



What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your action? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ... Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

"You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar.... When you give blind animals as sacrifices isn't that wrong? And isn't it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!" says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

James 2:14; Malachi 1:7-8

Faith or the Scent of Faith?

I love coffee! I'm not talking about coffee that has to be hidden behind creams and sugars, nutmeg and cinnamon, but just plain coffee. I like it strong and I like it black.

I love the taste of coffee. I love the aroma of coffee. It's almost nature's perfect food.

My problem is that I have come to believe that coffee is a headache, even migraine, trigger for me. I wondered about this for a while, but it wasn't until two or three years ago that I was willing to admit it. I struggled coming to grips with this because to admit that coffee was a headache trigger meant that I would have to stop drinking it. I didn't want to stop drinking it. I still don't want to stop drinking it. So...every so often, I indulge. Sometimes I do not get a headache, but more often than not, I do. My unscientific research has revealed that if I eat sweets as I'm drinking the coffee, I seem less likely to get a headache. Of course, that leads to an entirely different problem.

I love the aroma of coffee so much, that on the occasions when our basement has flooded, after cleaning up everything, I open 5 or 6 cans of ground coffee and place throughout the basement. Even after the odor has cleared, I often keep a few open containers of coffee in the basement to serve as air fresheners. And as much as I love the aroma of the coffee, obviously, it's not the same.

This is James's concern: *What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your action? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ... Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?* They possess the appearance of faith but not really. It smells like faith, but it isn't the real thing.

Malachi makes the same argument to the people of Israel in the 5th century BCE. The people bring sacrifices, but the animals they bring are maimed and sickly; they give them away because they don't want them anyway. On the surface, they are going through the motions, but it's not real. It's just a candle.

I think that both are saying this: *What we do, how we live, is a better indicator of the passion and desire of our hearts than what we say and the spiritual practices in which we engage ourselves.*

As we ponder our faith and our worship in light of our actions, is it faith, or is it only the scent of faith? My prayer for all of us is that it's real so that we will experience the joy of the life of faith with Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP – A Life of Generosity

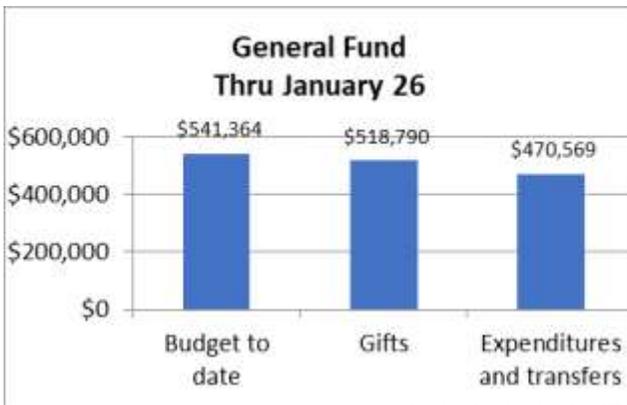
Why is giving important?

Giving shows God is Lord of our lives. It demonstrates that we understand that everything we own and everything we have comes from God. So, when we give, we simply offer him a small portion of the abundance he has already given to us. Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God and comes from a heart of worship.

We are blessed when we give. God wants us to give because he knows we will be blessed when we give generously to him and to others. Giving is a paradoxical kingdom principle – it brings more blessing to the giver than to the recipient. The blessing is not necessarily material possessions, but the greater blessing of experiencing the greater gift of a deeper awareness of Christ’s presence in our lives.

At HWC, we focus on missions during the month of February. Did you know that 18 percent of the overall annual budget expenditures directly supports missions? This includes funding for a variety of local and international ministries along with commitments to specific individuals, couples, and missionary families. That means that 18 cents of every dollar you contribute to the church supports mission work like that of Chris and Melissa George and their family who recently returned to the unchurched country of Australia. And Celebrate Recovery, a local Christ-centered program that helps people struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind.

Living generously begins in gratitude to God which radiates out to others. Just as he blesses us out of his loving kindness, we also bless. A generous heart will be rewarded by blessing others.



“Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.” 2 Cor. 9:11 NLT



Ash Wednesday, February 26, is the beginning of Lent. You are invited to an Ash Wednesday Service at the church at 6:30pm. During this service, we will begin to contemplate the passion of Christ through scripture, song, and the imposition of ashes.

KIDS' CLUB FEBRUARY 5 MISSIONS TOUR

The Missions Tour Bible class will be hosted by our church-supported missionaries.

What does "missions" mean? How does Jesus teach us to give to others?

Get ready for international games with Jacqueline Algiers and Rachel Blew!

Crafter extraordinaire Kathy Moore will help kids create twin friendship bracelets for the children of the Canaan school in Haiti.

Tummies will enjoy our international snacks.

We look forward to seeing many children for this special evening!

COLOSSIANS 3:16

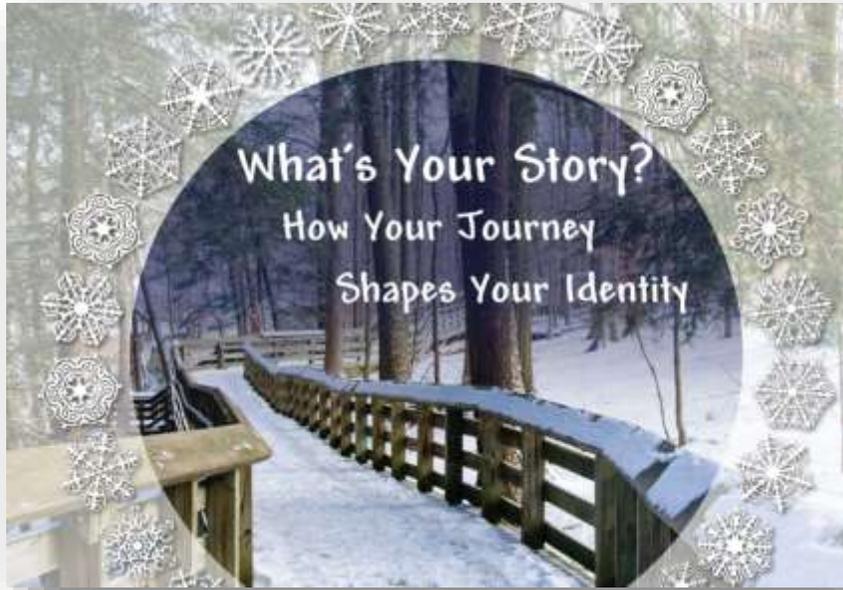
OUR MISSION:
WORD & DEED

February 9

Global Mission Sunday

STEVE & MARGIE DOTY Wycliffe Bible Translators, S.E. ASIA	DAN IRVINE World Hope International DIR. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT
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WOMEN'S GATHERING



Escape the wintry cold!

Join us for a morning of inspiration,
yummy food, and fellowship on

Saturday, February 8 from 9 to 11 am

in the Community Room.

Child-care provided.

No need to sign up.

Just show up and enjoy!



SEDER MEAL

SEDER -In Order That You should Remember-

Palm Sunday, April 5

The Seder will be offered at two times on Palm Sunday: 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon and 7:00 p.m. in the evening

Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room

The Seder is traditionally observed to celebrate the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. During the course of the Seder, we will recite Scriptures and traditions that proclaim God's liberating power.

We invite you to join us for this intergenerational/multigenerational Seder (dessert will be served), as we take part in this historical, vivid, and beautiful expression of God's action for His people seen through the Seder. Please sign up in the church foyer or Christian Education foyer by Sunday, March 22. Sign-up will begin on Sunday, February 16.

"...they are each one to take a lamb for themselves..." Exodus 12:3



Thank you to everyone who donated used and new winter items to Jr. Church to take to Wellspring. They ended up with four huge bags of coats and hats and mittens! Thank you for blessing our neighbors in this way!



