



## The Election Is Coming

*Obey the government, for God is the one who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by God... Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and import duties, and give respect and honor to all to whom it is due. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too. For I am afraid that when I come to visit you I won't like what I find, and then you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfishness, backstabbing, gossip, conceit, and disorderly behavior.*  
Romans 13:1, 7; Matthew 5:44-45; 2 Corinthians 12:20, New Living Translation

I know people who are invigorated by politics. They love leap year not because we gain an extra day in February, but because it signals the coming presidential election. They read every article. They watch every debate, sometimes more than once. Maybe this describes you.

But whether you love these elections or merely tolerate them, elections are central to the operation of our government and are important for all people to participate. Ultimately, however, the burning question is typically not *should I vote*, but *for whom should I vote*, which is a spiritual issue.

In the first place, the decision of our vote should reflect less our personal priorities and more God's biblical priorities. In the October 2008 issue of *Christianity Today*, Charles Colson states that we ought to vote for a candidate because he is concerned for the dignity of all: "If God favors any 'special interest group,' it is the poor, the hungry, the unborn, the handicapped, the prisoner—those with least access to political power" (p. 150).

In the second place, however we vote and whatever the outcome of the election, Christians should be the first people to think less about winning and losing and more about unity and civility and grace toward those elected and toward people who view the candidates differently than we do. We ought to be the first to support those who lead us, whether or not we cast our vote for them. I suspect our attitude is more important to God than our vote.

We cannot control the outcome of the election. We cannot force people to see the candidates or the issues the way we do. We state our opinions. We cast our vote. Then we live with the outcome, whether we view the outcome positively or negatively. But we can control our response to the outcome, to the candidates, and to each candidate's supporters. The Bible doesn't tell us to vote for a certain political party, but the Bible gives us clear guidelines about our behavior toward people who think and act in ways that we reject: we are to love them, to treat them with kindness, and to refrain from gossip and hate-filled speech about them; we are to honor all who serve over us. And we are to pray for them, to pray that God will use them for His purposes in this world.

So, in preparation for November 4, commit to going to the polls, praying honestly and openly for God's wisdom about how you should vote, and praying for the Spirit of Christ to respond to the outcome in a way that pleases God and bears witness to your living faith in Christ.

In Christ,

*Pastor Wes*

### Sundays in November



#### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS:

Please remember that you need to turn back your clocks one hour on Saturday night, November 1.

- |                     |                                   |   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>November 2,</b>  | 8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m.            | <i>Life Is Ups and Downs (Chutes and Ladders)</i>           |
|                     | p.m. Small Groups                 |   |
| <b>November 9,</b>  | 8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m.            | <i>What You Know and Who You Are (Trivial Pursuit)</i>      |
|                     | p.m. Small Groups                 |   |
| <b>November 16</b>  | 8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m.            | <i>When Is Enough Enough? (Monopoly)</i>                    |
|                     | p.m. Small Groups                 |   |
| <b>November 23,</b> | 8:20 and 11:00 a.m.               | <i>What Are You Willing to Do for God? (Risk)</i>           |
|                     | p.m. Small Groups                 |   |
| <b>November 30,</b> | 8:20 and 11:00 a.m.               | <i>Christ's Coming Reveals God's Greatness (Luke 2:1-3)</i> |
|                     | 6:00 p.m. Service of Thanksgiving |   |

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

*"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

*Our Greeter Ministry is a simple yet vital ministry of our church. A friendly greeting and a warm welcome are simple ways to demonstrate Christ's love, to let people know we value them and are glad they are with us for worship. Donnie Stockin does an excellent job coordinating this ministry. Here is what she has to say:*

The schedule for the spring semester will be compiled soon, and we could use your help! Greeters are the friendly folks with name tags who shake your hand as you enter Houghton Wesleyan Church. They arrive 15 minutes before a service, find their name tag on a board in the cloak room, and welcome people as they enter the church doors. When the congregation has arrived and the service started, greeters return their name tag to the board, and their job is done.

