



The Gift of Beauty

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

(Philippians 4:8)

I've been reading the book *75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know*. It is a compilation of great works of art, literature, music and film. Just short vignettes about each masterpiece and its artist.

This book has caused me to think about beauty even more than I might otherwise. I'm pondering how beauty comes in the various forms described in this book as well as the beauty of nature. My musings have reminded me that when you step back from it, you realize that beauty is unnecessary.

In order for us to exist, we don't need paintings or music, movies or poetry. Beauty doesn't add more oxygen for us to breathe. Beauty doesn't provide more food to eat. Beauty doesn't make a shelter more adequate to protect us. Life can be lived without beauty...except that life without beauty isn't the way God creates life to be.

God creates beauty and God inspires humans to create beauty not because beauty is pragmatic; but because God loves beauty. And God loves beauty because it reveals the nature of who he is. God loves beauty because he is beautiful. In fact, beauty exists only because it comes from the mind and hand of God who is beautiful.

This doesn't eliminate God's wrath or God's judgment. This doesn't minimize the importance of the pragmatic ways in which God acts. Rather, it reminds us that all of these ways of God can only be understood in the context of the inherent beauty of who God is. Psalm 96 declares of God: *Honor and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.*

This is why Paul admonishes the Philippian Church: *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.* Paul directs them and us to think about beautiful things because to think about beauty is to think about God who is the source and essence of all beauty.

Let me encourage you to ask God to open your eyes as I am asking him to open my eyes to his beauty all around you. In a starry sky. In a garden of green shoots. In a verse of poetry or the melody of a song. In a neighbor, a friend, a member of your family. In all of life all around you. And in your seeing, may you be inspired to greater trust in him who is the source of all beauty as you *think about these things.*



Blessings,
Pastor Wes



Election Results

Elders Secretary: Jim Zoller

Church Treasurer: David Mercer

Elders: Ken Bates, Jan Schilke, Paul Young

Trustees: James Mullen, Michael Spateholts

Nominating Committee: Kathie Brenneman, Doug Gaerte, Janyce Smithley

District Conference Delegates: Tim McGarvey, Carolyn Miller, Tom and Jane Miner, Paul and Debbie Young

Community Financial Plan Vote: Yes – 144 / No – 0

Elders

Doyin Adenuga (2023)

Alicia Mucher (2023)

Jill Jordan (2023)

Tim McGarvey (2024)

Daryl Stevenson (2024)

Donnie Stockin (2024)

Ken Bates (2025)

Jan Schilke (2025)

Paul Young (2025)

Jim Zoller, Secretary

David Mercer, Treasurer

Pastor Wes Oden

Trustees:

Harold Blew (2023)

Nathan Danner (2023)

Judi Mayhle (2023)

Nate Jacoby (2024)

Andrew Roorbach (2024)

Dan Wartinger (2024)

James Mullen (2025)

Michael Spateholts (2025)

Pastor Wes Oden

Please continue to pray for our pastors and leaders as we begin a new year of ministry and service in Houghton.

Thank you to Elders, Dave Brubaker and Don Little and to Trustee, Charlie Smith whose terms have expired. We appreciate the thoughtful and godly leadership that each person has given us in the past years.



STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand,” 1 Chronicles 29:14.

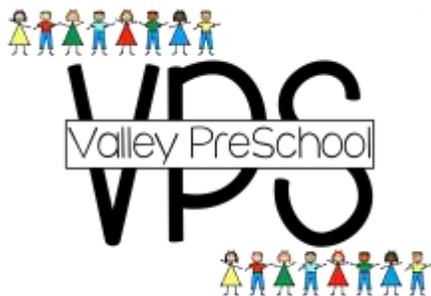
Everything we have belongs to God. We are only stewards. It’s important to recognize this truth in every area of our lives. Take a moment right now and thank the Lord for the many blessings He has provided.

No matter how young or old we are, our lives belong to the Lord and everything we own, love and cherish are His. The apostle Paul urged the church in Rome to view their bodies as living sacrifices and present them to God. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship,” Romans 12:1.

As you may be aware, over the past few months our giving has decreased significantly. Because our expenses this past fiscal year have been exceptionally reduced, we will likely end the year close to even. For this we are grateful. We appreciate your sacrificial giving that enables us to minister to each other and to others—near and far.

