Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
July 2022
Volume 56, No. 2

The Beauty of Dandelions

…to bestow a crown of beauty on them instead of ashes….
Isaiah 61:3

We're starting to get past it now, but for most of the past few months, our yard has been full of dandelions. I suspect that yours has as well. At first glance, they look like flowers. But we know that they are not flowers, they are weeds. Pesky weeds. Irritating weeds. Seemingly impossible-to-get-rid-of weeds!

Last month I wrote about beauty is so vital to who God is and how all things beautiful in this world are gifts of God that point to God who is the source of all beauty. What I find fascinating is that God's ability to create and inspire with beauty isn't limited to the things we automatically think of as beautiful.

Dandelions are a good example.

When our son, Andrew was young, he would go out into the yard, look for the largest dandelions he could find, pick them, put them in a glass of water and present them to Cindy. Cindy would gush over them and thank him and hug him. He really thought that they were his mom's favorite flower.

The beauty of God is not just what he creates but what he *re*creates. God is the master of taking objects, experiences, struggles, disappointments—all of the ways in which sin and evil infect our world—and bringing good out of them. This doesn't imply that the problems and struggles and pain in our world and the problems and struggles and pain that we experience are good. They aren't. They are rooted in sin—sinful choices and evil's attempts to destroy what God has made beautiful. But it does mean that despite the work of sin and evil, God is able to redeem, restore, renew and recreate in ways we could never have imagined.

Isaiah, speaking of the promise of God's future hope—a hope that Jesus claims is the purpose of his coming (Luke 4), writes: *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—**to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes**, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor..*

As you read this today, perhaps you feel that life is more ashes than anything else. Perhaps it seems that weeds are overrunning your life. Perhaps you are out of hope or close to it. Remember, God who is the source of all beauty, is the master of recreating, redeeming what seems unredeemable. And in this memory of who God is, live in the joy of his grace in your life every day.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Impress them on your children. Deuteronomy 6:4-7

On Sunday, May 31, our youth group led the worship services, sharing of God's grace in their lives and preaching the Word to us. We were all so proud of our youth.

On Sunday, June 12 in the 11:00 service, our 2nd and 3rd Grade Sunday School class stood in front of the congregation and recited all 66 books of the Bible in order. This has become an annual event that thrills all of us who are privileged to witness it.

On Sunday, June 19 in the 11:00 service, we honored the 6th Grade Catechism Class for their achievement of learning 120 questions and answers related to the essentials of what we believe. These students spend the entire year of Sunday School as well as a lot of time away from Sunday School memorizing and reciting all of this important information.

As I watched each of these presentations, I was reminded that these and all of our youth and children's ministries are possible only because of the generosity of our congregation. Our willingness to acknowledge God's blessings by giving generously to the church enables us to purchase curriculum for the teachers, curriculum materials used to teach the truths of God and his word as well as provide opportunities for fellowship and learning in a variety of settings. Generous gifts to the church enable us to provide seemingly mundane things that we often take for granted; things like rooms to meet in, tables to sit at and chairs to sit in as well as lights to see and heat to keep warm.

We take seriously our ministry with youth and children. They are a blessing from God, and we feel privileged to be a part of nurturing our youth and children in the faith that they might always know God's love and that they might always have a heart to love him in return.

So, speaking for our youth, our children and all who work with them, we want to express our appreciation for your faithfulness in giving. The impact is not just now but for years to come.

The Stewardship Committee

The Family and Friends of

Bruce Tucker, Steve's Dad
Joyce Blasdell, Joy's Mother
Rich Perkins, Valerie's Husband
Lyn Koppen, our former District Superintendent Neil's Wife
"Ted " Norton, Nancy's Husband and former coordinator of music ed at Houghton College for 37 years

Family Fridays! Check your mailboxes for your invite to a "Family Friday" night complete with lawn games, s'mores, and outdoor activities for all ages. All 55+ HWC Families will be invited in groups to spend a fun evening together at Ms. Emily's house throughout the summer. See you there!

Congratulations to the 6th grade Catechism class who were honored during the June 19 worship service. The class learned 120 questions and answers about what we believe and how we live. Thanks to Harold Blew for guiding the students to a successful conclusion in spite of the current circumstances.

HWC Kids' Summer

Children's Church for preschool-1st grade continues during the 8:45a service with kids being released before the sermon. Join us!

