



When You Don't Know What to Say

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble...

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:1, 11

I've been sitting in front of my computer for a few days now staring at a blank screen, trying to figure out what to write for this column this month. I'm still waiting.

Sometimes it's hard to know what to say. An idea comes to me and then I remember that I just did that a few months ago. And then another idea comes, and I remember that I did that one a little over a year ago. And as these ideas come and go, I know that I'm not just at my deadline, I'm quite a few days past it. And I realize that the pressure to say something makes it even harder to think of something to say. I suspect that many of you understand my dilemma.

We all understand the struggle at times to know what to say. And this struggle goes well beyond an article for a newsletter; it's the struggle of our human relationships.

People come to us with burdens and pain and as we listen, we are asking ourselves, "What do I say?" We walk through deep grief with people we love, and we ask ourselves, "What do I say?" Children come to us with questions about which we, too, feel uncertain and we ask ourselves, "What do I say?" Often our search for answers is not unlike standing in front of a vending machine. If think that if we put in the right amount of money and push the right buttons, we should get what we seek. If only life and relationships were that easy.

In these moments, I remember Job. In his grief, pain and questions, his three friends come to him with vending machine answers. And not only do they not help Job, they actually frustrate him even more. Job is asking for help but what's he's looking for is less answers and more presence and support.

Some of our questions and concerns can be answered. Scripture is clear and our experience has taught us. But sometimes, the best response is not a well-reasoned argument but a willing ear. To be a safe place for others to share, vent, weep, to be honest. This seems to be the purpose of many of the psalms. The answer to the writer's cry is rarely an explanation from God but the promise of God's presence and in his presence a vision of hope despite the reality of the pain and struggle. Perhaps in the midst of the chaos, the writer of Psalm 46 repeats: *The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

As God's people who represent him to each other, perhaps our most effective means of doing so is not so much logical explanations but a listening ear, a compassionate heart, a hopeful presence. As one writer notes: *Sometimes the most loving response we can give is a listening ear.*

Blessings,

Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity



You must decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

It was because of Covid that we started meeting for corporate worship outdoors. At first, it was the only way we could meet together. Now, it's one of our two options. Throughout this summer, we regularly find 200-300 people in the church parking lot for 8:45 worship.



We have come a long way from our original outdoor gatherings. We now have a permanent stage designed and built by men from our congregation. Last summer Adirondack chairs were donated. And every Sunday, sound equipment is set up along with more chairs and tables for hot drinks, bulletins and offering boxes.

We might forget that much of what has made outdoor worship accessible, positive and manageable is the result of your generosity. Your gifts enabled us to purchase the materials for the stage. Your gifts enable us to purchase hot drink items. Your gifts enable us to have designated sound equipment that doesn't have to be carried and reset indoors each week.

But it's not just money. The men who built the stage did so voluntarily. The sound equipment is brought out and set up voluntarily. The people who do set up and prepare the hot drinks come early as a ministry. And many stay a little bit longer afterward to lend a hand putting things back. We are especially grateful to the Genesee Rapids baseball team who have come out each week this summer and given time and energy to help prepare for our gathering.

So, thank you for being good stewards of what God has given you. Your monetary generosity as well as your volunteer generosity makes all the difference.

The Stewardship Committee



Ice Cream Social

Please join us August 21 at 3:30 p.m. outside on the north lawn for Ice Cream and a time of fellowship welcoming early returning students.



AUGUST KIDS MIN: WONDER-FULL: From the Northern Lights to the Great Barrier Reef, our world is full of so many incredible wonders! In this four-week series, we'll explore the natural wonders of the world while learning from the book of Psalms about how all of God's creation is evidence of how wonderful our Creator is! Each week, we'll invite kids to worship because of all the "wonder-full" things God has done by putting their hope in God, asking for God's help, remembering what God has done, and living for God!

AUGUST MEMORY VERSE: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." — Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

Kids are not the future of the Church, they ARE the Church, right now, and they need you to walk beside them this school year as they discover who God is and who God made them to be.

Will you join our HWC Kids team? We have openings in everything from teaching to decorating to greeting to social media posting. Join our awesome team today!

Email kidsmin@hwchurch.org for more information or with questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 11TH, 9:45-10:45am.

- Ages nursery - preschool and 6th grade will go directly to their classrooms.
- Kindergarten - 5th grade will begin in the Primary Assembly room.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Our Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention training, required for all kids and youth volunteers but encouraged for all, will be offered on Saturday, September 10th from 9-11am RSVP to Pastor Jon (joncole@hwchurch.org) or Emily (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org).



FOR NEWS ABOUT THE MIDWEEK KIDS CLUB BEGINNING IN THE FALL!

Congratulations Kristin Massey on her Special Olympic medals !

The week of June 5-10th, Kristen participated in the National Special Olympics once again, this time in Orlando, FL. She brought home to Houghton Gold for 100 Meter Run, Bronze in Running Long Jump and placed 7th in the 200 Meter Run.



Valley Preschool, a ministry of Houghton Wesleyan Church, has openings for this fall! Do you have a child ages two (by September 1st) through five years old? Consider Valley Preschool as a place for your child to learn more about God's love and His work in the world, gain social skills with children and adults, build knowledge about the world around them, and develop small and gross motor skills all through stories, interactions, songs, projects, play, and conversations. We meet on

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45 September through May. We hope to add a Tuesday & Thursday program if enough families are interested. Tuition reductions, sibling discounts, and partial scholarships are available. Get an application from our parents bulletin board in the church's Christian education building, from the church office, or online at <https://hwchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-23-VPS-Application-Inside.pdf> More information is available at <https://hwchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-23-VPS-Application-Outside-Folder.pdf> We would love for your child to learn and grow with us and for your family to join the more than 50 years of VPS families!



