



Can We See God?

One day the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus, demanding that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority.

(Matthew 16:1)

I'm looking out the window of my home office tonight watching the gradual setting of the sun. The sky is cloudy in the west and it creates a red luminous haze that is both haunting and inspiring.

Looking at this sunset my mind turns back to the 16th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. As this chapter unfolds, Matthew tells us that the Pharisees and Sadducees come to test Jesus, asking for a sign from heaven to prove his authority. What's interesting is that chapter 15 tells of Jesus casting out a demon, of Jesus healing all who were brought to him by a vast crowd—people who were lame, blind, crippled, mute and many others—and of Jesus feeding four thousand men and their families with seven loaves of bread and a few small fish. And now, the religious leaders, after seeing all of this, ask Jesus for a sign to show that he is from God!

I suspect that Jesus is tempted to say, "What do you mean a sign? What more could I do?"

He doesn't, but neither does he give them what they want. Instead, he turns it back on them. (Jesus has a knack for doing this). He says, "You know the saying, 'Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.' You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don't know how to interpret the signs of the times! Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign, but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah."

These are people who should have known better. These are the religious leaders of Israel. They know the Torah inside and out. They practice all the required rituals of the Law (at least the Pharisees do). But when God's Son comes doing miracles that no one has ever done before and teaching the profound things of God as no one has ever done before, they miss him. They are more attuned to the weather than they are to God.

These kinds of incidents make me nervous about what I might be missing. We have much in common with these religious leaders. We know the truth of God. We sing the songs. We pray the prayers. We study the scriptures. We participate in corporate worship. But is it possible that we are doing all the right things but are missing God's most profound word to us? Is it possible that we are so intent on how we believe God works that we can't see him at work right in front of us?

If God wants to expand our vision of him, will we let him? If God wants to speak into our lives from a person or an experience we could never have imagined, will we let him? If God wants to change the direction of our lives we have mapped out, will we let him?

In these uncertain and challenging times, God is still moving, God is still working, God is still speaking. In fact, I am convinced that he might well be speaking in unique ways for us through these unique experiences around us. Do we want to hear? Do we want to see? Do we believe and trust enough to follow wherever and however he leads? Yes and no is the difference between a living relationship with him and something else entirely.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

Election Results

Elders Secretary: Jim Zoller

Church Treasurer: David Mercer

Elders: Doyin Adenuga, Heidi Huizenga, Jill Jordan

Trustees: Harold Blew, Nathan Danner, Judi Mayhle

Nominating Committee: Casda Danner, Sandy Roederer, Karl Schmidt

Community Financial Plan Vote: Yes (170) / No (1)

Elders

Doug Gaerte (2021)

Dick Harter (2021)

Ed Taylor (2021)

Dave Brubaker (2022)

Don Little (2022)

Jan Schilke (2022)

Doyin Adenuga (2023)

Heidi Huizenga(2023)

Jill Jordan (2023)

Jim Zoller, Secretary

David Mercer, Treasurer

Pastor Wes Oden

Trustees

Barb Bates (2021)

Matt Woolsey (2021)

Vali Ciobanu (2022)

Charlie Smith (2022)

Michael Spateholts (2022)

Harold Blew (2023)

Nathan Danner (2023)

Judi Mayhle (2023)

Pastor Jon Cole

Please continue to pray for our pastors and leaders as we begin a new year of ministry and service in Houghton.

Thank you to Elders, Kathie Brenneman, Jesse Fink and Matt Webb and to Trustee, Dar Beardsley whose terms have expired. We appreciate the thoughtful and godly leadership that each person has given us in the past years.

Austen Kewin has been our pastoral resident the past two years. Austen has done a wonderful job working with college ministries and many other ministries as well. As his residency comes to an end May 31, we will miss him and look forward to the next steps God has for him.

We are excited to welcome Andrew Silbert to our staff in the part-time role of Director of College Ministries. Andrew ('08) and Addie ('07) are both Houghton College graduates and they have, along with their girls, Jovie, Norah and Eliza, been a part of our church since 2014. Andrew will be working ¼ time along with his current position with Sodexo. We are excited to welcome Andrew to our staff and look forward to his leadership in our ministry to and with college students. Andrew begins June 1.

