Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
October 2022
Volume 56, No. 5

And when you pray…

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.
When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray…"
Luke 11:1, NIV

In a Highlights article a number of years ago, I wrote about something pastor Rick Ezell told his congregation that I would like to share with you once again: "St. Augustine, the early church father and theologian, described prayer as like a man in a hapless boat, who throws a rope at a rock. The rock provides the needed security and stability for the helpless man. [But] when the rock is lassoed, it's not the man pulling the rock to the boat (though it may appear that way); it is the pulling of the boat to the rock. Jesus is the rock, and we throw the rope through prayer.

"Samuel Chadwick said, 'The one concern of the devil is to keep saints from prayer. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, and prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.'"

I don't know one Christian who believes that prayer is a bad thing; I know many Christians who are confused or frustrated or uncertain about prayer. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus seems to assume that his followers will pray and yet, when it comes right down to it, the only thing that the Gospels record the disciples asking him to teach them is to pray.

With this in mind, we are calling us as a church to prayer once again. Throughout the Sundays of October and November we will be thinking and hearing and talking about prayer, culminating in another November prayer event, about which you will hear more in the weeks to come.

As we move toward this emphasis, let me encourage you to open your heart to God in order to think about prayer and to learn more about prayer. But most of all, to pray—in any way you know how and at any time you possibly can.

I look forward to this emphasis. I believe that it will challenge us, that it will push us and fill us with the joy of Christ; and that it will make us uncomfortable and ignite within us the fire of God's Holy Spirit to live in this world for Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Wes

Houghton
Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Dear church family:

I think you will agree with me that the Lord has given us a wonderful pastoral staff who work hard to serve our congregation well. And if we seek to be true to our biblical responsibilities to affirm them, this seems appropriate to tell them: "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 1:3). Maybe you think it, but do they hear it from you?

To help us fulfill this biblical call to bless those who mentor, instruct, and shepherd us, our church participates in the national Bless Your Pastor movement, particularly during each month of October. Our charge is unmistakable: "Make sure that you *show* your deep appreciation for those who cherish you and diligently work as ministers among you" (1 Thess. 5:12), and "The one who receives instruction in the Word should *share* all good things with their instructor" (Galatians 6:6) (*italic* emphasis added).

God will help us all to share some of our time, talent, treasure, and many other good things which He has given us to show our appreciation and care for our whole staff. So, we invite you to join us in using creative ways to highlight your gratitude for the service of any and all of our pastoral staff members.

Think of how individuals have blessed you and other family members through our Sunday services, other social and youth activities, or even their visiting you at home. Consider sending them a personalized signed note, maybe a gift card, possibly some garden produce, or even a warm handshake with a sincere verbal expression of thanks. Think outside the box for doing things like a front porch gift drop-off, invite them for some dessert together at your home or some convenient place, or any myriad of other gracious ways to convey your heartfelt thanks.

Their work and our work is never quite complete nor perfect. But let's encourage our leaders to press us on to greater ways of living out our faith. Their knowing of your close warm care for them may be just what is needed at this moment.

We love you and are grateful that you are part of our church family.

Yours in service to Christ,

Daryl Stevenson
for the Elders Board

STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

Stewardship, generosity and giving. Is there a difference?

In his book Sacred Pathways, Gary Thomas tells of attending his ten-year high school reunion and discovering that a rumor was circulating about him: *Did you hear about Gary? He sold everything he owned, joined a religious group, and became a religious fanatic.*

"Is that true?" one person asked him.

He laughed. "It only feels like it. The truth is, I went to seminary, moved into a house that cost $200 a month to rent, work for a campus ministry that paid me about what you would expect the campus ministry to pay you."

And then he writes: *a man who begins giving a portion of his income to the church and its work, carve out time two or three times a week to attend church services, tells people on the street about his God, and reads books about God on a regular basis may appear to the world to be a "religious fanatic." If, however, the same man were to begin making payments on a diamond ring, spend his weekends going on dates, tell his coworkers about the lovely woman who has come into his life, and read love letters over and over, the world would simply say he's "in love."*

He then says, *If I were to write an entire book on asceticism, I would be tempted to title it The Divine Romance.*

At its heart, stewardship is an expression of love for God, for his church and for the whole world. We give and sacrifice because we love. And when we love, the sacrifice of giving hardly feels like sacrifice at all; rather, it feels like the most joyful, blessed life we could imagine.

