



Twenty-Six Easters

Cindy and I and our entire family were touched by the kind words of affirmation in the March 21 worship service celebrating our twenty-five years serving here in Houghton with you. It seems difficult to believe that twenty-five years ago this past March 13, our family of four pulled into Houghton and began our lives and our ministry here. We came excited and with a certain amount of fear and trembling. I suspect you might have felt some fear and trembling, too! Who are they? What will their ministry be like? How will we connect with them?

As I reflected on these past twenty-five years, my mind turned to our Easter celebrations. Our family often remarks at how much we love Easter at the Houghton Church.

Until the pandemic, Easter was a day of witnessing baptisms, of fellowship around breakfast tables, of worship that culminated in Widor's *Toccatto from Symphony No. 3*. Year after year, we have celebrated the resurrection of our Lord together...and it has been glorious.

The pandemic changed our Easter celebration. Last year we were completely virtual. This year some will be present in the sanctuary and some will be outside in the parking lot and many will still be engaging through streaming. We will be together, but we will not be experiencing the full Easter celebration.

I am saddened by this. In fact, deeply saddened by this. I want us to be together. I want us to be able to baptize and eat and sing without any restrictions. I am hopeful that this will happen sooner than later. But in the midst of my lament, I was struck by the words of the Apostle Paul as he turns his attention to the resurrection: *Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it.* And what is the Good News that hasn't changed? Jesus Christ, who was dead and buried, is risen!

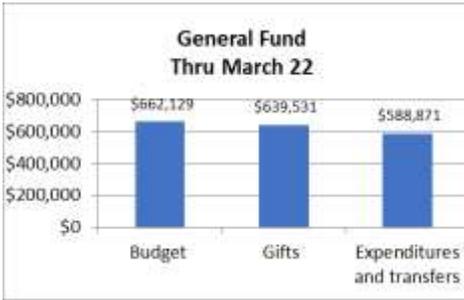
This good news is true when we are together and when we aren't. This good news is every bit as true when we can baptize and eat as when we can't. This good news is true when we are declaring our joyful worship in one space and when we are declaring our joyful worship in spaces all over the world.

I realize that these continue to be difficult times. We are making progress. We are seeing the light. We are moving closer to reengaging our church experiences as we yearn to do. But whatever the circumstances, we cling joyfully to this truth: *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!* May we live in this hope today and every day.

Because of Jesus lives,
Pastor Wes

*Let me now remind you,
dear brothers and
sisters, of the Good
News I preached to you
before. You welcomed it
then, and you still stand
firm in it. ... I passed on
to you what was most
important and what had
also been passed on to
me. Christ died for our
sins, just as the
Scriptures said. He was
buried, and he was
raised from the dead on
the third day, just as the
Scriptures said.*

(1 Corinthians 15: 3-4)



STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*

"But since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you --see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8: 7

The apostle Paul is saying that just as we excel at love, fellowship, and faith, we must also excel in the grace of giving. It is an important part of our discipleship and growth as a follower of Christ. We cannot be satisfied without the grace of giving.

The Lord wants us to be preoccupied with Him and not material things. It's very tempting and sometimes even easy for us to get focused on tight budgets, losing a job or even spending on things we don't need. These are absolutely challenging times for many, but we cannot forget that God has promised that if we seek Him and His righteousness first, He will provide what we need to live. Matthew 6:33 says, *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

As we are obedient to the Lord and live out the truth of Isaiah 26:3 which states, *"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you," we are secure and confident that the Father will do what he promises. Our peace is given, present and real because the Lord is trustworthy to keep all of his promises.*

As we grow in our understanding of God, there is greater acceptance of the role as a steward of what God has granted us instead of continuing to strive to be king or queen over our own little empires. As a Christian, may the Father continually remind us to see our financial decisions in terms of the spiritual ramifications and not just the temporal ones only. As we continue to grow more like Christ, may our interests increasingly focus on God's Kingdom above all else.

What has God said to you lately about giving to His work? Are you seeking first his kingdom? Remain steadfast and trust the Father. He will never disappoint.

Journey to the Cross

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room

On Good Friday, April 2, we are hosting a Journey to the Cross prayer event that will be available for you to come and go at your leisure. Various destinations will help you experience the passion of Christ. Children are welcome, though adult supervision might make the experience most meaningful for younger children.



O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

An Organ Meditation for Good Friday

Good Friday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m.
STREAMED & IN PERSON



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 Tuesday, March 30th. Thank you!



SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM!

“SMZ” - 9:00-9:50 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Join a growing number who enjoy good Bible study, discussion and Kingdom news from near and far.

APRIL SCHEDULE:

April 4 - Easter, No SMZ

April 11 - Dr. Don Little, “Grass roots Discipleship.”

April 18 - Jon Keith, “Houghton Academy today and tomorrow.”

April 25 - Dr. Sarah Derck - bible Study

Sign up - for a secure Zoom Link to join on your computer, email Pastor Paul or contact the church office. Paulshea@hwchurch.org



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 annmneill@hwchurch.org.
Come "GROW" with Kids' Club Virtual.

