

Highlights

The Cross Infiltrates Our Lives

As we continue through the season of Lent, we are reminded that there is something about the cross that forces us to change our mindset about everything. There is something about the cross that calls us to see our decisions differently than we would otherwise, to use our money differently than we would otherwise, to engage in our relationships differently than we would otherwise, to live our lives differently than we would otherwise. To be a follower of Jesus is to think and live in a way that is driven by the cross.

The disciples find this difficult to understand. They continue to operate in the way they always have—arguing about which one is the greatest, fighting for position, viewing the poor and needy as intrusions, thinking that overthrowing the Roman occupiers as the ultimate act of the kingdom. And Jesus keeps challenging their way of thinking.

After they declare that he is the Messiah, Jesus begins explaining to them what this means—that to be the Messiah, he will suffer at the hands of those in power and that he will eventually give up his life (Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 21). They find these words difficult and offensive. In fact, Peter chastises Jesus: *Don't talk like that. None of this is going to happen to you.* Jesus rebukes Peter: *Get behind me, Satan. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.*

And then Jesus adds: *If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.* Following Jesus leads to a cross.

When we begin to understand this, everything Jesus says and does falls into place, including the final hours of his life. From Jesus's encounter in the Garden of Gethsemane to his interrogation with Pilate, every word from Jesus's mouth is rooted in the cross.

I find this calling disconcerting. I understand it with my mind, but it's much more difficult to grasp with my heart and even more challenging to the way I live. I suspect that you might understand this struggle, too.

During this season of Lent, my prayer is that we will gain a clearer vision of the cross and even more of the One who willingly allows himself to be put on that cross. And that in this vision we will experience a deeper level of trust for God who loves us.

*Blessings,
Pastor Wes*



*For the message of the
cross is foolishness
to those who are
perishing,
but to us who are
being saved
it is the power of God.*

(1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV)

STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

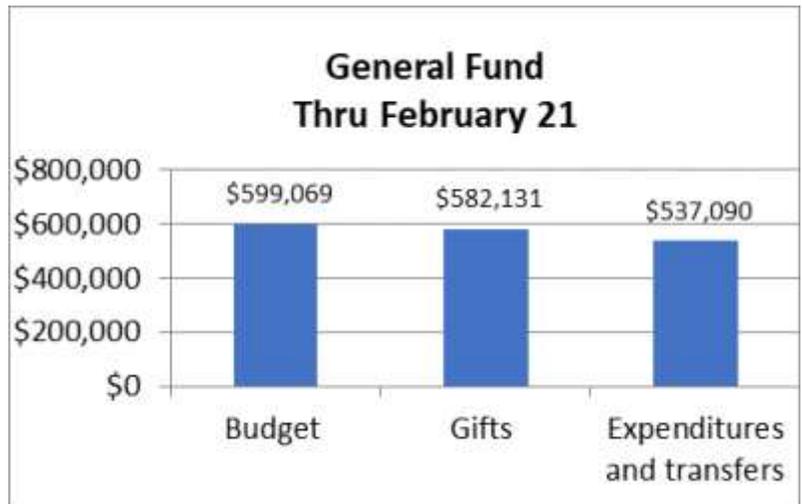
“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

February is known as the month of love, which is now behind us. At this point your petals may have fallen and you’ve eaten way too many candies but the most significant thing to remember is that love still continues. Each month provides its own opportunity to love. We sure could use a lot more love in our world right now!

There is no doubt that the last 12 months have been very difficult for many. Throughout this month, we are reminded of the first commandment. In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And a second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Love for our neighbor is not only an integral part of great discipleship, but for great stewardship. As the Holy Spirit continues to help us have a deeper and more genuine love for those around us, He also is at work in our hearts to be better stewards of every blessing He provides. Whether it be through our finances, time, relationships, or His creation to name just a few. How would our Father want you to love those around you right now?

Ask the Lord to show you how to love those around you in a deeper and more meaningful way. Pray for God to teach you what it really means to love your neighbor. Ask Him to empower you with the strength you need to obey and live out love in the way that our Heavenly Father desires you to. Be intentional and creative in the ways you can show the Love of Christ and see how it can slowly heal our world.



