

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JUNE 6, 2021

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WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We worship God as a declaring that he is good and that we desire our lives to be focused and centered in him. In our worship today, let us come with grateful hearts and a passion for relationship with our wondrous Creator.

THERE WILL BE CHILDREN'S CHURCH THIS WEEK! Hope you can join us in the Community Room during the sermon.

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR HEALING: This Wednesday, 6:00pm, we will gather in the church parking lot for a Service of Prayer for Healing. We will sing, read scripture and offer prayers of confession, forgiveness and healing. The prayers for healing are for all of our needs: physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, financial, relational. If you desire to experience the unity of the church in prayer and humility, please make this gathering a priority.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING Dr. Ken Schenck will preach. We gather for worship online and indoors at 10:00 a.m. and outdoors at 11:15 a.m.

IN-PERSON PROTOCOLS: In order to protect everyone who is attending in person this morning, please note the information on the Protocols Card. Masks are only required when moving from your seat or when singing. Thank you for your acts of love for each other.

STAYING CONNECTED: During this unusual time, we want to stay as connected to you as possible. Pastor Wes is sending out a weekly letter on Tuesdays and video on Thursdays. Both are distributed through email and text and may be accessed on the church website (hwchurch.org) and Facebook pages. If you are not receiving these communications and would like to do so, please send your contact information to office@hwchurch.org.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY meets Thursday Evenings at 7 PM in the Primary Assembly Room.

HWC Children's Ministries is excited to team with Fillmore Wesleyan Church as they host **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** June 28 - July 1. Email emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org or annmcneill@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 6:00-8:30.

VALLEY PRESCHOOL applications are available at the VPS Bulletin Board, in the church office, and online at <https://hwchurch.org/2021-22-vps-application/>

STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed: \$804,013.98 / **Budget Received:** \$802,184.27

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Midweek check in - Wed at 1:15pm

ZOOM Sunday School is at 9 am next week

MISSION MOMENT - Our global partnerships include support for Bible college student scholarships in Sierra Leone, W. Africa. We pray for those training for varieties of outreach for the Gospel in this land still ripe for Gospel harvest.

THE GLOBAL CHURCH - We will visit every nation where we have sister Wesleyan churches: Sierra Leone — The names Clarke, McMillen, Woolsey, Prinsell, Emmett are some of dozens from Houghton pioneering for the Gospel as long as 120 years ago in Sierra Leone. Today Muslims still make up over 70 % of the 8 million population. Yet the church grows and the Wesleyan church is one of the largest evangelical groups in the country. We pray.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with concerns: Denise Zambrano, Carlos Gildemeister, Peter Luckey, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Karen Gaerte, Lenore Paige, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Amy Ortiz (Luke Ogden's sister), Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, Wendy Ott, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Cindy Lastoria, Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor's cousin), Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, 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; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the Big Tree Wesleyan Church, Blasdell (Pastor Doug Ingersoll).

Outdoor Worship Service
Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 6, 2021 at 11:15am

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Songs of Adoration: *Resurrecting; Way Maker; Build My Life*

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Esther 1:1 – 2:18

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

Sermon: **Where is God When Life is Messy?**

Pastor Wes Oden

Communion

Song: *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Benediction

Scripture Reader: Emily Spateholts

Music Ministry Team: Amanda & Mike Cox, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar

A condensed version of Esther 1:1 – 2:18.

In the third year of Xerxes's reign, who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush, he gave a banquet for all his princes and servants, the army chiefs of Persia and Media, and the nobles and governors of the provinces. For a hundred and eighty days he showed his riches and the splendor of his majesty.

When these days were over, he hosted a banquet in the garden court of the palace lasting seven days. Everything was decorated in the finest splendor to accentuate the abundance of the king's wealth.

Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women.

On the seventh day, when the king was in high spirits from the wine, he commanded that Queen Vashti come before him, in order to show everyone her beauty. But she refused to come. The king was enraged. He asked his advisors what the law allowed him to do to Queen Vashti for her refusal to obey his command.

Memucan, one of the princes, answered, "Not only has Queen Vashti done wrong to the king, but also to everyone in the kingdom. When the queen's conduct is known to all the women in all the provinces, they will despise their husbands and say, 'King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to come before him and she refused.' The women of nobility will respond to the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

Therefore, if it please the king, let him issue a royal decree, written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. And let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she. When all of the women of the kingdom hear this decree, they will respect their husbands."

This advice pleased the king, and he did as Memucan proposed.

Then the king's servants said, "Let a search be made in every province for beautiful young virgins for the king. Under the care of Hegai, the king's servant, they will be given beauty treatments and other preparations and the young woman who pleases the king will be queen instead of Vashti.

This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it.

Now there was a Jew in Susa named Mordecai, a Benjaminite, who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives taken by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for her father and mother had died. Esther was beautiful, so when the king's order was proclaimed, she was one of the young women taken into the palace and prepared for the king. Esther won the favor of Hegai and was given special attention and special food.

Esther did not reveal her nationality because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. But every day Mordecai walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to learn how Esther fared.

After twelve months of preparation, each young woman spent a night with the king. She did not revisit the king again, unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name.

After Esther's turn with the king, he was attracted to her more than to any of the other women. So, he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. And the king gave a great banquet in her honor. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the kingdom and gave gifts with royal liberality.

Resurrecting

The head that once was
crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now
The Savior knelt to wash our feet
Now at his feet we bow

The one who wore our sin and shame
Now robed in majesty
The radiance of perfect love
Now shines for all to see

**Your name, Your name is victory
All praise will rise
to Christ our King
(Repeat)**

The fear that held us now gives way
To him who is our peace
His final breath upon the cross is now
alive in me

Chorus

By your spirit I will rise
from the ashes of defeat
The resurrected King
is resurrecting me
In your name I come alive
to declare your victory
The resurrected King
is resurrecting me
(Repeat)

The tomb where soldiers
watched in vain
Was borrowed for three days
His body there would not remain
Our God has robbed the grave
Our God has robbed the grave

Chorus

Way Maker

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

**You are Way Maker,
Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness
my God that is who You are**

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You Lord

Chorus

Bridge
Even when I don't see it
You're working
Even when I don't feel it
You're working
You never stop
You never stop working
You never stop
You never stop working

Chorus

Build My Life

Verse 1
Worthy of ev'ry song
we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise
we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath
we could ever breathe
We live for You

Verse 2
Jesus the name above
ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one
who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath
we could ever breathe
We live for You, We live for You

Chorus

**Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love
to those around me**

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus

Bridge
I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Chorus

'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
just to know,
"Thus saith the Lord."

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him
o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!**

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
just in simple faith to plunge me
'neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Chorus

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace

Chorus

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend
And I know that Thou are with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

Chorus