Easter is coming and so is our new April Sunday School series: "Rise Up!" Here's what GROW has to say about what's coming: "Grab your hiking boots and pitch a tent. It's time to summit through the story of Jesus—who rose from death and gave us everything we need for our journey. This month, we're learning about how the miracle of Jesus' resurrection strengthens us and changes our relationships in the best way. Everyone will have a chance to put these ideas in their backpack to carry with them always: **Jesus overcame death. Jesus connects us to each other. Jesus gives encouragement. We are stronger with Jesus.**"

Coming Soon!



FAMILY ROOM

Visit our new "Family Room" below the sanctuary! Across the hall from the prayer room, parents and caregivers will find a quiet, comfy place to take hungry, sleepy, and fussy babies and toddlers while not missing out on the service! In the room you will find a TV for service streaming, a private nursing station, adult and children seating, and toys, books, and activities for babies to young children. Starting Easter Sunday, the family room will be available for your use!

Mission Funds for Summer Ministries - We are a bit past usual deadlines, but actually there is time — if you are considering mission or outreach ministries this summer submit an application for assistance right away. Call (585-567-2264) or stop by the office to pick one up. - Global Missions Committee

Wellspring Ministries

Dear Family at HWC -

Thinking that it may be helpful for new folks (or longer area residents) to have a concise explanation of just what Wellspring Ministries really is...

Wellspring is a Bible based non-denominational ministry that accepts virtually any household related item, sorts out the best, recycles the rest, and gives the good items to those in need at no cost.

Our Mission is: "To share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Allegany and surrounding counties by providing food, clothing, and household goods; and to mentor them to become all that God created them to be."

Our current CEO is James Arthur of Belmont. There are 6 members on the Board, the newest of which is Bill Doezema. We welcome him wholeheartedly with gratitude to God.

We are open every Wed. and Friday 10 am to 1:15pm. (masks required)
A nutritious meal is served at 11:55. We are accepting spring/summer clothing, decor, books, household items, furniture, etc.

Good Friday - April 2 - we are closed. A blessed Easter Day to all.

For prayer: We desire more folks to come for meals. Spread the word... and COME VISIT with your family. Children are welcome, too. Thank you for keeping us going!

Because He died and rose,
Beth Beardsley (for the Board.)



*At Easter, we remember well-to-do Joseph of Arimathea, not for what he had, but for what he **gave**.
" ... and placed it (Jesus' body) in his own new tomb." Matthew 27*

CONGRATULATIONS

to

TJ & Carlos
Gildemesister

on the finalized adoption
of Hazel Harper
on March 24th.

Hazel joins big siblings,
Zach, Emilia, Carlos,
Sophia, Scarlett,
and Ruby.

You are invited to a
drive-through shower for
Rachel Brubaker & Sebastian Meyer
Saturday, April 17, from 2-4 p.m.
Houghton Wesleyan Church parking lot

Come help us shower the special couple
from the comfort of your car!
Drive through to meet and greet Rachel and Sebastian.
Enjoy some treats to go!

Rachel and Sebastian are registered at
Amazon Wedding Registry and Pottery Barn.

Please bring a copy of your favorite recipe for the couple!
When they make it, they'll think of you.

Hosted by
Kathie Brenneman, Casda Danner, Heidi Huizenga,
Jan Schilke, Gwen Mercer, Betsy Webb, Cindy Oden
Questions?
Call Casda at 585-567-4314

From the Library Shelves



Come in and see the Easter books we have. *And the Angels Were Silent* and *He Chose the Nails*, both by Max Lucado, are just two of the ones for adults. There are more, several with pictures and meditations on Easter.

For the kids we have *Kiri and the First Easter*, an Arch book about two little boys who learn about Jesus, the kindest Man they ever knew. And there is *Caleb's Colt*, about a colt who would not let anyone ride him—until Jesus needed him. In *The Sparrow's Easter Song*, the sparrow tells the other birds and animals that Jesus rose from the dead. You can find more in our children's section.

Please return any library books you have finished with so others may enjoy them too. No appointments are needed to come to the library now. Come in the unlocked door by the office, and remember to social distance and wear your mask. You can still leave books in the bin outside the community room doors, too.

Enjoy reading!!!



Houghton RFKC Year #27: Royal Olympics Camp on July 11 – 16, 2021

Romans 8:38-39: *Nothing can ever separate us from His love.*

Years of research in Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) teaches us that trauma has a major impact on the way in which children perceive themselves, others and the world in which they are growing up. Trauma can lead to the following beliefs: *People will hurt me. I'm helpless to prevent bad things from happening. I'm defective. I don't matter. I'm helpless. I'm worthless. I can't trust anyone. You will hurt me.*

At Royal Family Kids Camp, our mission is to communicate to each of our campers that she is seen and heard and loved by God as well as by our 65+ volunteers and that he is worthy of our time and our attention and our care.

Please join us in this ministry of LOVE by supporting us through your prayers and giving.

Contact nancy.murphy@houghton.edu for more information.