Nursery will be available during the 8:45 a.m. service for the Summer. The Nursery provides a fully staffed, loving, nurturing, secure, and clean environment for children ages infant through two years old. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building

July in Kids Min: We learn about so many incredible humans — past and present — who have changed the world using their influence, their voice, their dreams, and their passion. Kids might find it hard to relate to these dreamers, though, and ask themselves, "Can God use me for something that grand?" In Up In The Air, kids will learn through the stories of Elisha that we can dream big with God, have faith in God, count on God's promises, ask God for what we need, and be used by God. The sky isn't the limit anymore . . . not with God's promises at work in our lives! Digital materials for families to dive into together at home will continue to be sent out on Fridays. Each week's children's sermon will coordinate with the week's lesson.

July's Scripture Memory Verse:
Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3:2

Faith, fun, and family! Join our HWC Team for the fall and get plugged in to a life-changing ministry. Contact kidsmin@hwchurch.org for more information and check out the board by the Welcome desk in the CE building foyer to see what role might be the best fit for you.

HWC Kids, join us for summer storytime in the church library on Wednesday mornings in July, 9:00am - 9:30am. Parental supervision requested.

Join us on the Houghton College Quad on Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 pm for "Bikes on the Quad!" It is an nformal time for fellowship while the kids ride the quad. (We are not limited to bikes! Bring baseballs and gloves, soccer balls, Frisbees, sidewalk chalk, yard games etc). We look forward to seeing you there!

Valley PreSchool
VPS

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 (casdadanner@hwchurch.org if you have questions OR call 585-567-4314) or are interested in the possibility of extended care options.

HWC YOUTH GROUP SUMMER EVENTS 2022

Darien Lake trip - July 6
Deadline to sign up is: June 17 - Families welcome!
Cost: $35 – $10 if you have your own Darien Lake ticket.
Includes: Ticket, Transportation, High quality supervision, and a hot dog lunch.
Leave at 10am from the church and return at approx. 8:30pm.

Service projects - July 12 and Aug 9
Deadline to sign up – July 6 and Aug 2 respectively
No cost
Meet at the church at 9am
Details to follow

Picnic/pool party - Aug 4 – 5-9pm
Sign up by July 30th
At the Templeton's on Molyneaux Road
No Cost!
Swimming, grilling, campfire

Camping trip to the ADK's - July 26-30
Deadline to sign up is July 6
Cost is $150; camping/hiking equipment provided
Hiking, Canoeing, camping on and around Cranberry lake
This trip will have limited space!
Meet late afternoon, July 25, to get equipment and pack the vans
July 26th – 8am -Drive to Cranberry Lake, Hike/canoe to the first campsite;
27th – 29 – camping, hiking, canoeing.
July 30th – Return home

To sign up for any event, just email Pastor Jon by the event deadline and let him know who will be attending. You will receive a confirmation email with any additional details and permission slip (if needed). Call, text or email with questions!
JonCole@HWChurch.org

Words from Wellspring

Dear Church Family -
The heat is on. We feel it, too, but our lower level is coooool.
Come prowl around for a fun find! As you sort and clean out this summer do keep in mind our need for good condition kids back -to -school clothes. Parents are always planning ahead for fall clothing. Children and teen books are plentiful for good summer reading downstairs.
We mourn the recent passing of a faithful Wellspring visitor, Helen Young, from Belmont. She was 88, and blessed us with her presence for over a decade. She loved angels, books, and her family. We miss her.
Our hours remain the same - Wed. and Friday from 10 am to 1:15, (Items can be dropped off as early as 9:15, and someone should be there to help unload.)

Note - we are **closed Friday, July 1** for the holiday weekend.

Prayer need:
That all the necessary steps to install the scissors lift fall into place sooner rather than later.
For love, patience, and servant hearts for our volunteers. Often our numbers increase in the summer months, and we do not want to be insensitive to individuals who need our time and listening ears.

Thank you again for remembering Wellspring Ministries in your hearts and prayers.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)
Colossians 1:17 - "...In Him all things hold together."

From the
Library

Come look in your church library for your summer reading materials. For you adults we have lighter reading in our fiction section with books by Lynn Austin, Davis T. Bunn, Jan Karon, and Karen Kingsbury and more. You will find a little heavier reading in our non-fiction section, with authors such as James Dobson, Max Lucado, and D. Ross Campbell, to name a few.

