



## *Whose Neighborhood Is This?*

*Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

(Matthew 20:25-28)

Wrigley, our little Havanese, isn't a big fan of other dogs, or other animals for that matter. When a new neighbor moved in recently, we let the two dogs, leashed of course, interact with each other. Duke, who is probably 3 or 4 times larger than Wrigley, just stood there. Wrigley, on the other hand, sniffed him and then began to growl! All we could do was shake our heads, laugh a little and wonder if he realized that Duke could just about eat him in one bite!

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If you own an animal, you know that despite what some "experts" tell us, you never quite know what a dog is thinking. Does a bark mean *I'm so happy to see you; let's play?* Or does it mean *If you take one more step toward my yard, I'm going to attack?* Though we don't know for sure, we are pretty sure that Wrigley's barking and growling and scratching at the door and window isn't a sign of welcome but a sign of territorial combat. We're pretty sure that he's declaring: *This is my neighborhood! I rule this neighborhood! You better get that straight right now!*

As I was listening to him bark and growl and scratch the other day, I was reminded of a story from the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew's Gospel. James and John's mother asks Jesus to let her sons be the first vice-presidents in Jesus's kingdom. Jesus asks them to ponder their willingness to face the hardship of this kind of position and the two boys, who must be standing there when she asks, agree that they are fully up to it. Never mind that in a few weeks, they are going to scatter like bugs exposed to light.

When the other 10 hear about it, they are indignant. I suspect their irritation stems from the fact that they didn't think of it first. So, Jesus calls them all together and says: *Look guys. You are acting like everyone else: fighting for the highest place, scratching and clawing to be in the spotlight, grabbing for power, ruling over people and making them do what you want them to do.* I can see their heads begin to drop. Then he adds: *But this is not the way of my kingdom. If you want to be great, be a servant. If you want to be first, move to the end of the line.* And then he adds the kicker: *What I'm really saying is that I want you to think, and act like me.*

I suspect that we are a lot like Wrigley (and the disciples). We like to be first. We want to be king or queen of the hill. We have so little power as it is, so when we have a chance to grab some, we feel justified in taking it. The problem is not just that we might nudge or bark at others for personal gain; the deeper problem is that every time we do this, we are thinking and acting not like Jesus but like the evil one. And every time we do this, it becomes a little easier to do it again...and again...and again.

In all transparency, I often want to choose and often do choose to think and act like everyone else. But I have discovered that just as choosing the wrong way leads to more choices of the wrong way, so choosing the right way leads to more choices of the right way. And the right way, though challenging, is the way of joy and life in Christ.

Blessings,  
Pastor Wes



## Election Results

**Elders Secretary:** Jim Zoller

**Church Treasurer:** David Mercer

**Elders:** Tim McGarvey, Daryl Stevenson, Donnie Stockin

**Trustees:** Nate Jacoby, Andrew Roorbach, Dan Wartinger

**Nominating Committee:** Ken Bates, Beth Beardsley, Betsy Webb

**District Conference Delegates:** Doyin Adenuga, Josie Adenuga, Bob Danner, Jill Schmidt, Karl Schmidt

**Community Financial Plan Vote:** Yes – 120 (98.36%) / No – 2 (1.64%)

### **Elders**

Dave Brubaker (2022)

Don Little (2022)

Jan Schilke (2022)

Doyin Adenuga (2023)

Heidi Huizenga (2023)

Jill Jordan (2023)

Tim McGarvey (2024)

Daryl Stevenson (2024)

Donnie Stockin (2024)

Jim Zoller, Secretary

David Mercer, Treasurer

Pastor Wes Oden

### **Trustees:**

Charlie Smith (2022)

Michael Spateholts (2022)

Harold Blew (2023)

Nathan Danner (2023)

Judi Mayhle (2023)

Nate Jacoby (2024)

Andrew Roorbach (2024)

Dan Wartinger (2024)

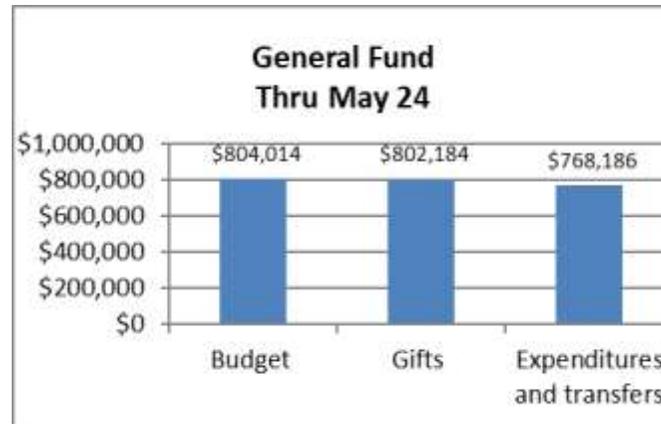
Pastor Jon Cole

Please continue to pray for our pastors and leaders as we begin a new year of ministry and service in Houghton.

