Houghton Wesleyan Church

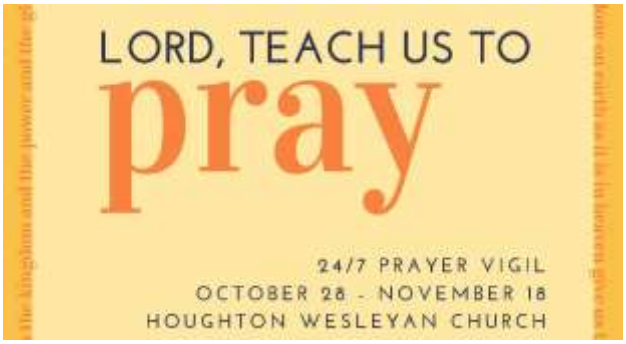
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

November 2018
Volume 51, No. 6

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."

I believe that something in us wants more from and with God than mediocrity. I believe that we want something deeper because God does and because he has placed this yearning within us. I believe that God wants to transform our lives, from mundane, religion-oriented people to vibrant, Christ-oriented people. I believe that God desires us to live in the unity of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. I believe that God wants to do something 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. And I believe that 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.

It is for this reason that we are embarking on the tenth annual three-week 24/7 Prayer Event.

October 28, 5:00pm – November 18, 5:00 pm

You are invited to join hundreds of others in prayer. The pastoral staff and the Prayer Planning Group have been praying and planning to create an atmosphere in which we might join together in prayer. We are asking God to help us fill up 504 hours of prayer for his glory and for our flourishing. 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. And 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 for 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 that you will sense that you are not so much leaving prayer as being thrust into a life of prayer. In the same way, I am praying that at 6:00 on November 22 that 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

P.S. The next page contains more information about the Prayer Vigil and the ways in which you can participate. If you have questions or comments about the Prayer Vigil the pastors are excited to talk with you.

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 room, 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 a less structured space. The center point of the room is a throne that helps us visualize the connection of heaven and earth. The walls surrounding the throne contain the six petitions of The Lord's Prayer, which is Jesus' answer to the disciples' request: "Lord, teach us to pray." One of the walls has a huge whiteboard on which you are encouraged to write your prayers or to express your heartfelt desires to God through poetry or pictures. There are music CDs and a Bluetooth speaker to which you may connect your smart phone and listen or sing the play lists we have created on Spotify. (Instructions are available to help you connect).

The third room has a couch and lamp to provide a secluded place to read, meditate, think and pray. Two walls in this room are painted with magnetic chalkboard paint, providing a creative outlet for your expressions of gratitude and petition. This room has another large whiteboard for affirmations of praise and lots of materials for children to engage in prayer. Even if you aren't a child, you might find that some of the children's materials help you become like a little child in order to enter the kingdom of God—for hearing God and speaking to him.

The 504 hours of time is divided into one-hour time slots. You can sign up for an hour time here (church website) or by contacting the church office (567-2264). Please feel to come alone, with someone else, as a family, 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.

The prayer vigil kicks off Sunday, October 28 at 4:30pm in the church sanctuary. This opening gathering will lead us into the 5:00 hour when the first prayers in the room begin. Likewise, we will have a celebration gathering at 5:00 on October 28 to rejoice in what God has done for us, to give thanks, and to tell some of the stories from our weeks of prayer.

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

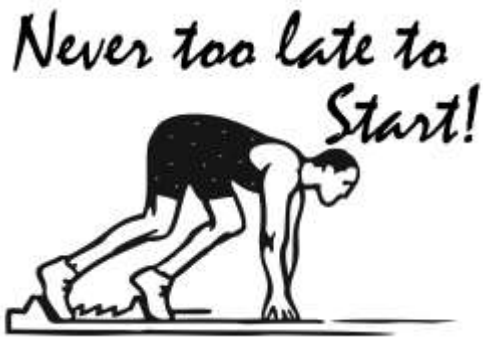
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS: Please remember that you need to turn back your clocks one hour on Saturday night, November 3

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING 2018

Each Christmas our church receives an offering during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (and through the office) for special missions projects.

GREAT NEWS!
GOV'T GRANTS LAND FOR CHURCH.

