



## People Who Pray

*This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being....*

Genesis 2:4-7

Isn't it interesting that when God has finished creating, creation isn't fully operating? Everything is functioning as it's supposed to, but God needs someone to tend what he has made, so he creates a human.

This human is created very differently from the rest of creation—not because the rest of creation is insignificant, but because creation needs a steward. So, God creates the human with his hands rather than his speech. And God breathes life into the human rather than just setting it free to produce. Because the breath of God is in the human, there is a bond between God and the human that is far more intimate than the bond between God and the rest of creation. Again, not because the rest of creation is unimportant or insignificant, but because the human's relationship with God is just a little different from the rest of creation.

In the Passion translation, there is footnote on this passage: *The Mishnah (a collection of rabbinical teachings) uses a synonym for **nephesh** (soul). The word is **mav'eh**, derived from the root **ba'ah**, a verb that means "to ask," "to seek," or "to request—as in prayer." In other words, the Talmud defines human beings as "the creatures that pray." Furthermore, the Talmud teaches that even **nephesh**, the life sustaining soul, is synonymous with prayer. A nuanced translation could be "and the human being was manifested as a praying being (one who could commune with God)."*

This is why we have invested so much time and attention to prayer, particularly our yearly prayer vigil. This year, as with everything, our prayer vigil is going to be different. But we are excited about it, nonetheless.



This year's prayer event will be an outdoor prayer garden. The prayer garden will have four places for meditation and prayer. Since we will be outdoors, we are setting up prayer times for 30 minutes rather than 60 minutes. If you would like 60 minutes, just sign up for two times. We are also operating from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. And the prayer vigil will be one week (Sunday, October 18 – Sunday, October 25). More details will be coming, but the prayer times are now available for you to begin making reservations.

I am excited about this opportunity for us to engage in prayer in a different way. I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to draw closer to Christ and in drawing closer to Christ, will be reminded that you are his beloved child.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Wes*



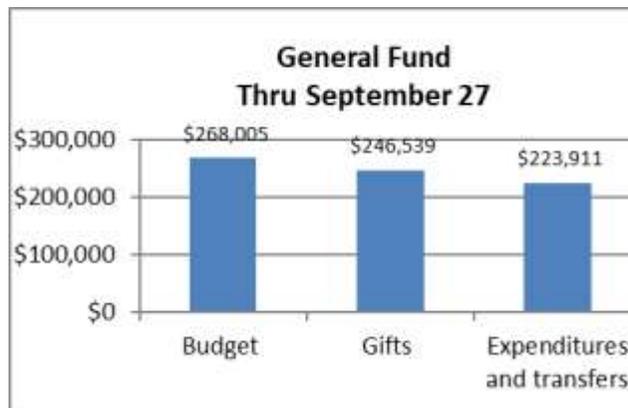
# Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 8:7, “Just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

As we seek to live a life of generosity, we may discover that the Lord will draw a new line in the sand for each of us to cross over in order to live even more generously and to experience Him more fully. Every step of the way, God calls us to consider the resources He has placed in our hands. Then, He invites us to release them for His work and to trust Him to be our provider. At each invitation, we may find ourselves fearful to let go wanting to hold on to what we have instead of trusting God with our needs. As our faith and trust in God increases, God will begin to show himself as our provider in unique and creative ways.

We have all seen examples of people and institutions who honor God in their giving and as a result, experience God’s blessings in a variety of ways. Since the Bible clearly teaches that God owns EVERYTHING, He can be very creative in how He goes about providing for our needs.

Thank you for investing your time, talent and treasure that we might be the church God intends us to be. If you have any questions about the financial plan or church finances, please don’t hesitate to contact one of the church Elders, Treasurer David Mercer or Pastor Wes.



“Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.” 2 Cor. 9:11 NLT



We invite you to come to the church parking lot on Saturday, October 31, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to receive a bag filled with treats. The Pastoral Staff will be dressed-up to give out the treat bags and to greet you as you drive through the parking lot. Children and youth are invited to dress-up as well or to decorate your vehicle.