Thank you to Elders, Doug Gaerte, Dick Harter and Ed Taylor and to Trustees, Barb Bates and Matt Woolsey whose terms have expired. We appreciate the thoughtful and godly leadership that each person has given us in the past years.



# Financial Update for June 2021 Highlights



## STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

*“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand,” 1 Chronicles 29:14.*

Everything we have belongs to God. We are only stewards. It’s important to recognize this truth in every area of our lives. Take a moment right now and thank the Lord for the many blessings He has provided.

No matter how young or old we are, our lives belong to the Lord and everything we own, love and cherish are His. The apostle Paul urged the church in Rome to view their bodies as living sacrifices and present them to God. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship,” Romans 12:1.

Where are you currently serving or sacrificing? Are you stepping out in faith and obedience to where He calls you to serve? We can’t forget that our time and our efforts belong to the Lord. Where are you investing your time right now? As you think of where the Lord may use you, consider some of areas of ministry open now and in the future at HWC.

### **Current Needs**

- Volunteers for the Tech Team (specifically at the 10am service)
- Children’s Church helpers

### **Future Needs**

- Sunday School Teachers (various ages)
- Sunday School Teacher Assistants (various ages)
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Lay Shepherds
- Service Projects

Feel free to contact the church office if you are interested in serving HWC in this way!

Even before our finances or our service, our Father desires our unreserved devotion to Him. This is the most important thing. Consecrated hearts and lives are the starting place. It is amazing to see the Lord work in the lives of his followers when we embrace this core value and are on fire for the Lord willing to do any and all He asks of us. We need to live as laying everything at the altar for Christ. After all, everything we have belongs to Him.

# Valley PreSchool



I am profoundly grateful for this year of Valley Preschool! First, I am grateful to God for His grace, keeping, and provision as this year was planned and carried out. There is a long list of people to whom I am grateful and they can't really be prioritized or put in an order.

Here at the church I thank the COVID-19 task force, reopening committee, pastoral staff, support staff, elders, VPS committee, doctors Doug Mayhle and David Brubaker, treasurer David Mercer, countless people in the congregation, and, most recently, Doyin Adenuga and Ken Bates. They helped with reopening plans, committed to make up for our significant lack of funding/tuition this year, offered guidance throughout the year, prayed for us, and made it possible for us to hold in-person preschool including our first privately streamed graduation in the sanctuary. I am humbled for VPS to have been the primary children's ministry running this year.

Many thanks to Emily Spateholts for her guidance and help this year. She made things so much easier with her great leadership. Thank you to co-teacher Laura Dibble, assistant teacher Joy Mansfield, and volunteer Grandma Joan Zieja who weathered much and made many adjustments throughout the year, and to Rachel Blew who stepped in as an additional assistant teacher in April when other staff was out. I'm also grateful to Ann McNeill for filling in in the classroom from time to time. I truly appreciate and value these women all of whom made it possible to see this year through!

While the church playground is for the whole church family, we want to say a special thanks to all who made it a reality! Thank you to the trustees (Mike Spateholts, Barb Bates, Harold Blew, Nathan Danner, Judi Mayhle, Charlie Smith, and Matt Woolsey) who guided decision making, helped put together and install equipment, and provided snacks for the playground work day. Thanks also to Jeff Babbitt, Jon Cole, Jesse Fink, Doug Gaerte, Carlos Gildemeister, Steve Pocock, and Emily Spateholts for many hours of further installation work and equipment lending. You all helped to make years of enjoyment and skill building possible for the children and families of Houghton Wesleyan Church! If you visit the playground you will see our "Stone Soup Garden" where this year's children planted vegetables we can harvest with next year's students and use in our Stone Soup fund raiser.

I am so grateful to our parents this year! Their trust in us is noteworthy as is their kindness shown in many ways, but in particular through their caution. I so appreciate the love they showed to the greater community by keeping children with sniffles or possible exposure home. Our staff and students have connections to four local public schools, Houghton Academy, and Houghton College, not to mention other workplaces. An outbreak at VPS could have affected many in the surrounding communities, so I am thankful to them for being so careful.

Last, but not least, I thank our wonderful group of students! We started with seven children in the fall, but nine graduated on Wednesday, May 19th. They didn't peel up the marking tape on the floor of the classroom! They kept their rugs in their assigned spots! They wore masks! They offered their foreheads for daily temp checks. They became friends, were helpful to staff and each other, they listened, asked questions, worked together, got to know each other well, and are clever, energetic, friendly, adaptable, and willing little people. We love them, will miss them, and are grateful for the joy and light they brought to a different and often hard year.

