

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 1, 2021

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WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. God has blessed us this summer. In the highs and lows of life, God is our constant help and strength. This morning, we worship to offer our gratitude for His numerous blessings and to ask for His power and love in the days ahead.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for online and in-person worship at 10:00 and for outdoor worship at 11:15. The Rev. Dr. Michael Jordan will be preaching.

BAPTISM AND DEDICATIONS: In light of the vaccination progress and the low positivity rate, we are ready to resume baptisms and dedications. If you or someone in your family is interested in being baptized or in having your children dedicated, please let me know.

MEMBERSHIP: If you are interested in becoming a member of HWC or are interested in knowing more about membership at HWC, contact me right away. Pastor Wes is hosting a membership class on Monday, August 16, 7:00pm..

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children ages PreK-6th grade can join us in the Community Room during the sermon for a time of learning and fun. Our August series, "Famous," begins today! Here's what GROW has to say: " Lots of kids dream about becoming famous . . . and why shouldn't they? It sounds awesome to have fans who celebrate your wins with you! On the flip side, it would be pretty tough to have people always watching, even when you're not having the best day. In Famous, we are going to talk about a family in the Bible who lived in such a spotlight. Through their stories, kids will learn that no matter our celebrity status, we can make things right, God gives us friends, we can ask for God's guidance, we can give God what we have. Fame and fans may come and go, but you don't need to be liked by everyone when you're loved by God!" *Reminder: Because our children are not eligible for the vaccination at this time and the CDC and our Task Force recommend masking for those that are unvaccinated, please remember to send your child(ren) with a mask for Sunday School for their protection and the protection of others. Thanks!*

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP – Special missionary guests: John and Patricia Fraser, who serve with Teach Beyond in Budapest, Hungary, will share this week, Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 105 (Community Room if more space needed). **All are invited to meet the Frasers** and join in prayer time together.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY resumes meeting this week. Hope to see both new and old faces again on Thursday evenings, 7:00 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room!

STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed: \$128,408.32/ **Budget Received:** \$112,618.19

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

MISSION MOMENT - John and Tricia Fraser serve with Teach Beyond in Budapest, Hungary, teaching and training others to introduce people to Jesus. John has authored *The Growing Disciple: Seven Attributes of a Transformed Life*. Their son Matthew joins older sister Hannah attending Houghton College this Fall. We pray for their family and their vital work in Hungary. (See Wednesday Prayer Group).

PERSECUTED CHURCH –Pray for the minority Christians not to give up when so often disappointed in sharing Christ in hostile places. A new version of the *Jesus Film* for the Alagwa people in East Africa has ignited interest. Pray against Satan stealing the seeds of curiosity and conviction as neighbors discuss the story of Jesus. May persecution and hardship give way to rejoicing.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with concerns: Denise Zambrano, 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 affected 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 Watermark Wesleyan Church (South Creek Campus), Eden (Pastor Trevor Kaufman).

Outdoor Worship Service
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 1, 2021 at 11:15am

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Songs of Adoration: *Song of My Heart; I Will Lift My Eyes*

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Esther 4-5 (selected verses)

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. In every province there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther was told about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther summoned an attendant and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

So he went out to Mordecai and Mordecai told him everything that had happened, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the edict to for Esther, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

The attendant went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, "Everyone knows that anyone who approaches the king without being summoned by the king will be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

Mordecai sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and went to the palace. When the king saw her standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter.

"What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

"If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."

So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. The king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? What is your request?"

Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: If the king regards me with favor, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."

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

Sermon: How Does God Accomplish His Purposes in the World?

Pastor Wes Oden

Closing Song: *Holy Spirit*

Benediction

Scripture Reader: Pastor Cindy Oden

Music Ministry Team:

Bekah Brennan & Amanda Cox, vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar; Dan Zambrano, cajón

Song Of My Heart

Just like a tree that grows by the water
Let the strong winds blow
I will not move
Just like a child secure
in the love of a Father
Never letting go I cling to You

In ev'ry situation

**Beyond all fear and doubt
No matter what I'm facing
The song of my heart
is ringing out**

**I'll stand on Your promise
I will not be moved
Nothing can tear us apart
My faith won't be shaken
I'm anchored in You
In death and in life You remain
The song of my heart**

When all is said and done
and the storm is over
You are tried and true
You never change
When all is sinking sand
You're a strong foundation
Ev'rything else will fade
but You remain

Chorus

With ev'ry breath that I take
With ev'ry beat of my heart
God I will sing to the world
Faithful You've been
Faithful You are
(Sing 3x)

Chorus

I Will Lift My Eyes

Verse 1

God my God I cry out
Your beloved needs You now
God be near calm my fear
And take my doubt
Your kindness is what pulls me up
Your love is all that draws me in

Chorus

**I will lift my eyes to the Maker
Of the mountains I can't climb
I will lift my eyes to the Calmer
Of the oceans raging wild
I will lift my eyes to the Healer
Of the hurt I hold inside
I will lift my eyes lift my eyes
To You**

Verse 2

God my God let mercy sing
Her melody over me
God right here all I bring is all of me
Your kindness is what pulls me up
Your love is all that draws me in

Chorus

Bridge

'Cause You are and You were
And You will be forever
The Love that I need to save me
(Repeat)
'Cause You fashioned the earth
And You hold it together God (Repeat)
So hold me now

Chorus

Holy Spirit

Verse 1

Holy Spirit living Breath of God
Breathe new life
into my willing soul
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart
and make me whole
Cause Your word to come alive in me
Give me faith for what I cannot see
Give me passion for Your purity
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Verse 2

Holy Spirit come abide within
May Your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought
and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest
and the least
Gentleness that sows
the path of peace
Turn my strivings
into works of grace
Breath of God
show Christ in all I do

Verse 3

Holy Spirit from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made
Show Your power
once again on earth
Cause Your church
to hunger for Your ways
Let the fragrance
of our pray'rs arise
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for
all the world to see
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for
all the world to see