

# Highlights



*I urge you,  
first of all,  
to pray for  
all people.*

*(1 Timothy 2:1)*

king's statue. They reply: *"O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."*

Followers of Jesus are called to live in the tension of refusing to demean governing authorities while at the same time remembering that our highest allegiance is Christ. It is imperative to remember that no government or leader of government has ever brought transformation as God intends. God has proven himself able to work through political leaders (Cyrus, Augustus), but only temporarily and only by his mandate, not theirs.

As with every president or anyone who has or will hold political office, Christ calls us to an attitude of humility toward them and their supporters and at the same time to be willing to speak the truth in love about the administration's decisions. We recognize that this tension is difficult in the hotbed of political disagreement and animosity. But we also know that our faith does not rest in any government or political leader, our faith rests in Christ alone.

One more admonition. Paul writes to Timothy: *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth (1 Tim. 2:1-4).*

Blessings,  
Pastor Wes

On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, Joseph R. Biden stood on a platform on the West Lawn of the U. S. Capitol building and took the Oath of Office becoming the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. Acknowledging the responses to the election, this event has been met with a wide range of emotions. Whatever we may feel, this is an opportunity to be reminded of what scripture says about God's people and political leaders.

Peter writes to the church: *For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed (1 Peter 2:13-14).* The apostle is highlighting an attitude that is an identifying characteristic of the response of God's people to leaders in government. This admonition is particularly surprising in the context of the Roman government that typically oppressed the Church.

In our culture that demands taking sides and declaring war against those with whom we disagree, the Gospel calls us to take a stand in such a way that respects and submits to those in authority over us—just like Jesus does. This tension means that we treat leaders, particularly leaders who are diametrically opposed to our perspective, with respect even as we hold these same leaders to a standard of peace, justice, compassion, and truth. Living in this tension will tax our faith, but God doesn't seem shy about taxing our faith because it forces us to rely that much more on his grace and wisdom.

Respect and support doesn't imply agreement, nor does it imply acquiescence. Daniel 3 tells the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who are threatened with death in a blazing furnace if they do not bow down and worship the

# STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

*“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15)*

Why is giving important?

Giving shows God is Lord of our lives. It demonstrates that we understand that everything we own and everything we have comes from God. So, when we give, we simply offer him a small portion of the abundance he has already given to us. Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God and comes from a heart of worship.

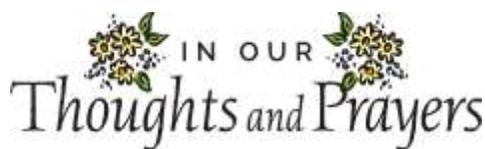
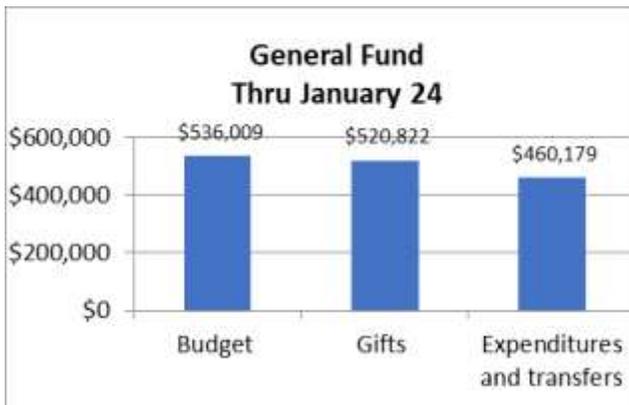
We are blessed when we give. God wants us to give because he knows we will be blessed when we give generously to him and to others. Giving is a paradoxical kingdom principle – it brings more blessing to the giver than to the recipient. The blessing is not necessarily material possessions, but the greater blessing of experiencing the greater gift of a deeper awareness of Christ’s presence in our lives.

