



## *Go and Tell!*

*“Don’t be alarmed,” the angel said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”* (Mark 16:6-7)

There is something right and appropriate about focusing on the world during the season of Easter.

So, often we separate these two elements of the church. We celebrate Easter and see it in terms that are primarily personal: forgiveness of sins, death conquered, life eternal. And we are correct. The apostle Paul reminds the Christians in Corinth that it is because Christ is raised that all who believe will be raised with him (1 Corinthians 15). All of these things are true and for them we celebrate!

We also talk about sharing Christ with the whole world. We think about taking the gospel to people around the world who do not understand who Jesus is, or who have never heard of Jesus. Our passion is that more and more people will experience the joy and freedom of life in Christ—now and for all eternity. And this, also, is a good and right thing that we do!

What we often struggle to see is the connection. But the connection is essential. As Retired Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, Will Willimon, commenting on Mark’s description of the women’s discovery of the empty tomb says: *The Easter message was a commission: “Go, tell...”*

The first command at the empty tomb is *go and tell*. The resurrection of Jesus is never intended to be something personal and nothing else. It is never intended to be an act that changes our lives as an end in and of itself. The resurrection of Christ changes all who believe so that we are enabled to be agents, witnesses of the risen Christ for all who have not yet believed.

Paul’s treatise in 1 Corinthians 15 is his longest description, explanation and revelation of the resurrection—Christ’s and all who believe. As he brings his words to a conclusion, he proclaims:

*When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*

*“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

And then he concludes 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.* Why is our labor in the Lord not in vain? Because Christ is risen. Because he is risen, we have a witness of hope in a world of hopelessness. We have a witness of love in a world of lovelessness. We have a witness of life in a world of lifelessness.

Why does the world matter to us? Why do we invest time and energy and resources into sharing Christ? Why do we care about people around us and around the world? Because Jesus is risen.

Because He Lives,  
Pastor Wes



## STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

God has blessed us financially this year. We are so grateful for your generosity!

In a few weeks, our congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2023-24 Community Financial Plan (CFP), sometimes referred to as the budget.

The 2023 CFP supports the mission of Houghton Wesleyan Church to **exalt** God joyfully, **know** God intimately, **serve** one another wholeheartedly, and **share** Christ's love locally and globally. The way we allocate our resources throughout the course of a year reflects these aspirations.

Our goals when building the 2023-24 CFP included:

Expressing appreciation for our staff

Maintaining our support for local and global outreach

Ensuring that all ministries have sufficient funds to do their work for the kingdom

Caring for our facilities as good stewards of what we have been entrusted.

The proposed CFP reflects the tension between **fiscal responsibility** and **faith in our God** to meet our needs. There are a few items in next year's CFP which we are stretching toward in faith:

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for our Staff (4%) – The COLA for 2023 is almost 9%. While we aren't able to match this figure, we want to give our staff an indication of our appreciation with a minimal COLA adjustment.

Continued to support vital areas of ministry – Streaming, curriculum, youth events, discipleship opportunities, etc.

Continue our growing commitment to global and local outreach – Support of missionaries, training of national leaders and workers, helping with local needs through our food pantry and benevolent fund, and supporting children in our area through Royal Family Kids Camp and take-home food for Fillmore students on long school breaks.

Cover inflationary expenses – Insurance, utilities, product costs.

Invest in our facilities – Grow a fund for continued maintenance and larger upgrades to our wonderful but aging facilities.

Van Fund – Set aside funds annually in order to replace our church van when the need arises.

A vote to approve the 2023-24 Community Financial Plan indicates your commitment to support Houghton Wesleyan Church through your faithful giving.

The proposed CFP is posted on the church website at [www.hwchurch.org/vision/vision-meeting-annual-meeting](http://www.hwchurch.org/vision/vision-meeting-annual-meeting). You can also obtain a paper copy by contacting the church office.

## Election of Leaders

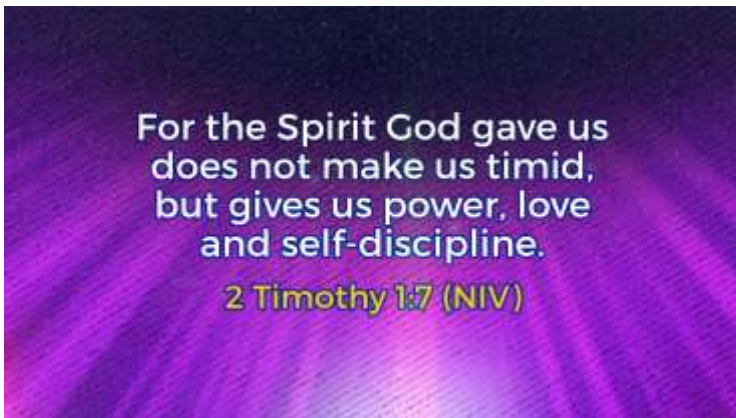
Will offer three options for voting again this year: In Person (May 14), Online (May 8-14) and by Absentee Ballot. If you prefer to vote by Absentee Ballot, contact the church office by May 8. We will need to receive mailed ballots by Friday, May 12. For online access to the ballot, we will send a link the week of May 8. All online ballots must be cast by noon on May 14.