Donations for the Harvest Treat Bag Drive-Through are needed. Donations of candy, individual, pre-packaged pretzels, goldfish crackers, potato chips and gummy fruit snack are great appreciated for filling the treat bags for the Harvest Drive-Through on October 31. Please drop your donation off in the container inside the door at the church office or you make bring them on Sunday mornings. Thank you.



Would you like to be up-to-date on what is happening in the lives of the missionaries we support? A new feature of HWC Highlights will be one or two excerpts each month from missionary letters. If you would like monthly contact with all the missionaries we have received letters from, please sign up for the Missionary Mailbag by sending me your email address. ([donna.dean.zoller@gmail.com](mailto:donna.dean.zoller@gmail.com))

Barbara and Joel Trudell (South Africa)

-Writing about her Cameroonian friend, Nicole: "I have seen Nicole's faith grow in some very hard times over these last few years, and sometimes I am ashamed at the ease of my life in comparison. I think about the things we call 'challenges' --like being locked down at home, being away from family, utilities shortages, not being able to visit friends in this COVID environment. . .Then I remember Nicole and the thousands like her in the world, who live with a level of physical and economic uncertainty that I can't even imagine. But the Lord has His hand on her, and on her family, and He isn't letting go."

## MAKING SMALL GROUPS HAPPEN!



We are offering everyone a Bible Study guide alongside Pastor Wes's Joy in the Journey sermon series. Either alone or better yet, with some others, share a study of the Word and discussion each week to help us apply God's truth to our daily lives. Each week's study guide is available on the website homepage by noon.

### SEPTEMBER 6—NOVEMBER 22

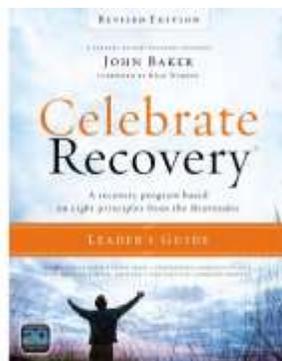
[Intro to studying Joy in the Journey](#)

[Study Guide #1- You Want Me to Go Where?](#)

[Study Guide #2- I Can Make It!](#)

[Study Guide #3- That's Just a Suggestion, Right?](#)

[Study Guide #4- I Don't Need to Stop](#)



**CR Resumes October 1 in the Community Room  
7-8 PM**

**Week 1—Lesson 1**

**Week 2—Small Group Meeting**

**Week 3—Testimony**

**Week 4—Small Group Meeting**

**Everyone is welcome.**



11 weeks to go and we are 199 Operation Christmas Child boxes away from our church goal of 200 online gifts. So far, we have 0/50 boxes taken for home packing for a total of 1/250 completed. Your loving contribution really matters! Says a girl from Buffalo who grew up in a refugee camp, "We always looked forward to those shoeboxes 'cause that was the only present we would receive for Christmas because our families

couldn't afford one." Start blessing lives now by going to:

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/goal/view/87ed7f7d-7103-4865-8290-12f3bbd99fbb>

Using this link will help our church reach the 200 box goal. We can do it!

## A BIG THANK YOU!

...to everyone who has blessed our HWC Kids with a children's sermon over the spring/summer months! We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way and have heard so many positive comments about the messages you have presented in such creative ways.

We are continuing to do children's sermons during the streamed service this fall semester while our children are not meeting in person. If you would be interested in doing a children's sermon, please contact Emily ([emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org)).

## WELCOME BACK to the LIBRARY!

Come to the church library to get books and videos. Make an appointment by calling the church office--567-2264. Masks must be worn. Bring any library books you may have at home. Use the hand sanitizer at the library door, then browse all you want to find other books to enjoy.

If you have books to return, just put them in the return slot as usual. If you have books to return but don't want to come in to the library at that time, we have a bin outside under the CE building overhang on the north side of the church. Just put your books in there and we will take care of them. Any books you return will be held for 4 days before being processed and put back on the shelves.



# Wellspring Ministries



## Wellspring's well is overflowing!

If you can hold off on bringing large amounts of anything, Please do so this month. Our transporters and sorters are taxed, and our rooms are full. We DO need people to come visit and TAKE what they can use.

As of the end of September we return to these hours of operation: Monday and Wednesday - 10:00 am to 1:30pm, with the sit-down meal at noon. No coffee bar as yet, and no open dining room until 11:45.

We are not sure what the future months will look like, but please go to our Facebook page under "Wellspring Ministries of Allegany County" for up to date information. Please spread the word. (It is possible to drop things off as early as 9:30am. We are so grateful for several men who greet the car drivers, and help carry items - especially Bill Doezema from our church family.)

Note: The Beardsley porch is no longer a drop-off place.

We do need prayer for wisdom and direction from God. It is HIS place. Thank you most of all for your prayers.

Beth Beardsley (for the Bd.)

"The rich and poor meet together;  
the Lord is maker of them all."  
Proverbs 22:2,3

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

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

**CONNECTING**  
GET HELP!  
Our church family stands ready to help

**GIVE HELP!**  
Please put me on the helper list!

**Let's talk**  
Let's Talk  
Sometimes you just want to talk to someone. We would love to talk and pray with you.

➔ [Click HERE](#) or call 585-567-2264

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## **HOUGHTON FOOD DRIVE-THRU October 5**

NOTE: 3:30-5:30pm

Allegheny Co. Food Distribution line will take place beginning in the church parking lot to get three cartons of food, one each of dairy, fresh produce, and meat.

Call 585-209-0052 to register after 9/29.



# **Houghton College Blood Drive**

Houghton Wesleyan Church - Community Room - 9712 NY-19

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

**9:30am – 4:00pm**

Register at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Contact information: Mary Shaker, [mary.shaker23@houghton.edu](mailto:mary.shaker23@houghton.edu)

Hosted by Houghton College Pre-Health Professions Club

If you are not receiving an email or text with information related to my weekly letter and weekly video, please contact the church office ([office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org) or 585-567-2264).



\* 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



## Vintage Finds - Treasured Memories

located at 41 Main Street in Belfast is open again.

- Our current hours are Thursday and Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 11-5.
- Our store inventory can be viewed along with announcements and updated hours on Facebook or Google Business by searching Vintage Finds Treasured Memories.
- Curb side pickup available.
- 585-365-1901



All our worship services are live streamed through the church website, through streaming devices (Apple TV, Roku, etc.) and on Facebook. Services are also archived for later viewing.

# SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

**October 4** (10:00 a.m. Indoors / 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m. *I Never Paid Attention to That* (Leviticus 23)  
p.m. Small Groups

**October 11** (10:00 a.m. Indoors / 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m. *Is It That Important?* (Mark 10)  
p.m. Small Groups

**October 18** (10:00 a.m. Indoors / 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m. *What a Nuisance!* (Romans 8)  
p.m. Small Groups

**October 25** (10:00 a.m. Indoors / 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m. *I Can Handle It* (John 5)  
p.m. Small Groups



KOINONIA meets in the church sanctuary from 7-8 on Sunday evenings. Spaced seating is available by reservation and we will be streaming it to the church website and on Facebook.

# CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor  
567-2024 [wesoden@hwchurch.org](mailto:wesoden@hwchurch.org)

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor  
307-9950 [joncole@hwchurch.org](mailto:joncole@hwchurch.org)

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor  
567-2024 [cindyoden@hwchurch.org](mailto:cindyoden@hwchurch.org)

Paul Shea Assistant Pastor  
567-4597 [paulshea@hwchurch.org](mailto:paulshea@hwchurch.org)

Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director  
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Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry  
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Ann McNeill, Children's Ministry  
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Andrew Silbert, Director of College Ministries  
716-450-9179 [andrewsilbert@hwchurch.org](mailto:andrewsilbert@hwchurch.org)

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,  
567-2264 [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org)

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate  
Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 5  
Houghton NY 14744

Houghton Wesleyan Church  
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