

Outdoor Worship Service
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2021 at 8:45am

Welcome

Song of Adoration: *O For a Thousand Tongues*

Celebration of Ministry: Discipleship

Scripture Reading: Acts 15:1-20

15 Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” **2** This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. **3** The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. **4** When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. **5** Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. **7** After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. **8** God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. **9** He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. **10** Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? **11** No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. **13** When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. **14** Simon[a] has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. **15** The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: **16** “‘After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, **17** that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’ — **18** things known from long ago. **19** “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. **20** Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

Sermon: **A Myth that Makes Us Oblivious**
Pastor Wes Oden

Meditation: *There Was Jesus*

Time of Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Closing Songs of Response: *Death Was Arrested; Goodness of God*

Benediction

Scripture Reader: Doug Gaerte

Music Ministry Team:

Emily Quick & Grace Deitrick, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Dan Wartinger, cajón

*The rose on the platform is in honor of the birth of Desmond Romael Ritter
born on May 3, 2021, to Charoma and Michael Ritter.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist proclaims: “Blessed is the one who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands” (112:1). We are worship today because we want to delight in God whose commands are given out of His heart of love. We pray that you experience the joy of God as we worship together even though we are distant.

Due to low staffing, there will be no children's church today. Join us for Sunday School at 9:45 and we'll see you next week for Children's Church

DEDICATION GATHERING: Immediately following the Indoor Worship Service, you are invited to join a brief dedication ceremony of the tree and bench given in memory of Bruce Brenneman on the north side of the Christian Education building.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes continues this series of sermons that focus on Myths that Make Us. Next week's sermon is from Acts 15 addressing *The Myth that Makes Us Impossible*. Please join us for outdoor worship 8:45 a.m. and for indoor/streaming blended worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45 a.m.

Safety Sunday - September 19

- All church Sunday School, outdoors if the weather is nice, in the CR if not
- If the weather is nice, we're planning two fire drills, one near the end of the Sunday school hour so that Kids Min can practice, and one at the end of the 11am service so that we can practice evacuating the sanctuary.

PRAYER VIGIL: For the past 11 years, we have hosted a 3-week, 24-hour prayer vigil. Because of Covid-19, last year's vigil was moved from the Prayer Room to outdoors. This year's event will also be outdoors and will begin September 26 and conclude October 10. We have designed prayer stations that will lead us through an hour of prayer. You may sign up for an hour time slot on the church website or by using this link.

CONNECTING: We continue to update email addresses and phone numbers for texting so that everyone who desires receives information from the church. If you are not currently receiving either a text or email for Pastor Wes's weekly letter and weekly video chat and would like to, please contact the church office and we will update your information.

Register your HWCkids
For the 2021-2022 Year!



Wednesday Night Kids Club: Join kids grades 1-6 from area churches at Houghton Wesleyan Church 6:15-7:30 starting October 6! This year's theme is *Great Stories of the Bible*.

Banding Together and Small Groups - Interested in discipleship this Fall? Direct questions about Banding Together Groups and Small Groups to Pastor Paul. Paulshea@hwchurch.org. More info coming Sunday the 26th.

YOUTH GROUP

- September 12 - Blue Foam Party Kickoff! 3pm at the HA soccer field.
- September 19 - Youth group begins! We are returning to the pre-COVID time and format. YG starts at 6pm and will be finished by about 8pm. Both Junior High and Senior High students will join us for that time. We will often be outdoors if the weather is nice, but will be indoors, wearing masks, when the weather does not co-operate. Please be sure to bring a mask!

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP – Room 105 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETS THURSDAY EVENINGS 7:00 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room or outdoors if weather permits.

TOWELS NEEDED: If you have old towels that you would be willing to donate to the church, we could use them to clean off chairs at the outdoor service on Sundays when it rains. Drop them by the church office anytime or bring them on Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed: \$224,714.56 / **Budget Received:** \$198,003.06

MISSION MOMENT - Christine Hegeman is enroute to Benin, W. Africa to join husband Ben for a year and a half last lap in their long ministry to train pastors and Christian workers in that strategic region. We pray for health, safety and a fruitful season, especially publishing years of teaching materials.

PERSECUTED CHURCH –The World Evangelical Alliance reports with local agencies an increased concern over treatment of Christians in Turkey including deportations, surveillance, and opposition to declarations of Christian belief. We pray for the 25,000 Protestants meeting in 13 traditional churches and 150 unlicensed fellowships among others. (CT September 2021)

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Rich and Janet Stegen at the death of her mother and for all who are grieving; for people with concerns: Mildred Congdon (Judy's mother), Jessica Bogdan, Denise Zambrano, 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, 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 Lockport Wesleyan Church (Pastor Matt Rose).

Tear off and place in the boxes on each table.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Houghton Wesleyan offers a variety of ways for you to get involved in ministry in a way that best fits you.

Check the boxes for all the ministries you would like to be part of.

- CHILDREN TECHNOLOGY
- YOUTH GREETERS/USHERS
- COLLEGE COFFEE
- MUSIC MEALS ON WHEELS

DISCIPLESHIP
(Sunday School, Small Groups, Bible Study, etc.)

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____



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

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.

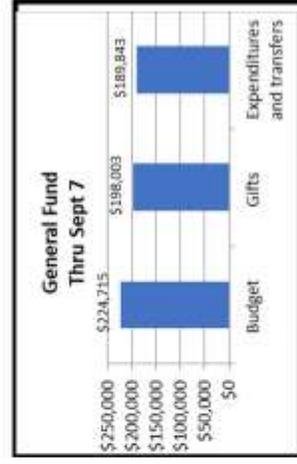
Take a class- A variety of classes are offered in community centers, churches, libraries, etc. Maybe you can even audit a class at Houghton College.

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!



O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to His voice,
new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ,
Ye blind, behold your Savior come,
And leap, ye lame, for joy!

There Was Jesus

Every time I tried
to make it on my own
Every time I tried
to stand and start to fall
All those lonely roads
that I have traveled on
There was Jesus

When the life I built
came crashing to the ground
When the friends I had
were nowhere to be found
I couldn't see it then
but I can see it now
There was Jesus

**In the waiting in the searching
In the healing and the hurting
Like a blessing buried
in the broken pieces
Every minute every moment
Of where I been or where I'm going
Even when I didn't know it
Or couldn't see it**

For this one who needs
amazing kind of grace
For forgiveness
at a price I couldn't pay
I'm not perfect
so I thank God every day
There was Jesus

Chorus

There was Jesus on the mountain
in the valleys
There was Jesus
in the shadows of the alleys
There was Jesus
in the fire in the flood
There was Jesus
always is and always was

No I never walk alone
You are always there

Chorus

Death Was Arrested

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope
with no place to begin
Your love made a way
to let mercy come in
When death was arrested
and my life began

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet
my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested
and my life began

**Oh Your grace so free
washes over me
You have made me new
now life begins with You
It's Your endless love
pouring down on us
You have made us new
now life begins with You**

Released from my chains
I'm a pris'ner no more
My shame was a ransom
He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt
and He called me His friend
When death was arrested
and my life began

Chorus

Our Savior displayed
on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced
as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose
with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested
and my life began

Chorus

Oh we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes we're free, free, forever amen
When death was arrested
and my life began

Goodness of God

I love You Lord,
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

**All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have
been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God**

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

**All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have
been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God**

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

**All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have
been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God**