Sunday School Spotlight: Connections Class

A new sign hangs in the Sunday School wing for a class that has been around for many, many years but has recently seen a re-vamp! *Connections for Differently-Abled Adults* (formerly Kyle Boon's class), now led by Jayne Swanson, finds its mission within Ephesians 4:16 - "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Jayne has been working with the Children's Ministry team to meet Kyle's needs while blessing the Church with more of his presence. You may see Kyle helping with the coffee bar in Kaleidoscope, collecting the Sunday School binders from classrooms (and saying "hi" on the way!), passing on the weather report, or greeting people before Sunday School. Thank you, Kyle and Jayne! Our long term goal is to open this class to other area families in need of a Church family accepting of their differently-abled adults.

Thank you to Grace and Cindy-Lu Taylor for over 30 years of leading this class and laying the foundation for this vital ministry! We have been blessed by you both!

** Jayne is in need of a second adult in be a teacher's assistant in her classroom during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested in serving this way, please contact Emily at emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org.

We need your gifts and talents! Besides the need for a helper in the Connections class, we are also in need of the following this semester:

- One adult or youth to help in Jr. Church during the 8:20 service every week but Communion Sundays
- One or two adults to teach Children's Church on the 5th Sunday of the month during the 8:20 & 11:00 service
- One-on-one classroom aid for a differently-abled child during Sunday School



Our Scripture for this month:

Psalm 145: 4 NIV

**“One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.”**

We are back up and running with a new semester of Children's Ministries. Children's Church, Junior Church and Sunday School are going strong—we are so thankful for all of our leaders and attenders! We're blessed to see so many kids hearing the Gospel each week.

Kids' Club meets on Wednesday nights with about 40 kids attending. Our new format places emphasis on more time in Bible, crafts and activities. We are working hard on Bible memorization.

KIDS' CLUB IN FEBRUARY:

- February 5 - Missions Night—Jesus teaches on giving
- February 12 - Jesus teaches about loving our enemies
- February 19 - Jesus teaches us how to pray
- February 26 - Recess

REMINDER: The Buddy Keith Annual Car, Boat Race and Duckie Dunk takes place March 25.



HOUGHTON / FILLMORE
WESLEYAN CHURCH
YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES
CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 2020

Missions Convention Feb 9!

All Sunday School classes will meet in the community room to hear Dan Irvine, from World Hope.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thur	Friday	Sat
2 SS—Rom 5-8	3	4 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	5	6	7	8
9 Missions SS - meet in the community room!	10	11 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	12	13	14	15
Life Groups 6pm	16 SS—Rom 9-11	17	18 No PB—Break!	19	20	21
Life Groups 6pm	23 SS—Rom 12-16	24	25 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	26 Ash Wed	27	28
Life Groups 6pm			26 Ash Wed service 6:30pm			29

February Lifegroups...

- Feb 2—No YG—Superbowl!**
- Feb 9—Chase 2—Chasing Jesus starts with a Step—Luke 5:27-28**
- Feb 16—Chase 3—Chasing Jesus means sharing Him - John 1:45-46**
- Feb 23— New Series—“Save the Date!” - Prov 24:27; I Cor 13**
When it comes to dating:
Becoming the right person > Finding the right person

CHASE





Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

The mission of Royal Family Kids (RFK): to help transform communities by interrupting cycles of neglect, abuse and abandonment of children in foster care.

HOUGHTON Royal Family Kids Camp NEEDS YOU!

You can make a week of summer camp possible for 52 deserving children from Allegany County who have substantiated personal histories of abuse or neglect. PLEASE consider your role in helping to make the 26th annual RFKC a reality on **July 5 – 10, 2020!** We need residential volunteers as well as behind-the-scenes volunteers to be the hands and feet of Christ as we step forward in faith to show God's love to some really awesome kids. New volunteers must complete an application, 3 letters of reference, and have a brief 20-minute interview on 2/25. Please volunteer. RFKC needs include:

Counselors (residential) – Each individual counselor is assigned to come alongside two campers (ages 7-12) for the week. This is the "heart" of the RFKC ministry. It is a life-changing experience for the children and for the counselors. We need men and women of all ages (over 18) and from all walks of life! Some of those who serve in this role who could give you more information are Doug Mayhle, Jordan Mullen, Joshua Derck, Ben McGraner, Mary Jo Cronk, Bec Cronk and Wendy Connell.