Most greeters are scheduled three or four times a semester, but some work only once or twice a semester. If you cannot commit to a particular Sunday but would be willing to be on a substitute list, this would be most helpful too. Call me, Donnie Stockin, at 585-567-4162, or reach me via e-mail at: [donnie.stockin@houghtonacademy.org](mailto:donnie.stockin@houghtonacademy.org) if greeting is something you would be willing to do. Leave your name and contact information (e-mail, telephone number, address), and also which service or services you are willing to work or be called as a substitute. It also helps if you mention dates when you know you will be out of town and unavailable.

A schedule and a list of substitutes will be mailed to you in December, and a weekly reminder sent when it is your turn to greet. Thank you for considering this very important ministry.

*If you are looking for a simple yet important way to serve in the church, Donnie would love to hear from you! We would love to have you serve as one of our greeters on Sunday mornings.*

In Christ's Love,  
*Pastor Todd*

A Wonderful Gift is Given in Your Honor at this Christmas Season!



### Christmas is coming!

Are you looking for a unique gift for someone who has everything? You might prayerfully consider donating a gift for the Valley Preschool Scholarship Fund in honor of that someone special. Valley Preschool is a ministry that reaches out to families in our community. Scholarships are available for families who may encounter a financial burden. Your donation would help us as we reach out to these families during their time of need. When a donation is given during this holiday season, this specially designed card will be sent to honor the special person you choose and let him or her know a gift has been given in his or her honor to the VPS Scholarship Fund.

## The 2008 WOOLSEY LECTURES IN THEOLOGY AND CULTURE

brings William "Willy" J. Abraham to Houghton College Wesley Chapel on **Thursday, Nov. 13 at 7:30pm** (reception following in CFA Atrium) and **Friday, Nov. 14 during 11:00am chapel**. His lecture titles are "Civil Religion: Prescription, Problem, or Pufferfish?" and "Kings and Consequences". Abraham is an evangelical theologian and Wesleyan scholar who teaches at Perkins School of Theology at SMU. He is the author of Wesley for Armchair Theologians, Crossing the Threshold of Divine Revelation, The Logic of Evangelism, and others. Please join us and find strength for your spirit in this time of cultural upheaval!

## Youth Group – All students 6:30 – 8:00pm

Developing H.A.B.I.T.S. that will change your life! (Cont')

- November 5 – I. Involvement in the Church  
12 – T. Tithing  
19 - S. Studying Scripture  
26 – *No Youth group* – Have a great Thanksgiving!

**Prayer Breakfast:** Tuesday Mornings: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>. 7:00 AM in the community room. We are studying the book of James, feel free to read ahead!

**Youth Committee Meeting** - 7pm – Monday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> in the community room at the church.

November 16 - Box packing and **Karaoke Party!!** Music, Munchies, & Make-a-difference. Beginning at 3pm. In the community Room

### **Operation Christmas Child**

The Houghton Wesleyan Church Youth group will join the general church body in supporting and investing in the Operation Christmas Child program. We will be working with local Dollar General Stores to collect items. Students are encouraged to pack a shoebox for a child. Details will be available at youth group.

**November 30– Super Sunday School – All Junior and Senior high Sunday School Classes will meet at 9:40 in the community room for a unique Sunday school experience! Refreshments will be served!**

**SELF-DENIAL OFFERING:** During the month of November we invite you to participate in the annual Self-Denial Offering for Wesleyan World Missions. This offering makes it possible for the outreach of Wesleyan World Missions to continue growing and expanding throughout the world. Special envelopes are available in the sanctuary foyer and through the church office.

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to Jeff Boon, Bjorn Webb, Emma Webb, and Esther Webb who were baptized October 19.

