

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 9, 2020
10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *Organ Preludes on the Kyrie* by J. S. Bach
Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit, BWV 672
Kyrie, Christe, aller Welt Trost, BWV 673
Kyrie, Gott heliger Geist, BWV 674

Welcome

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn – shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 42: ***To God be the Glory***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Classic Choral Anthem: *Prayer* (by Rene Clausen)

Children's Sermon
Emily Spateholts

Songs of Adoration: ***Thrive; What a Beautiful Name***

Ministry in Music: *Live Like That*

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We hesitate to do your will, we ignore your law, we rebel against your love.

We look for loopholes about loving our neighbors,

and far too often we close our ears to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Fill our hearts with a desire to be your instruments for setting captives free, for healing the brokenhearted, and for loving the whole world.

Set us free for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Please feel free sit, stand, or kneel as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 96

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***All: Thanks be to God!***

Hymn of Preparation 434: ***Our God is Love, and All His Saints***

Sermon: ***I'd Like To Teach the World to Sing***

Pastor Wes Oden

Song of Response: ***By Our Love***

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Pastor Cindy Oden

Music Ministry Team:

Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Jeff Babbitt, vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist exclaims, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!” We come to worship today to offer to God our praise. May God fill our hearts and lives with his glorious presence.

MONDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE: Tomorrow we are hosting a Service of Scripture, Silence and Meditation in the church sanctuary. You will need to make a reservation by using the church website or calling the church office. Seating is limited and socially distanced. Masks are required.

VIRTUAL PRAYER VIGIL: Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Our nation and world needs prayer as pandemic cases rise. Our leaders need prayer for good decision-making. Please sign up now for at least 15 minutes to pray (<https://hwchurch.org/prayer/>).

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM: This Thursday evening at 6:30, we invite you to an hour of organ music by Dr. Judy Congdon. Judy will be playing more of your hymn requests. You are invited to come to the church sanctuary for the program. Please make a reservation by using the church website or by calling the church office. Seating is limited and social distanced. Masks are required. The event will be streamed through the regular channels.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for online worship at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Jon Cole will be preaching.

A VALLEY PRESCHOOL FAMILY OUTDOOR WRAP-UP EVENT MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 9:30 – 11:00 A.M. Families whose children attended Valley Preschool during the 2019-20 school year are invited to come say hello (and good-bye) to VPS staff and to pick up a packet of papers & projects, your time capsules, and a little year-end gift. Since we will be outside, as long as families remain in their own family grouping (social distancing from other families) masks will not be required. We ask that families come past our greeting stations one at a time, practicing social distancing. We will be in the parking lot in some shade away from the main driveway area eager to greet and briefly chat with children and families as they come past to pick up these items. In the case of rain we'll be under the overhang at the entrance of the Christian Education Building. We're very excited to see you again!

VALLEY PRESCHOOL FALL: Though we can't know for sure what the fall looks like yet, the Valley Preschool team is starting to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. Valley Preschool meets three mornings a week at the Church and is a great introduction for children to school with plenty of hands-on lessons and social interaction with peers. If you have or know of a 3-5 year old who might be interested in preschool, we invite you to fill out an application today; these are available on Facebook, the website, at the Church office or by contacting Casda Danner or Emily Spateholts.

STEWARDSHIP Received (June 1–Present): \$133,217.85

Budgeted (June 1-Present): \$141,884.82

YMCA PLAY PACK PROGRAM August 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church parking lot. Families drive through or walk through for a free Play Pack (rubber ball, 2 tennis balls, jump rope, frisbee, bubbles, sidewalk chalk & State of Play cards.)

SUBSCRIBE HERE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: Don't miss a Children's Sermon, Weekly Update, or Special Music.

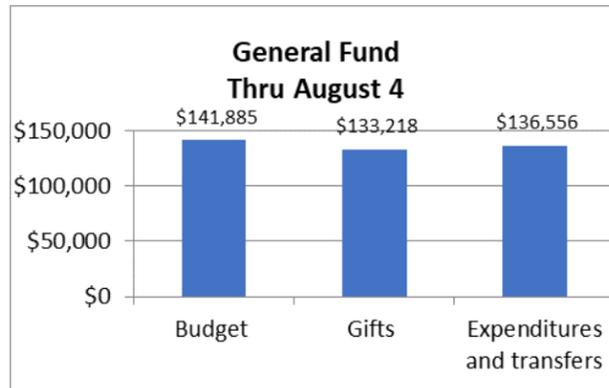
MISSION MOMENT – Visa and international travel concerns are at the forefront for late summer travel of both Ben and Christine Hegeman with SIM to Benin and son, Martin and Sherry Hegeman for first term with SIM to Sahel Academy, Niger. Let us pray for continued miracle solutions for God's glory.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Open Doors USA reports that Christians in the minority in some parts of eastern Ethiopia face restrictions on receiving official aid resources during Covid-19 response. Also, locals have discriminated against Christians in employment and schooling. Pray for our brothers and sisters in various parts of the world facing mistreatment.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Alejandra Koch and family at the death of her father this week, for Bill and Kathy, Ava and Alexis Breuer at the death of their daughter/mother, Erica, this week and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Sarah Gurley, Marzella Harrison, Grace Taylor, Wendy Ott, Chelsea Ellis, Paulette Schierer, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Karen Szymanski, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Ruby Schierer Williams, Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, The Marsh Family, Jon Retz, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor's cousin), Bob Brown, Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, Bethie Liddick, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Eila Shea, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter; for all effected by the coronavirus—grieving, ill, healthcare professionals, the workforce at risk and leaders; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government; for the Birdsall Community Church (Pastor Paul Sherman).

Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

Can our church thrive during a pandemic?



Our church doors have been shuttered since mid-March in order to abide by the stay-at-home order and social distancing guidelines. Maintaining the church body’s sense of kinship without in-person gatherings is challenging.

We have pivoted to a digital strategy to keep connected. Streaming Sunday services and musical worship services on the church website and Facebook Live has been a great tool and enabled the ministry to continue. We now rely on social media and video conferencing apps to come

together and accomplish the work of our church.

While the pews are empty and we yearn to be together physically again, we find in this unprecedented uncertain time that our church, we might dare to say, is not just surviving but thriving.

Your continued support has enabled us to purchase some better cameras, microphones, and a digital sound board to improve the quality of our streaming broadcasts. A section of the balcony has been retrofitted to make space for the new equipment and the volunteers needed to operate it.

A crew of church staff and volunteers (a.k.a. the “balcony bandits”) work together to plan and produce a comprehensive worship service which is live streamed through various means. In addition to the Sunday worship service, every Thursday a variety of musical programs are produced – hymn sings, organ concerts, “Klassic Klips” and more are streamed.

Who watches these broadcasts? It’s hard to say exactly, but last year our in-person attendance during May, June and July averaged 414. This year’s on-line viewership of our Sunday morning service during that same period is twice that number. And the Thursday hymn sing broadcasts have even greater viewership.

God has blessed your faithful support over the past several months. Your generosity has enabled us to acquire the necessary tools for us to continue ministering to our congregation and beyond. Thank you!