Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
November 2023
Volume 57, No. 6

God's Heart and Prayer

They all joined together constantly in prayer,
along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.
Acts 1:14

Prayer was not just something the early Christians did. It was who they were. As they are preparing for the promised Holy Spirit, Luke tells us that they all joined together constantly in prayer.

Dennis Kinlaw says that it is much easier to talk about one's prayer life than to actually pray. He goes on to say: *The older I become, the more convinced I am that the most important thing Christians ever do is pray. I once read a line by Francis Asbury that troubled me for a long time. He said that a person who reads the scripture and yet does not pray has missed the most important part. Now my tendency is to awaken from my quiet time and turn to the word and find my soul fed. Scripture is a joy to me, but Asbury said the prayers must accompany our reading of scripture. Someone who reads without prayer is comparable to the insurance salesperson who makes a pitch about the policy but never requests a signature on the paperwork.*

As we prepare to enter our 15th 3-week, 24/7 Prayer Vigil, we are reminded that we do this because we believe that prayer is not only a gift of God, it is also the most universal means of being God's agents in this world. We may have impressive gifts, but prayer puts those gifts in the hands of God. We may have resources to share, but prayer puts us in a position to desire to be generous. And we may think that we have little to offer, but everyone—everyone—can pray. And not because it is less than anything else but because it is the greatest of everything else.

It is prayer that changes the world—because it changes us and prepares us to be agents of God to change the world.

JD Walt once wrote: *Prayer is not the only thing we do but it is the first thing.*

So, as we embark on this experience of prayer, I hope that you will participate. I believe that you will find it to be an experience that has the potential to bring change in ways you and I might never have imagined.

In Christ,

Pastor Wes

Use this link or this QR code to reserve your time in the prayer room. Through this link, you will also be able to get a glimpse of the prayer room and an introduction to all of the various ways in which you can express your prayers and specifically an acknowledgment of God's faithfulness in our stories. Join us for an opening gathering this Sunday, October 29, 4:30pm – 5:00pm as we prepare ourselves for these three weeks of prayer.

STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

Stewardship, generosity and giving. Is there a difference?

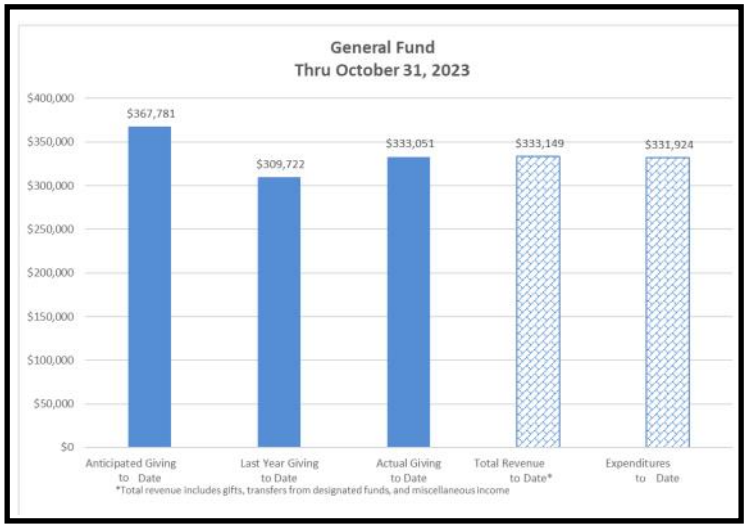
November 2023—The Food Pantry

November is a month where food is on our minds more than usual! We've got cooler weather, so our favorite fall/winter recipes start to fill our tables again and plans start to be made for a big Thanksgiving meal with family and friends. For many people in our local communities, however, the availability of food is a big stressor and uncertainty during this time of the year. Part of the ongoing mission of the Local Outreach Committee at the Church is to alleviate some of this stress, something we are able to do only with your generous contributions of food, time, and financial resources.

The food pantry has been a part of our ministry for many years, providing food for upwards of 100 people each year, a number that may increase with the end of the monthly food drive-throughs that we were fortunate to host the last couple of years. When someone contacts the Church with a need, food from the stocked pantry at the Church is gathered based on particular needs. A shopper from the Church may supplement the package with fresh meat, vegetables, and specific needs (diapers, wipes, formula, etc.). Though we do help members of congregation occasionally, for many of the people we help, this is their only connection with a Church. What an opportunity to show the love of Christ!

