



## ***Change—Crisis or Opportunity?***

*Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.*

1 John 4:1

How do you view change? Does it cause you to lose sleep because you are tossing and turning in turmoil or because you can't wait for it to come? Does it create anxiety for you or does it energize you? Does it feel like risk, or does it feel like freedom?

It's no secret that people respond to change differently. I have come to realize that most change is traumatic and unwanted...unless, that is, we are the ones who initiate the change which tends to lead us to wonder why everyone isn't as excited about the change as we are.

I suspect that change is most difficult when there isn't anything we can do about it. We might be able to dull it a little, but we can't stop it from happening. We might be able to deflect it, but we can't prevent it. We might do our best to ignore it but it comes, nonetheless. So, if we can't prevent it, we need to find a way to embrace it.

As August draws to a close, we all know that in some way or another, change is coming. Summer is fading; fall is on the horizon. The recess from school is over; the new year is beginning. At the church, ministries that have rested are now gearing to restart. We can view these changes with lament and heartache, with disappointment and anxiety, with denial and hostility, or we can see the change as an opportunity.

I have found that I am most open spiritually in seasons of change. There is something about a change of scenery or a change of circumstance or a change of emphasis that makes me a little more available to God. Perhaps because I am already thinking about change, my willingness to let God do a change in me seems more positive. Conversely, when life feels in a rut, I tend to get complacent and tired and closed.

As we embark on this season of change, let me encourage you to think not only about the external changes around you but to ask God what he wants to do within you. Wouldn't it be wonderful to look back on September 2022 as a turning point in your walk with Jesus?

In Christ,

Pastor Wes

## FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

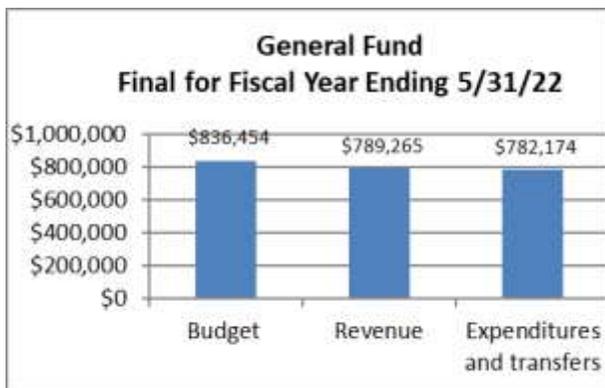
9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour/HWC Kids Connect

*(formerly Sunday School, begins September 11)*

11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship



# STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity



## Year-End Fiscal Report

The church fiscal year ends May 31. Now that all expenses have been paid and recorded, we are pleased to note that we ended the year with a small surplus (\$7,090.11). The Elders have chosen to distribute the surplus in this way:

- Local Outreach \$ 709.00 (10.0%)
- Global Missions \$ 709.00 (10.0%)
- General Fund \$5,672.11 (80%)

We are grateful that our income exceeded our expenses. Your generosity enabled us to not only minister to each other but to support ministries to the world beyond us.

We do believe that it is important for you to know that this surplus is the result of significant underspending rather than income exceeding expectations. As you can see in the chart above, our actual income was more than \$47,000 short of expectation. The surplus resulted because expenses were a little more than \$54,000 less than we had budgeted. We do not expect that to repeat this year as we are now fully staffed and are planning on having full programming this year.

## Current Fiscal Situation



We are now almost three months into the 2022-2023 fiscal year and our financial picture is tracking even further behind than last year at this time. We have sufficient cash on hand but need to operate so that our income matches expenses. This year's budget was built with necessary income closely matching our anticipated expenses which makes achieving income expectations even more critical.

Your tithes and offerings enable us to compensate our staff, provide resources for ministries, maintain our buildings and grounds and support personnel and ministries in Allegany County, WNY and around the world.

We recognize that there are numerous factors that might contribute to the revenue shortfall and that there are times of life when we have more or fewer financial options. Whatever your circumstances, we encourage you to be in prayer about stretching your faith financially. Perhaps you will sense God affirming your current fiscal decisions. Perhaps you will sense God calling you to take a step of faith by increasing your giving.

Again, thank you for generosity and for your commitment to HWC. All of us and many others are blessed by your willingness to give.



The Stewardship Committee



**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** titled, "A Life of Love and Purpose," on the morning of **Saturday, September 17** beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the church Community Room for food, fun, fellowship, and inspiration, featuring our own Carolyn Miller. You don't want to miss it!



