



Being People of Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.

When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'

Luke 11:1, NIV

In his illuminating book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, Richard Foster opens the first chapter with these words:

Today the heart of God is an open wound of love. He aches over our distance and preoccupation. He mourns that we do not draw near to him. He grieves that we have forgotten him. He weeps over our obsession with muchness and manyness. He longs for our presence.

And he is inviting you—and me—to come home, to come home to where we belong, to come home to that for which we were created. His arms are stretched out wide to receive us. His heart is enlarged to take us in.

Foster goes on to reiterate what scripture reveals in a myriad of ways through a myriad of people: "The key to this home, this heart of God, is prayer."

God desires for us to live closer to Him, loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving others as we love ourselves. God wants to transform our lives from mundane, religion-oriented people to vibrant, Christ-oriented people. God desires us to live in the unity of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. God wants to do something in each of us and in this church, in our campuses, and in our communities that is greater, deeper, higher, wider than anything we have ever dreamed in our most creative moments. We were created for intimacy with God. I believe that we want more from God and with God than mediocrity. The most important thing we can do to prepare ourselves—individually and corporately—for this transformational work of God is to pray: to pray seriously, joyfully, lovingly, passionately, wholeheartedly.

For this reason we are embarking on the challenge of a new Prayer Event: a 24-hour a day, three week prayer vigil, starting November 1, 6:00 PM and concluding November 22, 6:00 PM. I am convinced, along with the pastoral staff and the Elders and others who have been meeting to plan this event, that this is the most significant event which we have undertaken for a long time. But something of this magnitude cannot be accomplished, an undertaking this monumental cannot reach the desired conclusion without universal support, so I am asking you to make plans now to participate.

The next page contains more information about the Prayer Event and the ways in which you can participate. Please read through the information and plan your time or times to participate. Add your prayers to the prayers of others who are asking God now to do something miraculous during those weeks. If you have questions or comments about the Prayer Vigil, the pastors are happy to talk with you.

I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am about this event. I am praying, and I hope that you will pray with me that God will do something miraculous through these weeks of concentrated, corporate prayer. My prayer is that when the hour is complete and you walk out of the room, you will sense that you are not so much leaving prayer but walking into a life of prayer. In the same way, I am praying that at 6:00 PM on November 22, we will not envision this as the conclusion of our prayers but as the catalyst that sends us forth to be people of prayer.

Thank you in advance for your participation. May God bless you this day and every day.

In Christ,

Pastor Wes

PRAYER VIGIL INFORMATION

The prayer room is located in the northwest corner below the sanctuary. The room is actually a combination of three rooms. Each room has a different design and purpose. The first room contains welcome materials and instructions for using all three rooms. There is no right or wrong way to spend your hour in the rooms, but this information gives you guidelines for various ways in which you might want to spend the time. In addition, the first room is a more traditional place for prayer. It has a couple of chairs for prayer, reading and meditation, a cross, a kneeling bench and artwork to assist you as you pray.

The second room is less structured space. The room has some chairs but also floor pillows for sitting or kneeling. The walls of this room are covered in various themes. One wall has various maps (local and world) that might initiate your prayers. Another wall is covered with whiteboard on which we are encouraging you to write your prayers or to express your heartfelt desires to God through poetry or pictures. Another wall will have contemporary art and both rooms will contain various guides and books to assist you as you pray. These guides are not mandatory but are simply intended as ways to help you when you pray. This room will also have communion elements, ashes as a symbol of your confession of sin, and anointing oil to pray for healing.

The third room will be the most adventurous of the rooms. This room will allow you to use artistic expressions in your prayers. We will have paints and modeling clay, various wall space for art and other expressions. This room also has a whiteboard wall to express your gratitude to God for who He is and for what He has done in answering prayer.

The 504 hours of time is divided into one-hour time slots. You can sign up for an hour by visiting the blogsite: www.HWCPrayerRoom.wordpress.com or by contacting the church office. Please feel to come alone, with a partner, or as a group. The rooms will potentially hold about 30 people. We are hoping that hundreds of people will participate in this corporate adventure of prayer; we are also hoping that you will find the hour so meaningful and significant that you will want to come back many times for more hours.

Once the prayer vigil has ended, this space will continue to serve as a prayer room. You are encouraged to reserve the room even after the prayer vigil has completed so that you may have a sacred space to be alone with God. We also plan to use the Prayer Room as a place where people can do business with God following our Sunday morning worship services. And we are hoping that this prayer event is such a positive time in the life of our church that we will plan another prayer event in the spring and more in the months and years to come.

