Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
April 2023
Volume 55, No. 11

Spring Points to Hope

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
(1 Corinthians 15:20)

It's been a long winter. We haven't experienced as much snow as Buffalo, but we've had our fair share. For months we have been struggling with cold temperatures and particularly cold temperatures that have been made even colder by strong, biting wind. I don't know about you, but I am ready to be done with it! And as I write this, I can see the end.

I am writing this on the first day of Spring. There is something about this day that feels so different from the day before. Something about this day leads me to believe that the weather is finally changing, that we will see more of the sun each day, that warmer temperatures are on the horizon. And thinking about Spring causes me to feel just a little bit lighter, just a little bit more hopeful.

But as wonderful as Spring is, as much hope as Spring may bring to us, Spring is really pointing toward a greater, more foundational hope. Like the many ways God puts together his creation, this change of seasons is turning our direction to something more—to him.

For followers of the risen Christ, Spring is a reminder that we live each day in the reality of the resurrection of Jesus and because of the reality of **his** resurrection, **our** resurrection. The apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian Christians: *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied* (1 Cor. 15:17-19).

Spring is one of the ways God has built his promise of resurrection into his creation. That the barrenness and struggle of winter isn't the last word. Change is coming. And when you know that something greater is coming, it changes how you live as you await that coming. Which is why Paul concludes this teaching about the resurrection with these words: *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain* (v. 15). Why can we be certain that our work for Christ is not useless? Because we know that resurrection is coming.

So, as we celebrate the coming of Spring, let's not just celebrate better weather—as good as that is—even more, let's celebrate the eternal promise of our risen Christ and in this promise, find joy and hope every day with him.

Because Jesus is risen,
Pastor Wes

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2	**Children's Palm Processional (both services)** All children are invited to participate in the procession of the palms at the beginning of each service (8:30 and 11:00) on Palm Sunday, April 2. Please meet in the sanctuary entry way 10 minutes before the service begins.	
Thursday, April 6	**Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm**	
Good Friday, April 7	On Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open 7am to 7pm for silent prayer and contemplation . Retreat from the busyness of life before the cross in the sanctuary. Prayer guides and children's materials will be available. Pastoral staff are available between 10am-3pm to pray with you. There will be an Organ meditation 3 – 4pm.	
Sunday, April 9	**7:45 am**	**Resurrection/Baptism Service**
	8:30 am	**Easter Breakfast (Community Room)**
	10:00am	**Easter Worship Celebration**

EASTER BREAKFAST

Between services on Easter Sunday come and join us for one of the highlights of our church fellowship times, Easter Breakfast in the church Community Room. Eggs, ham, roasted potatoes, quick breads and cinnamon rolls, beverages and table service will be provided.

This year's donation breakfast is presented by the HWC Youth group in order to raise money for our Wesleyan Youth Convention in Cincinnati at Christmas time.

You can help by donating the following on April 5: fresh eggs, ham, apples, potatoes, bananas, oranges, OJ..
(These items may be left in the kitchen—eggs, ham & OJ in the refrigerator please!)
Fresh baked quick breads and cinnamon rolls—bring them to the church on Easter Sunday morning.

Please let Pastor Jon know what you can bring. Fill out a bulletin insert, call/text 585-307-9950 or email joncole@hwchurch.org

The Flower Committee WELCOMES EASTER PLANTS

for Easter Sunday, April 9th. We have purchased several lilies which you may purchase for $15.00 each or you may bring your own lily to drop off at the church office by Good Friday, April 7th. If you would like to purchase one or more lilies, you may use the online giving option, mail a check to the church office (indicate Easter lilies), or drop off payment at the church office. If you wish to purchase a lily in memory or in honor of a loved one, please email (pattystalker@hwchurch.org) or call Patty (567-2264) with your information by Monday, April 3rd. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP a life of generosity

2022-2023 has been momentous for this church's global mission outreach. As a congregation we have **raised over $132,000 for global missions** through regular giving. In addition to that the **Christmas Offering raised $23,350** for the Wycliffe Thai Foundation building project. (See "thank you" note-page 11). To God be the glory!

