Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

February 2023
Volume 54, No. 9

Love Is About Others

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Thomas Merton once wrote: "The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them."

It seems to me that Merton's words are a paraphrase of Paul's admonition to the Corinthians—love is thinking about others not ourselves. Love doesn't put me at the center of the relationship; it puts you at the center of the relationship. Love doesn't connect because the other can do something for me, or because the other has something that I want, or because the other can fulfill a desire I feel or accomplish a task I need or make me feel better about myself. Rather, love thinks about doing something for the other, offering something the other wants, fulfilling a desire and accomplishing a task the other needs.

When we see love as something we get, it's not really love. It's just another form of self-interest. And self-interest, not love, leads to envy, boasting, pride, anger, keeping records of wrongs, even delighting in evil (if the evil is to my advantage).

What Paul (and Merton) are describing is the love of Jesus. Jesus is always thinking about others. He says that everything he does is what the Father wants. Every action is for others. Every attitude is about others. He comes into this world for others. He goes to the cross for others. He is resurrected for other. He ascends to the Father in order to intercede for others. He will reappear to bring life and righteousness to others.

It's because of Jesus's unconditional, self-giving love for us that we can give love away to others. For when we know that we are loved—not because we are good or even deserving, but because God is love—we don't have to grasp and fight to be loved.

In this month when we think about love, may we be so aware and full of Jesus's love that we can freely and fully give away love to others. And in this freedom of love, may we find life and hope, grace and joy.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Music Ministry

I am grateful for the opportunity to update you on the ways your generous giving continues to support us in the area of music and worship. As we are all very much aware, the worship life of our church over the past few years has had to stretch and evolve in ways we would have never previously anticipated. We have had to exercise creativity and push the bounds of our resourcefulness as we seek to engage and encourage the church family in a challenging environment, even into new possibilities. God continues to provide us with the strength, inspiration, and endurance that we need!

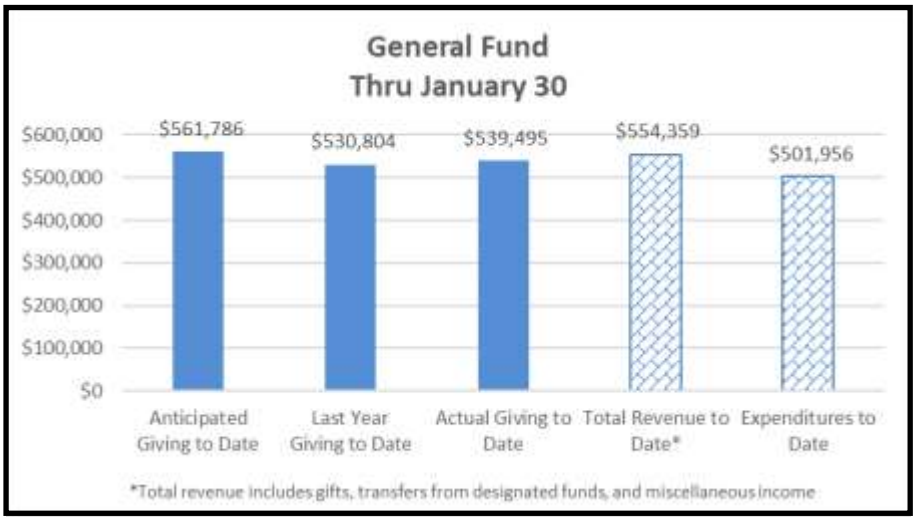
Beyond serving and worshiping with the congregation who is able to join us in person, we are engaging with streaming worshipers from around our area, the country, and even the world. On Sunday, January 15, we had 330 people joining us via streaming in real time as we celebrated in church together. Many others choose to watch our streaming services at other times during the week. Over the last month we had 1,340 viewers spread out over every day of the week! We are so grateful for the remarkable work of our dedicated tech team.

On any given Sunday there are at least five tech team volunteers working on our streaming service, as well as tech for the early/outdoor service and Sunday School class streaming. The crew (currently 13 people) each work on average every other Sunday. If you glance up into the balcony, you'll see them at various stations. Our tech team members work with both skill and artistry as they support our service, managing numerous cameras and an average of 15 microphones in each service.

Special thanks to Ken Bates, who served skillfully and graciously leading our tech team – the Balcony Bandits – from the beginning of the pandemic until just a few months ago. We have now transitioned to the capable leadership of Doyin Adenuga, and we are so grateful for his willingness to take on this important role! Doyin would also like to thank the church for our support in sending three of our volunteers – Doyin, Jeff Babbitt, and Kurt Habecker – to a recent training seminar at Family Life Ministries on "Shaping the Worship Sound." They bring back new ideas and insights to continue improving what we do.