ALL WOMEN – How long has it been since we've all been together? Well, the time is coming at last. Plan to join us for a **women's gathering** on the morning of **Saturday, September 17** for food, fun, fellowship, and inspiration, featuring our own Carolyn Miller. Watch for more details. You don't want to miss it!

HWC YOUTH GROUP SUMMER EVENTS 2022

Service projects - Aug 9

Deadline to sign up – Aug 2
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

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



Are you struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and "not so good" habits ?

Good news...you are not alone !

Celebrate Recovery is a safe and confidential place to share with others, who also struggle with life's challenges. We'd love to have you join us in the Good Shepherd Room on Thursday evenings at 7pm. See you there!

From the Library Shelves



Remember your church library is here to help you with your summer reading. There are books for all ages; to help you study something new, to take you to a faraway land, or to reconnect with the characters in a well-loved story.

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

Words from Wellspring

Dear Church Family -

"If I **give away all I have...** and have not LOVE, I gain nothing... Love is patient, kind, bears all, endures all..."
I Corinthians 13

The above is always a prayer need for us at Wellspring as we seek to build up a competence in kindness and love to visitors and our own staff. Needs abound. God's supply is endless... if we draw from it. So pray for His LOVE to shine out to others - even when it is warmer than warm, and we are weary. We count on your prayers.

To Note -

- 1- We need children and teen Bibles. Some adults use these as well.
- 2- Children's back-to-school clothes are welcome.
- 3- We will gladly accept some of your extra garden produce, especially for those non-gardeners among us and senior citizens. (We'd love some fresh fruit for our lunches, too!)
- 4- Please do not drop off items in need of repair, or with missing parts.
- 5- Progress on the scissors lift order is taking awhile, but we now have a person to do the interior renovations needed before it can be positioned.
- 6- Remember that we do give out food boxes when requested. We also get varied requests for benevolent fund help, and need His wisdom as we discuss how to best respond.

Where are we? 5993 County. Rd. 16, Belfast, NY (at edge of Angelica, just over Transit Bridge from north) (365-2250). Mon. and Wed. 10am to 1:15pm. (drop-offs as early as 9:15am)

Facebook page - under Wellspring Ministries of Allegany Co.
for updates and info. (done by G. Stevenson)

Beth Beardsley (for the Board.)

PS - Thanks for not 'giving away **all** you have'... but what you do give of money or material goods, we gratefully receive and do our best to honor the love behind it.



THIS MONTH WE NEED

- Maple Syrup
 - Cereal
 - SpaghettiOs
- Can you help?

Trailer comes every other Thursday afternoon in the church parking lot for appointments. Next date is Aug. 4

Recovery Connections
Mobile Addiction Treatment

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Mobile Addiction Treatment

We believe every individual is unique and has the potential for recovery.

Our Mobile team of medical personnel, counselors & peers provide:

Rapid Access to Treatment
Medication Assisted Treatment
Individual & Group Counseling
Relapse Prevention Training
Peer Support

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For more information call: 716.566.7771 | BestSelfWNY.org

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

We are hosting another

Food Pantry Drive Thru on August 10



Registration is required and opens August 2 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 August 10.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Condolences to

TJ and Carlos Gildemeister and family at the passing of TJ's dad, Bob Czuppa.

The Prinsell Family and Friends at the death of Dr. Gus Prinsell. The Eulogy and Funeral services are available on our website and YouTube pages.

The Schilke Family and Friends at the death of Stephan's Father Walter

The Healing Journey

The Healing Journey Bible Study for Ladies is being offered at Fillmore Wesleyan Church. The study is a proven opportunity to help women get past emotional, mental, and spiritual barriers keeping them from living the life they were created for. It provides an extremely effective environment to work on false beliefs, victim behavior, and much more. The purpose goes beyond knowing the biblical road to freedom; the purpose is to

get free. This is a 29-week study that starts on Thursday, September 8th and runs each Thursday from 6:00—8:30 p.m. in the Fillmore Wesleyan Church Fellowship Hall. The cost for materials is \$75. We would love to have you join us. For questions or to register, contact Gloria Poorman (585-610-3871) or Vaughn Hark (585-567-4893). Forms are available at the Houghton church office.

VENDORS WANTED

**TOWN OF
HUME** Est. 1822



Celebrating 200 Years

**BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION**

**September 10, 2022
FILLMORE FIRE HALL**

Activities being planned:

Quilt Show/Craft Show, Parade, Historical Presentations, Picnic,
Music, Vendors, Car Cruise, and More

Benefit

Brooks Hose Fire Dept., Fillmore Rescue Squad, Wiscoy/Rosburg
Fire Dept.

Humbicentennial.org



Houghton Academy Openings:

IT Mgr. (PT), Cook (FT or PT), Nurse (PT), plus various teaching roles (FT or PT)

Host Homes needed: Sophomore girl from Spain, Senior boy from Egypt

Contact: Jon.Keith@Houghton.Academy for details



American Red Cross

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE DETAILS:

Site: Fillmore Volunteer Fire Department

Fillmore Volunteer Fire Department, 24 South Genesee Street, Fillmore, NY

Room Name: Bingo Hall

Date: Wed Aug 17, 2022 / **Time:** 11:00 AM - 4:00: PM

Blood Program Leader Name: Danielle Galante

[Click here to make an appointment](#)

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

August 7 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
am Pastor Paul Shea

August 14 (8:45 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
am Pastor Jon Cole

August 21 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
am *The Holy Life of Grace* (Leviticus 16)

August 28 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
am *The Holy Life of Celebration* (Leviticus 25-27)

CHURCH STAFF

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

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

David Huizenga, Discipleship & College Pastor
585-365-5863 davidhuizenga@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

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

