunday mornings (many have appreciated the early hour). To worship live with others, join the premiere on the church facebook page at 10:00 a.m.

We are grateful to everyone who completed the recent Comfort Check survey. We learned that a number of people are ready to attend small worship services, while others will continue to participate remotely in church life at this time. As we begin to worship in person, we hope that this phase will lead safely to an expanded reopening, with more worship services and additional capacity in the months ahead. We will be learning together. Here are the in person services for September and October.

### **In Person Worship for Everyone**

#### **Tuesday Evenings: Sacred Silence, Sacred Sounds**

A prayer service with instrumental music, scripture, and contemplation.

**September 22, on the front lawn before sunset, 6:00 to 6:30.  
October 20, and October 27, in the sanctuary, 7:00 to 7:30.**

**Sunday afternoon, October 4, 4:00: Blessing of the Animals.**  
Outdoors in the garth. Bring your own pet – or borrow one from a neighbor!

### **In Person Worship for Families with Children**

**Sacred Acts of Kindness:** A Special Outdoor Service for Families with Children. Sacred Acts of Kindness services will focus on ways our families can safely participate in Christian service projects. **Sunday mornings, September 20 and October 18, from 9:15 to 9:45.**

**Sacred Stories:** A Special Outdoor Service for Families with Children. Sacred Stories will offer families a chance to hear the stories found in the Bible, and then explore the ways these stories connect us, help us form community and inspire creativity. **Sunday mornings, September 27 and October 11, from 9:15 to 9:45.**

### **In Person Worship for Youth and Families**

**Teen Vespers Services:** Special evening candlelight service **for teens and their families.** Teen Vespers will be held **outdoors** and will offer an opportunity to be in conversation regarding the intersection of faith and the challenges faced in our teens' lives. **Sunday evenings, September 20 and October 18, from 7:00 to 7:30.**

In peace and joy,

Rev. Matt Wooster  
Rev. Judy Swahnberg  
Rev. Anne Marie Holloway