Sunday School starts on September 11th from 9:45 - 10:45am. Ages birth - 4 years old/preschool and grade 6 will go directly to their classes. Grades Kindergarten - 5th grade will begin in the Primary Assembly room for a time of worship, Scripture memory, and celebration!

This month in HWC Kids Connect: "Animated: If you've ever gotten a little emotional during your favorite Disney or Pixar movie, you know animation is a powerful tool to not only tell big stories, but to make us feel big feelings, too! In this four-week series, we'll look at some stories of the Old Testament prophets as we explore some of those feelings. These stories will remind kids that God cares about our big feelings. With God, we can all feel secure, comforted, valued, and loved, even when our emotions tell us otherwise."

September Scripture Memory: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." Romans 15:13a (NIV)

Stewards of Children training: Saturday, September 10th, 9-11am

HWC Kids Club: Join us this school year for a new and exciting HWC Kids Club Connect event for ages preschool - 6th grade EVERY MONTH! We're kicking off the year on Saturday, September 24th with "Faith Builders" where we will build a faith foundation for the new school year through Scripture, building challenges, construction activities, and more. Watch the weekly letter, bulletin, Facebook, and email for more details as the date gets closer.

Last chance Family Friday event! For any families who were not able to attend a Family Friday during the summer, there will be one last opportunity for s'mores and fun on Friday, September 9th at 6:30pm (come and go) at Miss Emily's house. Hope to see you there!



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!





# DISCIPLESHIP:

*a rhythm of intentionally and together striving to ever more closely follow Jesus Christ.*

## Which opportunity fits you best?

Which of these most inspires you and matches your gifts, needs, and schedule? To which might the Spirit be calling you?

### Discipleship Hour (Sundays @ 9:45am)

Study of 1 John, Reconciliation Lab, Youth Group, University Fellowship, Moms That Pray, Parents' Coffee & Connection.

### Small Group (weekly or bi-weekly, varied times)

Numerous options with varying emphases: Bible study, prayer, accountability, prayer, fellowship.

### Koinonia (Sundays @ 7 pm, Wesley Chapel)

Devotional and worship time led by Houghton University students for students and the community.

### Banding Group (weekly, varied times)

Women's or men's groups of 3 or 4. Each gathering focuses on the week's interactive Bible reading, accountability, prayer, and discipling one another.

### Mentoring (weekly or bi-weekly, varied times)

1-on-1 pairings of participants at differing life stages in their Christian faith.

Questions? Ask Pastor David:

585.365.5863 • davidhuizenga@hwchurch.org

## From the Library Shelves



Welcome back! The church library is ready and waiting for you to come in and explore the shelves. On those shelves are books to help you in your Christian walk, books on missions and missionaries, books on prayer, Bible study books, history books—even the history of our area. There are also biographies, and a fiction section with books by many well-known Christian authors.

For children of all ages, the children's room has a number of new books: some simple science ones, new stories, books about the different seasons, and more, in addition to what is already on our shelves. We even have a shelf with books especially for the beginning reader

Come, do some exploring and see what you discover.....Happy Reading!!

## September 2022 HWC Youth News:



### Youth Group in September

- Sept 4 – No Youth Group
- Sept 11 – Blue Foam Party Youth Group Kickoff!
- Sept 18 – How to Friend – Being a Friend Means Serving your Friends!
- Sept 25 – HTF – The Friends you Choose Impact the Future you Will Have!



Prayer Breakfast begins on Sept 20, 7am in the Community Room

### Discipleship Hour(SS) in September:

- Sept 4 – **Parents meeting in the Community Room!**
  - Ask questions, get critical info, hear the plan for the year, sign an annual permission slip. Youth Group parents, this one is for you. *(Also, there will be donuts.)* 😊
- Sept 11 – All Church DH in the Community Room
- Sept 18 – Youth Staff Meeting! Students go to DH with their parents.
- Sept 25 – New Series! "Bible stories you didn't hear in Sunday School"

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: Blue Foam Kickoff Party– September 11



- 3:33-5:55
- Bring a towel and maybe something dry to put on afterwards and swim goggles if you have them
- Prize giveaways!



[Youth Annual Permission Slip](#)



## Prayer Chain Opportunities

Prayer changes things. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” This admonition is a powerful reminder to us as Christians that prayer is essential in our lives. With this in mind, we invite women and men to become involved in the prayer chain ministry of the church. If you are already on the prayer chain, your name will remain on the list unless you contact us otherwise. If you want to receive the prayer chain requests via phone or

## Wellspring Words

**"Splash-overs from hell"** is how Joni Eareckson Tada describes suffering. All of us suffer, but especially those in poverty of spirit, without hope in Christ, and those in material and relational poverty. In this fallen broken world we can be there to comfort the sick, hurting, weary, oppressed, depressed. We have a hope beyond this life, as our TRUE citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Pray that we will learn to listen to others, being fully present and attentive to what people say and what they need.