In addition to the food pantry, the Local Outreach Committee funds food backpacks for Fillmore students each year. For every long break that the school has bags of non-perishable, easily prepared foods are packed and delivered to the lockers of students who may not have the guarantee of food, or people to prepare the food, while they are home from school. Typically, about 150 students are helped through this ministry. Not only does this ensure kids in our community are begin fed, it also is a beautiful way for us to partner with Fillmore Central School in serving students and meeting needs.

On Sunday, November 19th , we will once again have a food pantry drive during the morning worship services. Food (see the particular needs on the next page) can be brought to the front of the Church prior to the service where it will be prayed over and used to restock the food pantry for the holiday season. These physical gifts, as well as monetary gifts, are a very tangible way for us to meet the needs of our neighbors. Thank you for supporting these ministries and helping to put food on the tables!



Time. Talent. Treasure.

On Sunday, November 19th , we will once again have a food pantry drive during both morning worship services.

Over the river and through the ....pantry! It's time to stock the church pantry with all of those wonderful Thanksgiving staples:

Shelf stable: cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy mix/ canned, green beans, dried onions, cream of mushroom soup, instant potatoes, pumpkin pie filling, canned milk, cinnamon, nutmeg & cloves.

Long lasting: squash, potatoes, onions

Freezer: small turkeys, turkey breast, or ham; frozen pies; dinner rolls. (During the week drop these off at the church office)

Decorating for Advent

Please join us on Saturday, December 2, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. All are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent.
Please email Linda lindashea.knapp@gmail.com, with any questions about decorating, if you want to let Linda know you are planning to come or you may just come on December 2 to help decorate. Thank you!

Help Us "Spruce" Up the Church!

ALL WOMEN –

You are warmly invited to join us for a morning of making new friends, bolstering old friendships, and learning important information. As well as sharing in fun and good food, we'll hear from Vicki Grant, on the topic: ***What's Trauma Got to Do With It?***

Join us Saturday, November 11 at 9 am in the Community Room. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING 2023

Announcement coming soon!

Kids Connect

November Memory Verse

Kids Club: Saturday, November 18, 9:30-11:00am

Do you love show-and-tell? It is so much more than a chance to show off your favorite stuff — it is a chance to tell stories about the people, experiences, and memories that matter most to you. This month, we're practicing the spiritual habit of sharing your story of faith with a new spin on show and-tell! In this version, you will be bringing in objects that help you put words to what God is like and who Jesus is to you. More details to come!

Operation Christmas Child boxes

Thank you to all you helped and participated in the Harvest Festival this year! We had over 200 people, almost half of which are not attenders of our Church! What a great outreach and demonstration of Christian hospitality. Special congratulations to our soup cook-off winners: Andrea Tanner and Robin Cool tied for 1st place and Bridget Walton came in a close 2nd! Thank you to the planning committee (Andrea Tanner, Casda Danner, Cindy Oden, Audrey Pocock) and to the Houghton University baseball team for all of their help! We had over 65 volunteers help with the event! WOW!

November 2023 HWC Youth News:

Youth Group in November

- Nov 5–Over the Top–Be Generous With Your Encouragement
- Nov 12 – Grateful – Be Grateful for Each Other
- Nov 19 – Grateful – Be Grateful for all God has Done
- Nov 26 – Grateful – Be Grateful for God's Promises
- Dec 3 – Grateful - Be Grateful, Even When It's not Easy

Prayer Breakfast is at 7am in the Community Room: Nov 1,8,15 and 29.

NO PB on Nov 22!

Discipleship Hour (SS) in November; We're studying the Gospels – Nov 5,12,19,26

Upcoming Events:

Follow – Dec 28-31 - Cincinnati, OH.

The HWC Youth Group will leave from HWC at 8 a.m. on Dec 28 and return at approximately 5 p.m. on Dec 31.

If you attend Follow, District Winter Retreat (Jan 26-28, 2024) will be half-price ($50 for early registration and $60 for regular registration).

Winter Retreat – Jan 26-28, 2024 – Penn York Camp

Mark your calendar! Registration will open November 1st.

Here's a link to the Winter Retreat Brochure

Here's a link to the Winter Retreat registration form.

Wellspring Words for November

Dates to Note:
11/15- The Christmas Room officially opens.

This is a room where parents can come to 'shop' for 2 gifts for their children ages birth to 18 years. Last year we provided 546 gifts for 103 families with 273 children. It is always an exciting time at Wellspring Ministries.

