



## Myths That Make Us

*Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.*

1 John 4:1

Most of the false ideas that grab us are not totally false; they just aren't totally true. We rarely find ourselves taken in by ideas that are so blatantly false that we have to deny reality to accept them. I'm not saying that this never happens, but rarely. It's the ideas that are close to true but aren't quite true that are most difficult for us. It's the ideas that start right but drift from their center that confound us. Perhaps because they are almost true they might be most dangerous for us.

I wonder if these close-but-not-quite ideas seem good to us because they seem to demand less of us. They tend to make the gospel a just a bit more self-focused, less challenging. And we have a tendency to gravitate toward self-focused and less challenging.

Sometimes the ideas aren't about an easier life but about challenging some of our long-held assumptions—perhaps perspectives based on what we have always been taught or what we have always assumed was true—but perspectives about which some drift has occurred.

Our struggle with ideas that are either less demanding or deeply ingrained is that it's challenging to see them in any other way than how we see them.

But this is one challenge of the gospel, one challenge of scripture to address those places and thoughts and attitudes in us that need to be adjusted. Perhaps this is why we struggle with the gospel and its challenging call on our lives.

It's with this in mind that this fall we are going to think about some of these ideas, not to disregard ideas that are important to us or to turn us in new directions, but to give us an opportunity to hear anything the Holy Spirit may say to us so that we might experience the deeper and wider grace of God in our lives. I hope that you will join us for worship so that together we might experience more of God's grace to us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Wes

September 5	A Myth that Makes Us Oppressive
September 12	A Myth that Makes Us Oblivious
September 19	A Myth that Makes Us Hardened
September 26	A Myth that Makes Us Impossible
October 3	A Myth that Makes Us Average
October 10	A Myth that Makes Us Presumptuous
October 17	A Myth that Makes Us Marooned
October 24	A Myth that Makes Us Forgetful
October 31	A Myth that Makes Us Barter
November 7	A Myth that Makes Us Cold
November 14	A Myth that Makes Us Callous
November 21	A Myth that Makes Us Ungrateful

## 2020-2021 Budget Surplus

As we continue through this pandemic, we lament so much. We are also finding that God's blessings are not limited by our circumstances. He is still working. We see this in our worship gatherings and baptisms as well as our own personal experiences with him. One of the blessings of God during the pandemic has been financial.

Now that we are able to finalize our 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, we are pleased to report that we ended the year with a significant surplus of \$53,296! Though our offerings were slightly below budget, our expenses were significantly less than our budget and we received a tax credit from the federal government as part of the Cares Act. Based on a recommendation from the Stewardship Committee, the Elders have decided to distribute the funds in this way:

Staff Bonuses (2%)	\$ 6,159 (11.6%)
Local Outreach	\$ 5,330 (10.0%)
Global Missions	\$ 5,330 (10.0%)
Reserve Fund	\$10,000 (18.8%)
Future Projects	\$26,477 (49.6%)

Thank you for your continued generosity that enables us to not only minister to each other but to support ministries to the world beyond us.



Thank you!  
Thank you to all who helped with the Ice Cream Social on Sunday afternoon, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had a beautiful afternoon for the social and a great turnout. Thank you for all who helped with set-up, serving and clean-up!  
Thank you!



Congratulations to Lynlee Van Wicklin, Bella Tucker, Josiah Tucker, Amelia Esh, Zoey Clem and Matthew Fraser who were baptized on Sunday, August 22. We celebrate this momentous day in their lives and in ours.



### **Prayer Chain Opportunities**

Prayer changes things. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This admonition is a powerful reminder to us as Christians that prayer is essential in our lives. With this in mind, we invite women and men to become involved in the prayer chain ministry of the church. If you are already on the prayer chain, your name will remain on the list unless you contact us otherwise. If you want to receive the prayer chain requests via phone or email so you may join us in praying, please contact the church office at 567-2264. Thank you!

## PRAYER VIGIL

We are planning an outdoor Prayer Vigil September 26 – October 10. More information will be coming in the next few weeks. We look forward to this important time in the life of our church.

# STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

*Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.* Proverbs 9:9 *Proverbs 9:9*

This month we will have many children, youth and adults getting back into the classroom for another year of education. Whether schooling from home, attending a Christian school, a public K-12, a trade school or a college and university, the goal for all students is to learn new skills and deepen their knowledge.

A new school year brings an opportunity for them to expand their gifts and abilities in the classroom. Each student will be tapping into new potential and developing their God-given intelligence. What a great way to steward the gifts the Lord has provided!

What about those of us who are not headed to a formal educational setting this fall? The wonderful reality is that we can always actively learn new things and continue to steward the gifts the Father has given us at any stage of life. Our amazing brains and bodies have an unlimited capacity to learn, grow and develop. We should never stop pursuing growth in these areas to steward such gifts.

When we actively pursue this process, we can enrich our lives in a variety of ways. We will begin to see the Lord in different areas and grow to understand Him more deeply. Here are a few ideas to help get you started this fall:

Read – Start with a commitment to the Bible each and every day as well as an additional book each month.

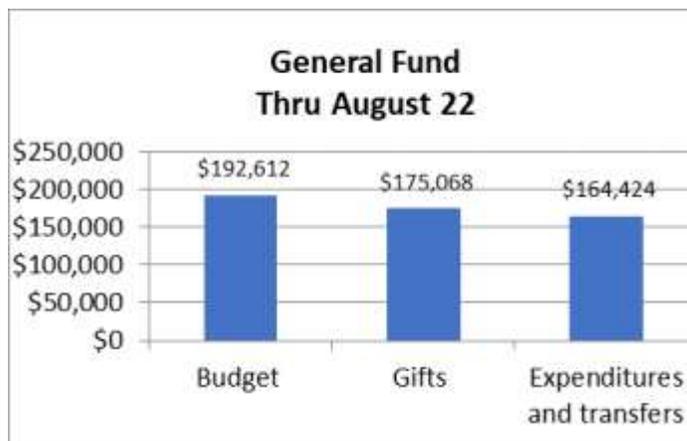
Take a class- A variety of classes are offered in community centers, churches, libraries, etc. Maybe you can even audit a class at Houghton College.

Listen or watch- Listen to podcasts or watch YouTube videos. There are many free options available.

Attend a lecture- Often there are public talks at colleges, town halls and other venues that you can attend.

Engage in the arts- Write a poem, paint a picture, take a photograph or pick-up a musical instrument. This helps us engage with our creative side!

As our children, youth and adults head back to school, let's join them in a commitment to developing our God-given intelligence, skills, and abilities. This is great stewardship!



## FALL ADULT MINISTRIES

*Going Deeper with Christ and His Body*

NOTICE – Coming out of months of no formal activities due to Covid-19 restrictions we are moving cautiously forward and expect the Spirit to open new opportunities for growth in Him and edifying one another. Here is how things are shaping up for now:

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** – 9:45 a.m. starting September 5. Open to all young adults and above.

The Epistle of John – Dr. Paul Young (and others) – Room #9 below sanctuary

Reading Discussion Group – Leadership and Book pending – Room #10, Good Shepherd Room

The Chosen /Film and Bible Study – Ann McNeil & Patty Stalker - Young Adults/college especially welcome – Room #105CE across from the library in CE building.

When Mothers Pray – Outdoors or Room #7 below sanctuary.

Other Options may emerge as the Fall progresses.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES** - Start up dates pending end of September. Details forthcoming.

Wednesday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.– Details Pending, Looking for a Leader

Friday Women's Group – 9:00 a.m. - Details pending

**SMALL GROUPS** – Several Groups are emerging. Contact Pastor Paul Shea for details.

**DISCIPLESHIP BANDS** – Watch for more information! Here's an invitation to partner with male or female group of 3or4 accountability and Bible reading/prayer partners. Journal booklet available. Proceed at your own initiative. EXPERIENCE GROWTH under Spirit's guidance.