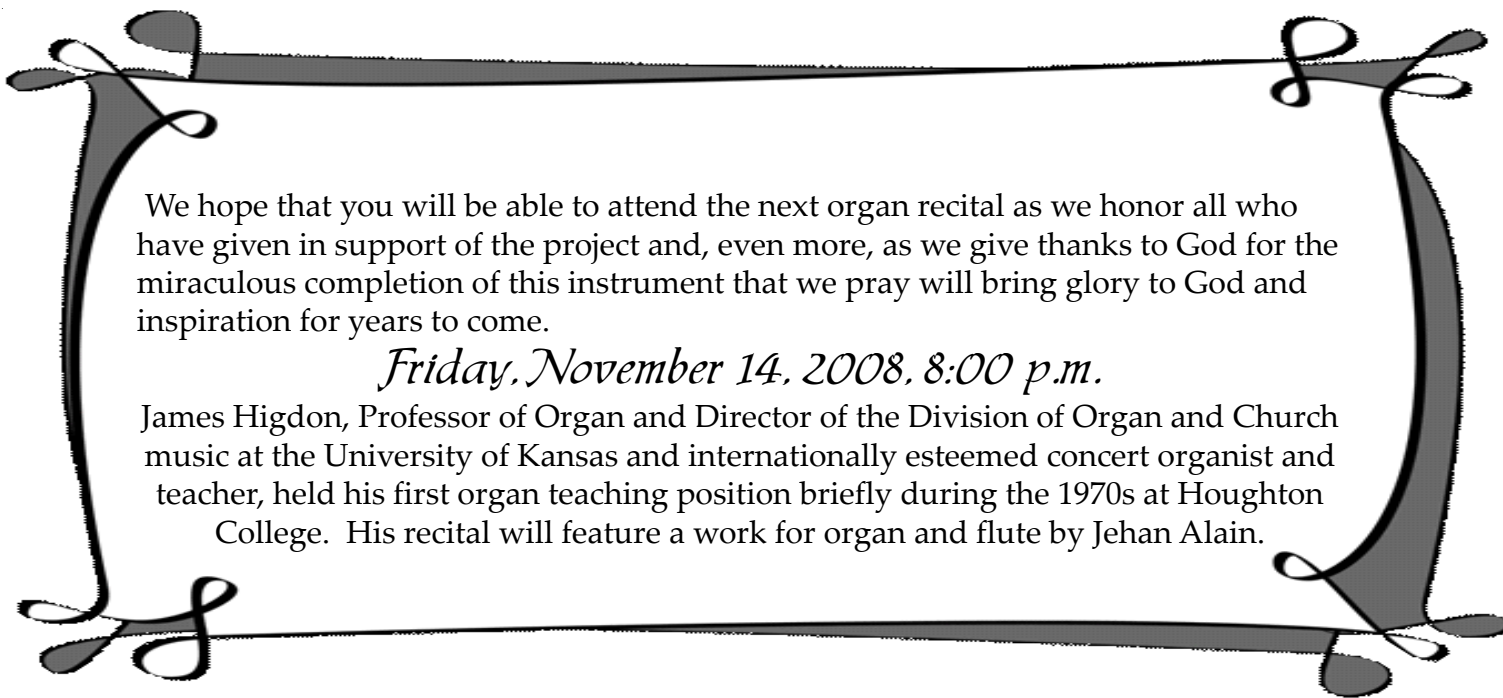
**PLAYGROUP** meets Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Community Room.  
For information, call Dani Johnson at 567-2346.

**WEDDING** Congratulations to Jessica Spear and Jesse Ryals who were united in marriage on Saturday, October 18. We pray for God's best upon them as they settle in Australia.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We are pleased to welcome new covenant members: Jeff and Andrea Boon, Sara Doty, Brandon and Emily Hoffman, Aaron Martin, Andrew Oden, Leonard and Marge Watson.

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE:**  
The churches of our area are joining for a service of thanksgiving, Tuesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Fillmore. We invite you to be a part of this community gathering of thanksgiving and praise.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH:** On Sunday, November 9, we will join with churches across the globe in praying for our brothers and sisters who face persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ. The website: [www.persecutedchurch.org](http://www.persecutedchurch.org) contains more information concerning this vital ministry of prayer.



We hope that you will be able to attend the next organ recital as we honor all who have given in support of the project and, even more, as we give thanks to God for the miraculous completion of this instrument that we pray will bring glory to God and inspiration for years to come.

*Friday, November 14, 2008, 8:00 p.m.*

James Higdon, Professor of Organ and Director of the Division of Organ and Church music at the University of Kansas and internationally esteemed concert organist and teacher, held his first organ teaching position briefly during the 1970s at Houghton College. His recital will feature a work for organ and flute by Jehan Alain.