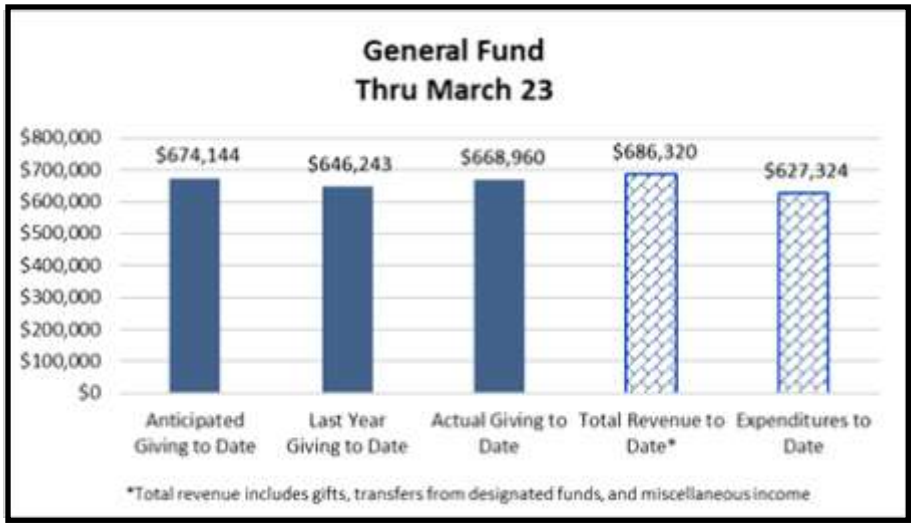
On April 23 we will welcome Wycliffe missionaries Joel and Barbara Trudell whom this church has supported financially since 1984! There will be a display set up with actual copies of Scripture publications from all our translators. God's Word bears fruit. (Isaiah 55:11)

This year **$105,797 of our offering went directly to support our missionary team** around the globe. You often hear us introduce and pray for them weekly. The *Global Missions Partner Directory* and *Missionary Mailbag* available in the foyers keep us up with the ministries of Martin and Sheri Hegeman, Alan and Cheri Shea, Anthony and Nancy Petrillo, Jim and Karen Szymanski, Joel and Barbara Trudell, Romeo and Linda Caringal, John and Sylvia Christensen, Leah Doty, Steve and Margie Doty, Cedric and Sharlini Rodrigo, Chris and Melissa George, Kevin and Cindi Austin, Stacia Niver, Breanna Smithley, Cory and Kris Thede, Rod and Ellen Casali, Don and Jeanie Little, Jonathan and Ruthie Ortlip, and Steve and Ruth Strand. What a privilege!

A highlight this year has been the return of short term ministries. College Junior, Cody Johnson, served in Austria last summer. Eight Houghton students visited the Austins in Czech Republic last month. Jayden Mucher, Esther Webb, Julius Klohr, Mason Cool, Sophia Templeton, Levi Webb, Tobias Webb, and Emma Cole all anticipate trips to Zambia, Brazil, or Nicaragua in May. The TEN 3 team return from two weeks in Tanzania likely as you are reading this. **Your giving provided $6,775 for all of these short term trips.**

Among our other projects, there is new support going to Global Bridge Impact and Pastor Yoshua Bashizi serving the Congolese community and church in Buffalo. Jericho Road Community Health Center and the Strands are our other ambassadors there in Buffalo. We know of the turmoil in Haiti, but thank God there were resources to send an **additional $1300 to LaGonave Wesleyan Hospita**l this year along with our prayers for God to end the turmoil in that land.

Thanks for all who support HWC and our Global Mission Outreach so faithfully.
Pastor Paul Shea, for the Global Mission Committee



April Kids Connect: "Rise & Shine" - " On a farm, life has a daily rhythm (for plants, animals, and people, too). “Life” is what this series is all about, because we’re talking about Easter and Jesus’ triumph over death! In this five-week series, kids will explore the stories leading up to and following Easter Sunday. Together, they’ll discover we can stick with Jesus even when our days are dark, and that because Jesus is alive, we can spend our days meeting with him, trusting he’s there for us, and sharing his love — not just today, but every day!"

April memory verse:
”He is not here; he has risen!” — Luke 24:6a (NIV)

April Kids Club: Join us on Saturday, April 22nd from 9:30-11am for a special missions Kids Club.

On Easter Sunday there *will* be nursery for infants through 36 months. There *will not* be Children's Church or Kids Connect. Families are encouraged to enjoy the Easter services together!

A HUGE shout out to the HU Field Hockey Team for their help at the March Kids Club Event. We had a great time playing crazy, and calm, games together! Thank you!

Donations needed: Do you have Legos in storage that are looking for a new home? HWC Kids is looking for donations of Legos to use for future events and lessons. Thank you!

NEW BABY!