## Community Financial Plan

You will be receiving information related to the Community Financial Plan in the coming weeks. The vote about the Plan will take place with the Election of Leaders, in person, online and by mail.



May in Kids Connect: Heroic: " Every kid wishes they had superpowers, but with Jesus, we don't need x-ray vision or invisibility to be heroes! In this four-week series, kids will hear stories about the heroes of the Early Church — the apostles and disciples who used their unique abilities to spread the good news of Jesus. Through their stories, we'll see that anyone can do great things for God because God gives everyone a mission, the Holy Spirit gives us power, and we're heroic when we work as a team!"



May Memory Verse: "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." - 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

- Kids Club: The last Kids Club of the school year is Saturday, May 20th from 9:30-11am - more details to come!

- Family Fridays return this summer - with a twist! Would you be willing to host a Family Friday night in your yard? HWC Kids will provide the lawn games, drink mix, and s'more ingredients to host families. You provide the yard! Please email Emily at [emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org) if you would be willing to host families in your yard on a Friday in July or August.



Lego donations needed! Do you have Legos you are sick of storing? HWC Kids is looking to grow our Lego collection to use for special events. Consider donating today. Thanks!

## Family Fellowship Time

All families are invited to the Community Room for an informal time of fellowship (snacks, visiting, running around the gym!) following the Kids Connect hour.

If you'd like to help with snacks on any given week, you're welcome to just bring anything, or contact Audrey Pocock at [audrey.pocock@outlook.com](mailto:audrey.pocock@outlook.com) to coordinate".





## May 2023 HWC Youth News

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

- May 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> Graders come to youth group! Missions series finished
- May 14 – No Youth group – Mother's day
- May 21 – Youth group
- May 28 – End of the year party!



**Prayer Breakfast** - 7am in the Community Room – May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**Youth Discipleship Hour in March** – May 7, 14, 21, 28

In May we'll continue our study on Exodus.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

**Friday May 12 – 5:30** – Meet at the church for the food pantry drive. Students will walk around Houghton collecting food for the church food pantry. Bring your "little red wagon", a stroller or wheelbarrow to carry food in!

**Saturday May 13** – Meet at the church at 8:30am. Bring work gloves and a water bottle, dress to be outside. Work projects in the morning, carwash in the afternoon. Break-fast dinner at approximately 5:30pm.

### **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





## Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC)

Did you know that some kids don't get a birthday celebration? Celebrating "Every kids' Birthday Party" is just one of the many ways that Royal Family Kids Camp helps our 52 campers feel special and loved. This year, in addition to giving a special birthday bag of presents to each a birthday boy and girl, we are planning a very special Birthday Dinner. We especially need boys' dress clothes to help our boys celebrate in style. Please donate any boys' dress shirts, jackets, ties or shoes! Sizes vary for boys ages 7-12. Drop off on Nancy's porch (7448 Centerville Road, Houghton).

Thank you !!! 



We have had a great year at Valley Preschool! As we go into our last few weeks of the school year, we just finished up our study of animals with our annual Valley Preschool Zoo and (if all went well!) layer cakes that matched the layers of the ocean and rain forest. You may see us out and about in the coming weeks as we learn about community workers through a number of field trips here in town and one in Fillmore! Practice for our graduation program is also under way.

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning Rachel Blew and I teach our twelve students with assistant teacher, Joy Mansfield. Volunteers "Grandma" Joan Zeija and Brenda "Boo" Montanye join us on many of the days as well. We also appreciate Donna Blew filling in from time to time. We have students from Centerville, Fillmore, Houghton, Hume, & Rushford who have become friends as they have learned, played, and built many skills together this year.

This year our total for the Stone Soup dinner was just over \$1,730.00 after expenses. Eight of our twelve current students are receiving the Stone Soup discount of \$10/month off of tuition. Five of those have additional help from our scholarship fund. Thank you so much for all who give to one or both of these funds each year! Because of your generosity these children have a fun, loving introduction to school as they learn about Jesus' love for them each week.

Applications for next year are available. We serve children ages two (by September first) through five and meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 to 11:45. I love talking about Valley Preschool, so if you have questions please email me ([casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org)) or call my home phone at 585-567-4314. You could also see us "in action" by coming to our visit day on Friday, May 12th at 11:15 a.m.



Jane Buteyn's Father Theodore "Ted" Haringa died April 2  
Tim Nichol's Mother Gail Maxine Brenneman Nichols died April 11

*A celebration of David Willard Ortlip's life will be held at the Houghton Wesleyan Church, 9712 NY-19, Houghton at 2:00 PM on Sunday June 4, 2023. Pastor Paul Shea will officiate. Burial will be in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Houghton.*



Congratulations to Cora Bates, Oakley Wartinger, Ruth Jacoby, Elizabeth Jacoby and Jack Jordan who were baptized on Easter Sunday morning!

# Food Pantry



## **Non-perishable:**

### **Coffee**

### **Cat & Dog Food**

Baked Beans

Jiffy Cornbread Mix

Granola Bars

Cake & Brownie Mixes

Shelf-Stable Milk

Dish Detergent

Bar Soap

Please consider donating coffee and pet food this month. In addition to a good meal, many of our recipients are encouraged by a good, hot cup of coffee with a furry companion. Please remember that all donations should be in unopened packages and have a "best used date" of 2023 or later. All others may be placed in the blue tub behind the coffee station or tucked inside the side-door entrance.



## **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.



## **Drive Through Food Distribution May 10 in the church parking lot.**

To register call 585-209-0052 after 8:30 a.m. on May 2. 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.

Who do you know who is lonely and would enjoy some feline companionship?

Marilyn Main left behind 4 beloved cats who are gifted in making a person feel loved and appreciated.

I know their Creator cares about these kitties and has new homes in mind for them. I need your help to connect me with the right people. Please contact me to help find new laps for Lingling, Daisy, Misty, and Lily.

Thanks!

Becky Hutton

585-567-2727

[lindolruthhutton@hotmail.com](mailto:lindolruthhutton@hotmail.com)





## **The Rapids are Coming Important Dates for the 2023 Season**

**All Rapids Home Games are played at Houghton University Baseball Stadium**

Thursday, June 1 Players Arrive in Houghton

Sunday, June 4, Old Timers Game 2pm

Wednesday, June 7, Home Opener, 4pm & 7pm

Friday, June 9, Kids Day, 10am, sponsored by Armstrong One Wire

Monday, June 10, NYCBL All Start Game, 6:30 @ Houghton University

Friday, June 23, Fireworks Display after the game sponsored by Black River Entertainment

Wednesday, June 29 - Friday, June 30, Basic Skills Baseball Camp

Tuesday, July 11 - Thursday, July 13, Advanced Skills Baseball Camp

Complete schedule at [geneseerapidsbaseball.com](http://geneseerapidsbaseball.com)

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## From the Library Shelves



Come on in to our church library and discover all the new books we have gotten recently in both the adult and children's areas. There are new fiction and non-fiction books, and new books on CD. New books for beginning readers, junior readers and for the pre-school set are just waiting to be chosen.

Come, find your adventure in our church library!

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A decorative border consisting of two stylized trees with brown trunks and green foliage. The trees are connected by a series of brown, swirling vines that also feature small green leaves and purple flowers. The entire border is symmetrical and frames the text in the center.

### **Thank You...**

to everyone who made us family during our 25 years at Houghton Church. We will miss you!

Rob and Ann McNeill  
1111 Bottom Creek Lane  
Bent Mountain, VA 24059

# Summer Plans



- \* June 4—11 (8:30 Outdoor / 9:45 Discipleship Hour / 11:00 Indoor/Streaming)
- \* June 18—September 3 (8:30 Outdoor / 10:00 Indoor/Streaming)
- \* September 10—October 29 (8:30 Outdoor/9:45 Discipleship Hour / 11:00 Indoor/Streaming)



**INSIDE & OUTSIDE  
PAINTING &  
POWER  
WASHING**  
(HOUSES  
& DECKS)  
**Phil Merrill**  
**(585) 610-8882**



The Inn at Houghton Creek is looking for a new staff member. Duties will include housekeeping, front desk management and reservations. Paid training is provided. Qualified candidate must have great customer service skills, be self-motivated and hard working. Please call the Innkeeper for information on how to apply at 585-567-8400 or email [innkeeper@innathoughtoncreek.com](mailto:innkeeper@innathoughtoncreek.com). Or, stop by the Inn and drop off your resume.

**July 30—August 4, 2023**

**Website: [Refreshathoughton.com](http://Refreshathoughton.com)**

## SUNDAYS IN MAY

- May 7** *The Resurrection and Our Relationships* (Matthew 6)  
8:30am – Worship Service  
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, and Adult Discipleship  
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming
- May 14** *The Resurrection and Our World* (Matthew 28)  
8:30am – Worship Service  
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, and Adult Discipleship  
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming
- May 21** Pastor David Huizenga  
8:30am – Worship Service  
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, and Adult Discipleship  
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming
- May 28** Youth Sunday  
8:30am – Worship Service  
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, and Adult Discipleship  
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

## CHURCH STAFF

- Wes Oden, Senior Pastor**  
567-2024 [wesoden@hwchurch.org](mailto:wesoden@hwchurch.org)
- Jon Cole, Youth Pastor**  
307-9950 [joncole@hwchurch.org](mailto:joncole@hwchurch.org)
- David Huizenga, Discipleship & College Pastor**  
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- Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor**  
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- Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director**  
[amandacox@hwchurch.org](mailto:amandacox@hwchurch.org)
- Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry**  
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- Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,**  
567-2264 [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org)