

# Highlights



He's Alive!

*The angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body.*

Mark 16:6

Easter Sunday was a glorious morning of worship! In each of the gatherings we heard the resurrection story spoken and joined the resurrection story sung. One of the highlights of the morning was the baptism service.

When we made the plans for Easter this year (after two years of Covid), we were forgetting all of the things that needed to happen in the brief time between the services: putting the baptistry lids back on, moving the pulpit back into place, rearranging all of the flowers, repositioning the microphones and monitors. It was a lot of work but many hands made light of it. And it was all worth it!

One of the great joys of being a pastor is baptizing people. I cannot put into words the privilege of participating in this exciting and memorable moment in the lives of our people. And Easter Sunday was no exception.

On Easter, we baptized four of our children. Because they are young, their testimonies were simple and uncomplicated. In one way or another, they all stood in front of the church and said: *I want to be baptized because of Jesus's love for me and because I want to live all of my life loving him.*

Listening to their words, I was reminded of how often we get caught up in the spectacular. We are attracted to stories of radical transformation. And we should be. Those are wonderful, powerful stories and we praise God for each one. But the simple and uncomplicated stories of these children are every bit as wonderful and powerful. What a joy for them to have been taught the truth of Jesus and to have responded by declaring: *I want to love and live for Jesus all of my life!* Not after a life of rejecting God but from the very beginning!

But no matter the journey one takes to the waters of baptism, we have to continually remember that their baptism and ours and everyone's matters, is significant, is an experience of God's power that grounds every person in the grace of Jesus because as we sang on Sunday: *Christ the Lord is risen today!*

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. It gives meaning to the Incarnation and Crucifixion of Jesus. It sets in motion the Ascension and Reappearing of Jesus. It is the promise of life—now and eternal.

Therefore, because Jesus is risen, let me encourage you to join me in not only celebrating the baptism of these children, but in joining them, declaring: *I want to love Jesus and live for Jesus all of my life!*

Because He Lives,  
Pastor Wes

## Election of Leaders:

We will offer three options for voting: 1) in person, 2) online and e) mail. You may vote in person on Sunday morning, May 22 at both the sanctuary and CE building foyers. If you prefer to vote by mailing in a ballot, contact the church office by May 13. We will need to receive mailed ballots by Friday, May 20. For online access to the ballot, we will send a link the week of May 16. All online ballots must be cast by noon on May 22.

## Community Financial Plan:

You will be receiving information related to the Community Financial Plan in the coming weeks. The vote about the Plan will take place with the Election of Leaders, in person, online and by mail.



For the Herb Williams Family at the death of his brother Bob



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



### EASTER BAPTISM

Congratulations Violet Bates, Grayson Cox, Evelyn Esh, and Cooper Towers who were baptized Easter morning.

## Memorial Service for Eila Shea May 20

The Community is invited to attend the Memorial Service and Celebration of Life for Eila Shea on Friday, May 20, 11:00 a.m. at Houghton Wesleyan Church. Paul and Debbie Shea wish to thank all who have graciously expressed their support and sympathy during the difficult weeks leading up to and since her passing. The family has a request: We are interested in the extent of her art work amongst friends, and invite you to drop a note to [Paulshea@hwchurch.org](mailto:Paulshea@hwchurch.org) to describe any paintings you possess. Thank you.



## A Night for Neighbors

Baked goods sale, sweets auction, and praise & worship time will be held at Houghton Academy from 6-8 pm on **Friday, May 6**. The event's proceeds will support resettlement of refugees through **Journey's End Refugee Services** in Buffalo. Contact [Anna.Huizenga@houghtonacademy.org](mailto:Anna.Huizenga@houghtonacademy.org) with questions or baked goods donations.

# STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

*“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15)*

In a few weeks, our congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2022-23 Community Financial Plan (sometimes referred to as the budget).

**Houghton Wesleyan Church**  
**Proposed 2022-23 Community Financial Plan**  
 (With Salaries and Projected Underspends Allocated)\*

