

Love Is About Others

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:9-13)

In his biography of Paul, N. T. Wright discusses the 13th chapter of Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Wright notes that Paul is not just "teaching them 'ethics'; he is also teaching them to *think eschatologically*." After quoting the verses above, he adds:

"Love is not just a duty. Paul's point is that love is the believer's *destiny*. It is the reality that belongs to God's future, glimpsed in the present like a puzzling reflection, but waiting there in full reality for the face-to-face future. And the point is that this future, *has come forward into the present time* in the events involving Jesus and in the power of the Spirit. That is why love matters for Paul ... Love is the present virtue in which believers anticipate, and practice, the life of the ultimate age to come."

There are times when we might think of love as an obligation. We don't want to love that person but because we are commanded to do so, because we don't want to be a poor Christian, because we don't want to look bad, because we don't want to make Jesus look bad, we make an attempt. And making an attempt, however unenthusiastically, is better than not making an attempt at all. But Paul seems to calling us to something more.

If we think of love not as obligation but as destiny, it takes on a different dynamic. It now shifts from something we must do to something we are privileged to do. It becomes attitude and action that we get to practice for the life to come. And when these words in chapter 13 are connected to Paul's words in chapter 15, we discover, as Wright suggests, that our gift of love, our attitude of love, our practice of love is never in vain. Despite how it sometimes feels, despite how it often looks, the love of Jesus that we reflect is never in vain.

February is a month when we might particularly think about love. As we do, may God so fill us with his love that we live as willing, joyful agents of his love.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:

Ash Wednesday, which is the day that marks the beginning of the season of Lent, is February 14. We are hosting an Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm in the church sanctuary.



STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

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

The Local Outreach Committee

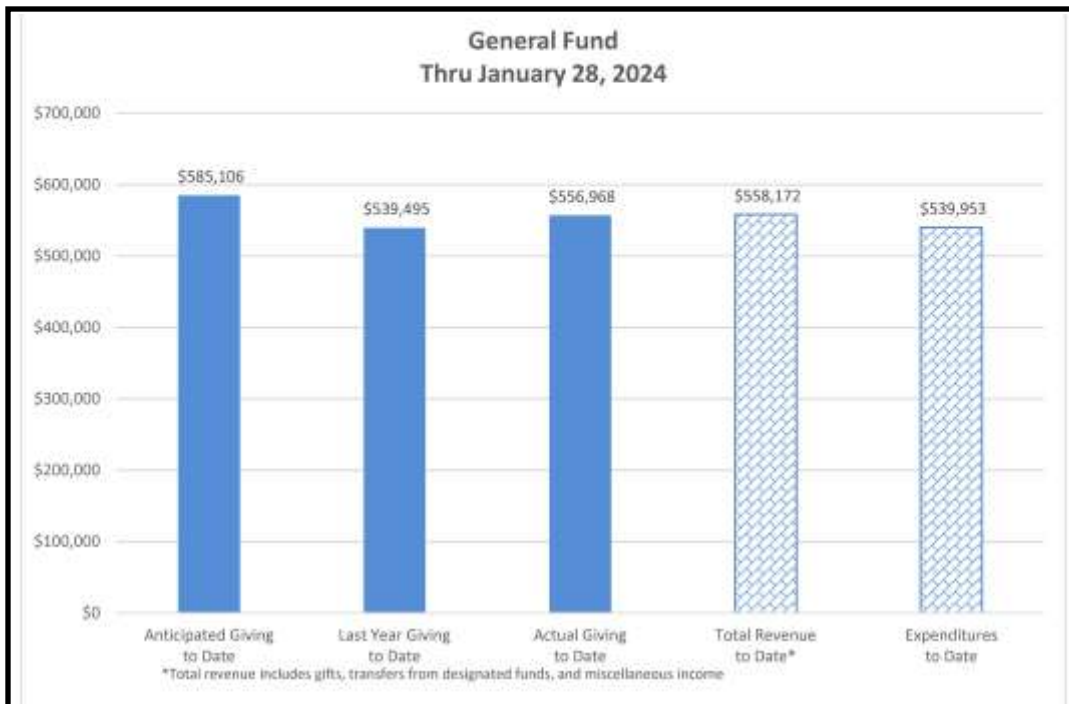
As the Pastoral liaison to our Local Outreach Committee (LOC), it’s my privilege to be a part of our church’s response to the needs that exist right here among our friends and neighbors in Allegany County. The LOC mission statement states, “The Local Outreach Committee is a ministry of Houghton Wesleyan Church that focuses on expressing Christ’s love in practical and tangible ways to those living closest to us: our neighbors in Allegany county and surrounding areas.”

While there are a variety of ways that we go about this mission, this article will focus on our church’s benevolent fund.

The benevolent fund exists to help people in crisis. That help usually takes the form of financial assistance for things like disaster recovery (floods, fires, etc), assisting with heat or other utilities, and the loss of critical appliances or household systems. We have helped with housing and assisted with transportation needs. We regularly help people with medical bills or transportation to and from medical appointments. People access this resource in a variety of ways. In some cases, the pastoral staff are aware of a developing need; in others, friends or family members will let us know that help is required. In still other cases, individuals call the church directly to make us aware of the situation. The Benevolent Fund helps people in need, both inside our community of faith, and those around us. This fund is part of the church’s regular annual budget but would be much less effective without generous offerings from you, our church family. You make this possible.

