



Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others*

July 2020

Volume 53, No. 2



*The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and said,
"Even though you have been unable to have children, you
will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son ...
and his hair must never be cut.*

Judges 13:3-5, NLT

As I write this, it's been three months since my last haircut. By the time you read this, however, I should have been able to get one. It's amazing how excited we can get about relatively minor things.

Having longer hair has reminded me of how we wore our hair in the 60s and 70s. Even now, I'm looking at my high school senior picture. My hair is pretty long. Of course, it's a little obscured by my leisure suit, but that's another matter altogether! As my hair has gotten longer, I've also felt this sense of a connection to Samson. Okay, now that you've finished laughing, it's not because of my amazing strength: no one is going to make that mistake. It's just made me think about living with long hair and that makes me think of Samson.

Samson is an interesting character in scripture. God blesses him. God gives him gifts. God enables him to accomplish tremendous works for Israel. But ultimately Samson takes it for granted and his story ends up being one of the saddest in the Old Testament.

It strikes me that we are kind of in a Samson-like moment. Prior to the pandemic, I suspect that most of us took many things for granted—our ability to enter any store at any time, the freedom to get a haircut and to visit with each other face to face, our ability to gather together for worship. Now that we are able to do a few things that we weren't the last few months, now that we are making plans to come back together for worship, now that we can begin to see some light at the end of this tunnel, the temptation is to forget some of the lessons we've learned and to simply go back to taking our blessings for granted.

One of the ways in which we might find help for falling back into unhealthy perspectives about God's gifts is to remember so many in the world who not only experienced far worse circumstances than we but whose lives before the pandemic were extremely difficult. What we have gone through as Christians is only a glimpse of what so many of our brothers and sisters live with continually. What helps my perspective is that so often is that even as Christians in difficult places pray for relief they're also giving thanks that despite their circumstances they know that God is good, that God is with them and that God is greater and their circumstances. I want to know that kind of life in Christ. My prayer is that all of us will know that kind of life in Christ—the kind of life that the Apostle Paul, writing from a prison in chains, speaks of in his letter to the Philippians: "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice (4:4).

In Christ,
Pastor Ules

Church Finances

In these uncertain times, thank you for your generosity. We ended our fiscal year (May 31) with a surplus. Here is a year-end financial summary of our Community Financial Plan.

2019-2020 Income	\$800,030 (\$21,549 under budget)
2019-2020 Expenses/Transfers	<u>\$785,085</u> (\$36,494 under budget)
2019-2020 Surplus	\$ 14,945

The Elders have decided to distribute the surplus in this way:

- o Global Missions \$4,110
- o Local Outreach \$4,110
- o Reserve Fund \$6,725
- o If you would like to see more detailed information related to the year-end report or anything else financial, contact the church office.
- o For financial gifts, we encourage you to use online giving or to mail your check to the church (P.O. Box 127, Houghton, NY 14744).

For your convenience we are now accepting credit cards on our on-line giving site. In order to avoid the higher fees associated with credit cards, we do encourage you to consider using the bank transfer option (EFT). If using a credit card is better for you, we have added the option for you to donate the transaction fees if you wish, but you are under no obligation to do so.

Elders Information

Please note that the Elders have elected Doug Gaerte as Vice-Chair for 2020-2021. I know that Doug appreciates your prayers as he serves in this important role of leadership in our church.



ICE CREAM DRIVE-THRU JULY 15

HWC Kids (and Parents), we want to treat and see you!

Come enjoy a frozen treat at our Ice Cream Drive-Thru on Wednesday, July 15th from 6:30-8:00pm. Pull into the Church parking lot, roll down your window, and we'll pass you a treat and a greeting! We can't wait to see you!

* COVID precautions will be followed (gloves, masks, and distance)

Congratulations to the 6th grade Catechism class who were honored during the June 14 worship service. The class learned 120 questions and answers about what we believe and how we live. Thanks to Harold Blew for guiding the students to a successful conclusion in spite of the current circumstances.