Our children's room—on the Juniors side—has animal books by Ben Baglio; horse books by Dandi Mackall; the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, and Sugar Creek Gang series, and an adventure series by Lee Roddy. On the other side there are Easy books about the Grand Canyon, the Rocky Mountains, Yellowstone Park, and the Statue of Liberty. The book *Mary and the Fireflies* by Mary Davis, and *I'm Not Sleepy*! by Jane Chapman could be ones your children would like, along with many others there.

Come in, look around, find some books to relax with…..Happy Reading!!

A Brief Report from the Zollers on their trip to Egypt, May 11-21, 2022

How grateful we are to have had the unique privilege to journey to Egypt as representatives of our church – Donna from the Missions Committee and Jim from the Elder Board. It was an astonishing experience for us. Twice delayed due to outbreaks of Covid and shifting national regulations, we were not certain this third attempt would succeed until we had boarded the flight from Frankfort to Cairo. We met our team (Dr. Matthew Friedman; his wife, Chandra; and a student, Danil – all from Kingswood University in New Brunswick) in Toronto. In Cairo, we met Nagi, our travel agent, tour guide, interpreter, brother-in-Christ, and immediate great friend, who took us in hand and got us moving at a virtually non-stop pace until we parted with hugs and overwhelming gratitude in Luxor for return flights home.

For all the warmth and energy we felt from all the pastors and in all the churches, the Wesleyan Church and churches in Egypt face formidable challenges. The government is comparatively favorable toward Christian groups right now, but there are rules, codes, sequences, and tight timelines that all the churches face. A church cannot be legally registered as a church under Egyptian law, for example, without a church building, which means the "church" in Luxor has no status or protections as it is renting in an expensive city. The Badhr City Church that HWC has given a recent Christmas offering to cannot by law move ahead with necessary improvements on the church interior until the third story is completed. It cannot complete the third story until its debt for initial construction is paid off. Other churches need to replace their existing structures, which do not meet current demands, before those building are declared "historic" and rendered untouchable.

Read their blog on our website, Jim & Donna's Excellent Adventure at http://flood-plain.blogspot.com/

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

All are welcome—men, women, children—to this come-and-go shower in the church Community Room. Alana and Addison are registered at Target and Amazon.

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

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

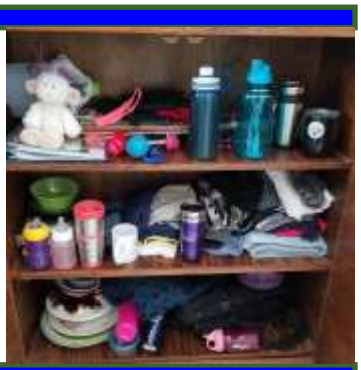
Trailer comes every other Thursday afternoon in the church parking lot for appointments. Next date is July 7.

REFRESH
RETREAT & FAMILY CAMP

July 17, 22, 2022
refreshathoughton.com

The Genesee Rapids continue their quest for a spot in the NYCBL playoffs. The full schedule for the Rapids is on our website, www.Geneseerapidsbaseball.com
Please come enjoy a game and fellowship with your friends and neighbors. Also Ed Taylor and John VanWicklin are cooking some of the best cheeseburgers in the area.
The week of June 27 is the Basic Skills Baseball Camp. Starting on Tuesday, July 5 our new Advanced Skills Baseball Camp will take place. This camp is designed for experienced players Ages 12 - 18. We will be using Rapsodo Pitching and Hitting technology during this camp. For more information check our website. **Our Regular Season ends on July 24.** Don't miss seeing some of the best college baseball played during the summer. Attend a Rapids game soon. All home games are played at the Houghton College Baseball Field on Chamberlain Street. See you at the game!

Lost and Found: Coats, sweaters, toys, books, glasses and other items have collected in the Community Room foyer. Items are on hangers or in the cabinet at the bottom of the staircase to the second floor. Children's blue framed glasses are in the church office. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity on July 8.



Congratulations!

On June 6, 2022 at noon, Steven Schell and Hannah Lindo were married at Houghton Wesleyan Church. Steven and Hannah now reside in Olean NY.

SUNDAYS IN JULY

July 3 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Rev. Dr. Jon Case

July 10 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
The Holy Life of Reconciliation (Leviticus 8-10, 21-22)

July 17 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
The Holy Life of Humanness (Leviticus 11-15)

July 24 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
The Holy Life of Boundaries (Leviticus 17-20)

July 31 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Rev. David Huizenga

CHURCH STAFF

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