Financial Update for June 2020 Highlights

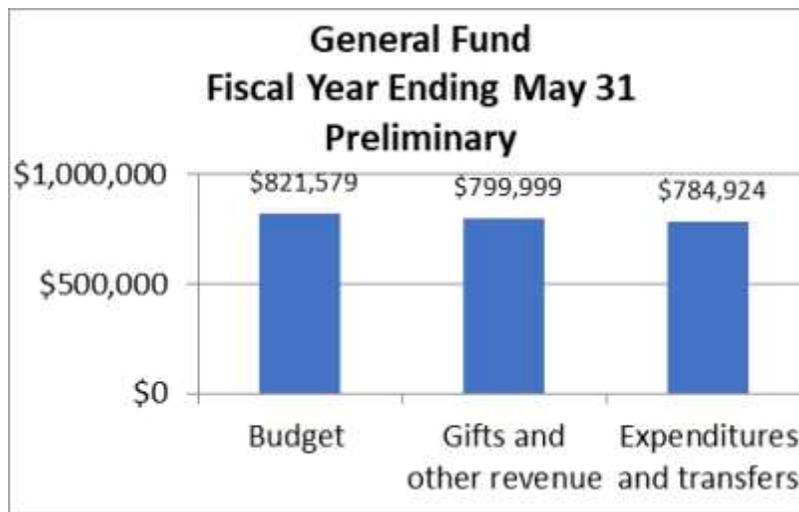
Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

Talking about giving is often awkward and uncomfortable, especially at church. But giving is clearly a concept that runs through the Scriptures. And if we don't talk about, we miss opportunities to learn and discover the joy it brings.

Recently, our congregation voted to approve the 2020-21 HWC Community Financial Plan. This plan reflects the mission and vision of Houghton Wesleyan Church and will be our game plan to reach our current goals. By voting to approve this plan, we indicated our commitment to support the plan—the priorities it reveals, the goals we desire to reach as a church, and our desire to commit ourselves to godly stewardship through faithful giving.

Thank you for your commitment of financial support. Every dollar you invest will be used to fulfill the mission of **furthering God's kingdom both locally and throughout the world**. When we invest our time, money and resources in kingdom purposes our faith becomes stronger each time God answers prayer and supplies a need.

As we progress through the year, be ready to be amazed and blessed by what God accomplishes through our faithful giving to Houghton Wesleyan Church.



SPECIAL THANKS AND FAREWELL to AUSTEN KEWIN



For two years Austen Kewin has served as College Ministry Resident for HWC and hosts of college students have been blessed by his ministry and encouragement. The KOINONIA Sunday evening worship celebration and its leadership teams were a major focus of his energy and the impact over the years has grown deeper and broader. One-on-one mentoring and discipleship relationships and his ready smile and welcome on Sundays contributed much to college student connections to HWC. I had the privilege of weekly prayer and planning times with Austen. As he moves on in his journey with God, let us keep him in our prayers. And I encourage many to write Austen a note of thanks at Austenkewin@hwchurch.org.

Thanks, brother and friend, Pastor Paul Shea



Applications for Valley PreSchool

Our preschool is open to three, four, and five-year-old children. The preschool meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 am – 11:45 am. (September – May) on the first floor of the Christian Education Building. The early childhood program of V.P.S. is designed to augment home experiences, providing opportunity for social, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth and development. If you are interested in more information about your child attending VPS, please contact our director, Casda Danner casdadanner@hwchurch.org.

Here is GENERAL INFORMATION and the APPLICATION FOR VALLEY PRESCHOOL FOR 2020-2021: <https://hwchurch.org/.../.../2020/04/2020-21-VPS-Application.pdf>



Parents, subscribe to our newly created [Youtube Channel](#), that includes Children's Sermons. Check it out!

Want to join our amazing team and help build up our kids' faith foundation? We need team members in Children's Church (2-5 year olds, 8:20 and 11:00), Jr. Church (K-3rd, 8:20), Sunday School (various positions), Nursery, and Wednesday night Kid's Club! If you would like more information or have questions, please reach out to Emily or Ann. Hope you can join us!



A big thank you to Daryl Stevenson for building a beautiful new welcome center desk for the CE building. This desk will provide a central location for checking in kids to Sunday and Wednesday programming and welcoming visitors and providing them with information, among other things!



To Robin Pawling at the death of her father Shirley Harry Pawling on May 18
To the Webb family at the death of Betsy's mother Margaret Broman on May 30



Dear Church Family,

A children's ministry of the Houghton Wesleyan Church, RFKC continues to be grateful as we move toward our 26th summer of showing Christ's Love to 52 children from our local area who have suffered multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) including neglect, abuse and abandonment.*

This year, the RFKC experience will be a bit different. Instead of a residential five-day camp in July, our volunteers will be bringing camp to our campers. During the first week of August, a **Royal Family on Parade** consisting of three caravans of volunteers bringing music, signs, ice cream, bubbles and more will be driving throughout Allegany County (and four surrounding counties) delivering "Camp in a Box" to our campers. Each camper will get a Bible and activity book, MP3 music player, t-shirt, "Every Kids' Birthday" dinner and gifts, and a memory book filled with *heart notes* of encouragement and love.

