Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
July 2023
Volume 55, No. 2

Seasonal Gratitude?

We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.
1 Thessalonians 1:2

We have a tendency to think of November as the time set aside to express thanksgiving. It's good for us to have this special time because without it, we might seldom, if ever, express it. The drawback, however, to a season for thanksgiving is that we are tempted to think that we don't need to worry about it any other time.

I was thinking about this as I prepared my remarks to share at the farewell celebration for Amanda Cox and Paul Shea. As I was pondering all of the things I could say, I was struck by how we have a tendency to express our most appreciative feelings for others when there is a particular time set aside to do so. (i.e., farewells, funerals, special events). It's good and right to do this, but perhaps we ought to think about expressing appreciation when it's in season and when it's not.

The apostle Paul opens many of his letters with words of appreciation and affirmation.

Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you… (Romans 1:8)

I always thank my God for you… (1 Corinthians 1:4)

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. (Philippians 1:3)

We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. (1 Thessalonians 1:2)

Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you… (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

Timothy, I thank God for you… (2 Timothy 1:3)

I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon… (Philemon 4)

When you read these words of Paul, you get the feeling that gratitude and thanksgiving for others is a natural part of his communications and relationships. Paul often calls the churches to be grateful and he expresses his gratitude throughout his letters.

I can't help but wonder how different our relationships would be if we were always looking for ways to express gratitude to others. How would the church be different? How would our witness be different? How would our homes and our places of work be different? How would we be different? I suspect that the outcome would be more surprising than we realize.

So, let me encourage you to look for ways to express gratitude. Speak words. Write notes. Make phone calls. Express gratitude in as many ways as possible to as many people as possible. And in this mindset, may God continue to shape us into his image.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Deuteronomy 6:4-7

On Sunday, May 28, our youth group led the worship services, sharing of God's grace in their lives and preaching the Word to us. We were all so proud of our youth.

On Sunday, June 11, our 2nd Grade Sunday School class stood in front of the congregation and recited all 66 books of the Bible in order. This has become an annual event that thrills all of us who are privileged to witness it.

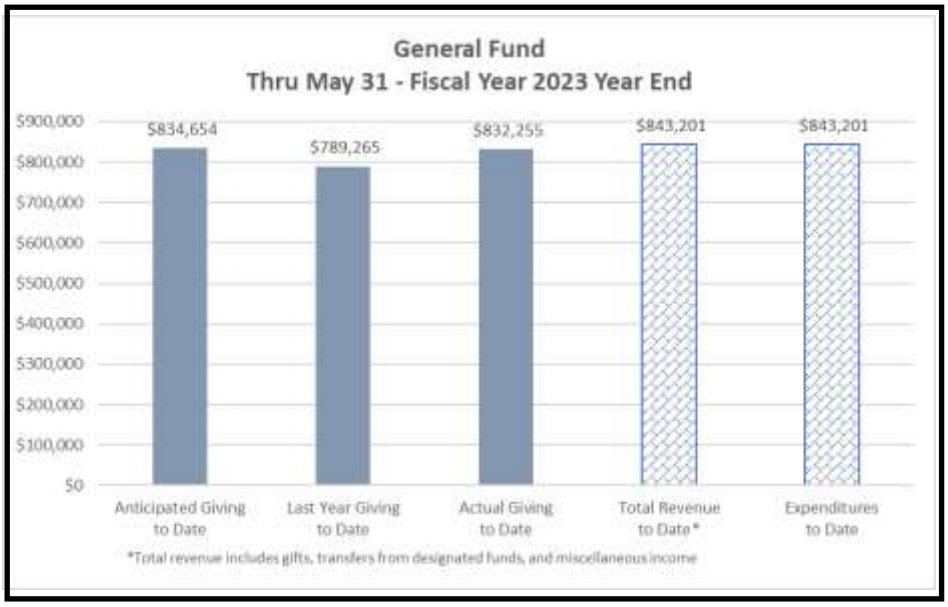
On Sunday, June 18, we honored the 6th Grade Catechism Class for their achievement of learning 120 questions and answers related to the essentials of what we believe. These students spend the entire year of Sunday School as well as a lot of time away from Sunday School memorizing and reciting all of this important information.

Watching these presentations reminds us that these and all of our youth and children's ministries are possible only because of the generosity of our congregation. Our willingness to acknowledge God's blessings by giving generously to the church enables us to purchase curriculum for the teachers, curriculum materials used to teach the truths of God and his word as well as provide opportunities for fellowship and learning in a variety of settings. Generous gifts to the church enable us to provide seemingly mundane things that we often take for granted: rooms to meet in, tables to sit at and chairs to sit in as well as lights to see and heat to keep warm.

We take seriously our ministry with youth and children. They are a blessing from God, and we feel privileged to be a part of nurturing our youth and children in the faith that they might always know God's love and that they might always have a heart to love him in return.