As the new year commences, we encourage you to once again think and pray about what God might be leading you to give this year.

The Stewardship Committee



Valley Preschool is a ministry of Houghton Wesleyan Church for children ages two through five. We meet Monday, Wednesday, and 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. The Application Fee is \$25 through the month of June and goes up to \$50 on July 1. Please contact Casda Danner if you have questions (casdadanner@hwchurch.org OR call 585-567-4314) or are interested in the possibility of extended care options.



Join us this summer for Family Fridays! Working our way alphabetically through our list of HWC families, every family will be invited along with 2-3 other families for a casual Friday evening of campfire, s'mores, lawn games, and conversation at Miss Emily's house. Watch your mailbox for your invite!

CONGRATULATIONS 2nd, 3rd and 6th Graders!

This month, we honor the achievements of all of our HWC Kids! Join us June 5 at 11:00 a.m. as we specifically celebrate our 2nd and 3rd graders on memorizing the books of the Bible and our 6th graders for completing their catechism course (and moving up to HWC Youth!). Congratulations!



Kids:

- 🍷 Ages 3 to 6th grade
- 🍷 Super awesome fun learning about God's love with friends, games, food, crafts, music, & more!
- 🍷 Register here

Join us for VBS 2022!

June 27 - 29

Possible celebration June 30 - TBD

6 - 8 pm

@ Fillmore Wesleyan Church

Volunteers:

- 🍷 Ages 7th grade and up
- 🍷 Major needs – Bible storyteller, small group leaders, puppeteer, crafty folks, science-y people, someone to share missions, registration folks, and decorators ahead of time!
- 🍷 To find out what's needed or ask questions, email beckyswebb@gmail.com.



Nathan & Casda Danner are pleased to announce the marriage of their son, Joel, to Olivia Tetta on Saturday, May 28th. We are so excited for this new chapter in their lives and ask that you join us in praying for this couple as they begin their life together.

Houghton Academy Graduation Exercises

June 3rd Baccalaureate Houghton
Academy Auditorium - 7:30pm

June 4th Commencement Houghton
Academy Auditorium - 10:00am



Fillmore Graduation Exercises

June 19th Baccalaureate - Fillmore
Auditorium – 7pm

June 24th Commencement – Fillmore
Auditorium - 6pm

Thank You HWC Kids Volunteers!

With another school year of HWC Kids coming to an end soon, we wanted to take a minute to thank our amazing HWC Kids team. Thank you for investing in our children, for walking with them as they discover the love that God and the Church has for them. If you see any of our team members, please take a moment to thank them for their great gifts of time, attention, patience, and faith.

Thank you...

...Jaime Potter and Jess Wartinger, for being such reliable pillars of our Sunday School program, ensuring that our HWC Kids feel welcome from check-in to pick-up and creating a great experience for our teachers and assistant!

...Angela Babbitt, for always bringing our Bible stories alive with props!

...Beth Beardsley, for bringing the calming presence that only a grandma can bring!

...Jonathan & Nancy Gates, for bringing decades of parenting wisdom, tricks, and toys to bless our little ones with!

...Ann McNeill, for going beyond regular duties to share Gospel truths!

...Nicole Torraca, for being the cool highschooler that our kids can look up to!

...Sunshine & Aaron Sullivan, for creating a safe, playful environment for our little ones to become reacquainted with the Church after Covid upended their lives!

...Kathy Moore, for sharing your gift of making Scripture tangible through crafts!

...Matt & Barb Woolsey, for being a consistent encouragement to our Kindergartners and 1st Graders as they learn the Sunday School ropes!

...Karl & Jill Schmidt, for making the Bible stick through song, rhyme, and games!

...Christian & Laura Esh, for valuing and investing in the one (to three) that God entrusted to you this year!

...Sharon McGarvey, for translating your professional expertise into creating an engaging, welcoming place for pre-teens!

...Josie Adenuga, for greeting each kid with a warm, comforting smile!

...Harold Blew, for believing that our young people are capable of memorizing the foundations of our faith!

...Rhoda Burgett, for patiently listening to and celebrating the accomplishments of our 6th graders!

...Substitutes Matt Cox, Dan Wartinger, Steve & Audrey Pocock, Rachel Blew, Donna Blew, and Michael Spateholts, for always being willing to step in last minute to create a safe, engaging space and ensuring that our classrooms could be open and ready for kids!

