



Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others*
October 2021
Volume 54, No. 5

The Power of Prayer

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. ...

James 5:16

Andrew Murray (1828-1917) spent sixty years working in a variety of ways in the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa. He wrote more than 200 books and tracts on Christian spirituality and ministry, did extensive social work, and founded educational institutions. One of his most popular books, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, takes New Testament teachings about prayer and illumines them in 31 “lessons” designed to help the reader move past shallow, ineffectual prayer into a fuller understanding of the work God has called them to do.

He writes: *God rules the world by the prayers of his saints, that prayer is the power by which Satan is conquered, that by prayer the church on earth has disposal of the powers of the heavenly world.*

I suspect that we might be a bit hesitant to assign prayer this much power. After all, if we believed that “God rules the world by the prayers of his saints and that prayer is the power by which Satan is conquered” we might well be more serious about prayer than we are.

It’s this understanding of prayer that continues to motivate us to make prayer a priority of our community life and why each year (even multiple times a year) we invite the church and beyond to join together in an extended time of prayer. This year is no different.

This year’s prayer event will be once again an outdoor prayer garden. The prayer garden will have four places for meditation and prayer. Since we will be outdoors, we are setting up prayer times for 30 minutes rather than 60 minutes. If you would like 60 minutes, just sign up for two times. We are also operating from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. And the prayer vigil will be two weeks (Sunday, September 26 – Sunday, October 10). The prayer calendar is open for you to reserve your time/s to come and pray.

I am excited about this opportunity for us to engage in prayer in a different way. I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to draw closer to Christ and in drawing closer to Christ, will be reminded that you are his beloved child through whom he desires to make a difference in our needy world.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

Sundays in October

October 3 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming) *The Myth that Makes Us Barter* (Mark 5:21-43)

October 10 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming) *The Myth that Makes Us Cold* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

October 17 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming) *The Myth that Makes Us Presumptuous* (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7)

October 24 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming) *The Myth that Makes Us Marooned* (Joshua 7)

October 31 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming) *The Myth that Makes Us Forgetful* (Genesis 1:14-19)



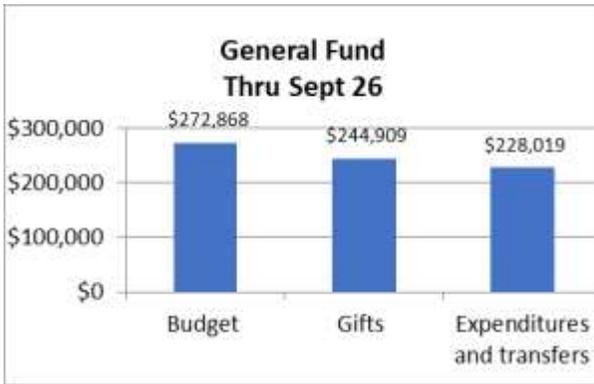
Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

Stewardship, generosity and giving. Is there a difference?

Dave Briggs, a stewardship pastor in Arizona, makes some wonderful comments regarding the three words: stewardship, generosity and giving. He defines stewardship as a role, giving as an act and generosity as an attitude. At times using these three words interchangeably can confuse people.

stewardship = is a role / giving= is an act / generosity= is an attitude

He states that in biblical times, a steward was a respected person of high integrity who was entrusted with the master’s possessions. The steward managed the possessions in accordance with the master’s wishes. Since God created and still owns all we have, stewardship is recognizing that God is the owner and we are his managers, responsible for using God’s possessions to please him and to bring glory to him.



Generosity involves a willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of others.

Giving is merely the act of releasing something of value. Giving can be done without generosity (for example, the Pharisees), but you cannot be generous without giving. However, generosity is only one characteristic of a biblical steward.

The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14–28 is a good example of both positive and negative stewardship, of people who risk what they have been given for the good of the master and his purposes and of people who because they fear losing

what they have, grasp tightly and squander the opportunity to join the master and his good purposes.

In our role as stewards, we have the opportunity and privilege to give generously and to give generously for God’s kingdom purposes. How have you been managing your resources?

Families, friends and community members are invited to a

Service of Remembrance

for the children in our Church family who left us too soon, from the unborn and just born to adult children.

Please join us in the sanctuary on

Thursday, October 21, at 6:30 p.m.

for a time of song, Scripture, and memorial as we honor our children and their families.