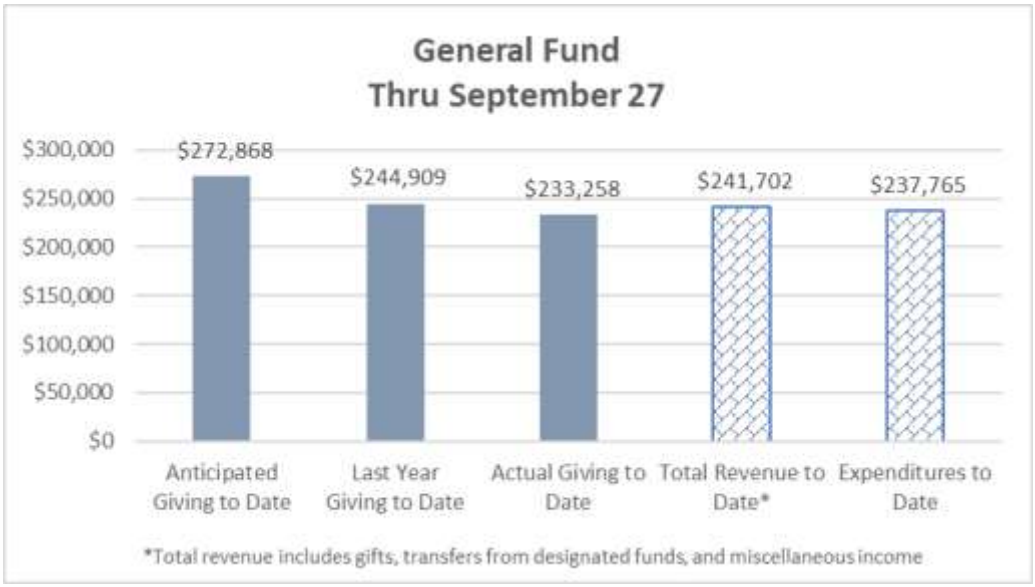
Thank you for your sacrificial giving to HWC. Your generous sacrifice enables us to serve God together, to serve one another and to serve others. As you contemplate God's generosity to you, as you ponder your love for God, as you continue to pray about what God would want you to give, may God fill you with the love of our Divine Romance with him, with one another and with all people.

Thank you for donating to Houghton Wesleyan Church. For those of you who donate online you may have noticed some changes that took effect on September 27th.

We have moved to a new donor and donation platform powered by CDM+. Our previous provider, Stewardship, still processes your donation so there is no change to recurring gifts.

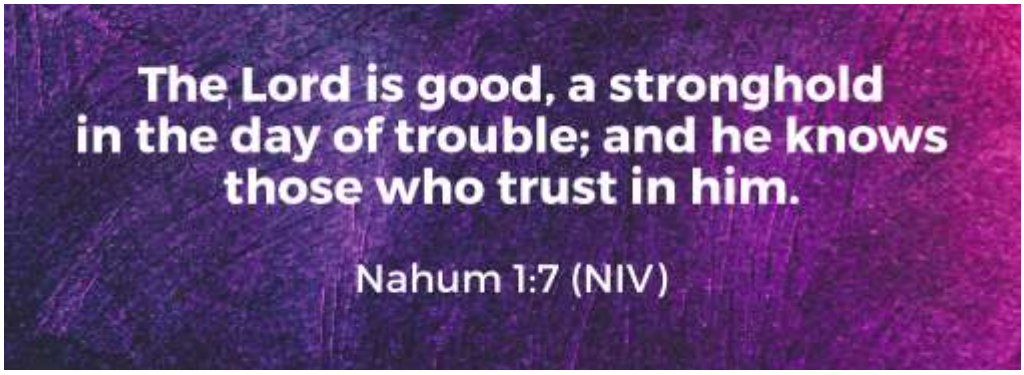
There is a change to our donation page, but everything behind the scenes, like your user name and password, are all still valid. You are still be able to choose what fund you would like to donate to, and choose a credit card or ACH donation, as you did previously.

We are making you aware of these changes so that you will not wonder about the validity of the new site. We hope that these changes will help make your donation experience a better one.



Time. Talent. Treasure.

The Stewardship Committee



A new month and a new series: "Hear Me Roar"! There's a reason lions are symbols of courage — even their roars (which can be heard up to five miles away) tell us how strong they are! And because of God's promises, we can be as strong and bold as lions, too. In this five-week series, kids will learn important truths from the life of Daniel they'll want to shout (or roar!), like how we don't have to give up and don't have to feel alone. Instead, we can keep learning and not be afraid, even when we don't know the future. Why? Because God is with us!

Congratulations to parents, Jean and Rachel Onivogui and grandparents, Tim and Sharon McGarvey, at the birth of Jaël Yögbö Onivogui on September 14.

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 purchasing items and filling boxes. Any shoe box will do, but the church will also have printed shoe boxes available in mid-October in the Christian education building, as well as packing suggestions and tracking labels. More than ever gifts such as school and hygiene supplies, toys and clothing are needed. Thank you for your generosity and love.

A Service of Remembrance October 22

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
Saturday, October 22, at 9:00 a.m.
for a time of song, Scripture, and memorial
as we honor our children and their families.
All are welcome.

Thank You!

Thank you to Debbie Young and her team: Josie Adenuga, Nancy Dahl, Casda Danner, and Janyce Smithley for planning and preparing the wonderful women's gathering on Saturday, September 17th. Forty-seven women attended this inspirational time together. Thank you to Amanda Cox and Allison Young Reusser for leading the worship time and to Carolyn Miller for sharing her life story. If you were unable to attend, you may access the video of Carolyn's presentation by contacting the church office. Also, Carolyn's book, *Captured,* is in our church library.