Congratulations to the 2nd grade Sunday School class who recited the books of the Bible during the June 21 worship service. Thanks to Karl and Jill Schmidt for helping the children with this important milestone even during the difficult situation.



Thanks to everyone who participates in Sunday School so that our children, youth and adults may develop in our faith in Jesus. Special thanks to Jess Wartinger and Jamie Potter, co-Sunday School Superintendents for your leadership.



Reopening Information: The Reopening Task Force continues making plans for our worship service reopening on August 2. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. This information will help us with decisions. As we draw closer to August, we will be communicating specific information related to the reopening. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Thank you.

A hearty thanks to the dozens who sent kind greetings for our Anniversary. This is a very special and loving community.

Paul and Debbie Shea.

Our new address: 9978 St. Rt. 19
Houghton, NY 14744



To the family of Joyce Thomas Munro who died June 9

To the family of Bob Cummings who died June 13

To the family of Vivian Baptista, Barb Bates and Jane

Miner's mother who died June 16.

*To the Habecker family at the death of Kurt's father on
June 29.*



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!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Montanye Babies are Here!

Russell Whitney was born at 11:11am. 6 lbs. 11.8oz.

Henry Emerson was born 6 minutes later...11:17am. 6 lbs. 7.8oz.

Everything went smoothly with no hiccups and everyone is doing well!



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.



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>

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)



New Address for
 Ellen & Alfreda Kreckman
 4600 Route 60—Unit 30
 Gerry, New York 14740
 Cell: 585-365-3933
 (new landline coming)



* At It's All Good! we offer a wide variety of both organic and conventionally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, camp wood, some antiques and other collectibles.

- For stand to car pickup, simply call in your order and we will have it ready and load it when you arrive.
- 9391 Route 19, Houghton, NY 14744
- Open Wed-Sat 10-5 all summer and into the fall!
- For It's All Good! weekly stand updates visit the "Laurie Machamer" Facebook page.
- To order or for more info call or text Laurie: 716-713-3789

Blessings!

Tom & Laurie Machamer



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.

Phil Merrill
(585) 610-8882





HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS

Young
at
Heart

2019-2020



Young at Heart fall meetings cancelled

As might be anticipated, the uncertainty of the fall church schedule and the pandemic leads to the decision that the Young at Heart group (formerly Senior Citizens) will not have a fall monthly program schedule. The startup of future

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](#)



2020 SENIOR FARMER'S MARKET

COUPON BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE

Thursday, July 23 at the Houghton Volunteer Fire Dept from 1-3 PM!

The Allegany County Office for the Aging will be handing out the 2020 Farmer's Market Coupon booklets to eligible seniors at scheduled "drive-thru" distributions across the County.

The Farmers Market Coupon booklets will contain \$20 in Farmers Markets coupons for you to use at participating Farmers Markets. Please wear a face covering and remain in your vehicle to ensure proper social distancing.

Eligibility

- **age 60 or over; have not received the coupons this year and meet the gross monthly income limits below:**

\$1968/month for a one-person household; or

\$2658/month for a two-person household; or

\$3349/month for a three-person household

(Income levels increase by \$691/month based on the number of persons in the applicant's household)

All individuals age 60 and over in a household who meet income requirements are eligible to receive a Farmers Market coupon booklet. For more information contact the Office for the Aging (268-9390 or toll free 866-268-9390)

SUNDAYS IN JULY

July 5

10:00 am *Heavenly Worship* (Psalm 29)

July 12

10:00 am Rev. J. L. Miller

July 19

10:00 am Rev. Dr. Jon Case

July 26

10:00 am Rev. Dr. Mike Jordan



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 cindvoden@hwchurch.org

Paul Shea Assistant Pastor

567-4597 paulshea@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director

amandacox@hwchurch.org

Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry

808-8925 emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

Ann McNeill, Children's Ministry

437-5151 annmcneill@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