The Church welcomes your Easter lilies for Easter Sunday, April 4th. We have purchased a number of lilies which you may purchase for \$15.00 each or you may bring your own lily to drop off at the church office by Good Friday, April 2. If you would like to purchase one or more lilies, you may use the online giving option, mail a check to the church office (indicate Easter lilies), or drop off payment at the church office. If you wish to purchase a lily in memory or in honor of a loved one, please email (pattystalker@hwchurch.org) or call Patty (567-2264) with your information by Monday, March 30th.

Thank you!



DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES!!

Are you ready to be a pioneer and part of something new?

PILOT SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ZOOM DISCUSSIONS GROUPS

STARTING MARCH 7th 9:00 a.m. One hour each Sunday. (except Easter Sunday)

Featuring a variety of speakers, topics, Bible Studies with one GOAL: Growth in Christ!

HOW IT WORKS: YOU REQUEST A ZOOM LINK FOR SPECIFIC WEEKS, or FOR ALL WEEKS. EMAIL paulshea@hwchurch.org to receive the link weekly.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- March 7 – Mission Guest, Stacia from Eastern Europe
- March 14 – Growing in Christ during a Pandemic, Testimonies Paul Shea and others
- March 21 – Bible Study, TBD, Dr. Paul Young
- March 28 – Bible Study, I Corinthians, Dr. Ken Schenk

April 11 – Topic TBD, Dr. Don Little

Future, we will have topics for parents, women leaders, variety of issues. Look for more info in Pastor's Weekly Letter and on the church web page.

BE PART OF THE ADVENTURE!



Kids' Club is learning how dearly Jesus cares for us and teaches us. If your children would like to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 or Fridays at 3:30, contact

annmcneill@hwchurch.org.

Come "GROW" with Kids' Club Virtual.



CHRIST FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

◇ A thanks to everyone who participated, and those who helped make our Missions Emphasis in February a success. We hope you are using the GLOBAL MISSION PARTNER DIRECTORY in your home.

◇ Thanks to those who brought this to completion. And we are grateful for our guest speakers: Dr. Glick, the Strands, and Pastors Beshizi, Farrow, and Shamenda from Buffalo. Also thanks to the Austins for

speaking to us from the Czech Republic. You will be hearing from our workers on a monthly basis.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW MEMBERS

Ken Schenck, Hannah Lindo, Judy Hopkins and Luke and Hannah Ogden.



Wellspring Ministries

"Franny" was not at Wellspring on Friday. She had perished in the night - her mobile home burned to the ground at the edge of Angelica. Suddenly. We miss her. There was rarely a time that she did not come to Wellspring when open. She loved Ken Stanton's devotions, enjoyed the comfy chair in the linen room, and chatted with everyone, giving us the privilege of knowing her. It is our prayer that she is 'home safe' in His presence... and perhaps God used Wellspring Ministries to give her that peace. That is why we exist - "...to share the gospel of Jesus with the people of Allegany County (and beyond)..."



Pleas pray that our mission remains our priority.

News:

- 1- Wed. March 3 we plan to again serve a noon meal, with safe distancing and appropriate masking.
- 2- Water pump was replaced and the system cleaned.
- 3- First floor carpeting was professionally cleaned.
- 4- It looks like a grant may become a reality this spring that we can use to improve the facility.
- 5- Hrs. of operation: Wed. and Friday - 10:00 to 1:15, with the noon meal at 11:55. All are welcome.
- 6- Your faithful giving is a source of joy and strength to us - always.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board.)

"I tell you the truth, they who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."

John 5:24 NLT

Thank you for the many kind words, cards and prayers after my father's recent death. I am comforted in knowing that he is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Carol Stonemetz

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.



LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATION

MARCH 4 AT 6:30 P.M.

Dr. Judy Bongdon

STREAMED



Rory Elise Taylor was born February 22, 2021 to parents Meghan and AC and siblings Koen and Macey.



I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during my recent illness and hospital stays. Also a special thanks to our wonderful pastors and the many people who came to sit with me while my children were working. God has blessed me with many special friends.

*Love in Christ.
Grace Taylor*

*You're invited to a drive-through
shower for*

*Bjorn Webb &
Madeline Klosko*

Saturday, March 27 from 2-4pm

*Houghton Wesleyan Church
parking lot*



Come help us shower the special couple from the comfort of your car! Drive through to meet and greet Bjorn & his bride-to-be, Madeline. Enjoy some treats to go!