Curriculum Team (residential) – If you enjoy drama, music and/or storytelling, this is the role for you! All curricular materials, such as the Bible story, the drama and the music are provided by the national office of RFK, Inc. Folks who have served include James and Darice Mullen, Jessica Romance, Bailey Lawson, Olivia Tetta and Elsa Cole. The camp verse for 2020 is Romans 8:28a: *For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate me from His love.* The theme for the week is The Royal Olympics.

Day-workers are also needed – if you want to share a woodworking or baking project or have another talent to share, we have a place for you as a day-worker at camp.

What's New for Royal Family in 2020?

The National Office of Royal Family, Inc. is leading its more than 250 RFKCs into a greater role in serving neglected, abused and abandoned children. In addition to providing a week of safe, positive memories in a camp setting, the Houghton Wesleyan Church is expanding its RFKC ministry through the addition of a Mentoring and Club program. Stay tuned for more information about what we mean when we say that the Houghton RFKC is now a Chapter!



Congratulations!

Robert Lux Frenya was born to Sahara and Keegan on January 15, 2020.
Ezra Rhodes Ogden was born to Hannah and Luke on January 22, 2020.

Wellspring Ministries

A Fond February to you! Our hearts are warmed this winter by so many who either donated items, or come to visit to see if there just might be something they need or could use...or just enjoy. We also are warmed at the coffee bar by Donnie S's breakfast cakes, and Karen G's cookies.



Is there anyone else out there who is looking for an area to serve?

Would some of you home schoolers like to volunteer?

We can always use volunteers to wipe down tables after every meal, and/or vacuum the floors. Commitment could be once a month, for an hour or less at a time.

(We could even use some youth to wrap cutlery.)

Did you know....?

- ♥ We have just finished 15 years of ministry?
- ♥ We now have a Smart TV and hope to use it in creative ways? Any ideas for our new technology?
- ♥ Our volunteers now wear blue vests so others know who is staff?
- ♥ Two small outside groups use our building to meet in the evening and are blessed by being able to do so?
- ♥ That in 2019 we served 4,259 nutritious luncheon meals, and enabled 3,147 folks to get clothing?
- ♥ The Beardsley porch receives reasonably-sized donations any Monday or Tuesday only?
- ♥ We LOVE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN? (and not just on Valentine's Day!)

For the Board -
Beth Beardsley

Meals on Wheels



We need Volunteers! Prepared meals are delivered to the Houghton church about 11 a.m. weekdays, and each volunteer visit homes in the community one day a month. Delivery takes about an hour or a little more (depending how long you visit). In addition to the benefits of regular, hot and nutritious meals, Meals on Wheels also provides older people with:

- Regular social contact and interaction with our volunteers.
- An opportunity to maintain and regain independence in your own home.
- Relief to primary caregivers who, rather than preparing meals, can attend to other tasks or take time for themselves.
- Comfort for non-live-in family and friends, knowing that their loved ones are provided with regular, hot and nutritious meals and a caring connection. A sense of well-being in knowing that our community is working together to ensure that our seniors are well cared for. If you can help or would like more information, call Judi Mayhle at 585-356-8695.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY TESTIMONY NIGHT

FEBRUARY 13

Paul Rankin, son-in-law of Steve and Cathy Morley, will be sharing his testimony on February 13th. Paul grew up in an abusive home, and has found healing through the CR ministry. Please come and bring a friend. Celebrate Recovery meets from 7 to 9 PM on Thursday nights in the Good Shepherd Room (lower level of the church). Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives.



From the Library Shelves



We have a number of missions books in our church library. Read about a young missionary family's experiences in *The River God Forgot*. Or learn about Brazil's forgotten children in *A Cry From the Streets*. Find out more about Wycliffe Bible Translators in *Pass the Word* and *Eye to Eye/Heart to Heart*.

