Houghton Wesleyan Church

# Highlights

*Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others*
*March 2020*
*Volume 51, No. 10*

## Passion Interactions with Jesus

*When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."* (Matthew 26:1-2)

From beginning to end, life is about relationships, and relationships always involve some form of interaction. Jesus's relationships are no different.

The scriptures record numerous interactions that Jesus has with others. As the last hours of his life unfold, much of his time is absorbed in interactions. And these last hour interactions are significant not only for the conversations that take place but because they reveal significant truths about the purpose and meaning of the cross toward which Jesus is moving.

During the Sundays of Lent (beginning March 1), we are going to think about some of these interactions. I want us to explore how we see ourselves in the people who interact with Jesus and in this realization, see more clearly how Jesus responds to them and to us.

Understanding these interactions and what they reveal about Jesus and us is vital—not because we always get life right, but because, like so many people in scripture, we don't. We also need to explore these interactions because we need to be reminded that Jesus is always interested in interacting with us—not to condemn us but to redeem us and to restore us.

I encourage you to pray for these times together so that we will not only be more willing to acknowledge our need but also to be more aware of God's life-changing response to us.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

## Easter Baptism

We are offering baptism on Easter Sunday, April 12 in the 7:45am service. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Wes for more information about the process of preparing for this event.

# SEDER -In Order That You Should Remember-

## PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5
## 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
## Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room

On Palm Sunday, April 5, we will sit down to a different type of service in the church Community Room. At that time, we will observe the Passover with a Seder. The service is called "The Seder" and means "order." During the course of the service, Scriptures and traditions are recited that proclaim God's liberating power.

The Seder is not a Christian observance rather it is part of the Jewish tradition. But because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we too, can join in celebrating this wonderful service. In fact, for Christians, the Passover is even more significant, because it finds its fulfillment in Jesus. It was no accident that Jesus was crucified at Passover. He became the once-for-all sacrifice which allows God's judgment to "pass over" us. Christians are interested in this ritual because it was during the Passover celebration that Jesus instituted Holy Communion. Its celebration is useful in helping Christians understand Judaism and the roots of our faith.

The Seder Service is a family occasion, a multigenerational experience. The children play an important role in the Seder as we **remember all that God has done and that each generation has a place and purpose to fulfill.**

We will use this as an educational tool. Just as the Ten Commandments, the Psalms, the Prophets and many other dimensions of Our Old Testament heritage prove to be a vital root that nourishes our faith, so the Seder Service helps to reveal the working of God in our past, present, and future.

Symbolism abounds in the Seder as we remember God's deliverance of Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians. It is an historical, vivid, and beautiful expression of God's actions for His people. We hope you will join us for this meaningful service (dessert will be served) on Palm Sunday. Please sign-up in the church foyer by Sunday, March 15, so we know how many to plan for and let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

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

# New Members:

On Sunday, February 23, we joyfully welcomed these new members.

Christian Arbour

Garrett and Kristin Luckey

Sara and Kristen Massey

Robert and Patty Stalker

# Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

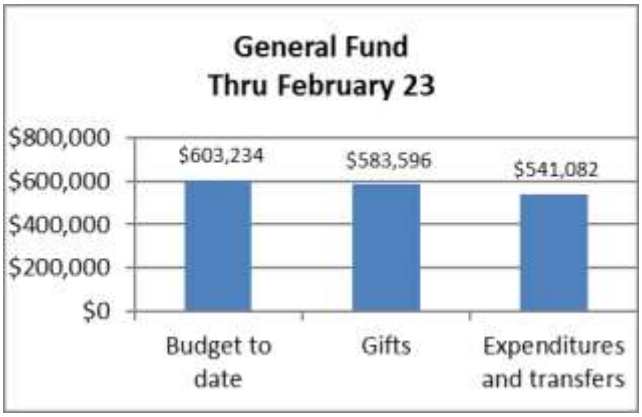
An annual task of our church leadership is to create a financial plan proposal for the Elders to consider and eventually for the congregation to approve. The process started in January and will conclude after the congregation votes in mid-May.

We believe our financial plan is one indicator of our priorities as a church. How we spend the money we receive speaks to what is important to us and what we hope to be as the people of God in Houghton.

The Elders and pastors work with various groups of people to make a financial plan that will enable each church ministry to accomplish its work. By the end of March, the Stewardship Committee begins putting all these proposals together to create a financial plan that will provide necessary funds while being realistic about anticipated giving.

The tension of expanding ministries within the confines of our expected income is not an easy task. The Committee will spend hours seeking God's wisdom how to strategically distribute funds in a way that honors our mission of drawing people into a life-long transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

There is no doubt that we all would love to see continued expansion of all of our programs and outreach. We would love to do more for the work of God's kingdom around the world. We would love to do more to help people in Allegany County who are struggling with the ups and downs of life. We would love to provide more resources for our children and youth to know and accept the grace of God in their lives. Often we are able to provide for numerous growing opportunities. Sometimes we are not. More often than not, what holds us back is available funds.