At HWC, we focus on missions during the month of February. Did you know that nearly 20 percent of the overall annual budget expenditures goes directly towards missions? This includes funding for a variety of local and international ministries along with commitments to specific individuals, couples, and missionary families. That means that 20 cents of every dollar you contribute to the church supports mission work. One local example is the Daily Bread Initiative serving Fillmore Central School which has a school-age poverty rate of

31.8%. This program ensures that students have enough food over breaks (when free breakfasts and lunches are not available) by providing bags of snacks and easy meals for families in need.

Living generously begins in gratitude to God which radiates out to others. Just as he blesses us out of his loving kindness, we also bless. A generous heart will be rewarded by blessing others.

*“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*



Carol Castor and her family at the death of her mother Margaret Tuttle

Tim McGarvey and his family at the death of his mother

Ray Ott and his family at the death of his twin sister Barbara Johnston

John Roederer and his family at the death of his mother

Daryl Stevenson and family at the death of his sister, Marilyn VanNiel

Carol Stonemetz and her family at the death of her father Charles Stanley

Marge Watson and her family at the death of Leonard



## FEBRUARY MISSIONS CONVENTION

“Christ for Such a Time as This.”

Sundays 10 a.m. , February 7, 21

◇ Guest Spots – Kevin and Cindy Austin from Czech Republic

Sunday 10:00 a.m., February 14 – Dr. Myron Glick,  
Founder/Director of Jericho Road Ministries  
*HWC Global Missions Directory* presentation;  
Special Music and Children’s Sermon

Thursday, 6:30 p.m., February 18 – Mission Focus: Buffalo Outreach Panel  
– Streaming Video  
Steve and Ruth Strand, JRCHC/HC/WC-WNY; Barb Farrow,  
Grace Community Church;  
Yoshua Bashizi, Mission of Christ Church; Elijah Shamenda, Resur-  
gence City Church; Pierre Michel, HC/ Zion Quest Church.



*Dr. Myron Glick*



## **DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES!!**

In spite of limitations due to the pandemic there are prayer circles, Bible studies, on Zoom and other venues for men and women. If you wish more information or want to pass along invitations, please contact Pastor Paul Shea. Let us be creative and keep developing pockets of discipleship and accountability in the weeks ahead. (Hebrews 10:24-25.)

Also, be on the lookout for a Sunday adult breakout opportunity for live Zoom Group Bible Study soon to be announced. Thanks for growing in the Lord, by the Word and help of the Holy Spirit.

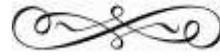
[paulshea@hwchurch.org](mailto:paulshea@hwchurch.org)



We continue to offer Kids Club on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. Kids will review the Sunday School lesson from the previous Sunday and enjoy time together to share what they have learned. contact [annmcneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmcneill@hwchurch.org) if your children ages 5 to 12 would like to participate or receive physical copies of the materials in the mail.

# CONGRATULATIONS

*Benjamin Caleb Towers was born on January 4th to Jason and Cristy. 10148 Ballard Rd. Fillmore. Brothers Cooper and Wesley are excited!*



**NUK KONGKAW & ANDREW ODEN**  
are getting married! Come celebrate them at a

**DRIVE  
THROUGH  
WEDDING  
SHOWER**

Saturday, February 27th  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Houghton Wesleyan Church Parking Lot

**PLEASE COME CELEBRATE  
FROM THE COMFORT OF  
YOUR CAR! DRIVE THROUGH  
TO SAY A QUICK HELLO, LEARN  
A BIT ABOUT THE FUTURE  
ODENS, AND ENJOY SOME  
TREATS TO GO.**

**NUK AND ANDREW ARE  
REGISTERED AT AMAZON,  
CRATE & BARREL AND TARGET.**

[theknot.com/us/nuk-kongkaw-and-andrew-oden-may-2021](https://www.theknot.com/us/nuk-kongkaw-and-andrew-oden-may-2021)

Questions?  
Call Betsy Webb at  
(585) 808-8312.



# A Program of Sacred Works by Johann Sebastian Bach *by Dr. Judy Congdon*



**February 4, 2021**

**Streaming begins at 6:30 p.m.**

*From the website and on Facebook*

## From the Library Shelves



On wintry days plan to find what there is for you in our church library. We have books for all ages, even the very young ones. There are story CDs, or books on CD, for adults and children and movies for the whole family to enjoy together. We have recently finished processing quite a number of new books and some DVDs. So come on in and see what you can find to enjoy!