Valley Preschool serves children ages three through five and meets September through May from on MWF mornings from 9:00 to 11:45. Applications are available for download at <https://hwchurch.org/2021-22-vps-application/> on the VPS bulletin board, or from the office (585-567-2264). If you have questions about Valley Preschool please contact Casda Danner at [casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org).



## June Sunday School Series: "Take the Lead" A four-week series on the Judges

Leaders take the lead. Like a drum major leading a marching band or the grand marshal at a parade, leaders are out in front showing others the way. Legendary leaders of the Bible like Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Ruth will help kids see what leadership looks like and how they can become great leaders too. Young leaders will grow this month learning that **God gives me courage to lead, helps me learn from mistakes, and gives me leaders I can follow. Everyone can be a leader, let's take the lead together.**

Memory Verse: Micah 6:8

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.



## Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC)—Prayer Partners Needed

- The mission of Royal Family Kids is to create “positive, life-changing moments for innocent children who have been victims of neglect, abuse, and abandonment.”
- Currently there are 242 RFKCs, 214 in the US and 28 campus in six other countries. Since 1995, the local Houghton RFKC has served over 400 campers, with each of these campers returning for an average of 4 summers.
- We are thrilled to report that this year’s RFKC at Camp Asbury is a “go”! It is scheduled for July 11-16.
- Anyone interested in being a prayer partner email Laurie Dashnau at [Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu](mailto:Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu).
- The responsibilities of a prayer partner include praying for one specific camper, counselor, or staff member along with writing a short note to that person (the note being provided) which will be passed along to him or her at the start of camp.

Thank you in advance for considering serving in this capacity.

## From the Library



If you need a break from all of your outdoor jobs and activities, come pick up some books from your church library. For the whole family, or just the kids, we have *GraceFull*, in which Hope learns about caring for our neighbors. And there is *The Listening Walk*, what a boy hears as he and his dad take a walk around their neighborhood. Learn about Hermit Crab’s new house in *A House for Hermit Crab*, and go with *Mighty Truck* as he visits the farm.

For the adults there is *Strong and Weak*, a book Pastor Wes mentioned in his sermon a while back. Or take *A Look at Life from a Deer Stand*. Then there is *Talking with Your Kids about God*, a book to help you as you have those conversations with your children.

Come on in and see all of our new books. The library is available when the church building is open.

Enjoy reading!!!

## Wellspring Ministries

Spring greetings from the warm hearts at Wellspring! We are still masked and following protocols for now, so do come and enjoy a browse or two with family members on any Wednesday or Friday.

There is an abundance of children's and adult books, puzzles, and other items that may interest you.

Note:

-Our contractor has begun renovations, so do pray for the safety of his staff.

-We are **closed Friday, May 28th** as Memorial Day weekend begins.

-Please pray that more folks visit and stay for lunch at 11:55 am.

(Our meals are well-planned and tasty.). We do have high chairs.

-If you know of anyone who could use a **food box**, have them stop by and inquire.

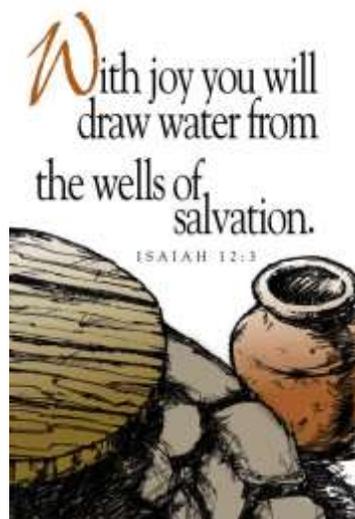
We are happy to meet that need.

-Donations of any household goods and warm weather wear are welcome always. Please drop off at Wellspring. There are staff there to receive items any Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 to 1:15.

-Pastor Paul Shea is back! He brings a devotional thought every third Wednesday before the meal. We so appreciate him among us.

Thank you for "*Considering other's welfare and not merely our own.*" ( Phil. 2:4)

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)



Celebrate



Recovery

Meets Thursday Evenings at 7 PM in the parking lot behind the church. We go inside for a testimony or video and then break up into groups.

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE:

Much work has been done to upgrade our playground. It is now complete and ready for use. We pray that it is a source of fun and fellowship for children and adults. Thanks to Mike Spateholts and all of the Trustees, as well as Jon Cole, Steve Pocock, Doug Gaerte, Jesse Fink, Jeff Babbitt, Carlos Gildemeister and everyone who gave time, energy and funds for this project.

## THANK YOU!

It is a wonderful thing to be writing this note of thanks to all of you who have prayed for us, and especially Peter, in these last few weeks of his recovering from COVID Pneumonia.