As ministries are making financial plan proposals, as the Stewardship Committee and Elders are creating the financial plan for our church, it would be a wonderful time to think about our personal spiritual health as it relates to finances. Give thanks for what God is already enabling you to do and ask God if it is time to trust him even more.

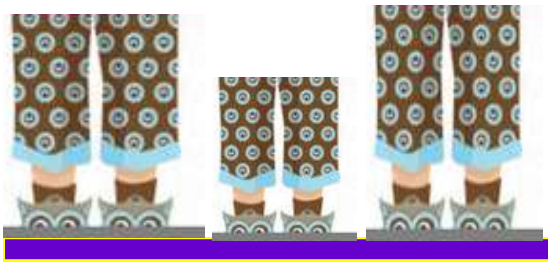
## EASTER BREAKFAST

Between the 7:45 and 10:30 services on Easter Sunday come and join us for one of the highlights of our church fellowship times. Easter Breakfast in the church Community Room. Eggs, ham, roasted potatoes, quick breads and cinnamon rolls, beverages and table service will be provided. This years donation breakfast is presented by the HWC Youth group in order to raise money for our Summer Mission Trip!
Look for bulletin inserts to sign up for donations—ham, eggs, fruit, potatoes, milk, orange juice, and baked goods.

## The Flower Committee Welcomes Easter Plants

to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor a loved one, please give the information to Patty Stalker in the church office by Monday, April 6, and please leave your plant at the church by Good Friday, April 10. The flower committee will be purchasing lilies for $15 if you would like one. Thank you.

# Wear Your Jammies to Church Day



## Daylight Savings Time Sunday, March 8

Families with young children - do you want to get out the door more easily on the day we turn our clocks forward?

Join in our **"Wear Your Jammies to Church Day."**

Children may roll out of bed and come as they are (shoes required though!). We will even have breakfast items for our Children's Church and Jr. Church kids. Let's enjoy a calmer morning on Sunday, March 8th, as we move into Daylight Savings Time.

## Communion Sundays:

There will be no Junior Church on March 1st or March 29th.

Enjoy the service with your church family!

HWC kids

# The Annual Buddy Keith Memorial Grand Prix & Sailboat Races

Cars to the starting line for the Annual Buddy Keith Memorial Grand Prix! Boats, at your ready! And this year, Rubber Duckies, dive right in! Our tradition continues in the Community Room on Wednesday, March 25th at 6 p.m. Children are invited to enter their homemade cars and crafts for fun, entertainment, and prizes. 3rd - 6th grades will again race veggie cars instead of wooden cars, and preschool through grade 2 will launch their boats. Boating supplies will be given to children during club several weeks before; car enthusiasts are asked to bring a vegetable to wider than 3" (three inches) so it can fit on the track. Auto construction will occur before the race, but designing your veggie car veggie can begin at home. Rubber Duckie Dunk will be held for our toddlers.

**We welcome snacks and spectators. If your children are not Kids' Club members and want to participate, please tell Ann McNeill right away as we are ordering parts at the beginning of March.** **annmcneill@hwchurch.org**

# KIDS' CLUB

What did the Lord teach his followers? The teachings of Jesus through parables, action, and instruction is the topic of Kids' Club Bible in March. Following Him, emulating Him, and trusting His provision are key Bible concepts this month.

We are avidly learning our Bible verses and quizzing on them each Wednesday night working toward a swim party at the college in the spring. Won't you join us at Kids' Club? We have a great time and enjoy one another's company. 6:00 p.m. sharp start time. Evenings end at 7:15. See you there!

## This Month's Scripture is LUKE 4: 18-19

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Thank you to all who attended Valley Preschool's Stone Soup dinner. You generously donated over $1,000 to be used towards scholarships next school year. We appreciate your support!

Marian Jean Prins Moeller was born to Kimberly Prins Moeller and Christopher Moeller February 7th.

# From the Library Shelves

We have some new books in our library! For our younger readers there is *Voyage with the Vikings,* and *Rescue on the River*, both Adventures in Odyssey books. There are new horse books too, *Gift Horse*, and *Friendly Foal.* A new series for our older readers is the Red Rock Mysteries: *Haunted Waters,* and *Stolen Secrets*. Some new Sugar Creek Gang books have been added, also.

In our adult area, the mind-boggling book, *The Insanity of God,* tells how faith was found surviving, and even flourishing, in persecuted areas all over the world. We have added the third book, *Under the Midnight Sun,* in Tracie Peterson's Heart of Alaska series. *The Quilter's Daughter* was added to Wanda Brunstetter's Daughters of Lancaster County series. There are more additions, so come on in and see what's new.
Happy Reading!!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY IS a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives. Celebrate Recovery at Houghton meets from 7 to 9 pm on Thursday nights in the Good Shepherd Room on the lower level of the church. Celebrate recovery also meets at Yorks Corners (near Wellsville) and Knight's Creek in Scio.