We are thankful for the encouragement, financial support, and prayers of our church family as we continue to do our best to facilitate the worship life of our congregation. Also, **we are currently looking for 2-3 more people to add to our tech team!** All are welcome – including high schoolers! – and all necessary training will be provided. If you have ever considered joining – or even if you have not – please feel free to contact Doyin Adenuga (streaming@hwchurch.org) for more information. We would be deeply grateful to have you!

Amanda Cox



Kids Connect in February: "How To" - The internet helps us learn how to do so many things! From new skate tricks and viral recipes to helpful hacks, there's a "how-to" for almost everything. But is there a tutorial video for how to follow God? This four-week series is kind of like that — thanks to some tutorials from Jesus! Each week, we'll focus on one of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount as we learn "how to" make a difference, love our enemies, share with others, and pray.

- February Memory Verse: "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:15 (NIV)
- Kids Club - Saturday, February 18th from 9:30-11:00am.
- Stewards of Children training - Saturday February 11th from 8:00-10:00am - required for anyone new or "lapsed" who serves in HWC Kids or Youth and open to anyone who wants to be a larger part of creating a safe place for our children.

Houghton Royal Family Kids Camp

"But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.'"

Houghton Royal Family Kids Camp (Houghton RFKC) needs you to take 6 days out of your summer to help lead 52 deserving children toward Jesus. We need men and women as counselors (individual, roving and activities counselors), dramatists and more! We especially need male volunteers. For more information about the Houghton Wesleyan's Church ministry to area children from hard backgrounds, visit our website at www.houghtonrfkc.com/get-involved.

To volunteer: fill out the application and reach out to 3 references BEFORE February 25; participate in a 20-minute interview on March 9th; and attend a required Sunday afternoon training on April 23. Questions: Call, text or email Nancy Louk Murphy at houghton.rfkc@gmail.com or (585) 376-4053.

February 2023 HWC Youth News

Youth Group in February:

Feb 5 – Youth Group in a Bubble!

Feb 12 – No Youth Group

Feb 19 – We begin a 3 week series on science and faith titled, “I Wonder”.

Feb 26 – I Wonder week 2

<u>Prayer Breakfast</u>
7am in the Community Room
PB is on for February 7,14,21,28

Discipleship Hour in January

In February we continue our series on the book of Genesis:

Feb 5 – Genesis 1

Feb 12 – Genesis 2

Feb 19 – Genesis 3

Feb 26 – Genesis – Noah and the Flood

WELLSPRING WORDS

The New Year dawned, and we looked back as a Board to rejoice in the following:

- the 120 donors that sustain us (churches, civic groups, and individuals), and enable us to end the year in a firm position to continue blessing others. Thank you.
- ability to serve a Christmas ham dinner to many, as well as to send a ham piece along home with each family unit. The Angelica branch of the D.A.R. served the meal to the people seated. We enjoyed having them among us.
- repair of the cracked wellhead and pipes at a very minimal cost.
- scissors lift will go into production at the factory on 2/22. Yes, it has been a long wait, but we anticipate its arrival here in March.
- healing of Jim's knee after knee replacement surgery in September. (our CEO)
- God's work in hearts and attitudes of staff and clients. His Word is shared briefly each Wednesday and Friday.

"Those blessed by God become blessers for God." (C. Ingram)
B. Beardsley (for the Board)

February 8 we host a Pop Up Pantry in the church parking lot.
Registration is required and opens Tuesday, January 31st at 8:30 am
Call 585-209-0052. *Leave your name, phone number and the number of families you are picking up for. The Cuba Cultural Center will return your call and give you a time and number.*

From the
Library Shelves

Groundhog Day...Lincoln's birthday...Valentine's Day...Washington's birthday...there is a lot happening this month….and we have just the right books for you. In the book *Small Things with Great Love* by Margot Starbuck, we can learn how to love our neighbors by just engaging and learning the name of the person who cleans your office at work, or the check-out person at the store. There's much more, check out the book and learn for yourself. Then in *Love Heals* by Becca Stevens, discover how love heals in many different ways.

In the children's room try *Abe Lincoln's Hat* by Martha Brenner and see what Mr. Lincoln kept in that hat. Or try *George Washington and the General's Dog* by Frank Murphy and find out what Mr. Washington did with the General's dog, even in the midst of war. Read how two little mice worked together and made *The Biggest Valentine Ever* by Steven Kroll.

Find all of these, and more, in our church library. Come on in!

CR meets Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM
in Room 105 (across from the Library)
Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives.