Remember, you need to call the church office (585-567-2264) and make a reservation to come to the library. Or if you just need to drop books off, the Library bin is outside by the community room doors.



*To everyone that sent your prayers and concerns during my illness, Linda and I want to thank you, as once again Jesus has shown his mercy and love.*

*In Christ Our Lord,  
Paul and Linda Roth*

Dear Houghton Church Family,



On behalf of Royal Family Kids Camp, thank you for your support over the past 27 years. I am writing now to ask you to consider serving as a volunteer for our 27<sup>th</sup> camp on July 11-16, 2021.



First, here are a few words recently received via our Pen Pal program from one of our campers writing to her counselor of the past 4 years. The eleven-year-girl shared, *“I want you to color this picture because you have to start somewhere on God’s path and that is what I am wrighing about because I gave my life to the Lord on 1/11/21 and I feel great and I should have trust in God a long time ago but I did not have that teacher to teach me about God. I had nothing and that is proof that God has a plain for everyone and that all you have to do is belevie in him and he will do the rest of all the things in your life.” Upon finishing her letter, she writes, “PS: I know you are an Christian and me to.”*

In Mark 10:14, Christ said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Houghton RFKC is one of more than 240 chapters throughout the US and in more than 30 countries which seeks to show “the least of these” the Love of Christ by providing them with one week of safe, positive and joy-filled memories. As this little girl reminds us, God has a plan, and he uses various people and experiences to lead His children to Him. RFKC plays a role in this work of the Spirit by providing one week of swimming, Bible stories, water balloon battles, drama and music, fishing, boat rides, woodworking, a tea party, an Every Kids’ Birthday party, a carnival and petting zoo, tons of great food (from Camp Asbury, Perry, NY) and lots of time with caring and safe adults (a 2:1 ratio of counselor to campers).

There is so much packed into this one camper’s letter. She says, *“I had nothing.”* This is the best way to describe the circumstances of the children we serve. Most of the 52 children at Houghton RFKC each summer are referred to us by the Allegany County Department of Social Services. They are more likely than other children to have experienced four or more ACE’s (Adverse Childhood Experiences) including neglect and abuse of all forms; parental substance abuse, mental illness and/or incarceration; and significant poverty. Many have been removed by the courts at some point and been placed with foster parents or extended family as guardians. According to the NYS Kids Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC), the following 2019 statistics can help us understand the needs of our Allegany County RFKC campers:

- Children and Youth living in poverty (A.C. rate is 26.8% compared to 18.2% in NYS);
- Child abuse/maltreatment (A.C. rate is 28.3% compared to 16.8% for NYS);
- Admission to foster care (A.C. rate is 3.2% compared to 1.5% for NYS).

RFKC need adult volunteers (ages 18 – 118) to serve as individual counselors (spending lots of quality time with two campers); roving counselors (getting to know lots of the campers), a music coordinator (leads the whole group in super-fun camp songs); dramatists (are you a “ham”?). **We are especially in need of male volunteers, and welcome Houghton College students as well as community members of all ages.** The following are just some of the people that could tell you more about volunteering: Doug and Phyllis Gaerte, John and Barb VanWicklin, Dan and Kathy Moore, Kathy Reitnour, Doug and Judi Mayhle, Gudy and Daryl Stevenson, Rebecca Rowley, Kristen Sanasith, MaryJo and Bec Cronk, Joshua Derck, Ben McGraner, Shannon and Jarod Reed, Ann and Jillian McNeill, Jeff Babbitt, Shelley Noyes, Ray Ott, Jessica Romance, Laurie Dashnau and James and Darice Mullen.



The process for volunteering is to 1) prior to February 14<sup>th</sup>, complete and send an application and 3 reference forms to [houghton.rfkc@gmail.com](mailto:houghton.rfkc@gmail.com) or to Nancy Murphy Houghton College intra-campus mail; 2) participate in a 20-minute interview in March; and 3) undergo a criminal background check.

