

New Year Hope

*For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?
I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.
(Isaiah 43:19)*

I find it difficult to believe that we are on the precipice of a new year. It seems like only a couple of years ago that we were wringing our hands in anticipation of Y2K. Here it is 2019! As we prepare to turn the page on 2018, I find myself thinking about change.

I have never been a fan of change. I struggle with new rules in the sports I follow. I struggle with new words and new meanings of old words. I struggle with the way our culture thinks about things so differently than when I was young or at least younger. But as much as I have hesitantly come to grips with these things, I am learning something about change: it is one of God's greatest gifts.

The opposite of change is not tradition; it's stagnation, deterioration, death.

This does not mean that traditions or past ways of doing things are to be rejected outright. It does mean that as we value and give thanks for things past, we also embrace things new.

The word "new" is used hundreds of times in the Bible—rarely as something to fear but as something to celebrate. *I will lead blind Israel down a new path, guiding them along an unfamiliar way. I will brighten the darkness before them and smooth out the road ahead of them. Yes, I will indeed do these things; I will not forsake them* (Isaiah 42:16). Jesus speaks of the day *when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne* (Matthew 19:28). The apostle John is given a vision of *the new Jerusalem which will be our eternal home* (Revelation 21-22).

One of the unique dynamics of the kingdom of Jesus is that we need not fear the new even as we value the old. God builds on what has been but always with the intent of leading us to the excitement of what will be. It's the promise of something new that gives us hope in our struggles and burdens.

As you and I enter into 2019, let us do so with joy and anticipation. God has great plans for us. God has bigger dreams for us than we have for ourselves. God desires for us to experience the blessing of newness of life with him. Will we trust him and find his joy?

Blessings,
Pastor Wes



THANK YOU: The Pastoral Staff would like to thank you for your generosity and gratitude to each of us this Christmas season. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and appreciation we felt through your many gifts, personal acts of kindness, and your kind words. We feel privileged to be a part of the godly tradition of the Houghton Wesleyan Church and to participate in ministry with you. We look forward to the year ahead and all that God has planned for you and for us.

EPIPHANY:



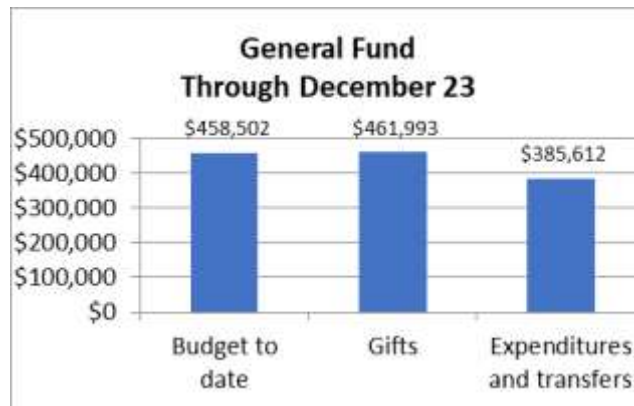
Epiphany, January 6, is a day of great joy for all Christians. It completes the twelve days of Christmas; more important, this is the festival of the manifestation of God's Word made flesh. The central images of the Magi bearing gifts suggest the three races of humanity coming to worship the Christ. A second manifestation is the baptism of Jesus. A third manifestation is the wedding feast at Cana when Jesus first revealed his power. The season of Epiphany continues through Shrove Tuesday (March 5). Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent, is March 6. The emphasis of Epiphany is on the revealing nature of God, his desire for all people to know his nature and power—the character of his being. The color is green which points us to life—physical and eternal. The trees green out in the spring to reveal that the trees are still alive. The grass also turns green revealing the life that has been hidden during the winter.

STEWARDSHIP – A Life of Generosity

The start of a New Year is a time of new beginnings as we think back on the past year and look for opportunities to do things better in the coming year. How can we be better stewards of what God has entrusted to our care – resources like time, energy, and money?

God's extravagant generosity to us comes in the form of Grace – freely given to all. We respond to this grace with thankfulness and gratitude. Because God's grace is an "indefinable gift," one would expect our expressions of gratitude would be radical in return – coming from the very core of who we are. Simply put, stewardship is a spiritual discipline rooted in our relationship with God.