Houghton College Blood Drive

Hosted by the Houghton Wesleyan Church

9712 NY-19, Houghton NY, 14744

Monday, April 5, from 11 AM to 3 PM in the Church Community Room

All Donors who are between the ages of 16-24 will receive a \$10 gift card via email.. You are still safe to donate blood after you received the Moderna, Pfizer, or J&J vaccination. COVID antibody testing is performed on all healthy blood donations. Use the Sponsor Code "Houghton Wesleyan" to make your appointment today or call 1-800-733-2767.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Our condolences to Doug Columbo at the death of his mother and to Julia and Luke Columbo at the death of their grandmother, Mildred Columbo, on March 13.



Common Sense Parenting

STARTING APRIL 6, 2021
TUESDAYS | 6-8 PM
COST: \$25.00/FAMILY*
Scholarships Available

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Ardent Solutions is proud to present Boys Town's Common Sense Parenting® program. The 6-week parenting class teaches easy-to-learn techniques to help parents with common problems when raising children ages 6-18.

This class meets once a week for two hours for six weeks. The class covers the following:

- **Parents as Teachers** – Shows parents how to teach children self-discipline.
- **Effective Praise** – Helps parents encourage positive behaviors by responding enthusiastically and sincerely.
- **Preventive Teaching** – Enables parents to teach children what they'll need to know in future situations, as well as practice using the skill.
- **Corrective Teaching** – Responds to children's problem behaviors with teaching and practicing acceptable alternatives. Parents will be able to adhere to a staying-calm plan for when they become upset with their children.
- **Teaching Self-Control** – Teaches a skill parents can use to allow children time to calm down and remain calm in future situations.
- **Putting It All Together** – Helps parents develop a parenting style to improve relationships with their children.

Pre-registration is required no later than March 30, 2021, by calling Robin Fuller, Certified Facilitator, at 585-648-6022 or by email at fullerr@ardentnetwork.org



Camp Cherith

Camp Cherith® is a traditional 57-acre type summer camp.
Camping activity choices may include swimming, hiking, horseback riding, target sports, fishing, nature & lots more.
Come explore God's creation, build lasting friendships, experience God's Word, and enjoy the summer!

Summer Job Opportunities July 1- August 15, 2021

Positions Currently Available:

- Girls' Counselors
- Boys' Counselors
- Lifeguards/Counselors
- Assistant Cooks (2)
- Photographer/Media Specialist

Apply Online at www.campcherithwny.org

For more info contact Debbie Betts, Director in Hunt, NY (debbie_b@campcherithwny.org or 585-771-7968



SOCCER CAMP



BASKETBALL CAMP



VOLLEYBALL CAMP



TENNIS CAMP

Houghton College Summer Camps

<https://houghtonsummercamps.com/>



EQUESTRIAN CAMP

LEARNING BY DOING Dr. Prinsell suggests that this is the perfect time for kids and parents to plan a GARDEN! Look for a plot to develop, learn the needs of various plants (sunshine, companion plants, temperature and soil needs). Dr. Prinsell reminisced about times when 40% of vegetables were grown in the home garden and “Victory Gardens” are making a come-back. Gardens teach planning skills and nutrition along with pride in providing food for meals.



The Genesee Rapids Baseball Team is BACK!

We are so grateful that God has cleared the way for us to continue our ministry to college baseball players this summer. We have started recruiting players and coaches. All players must have either had the vaccine or within three days of their arrival received a negative COVID-19 test. Players will arrive around June 4. The season begins the following week.

We could use your help In several ways.

1. Pray that God will direct us to ball players who will play well and be open to our ministry to them.
2. Pray that God will use all of us involved with the team to be a positive witness and encouragement to the players and for those who don't know Christ that we will have the opportunity to share Christ with them.
3. We need host families for the players.
4. We need people who would be available to pick up players at the airport when they arrive.
5. We need volunteers who may be able to help with player meals in a variety of ways.
6. We need volunteer bus drivers for the team bus. This would be to supplement our regular drivers.

If you can help with any of these things or need more information please give me a call.

Sundays in April

- April 4 *On What Does Our Faith Rest?* (John 20)
8:30 a.m. Indoor, no streaming
10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming
11:15 a.m. Outdoor
- April 11 *Remembering What We Received* (1 Corinthians 15:1-28)
10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming
11:15 a.m. Outdoor
- April 18 *Christ Is Raised, Let's Live Like We Believe It*
(1 Corinthians 15:20-34)
10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming
11:15 a.m. Outdoor
- April 25 *If I Should Die Before I Wake* (1 Corinthians 15:35-57)
10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming
11:15 a.m. Outdoor

CHURCH STAFF

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



Palm Sunday: 10am indoor streamed service/11:15am Outdoor Service -Church parking lot
Maundy Thursday: 6:30 p.m. Outdoor Service in the Church parking lot /streamed
Good Friday: Journey to the Cross Come & Go in the gym 10am to 6pm/
2pm Good Friday Organ Meditation *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* streamed & sanctuary seating
7pm College Good Friday Service (Quad)
Easter: 6:15am College Easter Vigil/Sunrise Service (Quad)
8:30am Indoor Service/10am Indoor Service/Streamed/11:15 Outdoor Service

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate
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