THE DNA OF AN AUTHENTIC CELEBRATE RECOVERY MINISTRY

1. Jesus Christ is the one and only Higher Power. The program is a Christ-centered ministry.

2. The Bible and Celebrate Recovery curriculum form the core of the meetings: The Large Group lessons are taught from the Leader's Guide, keeping at least the acrostic and the Scriptures as the key points in the lessons. This is to keep consistency within groups, allowing teachers to be creative with the introduction and conclusion of each lesson.

3. The ministry is "group based." All groups are gender-specific and "The Five Small Group Guidelines" are implemented and followed every time.

4. There are NO CR online groups. Face to face meetings ONLY. **Also no CR lessons are to be posted online via Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo or any other public forum as this is a copyright violation.**

5. We expect each group to be accountable to Christ, the local church, and the model of Celebrate Recovery established at Saddleback Church.

6. Celebrate Recovery is a ministry of the local church. Therefore, Celebrate Recovery will not attempt to dictate any doctrine or policy to a local church. A local Celebrate Recovery ministry should follow the policies of their local church and continue to be grateful for their continued support.

# Wellspring Ministries

**We praise God:**

-Wellspring has been in operation 15 years, and we rejoice in God's Hand of direction, provision, and sustaining power. It is His work and His place, and we give Him the glory.
-for effective devotions from area pastors
-for some new volunteers who make a difference
-for Tops once again resuming the providing of
day-old breakfast items for the coffee bar
-for an increase in people who visit
-for the monies sent to us from HWC that enable us to meet the needs of
many folks in their time of specific need

**We ask God:**

-to strengthen particular board members undergoing a time of trial
-to shine His light into needy hearts through contact with believers at Wellspring
-for wisdom in using the smart tv
-that the coming Easter season would have new meaning for all of us as we ponder the cross and our sin

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

## Short Term Mission Applications

People seeking financial assistance for late Spring or Summer short term missions ministry must apply to the **Mission Committee by March 20.** Application Forms are available at the church office (585-567-2264) or online at https://hwchurch.org/global-outreach/

If you are traveling or homebound or want to share a service that is especially meaningful to you, services are offered "live" and also archived for "on-demand" viewing later from both the church website and our Facebook page. People watch from Europe, Africa, Australia, Canada, all over the U.S. and central America. In the last 30 days 198 viewers watched from the website (100 watched "live" & 98 watched later at their convenience). Many people watch more than once a month: in February there were 2,295 views of the website-linked services and 726 viewers watched from Facebook!

Houghton Wesleyan Church "streams" and archives all of our Sunday services from our website,

https://www.hwchurch.org/

Services are also offered "LIVE" and archived on our Facebook page,

https://www.facebook.com/HoughtonWesleyanChurch/

Save the date! College Ministry sponsored potluck on March 15th after the 11:00 service. All are invited!

# HOUGHTON/FILLMORE WESLEYAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## MARCH 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thurs | Friday | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 SS<br>Life Groups 6pm | 2 | 3 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 SS<br>Life Groups 6pm | 9 | 10 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 SS<br>Life Groups 6pm | 16 | 17 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 SS<br>Life Groups 6pm | 23 | 24 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 SS<br>Life Groups 6pm | 30 | 31 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | | | | |

### SS in March

**Exodus with Sarah Derck!**

Mar 1—Exodus Intro

Mar 8—The Plagues

Mar 15—Passover

Mar 22—The Exodus

Mar 29—Moses

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND.
IT DOES NOT ENVY,
IT DOES NOT BOAST,
IT IS NOT PROUD.
IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS,
IT IS NOT SELF-SEEKING,
IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED,
IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS.
1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5 NIV

### *March Lifegroups…*

Mar 1—Save the Date 2—Eph 5:15

Mar 8— Guest speaker Chloe Howard!

Mar 15— Save the Date 3—2 Sam 11:1,3

Mar 22— Save the Date 4—Prov 11:14

Mar 29— Easter

# Young At Heart

(formerly Houghton Area 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.**

**March 12 – Musical Performance by the Greatbatch School of Music**

**Greatbatch musicians and their instructors will bring us a program designed to entertain us and showcase the many musical talents of the group members.**

Our noon potluck meal this time follows this schedule: last name initials A-F bring desserts, G-N bring casseroles, and O-Z bring salads (you may swap with a friend). Bring your own table service. Anyone reaching the mature age of 55, and any caregivers, will be warmly welcomed. Bring a friend who may not normally attend.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**April 16 – War Propaganda Professor Douglas Gaerte**

A successful war effort requires persuasion, whether it's convincing citizens to enlist as soldiers, buy the war bonds required to fund the military efforts, or save on food and raw materials needed to supply the military. Today's program explores how those persuasive messages are presented in war time, focusing especially on US war propaganda from WW1and WW2.