All are welcome.

Lectio Divina

Thursday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Jesus often invited the disciples to come away to rest and just be with him – and he is still inviting his disciples now! Join us in the Church sanctuary for a Service of Scripture, Music, Silence and Prayer. Led by Jeanie Little and music by Laura Esh.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP NEWS –

- Adult Sunday School – 9:45 includes: 1 John – Community Room;
- “Chosen” Sunday School 9:45 discussion – Room 105;
- Book Discussion – Good Shepherd Room/ outdoors;
- Mothers that Pray – Room 7 or TBD.
- Women’s Wednesday Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. in Good Shepherd Room below sanctuary. Studying “Walk from Fear to Faith: Old Testament Women of faith.”
- Wednesday Prayer Group – 6:30 p.m. in Room 105 C.E. building. Newcomers welcome to focus on prayer needs of congregation and the world.
- Small Groups – Other Prayer/Study/Fellowship groups are meeting regularly. Starting, resuming, or interested in finding a group. Contact paulshea@hwchurch.org
- Introducing something new: “Banding Together” -See Info Below.

BANDING TOGETHER –

An adult option for growing in your walk with Christ with two or three others. Basic info:

- A group of 3-5 adults (men/women separate) doing personal daily devotion and simple journal entry (1/2 hour likely), and meeting weekly or bi-weekly for sharing and accountability with others in your group(1 hour likely minimum).
- Simplicity of the Bible (a chapter or two a day...suggested schedule available), the Holy Spirit as teacher, and group for sharing, accountability and prayer.
- Not by any means for everyone, especially those whose daily devotion is proving fruitful. But for those desiring closer walk and obedience, Banding Together stimulates prayer, spiritual growth and reaching out to others. Journals (\$2 donation) and more info available from Pastor Paul Shea. paulshea@hwchurch.org

JERICO ROAD

As Jericho Road continues to provide high-quality medical care through a time of increased need, we are calling on our beloved church partners and friends to support us in engaging individuals with a desire to get involved. We have specific needs in the areas of nursing and vaccination support, as well as rising to the call of providing support to Afghan asylum seekers as we respond to this crisis. Opportunities to engage and support are continuing to develop, so please keep an eye on our website and social media for new opportunities as they arise!

Per NYS requirements, all our volunteers and staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. We will provide the vaccine if requested.

Interested volunteers can be directed to our website (jrhc.org/volunteer) to complete the volunteer application or they may contact Krista Schwartzott via email at krista.schwartzott@jrhc.org. Applicants for paid positions can go to our website (jrhc.org/careers) to complete the employment application or they may contact Ashley Farrell via email at ashley.farrell@jrhc.org. For interest in volunteering **specifically to support Afghan evacuee response:**

- Non-Medical Support ...Please refer to [Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees | Community Fundraising ...](#)
- Medical Support: Needs are undefined at this time, but we would love to connect you with our Manager of Volunteer Engagement, [Krista Schwartzott](#), as opportunities develop.





October Sunday School Series: Join us for Sunday School, online and in-person, during October for 5 weeks of lessons from the book of Job. Here's what GROW has to say: " Do you ever stop and think about how big God must be? God created this whole world, all of the planets, and stars in the sky . . . God is really big! Knowing God is big can make us feel small and inconsequential. But the truth is, even the small things are a big deal to God. The story of Job will help everyone realize that even though we are small, God listens to our big feelings, God sees the big picture, God cares about every small problem, and we can also be a big help in small ways.

Memory Verse Challenge

Everyone is invited to be a part of our HWC Kids memory verse challenge!

This month's verse is Job 37:5 - "God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding." Children ages 3-6th grade, say your verse three times to any adult in the church including your parents, your Sunday School teachers, the pastors, or the person sitting next to you on Sunday morning. Once you've mastered the verse, mark it on the chart at the Welcome Desk in the CE foyer. Memorize every monthly verse for a prize (TBD)! Youth and adults, you are welcome to memorize it with us! Kids, pick up your verse list and directions at the Welcome Desk.

Please take a moment today to update your children's information in our database! This will enable us to serve and celebrate them better!

Register your HWCkids
for the 2021-2022 Year!