Contact Pastor Paul Shea for information. ([paulshea@hwchurch.org](mailto:paulshea@hwchurch.org))





## HWC Kids September Schedule:

August 29th, 9:45am: Sunday School Teacher Training  
September 5th, 9:45am: First day of Sunday School!  
September 13th, 9:00 - 11:45am: First day of Valley Preschool  
September 18th, 9:00am - 12:00pm: Youth & Kids Min Training  
September 18th, 1:00 - 3:00pm: Stewards of Children Training  
September 19th, 9:45am: Safety Sunday (combined adult Sunday School)  
September 26th: Nursery Training

**September Sunday School Series:** Join us in person and online in September for a 4-week series from Psalms & Proverbs. Did you know that every day is full of adventures that we get to choose? Some adventures are small, like choosing which book to read. Others are bigger, like deciding how to react when a family member makes us upset. It's not always easy to know what is best but there is hidden treasure you can take into every choice: wisdom. Wisdom is a valuable gift that helps people choose what's best. Together we can choose wisdom, by not choosing sides, choosing our words carefully, choosing to do good, and choosing God!

## Sunday School starts on September 5th!!

We can't wait to have you back at 9:45am. We will continue to send SS material out via email and Facebook but invite you to join us in person. Thank you to the following HWC Kids Min Team members for faithfully serving our kids!

Nursery: Jan Schilke and staff  
3 & 4-year-olds: Sunshine & Aaron Sullivan  
Kindergarten & 1st Grade: Kathy Moore & \_\_\_\_\_  
2nd Grade: Karl & Jill Schmidt  
3rd Grade: Steve & Audrey Pocock  
4th Grade: Laura & Christian Esh  
5th Grade: Sharon McGarvey & Josie Adenuga  
6th Grade: Harold Blew & Mike & Rhoda Burgett  
Children's Church: Jonathan & Nancy Gates, Angela Babbitt, Beth Beardsley



## WEDNESDAY KIDS CLUB

Get ready for Kids Club starting in October! We hope to have a vibrant Wednesday night ministry to children ages 5 through 11 this fall. We are still determining if we will meet weekly or every two weeks. Miss Ann and her crew are getting ready to help you follow your passion for God through learning about him and his people by memorizing scripture through fun games and activities.

## We'd love to have you join our team!

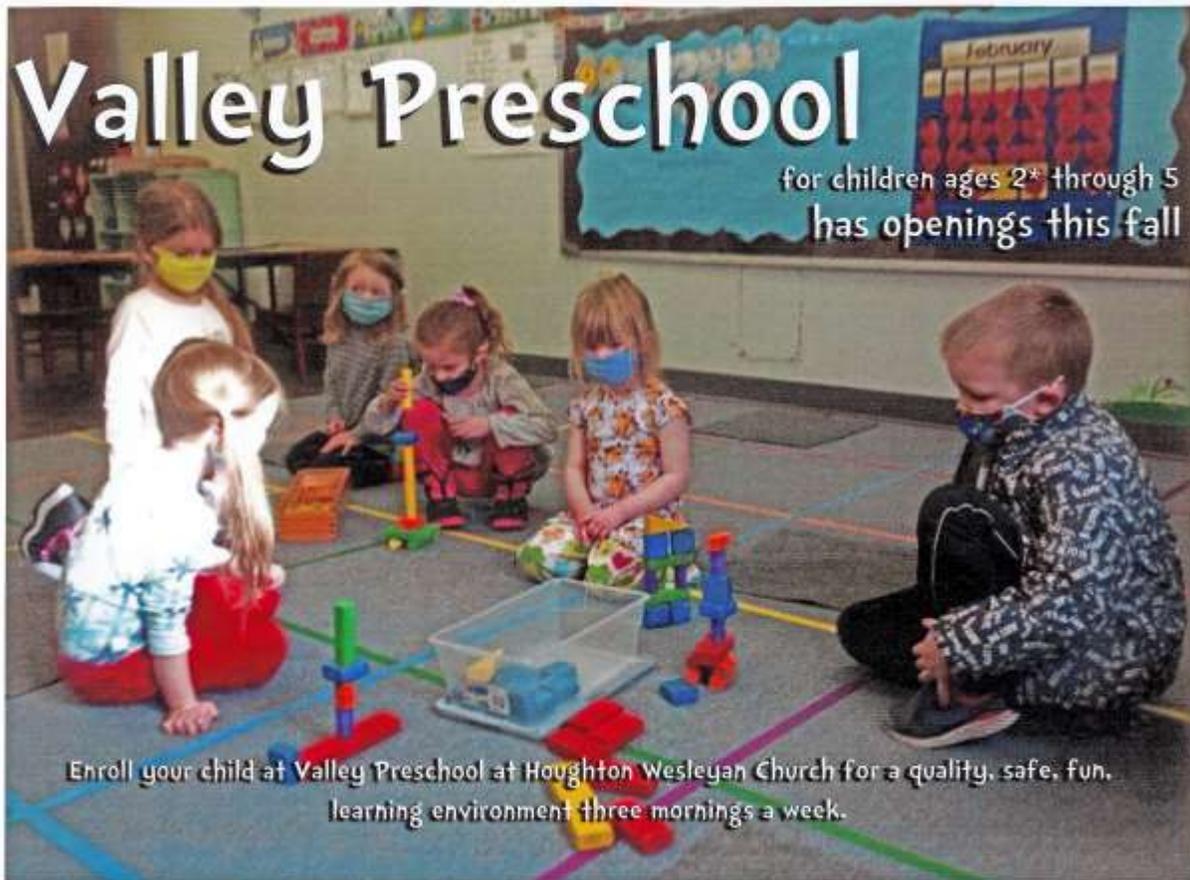
Contact Emily ([emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org)) or Ann ([annmcneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmcneill@hwchurch.org)) if you are interested in serving our children and learning with them!