Bjorn & Madeline are registered at Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Wayfair. Please bring a copy of your favorite recipe! When they make it, they'll think of you.

Questions? Cindy Oden [585-567-2024](tel:585-567-2024) Darice Mullen [716-378-1738](tel:716-378-1738) Denise Campbell [585-610-3098](tel:585-610-3098)



Valley Preschool Stone Soup Update

Our Stone Soup Dinner went very well! We served about 32 households who took home (or to neighbors) 68 containers of soup. There were 17 orders made with the request that we use their order as a freezer meal for the church freezer. The leftover soup also went toward this, and much of it has already been distributed. In all we filled 99 to-go containers, holding a total of about 18 gallons of soup. At this writing \$1,780 had been raised for our Stone Soup Fund and I know there was at least one more donation made. Our expenses were only about \$155, so even if that isn't accounted for yet we did phenomenally well. I want to be certain to publicly thank Susie Roorbach and her mom, Amy Brautigam, for baking all of the bread, Joy Mansfield, my assistant teacher, for working with me on soup prep and doing clean-up, and Mindie Elwell for her "rapid fire" filling of soup containers. An additional plus was an article about our event in the February 3-9, 2021 *Cuba Patriot* which was nice publicity for Valley Preschool. Thank-you so much to all who contributed to this fund raiser so we can keep our program affordable for the families of Valley Preschool!

* * * * * GRANDPARENTS * * * * *

Rich and Janet Stegen and Uncle Daniel are delighted to announce the birth of Anya Marie Stegen on January 11, 2021 to Shane and Jenna (110 Holloway Rd, Rochester, NY 14610).

 *Jeanne Stewart and her family at the recent death of her mother.*



SOCCER CAMP



BASKETBALL CAMP



VOLLEYBALL CAMP



TENNIS CAMP

Houghton College Summer Camps

<https://houghtonsummercamps.com/>



EQUESTRIAN CAMP



Is Alzheimer's disease or dementia hereditary?

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Learn the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources.

FREE online program:

Understanding Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

Wednesday, March 10 - 3:00pm

Info: 1-800-272-3900

alzheimer's  association®

Questions? Katie Keith-Badeau at kbadeau@alz.org



POSITION AVAILABLE
COMMUNICATION/RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT (PT)

Houghton Academy is seeking a highly motivated and uniquely qualified individual to support its CFO/COO/Boarding Director as he/she carries out a broad range of responsibilities including institutional communications, international student recruitment, admissions, marketing/PR, personnel recruitment and development. A set work schedule for the 15-25 hours/week (offsite) is rarely needed but flexibility and frequent accessibility is highly valued. Compensation is hourly plus benefits, negotiable based on abilities and performance.

Available immediately.

Contact: Jon Keith, CFO/COO/Boarding Director,
Email: jon.keith@houghton.academy for a full job description.

Upcoming Food Distributions Pre-Registration Required

March 3: Cuba
March 17: Houghton
March 31: Cuba
April 7: Belfast
April 14: Houghton
April 28: Cuba

To register call 585-209-0052 and leave a message. We will return your call with an appointment time.



Sundays in March CHURCH STAFF

March 7 (10:00 a.m. streamed/11:15 a.m. outdoors)
a.m. *When It's Time to Defend* (John 18:1-14)
p.m. Small Groups

March 14 (10:00 a.m. streamed/11:15 a.m. outdoors)
a.m. *The Un-hiddenness of Jesus* (John 18:20)
p.m. Small Groups

March 21 (10:00 a.m. streamed/11:15 a.m. outdoors)
a.m. *The Source of the Kingdom* (John 18:36)
p.m. Small Groups

March 28 (10:00 a.m. streamed/11:15 a.m. outdoors)
a.m. *The Reality of Truth* (John 18:37)
p.m. Small Groups

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor

567-2024 wesoden@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor

307-9950 joncole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor

567-2024 cindyoden@hwchurch.org

Paul Shea, Assistant Pastor

567-4597 paulshea@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director

amandacox@hwchurch.org

Emily Spateholts, Director of Children's Ministries

808-8925 emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

Ann McNeill, Director of Children's Ministries

716-801-3425 annmcneill@hwchurch.org

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,

567-2264 office@hwchurch.org



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
begins Sunday, March 14.
Please turn your clocks
ahead one hour.