We invite you to come to the church parking lot on Saturday, October 30, between 10:00 a.m. and noon to receive a bag filled with treats. The Pastoral Staff will be dressed-up to give out the treat bags and to greet you as you drive through the parking lot. Children and youth are invited to dress-up as well or to decorate your vehicle.

Donations for the Harvest Treat Bag Drive-Through are needed. Donations of candy, individual, pre-packaged pretzels, goldfish crackers, potato chips and gummy fruit snack are great appreciated for filling the treat bags for the Harvest Drive-Through on October 30. Please bring donations by October 24. Please drop your donation off in the container inside the door by the church office or you may bring them on Sunday mornings. Thank you.



Due to the lack of demand for nursery, we will not be offering nursery on Sunday mornings beginning October 3rd. If you are in need of nursery services for your child ages newborn - 2, please contact Emily Spateholts (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org) or Jan Schilke (585-567-4889) to let us know of your need. Thanks!

CONGRATULATIONS!

- ◆ Luke Marshall Ries was born on September 6 to parents Tim and Larissa Ries.
- ◆ Dorothy Jean Ogden was born on September 25 to parents Hannah and Luke and big brothers Brooks and Ezra.





New Members

Congratulations to Wayne and Monica Lewis (with daughter Whitley) and to Nuk Oden who were introduced as new members on Sunday, September 26.



Operation Christmas Child

Get those shoebox gifts ready to bless children around the world! Operation Christmas Child collection week is in November, but now is the time to start filling those boxes. Any shoe box will do, but the church also has Samaritan's Purse printed shoe boxes. You can find them in a bin outside the Christian education building along with tracking labels and how to build a shoebox brochures. More than ever gift such as school and hygiene supplies, toys and clothing are needed. Thank you for your generosity and love.



From the Library Shelves



Our church library is for YOU! It is open whenever the church is open. Come on in and see what we have on our shelves.

Our fiction section has books in a variety of genres: adventure, contemporary, historical, romance, mystery, etc. We also have biographies, books on prayer, parenting, Jesus, missions, history, education, songs. We have large print books, and books on CD, and a variety of DVDs.

There is a room just for preschool, elementary, and junior age kids, with their own books, CDs, and DVDs.

Come on in and find something you will enjoy!

Stewards of Children

Protecting our children and youth is a community responsibility and privilege!

Everyone 18+ years old is invited to participate in our Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention training on October 9th from 9-11am. Join us as we discover how we can make the Church a welcome, safe, and comfortable environment for our young people. Questions? Contact Pastor Jon (joncole@hwchurch.org) or Emily (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org).

Wellspring Ministries

With each season change, we experience an influx and outflow of varied items. People are cleaning out, reorganizing, and assessing their needs. We are grateful to be a resource center for all of that.

We do see 'Poverty' - but not just material poverty, which is relatively easy to address. The other faces of poverty are more complex - relational poverty and inner poverty. Some folks have few meaningful people in their lives, or have numerous broken relationships. Inner poverty can present as low self-esteem and perseverance, sadness, identity issues. How true the song is, "**People need the Lord.**" Knowing Jesus as Savior can help in all 3 areas - and we desire to be a positive resource for all the faces of poverty. This is an ongoing prayer need.

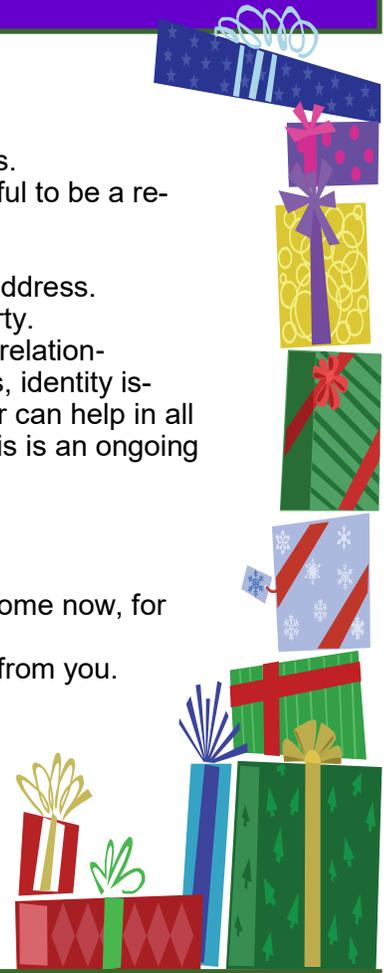
Hours of operation - Wednesdays and Fridays - 10:00 am to 1:30 pm.
with lunch at 11:55.