The initiation of the prayer vigil will be November 1, 5:30 pm in the church sanctuary. This opening gathering will lead us into the 6:00 hour when the first person's prayers in the room begin. Likewise, we will have a celebration gathering at 6:00 PM on November 22 to rejoice in what God has done for us, to give thanks, and to tell some of the stories from our weeks of prayer. In addition, the website above will allow you to share your stories and to read the stories of others who have experienced the presence of God in the prayer room. Pastor Wes will be posting a brief word about prayer on the blogsite each morning in order to get the discussion started. He will also be tweeting a prayer word each morning on twitter (<http://twitter.com/pastorwesoden>).

Thank you for your participation in this prayer movement; for your prayers in anticipation of this prayer event; and for committing yourself to be part of the growing numbers of people here whose lives are embraced and enveloped in prayer.



We want to thank Isobel Alexander and her family who have contributed to the preparation of the prayer rooms as a gift in memory of David Alexander, who not only wrote about prayer and was deeply interested in prayer, but who invested himself in praying. We are also grateful to many people who have invested time, energy, money, thought and prayer in order to create prayer rooms that are conducive to various forms of prayer and the various personalities of all who will come to pray.

EMPOWERING THE NATIONS OFFERING (formerly known as Self-Denial): During the month of November we invite you to participate in the annual 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. Gifts need to be designated for this offering on your check memo.

YOUTH NEWS

Check out the Youth Webpage for permission slips and info at <http://www.hwchurch.org/Youth.htm>

MSM – November is “Praying Well” month - Wed. - 6:30 – 8:00pm

- November 4 - Why do we pray?
- 11 - How do we Pray?
- 18 - Praying for your friends!
- 25 - No youth group – Thanksgiving break!

Senior High Youth Group Sunday Evenings at 6:00pm: In November we meet at Emma and Esther Webb’s home– Leonard Ave in Houghton:

- November 1– Why we Pray?-**Meet at the church @ 5:20 for Prayer Vigil opening.**
- 8– How to Pray?
- 15 - Pizza Scavenger Hunt! Meet at the church and dress to be outside!
- 22 – Just like Me?
- 29 – Risky Business!

Sunday Nov. 29th – 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.

Prayer Breakfast: Tuesday Mornings: November 3, 10, 17. 7:00 AM in the community room.

Youth Committee Meeting - Monday, November 9, 7 – 8:30 PM in the Youth Room

EVENTS:

December 28-31, 2009 the Houghton Youth Group is traveling to Baltimore to attend “Love Mercy,” a Wesleyan Youth convention event. Not only will we have fun traveling and staying in a hotel together, but we will also get to hear terrific speakers such as Zach Hunter, Jeremy Kingsley and Scott Simmons; rock to music by LIFT and Group 1 Crew; and get wowed by illusionist Jared Hall. Check out http://mywycon.com/?page_id=45 for more details.

The Consent & Release and SIGNUP deadline is October 28th. The cost is \$175 for the first child in a family, \$100 for the second and the third is free (additional family members pay full price). This cost covers transportation, food, lodging, entrance to the convention and a trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore <http://www.aqua.org>.

Please contact Chrissie Pollock or 585-596-0502 for details.

To help with costs, we are planning two different fundraisers:

*Mark your calendars for Saturday November 7, 2009 (even if you’re not going on the trip) and spread the word for the first fundraiser. It will be a group event where the youth work together on projects that help the church and community, sponsored by anyone who wishes to donate. The funds raised from this event will go to a group fund.

*The second fundraiser is more individualized. We are asking community members to come up with work youth can do (and youth can ask around to see if anything needs to be done), and the youth will complete the jobs on their own time. These jobs could range from childcare to heavy lifting to house cleaning to reading to an elderly person. Funds raised by this type of fundraiser will go to individuals doing the job, and they can put the monies into their own account or a friend’s.

**Note - youth who want to participate in the individualized fundraiser but who aren’t going on the trip may choose to keep funds earned in an account for themselves for future youth group events. <http://www.hwchurch.org/Youth.htm> for more info and permissions slips!

Please Join Us for a Musical Celebration at 6 o'clock on Sunday, December 13 which will include the Children's Choir, the Adult Choir, and several other small ensembles and will be followed by a Reception in the Community Room. Anyone interested in participating in the Adult Choir for Christmas season, contact Amanda Cox by phone (567-2264/4870) or e-mail (acox@hwchurch.org).

Wednesday Evening Children's Ministries in November

November 4th and 18th all of our Wednesday evening children's ministries meet (this includes AWANA Puggles & Cubbies, Girls' AWANA Club, and Boys' AWANA Club). Due to the Veteran's Day school break and Thanksgiving Eve, our children's ministries will not meet on Wednesday, November 11th or Wednesday, November 25th. Thank you.