...Jan Schilke, for waiting so patiently for the day that we can fill our nursery with the littlest HWC Kids again!

...Harold & Donna Blew, for maintaining the library so kids of all ages can learn and grow and get lost in a book!

...Casda Danner, Rachel Blew, and Brenda Montanye, for building solid foundations of faith and education and social success for our Valley Preschool students!

...Kathy Reitnour-Danner, for blessing our new babies and their families with notes and gifts of encouragement!

...Kathy Moore, Harold Blew, and Jeff Babbitt, for providing a mid-week pick-me-up and faith-refresher for our HWC Kids!

...the Children's Ministry Committee, for providing your wisdom, ideas, feedback, and encouragement as we serve our HWC Kids and Families as God would have us to!



Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC)—Prayer Partners Needed

The mission of Royal Family Kids is to create “positive, life-changing moments for innocent children who have been victims of neglect, abuse, and abandonment.”

Currently there are 242 RFKCs, 214 in the US and 28 campuses in 6 other countries. Since 1995, the local Houghton RFKC has served over 400 campers, with each of these campers returning for an average of four summers.

This year's RFKC at Camp Asbury (Silver Lake) will be held July 10-15. This year's theme is The Royal Court (the stories of Esther and Daniel), and this year's verse is 1 Peter 2:9: “This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light.” Anyone interested in being a prayer partner for a camper or staff member should contact Laurie Dashnau by email at Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu. The responsibilities of a prayer partner include praying for one specific camper, counselor, or staff member along with writing a short note to that person that will be passed along to him or her at the start of camp. Thank you in advance for considering serving in this capacity!

From the Library



We are trying to be good stewards and use the church library budget wisely. You can help by returning books and DVDs after you have finished them. Then we can use the budget to get new items and not need to use it to replace items. So.....

Be On the Look Out!! for: *Black* by Ted Dekker; *Blink* also by Ted Dekker; *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* DVD; *Financial Peace* by Dave Ramsey; *Finding My Way Home* by H. J. M. Nouwen; *Mama Said There'd be Days Like This*, by C. A. Baumbich and *What Moms Can't Do* by Douglas Wood. These, and more, are long overdue. If you have them, please return them to the church library so others may enjoy them too.

Thanks, and Happy Reading!!

Wellspring Ministries

Dear Houghton Friends,

How grateful we are at Wellspring for the part of the Church Budget that comes to Wellspring. It is enabling us to move forward with the purchase and installation of a *scissors lift*, hopefully in place by fall. This will help in the safe transport of items to the lower level, and alleviate congestion on the stairway. Thank you.

With the seasonal change, we too, change a bit. Warm weather clothing is now on the racks, and hot soups are off the menu. Ice tea and lemonade are usually offered as well. We'd love if you would visit with your family any Wednesday or Friday to see what we are all about. Maybe your child might find a good book or game for summer days. (All items are free.)

Hours - 10:00 to 1:15 Wed. and Friday (porch drop-offs can be as early as 9:15am)

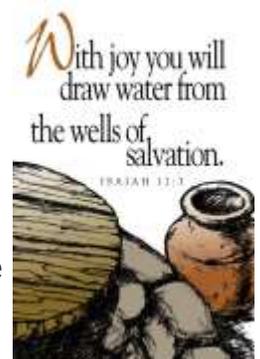
Lunch - 11:55 devotions

12:00 meal

Food boxes are available, as well as benevolent assistance. We are blessed when people ask for specific prayer, too.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

"You do not even know what will happen tomorrow." James 4:14





Come-and-Go
 Wedding Shower
 for
 Alana Brubaker and Addison Abbot
 Sunday, July 3, 3 to 5 p.m.
 in the Community Room

The hostesses are Margie Doty, Casda Danner, Gwen Mercer, Jan Schilke, Heidi Huizenga, Nancy Cole and Betsy Webb.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to parents, Brock and Sarah Babbitt and to big sister, Belle, at the birth of Natasha Sandra Lee on April 22.