	2021-22	2022-23	\$	% of
	Budget	Budget	Increase	Total Budget
<b>Revenues</b>				
General Fund Contributions	\$ 834,654	\$ 834,654	\$ -	99.9%
Other Revenue	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ -	0.2%
Transfer from Designated Funds	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	2.9%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 836,454</b>	<b>\$ 861,454</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Missions</b>				
Local Outreach	\$ 21,700	\$ 19,950	\$ (1,750)	2.3%
Global Outreach	\$ 132,242	\$ 132,242	\$ -	15.4%
<b>Total Missions</b>	<b>\$ 153,942</b>	<b>\$ 152,192</b>	<b>\$ (1,750)</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
<b>Ministries</b>				
College Ministry	\$ 14,357	\$ 38,957	\$ 24,600	4.5%
Youth Ministry	\$ 79,505	\$ 78,373	\$ (1,132)	9.1%
Assimilation/Congregational Care Ministry	\$ 70,826	\$ 67,036	\$ (3,790)	7.8%
Discipleship Ministry	\$ 14,054	\$ 25,738	\$ 11,674	3.0%
Children's Ministry	\$ 46,451	\$ 48,426	\$ 1,977	5.6%
Worship Services/Music Ministry	\$ 87,325	\$ 88,548	\$ 1,223	10.3%
<b>Total Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 312,828</b>	<b>\$ 347,060</b>	<b>\$ 34,562</b>	<b>40.3%</b>
<b>Physical Plant</b>				
Building Operations & Maintenance	\$ 127,331	\$ 124,427	\$ (2,904)	14.4%
Capital Improvements & Contingency	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	2.3%
<b>Total Physical Plant</b>	<b>\$ 147,331</b>	<b>\$ 144,427</b>	<b>\$ (2,904)</b>	<b>16.8%</b>
<b>Administration and Church Office</b>				
Church Office	\$ 70,193	\$ 66,707	\$ (3,486)	7.7%
Administration and General/Contingency	\$ 81,225	\$ 79,677	\$ (1,548)	9.2%
<b>Total Administration and Church Office</b>	<b>\$ 151,418</b>	<b>\$ 146,384</b>	<b>\$ (5,034)</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
Denominational and District Support	\$ 71,236	\$ 71,379	\$ 138	8.3%
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 836,454</b>	<b>\$ 861,454</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Salaries and benefits total \$478,057 or 55.3% of total expenses are allocated among the various areas. Projected underspends of the line by line budgets totalling \$20,000 are assumed in the figures above.

Having been through two years of COVID-19 issues and now dealing with current economic issues, building the 2022-23 Community Financial Plan (CFP) has been especially challenging. The proposed CFP for 2022-23 reflects the tension of fiscal responsibility and faith in our God who greater than our needs.

There are important reasons why we seek the entire congregation's approval of this proposed CFP.

- The Community Financial Plan reveals the mission and vision of Houghton Wesleyan Church. You have heard it said that an individual's checkbook provides a glimpse of their priorities. Church financial plans are similar. The way resources are allocated throughout the course of a year should reflect the church's mission and vision.
- The plan reveals the path forward. Our church has goals, and the CFP demonstrates how those goals will be reached. This year's goals are to express our appreciation for our staff, maintaining our support for local and global outreach, make sure that all ministries have sufficient funds to do their work for the kingdom and to care for our facilities as good stewards of what we have been entrusted.
- The financial plan keeps everyone accountable. It keeps people from overspending, and also underspending. You might think that underspending sounds like a point of celebration, not concern. But since our CFP reflects the current mission and game plan, underspending may also be a red flag. A financial plan keeps everyone accountable.

If you vote to approve this plan, you are indicating your commitment to support this plan through your faithful giving for which we are profoundly thankful.

How do you access the HWC CFP for 2022-23? It is posted on the church website at <https://hwchurch.org/vision/vision-meeting-annual-meeting/> or you can obtain paper copies by contacting the church office.



- HWC Kids in May: "The Messengers" - How many ways can you send a message? There are so many unique ways! Special deliveries are the best but even better are the messages found in each package. This month, we are going to look at the most important message that was ever sent out and how we are meant to be the ones delivering it. Kids are God's messengers that can share the stories of God's miracles and help. Get kids involved in helping God's message go everywhere because God delivers everyone!

- May's Memory Verse: Isaiah 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"



"Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work." (CS Lewis) Join us in this important and FUN work; there are multiple ways to serve. For more information, email [kidsmin@hwchurch.org](mailto:kidsmin@hwchurch.org) or talk to Emily Spateholts.

- **Nursery:** ages infant - 2 years old, summer and school year, pick your weeks and time commitment
- **Children's Church Teacher & Assistants:** ages preschool - 1st grade, summer and during school year, pick your weeks and time commitment
- **Sunday School Teacher & Assistants:** various ages, school year only, weekly commitment
- **Kids Min Substitutes:** all ages, as needed, often last minute or on holiday weekends
- **Social Media Coordinator:** weekly social media posts for HWC Kids curriculum and activities
- **Mid-Week Volunteers:** details TBD
- **Decorator:** monthly update of bulletin board and assembly room decorations to match monthly curriculum theme
- **Assembly Time Leader & Assistant:** ages K-5th grade, 15-20 minute weekly commitment at start of SS hour, lead kids in songs and Scripture memory
- **Greeters:** greet families and answer questions as people arrive for Sunday School weekly



### Coming this Summer -

Every family will be invited via invitation to join Emily and her family for dessert, lawn games, and more casual fun to get to know each other better and build community with other HWC Families. More details to come!



VPS  
Valley PreSchool  
VPS



Valley Preschool is a ministry of Houghton Wesleyan Church for children ages two through five. We meet Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings from 9:00 to 11:45. Student applications for the 2022-23 school year are available. Paper copies are available on the VPS bulletin board or in the church office and are also available on the church website. Please contact Casda Danner if you have questions ([casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org) OR call 585-567-4314) or are interested in the possibility of extended care options.

Visit the Valley PreSchool art exhibit at Coppa Co until May 6th. Enjoy the creativity and colors of our preschoolers.

## May Youth News:

### Youth Group in May

#### 30 Hour famine!

- May 1 - God's Miraculous Provision: Daily Bread
- May 8 - NO Youth group
- May 15 - God's Miraculous Provision: Unlikely Sources
- May 22 - God's Abundance: Enough for All



May 29 – End of the Year Party – Color Wars! Wear White, bring eye protection, be ready to have fun!!



#### Prayer Breakfast!

May 3,10,17,24,31 – 7am in the community room. Prayer, Praise, Pancakes...

#### Sunday School in May:

In May we'll continue our series by Dave Ramsey called, "Generation Change".

- BE who God created: God uniquely designed each of us. That means you are who He says you are, not who the world says you are. Get a glimpse of God's heart for you and how to find joy in Him without the need for instant gratification.
- DO more with your money: **God's ways** of handling money work! Learn to give, save and spend His way.
- GO write your story: Decisions will paint your future. Learn how to live the life God created you for.

#### Upcoming Events:



May 6-7 – 30 Hour Famine  
Loving God and Fighting Hunger!



**WHAT:** For 30 hours, we'll fast to raise funds that will help feed and care for hungry children around the world.

**WHY:** Every 15 seconds, a child under 5 dies—and nearly half those deaths are from hunger-related causes. **That's why we're acting now!**

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

1. Give. Every \$40 we raise helps feed and care for a child for one month. You can:
  - Visit our fundraising page at <https://30hourfamine.worldvision.org/team/HFWChurchYouth22>
2. Volunteer. We need your help to make our Famine weekend a success! There are lots of ways to help out, from assisting with our fundraising events to bringing a meal to break our fast. Please join us.
3. Pray. Ask for **God's** grace over our event and our fundraising, and that we grow deeper in our love for Him while helping change the lives of kids who are hungry.

# WELLSPRING MINISTRIES

Dear HWC family -

Our Easter Week ham dinner, served by the Allegany Co. Sheriff's Department, was a time of rejoicing. Each family left with a ham in hand for their own celebrations. Pastor Jonathan Coates of Belfast brought the devotional.

The April Board meeting found us:

- discussing the purchase of a 'lift table' to transport items to the lower level of the building, thus avoiding the stairway area. We have 2 companies with products to consider. Join us in praying for the best solution.  
- reading an article reminding us that not only the very needy are 'shopping' at Wellspring. Yes, they are among our visitors, but also many young families with children come, frugal folks, the elderly on fixed incomes, and those who just are curious, allured by finding something 'new', 'rare', or 'old' for free. Often people come with a very specific need. We welcome ALL - including YOU. Come, visit our rooms with your children. See what we are about... and continue donating generously and carefully, aware that our volunteers only put out items in good condition, clean, and ready to use.

As we handle material goods, we seek to remember that God created us to be filled and satisfied with Him, not the things of the world, that wither and decay. He alone satisfies the heart, and we desire and pray to that end.

Open - each Wednesday and Friday - 10am to 1:15pm. Location: edge of Belfast, 5993 County Rd. 16.  
585-365-2250

Grateful for our HWC connection - Beth Beardsley (for the Bd.)

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



## From the Library Shelves

We have quite a number of new books in our library right now. For the kids there are a number of Bible story books, such as *The Prisoners*, *the Earthquake and the Midnight Song*; or *The One O'Clock Miracle*; or *Goodbye to Goodbyes*, and more. There is also *The Blessing Jar*, about being thankful all year; and there is *Far From Home*, telling how Jesus is always with you, even though you have to leave your home. These, and more, are on the 'new' shelves in the children's room.

New books in the adult section are: *Becoming Elisabeth Elliot*; and *Small Town Big Miracle*. We have *The Amish Greenhouse Mysteries*, a new 3-book series by Wanda Brunstetter. There are new books by Dee Henderson, Karen Kingsbury, Tracie Peterson and others. Come on in and find something you will like.

As always, please return your books in a timely manner so others may enjoy them also.  
Happy Reading!



