



## *Jesus Gives Hope to Underdogs*

*Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory...And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with human beings, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

**(Revelation 19:6-7a; Revelation 21:3-4, NIV)**

The NCAA national basketball tournament is underway. When the pairings were unveiled the pundits and fans spent a lot of ink, online space, and time debating the merits of the selections. But as the weakest teams prepared to play the most powerful teams, no one argued that underdogs had little or no chance against their more skilled opponents. In the rare case of an underdog winning, the word that is spoken again and again is *upset*. It would be completely unexpected: underdogs aren't supposed to win. In fact, we call them underdogs because from our perspective, they have little or no chance of winning.

The New Testament portrays Jesus, his disciples, and the church as underdogs in a world of power, wealth, and secular ideology. They look weak and ineffectual against the power of the Temple and even more against the empire of Rome. Their status as underdogs is reinforced as Jesus hangs on the cross; it continues even after Jesus' resurrection as people spread the rumor of the disciples stealing Jesus' body and then as the church is scattered throughout the world by persecution. In every city in which a church is established, the Christians are the minority, underdogs against the popular mindset of their bitter opponents and the general populace. Every turn seems to prove one more time that they are the weaker team, that they have no chance of winning. They must be tempted at times to hopelessness. Despite our freedom as Christians in this country, we still feel like underdogs against the rising tide of our culture that opposes the core of beliefs of Christ and His people.

But Paul tells them and us that despite the temptation to cower in fear and to slink away insecurely, if we have Christ we are not really underdogs. It may appear that way at times, but it is simply not true. We know, from John's images in Revelation, that when all the dust settles, when everything in existence comes to a halt, when the curtain is pulled back and everything is seen for what it is, the one constant, the one truth that cannot be shaken, is this: Jesus wins and those who trust Him win, too. In the eyes of many, it will be the upset of all time.

So, when the news seems bleak and the world seems to be spiraling out of control and the enemy seems to be pounding on our door, when we feel like slinking away in fear, when we wonder if anything is ever going to change, take heart, be encouraged, believe that what we feel and see isn't all there is. We might feel like underdogs, but it's simply not true: Because Jesus wins, if we follow Jesus, we win, too. May God help us live in this transformational truth.

Because He Wins,

*Pastor Wes*

### SUNDAYS IN APRIL

**April 6** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *What Do You Think that Jesus Can Do with What You Have?* (Mark 8:1-13) / p.m. Small Groups

**April 13** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Do We Need a Sign from Jesus?* (Mark 8:11-21) / p.m. Small Groups

**April 20** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Is Anything Worth More Than Your Soul?* (Mark 8:31-38) / p.m. Small Groups

**April 27** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Should We Argue with Others about Jesus?* (Mark 9:14-32) / p.m. Small Groups



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

April 20-27

Volunteers - "the debt we owe them is as great as the sum of the ages."

They touch our lives and the lives of our children and youth. They work for love: the love of sharing God's Word and love with others. We want them to know how much we appreciate them and all that they do for God and His kingdom. We invite you to creatively express your appreciation to our volunteers during this week. Expressing appreciation can take many forms, such as a note to a volunteer, a word of appreciation, a flower or plant, a plate of cookies or muffins, or any number of other ways. Thank you for your involvement in this appreciation week and for your prayers for our volunteers. Thank you!

"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

### *From the Assistant Pastor*

*"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).*

April is Volunteer Appreciation month, so once again we want to let you know in no uncertain terms: **WE APPRECIATE YOU!** We hope each and every one of you who serves as a volunteer in our ministries here at Houghton Wesleyan knows how grateful we are for you and for your contributions to the ministry of the church. None of our ministries would be possible without the sacrificial time, effort, and gifts you give to the Lord and His Kingdom.

I want to thank ALL of our volunteers, but I want to highlight for you two specific groups: those who help coordinate College Ministries, and those who help coordinate Small Groups. If you see any of these volunteers, be sure to thank them for giving to the Lord.