## **Wednesday Evening Children's Ministries in November**

November 5, 12, and 19 all of our Wednesday evening children's ministries meet (this includes AWANA Puggles & Cubbies, Girls' AWANA Club, and Boys' AWANA Club). Due to Thanksgiving Eve, our children's ministries will not meet on Wednesday, November 26. We will resume our regular schedule at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3rd. Thank you.

## **Family Devotional Idea for November**

Prayer Walk - as a family discuss the areas in your lives where you are most struggling - perhaps school, a friendship, or doing chores. During the week, you can symbolically or physically visit the location where each person is struggling and pray for the person and situation.

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Ephesians 6:18

***Raising Up Spiritual Champions*** Newsletters for November are available in the church and Christian Education foyers.

**W.K.F.M.**

## **CORNER**

Let's "travel" to **RUSSIA & the UKRAINE** on November 16!

Mrs. Kathy Moore has some exciting things to tell and show to us. You won't want to miss this hour--9:40 to 10:40. Our offering will go to the street kids of the Ukraine being helped by World Hope. Dues of 52 cents will still be received.

WKFM Staff

# Girls' AWANA

Helping churches and parents raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ.

## In this spirit of thanksgiving we are thankful for...

- ...the wonderful musicians who plan and lead the opening songtime.
- ...the opportunity to memorize scripture and learn Biblical truths.
- ...over 50 girls attending regularly.
- ...15 caring group leaders who help us learn our verses and keep us focused.
- ...our fabulous game leader duo who plan lots of fun activities.
- ...our gifted Bible teacher who helps us learn about God in creative, memorable ways.
- ...our organized record keeper who keeps track of the verses we memorize and the rewards we receive.

## Thank You

*Our hearts are full of love and gratitude to our Houghton church family, not only for your steadfast prayer support, but also for the many meals and visits in recent weeks.*

*-Jean-Louis and Sandy Roederer*

## OUR FAMILY IN MINISTRY: Jon and Ruthie Ortlip - Ambassadors in Sport -

This summer, AIS, in partnership with AACH, conducted ten evangelistic youth soccer tournaments in ten different cities in Haiti. The team showed the Jesus film twelve times to more than 9,000 people and more than 400 made decisions to follow Christ. New believers are encouraged in developing their faith through the guidance of 280 trained volunteers from local churches.

Financial help is an extreme need following the hurricanes that hit Haiti recently. The Haiti director has requested emergency support funds for families of Christian workers suffering the effects of the storms as they seek to serve the people there. Donations, even small ones, may be made out to "Haiti Hurricane Relief." Contact the mission at [ais@aisnt.org](mailto:ais@aisnt.org) if you can give at this crucial time.

## In Our Library...



We are always happy to mention local authors. In this issue we would like to tell you about the works of Betty & Arnold Cook. The Cooks lived in Houghton for a number of years and taught at Houghton College. E. Elizabeth Cook's books are called *Sanctuary, Pilgrim Journey and Ornaments of Grace*. Arnold Cook's book is called *From a Star to Park Avenue or Cream Puffs and Lemons*.

Another new adult book is *Infinite Impact* by Stu Weber. Randy Alcorn says, "Read Stu's book and you'll gain a refreshing perspective about what will last."

For children there are several new books. Some are from Scholastic. One is a high interest story called *A Boy Named Boomer* written by NFL Quarterback Boomer Esiason. Other Scholastic books include: *The School Yard Mystery* by Elizabeth Levy and *The Mystery of the Missing Dog* by Denise Brunkus. *Even Steven and Odd Todd* by Kathryn Cristaldi warns that it is a math reader from Scholastic. The front cover informs us, "This is a math book and it is fun."

Other children's books include: *The Golden Rule* by Dana Stewart (ages 2-5) and a touch and feel book for toddlers called *Jesus is Born* by Allia Zobel-Nolan, *The King's Children* by Mary Hollingsworth, and *Find and Add Billy Bug* by JoAnne Hannen.

There are also some Wild About Animals DVDs for children too. Amazing Animals of Australia, Celebrity Animals, and Wacky Animals like *PingPong Pussy Cat* and *Pool-Shooting Poodle*.

## Operation Christmas Child -

# Sharing the Greatest Gift of Love



Andres, 9, and Petrona, 11, had never heard of Operation Christmas Child until a pastor from a nearby village invited them and other area children to a special celebration at his church. The two Guatemalan sisters went to the event and were thrilled to receive beautifully decorated shoe boxes loaded with gifts.