Fredrick Roger Reusser was born on Tuesday, March 7 to parents Alison and George and big siblings Izzy, Aggie, and Paul and grandparents Paul and Debbie Young.

ALL WOMEN
are invited to

Breakfast & a Movie

Saturday, April 1
beginning at 9:00 am
in the Community Room

We'll enjoy a yummy breakfast and watch
the love story and life story
of Catherine Marshall
-the author of the novel *Christy*-
and her husband,
the inspirational preacher, Peter Marshall.

Secret Church

Secret Church is a unique, fast-paced group Bible study opportunity that occurs annually in unison with small groups all over the world. It's both intense and intensely fun! The annual 6-hour event will take place over two consecutive evenings, **Fri & Sat, April 21 & 22, 7-10 pm**. This year we will study the **entire book of Jonah**, and the primary teaching is delivered by well-known pastor David Platt. Group participants receive a workbook and lots of wonderful food and fellowship. HWC discipleship ministry is subsidizing *Secret Church* so the cost for participants will be only **$15 for adults, $10 for college students.** Please contact Katrina Koehler or Pastor David for more information.

The UNCHAINED Word

Missions Week Events

4.16 Missionary Story Hour 4:00pm-5:00pm
HWC Community Room

4.22 Men's Breakfast 8:00am - 9:00am
HU Lennox Dining Hall

4.22 Kid's Club 9:30am - 11:00am
HWC Community Room

4.22 Women's Coffee With Barbara
2:00pm - 3:00pm
HWC Community Room

Missions Sunday
4.23

Morning Services 8:30am, 11:00am
Speaker: Joel and Barbara Trudell
Congregation is invited to dress in International Attire

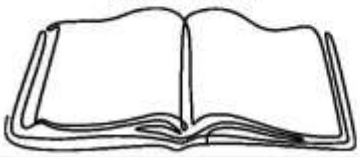
Discipleship Hour 9:45am
Speakers: Ben & Christine Hegeman
HWC Community Room

Youth Group 6:00pm - 8:00pm
HWC Youth Room

"...the Word of God is not chained." 2 Timothy 2:9b

MISSIONARY STORY HOUR

When: April 16th,
4:00-5:00pm
Where: HWC Community Room
Come enjoy a time of fellowship, refreshments, and hearing stories from our local missionaries, just like your grandparents used to tell.



HWC Men's Breakfast

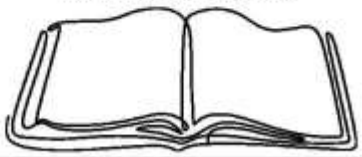
When: April 22nd,
8:00am - 9:00am

Where: Lennox Dining Hall, HU
Cost: $7.25, $5.25 (60 and older)
Speaker: Joel Trudell

Come enjoy a time of fellowship, great food, and a brief message from Joel.

KID'S CLUB

When: April 22nd, 9:30am - 11:00am
Where: HWC Community Room
Ages: PreSchool - 6th grade
Come learn how the Bible is translated into other languages, learn a song in Swahili, create a craft, and enjoy snacks from around the world.



YOU'RE INVITED

Women's Coffee with Barbara

When: April 22nd,
2:00pm - 3:00pm
Where: HWC Community Room
Speaker: Barbara Trudell

Come enjoy a time of fellowship, coffee/tea, sweet treats and a message from Barbara.

MISSIONS SUNDAY

4.23
Morning Services
8:30am, 11:00am
Speakers:
Joel and Barbara Trudell
Congregation is invited to dress in International Attire

Discipleship Hour 9:45am
Speakers:
Ben & Christine Hegeman
HWC Community Room

YOUTH GROUP

When: April 23rd,
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Where: HWC Youth Room
Come learn how the Bible is translated into other languages, and hear firsthand accounts from local missionaries.

From the
Library Shelves

In the adult section of our church library there are a number of books exploring the times and people around Jesus' death and resurrection. Our children's area also has books about Easter, including *The Sparrow's Easter Song.*

With the missions convention this month we want you to know we also have quite a few books on missions, such as Carolyn Miller's book *Captured.* The children's area has *You Can Change the World,* and *Missions Made Fun for Kids,* plus others.

Come in and check us out!

Wellspring Ministries

Dear Houghton family -

We are thawing out at Wellspring Ministries. **Come, look around and sip a cup with us.** Our 12 tables have 12 different Easter quotations on them, done by calligrapher and volunteer Donnie Stockin. May the lovely art work and words move us closer to the truths of the story.