The Wesleyan church in Egypt, mostly rural marginalized congregations in a this Muslim nation, have been miraculously granted choice land in an urban area near Cairo, for a church and national training center. The catch – construction must begin in two years. We join Rev. Atif Sedhom Kilf, National Superintendent (John Khalif's(HC '18) father), in a vision for future nation-wide ministry. Our 2018 Christmas Eve Offering will help bring this vision to pass. Please pray. (Architect's drawings of the two story building. Worship center lower level, conference and training center upper level.)



Adult Sunday School groups meet at 9:45 each week and always accept new members or visitors: Below sanctuary -- II Timothy, Room 9; Book discussion *Seeing is Believing,* Room 10; When Mothers Pray, Room 7; and in C.E. Building -- Kaleidoscope, Community Room; Book discussion, Room 105.

Small Groups, women's Bible studies, and a variety of prayer groups meet Sundays and throughout the week. There is **often a place for more and new groups are still forming! Contact Pastor Shea for information. paulshea@hwchurch.org.**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: On Sunday, November 4 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: https://www.opendoorsusa.org/international-day-of-prayer-2018/ contains more information concerning this vital ministry of prayer.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Peter and Joanna Bates at the birth of James Stanton Bates on October 24. Sisters Violet, Cora, Mom and Dad and grandparents Ken and Barb Bates are all doing well.

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

Dates to Remember

November 11: Go to Sunday School with your parents

November 20: No Prayer Breakfast - Thanksgiving break

December 9: Annual Lip Sync Competition

OCC Packing Party

November 10th is our OCC Packing party! !
Time: 1 to 2 PM

Come and pack a box or bring your packed boxes. You're welcome to share extra toys and supplies for the boxes.

Questions? Call Jess Romance or Laurie Smalley.

The Bible Verse for November is Psalm 46:1 (CSB)
God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble.

TUESDAY PLAYGROUP

meets Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 in the Community Room/ Gym. All moms, dads, caregivers and kids are welcomed!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are continuing to have a record number of students in our Sunday School classes. We're so grateful to all of our teachers, assistants and our Sunday School Superintendents for all the work they continually put into our program.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS CLUB

Nehemiah and the 3 Bullies
Our Kid's Club program on Wednesday nights is off and running! We are so blessed to have Doug and Phyllis Gaerte start us off each week with a great object lesson about building a strong foundation in God as we study the book of Nehemiah. We have a stellar line of up Bible study teachers, game and craft leaders and group leaders for each of our 3 age groups. Once again, Donna Blew is leading our preschool/Kindergarten program.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH / JUNIOR CHURCH