After the distribution, Pastor Mateo invited the children to attend a Bible club he wanted to start in their village. However, there was no evangelical church where they lived, and the pastor did not know of a place in their community where the club could meet.

The sisters were greatly surprised when their own father invited Pastor Mateo to hold Bible club classes in their home. He had been impressed by the love displayed by the pastor and other Christians who went the extra mile to deliver the boxes to the children.

Once a week the pastor came to the home, teaching the classes to the sisters, their parents, and other boys and girls in the village. Later more adults joined the group. As the numbers kept increasing and more people accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, Pastor Mateo felt led to start the first Christian church in that village.

Andres and Petrona were among those who received Jesus as Lord and Savior. By God's grace what began as a simple act of love to children in one village in Guatemala has reached deep into the hearts of dozens of people and brought about lasting change for that community.

That's the beauty of Operation Christmas Child. One small shoe box filled with toys, school supplies, and necessity items is just the beginning of the gift. This year, more than 7.6 million boys and girls in some 100 nations are receiving these tangible expressions of love. And like the two Guatemalan sisters, many of them have the opportunity to hear the Gospel message about the best gift of all - God's Son, Jesus Christ.

You can make a difference! **Gift-filled shoe boxes will be accepted at the church every Sunday through November 16th**, and may be left on the OCC display table in the foyer of the Christian Education building. For all the details of how to prepare a box, pick up a brochure from the OCC display table in the Christian Education building foyer, or visit the Samaritan's Purse website: [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org). A video and DVD about Operation Christmas Child are also available in our church library. Questions? Contact Terri Bradbury, [tnbradbury@hotmail.com](mailto:tnbradbury@hotmail.com) / 567-2719.

"For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." - Psalm 100:5

## Houghton Area Senior Citizens

November Luncheon is November 13 at 12:15 p.m. at the college Student Center. We will be treated to turkey and all the trimmings. Dr. Shirley Mullen will greet us but no special program is planned. Cost is \$6.00. For reservations, call 567-2301 by November 6.



Please join us in celebrating the upcoming marriage of **Amy Ayers and Aaron Spicer** by attending a Pampered Chef wedding shower. We will be compiling a collection of recipes for Amy and Aaron, so we ask that you **bring a copy of your favorite recipe**.

Please **DO NOT** bring a gift, as you will be able to purchase your shower gift on the spot. You will also be able to purchase a wedding gift. In the event you are unable to attend, Amy and Aaron are registered at: [www.pamperedchef.biz/milliethayer](http://www.pamperedchef.biz/milliethayer)

The shower will be held at the Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room on **November 29, 2008, at 4:00 p.m.** Please R.S.V.P to 567-8716.

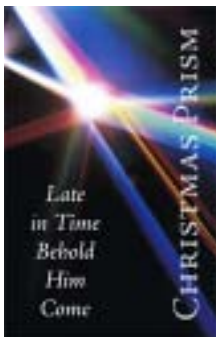
# Food Pantry Collection Sunday

Sunday, November 16, we will collect food for our Food Pantry. Please bring your contributions to the church that morning. Items needed:

- Pasta, Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Macaroni & Cheese, Rice, Cheese
- Canned Meats, Soup, Chili, Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Baked Beans
- Tea, Coffee, Dry Milk, Evaporated Milk, Fruit Juices
- Instant Potatoes, Potato Casseroles, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Breakfast Cereal, Disposable Diapers, Baby Foods
- Sugar, Flour, Brown Sugar, Brownie Mixes, Cake Mixes, Frosting
- Peanut Butter, Jelly or Jam, Crackers, Cookies, Cooking Oil, Bisquick
- Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo and Conditioner, Laundry Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Paper Products, Pet Food
- Monetary Donations (checks to Houghton Wesleyan Church with "FOOD PANTRY" on the Memo Line)



Monetary donations are welcome to provide fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, eggs, cheese, and milk, as well as emergency help for families in our community. The Food Pantry has a refrigerator and a freezer to store items. This year we have distributed food for 48 families (152 people). Many are turning to the local church for help. NOTE: *Pantry Donations may be brought to the church office throughout the year.*