Anyone is welcome to 'shop', and **anyone** is welcome to contribute to the gift supply. Maybe you will see something that strikes your eye when in a store that would light up the eyes of a child. Or, if you have a new toy, etc. at home, and would like it for the Room, feel free to drop it off at Wellspring, labeled clearly for the Christmas Room. (The Beardsley porch table is also available to drop off Christmas gift items if labeled.)

11/17- Thanksgiving Dinner served beginning at 11:30pm
11/19 week - closed
Nov. 29- Reopening with regular hrs.

Our gratitude to you comes from blessed hearts because of your generosity.
Beth Beardsley (for the Board.)

"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in the land." Deuteronomy 15:14

From the
Library Shelves

In keeping with the Prayer Vigil and God's faithfulness, we have a number of books for both. In the 242 section on our shelves you will find books on prayer. The 248.3 and 248.32 sections have more books on prayer and what it can do in our lives. Our missions (266) and biography (B) sections contain books that attest to God's faithfulness in people's lives.

The children's shelves also have books on prayer, encouraging children to pray, and reassuring them that they can always pray, no matter the place or the time. God's faithfulness is told in a number of the biographies on those shelves also. Going along with the prayer and God's faithfulness themes are books on Thanksgiving, the holiday, and just being thankful anytime of the year.

Enjoy!!

Get those shoebox gifts ready to bless children around the world!

Operation Christmas Child boxes should be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, November 15th so they can be delivered to the collection site. Any shoe box will do, but the church will also have printed shoe boxes available in the Christian Education building, as well as packing suggestions and tracking labels. More than ever gifts such as school and hygiene supplies, toys and clothing are needed. Thank you for your generosity and love.

Men's Breakfast

Sat, November 4, 8:00 am

Feature this month: Testimony of Jamie Mullen

Therefore, encourage one another... 1 Thes 5:11

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. Or, stop by the Inn and drop off your resume.

Vintage Finds, Treasured Memories...

has shifted into Christmas mode with ornaments, decorations, and swag on display for your decorating needs.

Many Thanksgiving items are also on display so stop in soon to pick up unique treasures to freshen up your holiday decorations.

In preparation for some remodeling work that will begin in January, all furniture is on sale 20-30% off. We are open Wednesday through Saturday from 11-4 with additional days and times being added as we get closer to Christmas. See something on our Facebook page but cannot make it in during our normal hours? No problem, call us at 585-365-1056 and leave a message as to when works best in your schedule and we will do our best to accommodate you.

WEEKLY LETTER AND WEEKLY VIDEO: Each week Pastor Wes sends out a letter with information related to the life of our church and a brief video with a devotional thought. If you are not now receiving these communications and would like to, please contact the church office. Both the letter and the video are distributed by email and text, depending on your preference.

Opening reception for John Rhett's exhibit, *Self-Evaluation: Selected Works from 50 Years in Art* on Friday, October 27, 6:00-7:30 pm.
A brief gallery talk begins in the Recital Hall at 6:30 p.m.
The exhibit will be on display through December 15th in the Ortlip Gallery at the Center for the Arts at Houghton University.

YOU

are invited to the

Fall

WOMEN'S GATHERING

Come worship together, learn together,
get acquainted and reacquainted,
enjoy yummy food.

Hear Vicki Grant share

What's Trauma Got to do with It?

An exploration of Epigenetics, Culture,
and Historical Trauma in Allegany County

9:00 am, Saturday, November 11

Church Community Room

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 5 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoor/Streaming)
When You Feel that You Have to Convince God (Matthew 15)

November 12 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoor/Streaming)
When You Wonder about Being a Leader (Romans 16)

November 19 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoor/Streaming)
When You Lose Your Way (2 Timothy 4)

November 26 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoor/Streaming)
When You Feel the Call of Hospitality (2 John)

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS:
Please remember that you need to turn back your clocks one hour on Saturday night, November 4.

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CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor
567-2024 wesoden@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor
307-9950 joncole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor
567-2024 cindyoden@hwchurch.org

David Huizenga, Assistant Pastor
585-365-5863 davidhuizenga@hwchurch.org

Grace Deitrick, Pastoral Assistant
gracedeitrick@hwchurch.org

Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry
808-8925 emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

Judy Congdon, Organist & Choral Director
judycongdon@hwchurch.org

Church Office 585-567-2264
office@hwchurch.org
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon & 1 to 4 p.m.