So, speaking for our youth, our children and all who work with them, we want to express our appreciation for your faithfulness in giving. The impact is not just now but for years to come.

The Stewardship Committee



Congratulations to the 2nd graders who very confidently recited the Books of the Bible for the congregation on June 11th.
Additional congrats to the 6th grade Catechism class who were honored during the June 18th worship service for learning 120 questions and answers about what we believe and how we live. Well done!

YOUTH

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

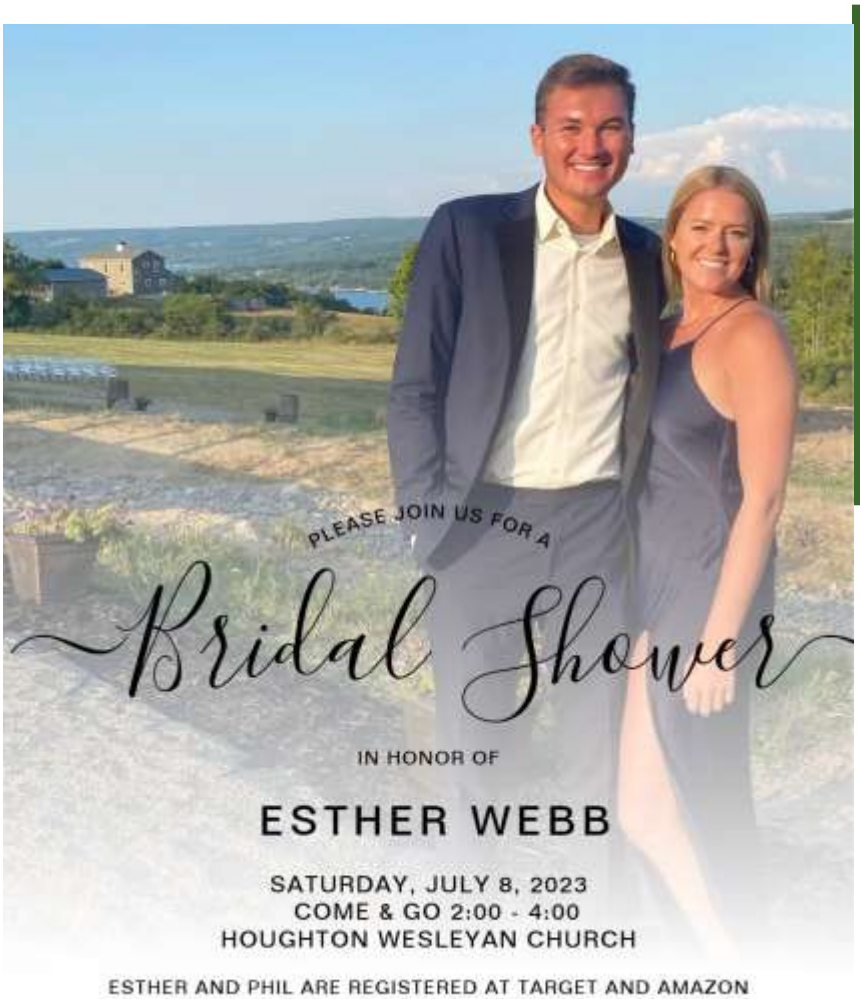
August 17 – Picnic - $0

Wellspring Ministries Reminders:

~Closed Wed. July 5

~ Keep praying for "A", who suddenly came back to us after many months for a visit and help. He is about 38, and in serious need, yet we see God at work.

~ Praise for a *very likely* grant to help with larger needs at the facility.



REFRESH
RETREAT & FAMILY CAMP

July 30—August 4, 2023
A vacation with a purpose to relax, refocus on God's presence, reconnect with family and friends, and replenish your body and spirit..
RefreshAtHoughton.com

We welcome any flowers that you would like to donate for Sunday morning services throughout the summer. Please contact Linda Knapp at 585-365-3805. Thank you.

APPLY NOW FOR
2023-24

50% OFF
APPLICATION FEE
THROUGH JUNE 30TH
*REDUCED TUITION AND
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE*

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH
9:00AM - 11:45AM
AGES 2-5
(CHILDREN MUST BE TWO BY SEPTEMBER 1ST)

APPLICATION

MORE INFO

CONTACT
CASDA DANNER, DIRECTOR
AT 585-567-4314 OR
CASDADANNER@HWCHURCH.ORG
FOR INFORMATION OR TO GET AN
APPLICATION

SERVING THE
COMMUNITY FOR
GENERATIONS

AN ENVIRONMENT
THAT ALLOWS
CHILDREN TO:
INVESTIGATE
EXPLORE
EXPERIMENT
CREATE
COMMUNICATE
MANIPULATE

Valley Preschool admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

We had a fantastic year at Valley Preschool! In our final weeks we visited four businesses in Houghton and four in Fillmore (on our first-ever "Fillmore Day") in addition to having our first "Job Fair" where we had five stations set up to learn about realty, wildlife photography, biology, and what moms and nurses do in their work as we learned about occupations and community workers. Thanks to all of the businesses and family members who participated! We were so busy in our last few weeks that much of our song practicing for our graduation program took place as we walked about on our field trips. Our graduation took place on Wednesday, May 17th in the sanctuary. If you are interested in seeing our production of "The Greedy Python" and our songs on the recording of the stream, please contact casdadanner@hwchurch.org for information. Over the summer you can watch the growth of the sunflowers we planted along the playground fence and the vegetables in our Stone Soup garden.