W.K.F.M. CORNER

We look forward to seeing your child at Camp Promise on November 15 at 9:40 for Wesleyan Kids For Missions. This month we will see an example of how children in INDONESIA have to beg in order for their families to survive and how World Hope International can help these hurting children. Our offering will go to the World Hope Empowering the Nations and the American/Canadian Bible Societies.

Let's encourage our children to be settled in the Primary Assembly Room just before 9:40 so we can begin promptly.

With Our Sympathy...

Please be in prayer for the families of

- ◆ Margaret Campbell who died on October 3, 2009
- ◆ "Coach" George Wells who died on October 15, 2009
- ◆ Wallace V. Christensen, John's father, who died October 19, 2009

In Our Library...



Greg Mortenson, a mountain climber from Montana, failed in his attempt to climb K2. On his way back he got lost and found himself in a small impoverished Pakistani village. He was offered the ceremonial three cups of tea and much more hospitality. As a result, he promised to return and build a school for the village. He has now built over 55 such schools. Ahmed Rashid says, "the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan are both failing their students on a massive scale. The work Mortenson is doing is making them (the students) much more difficult for the extremist (Madrassas) to recruit." Although Mortenson's parents were Lutheran missionaries, his work is much more a humanitarian work. However, the Christian Science Monitor said, "It (the book) is laced with drama, danger, romance and good deeds." The book is called *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson with David Oliver Relin.

Bill Volkman is a CPA. He also owns and operates a motel. In the midst of his busy life, he is a 21st century Brother Lawrence feeling a call to the prayer of silence. As our church is especially focused on prayer this month, perhaps Bill Volkman's book, *Basking in His Presence*, will be of help. This book was a gift to our Church Library.

Another book that was a gift this month is *Simply Christian* by N.T. Wright. Anne Rice writes, "*Simply Christian* goes beyond C.S. Lewis' great classic, *Mere Christianity*. N.T. Wright is simply crucial; his writing can transform one's life. This will become a classic."

Pete Maravich is the authorized biography of Pistol Pete by Wayne Federman & Marshall Terrill in collaboration with Jackie Maravich. An outstanding basketball player, Pete Maravich once said, "Money will buy you anything but happiness. It'll pay your fare to everywhere but heaven." Tragically, Pete died at 40 in James Dobson's arms after a pick-up basketball game.

For children during this month of prayer emphasis we have *What Happens when I Talk to God? The Power of Prayer for Boy & Girls* by Stormie Omartian.



Operation Christmas Child

Gifts of Peace to War-Torn Georgia

It was a mother's worst nightmare. Warnings of an imminent attack gave Lamzira barely enough time to round up her eight children before warplanes began bombing their quiet village in northwest Georgia. All they could do was run and pray.

Lamzira was especially concerned about Gogita, her 9-year-old son. He had a weak heart, and this traumatic experience might be too much for him. Lamzira, her husband Jakob, and their children escaped unharmed, but a bomb destroyed their home and belongings. They now live with other displaced families in a refugee center in the city of Kutasci. Only their eldest son has been able to find work.

Thousands of families lost homes and possessions last August when a territorial dispute between Russia and Georgia erupted into violence over the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Many of the survivors remain holed up in dilapidated schools and abandoned buildings, afraid to return to their villages and rebuild.

This December, heartache gave way to hope for these suffering families as Operation Christmas Child began blanketing the war-torn region, bearing gift-filled shoe boxes and the good news of God's love.

Lamzira's seven youngest children were among 300 boys and girls gathered at a meeting hall in Kutasci to receive shoebox gifts. The children waited patiently for that special moment when they could open their gifts in unison. "Gilotsavt shobas! Merry Christmas!" the leader proclaimed. Smiles broke out on faces that had been solemn just moments before.

The presents were all the more precious to the children since they lost everything in the August attack. "We have no possibility to buy these gifts, so we are very thankful," Lamzira said. Caring Christians from a local church also handed out Gospel story books in the Georgian language, performed evangelistic skits and led the children and parents in songs of praise.

"The boxes are a tool to share the Gospel, a way for the refugees to know that God loves them," said a church worker named Valeri. "These people had nothing after the war, not even a toothbrush of their own. It is very important to help meet their needs, both the physical and the spiritual. Operation Christmas Child is one way we can do that."

The church congregation has partnered with Samaritan's Purse to distribute shoebox gifts for several years. This past year they also began using the follow-up discipleship program offered by Operation Christmas Child. Over 50 children have completed the Bible study course, and another series is planned in January. Attendance at the small church has nearly doubled, and Valeri attributes much of the growth to Operation Christmas Child.

"Because of the discipleship program, many parents started coming to church with their children," he said. "They have heard the Word of God now. It is an important foundation."