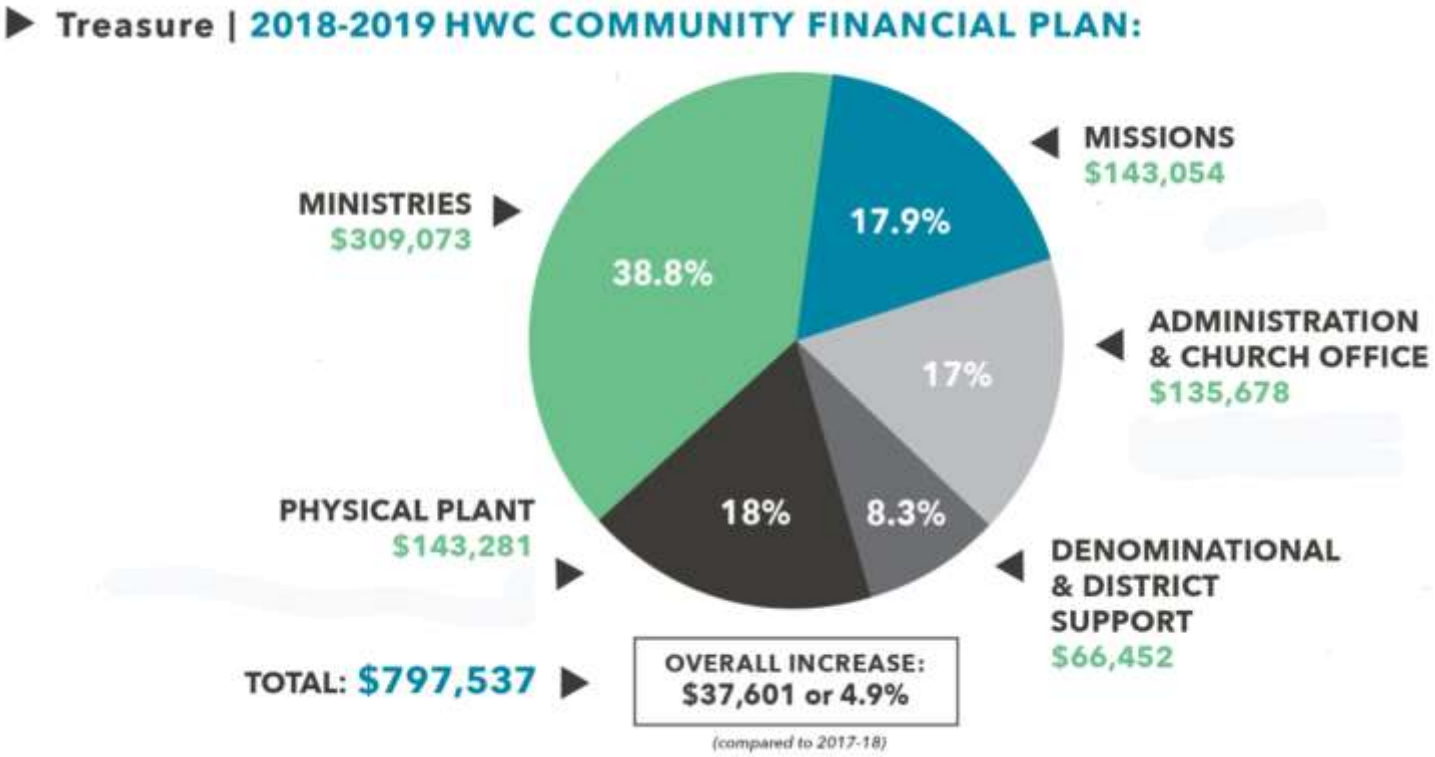
Our Children's Church program is a time of reinforcing the lessons the kids will learn (or have learned) in their Sunday School classes. A special thank you to Steve and Kim Tucker, Angela Babbitt, Sally Retz, Rebecca Williams and Jordan Mullen for being the "regulars" in our program.

Our Junior Church program is off to a great start as well, with expert leaders Heidi Miller and Andrea Boon.

There are a few opportunities to help with Children's Church during Christmas break. If you are available to help at our 10:00 services on 12/23. 12/30 or 1/6, please let Pastor Laurie know. We need teachers and assistants for both the 2-3 age group and the 4-5 age group. Thank you so much!

lauriesmalley@hwchurch.org or 585-567-2264

Finance Update

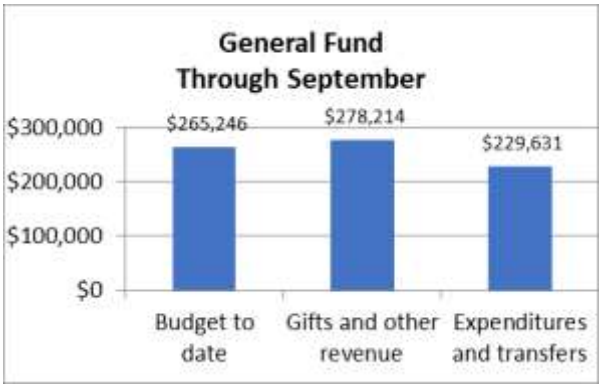


Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on God's grace to us as a body and as individuals. We have much to be thankful for. Everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We are free to give because our Heavenly Father freely gives. One way God uses us to bless others is through our giving to the church.