We are so grateful to report he is no longer requiring supplemental oxygen as of yesterday. We are expecting to go home from the lovely nursing home in Omaha, where he is rehabilitating, next weekend. His recovery and the accelerated timeline are due to all of your prayers and His grace.

The Lord has time and time again strengthened our faith and confidence in Him as we travel this road. Very early on He encouraged us with Psalms 16:8, and continues to do so. "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

Thanks again for lifting us up during this difficult time.

Eternally grateful!.

Nancy & Peter

[phluckey@gmail.com](mailto:phluckey@gmail.com)

15905 Bancroft Ct, Apt 935

Omaha, NE 68130

**Phil Merrill**  
**(585) 610-8882**

INSIDE & OUTSIDE

**PAINTING &**

**POWER**

**WASHING**

**(HOUSES  
& DECKS)**

## 2021 Season Ticket Special



These tickets are good for all home games and playoff games.

- Family Pass \$40
- Individual Pass \$20
- Seniors Individual Pass \$15

These will be available at our first home games, Friday, June 11. To get the Season Ticket Special, text Ralph Kerr at 716-969-0688

# Genesee Rapids Home Games



DATE	OPPONENT	GAME TIME	
Sunday, June 6	Old Timers	2:00 PM	
Friday, June 11	Mansfield Destroyers	4:00 PM	
Friday, June 11	Mansfield Destroyers	7:00 PM	
Thurs. June 17	Hornell Dodgers	7:00 PM	
Monday, June 21	Rochester Ridgemen	7:00 PM	
Thurs. June 24	Dansville Gliders	7:00 PM	
Sat. June 26	Syracuse Salt Cats	4:00 PM	
Sat. June 26	Syracuse Salt Cats	7:00 PM	
Tues. June 29	Dansville Gliders	7:00 PM	
Friday, July 2	Hornell Dodgers	7:00 PM	
Sunday, July 4	Cortland Crush	2:00 PM	
Sunday, July 4	Cortland Crush	4:00 PM	
Monday, July 5	Mansfield Destroyers	7:00 PM	
Tuesday, July 6	Dansville Gliders	7:00 PM	
Friday, July 9	Rochester Ridgemen	7:00 PM	
Wed. July 14	Dansville Gliders	7:00 PM	
Friday, July 16	Mansfield Destroyers	7:00 PM	Fireworks Dusk
Sunday, July 18	Rochester Ridgemen	2:00 PM	
Thurs. July 22	Rochester Ridgemen	7:00 PM	
Friday, July 23	Hornell Dodgers	7:00 PM	
Sat. July 24	Hornell Dodgers	7:00 PM	
Sunday, July 25	Play Offs Begin		

## \*\*\*Marriage Announcement\*\*\*

Crystal Joy Schierer and Channing Ameer Hill were married on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 2:30 pm in the afternoon at the family homestead of Dr. & Mrs. Calvin Schierer. Maid of honor was Wendy Sandic and best man was Beau Seabourn. The ceremony was officiated by reverend Benjamin Kaufmann.

Crystal is a senior product designer in New York City and Channing is a veteran of the United States Navy. They both enjoy traveling, spending time with family and living life to the fullest!

Congratulations and well wishes can be sent to them at:

Channing & Crystal Hill  
 118 Graham Street, Apt 2  
 Jersey City, NJ 07307

# For Rent

3-Room Upstairs Apartment ready the end of June. Gas heat, water, sewer and trash disposal are included in the rent. On Route 19. Within walking distance of the college.. Call 585-567-8885

4-Room House for rent . Available the end of August.. On Route 19. Within walking distance of the college. Call 585-567-8885.



EQUESTRIAN CAMP



SOCCER CAMP



BASKETBALL CAMP



VOLLEYBALL CAMP



TENNIS CAMP

## HOUGHTON SUMMER CAMPS

<https://houghtonsummercamps.com/>

## SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 6 (10:00 a.m. Indoors/Online and 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m. Pastor Wes

June 13 (10:00 a.m. Indoors/Online and 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m.

June 20 (10:00 a.m. Indoors/Online and 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m. Pastor Wes

June 27 (10:00 a.m. Indoors/Online and 11:15 a.m. Outdoors)  
a.m.



**HWC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES** is excited to team with Fillmore Wesleyan Church as they host **Vacation Bible School June 28 - July 2nd**. Email [emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org) or [annmneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmneill@hwchurch.org) to sign your children up and/or to volunteer to help. We need group leaders to assist small groups of children as they participate in the Bible story, science, and crafts stations, and possibly a Games Leader.

The evenings run from 6:00-7:30.

## 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**  
[amandacox@hwchurch.org](mailto:amandacox@hwchurch.org)

**Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry**  
808-8925 [emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org)

**Ann McNeill, Children's Ministry**  
716-801-3425 [annmneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmneill@hwchurch.org)

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