**COVID Protocols for Kids Programming for the Fall:** We are aware that COVID has an impact on all of our decisions no matter where our opinions lie. For the safety of our children and our volunteers, our current COVID protocols for Kid's Ministry will mirror much of what the public schools are doing and what the CDC recommends. At this time, this includes masking for all children ages 2+, masking for all adults (even those that are vaccinated) who will be working with children, social distancing as able, ventilation, availability of hand sanitizer, and encouraging families to self-monitor any symptoms at home. These protocols are subject to change (in either direction) depending on current COVID rates in our area.

September through May on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m.

New this year: We are including children who are two years old by September 1st!

Reduced tuition and tuition assistance available through our Stone Soup Fund & scholarships.



**Valley Preschool**  
for children ages 2\* through 5  
has openings this fall

Enroll your child at Valley Preschool at Houghton Wesleyan Church for a quality, safe, fun, learning environment three mornings a week.

**For more information or an application**

**Contact Casda Danner (director) at [casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org)/585-567-4314 or call Houghton Wesleyan Church at 585-567-2264.**

*Valley Preschool admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.*

## From the Library Shelves



A big THANK YOU for the return of some of these overdue books. Keep looking!! Here are some different ones to look for:

Adventures in Odyssey CD: Respect  
Beautiful Mercy, by Pope Francis  
Consider it Pure Joy, by Kristen Milligan  
Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart, by K. Haugk  
Jesus Saves the World, Beginner's Bible  
Missouri Homestead, by T. L. Tedrow  
The Sky is Falling, by E. Johns  
Tex, by M. Ranville

Along Came Jones, by Linda Windsor  
Child of Woe, by Maury Blair  
Dog Gone DVD  
God Gave Me Wings DVD  
Just the Way You Are, by M. Lucado  
Serenity, by H. Kraus  
Storm Clouds, by L. Snelling  
Too Busy Not to Pray, by B. Hybels

These are just a few of the books that have been checked out for more than a year. I am sure others might enjoy them if only they were back in the library. You can return them to the library, or drop them off in the bin outside the Community Room doors.

Thanks for looking.....and reading!!

# Wellspring Ministries

Wellspring Ministries continues on as summer will turn to autumn. We are keeping track of best policies for these increasing Covid times. Times of operation are still Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 to 1:30, with lunch at 11:55.



- Fall and winter items are now welcome. (school clothes!)
- Dressers, tables, sofas, lamps, bookcases are often requested.
- We are collecting items for the 2021 Wellspring Christmas Room—a place where parents/guardians can shop for gifts for children ages birth through 18, opening November 17 to December 22.
  - if you would like to buy an item(s) for this purpose, please clearly label that it is for the Christmas Room. We will put that aside.
  - Gifts for teen boys are a challenge. Be creative!
- The number of diners has increased a bit, as well as those enjoying the coffee bar.
- We are closed, Friday, September 3, for Labor Day Weekend.
- Continue to pray in faith for us. People's needs are often greater than material goods. A recent study from NYU finds that supportive interactions protect against mental decline. Having a good listener boosts brain power, and may even stave off the onset of Alzheimer's. We want to be available listeners - offering social support, as well as being a bridge to the Lord's love and mercy.