From the
Library Shelves

Attention homeschooling families! On the shelves in our children's room are books on a variety of science subjects: different kinds of bugs and animals, the weather. There are also biographies about Helen Keller, Dr. Martin Luther King, George Washington Carver, and more. And there are some just for fun stories too. A number of these books are easy enough for the beginning reader also.

So come on in and see what the church library has that might be of help to you in your homeschooling journey….and Happy Reading!!

The family of Wilma Emmett would like to invite you to help them celebrate Wilma's 90th birthday on Saturday, October 22, 2022.

A come and go reception will be held at the Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. that afternoon and it would make her celebration so special to see you there! Your presence is the gift!

October 2022 HWC Youth News:

Youth Group in September

- Oct 2 – HTF (Cont) Being a friend means walking away friendly.
- Oct 9 – Ask Your Youth Leaders Anything! Panel discussion
- Oct 16 – Storm the Heights 3:33-5:55 – Permission slip required!
- Oct 25 – The Good Life – The Holy Spirit guides us to the good life.
- Oct 30 – TGL – Stay in step with the Spirit and be transformed.

Prayer Breakfast 7am in the Community Room

- **PB is on for Oct 4, 11, 18, 25**

(For the HWCYG annual permission slip click here. Or scan here*!)* ---------→

Discipleship Hour (SS) in October – "Stories you didn't hear in Sunday School" continues:

- Oct 2 – Noah's Flood – The whole story!
- Oct 9 – Jephthah and his daughter – Judges 11
- Oct 16 – God at War – Jericho, the un-veggied version – Joshua 6
- Oct 23 – Divine Wrath – Lev 10 and I Sam 6
- Oct 30 – Hero's of the faith that are not always heroic

The Bible contains a lot of stories that simply aren't appropriate for children. These stories can be confusing, embarrassing, gross and bizarre! They can make you wonder, *"What was God thinking!?"* Yep, we're going to talk about those… See you in church!

Upcoming Events: Storm the Heights – Oct 16 – 3:33-5:55

This full-contact capture-the-flag type game will leave you bruised, muddy and hungry! Luckily, we will also have delicious chili and corn Bread and a warm bonfire! ☺ Starts at 3:33pm! Bring your game face and be ready to get dirty! **Permission Slip and close-toed shoes Required!**

Wellspring Words

To our church family

Praying, giving, serving at Wellspring Ministries - YOU are helping to plant and nurture the seeds of faith and kindness in Allegany County and beyond. Every time we are open, lives are touched in positive ways. The Word is shared briefly before each meal at 11:55. Fall is off to a solid start with a steady lunch group and many visitors bringing and/or taking items. Thank you.

To Note -

- Continued prayer needed for "A" , please. Needy client in many areas.
- Our Executive Director, James Arthur, had knee replacement surgery in late September.
- Pray for healing and a good recovery period. Meanwhile we pray for God's continued hand
- of guidance and wisdom for those in charge during the 4-8 weeks ahead in his absence.
- Interior renovations for the scissors lift are complete. Two lower level rooms will be switched so that incoming goods can be sorted more easily once the lift is in place.
- We are happy to share your extra fresh garden produce with our visitors.
- Especially needed are children and teen Bibles, blankets, towels, and winter wear.
- Our opening times are Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 1:15. Drop offs as early as 9:15am. Lunch is at 11:55. All are welcome at no charge. Come. The coffee pot is on!

B. Beardsley (for the Board)

"... your generosity will result in (our) thanksgiving to God." 2Cor. 9:11

We are hosting another

Food Pantry Drive Thru on October 12

Registration is required and opens October 12 at 8:30 a.m. for pick up October 12. 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 October 12.

- ☐ Registration opens November 1 for the November 9 Drive Thru
- ☐ Registration opens December 6 for the December 14 Drive Thru

Our love and prayers go out to Alejandra Koch at the death of her sister, Elly Plaza, on September 15.

Do you like to Bake?

We need you!

We are looking for treats to help make the Family Harvest Extravaganza a success! Please sign up at

https://www.perfectpotluck.com/ZMQV2494

if you are willing to bake a treat! Donations can be dropped off at the church on Friday, October 28th.

We will also have a Chili Cook Off! Please sign up if you are willing to bring a pot of chili!

Please contact me, Andrea Tanner, if you have questions. Text or Call 585-322-6887

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

24/7 Prayer Vigil October 30—November 20

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 2 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Praying with Audacity (Luke 11)

October 9 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors /11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Praying in the Dark (Exodus 20)

October 16 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors /11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Praying with Words (Matthew 6)

October 23 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors /11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Praying with Boldness (James 5)

October 30 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors /11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Praying without Boundaries (Matthew 11)

During the month of October, we will move indoors if it is raining or if there is a high degree of rain predicted or if the temperature is near 40 degrees. We will communicate the decision as early as possible.

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 Volunteer 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

Houghton Wesleyan
Church
P.O. Box 127
Houghton NY 14744

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 5
Houghton NY 14744