Phil Merrill (585) 610-8882
Painting (Inside and Outside) & Power Washing
Houses & Decks

REFRESH 
 RETREAT & FAMILY CAMP

July 17, 22, 2022
 refreshathoughton.com



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

Andrew Roorbach
 Real Estate Salesperson at Letchworth Valley Realty
 716-983-9671 | Andrew@LetchworthRealty.com



59 N. Main St • PO Box 218 • Castile, NY 14427
 P: 585.493.2337 • F: 585 493-2874 • www.LetchworthRealty.com



Genesee Rapids Players will be arriving on Wednesday, June 1 and will begin play with the Annual Old Timers Game on Sunday, June 5 at 2pm. No admission charge for this fun event. Come and meet the 2022 Rapids players and enjoy watching the Old Timers play.

Opening day for the Rapids will be Wednesday, June 8 at 7pm against the Mansfield Destroyers. June 9 at 7pm the game will be against the Dansville Gliders. For a complete schedule check our website www.geneseerapidsbaseball.com

Please pray that our ministry to the players will be effective again this year. Some players are already on a walk with Christ, others are not. Thank you for your prayers.

The Rapids do have a urgent need for someone to volunteer to help with daily lunches for the players. Food is provided but we need someone to put it out and clean up after the meal. This happens outside the KPAC at the College. For more information call Ralph Kerr 716-969-0688



There are two more things Royal Family needs for our July 10-15 camp. The big one is strong backs. We need a group to lend a hand loading supplies out of Fillmore storage and into a Penske truck on the morning of Saturday, July 8. With 5-7 helpers, this will take less than an hour. Please respond to Houghton.rfkc@gmail.com

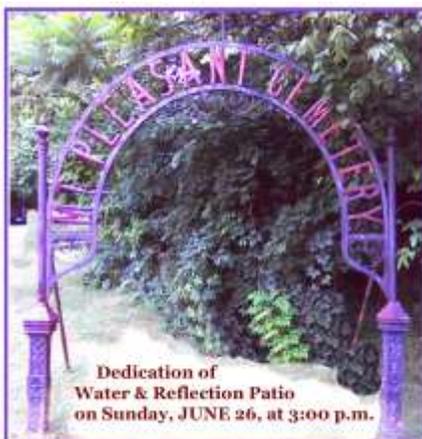
If anyone has comfy, loved and small-to-medium sized stuffed animals to donate, please send an email to Houghton.rfkc@gmail.com

We are hosting another

Food Pantry Drive Thru June 8

Registration is required and opens May 31 at 8:30 a.m. Call 585-209-0052 and leave your name, phone number and number of families you are picking up for.

The Cuba Cultural Center will return your call and give you a time and number to come on June 8.



Mt Pleasant Cemetery in Houghton will complete an improvement project this summer that makes water available in the cemetery. The new Water and Reflection Patio will be dedicated on Sunday, June 26 at 3:00 p.m. (9405 NYS Route 19 south of Houghton). All are welcome to attend.

Memorial Service for Richard Perkins is Saturday, June 4, 2:30 p.m.

Obituary: <https://www.koplerwilliamsfuneralhome.com/obituary/Richard-Perkins>

Streamed at <https://venue.streamspot.com/event/MzIzNTk1NQ==>



Sign the PETITION IN SUPPORT OF **CANEADEA TOWN PARK PAVILION** GRANT REQUEST (clipboard is in the Houghton Post Office lobby—open 24/7—until June 14)

The Town of Caneadea has developed a wonderful park which is becoming a true community asset. Located adjacent to the Genesee Valley Greenway, the park with its playground equipment, benches, tables and trails is a delightful destination for families wishing to spend some time outdoors with their children.

“We the undersigned are adults who spend time with children at the park. We fully support the Town’s efforts to construct a pavilion which would provide a place for us to enjoy some shade while the children burn up energy on the playground.”

Please check your laundry for church Kitchen Towels.
(Many thanks to those who launder the towels after use.)

From the Norton Family: Former Houghton resident Ted Norton’s Memorial will be held July 1 at 11 a.m. with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Olean, N.Y.

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 5 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. Rev. Dr. Michael Jordan

June 12 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. *The Holy Life of Sacrifice* (Leviticus 1-7)

June 19 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. *The Holy Life of Rhythms* (Leviticus 23-24)

June 26 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. TBA

NOTE:

The last day of Sunday School is June 12th.

Children's Church (8:45) continues throughout the summer for ages 3 through 1st grade.

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 cindvoden@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
716-801-3425 annmcneill@hwchurch.org

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