The Caneadea and Hume Trail Towns are sponsoring an "I Love My Park Day" Event on the Genesee Valley Greenway STATE PARK, Saturday May 7th from 9am- Noon  
Reservations for painting & tool project are due May 1  
[www.ptny.org/ilovemypark](http://www.ptny.org/ilovemypark)



Looking to Buy or Sell Real Estate?  
Contact me today!

## Andrew Roorbach

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**URGENT need for 5 additional Host Families**  
**Old Timers Game, Sunday June 5, 2pm**  
**Opening Home Game, Wednesday, June 8, 7pm**  
**Kids Basic Skills Camp, June 27-29**  
**Advanced Skills Camp, July 5 & 6**  
For more information [www.geneserapidsbaseball.com](http://www.geneserapidsbaseball.com)  
or call Ralph Kerr 716-969-0688



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

INSIDE & OUTSIDE

**PAINTING &**

**POWER**

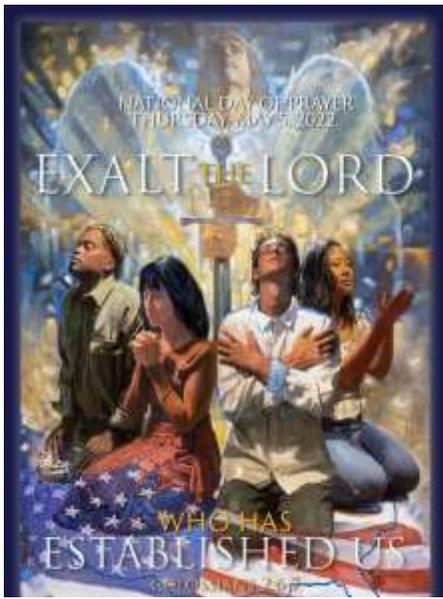
**WASHING**

(HOUSES & DECKS)



The Houghton Letchworth KOA is looking for:  
⇒ a house cleaner for our own house  
and  
⇒ a handyman/lawn care person for our campground (could be a part time job for a retiree)

**Karin Stroh, Houghton Letchworth KOA**  
[www.houghtonkoa.com](http://www.houghtonkoa.com)  
585-567-4211 or [info@houghtonkoa.com](mailto:info@houghtonkoa.com)



**THURSDAY, MAY 5, IS THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.** Our Prayer Rooms, located on the lower level of the sanctuary, are always available daily for prayer for our nation, the world or any other concerns, with access by the side-door near the offices. Information about Allegany County gatherings may be accessed at this site: [www.facebook.com/AlleganyHopeWNY](http://www.facebook.com/AlleganyHopeWNY).

# Sundays in May

May 1 *Do You Want to Be Forgiven?* (John 21:7-14)  
 8:45 a.m. Indoor  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming

May 8 *Do You See Yourself the Way Jesus Does?* (John 21:15-17)  
 8:45 a.m. Indoor  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming

May 15 *On Whom Are Your Eyes Focused?* (John 21:18-25)  
 8:45 a.m. Indoor  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming

May 22  
 8:45 a.m. Indoor  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming

May 29 Youth Sunday  
 8:45 a.m. Indoor  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming



## OUR YOUTH GROUP IS DOING WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE.

**WHAT:** For 30 hours, we'll skip meals to raise funds that will help feed and care for hungry children around the world.

**WHY:** Every five seconds, a child under 5 dies—and nearly half those deaths are from hunger-related causes. That's why we're taking action now!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **Give.** Every \$40 we raise helps feed and care for a child for one month. Make checks out to World Vision and give them to the contact person below or visit our fundraising page at: <https://30hourfamine.worldvision.org/team/HFWChurchYouth22>



or text GIVE30HF to 44888.

2. **Volunteer.** We need your help to make our Famine weekend a success! There are lots of ways to help out. See Pastor Jon for details.

3. **Pray.** Ask for God's grace over our event and our fundraising, and that we grow deeper in our love for Him while helping change hungry kids' lives.

**WHEN:** May 6-7, 2022 - We'll be fundraising until May 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Schedule - Friday night May 6 - 5:30 - Food Pantry Drive - Students will walk around the greater Houghton Area collecting food for the HWC Food Pantry**

**Saturday May 7 - 8:30 am - noon - local service projects**  
 1-4pm - Carwash at the church. Bring in your car!  
 5pm - Break our fast with communion and then spaghetti!

**OUR GOAL:** We're raising 53000.00 to help feed and care for hungry youth!

**CONTACT:** Pastor Jon - [JonCole@HWChurch.org](mailto:JonCole@HWChurch.org)

# CHURCH STAFF

**Wes Oden, Senior Pastor**  
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**Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor**  
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**Ann McNeill, Director of Children's Ministries**  
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**Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,**  
 567-2264 [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org)