**May 14 -A Day at The Park Letchworth Park**

We will carpool to Charcoal Corral for lunch and then enter the park at the Castile entrance. No entry fee for NY drivers or passengers. We will gather at the Nature Center where a park ranger will present a program of park history, available facilities and programs, and introduce the Nature Center. After the lecture you are free to explore the park (voted #1 in the nation) as you wish.

**June 11 or close date – Baseball Game Genesee Rapids**

We will have our usual carry in lunch augmented with grilled hot dogs and associated condiments. Throw an extra potato in the pot as we will be hosting approximately 35 Rapids Base Ball Team members and their coaches. This is our chance to meet these fine young men up close and personal. Then in the evening, attendance at a Rapids home game is free for the Young at Heart group.

Questions: Daryl Stevenson 716-397-6864

**Houghton Vol. Fire Department Spring Fundraiser**

## Come join us for a Pancake Supper

to support the Houghton Vol. Fire Dept and Ambulance Service!
When: Saturday, March 21st from 5-7pm
Where: in the Community Room at the Houghton Wesleyan Church
What: Pancakes! With real maple syrup, of course. Sausage, eggs, and beverages included as well.

Adults: $7.00
Kids (2-10): $5.00
Under 2: free :)

Gluten free options will be available!

## "The Importance of Being Earnest"

**Houghton Academy will present "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar** Wilde on March 26-28 at 7:00 PM in the Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy.

Set among the stifling social expectations of Victorian England, the play follows two young men who try to escape societal constraints by assuming made up personas and fabricating far off friends. However, they end up confounding **each other's efforts and in the ensuing chaos christenings are scheduled, deaths** declared, muffins eaten, and handbags and families reunited once again. The lighthearted farce is full of witty repartee and ludicrous musings, and may -in the end- even convince us of the true importance of being earnest.

**Houghton Academy's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" is directed by Micah Banks, and stars Warren Torraca '22 as John Worthing, Ernest Lipscomb '23 as Algernon Moncrief, Lauren Burns '20 as Lady Bracknell, Josephine Lipscomb '20 as Gwendolen Fairfax, and Ellen Niu '22 as Cecily Cardew.**

Thursday, March 26 at 7:00PM
Friday, March 27 at 7:00PM
Saturday, March 28 at 7:00PM

I am helping the Amish children of this community to get back and forth to school daily. I have a van but it is in disrepair some of the time. This is a valuable need. I am looking for a more dependable van and/or larger newer van to get the children back and forth to 3 different schools, 5 days a week. Unfortunately I have not a lot of money to spend after 2 car repairs this month but I am willing to pay so much per week or month.

-Barbara Elliott 716-801-2077

Van Needed

The Genesee Rapids are in need of Host Families for the baseball players coming in June. This involves providing a bed and breakfast for a player or players. All other meals are provided. Great relationships have been formed with host families in past years.
For more information call Ralph Kerr 716-969-0688

**PIANO TUNING**

repairs · restoration

-Over 20yrs experience.
-Formally educated.
-Steinway factory training.
-BS Mus.Ed./Piano.

***Nathan Baldwin***

**585-928-1419**
(570-259-4564)

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**
**BEGINS SUNDAY MARCH 8**
**Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.**

# Our Pantry Shelves are Bare.

While we accept food donations of all kinds, due to space limitations and to help us run the pantry more efficiently, 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 | -Cereal |
| -Boxed oatmeal packets | -Canned fruit* | -Canned vegetables | -Peanut butter* |
| -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) | | -Shampoo, soap, deodorant, personal toiletries | |
| -Paper goods | -Cleaning supplies | -Disinfectant cleaners and santizers | |

*An item with an asterisks denotes 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 or online giving to the Food Pantry) 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.

## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

March 1 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *When Jesus Isn't What We Want* (Luke 22:47-53)
p.m. Small Groups

March 8: (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *When It's Time to Defend* (John 18:1-14)
p.m. Small Groups

March 15 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *When We Figure It Out* (Matthew 26:57-66)
p.m. Small Groups

March 22 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *When a Decision Is Harder than We Think* (John 18-19)
p.m. Small Groups

March 29 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *When Our Hearts Are Breaking* (Luke 23:26-31)
p.m. Small Groups

## CHURCH STAFF

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

**Jon Cole, Youth Pastor**
**307-9950 joncole@hwchurch.org**

**Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor**
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**567-4597 paulshea@hwchurch.org**

**Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director**
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**Austen Kewin, Pastoral Ministry Resident**
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**Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM,**
**567-2264 office@hwchurch.org**