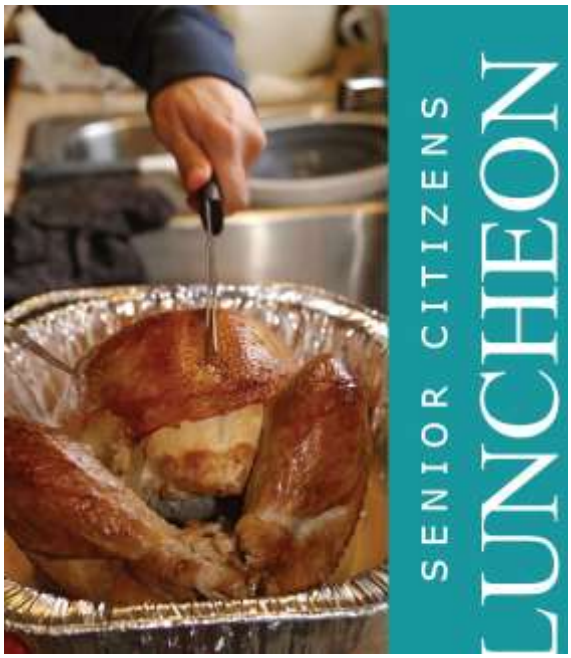
Among many other things, the children and youth ministries help young people know about God's love and promises; the Food Pantry provides nourishing food for families in need; the music ministry team helps us worship with beautiful songs and music; and the missions ministry provides support and encouragement for missionaries.

Thank you for enabling all these things through your faithful support.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107: 8-9.



Houghton Area Senior Citizens



November 8 – Our Thanksgiving Luncheon is served at 11:45

The Black-Eyed Susan will be catering our meal, Traditional Thanksgiving Turkey with Trimmings! Please call Ken Gaerte (610-9402) to R.S.V.P. by November 2.

PROGRAM: A FAMILY VACATION

Join Dave Brubaker and his family as they journey to China for a teaching engagement and a visit with Houghton Academy students and families on their turf.

From the Library Shelves

November….Prayer Vigil….Thanksgiving. We have many things to be thankful for as we pray. One of them is our church library and the vision someone had many years ago. Be thankful for those who worked hard building shelves and classifying books. We can be especially thankful for all who donated books to get our library started, and for those who continue to donate now. We are truly blessed!

We hope to have some new kids books processed and on the shelves soon. Come on in and see what we have. I think you will enjoy them.

Just a reminder to any who may have overdue books out, please remember to bring them back so others may enjoy them also.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETS THURSDAYS (7—9 PM) IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD ROOM

KICK-OFF MEETING NOVEMBER 1

If you are human, chances are you have experienced some of life's hurts, habits and hang-ups! A small group of us have been meeting on Thursday evenings Celebrate Recovery is based on eight principles from the Beatitudes. The purpose of Celebrate Recovery is to encourage fellowship and to celebrate God's healing power in our lives as we work our way along the road to recovery. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, or finding out more about it, please join us. Questions? Contact Cathy Morley at catmo57@hotmail.com or 567-8162.

Roselyn Danner Legacy Exhibition at Houghton College October 29th - December 7th

Reception Event: Friday, November 2 (6-8pm)

The Ortlip Gallery at Houghton College is pleased to present a new exhibition of paintings and drawings honoring local artist and 1984 alumna Roselyn Danner. The gallery will host a reception for the *Roselyn Danner Legacy Exhibition* on Friday, November 2 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Center for the Arts. This event is free and open to the public. The *Roselyn Danner Legacy Exhibition* features Danner's work in painting, drawing, and illustration. Alongside her pieces will be works by fellow visual artists and grandchildren, Christopher Danner '19 and Hannah (Jennings '14) Murphy, as well as pieces by Hannah's brother, Jesse.

Danner's influence at Houghton spans nearly 50 years, during which she contributed her creative vision to the college in many ways. From providing insight into aesthetic considerations for buildings to introducing new and exciting elements into the art program, she established herself as a significant part of the artistic community. Danner played a critical role in the design of the Ortlip Gallery and served as director of the Houghton College Gallery series and exhibitions for 15 years, where she developed a system for cataloguing and managing the college's extensive art collection. In addition, she maintained a regular drawing and painting practice in her home studio, had her illustrations published in several books, and created pen and ink pieces for the college and Houghton Wesleyan Church.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE NOVEMBER 18

On Sunday, November 18, we will collect food for the Food Pantry at all three services. To help us run the food pantry more efficiently and due to space limitations, please limit your donations to the items on the following list when shopping.