Our Christmas Room opens November 17. Items labeled for that room are welcome now, for children ages birth to 18.

Thank you for every prayer, for every donation, for every referral...for every visit from you. Come - the coffee pot is perking! Check us out.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

Proverbs 11:28 (The Message) - "A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree."



Freezer Meals



**Thank you all for the many ways you are serving and helping one another!
We so appreciate each one of you and all that you do.**

The Lay Shepherd leaders and Lay Shepherd groups continue to reach out to help their neighborhoods and area when someone has a baby, is ill or has surgery. This is a tremendous ministry but during these extra busy and often stress filled days, it can be difficult to help others as we desire. Because of this, we are inviting you to make a freezer meal or two when you have time, to have on hand in the church freezer. In this way, when a need arises meals are readily available. It could be a meal of soup or a casserole for one person or two people or for a family. If you would be able to help us stock up on meals for people in times of need or if you have any questions, please contact Cindy Oden ([585-567-2024](tel:585-567-2024)/ cindyoden@hwchurch.org).

Meals may be dropped off at the church office during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

FREE CLINIC

Remote Area Medical - RAM®

Belmont, NY

October 9 - 10, 2021

Genesee Valley Central School
1 Jaguar Dr, Belmont, NY 14813

Free Dental

Fillings
Cleanings
Extractions



Free Vision

Eye Exams
Glaucoma Testings
Eye Glasses Made on Site



Free Medical

General Medical
Women's Health
And More!



NO ID REQUIRED - FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED



We are following CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting for COVID-19

Please be sure to check RAMUSA.ORG for additional important information.



PARKING LOT WILL OPEN NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY, OCT. 9 AND WILL REMAIN OPEN THROUGHOUT THE CLINIC.

Clinic Hours:

The clinic will open at 6:00 a.m. on both days.



Our love and prayers go out to families who have experienced a recent death.

- ◆ Janet Stegen and family at the death of her mother, Evelyn Heil
- ◆ Carol Brown and family at the death of her husband, Bob

Houghton Royal Family Kids Camp: Helping to Heal the Hurts of Allegany County Children for 27 Years

- What? Each summer since 1995, Houghton RFKC, a ministry of the Houghton Wesleyan Church, has provided 52 kids ages 6 – 12 (who are referred by Allegany County DSS because of substantiated histories of neglect and/or abuse) with a week of safe, positive memories in a Christian Camp Setting (Camp Asbury, Perry, NY).
- When? July 10 – 15, 2022
- How? More than 60 residential volunteers and 25 dayworkers serve in a variety of ways: as individual counselors (ratio of 1 counselor/2 campers); crafts; Bible storytelling, drama and music; swimming & recreation; talent show; and more.
- Email, text or call Nancy Murphy for more information: houghton.rfkc@gmail.com; nancy.murphy@houghton.edu; (585) 376-4053
- Who? Willing souls of all ages and backgrounds! Our campers need us more than ever! Please consider volunteering. If you have a heart for children and a desire to show Christ's Love to little ones, then we have a place for you to serve! We especially need individual counselors (1 counselor for every 2 campers); photographers (each camper gets a photo album at the end of the week); craft people; dining hall servers; drama; music and more!
- Why? Matthew 19:13-15

Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; For, indeed, that's all who ever have.



Joy to the World! **An Organ Meditation on the works of Isaac Watts** **October 14, 6:30 p.m.**

Though he lived a long time ago (1674-1748), Isaac Watts created timeless hymn texts—still some of our favorites today. In the next Organ Meditation, Thursday, October 14, we will be invited to worship together as we reflect on the life and works of Isaac Watts, hear scripture that inspired his hymn texts, hear organ and choral music based on his hymns, and join together in singing some of his all-time favorites. If you love singing hymns with organ, this service is for you.

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor
567-2024 wesoden@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor
307-9950 joncole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor
567-2024 cindyoden@hwchurch.org

Paul Shea Assistant Pastor
567-4597 paulshea@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director
amandacox@hwchurch.org

Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry
808-8925 emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

Ann McNeill, Children's Ministry
437-5151 annmceill@hwchurch.org

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,
567-2264 office@hwchurch.org