#### **COLLEGE MINISTRY**

**Koinonia** – Kaylan Reynolds, Joel Brubaker, Shane Marcus, Ryan Johnson, Kate Ambrose, Marc Smithers, Dave Allen, Jesse Fink, Ben Wendell, Caitlin Cleland, Andrew Vogan, and John Buteyn

**LOGOS Bible Studies** – *Student Leaders:* Ian Galloway, Jim Luckey, Jenna Barnett, Claire Essley, Jennalee DeYoung, Adele Cameron, Katherine Cogdill, and Dan Rechlin. *Hosts:* Doug and Judi Mayhle, Meic and Ann Pearse, Peter and Nancy Luckey, Bill and Jane Roeske, Bruce and Donna Hess, and Phil and Donnie Stockin.

**Nursing Home Ministry** – Mindy Swancott and Rose Jones

**College Ministries Committee** – Charles Bressler, Jane Roeske, Sheri Reynolds, Ann Pearse, Katherine Cogdill, Rose Jones, and Kaitlyn Berger

#### **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

**Leaders** – Warren Woolsey, Calvin and Paulette Schierer, Steve Castor, Doug Mayhle, Jason and Naomi Smith, Paul Young, Steve Pocock, Terry Paige, and Jon Case. **Hosts** – Paul and Margaret Johnson, Philip and Sue Brooks, Doug and Judi Mayhle, Jason and Naomi Smith, Mike and Amanda Cox, Nathan and Casda Danner, Phil and Donnie Stockin, and Matt and Pam Pelletier

Thanks to each of you – and to ALL our volunteers – for your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Gratefully His and Yours,

*Pastor Todd*

# ...Youth News

## Youth Group in April

2<sup>nd</sup> "Hungry for the Kingdom II: The Undivided Kingdom" Jr. High 6:30 - 8/Sr. High 7:30 - 9

9<sup>th</sup> "HFTK III: Money - Yours, mine or ours?" Jr. High 6:30 - 8/ Sr. High 7:30 - 9

16<sup>th</sup> "HFTK IV: A Vicious Cycle - Hunger and Aids" Jr. High 6:30 - 8/Sr. High 7:30 - 9

23<sup>rd</sup> The World Banquet - Combined group beginning at 6:30. Have dinner with us!

30<sup>th</sup> Our new series begins tonight! Jr. High 6:30 - 8/ Sr. High 7:30 - 9

### Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday mornings April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 AM in the community room!

### Youth Committee Meeting

7pm - Monday, April 14 Room 105 at the church

### Ecuador 08 important dates in April:

April 13<sup>th</sup> E08 Training 4pm in the community room

April 20<sup>th</sup> E08 Training 4pm in the community room



Please pray for our team as we prepare to serve the Lord in Ecuador!

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to **Daniel Stegen, Mackenzie Leach, Kelcie Mastin,** and **Morghan Mastin** who were baptized on Easter morning, March 23. We celebrate with them and their families at this monumental event in their lives.

**Valley PreSchool Applications are available for 2008-2009. Call the church office or download at [www.hwchurch.org/VPSapplication.pdf](http://www.hwchurch.org/VPSapplication.pdf).**

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING** is *Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 p.m.* in the Church Sanctuary. This meeting will include an approval of the 2008-2009 budget, election of Elders, Trustees, Nominating Committee and Delegates to District Conference as well as a report from the pastoral staff, the Trustees, and the Elders.

**ORGAN UPDATE:** Mr. Louder continues work on the organ along with the assistance from organ graduate students and community volunteers. Close to half of the 29 stops are complete. The organ builder has experienced some unanticipated delays that have set the completion date back to May; nevertheless, the work continues and progress is being made every day. Thank you for your support and prayers for everyone involved in bringing the organ to completion.

**AWANA PUGGLES & CUBBIES, PIONEER GIRLS, AND BOYS' AWANA CLUB** meet on Wednesday, April 2 and on Wednesday, April 9. These ministries will NOT meet on Wednesday, April 16 due to Fillmore's spring recess. They will resume their regular schedule on Wednesday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. The final evening of club for this year is Wednesday, April 30th.

## ***Sunday School and Children's Church Ministry Opportunities***

### **Sunday School**

With college students leaving our community for the summer as well as many people away for vacation, we have openings for Sunday School teachers and assistant teachers as well as occasional substitute teachers at various age levels during the months of May, June, and August. To learn more about some of these ministry opportunities, please contact Sunday School Superintendent, Robin Pawling (5677-8496) or Pastor Cindy (567-2264).