-Pasta	-Spaghetti sauce*	-Macaroni & cheese
-Canned tuna	-Canned chicken	-Ramen noodles
-Baked beans	-Canned chili	-Canned beef stew
-Soup	-Boxed rice	-Boxed oatmeal packets
-Canned fruit*	-Canned vegetables	-Peanut butter*
-Cereal	-Jelly or jam*	-Jarred applesauce
-Syrup*	-Granola bars	-Boxed pancake mix
-Canned pasta (Spaghettios, Ravioli)		-Boxed potato mixes
-Helpers (Hamburger, Tuna, Chicken)		-Fruit juices/juice boxes
-Snacks (cookies, crackers, jello, pudding, fruit snacks)		

*An item with an asterisks donates a traditionally high need item.
**Due to health and safety concerns, we do not accept opened items or home-baked goods.
***We can also use your recycled plastic shopping bags if you would like to donate them.

NOTE: Monetary Donations (checks to Houghton Wesleyan Church with “FOOD PANTRY” on the Memo Line) provide fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, eggs, cheese, and milk, as well as emergency groceries for families in our community. The Food Pantry has a refrigerator and a freezer to store items. NOTE: Perishable Pantry Donations may be brought to the church office throughout the year. Thank you for your continued donations!

Family Harvest Extravaganza

A special thank you to Rachel Blew and to all who were involved in making the 5th Annual Extravaganza such a huge success. What a great afternoon for all who attended. Thank you to Rachel and the many others for all you did to make the Extravaganza so much fun once again this year.

2018 Houghton Academy POINSETTIA SALE

SALE: November 5 - November 20
DELIVERY: November 30 @ Houghton Academy Cafeteria (3:00 - 6:00 PM)

ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY NOVEMBER 20

SIZES	AVAILABLE COLOR	PRICE
4 ½" Pot	Red, White, Pink & Marble (white & pink)	$ 5.00
6 ½" Pot	Red, White, Pink & Marble (white & pink)	$ 9.00
7 ½" Pot *2 plants per pot*	Red, White, Pink & Marble (white & pink)	$ 13.00
6 ½" Pot	Christmas Cactus	$ 10.00

QUESTIONS? Please call Jonathan Retz @ 567 - 8115

For Rent:

4 Room House
Route 19...within walking distance to the college
Available December 1
Phone 567-8885

Pete Roeske
SNOWPLOWING
service
585-689-0368

Wellspring Ministries

As November dawns, Wellspring notes some annual dates:

Wednesday, November 14 - The 'Christmas Room' opens, a place where parents or guardians may come to shop for their children, ages birth to 18 yrs.
We gladly accept new gifts for this room, especially for teens.
Please label "For Christmas Room". Do spread the word to local families.

Friday, November 16 - Thanksgiving Dinner; serving begins at 11:30 am (All are welcome.)

November 21, 23 - closed Thanksgiving week

Donations may be put on the Beardsley porch any Monday or Tuesday, or left at Wellspring when open on Wednesdays and Fridays. Children's and teen Bibles, fabric, and cold weather clothing are welcome, as well as other items that are clean and usable. Thank you for helping keep us afloat financially and in prayer.

This season we especially thank God for the generous hearts of Houghton Wesleyan Church folks, knowing that 'A generous man will himself be blessed.'

Children enjoy the prayer room...

Two walls are painted with magnetic chalkboard paint and a large whiteboard with lots of materials encourage children of all ages to engage in prayer.

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 4 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m.)
a.m. *When Prayer Turns Us Upside Down* (Genesis 15)
p.m. Small Groups

November 11 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m.)
a.m. *God Doesn't Need a Hearing Aid* (John 11)
p.m. Small Groups

November 18 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.)
a.m. *The Name of Prayer—Magic or Something Else* (Philippians 2)
p.m. Prayer Vigil Conclusion / Small Groups

November 25 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m.)
a.m. *Prayer: A Journey or a Pitstop* (1 Th 5:16-18)
p.m. No Activities

CHURCH STAFF

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

Jon Cole, *Youth Pastor*
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Cindy Oden, *Assistant Pastor*
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Paul Shea, *Assistant Pastor*
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Amanda Cox, Music & *Worship Director*
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Laurie Smalley, *Children's Ministry Pastor*
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Austen Kewin, *Pastoral Ministry Resident*
austen kewin@hwchurch.org

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM,
567-2264 **office@hwchurch.org**