## Christmas Prism

### Adoremus – Let Us Adore

Celebrating the Advent of the Christ with Music, Drama, & Dance  
December 5 and 6, 2008

*You are encouraged to join us for this gala yuletide celebration. This festival of the Christ will be a memorable evening of food and music in the tradition of Houghton Madrigals.*

#### Ticket Options

- ❖ \$30 Dinner and Concert (includes reception 5:45-6:15 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m. and artist circle seating for the concert at 8 p.m.)
- ❖ \$10 Concert (includes reception 7-7:45 p.m. and open seating for the concert at 8 p.m.)
- ❖ \$25 Concert Family Ticket (includes 2 adults and children in immediate family for the reception 7-7:45 p.m. and open seating tickets for the concert at 8 p.m.)
- ❖ \$5.00 Houghton College Student (includes reception 7-7:45 p.m. and open seating for the concert at 8 p.m.)

Reservation forms are available at the Welcome Center Desk in the Reinhold Campus Center. More information is available by visiting [www.houghton.edu/events/prism](http://www.houghton.edu/events/prism). Address questions to the Office of Public Events at (585) 567-9210 or email [events@houghton.edu](mailto:events@houghton.edu).

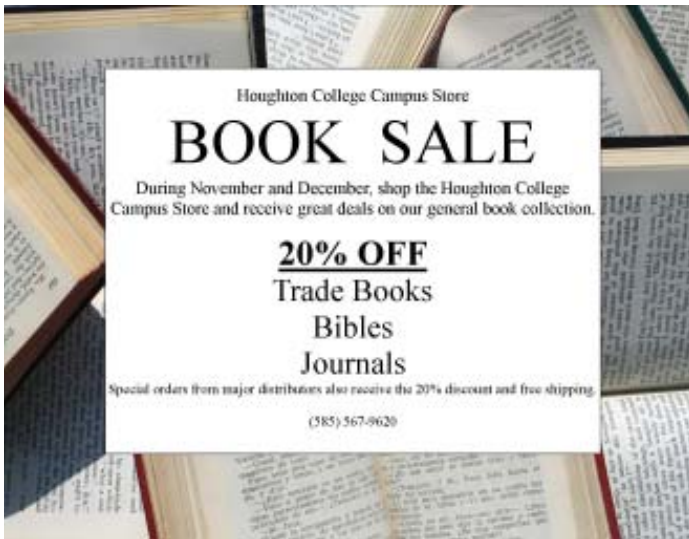
# COMMUNITY PAGE

## **Poinsettias** HOUGHTON ACADEMY POINSETTIA SALE

- Sale runs from October 30 to November 25
- Delivery in Houghton December 4 at the Houghton Fire Hall
- Prices:
  - 4 1/2" pot.....\$4.00
  - 6 1/2" pot.....\$8.00
  - 10" pot..... \$12.00



Questions, call 567-8259 or the Academy office, 567-8115



**Peter W. Roeske**  
**Snowplowing Services,**  
**567-8632**

**Senior Citizens'**  
**Game Night**  
October 30, 7-9:30 p.m.  
Community Room  
Bring games & finger food.

## CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor, 567-2024, woden@hwchurch.org  
Todd Leach, Assistant Pastor, 567-8288, tleach@hwchurch.org  
Jon Cole, Youth Pastor, 307-9950, jcole@hwchurch.org  
Cindy Oden, Discipleship Pastor, 567-2024, coden@hwchurch.org  
Amanda Cox, Worship Director, 567-4870, acox@hwchurch.org  
Laurie Smalley, Volunteer Pastor for Outreach, 567-8302, lsmalley@hwchurch.org



# DECEMBER



**December 14 - 6 o'clock in the evening - Christmas Extravaganza featuring**

**The Children's Choir**

**The Adult Choir (anyone intersted in participating for the Christmas season, contact Amanda Cox, 567-4870 or acox@hwchurch.org)**

**A reception in the Community Room.**

**December 21 - Carol Sing**

**Due to the holidays and people away visiting family, we will gather for one, 10:00 a.m. worship service on December 28 and January 4, and we will not have Sunday School on those days. We will resume our regular schedule on Sunday, January 11.**