In the children's area you can learn how to pray for the world in *You Can Change the World* or look at *Missions Made Fun for Kids*. There are also a number of missionary stories including *In Time for Heaven*.

As you can see above, our shelves are still missing books. Please check YOUR shelves to see if you have them.

Woolsey Lecture Series



Date **February 20 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm**

Place **Center for the Arts Recital Hall**

Houghton College is pleased to welcome Dr. Ellen Davis as our Woolsey Lecture Series speaker. Dr. Ellen Davis serves as Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School. The author of eleven books and many articles, her research interests focus on how biblical interpretation bears on the life of faith communities and their response to urgent public issues, particularly the ecological crisis and interfaith relations. Her topic for our lecture series is 'Letting the Bible Renew our Imagination About our Relationship to the Earth'.

- Lecture is at 7:00 PM on February 20, 2020 (Recital Hall, Center for the Fine Arts)
- Reception after the lecture in the atrium of the Center for the Fine Arts
- Chapel Service on Friday, February 21, 2020 @ 11:05 AM (Wesley Chapel)
- Lunch with Ellen Davis following the chapel service (Alumni Dining Room, Campus Center)

The Woolsey Lecture Series Events are free to the public.

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 at 2:30 p.m.

FREE program at Houghton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

Please reserve your seat by calling 1.800.272.3900

Behavior is a powerful form of communication and is one of the primary ways for people with dementia to communicate their needs and feelings as the ability to use language is lost. Learn to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers, and strategies to help intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease.





YOUNG AT HEART

Formerly SENIOR CITIZENS

The Houghton Area **Young at Heart** group from northern Allegany County meets at Houghton Wesleyan Church's Community Room monthly on the second Thursday for fellowship, food, and an interesting program—sometimes music, sometimes a travelogue, sometimes local color, sometimes valuable information—always interesting. **Our monthly meetings begin at noon with a carry-in meal followed by a 45-to-50-minute program.**

February 13 – *Staying in Your Own Home* by Jan Schilke & Becky Hutton

Jan and Becky will share what they have learned firsthand in caring for folks who desire to stay in their own homes as long as they are physically and emotionally able to do so.

As a reminder, here is our February potluck meal schedule:

initials A-F bring casseroles, G-N bring salads, and O-Z bring desserts (or swap with a friend.) Bring your own table service. Everyone 55 and older (including any caregivers) will be warmly welcomed. Ask a friend who may not normally come to join you, and all of us.

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2020census.gov/jobs

- Great pay \$20/hr
- Flexible hours
- Weekly pay
- Paid training
- Get paid to help your community



Rapids Fans, Friends & Family Night

Monday, February 10 @ 7pm

Houghton Wesleyan Church, Community Room

Get the latest news on Rapids players, coaches, schedule and the NYCBL.

Many prizes will be available for attendees.



*Congratulations to Kathy Reitnour and Bob Danner who exchanged wedding vows
in the presence of Pastors Wes and Cindy Oden
on Friday, January 10, 2020!*

CHURCH STAFF

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Ann McNeill, Director of Children's Ministries (Wednesday Kids Club, Library, RFKC, Cradle Roll)

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Austen Kewin, Pastoral Ministry Resident

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Dear Houghton Wesleyan Church Family,

Many thanks for all the prayers and meals provided for us during Karen's recent surgery. Your ongoing prayers are greatly appreciated during this time of therapy and recovery. May God bless you all as you serve Him in this way.

Jim and Karen Szymanski



January 2020

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown to me over the past few weeks of diagnosis, surgery, and recovery. Thank you to the pastoral staff and so many others for prayers, visits, phone calls, flowers, rides, quilts, cards, books, and offers to help in every way. To God be the glory!

With deep appreciation,
Diane Emmons

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 2 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *What Is Our Role for Jesus?* (Matthew 8:5-13; Mark 6:1-6)

p.m. Small Groups

February 9 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. Steve and Margie Doty (Missions Convention)

p.m. Small Groups

February 16 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. Rev. Dr. Joey Jennings

p.m. Small Groups

February 23 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *We Believe God is the Great Physician*

p.m. Small Groups