"I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, NIV)

Gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child will be accepted at the church through November 15th and may be left on the OCC display table in the foyer of the Christian Education building.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH:

On Sunday, November 8 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 contains more information concerning this vital ministry of prayer.

Food Pantry Collection Sunday

Sunday, November 22, 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. Many are turning to the local church for help.

NOTE: Pantry Donations may be brought to the church office throughout the year. This month we served 36 people. We urgently need donations now.

Thank You

Thank you for each of your expressions of concern, support and prayers on the death of Wilbur's brother.

Wil and Jane Zike

Thank You

Doris Wells and her family are grateful for the many words and acts of love, encouragement, and support from Pastor Oden and the Houghton Church community. While "Coach's" passing brings the sorrow of separation, you have contributed to this time of celebration as he is now free from pain and discomfort, in the presence of the Lord he faithfully served.

A DISTRICT MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS:

February 9-17, 2010 will offer Bible studies and training for leaders and construction help to new churches. Cost: \$1000 per person. To reserve your place on the team, please send your name and down payment of \$200 (check written to WNY District) by November 16 to Steve Strand, 126 W. James St., Falconer, NY 14733. Also, our district has provided a way for Pastor Carlos and Linda Medina and Alba Reyes to attend an international mission conference in Panama with leaders from the Wesleyan Church October 13-16. Contributions to help cover conference costs may be sent to the District Treasurer Nadine Houghton earmarked "Panama." This will be a great source of encouragement to these Honduran Jesus Film ministry leaders."

OUR FAMILY IN MINISTRY: WELLSRING MINISTRIES

In need of used or new BLANKETS and TOWELS. Winter is upon us and people are asking for these items but our "cupboard is bare." If you have any extra, please notify Beth Beardsley (567-8117). NOTE: Wellspring has a large supply of DISHES & CUPS that a family or organization could use. These are restaurant-type quality and are free to the public.

COMMUNITY PAGE

Houghton Area Senior Citizens

PLEASE NOTE: SENIOR CITIZENS, November 12, 12:15 p.m.
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner served at the College Dining
Room(south) catered by Pioneer Food Service, \$6.25 per person,
RESERVATIONS NECESSARY, Call 207-4029 before Nov. 8.
Program: Music by Seniors, Questions call Olson Clark (207-4029).



Poinsettias HOUGHTON ACADEMY POINSETTIA SALE

- Sale runs from November 2 to November 20
- Delivery in Houghton December 3 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

Free - Mauve pink toilet and mauve pink sink on a 77 inch coordinating light pink vanity top (no base). Can deliver to the Houghton area. Call / email Lori Hagi at (585) 245-3759
lori.hagi@houghton.edu

Literacy West NY is in need of tutors to work with adults in Allegany and Wyoming County. Tutor training is provided and the tutor would commit to meeting the learner for 2 hours/week at a public location. Tutors may teach reading, math, or ESL. The need is great with about 1 out of every 10 Allegany County adults without a high school diploma. If you are interested to learn more, feel free to connect with Jonathan Hilsher at 585-268-5213 or jhilsher@lwny.org.

MAKING IT HOME

House cleaning & organizing services.
Kirsten Jeffers 808-2831

Peter W. Roeske
Snowplowing Services,
585-689-0368

Houghton College will be presenting the murder mystery *House on the Cliff*. Please join us for a time of intrigue and suspense! Shows are 7pm on October 29, 30, and 31 (plus a 2pm matinee performance on the 31st) in the Tysinger Auditorium at the Houghton Academy. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door or for presale during meal times in the campus center. Contact Director Nic Gunning at 567-9613 Nicolas.Gunning@houghton.edu with any questions.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS: Please remember that you need to turn back your clocks one hour on Saturday night, **October 31.**

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 1 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00, 5:30)
a.m. *Prayer that Sets Us Free* (Exodus 2:23-3:10)
p.m. Prayer Vigil Opening
Small Groups

November 8 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. *Prayer that Is Radical* (Matthew 5:43-48)
p.m. Small Groups

November 15 (8:20, 9:40 11:00)
a.m. *Prayer Answers* (2 Corinthians 12:1-9)
p.m. Small Groups

November 22 (8:20, 9:40 and 11:00, 6:00)
a.m. *Prayer that Changes Things* (Genesis 18:16-33)
(Food Pantry Collection)
p.m. Prayer Vigil Celebration

November 29 (8:20 and 11:00)
a.m. *The Unexpected Path of Advent* (Matthew 1:1-17)
p.m. Missions

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor, 567-2024, woden@hwchurch.org

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Houghton College Campus Store

BOOK SALE

During November and December, shop the Houghton College Campus Store and receive great deals on our general book collection.

20% OFF

Trade Books
Bibles
Journals

Special orders from major distributors also receive the 20% discount and free shipping.

(585) 567-9620