Several times this month our devotions are featuring Francis Chan's study of Mark's Gospel on video. We also are strengthened by pastors Shea, Coates, Chamberlain, and Stanton. We love to see HWC faces among us at meals. Our prayer is for lives to be drawn to our risen Lord Jesus. Thank you for praying for this work. Thank you for making us a part of the 2023-24 budget. Thank you for the many donations -lovely items that many of our clients just could not afford.

Facts of interest -
~ In February we served almost 300 meals, and had 214 folks who found apparel items.
~An AED has been ordered, most of which was covered by a gift that came that very week. A training session in CPR and AED by a certified Red Cross instructor has helped several of us feel a bit more knowledgeable
~Later this month volunteers will be recognized and honored at an evening dinner in Belmont. We are grateful for the faithfulness of each one.
~Towels, blankets, spring clothing, used garden/lawn tools, outdoor chairs, prom dresses, as well as mother-of-the-bride dresses are welcomed now.
~Newsflash from Wellspring - The scissors lift arrived and is waiting placement. We pray for safety in its move to its permanent location. Logistics are being worked on now.
~Our Easter dinner is Wed. April 5 at 11:30. Closed Friday, April 7.

May the Lord's grace and truth be yours this amazing season.
Tetelestai **"**Paid in full." "It is finished." What more can be said?
Beth Beardsley. Board member

Our condolences and prayers for
Bill and Joan Veley at the death of their daughter, Jennifer Kilbury.
Souly Sanasith and his family at the death of his brother, Sith.

April 2023 HWC Youth News

Join us for Youth Group at 6pm on Sunday evenings in the youth room:

- April 2 – Apologetics 4 of 4 – *Christian Views on Creation, Evolution, and Human Origins*
- April 9 – No Youth Group – **Easter Sunday!**
- April 16 – Missions Series begins – *Introduction to 30 Hour famine*
- April 23 – Missions in *southeast Asia with the Doty's*
- April 30 – Mindy Tharnish from Global Partners – *You can be a Missionary!*

Prayer Breakfast - 7am in the Community Room - April 11,18,25

Youth Discipleship Hour in March – April 2,16,23,30

In April we'll begin our study of Exodus! April 23 is "Missions Sunday", all discipleship classes will meet in the community room.

Holy Week Activities:

- Thursday 6th – Maundy Thursday service at 6:30pm
- Friday 7th – On Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open 7am to 7pm for silent prayer and contemplation. Retreat from the busyness of life before the cross in the sanctuary. Prayer guides and children's materials will be available. Pastoral staff are available between 10am-3pm to pray with you. There will be an Organ meditation 3 – 4pm.

Upcoming Events:

Easter Breakfast – Easter Sunday Morning April 9th. We'll need all hands on deck as we prepare and serve breakfast for our church Community! Let PJ know if you are able to help!

30 Hour Famine – May 12-13 – We'll fast together to raise funds for World Vision and hunger related causes around the world!

Save-the-Date for these Summer Events:

June 30-Darien Lake Trip - $40, Deadline to sign up is June 9.

July 23 – 27 – ADK's canoeing and hiking –Space is limited! - $200; Deadline to sign up – July 1

July 30 – August 3 – Refresh Family Camp – Youth Track

August 9 – Service project - $0

August 17 – Picnic - $0

Vintage Finds Treasured Memories

antique shop will be moving from our rented location to a newly purchased location at 6 Chapel Street in Belfast in June of this year. The historic building completed in 1836 formerly housed the Baptist Church of Belfast and has the original stained glass windows and hardwood floors.
In anticipation of the move we will be having sales throughout April and May to try and reduce the amount of inventory that has to be moved. Stop in and see us at our current location of 41 Main Street in Belfast and help us streamline the move.

You're invited to
a CARD SHOWER
to honor JOHN AND JOANNE HARTMAN
on the special occasion of their
60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on April 13, 2023.
If you'd like to join in the celebration, a card can be mailed directly to them at
1 Lauder St, Cortland, NY 13045.

Drive Through Food Distribution April 12 in the church parking lot. To register call 585-209-0052 after 8:30 a.m. on April 4. 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.