### **Children's Church**

With college students leaving our community for the summer we have openings for Children's Church teachers and assistant teachers as well as occasional substitute teachers for children ages 2-5 during the 8:20 and 11:00 worship services in May, June, and August as well as during the 10:00 worship service during the summer Sabbath. To learn more about these ministry opportunities, please contact one of the Children's Church ministry leaders, Barb Rangel (567-2838), Elaine Tooley, Karry Beardsley (567-4631), Bitsy Mayhle (567-8241), or Pastor Cindy (567-2264).

Thank you for prayerfully considering involving yourself in one of these important ministries to our children!

## **PARTNERS AT HOME**

**CompassCare Pregnancy Services** is a Rochester -based "Partners at Home" our church has included in it's outreach ministry. The president, Jim Harden says, " We relish creating a world where a woman does not have to fear having her own child, one woman at a time". He and his staff have been very successful in doing that in Rochester. However, he feels more pregnancy resource centers could profit from what he has learned. By identifying as many as 400 such centers and begin training leaders in values, mission, and strategies in both supervisory and local leaders, the good results Harden has realized in Rochester could become the norm. His passion is to overcome the political, medical and social hindrances and begin to try to make abortion obsolete. It is a challenging vision, but a Godly one. Lets give him our support!

## **Family Devotional Idea for April**



Water: The Purifier - give each member of your family a bottle of water with John 4: 13-14 and the following questions attached to it. Tell family members to refrigerate their water and drink a little each day, making it last a week. Ask them to read the verse each time they take a drink. Then during a meal, ask families to discuss these questions:

- \*What do you think the "living water" is?
- \*How is Jesus like or unlike the pure water in these bottles?
- \*Why is water so important to us?
- \*Why is Jesus so important to us?
- \*How can we use water to remind us of God?

"Jesus replied, 'Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.'" John 4: 13-14

*Raising Up Spiritual Champions* Newsletters for April are available in the church and Christian Education foyers. This month's newsletters include: Patient: Accepting Differences; Waiting to Grow Up; Committed: Follow Through; and more.



Have you read Bill Hybels' book, *Just Walk Across the Room*? I recently attended a church that used this book as a month-long emphasis on Evangelism. On the cover of the book we read, "The stakes are high. The implications are eternal. And you may be only a conversation away from having an eternal impact on someone's life—if you will just walk across the room!"

John Maxwell said, "Bill has lived his life for the sake of people who need to know the love of Christ. He has re-ordered his private life to involve and include lost people so he can share the gospel with them. If you want to learn from one of the great one-on-one evangelists of our generation, read the book."

In the library area marked "Home School" there are a number of Moody Science Classics on VHS videos. One I especially enjoyed was *Empty Cities*. These films can be enjoyed by the whole family and could lead to more conversation after the viewing.

We now have the Eric Liddell story on DVD. With the Olympic Games coming soon, the whole family might enjoy seeing what being in the Olympic Games meant to a man who always put God first.

-Wilma Emmett

## NURSERY

The church Nursery is a busy place each week, filled with many little ones. We are available for all of the services and Sunday School each Sunday, and for the Ladies' bible Study each Friday morning. the children receive lots of love, cuddling, comforting, playtime, and book reading! We show them and teach them the love of Jesus by our love, actions, and words. It is a very special time with the children.

We are staffed by many college students and community members. We appreciate and thank all of you who volunteer your time. The nursery wouldn't function without you. This is a wonderful ministry to the children, as well as to the parents who appreciate the pleasure of attending the various services in the church knowing their little ones are being well cared for by loving people. We are also grateful to the many behind the scenes people who help with cleaning and repairing nursery equipment. Thanks to everyone who helps make our nursery run smoothly.

Please take note that in early April, nursery volunteer sign-ups for the summer months will be in the bulletin. You may not be aware that the nursery is over 50% staffed by our college student volunteers during the school year, and with them away, we will greatly need YOUR help! Please prayerfully consider volunteering your help while the college students are away. It is very important that you fill out a nursery survey at the beginning of each recruiting cycle, each year, regardless of past experience. This helps keep our information current and accurate.

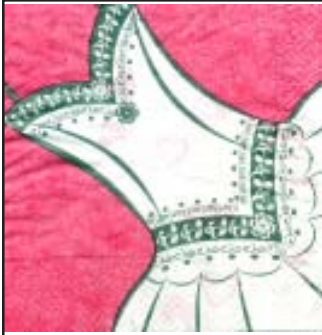
Thank you for your service to our little ones and their families!

In His service,  
Jan Schilke and LuAnne Brubaker  
Nursery Coordinator and Scheduler

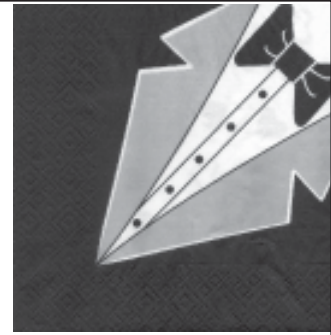


## Are You Willing to Commit to Pray for Our Country?

Are you able to set aside time in your car, during your coffee break, or before bedtime? May 1st is the National Day of Prayer. Watch for more information in upcoming weeks.



Men and Women of the Community  
are invited to a Wedding Shower  
for Heléna Tyler and John Oden  
on  
Sunday, April 27, between 3:00 - 5:00  
at the home of Doug and Judi Mayhle  
9792 Fancher Heights in Houghton



John and Heléna are registered  
under the name, "Heléna Tyler"  
at Bed, Bath, and Beyond and Target.

Hostesses: Judi Mayhle, Jane Roeske, Denise Campbell, Nancy Petrillo, or Betsy Webb.



**W.K.F.M. "travels" to Guyana, in South America, as we learn about life in the interior regions there. Do join us APRIL 20 at 9:40, grades 1-5, in the Junior Assembly Room. Don't forget the offering!** In March we collected \$6.80 toward Bibles for Nepal and India. Our April offering will be used for the "Heart of Ministries," which supports endeavors that respond to the physical & spiritual needs of persons worldwide.

### ***Calling for Aileen Ortlip Shea's Portraits***

We are honoring Aileen Shea this coming summer with a memorial, retrospective exhibit of her portraits in the Ortlip Gallery. Some of her work is in homes in the Houghton and surrounding area. If you would be willing to loan us your cherished paintings from June to September 2008 we would be very grateful. Or, perhaps you know someone who would be willing to loan their AOS painting for the exhibit.

Be assured that that Orlip Gallery in the Houghton College Center for the Arts is a safe area, with 24 hours video camera coverage. The Gallery is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Please call Roselyn Danner at 567-2766 or 567-9341 or send email [roselyn.danner@houghton.edu](mailto:roselyn.danner@houghton.edu) .

### **Thank You**

Dear Church Family,  
we would like to thank everyone for the prayers and support we received during Julia's stay at the Children's Hospital of Buffalo. we praise the Lord for returning her home healthy, and we continue to pray that she will fully recover. Thank you again--we were greatly encouraged.

God bless,  
The Winkens Family

### **EASTER BREAKFAST THANKS!**

Special thanks to the following individuals for planning and providing the delicious breakfast for the congregation on Easter Sunday morning: Fred Libick, Ed and Tracy Taylor, Jennifer Taylor, Erin Taylor, Brett Taylor, Robbie Taylor, Grace Taylor, and Cindy Lu Taylor. Each of these individuals contributed their time and energies to make this breakfast possible, and we want to express to them our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. Thank you so much; it was delicious!

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Houghton Area Senior Citizens:

April 4, 9:00 a.m. Senior Citizens Coffee Hour at Subway

April 10, 12:15 p.m. Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Program, "Windmills in Our Future," by David (Windy) Schwert offers a close-up view of the developing Wind Farm in the Town of Eagle.



### FOOD GUIDE FOR POTLUCK DINNER

Please bring your table service and the dish designated by the initial of your last name:

A-F, Salad    G-O, Dessert    P-Z, Casserole

### *Kurt Warner & Frank Reich at AIA Breakfast April 19 in Buffalo*

Athletes In Action Breakfast with Frank Reich and Kurt Warner on Saturday, April 19 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel starting at 9:00 am. Poster and news release are available on the bulletin board outside the church offices and online on the Community Page.

### WESLEYAN MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP

Semi-annual meeting April 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room

Dr. Storer Emmett will be making a PowerPoint Presentation: Observations on Sierra Leone and the present status of Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital

Please contact Dr. Storer Emmett or Dr. John Nystrom indicating that you plan to attend.

### Houghton Academy POP CONCERT

April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium

Come and enjoy an evening of music from movies and Broadway shows.

### CampCare for Grieving Children

HomeCare and Hospice will once again be sponsoring **Camp Care**, a weekend camp for children ages 8 to 13 who are grieving. There is no cost to campers to attend Camp Care. Camp Care will be held **August 8th - 10th** in Pike, NY. A brochure, application to attend camp, and the required medical information form is available on the bulletin board outside the church office and online for download from their website: <http://www.homecare-hospice.org> (click on "Camp Care" link at the top of the page). Applications and medical forms should be returned to Terri Bradbury as soon as possible.

### What do you need?

- Is your basement flooding? If that's the case you better call me right now!
- Is your sink slow? • Want to knock a wall out? • Do you have a light that doesn't work?
- Firewood to be cut? brought in? • Snowplowing? shoveling?
- Need to go somewhere? Olean? Buffalo? Florida? • Need something moved?
- What?! I don't do dishes unless your REALLY need them done! :-)

Pay me what you can. Tom Machamer (716) 498-5100 and leave a message... I'll call you back.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

**FOR GIVE AWAY:** Hewlett Packard 940c Desk Jet Printer. Works fine. Needs ink cartridges. 567-2766.

**HOUSE PAINTING AND POWER WASHING:** If you are interested in having your house painted, house power washed, or deck stained, contact Phil Merrill at 567-8809 (H) or 567-8115/8500 (Academy).

**DRYER NEEDED!** Once again the Hegemans urgently need to borrow or buy and electric dryer. Please call 596-0529 if you know of any available.

## **Alton Shea Book Republished**

Alton Shea has reissued his book with dedication to Aileen and some additional photos. The cost is \$10.00 at the college bookstore.

## **Marriage Encounter Wesleyan Upcoming Weekends in Amherst, NY.**

Our next weekends in the Buffalo area will be May 2-4 and October 24-26 at the Ramada University Inn & Conference Center. You can find more information, including video, at their web site: <http://www.MEWesleyan.org>. Information is posted on the bulleting board outside the church offices or on the church website.

## **Ham Dinner and Auction at Centerpoint April 11**

If you do not already have plans for Friday, April 11, please consider having dinner at Centerpoint Christian Academy in Angelica. They will be serving ham, salt potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert and beverages. There will be two sittings- at 5 and 6 p.m. - take out and walk-ins are also available. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

The dinner will be followed by their annual auction, beginning at 7 p.m. featuring many different gift baskets, gift certificates for local restaurants, businesses and services, memberships for local attractions and many other items. If you have a desire to purchase tickets please let Andy Cahill know how many adults/children which sitting or take out. Thank you for considering lending your support to Christian education in the Allegany County area- [www.centerpointacademy.org](http://www.centerpointacademy.org) .

**Playgroup** still meets every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Community Room. Invite a friend! Please call Heather Templeton or the church office (567-2264) with any questions.

## **CHURCH STAFF**

**Wes Oden, Senior Pastor, 567-2024, [woden@hwchurch.org](mailto:woden@hwchurch.org)**

**Todd Leach, Assistant Pastor, 567-8288, [tleach@hwchurch.org](mailto:tleach@hwchurch.org)**

**Jon Cole, Youth Pastor, 307-9950, [jcole@hwchurch.org](mailto:jcole@hwchurch.org)**

**Cindy Oden, Discipleship Pastor, 567-2024, [coden@hwchurch.org](mailto:coden@hwchurch.org)**

**Amanda Cox, Worship Director, 567-4870 [acox@hwchurch.org](mailto:acox@hwchurch.org)**

**Laurie Smalley, Volunteer Pastor for Outreach, 567-8302, [lsmalley@hwchurch.org](mailto:lsmalley@hwchurch.org)**

**Church Website: [www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)**

**Mission Website: [hwcmissions.org](http://hwcmissions.org)**

**Church phone number: (585) 567-2264**