NOTE: Wellspring is closed on September 2 for the Labor Day Weekend.

As the summer fades -

- Children's Bibles are still a need
- School clothing is needed
- Extra garden produce is so welcome, especially by seniors
- Jim Arthur, our executive director, will have knee replacement surgery in mid-September. The staff will assume added responsibilities in his month-long absence. We desire safe, orderly continuity.
- We thank you for contributions. In August we held a clean-out day, purging several rooms of old, unwanted items. It is our desire to be good stewards of the building and its contents.

Feel free to call Wellspring when open (Wed. and Fridays-365-2250) or Beth Beardsley (567-8117) if you have questions or a specific request regarding the Ministry. You are important to us.



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!



The Inn at Houghton Creek is looking for a new team member. Duties include housekeeping, taking reservations, checking guests in and out, setting up continental breakfast, and general customer service duties. The ideal candidate would be hard working, self-motivated, good at multitasking and would possess great interpersonal skills. Please email [innkeeper@innathoughtoncreek](mailto:innkeeper@innathoughtoncreek) or call Joanna at 716-531-8685 for more details on how to apply.



Condolences and prayers for Marilyn Main at Phil's death on August 3.

We are hosting another

# Food Pantry Drive Thru on September 14



Registration is required and opens September 6 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 September 14.



## Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped with the Ice Cream Kick-off on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. We had a beautiful afternoon and a great turn-out. Thank you to all who helped with set-up, serving and clean-up. Thank you!

## Prayer Binder Workshop - October 1 at 10:00 am

Have you found yourself overwhelmed by your ever-growing prayer list? Have you ever told someone you would pray for them and then never followed up on that? Do you feel guilty for just deleting the missionary newsletters instead of praying for the many needs listed in them? I (Katrina Koehler) have been there and felt all of this shame and guilt. When I discovered the idea of a prayer binder and how you can manage not only all of your prayer requests in a non-burdensome way, but also find artistic joy in the visual expression of prayers for worship, confession, and thanksgiving in addition to the myriad of concerns to bring to God. Join me (Katrina Koehler) in the Good Shepherd's Room at Houghton Wesleyan Church to learn more about these prayer binders, make your own, and even practice using it!

Charge: \$10 for students and \$15 for community members to cover supplies.

To register, please email Katrina Koehler at [katrina.koehler@houghton.edu](mailto:katrina.koehler@houghton.edu)



Trailer comes every other Thursday afternoon in the church parking lot for appointments. Next dates are September 1, 15, and 29.

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# LEAH DOTY SEND OFF

Sunday, September 25, 4 p.m.

Good Shepherd Room

Open to all

Desserts will be served



*Thanks to my church family for your prayers and support during these difficult days.*

*Marilyn Main*



## DISCIPLESHIP HOUR

(formerly Sunday School Hour 9:45-10:45)

Bible Study: The Chosen - Room 105

Parents' Coffee and Connections - Room 118

Reconciliation Lab/Kaleidoscope - Community Room

1 John Exposition - Good Shepherd/Rm 10

University Fellowship - Rm 9 (under sanctuary)

Mothers That Pray - Rm 6 (under sanctuary)

## THE WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

will begin on Wednesday, September 14 at 9:30-10:45 am in the Good Shepherd Room (under the sanctuary). This first session will be a time of getting acquainted, introducing the study and having a time of prayer. We will be studying II Timothy, using Melanie Newton's easy to follow study guide. Since we don't have a permanent leader, each member will participate in facilitating sessions throughout the year. If you are interested, please come join us.



## SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

**September 4** 8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming)  
*God Creates People to Live in Peace* (Genesis 6-9)

**September 11** 8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming)  
*God Designs Creation to Be a Place of Peace* (Genesis 6-9)

**September 18** 8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming)  
*God Designs the Means to Preserve Hope of Peace* (Genesis 6-9)

**September 25** 8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming)  
*God Sends the Assurance of His Promise of Peace* (Genesis 6-9)

**Outdoor services:** feel free to bring a chair, use one of ours, or listen on 106.9 FM in your car

**Indoor services** are in-person and streamed from our website at <https://www.hwchurch.org> and click on **WATCH ONLINE**

**Website:** <https://www.hwchurch.org>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/HoughtonWesleyanChurch>

## CHURCH STAFF

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