Ministry Opportunity

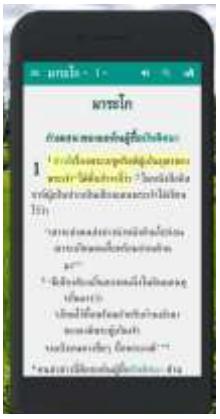
One ministry of our Church is to provide a meal for family members connected to our congregation following a funeral or memorial service of a loved one. Because there is often very little notice for these meals, they vary in size, and they fall on a variety of the days of the week, it is helpful to have some planning and a team in place to make sure that we provide an excellent experience for those we are serving. We need people who would be willing to very occasionally help with set-up, hosting, clean-up, and providing parts of the meal. A larger team would mean very little work on any one person's part. If you would be willing to be called on to help in general or to provide a specific need, please email phyllis.gaerte@houghton.edu.

Thank you for helping to carry another's burden. Please remember that all donations should be in unopened packages and have a "best used date" of 2023 or later. Perishable donations may be dropped off at the church office. All others may be placed in the blue tub behind the coffee station or tucked inside the side-door entrance

Non-perishable:
Baked Beans
Cornbread Mix
Granola Bars
Cake & Brownie Mixes
Oil (veg. & olive)
Shelf-Stable Milk
Dish Soap
Bar Soap
Size 2 diapers
Perishable
Parmesan Cheese
Frozen Meatballs
Frozen Garlic Bread
Butter

URGENT NEED

The Genesee Rapids are in need of Host Families for baseball players coming in June. This involves providing a bed and breakfast for a player or players. All other meals are provided. Great relationships have been formed with host families in past years. For more information call Ralph Kerr 716-969-0688.

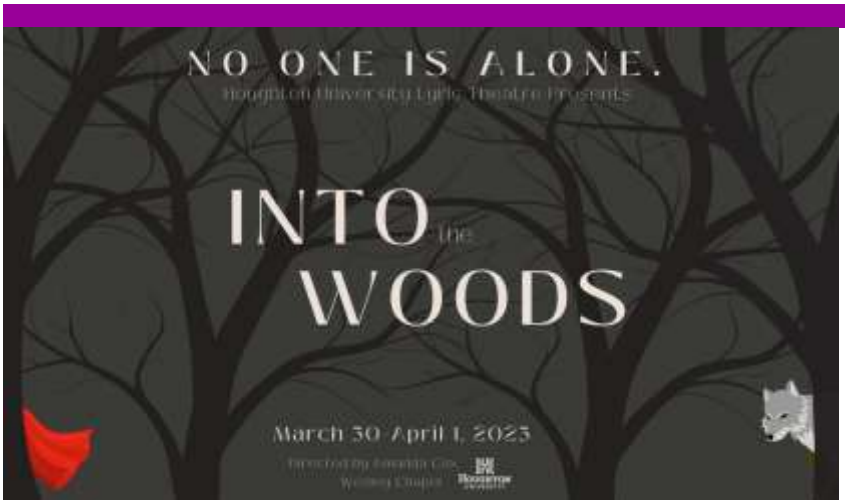


THANK YOU
FROM WYCLIFFE THAI FOUNDATION
In Response to Our Christmas Donation

As the representative of Wycliffe Thai Foundation, I would like to thank you to you for supporting Wycliffe Thai Foundation in praying and financing. This is so encouraging, it fills my heart with confidence and my spirit with joy in the Lord. I will let the board know about the gift from Houghton Wesleyan Church. Please pass our gratitude to the committee and the church members, "Khob kun grub".
Blessings,
Tharawat Suebthayat
Executive Director of Wycliffe Thai Foundation

Evangeline Grant will be celebrating 90 years young on April 8. Though she may not recall everyone, she would enjoy cards depicting animals, lovely scenery, or religious content. Please help us to celebrate her beautiful life. - Vicki Grant and family

Address:
Evangeline Grant
3260 North 7th St.
Allegany, NY 14706
Room #254



Four performances at Houghton University:

- **Thursday, March 30 at 7 p.m.**
- **Friday, March 31 at 7 p.m.**
- **Saturday, April 1 at 2 p.m.**
- **Saturday, April 1 at 7 p.m.**

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

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

He Is Risen
Oil Painting by H. Willard Ortlip

April 2 *Why Are You Abandoning Me?* (Matthew 27:45-54)
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

April 9 *Do You Have Anything to Eat?* (Luke 24:36-49)
7:45am – Easter Baptism Service
8:30am – Easter Breakfast
10:00am – Easter Worship/Streaming

April 16 *When the Journey Is Too Much* (1 Kings 19)
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

April 23 Joel and Barb Trudell (Missions Convention)
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

April 30 (1 Thessalonians)
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming