

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 18, 2020
10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *Variations on "How Great Thou Art"* (Michael Burkhardt)

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 26: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children's Sermon: Emily Spateholts

Songs of Adoration: *Indescribable; God of Wonders; Creation Sings the Father's Song*

Prayer of Confession

O God, your being is love and all your works toward us are mercy. Forgive us when we stray from our confession of faith into thinking that you are like the gods of this world, who demand destructive sacrifices in exchange for your favor. Cleanse us from the injustice that goes hand in hand with idolatry. Illumine our minds with knowledge of who You are, acknowledging you as the Source, the Giver, whose attitude toward us is one abounding in unfailing generosity and steadfast love. In the name of Jesus Christ, who trusted you through death to new life, Amen.

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:18-25

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

Hymn of Preparation: *How Great Thou Art*

Sermon: **What a Nuisance!**
~ *Joy in the Journey Sermon Series* ~
Pastor Wes Oden

Song of Response: *Creation Sings the Father's Song*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Christopher Moeller

Music Ministry Team:

Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Kristen Sanasith, vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The goodness of God is evident in His wondrous gift of creation. At this time of year when the leaves are changing and the air is cooler, we rejoice in our creative God. On this day set aside for corporate worship, let us turn our full attention to Him and give thanks for every gift of His grace.

PRAYER VIGIL OPENING: Today at 4:30, we will be gathering in the church parking lot for a brief time of singing, scripture and prayer.

PRAYER VIGIL EVENT: This year's prayer event looks different from years past. We are creating A Place of Prayer outside of the church with stations, questions and benches to sit and encounter God. Prayer times are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in 30-

minute segments. The prayer event begins today at 5:00 p.m. and concludes next Sunday morning. You may sign up anytime on the church website or by contacting the church office (office@hwchurch.org or 567-2264).

KOINONIA MEETS IN THE SANCTUARY AT 7PM TONIGHT. Reservations are required; sign up here for 1 or 2 people or here for 3-to-5 people.

YOUTH GROUP DOES NOT MEET TODAY.

STEWARDSHIP: Budget Needed: \$299,534.62 Budget Received: \$280,234.25

CELEBRATE RECOVERY meets Thursday evening in the Community Room from 7 to 8 pm for a small group.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE: Families, friends, and community members are invited to a Service of Remembrance for the children in our Church family who left us too soon, from the unborn and just born to adult children. Please join us at the church on Thursday, October 22, 6:30 p.m. for a time of song, Scripture, and memorial as we honor our children and their families. All are welcome. This celebration of life and acknowledgment of loss and grief is a part of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Reservations for this event can be made on the church website or by calling the church office.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD comes in several forms this year! Giving by packing a physical box is the first. Pre-printed shoeboxes are now available under the community room foyer overhang. Second, is packing an online box. Last, is giving financial support for shipping or sponsorship of The Greatest Journey discipleship class through our church website link. Go to online giving and choose Operation Christmas Child.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we invite you to join us for streaming worship at 10:00 and outdoor worship at 11:15. Pastor Wes will preach about *The Nosy Sign* and our response, *I Can Handle It!* from John 5. Reservations are needed for both outdoor and indoor worship (including overflow streaming on the large screen in the gym), which may be done on the church website or by calling the church office (585-567-2264).

HARVEST TREAT BAG DRIVE-THROUGH INVITATION: Saturday, October 31, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You are invited to come to the church parking lot 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.

HARVEST TREAT BAG DRIVE-THROUGH DONATIONS: Donations of candy, individual, pre-packaged pretzels, goldfish crackers, and gummy fruit snacks are great appreciated for filling the treat bags for the Harvest Drive-Through. Please drop your donation off in the container inside the door at the church office or you make bring them on Sunday mornings.

MISSION MOMENT – It's our privilege to regularly support and pray for World Hope International in its diverse efforts to provide opportunity, dignity and hope. In Jahoo, Cambodia a sustainable ecotourism camp supports nature conservation and sustainable community development for the Bunong ethnic minority who are amongst the poorest in Cambodia.

(www.worldhope.org)

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Many Christian families have fled the wars of the last decade in the middle east and remain as refugees far from home. The Pandemic profoundly impacts them -- unemployment, inadequate healthcare, and even meager food supplies. Pray for Christian humanitarian groups, governments and others attempting to meet immediate needs as well as seek long term solutions and placements. These too are our neighbors and Jesus' "least of these."

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family of Dick Fero (Visitation: Tuesday, 11:00 am, church; Service: Tuesday, 11:30 am, church) and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Violet Bates, Betty Banker (Nancy Cole's mother), Calvin Schierer, Sarah Gurley, 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, including Beirut, Lebanon; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government and for upcoming election; for the logistics and safety of faculty, staff and students at all of our area public schools as well as Houghton College and Houghton Academy; for the Houghton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; for the Sojourners Mennonite Fellowship, Belfast (Pastor Connie Finney).

For more information about church activities, and to read Pastor Wes's weekly letter, visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.