During the past two months, we have worked with the Department of Social Services and the campers' guardians to let them know that they are not forgotten. Please continue to keep these Royal Family children in your prayers. Thank you for partnering with us especially during this difficult time. You may contact me at (585) 376-4053 nancy.murphy@houghton.edu or any of the RFKC Board members if you have questions. 2020 Advisory Board members are: Jeff Babbitt, Bec Cronk, Mary Jo Cronk, Rueban Hand, Briana Hollenback, Doug Mahyle, Ann McNeill, Rebecca Rowley, Gudy Stevenson, Justin Thomas and Jen Wolfer. Prayer partners coordinators are Laurie Dashnau and Jane Miner.

*During COVID, children have had only limited access to the professionals who are often the first line of defense protecting them against neglect and abuse – their teachers, caseworkers and medical providers. If you suspect a child is being harmed, call the New York State Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 342-3720.



Wellspring Ministries

Wellspring will open beginning Wednesday, June 10 from 10am to 12 noon only.

- Social distancing will be in place, as well as masks required. A safety check for all clients will be done.
- A limited number of people will be in the building at one time. (no children inside, for now)
- Sanitizing of surfaces will be done regularly.
- No coffee bar or meals at this time.

We welcome donations any Wednesday or Friday.

We welcome back, most of all, PEOPLE, and pray that we will be bearers of HIS HOPE and LIGHT to all who come.

Please take all donations directly to the Wellspring porch when open - not the Beardsley porch, as before.

Thank you for continued prayer and support. God has been so faithful to us.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)



Graduation celebration for

Tobias Broman Webb & Levi Matthew Webb

Sunday, June 28th 2:00-5:00

at the Webb home 7410 Leonard Ave. Houghton



Please celebrate with us however you feel comfortable:

By mail, phone, text or in-person. We will be offering drive-by or curb-side options and would love to see you from your car or in our yard.

So many of you have contributed to their lives so far and we want to thank you as we celebrate them!



Phil Merrill
(585) 610-8882

INSIDE & OUTSIDE

PAINTING &

POWER

WASHING

(HOUSES
& DECKS)



We also continue delivery of Meals On Wheels. If you have need for these services, call the church office at 585-567-2264 or the Office for the Aging at 585-268-9390. If you would like to volunteer driving a day a month, call Judi Mayhle at (585) 567-8241.



New Address and Phone for:
Ellen & Alfreda Kreckman
38 Coachlight Drive
Gerry, New York 14740
Cell: 585-365-3933
Photo: Sunday morning church



general
physician
pc

Calvin Schierer, DO
Family Medicine

primary care
castile

5596 Route 19A
Castile, NY 14427
Office: 585.493.9230
Fax: 585.786.0508

HOURS: MON 8-4
TUE 8-4
WED 8-4
THUR 8-4
FRI 8-11:30

gppconline.com



Overwhelmed? Cooped Up? Lonely? How can we help you?

We know that this time is extremely stressful and confusing for you and your kids.

What can we do to help you?

More (or less) resources, phone calls, notes, etc.? We are here for you!



GET HELP!

Our church family stands ready to help.



[Click HERE](#)



GIVE HELP!

Please put me on the helper list!



[Click HERE](#)



Let's Talk

Sometimes you just want to talk to someone. We would love to talk and pray with you.



[Click HERE](#)

Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you for your comforting prayers, expressions of sympathy and care to us at the loss of our grandson, Samuel Chenan. Our daughter, Abby, delivered their stillborn child on April 24 (due April 28). Please keep praying for them during this mourning period. This old song is dear to us now:

“In times like these we need a Savior.
In times like these we need an anchor.
Be very sure, Be very sure—
Your Anchor holds and grips the solid Rock.
This Rock is Jesus. He’s the One.
This Rock is Jesus. The Only One.
Be very sure, Be very sure—
Your Anchor holds and grips the solid Rock.”
(I Samuel 2:2)

Love in Christ,
Karl & Jill Schmidt
For Abby & Jeremy Schirle
Jayden (9) & Israela (6)

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 7 (10:00 am Online) Pastor Paul Shea
a.m. *On a Trinity Mission* (John 20:19-23; Matt. 28:16-20)

June 14 (10:00 am Online)
a.m. *Whose Side are We On?* (Psalm 7)

June 21 (10:00 am Online)
a.m. Dr. Ken Schenk

June 28 (10:00 am Online)
a.m. Dr. Sarah Derck



Note: Pastor Paul is taking a Leave of
Absence from June 8-July 7.



CHURCH STAFF

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

Emily Spateholts, Children’s Ministry
808-8925 emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

Ann McNeill, Children’s Ministry
437-5151 annmceill@hwchurch.org

Andrew Silbert, Director of College Ministries
716-450-9179 andrewsilbert@hwchurch.org

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,
567-2264 office@hwchurch.org