**Royal Family changes lives! See what showing Christ’s Love to a child can accomplish!**

# Wellspring Ministries

Wellspring Ministries continues to be open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon. Donations may be dropped off as early as 9:30 am. No noon meal is being served at this time. Thank you for generous donations, both material and financial. We have been able to stay well afloat.



For prayer:

Please pray with us as we wait on the Lord to know how best to operate in these uncertain months. As we ponder what can come out of 2020, we desire to cooperate with the Spirit of God for His purposes as they unfold. We pray that we see each one who comes as 'made by God', stamped with His image, and the common goods we handle as sacred trusts. As our CEO reminds us weekly, "This place is not ours, but His."

Gratefully, Beth Beardsley (for the board)

Proverbs 22:9 - "Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed..."

Beginning May 1 a two-story apartment within *The Inn at Houghton Creek* is available for rent. If you're interested please contact [innkeeper@innathoughtoncreek.com](mailto:innkeeper@innathoughtoncreek.com) or call/text 585-307-7573.



## The Highlanders Shop Hours

\*Open to the public

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

January 25<sup>th</sup> – January 30<sup>th</sup>

Monday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: noon – 4:00 p.m.

## The Highlanders Printing Press Hours

January 18<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – noon

\*pick-up before store hours by arrangement

Heléna Oden

The Highlanders Shop Director

One Willard Avenue | Houghton, NY 14744

Phone: 585.567.9619 | Fax: 585.567.9225 |

[www.houghton.edu/store](http://www.houghton.edu/store)

## Food Distribution

Wednesday, February 24

in the church parking lot

Mobile Distribution

Register by calling 585-209-0052  
starting 2/16

Cuba Cultural Center will return your  
call with an appointment time.





### **Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association Meeting**

The Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association will hold a Zoom meeting on January 28 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of:

- electing a couple new members for the Association Board (community members, whether they own a cemetery plot or not, are eligible to vote)
- giving an update on plans for a cemetery project scheduled for Spring 2021;
- advising the community that the Association is in process of making a recommendation to the IRS that will allow individuals to contribute and claim a deduction on their Federal tax return; and
- to answer questions from meeting participants.

Should you wish to participate in this meeting, contact Bob Danner at [robert.danner@houghton.edu](mailto:robert.danner@houghton.edu). You will receive a return email with instructions for joining the meeting.

**Stone Soup Dinner Fundraiser for Valley Preschool: Friday,** this Friday, January 29, 2021, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. This drive through event raises funds for VPS scholarships. If you are interested in reserving your meal, contact Casda Danner ([casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org)) or [use the order form.](#))



## **Sundays in February**

- February 7** (10:00am Streaming)  
a.m. Pastor Cindy Oden  
*Living in the Wilderness* (Deuteronomy 8:2)
- February 14** (10:00am Streaming)  
a.m. Dr. Myron Glick (Missions Convention)
- February 21** (10:00am Streaming)  
a.m. *I Am He* (John 18: 5)
- February 28** (10:00am Streaming)  
a.m. *I Have Not Lost One* (John 18: 9)



**FEBRUARY 17, 6:30 p.m.** we will rebroadcast last year's Ash Wednesday Service. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. During this service, we will begin to contemplate the passion of Christ through scripture and song.

## **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 [cindvoden@hwchurch.org](mailto:cindvoden@hwchurch.org)
  - Paul Shea, Assistant Pastor**  
567-4597 [paulshea@hwchurch.org](mailto:paulshea@hwchurch.org)
  - Andrew Silbert, Director of College Ministries**  
716-450-9179 [andrewsilbert@hwchurch.org](mailto:andrewsilbert@hwchurch.org)
  - Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director**  
[amandacox@hwchurch.org](mailto:amandacox@hwchurch.org)
  - Emily Spateholts, Director of Children's Ministries**  
808-8925 [emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org)
  - Ann McNeill, Director of Children's Ministries**  
716-801-3425 [annmcneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmcneill@hwchurch.org)
- Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,**  
567-2264 [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org)