May you find freedom and joy in the discipline and obedience of generosity.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped decorate inside and outside the church for the Christmas season. Your involvement makes the celebration even more meaningful.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Thanks for the generous support for the Christmas Eve Offering - Egypt Wesleyan Church building project. Praise God that \$20,406.05 has been received to date.

MISSIONS UPDATES!

- MISSIONS WEEK February 6-10. Mark your calendar: Mission Tour Night, Feb. 6; All Church Brunch Feb. 9, and Sunday Activities Feb. 10. Guest Speaker, Dr. JoAnne Lyon. (see additional notices in Highlights.)
- Pray for Bob and Laurie Smalley, and Miranda Hayes currently in Eleuthera; and for Jon Cole, Josh Derck, and Mike Spateholts joining several others to construct a roof on the Macieux church in Southern Haiti (site of the annual Dental Medical Outreach) January 4-7.

MISSION TOUR NIGHT



*The gospel is bearing fruit and growing
throughout the whole world
Colossians 1:6*

— PLEASE JOIN US —

Wednesday February 6, 2019

6:00 - 7:15pm

Tour starts in the Community Room

All Ages Welcome



PLEASE JOIN US

for a

COMMUNITY MISSIONS BRUNCH

The gospel is bearing fruit & growing throughout the whole world
Colossians 1:6

February 9
2019

9:30-
11:30am

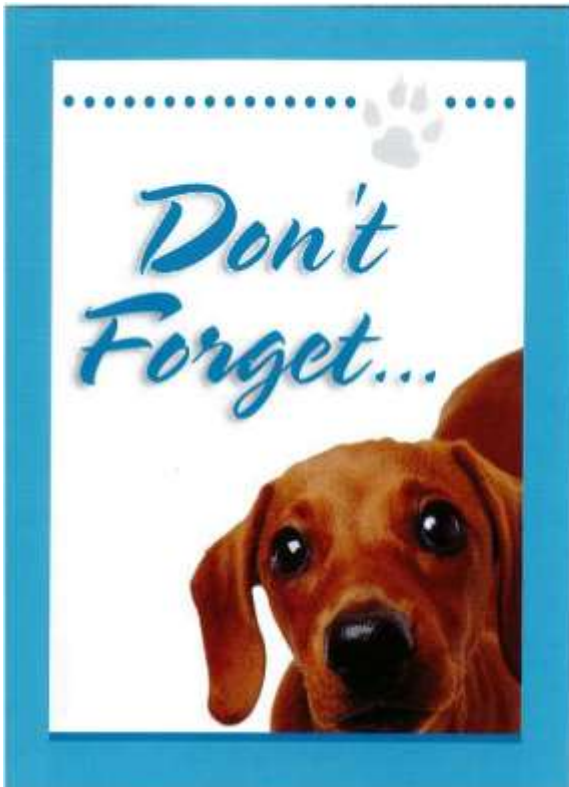
Houghton
College

Special Guest: Jo Anne Lyon
Music by: The Escriban Family

Houghton College Dining
Reinhold Campus Center
One Willard Avenue
Houghton, NY 14744

Buffet breakfast provided by
Houghton College dining services:
Adults \$6
Children 4-12 \$4
Family Max \$15

Please rsvp by January 30, 2018 by email to
heidl.millerfive@gmail.com



Kid's Club Spring Schedule 2019 - Animal Tales

- January 16 - Club - The Snake (Adam and Eve)
23 - Club - The Pig (The Prodigal Son)
30 - Club - The Donkey (Balaam)
- February 6 - Family Missions Night No Club
13 - Club - The Lamb (Abraham and Isaac)
20- Mid Winter Recess
27 - Club - The Camel (Jesus teaches about money)
- March 6 - Ash Wednesday Service- No Club
13 - No Club -
20 - Buddy Keith Annual Car and Boat Race
27 - Club - The Lions (Daniel)
- April 3 - Club - The Colt (Palm Sunday)
10 - Pool Party at Houghton College
17 - Club - Easter Presentation

Sunday School starts up again on January 13th!