Valley Preschool meets on Monday Wednesday, & Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45, and we are pursuing the possibility of offering a five morning option if there is enough interest. We accept children ages two (by September 1st) through five. Our program is designed to supplement the home experiences of preschoolers, encouraging social, emotional, physical and spiritual development. For more information or an application, please contact Casda Danner at 585-567-4314 or casdadanner@hwchurch.org, call the church office (585-567-2264, or go to https://hwchurch.org/valley-preschool/.

Reminder to pray for RFKC during camp week, July 9th - 14th

HWC Kids in July: "Staycation" - Grab some blankets and flashlights! We're going to build a fort or jump on the couch because the floor is lava! That's right — it's time for a family staycation! In this five-week series about Abraham and his family (and our families, too!), kids will learn that God blesses us so we can bless others and God always shows us compassion. That's why we can trust God (even when it's hard to trust each other), always belong in God's family, and can make peace with others — especially the people who live with us!

Nursery meets during the 8:30am service each week, Children's Church for grades PreK-1st grade on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during the 8:30am service, and digital Kids Connect materials sent home each Friday.

Your July Memory Verse

July Kids Club Event: Wacky Water on Saturday, July 22nd, 9:30-11 - Celebrate summer with wacky water games at the Church including water balloons, sprinkler, sponge balls, popsicles, and more!

Want to use the gifts God has given you to help our HWC Kids connect with Him, connect with others, and connect with the Church while we learn to live like Jesus? Join our HWC Kids Team in the fall! We've got a place for you - anything from teaching, to rocking babies, to social media, to help with monthly Kids Club events, to organizing materials, and more. Email Emily today to find out more: emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org.

From the
Library Shelves

Come on in to your church library this summer. We have many books, story CDs, and DVDs that might interest you and your family. In both our adult and children's sections we have biographies, Bible story books, Christian living, missions, science, and history items. There are also many fiction items from which to choose.

Come, find your books, go home to your cozy spot, and READ!!

Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who faithfully resources HWC's **Food Pantry.** Items that would be helpful this month include Pancake Mix and Syrup. Items may be left inside the side door, deposited in the blue tub by the coffee station in the foyer. Call the church office (585-567-2264) if you have perishable items.

Andrew Roorbach
Your Local Real Estate Professional
NextHome
BRIXWOOD

Looking to Buy or Sell?
Contact me today!
716.983.9671
Andrew@Brixwood.com

SATURDAY, JULY 1ST • 10AM - 5PM
CANEADEA TOWN PARK • HOUGHTON, NY

PUBLIC WELCOME · EXHIBITS · CRAFT & FOOD VENDORS

Allegany Log Homes

in addition to selling log cabin kits, plans and supplies provides custom kiln drying with their 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

The Rapids are Coming
Important Dates for the 2023 Season

All Rapids Home Games are played at Houghton University Baseball Stadium
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 geneseeeapidsbaseball.com

Phil Merrill (585) 610-8882
Painting (Inside and Outside)
&
Power Washing Houses & Decks

Enjoy Professional Theater This Summer

Shake on the Lake

(Perry, NY)
will be performing around western NY this July, including two shows in Allegany County:
Wednesday, July 19, 6:30pm at the David A. Howe Library in Wellsville
and
Sunday July 30, 3:00pm at the Town Circle in Angelica

This year's show is *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Abridged).

These shows are family friendly and free or pay what you can. Check out the ***Shake on the Lake*** website for more info and to RSVP (so crowd size can be estimated).

Vintage Finds Treasured Memories

antique shop is moving to a newly purchased location at 6 Chapel Street in Belfast. The historic building completed in 1836 formerly housed the Baptist Church of Belfast and has the original stained glass windows and hardwood floors. We continue to search out vintage, antique, and unique treasures to provide for our customers.
Email: vintagefindstreasuredmemories@gmail.com
Call: 1 585-365-1056

SUNDAYS IN JULY

July 2 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Rev. Dr. Jon Case

July 9 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Rev. Dr. Terry Paige

July 16 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Rev. Dr. Paul Shea

July 23 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Dr. Andy Walton

July 31 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Persevering in Enemy-Occupied Territory (1 Thessalonians 2)

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor
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Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry
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Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,
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