Thomas Watson, a Puritan writer, says, "Faith is to prayer what the feather is to the arrow; it feathers the arrow of prayer and makes it fly swifter and pierce the throne of grace."

Grateful for your prayers and giving,  
Beth Beardsley (for the board)



If you enjoy high quality, hand-picked, fair trade coffee, Jockey Street Coffee has a roast for you. Order online at [www.jockeystreetcoffee.com](http://www.jockeystreetcoffee.com) or find them in local places including Shop 'N Save, Valley Bread & Bounty or Nevy's Pizzeria & Deli.

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

INSIDE & OUTSIDE

**PAINTING &**

**POWER**

**WASHING**

(HOUSES & DECKS)

## House for Rent

4 Room House in Houghton  
Walking distance to college  
Large Living Room and Dining Room  
Patio and Yard  
\*Call Ruth Miller for more information  
585-567-8885

## Congratulations!

Austen Kewin and Eleanor Tarr  
married August 7, 2021.  
They reside in Lancaster, PA.



## Celebrate Recovery Meets

Thursday Evenings, 7:00 PM in the Good Shepherd Room.

CR is safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives.



Congratulations to  
Christian Scott and Tess Schilke  
who were joined in marriage  
on August 14.  
They reside in Philadelphia..



Think Operation Christmas  
Child Shoeboxes!

Shop back-to-school sales for  
great buys on scissors, crayons,  
pencils, erasers, colored pencils,  
markers, pencil sharpeners, and  
pencil pouches

Lost: Diamond ring, earlier this summer. Might have been left in church kitchen. Please contact Ann McNeill.

**FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**8:45A.M.**  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**9:45A.M.**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL//FELLOWSHIP HOUR  
(GROUPS FOR ALL AGES)

**11:00A.M.**  
INDOOR WORSHIP//STREAMING

**HYMN SING**

**OCTOBER 14**

**6:30 P.M.**

**DR. JUDY CONGDON**



# Drive-thru Food Distribution on September 1 & 29



Takes place in the church parking lot

Preregistration is required and opens 8:30 a.m. on August 24 for appointments between 3 to 4:30 p.m. on September 1. Arrive 10 minutes before your assigned pick-up time and bring grocery bags, laundry baskets, etc. Food is no longer preboxed and more fresh food is available. A driver can pick up for multiple families. Call 585-209-0052 (the Cuba Cultural Center) to register for this distribution and leave your name, phone number, the number of families you will be picking up for. You will receive a return call with your assigned time.

Future “Pop Up Pantry” Dates Houghton is Hosting:

September 29 (registration opens September 21 at 8:30 a.m.)

October 13 (registration opens October 5 at 8:30 a.m.)

November 10 (registration opens November 2 at 8:30 a.m.)

December 8 (registration opens November 30 at 8:30 a.m.)

## SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

September 5 (8:45 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/  
Streaming)  
a.m. *A Myth that Makes Us Oppressive* (Nehemiah 8)

September 12 (8:45 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Streaming)  
a.m. *A Myth that Makes Us Oblivious* (Acts 15)

September 19 (8:45 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Streaming)  
a.m. *A Myth that Makes Us Hardened* (Matthew 12)

September 26 (8:45 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Streaming)  
a.m. *A Myth that Makes Us Impossible* (Hebrews 10)



We are pleased to invite you to join in a dedication of the tree and bench on the south side of the church

in memory of Bruce Brenneman on Sunday, September 12 following the 11:00 service.

This brief gathering will give us an opportunity to remember Bruce and to give thanks to God for the gift of service and friendship.

## 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 [cindvoden@hwchurch.org](mailto:cindvoden@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 [annmcneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmcneill@hwchurch.org)

**Church Office 585-567-2264**  
**Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon & 1 to 4 p.m.**