Thank you to those who are helping out with Children's Church during the Christmas break: Ann & Jill McNiell, Karen & Mitch Liddick, Andrea Tanner, Deb Shea, Angela Babbitt, Sunshine & Aaron Sullivan, Kim & Steve Tucker and Laurie Dashnau. Thank you so much for blessing our kids!

Stone Soup Dinner

to benefit

Valley Preschool



Come enjoy some warm soup and a reading of "Stone Soup" on a winter evening while supporting Valley Preschool through this donation dinner.

Date – Friday, January 26, 2018

Time – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. (readings at 6:00 & 6:30 p.m.)

Place – Houghton Wesleyan Church community room

Food – Stone Soup (beef soup or vegetable soup), breads/rolls, and dessert

Take-out available

If you have questions, please contact Casda Danner at casdadanner@hwchurch.org

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 20

Every year in the United States alone, more than one million babies are aborted. Statistics show that 50 % of U.S. women who obtain abortions are younger than age 25, and at current rates, nearly one-third of American women will have an abortion. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 20, 2019, is a day to celebrate and focus on choosing life.

The Wesleyan Church supports the sanctity of life and those who choose to trust God despite difficulties. January 20, 2019, marks Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, an event observed the third Sunday of every January. Wesleyans are encouraged to observe this day on which many take a stand for human life.

Because all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and are "fearfully and wonderfully made," (Psalm 139:14) abortion grieves his heart. God, the Creator of the universe, deeply values human life and it says so in his Word:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! (Psa. 139:13-17 NIV).



*The church library is open whenever the
Christian Education Building is open.*

From the Library Shelves



Happy New Year!! In this new year I hope you will come in to our church library and see what we have for you. We have recently received a number of new books in both the children's and adult sections.

In our children's section we have some new *Henry and Mudge* books, *I Can Read with My Eyes Shut* by Dr. Seuss, a fun book about bears (do you know why bears go fishing??!!), colorful books about things in nature, and some short biographies like *Betsy Ross and the Silver Thimble*. Come see!

In the adult section we have a few more books in the *Sugarcreek Amish Mysteries* series, new Karen Kingsbury books and others. We also have a new series by Terri Blackstock. There are a number of new biographies—*Riley Unlikely*, *Same Kind of Different as Me*, and more. There are also books such as--*Am I Messing Up My Kids*, and *Fear Not Tomorrow, God is Already There*, to name a few.

Come on in and find something to enjoy!!



HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

*Joyfully Loving God,
Wholeheartedly Serving People!*

What's up with HWCYCG?

Jan. 2019



Nerf Wars
January 13—6pm—8pm
Bring your favorite blaster, no need to bring darts.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------|--------------------|
| One 10am Service! | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| No Life Groups | | | | | | |
| 13 SS Nerf Wars! 6pm | 14 | 15 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 SS Life Groups! 6pm | 21 | 22 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Winter</i> | 26 <i>Retreat!</i> |
| 27 SS No Life Groups | 28 | 29 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 30 | 31 | | |

January Lifegroups...

Jan 6 - No Life Groups

Jan 13—Nerf Wars! Bring your favorite blaster and be ready to rumble!

Jan 20 - "Parking Lot" Night

Jan 27—No Life Groups—Winter Retreat!

Hold These Spring Dates:

- Mar 12—13 Poverty simulation— (HS only)
- Mar 30—E416
- May 4-5 30 Hr Famine
- May 26- Youth Led Church Service



District Winter Retreat at Camp Hickory Hill
Jan 25-27
"The Light of the World"
We'll Leave from HWC at 7:00pm and return between noon and 1pm on Sunday. Final Deadline for registration is January 9!



Wellspring Ministries

We have said it or thought it repeatedly : "He or she will never change."

Untrue. Only One will never change - God. BUT, He does have the power to change people. That is our prayer request for 2019 at Wellspring - that lives will come to God to be made new, transformed by His power. Please pray for our Board, volunteers, clients. We all need His touch so we are more than just a smiling non-profit that hands out food and material goods.

Gratefully we acknowledge your part in this ministry, the most important part of which is communicating God's love and mercy.

Contributions are welcome Monday and Tuesday on the Beardsley porch or can be taken directly to Wellspring.

Because of your generosity, over 300 children had gifts at Christmas. Warm clothing and bedding have been provided. Ham portions were given to folks to take home for their family dinners over the holidays. The Word has been shared repeatedly.