We offer our condolences

- to Janet Stegen and her family at the death of her brother, Gary Heil, on January 22
- to the family of Lanny Thomas who died January 27 and
- to Andrea Tanner and her family at the death of her father, Jeff LaLonde who died January 28

Summer Camps at Houghton

Do you know someone who would be interested in a music or sports camp this summer at Houghton University? They can experience an unforgettable week on campus featuring premier instructional camps in music, basketball, volleyball, tennis, or soccer. These camps provide students with a great experience, small group skill development, leadership and character development, and direct preparation for college. All campers will receive instruction from expert staff who are leaders in their field - but more importantly care about our campers! There are opportunities for students entering grades 1-12!
Register online at: **Summer Camps at Houghton**

BASKETBALL CAMPS (Register by April 15 and receive $30 off ...excluding Building for the Future Day Camp)
June 25-29: Girls Basketball Camp (entering grades 4-12)
July 2-6: Boys Basketball Camp (entering grades 4-12)
July 3-6: Building for the Future Camp (entering grades 1-3)

MUSIC CAMPS (Register by April 15 and receive $30 off)
June 25-28: **Choir and Band Camp** (for girls and boys entering grades 7-12)
June 29-July 1: Advanced Strings Camp (for girls and boys entering grades 10-12)

VOLLEYBALL CAMP
July 23-27: for girls entering grades 7-12 (Register by April 15 and receive $30 off)

TENNIS CAMP
July 16-20: for boys and girls entering grades 7-12 (Register by April 15 and receive $30 off)

SOCCER CAMPS (Register by April 15 and receive $30 off ...excluding Mini Day Camp and Advanced/ID Camps)
July 16-20: Girls Soccer Camp (girls entering grades 4-12)
July 17-20: Mini Day Camp (9am-3pm, boys & girls; entering grades 1-3)
July 21-22: Girls Advanced/ID Camp (girls HS grad years: 2024, 2025, 2026)
July 23-27: Boys Soccer Camp (boys entering grades 4-12)
July 28-29: Boys Advanced/ID Camp (boys HS grad years: 2024, 2025, 2026)

Campers accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Certain weeks fill up fast, so it is best to register as early as possible.
Questions? Call the athletics office at 585-567-9645 or email conferences@houghton.edu

For rent—

Fancher Drive, Houghton, 4 bedroom house, spacious living room and dining room.
Furnished or unfurnished.
Month-to-month available.
Contact: Becky 585-567-2727.

Pete Roeske
SNOWPLOWING
service
585-689-0368

PLANEX—Space-related Adventure Tourism

Kirby Runyon was the Young Alumnus 2018 at Houghton University. He has started his own company, Planex - Planetary Experience Consulting LLC (https://planex.space), where one of his three business areas is in space-related adventure tourism. His aim is to host at least two different offerings:

Geology you can see from space: educational geology hikes among New Mexico's most space-visible landscapes (aimed at suborbital commercial astronauts but open to anyone); and

Planetary Flight Experience: Fly, float, and Moon-bounce like an astronaut in reduced- and zero-gravity parabolic flight in collaboration with The Zero Gravity Corporation (www.GoZeroG.com).

If you might be interested in knowing more or to receive occasional email updates, you can sign up by sending an email to kirby@planex.space.

Allegany Log Homes has re-opened.
In addition to selling log cabin kits, plans and supplies we are providing custom kiln drying with our iDRY vacuum kiln located on Dugway Road in Fillmore, NY. Our --vacuum kiln dries lumber 5 times faster than a conventional kiln.
Gregg and Wendy Reinbold 585-567-2583 or **alleganyloghomesny@gmail.com** hours by appointment

*Thank you to everyone who faithfully resources HWC's **Food Pantry** where those in need may request resources twice a year, and those in crisis may request assistance immediately. We currently have an abundance of spaghetti and sauce, mac and cheese, and pumpkin puree. Items that would be helpful compliments to them include: **parmesan cheese, butter, shelf-stable mini-cartons of milk, and canned milk**. Items may be left inside the side door or deposited in the blue tub by the coffee station in the foyer.*

Many thanks to all who helped make the **Valley Preschool Stone Soup Dinner** a success again this year! Not all donations and expenses have been tallied yet, but we know we had record high giving. What a humbling blessing! We are thankful to God and to so many of His people for helping this ministry to continue, enabling us to do what we love in serving His little ones.

VALLEY BREAD & BOUNTY
10 West Main St.
Fillmore, NY

585-207-5031

valleybreadandbounty.com

Monday Closed
Tuesday Closed
Wednesday 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Thursday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday Closed

SUNDAYS
IN

FEBRUARY

February 5 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
The Church Is Like… (John 21)

February 12 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
The Church Is Like… (Matthew 5)

February 19 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
Pastor Cindy Oden

February 26 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
Why Are You Sleeping? (Luke 22)

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor
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Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,
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