We reopen Friday, January 4, at 10 am.

If your schedule permits, do come sit and chat with folks over a cup of coffee or for a meal at noon.

Grateful for your prayers
- Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples." Psalm 77:14



PRAYER MINISTRY: The prayer room is still available for you to use. Reserve an hour or more at www.hwchurch.org/prayer-room/.

Online Mobile Directory

Since printed Lifetouch Church Directories arrived at the church office (available to all who Lifetouch photographed,,just stop by the office) we have had 35 updates as people move, change email preference or cell phone numbers. The most current information is always available in our Mobile Directory. Information is secure and will require a password. Email the church office at info@hwchurch.org and you will receive the link and password for access.



January 13th we resume Adult Sunday School classes. **All are welcome to find a class that fits your interest.** Here are the five options at 9:40 a.m.:

- * Mothers' Pray, Room 7
- * II Timothy Exposition, Paul Young, Rm.9
- * Book Study: Readings & Discussion, Michael Jordan, Rm 10
- * *The Dark Side: Confronting Evil*, J. Mucher, Room 105
- * Kaleidoscope Topics & Guests, Community Room.

Note: On February 10 all adult classes meet in Community Room at 9:40am for Mission Guest presentations!

WOMEN'S PRAYER AND STUDY GROUPS MEET:

- * Tuesday (Hiler) 10:00 a.m. HWC Sanctuary, lower level, Room. 7
- * Wednesday (Roederer) 9:30 a.m. HWC Room 10 (Good Shepherd Room)
- * Friday (Wiesman) 9:00 a.m. Christian .Education Building 2nd floor



Small Groups—*Ready...Set...Go!*

Small groups start up the week of January 13th. We welcome new folks to join or start up groups. If you are looking for a group; want a list of open spaces, or want to discuss starting a group PLEASE CONTACT Pastor Paul Shea – paulshea@hwchurch.org.

Thank you to the Houghton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center for the beautiful Christmas wreaths at the front doors.



Our Condolences to the families of

- ◆ Geraldine Heinz
- ◆ Monica Bramer
- ◆ Lillian Fuller

See: <https://www.hwchurch.org/community-news/condolences/>



FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING? Here are some items in high need:

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

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!



JANUARY 10, 2019

HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS

Our January gathering will be on **Thursday, January 10.**

Our meal begins at noon in the Houghton Church Community Room, and following good fellowship over the meal, we will hear from **Bill Heaney**, a familiar local historian. (This is a change from the earlier schedule.) Bill has been involved in an initiative with others in Allegany County to restore more rich local history in area school classrooms.

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

initials A-F bring desserts, G-N bring casseroles, and O-Z bring salads (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.

Questions? Contact Daryl Stevenson at 716-397-6864 or at daryl.stevenson@houghton.edu."

Celebrate Recovery



If you were to look at yourself and the new, growing, and changing self 30 days from now, what would have happened to get you there? What actions would you be taking starting right now to be living in that new way of life? Start with one healthy new choice & step and let God move you into a beautiful and hope-filled changed life.

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.



SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

CHURCH STAFF

January 6 (10:00am)
a.m. Rev. David Huizenga

January 13 (8:20am, 9:40am and 11:00am, 5:00pm)
a.m. *Are You Amazed at Jesus Understanding?* (Luke 2:41-47)
p.m. Small Groups

January 20 (8:20am, 9:40am and 11:00am)
a.m. *Are You Amazed at Jesus' Authority?* (John 7:10-24)
p.m. Small Groups

January 27 (8:20am, 9:40am and 11:00am)
a.m. *Is Jesus Amazed by Our Faith?* (Matthew 8:5-13)
p.m. Small Groups



As We Start the New Year

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor

567-2024 wesoden@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor

307-9950 joncole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor

567-2024 cindyoden@hwchurch.org

Paul Shea, Assistant Pastor

567-4597 paulshea@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director

567-4870 amandacox@hwchurch.org

Laurie Smalley, Children's Pastor

567-8302, lauriesmalley@hwchurch.org

Austen Kewin, Pastoral Ministry Resident

austenkewin@hwchurch.org

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM,

567-2264 office@hwchurch.org

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