I am super grateful to be part of a community of outward-facing believers who are looking for ways to show Christ’s love to the people around us. If you are interested in this type of outreach, I would love to sit down over a cup of coffee with you and talk about it. There are lots of ways that you can be involved.

Pastor Jon





HWCKids: Whether it’s a rocket car powered by soda and mints or a tornado in a water bottle, there’s so much in our world that can fill us with awe. The world of STEM is full of things that look like little miracles, but they’re nothing compared to the miracles God can perform.

In this four-week series, kids will take a look at some of the miracles that Jesus performed during his ministry. Through stories showing the power of Jesus, they’ll no doubt go, “Wow!” Jesus has the power to heal, to calm our fears, to provide, and to save.



Kids Club: Wow! - The wonderful world God created! Join us for a morning of science experiments and phenomenon as we explore the miraculous world that God created through activities led by a couple of science professors and students from Houghton University.

It’s STEAM class with a twist!
Saturday, February 17th from 9:30-11:00am
for grades PreK-6 th .

Congratulations to Isaac and Melody Falcone and big sister, Everlee, at the birth of Elise Adalyn Falcone on January 8 th .



We offer our condolences to Denise and Bruce Campbell as well as Dale and Meg Wright at the death Denise and Dale’s father, Jerry Wright on January 17.



February 2024 HWC Youth News:

Youth Group Sunday evenings in February – 6-8pm

- Feb 4 – I Am – Jesus is Truth
- Feb 11 – No Youth Group
- Feb 18
- Feb 25



Prayer Breakfast is Wednesday mornings at 7am in the Community Room:

- Prayer Breakfast is on for February 7, 14, 28
- No PB on Feb 21st!



For Discipleship Hour – 9:45-10:45am in Jan we're beginning a study of Acts

- Feb 4 – Acts chapters 13-20
- Feb 11 – Acts chapters 21-28
- Feb 18 – We begin a study of Paul and his writings
- Feb 25 – Paul



Upcoming Events:

Keep an eye out for the Summer calendar (*Coming soon!*) featuring a service trip, Refresh camp, a day at Kingdom Bound, and backpacking/canoing in the ADK's!



Easter Sunday Breakfast! On Easter Sunday the youth group will make breakfast for our community of faith. Mark your calendar and get ready to cook!

WELLSPRING WORDS

To our HWC Family:

A happy and blessed New Year to you from the Wellspring Ministries Family !

We need to:

Express our gratitude to our God and to those who contributed to the "Christmas Room." Parents (or guardians) chose gifts for 303 children this year, 2 selections per child. Folks now know about this room, and eagerly await its opening in mid-November.

Tell you our Christmas ham dinner fed over 100, with the DAR chapter of Allegany County serving individual meals to folks at their tables. Each householder went home with a small ham as he left, for his own Christmas meal with family. Joy abounded.

Hold our CEO, James Arthur, close in prayer as he begins treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He expects to be away for an extended time, so we pray for healing, as well as for God's protection, wisdom, and courage for the board and volunteers to carry on to the glory of God. Prayers for a successor to emerge in the next year or two are also important. It is possible that our next leader could come from HWChurch. Pray, please.

Invite you to consider becoming a volunteer. The kitchen crew could use you on a sub-list, as some are gone away for the winter. Other areas, too, need a boost of personnel. If you think this is something you could do, and if you like to work with others, stop by for a visit, and talk with us. (Open - Wed. and Fri. from 10am to 1:15pm with lunch at 11:55, but coffee is perking by 10.) We would welcome someone who could only come a few times a month, man or woman.

(Note -Anytime Belfast C. School is closed due to weather factors, Wellspring is as well.)

Grateful for you, especially at this time of increased vulnerability,
Beth Beardsley, for the Board

*Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we **will** reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

From the Library Shelves



For those readers who would like a larger print in their books we have just the section for you in our church library.

The Large Print area in the main room of our library has several shelves of fiction, with such authors as Wanda Brunstetter, Jan Karon, Beverly Lewis, Francine Rivers, Lauraine Snelling and more.

The Large Print shelf of non-fiction has biographies and Christian living books.

Come on in and see what we have!

HAVE YOU MISSED YOUR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM HWC?

If you aren't getting our digital mailings and would like to receive:

- The *Highlights* Monthly Newsletter
- Weekly Updates Letter from Pastor Wes
- Information about Special Events
- Ministry Information /Announcements (Children, Youth, etc.)
- Changes in the service schedule (weather updates)

Send your name, preferred email / cellphone number to the church at office@hwchurch.org and we will add you to our mailing list by your preferred contact method. This information is for our internal database only and will not be shared with outside organizations.



Vintage Finds Treasured Memories at 6 Chapel Street in Belfast will be hosting The Little Chapel for the month of February. They collect no-longer-used Bibles and Christian literature for shipment to pastors and missionaries in other countries where such items are unavailable or difficult to obtain. With the wind and snow that is in the forecast, please make sure that the door is shut tightly after dropping off your donations.



On Friday, January 26th, Valley Preschool had our seventh Stone Soup Dinner. Many thanks to all who helped make it a success again this year! A few times yesterday and last night I came to tears thinking of how not only has God let me have my dream job, but has placed generations of children with me to share fun and learning, given me wonderful people to work with, and a community who supports what we do. I find it a complete joy to do something as simple as make soup and get to see people fellowship and enjoy being together. We got to see former students from this and other communities, former students among the youth who ate before Winter Retreat, former staff and many others who are faithful supporters. What a humbling blessing! Not all donations and expenses have been tallied yet, but we know that we again had record high giving. 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. –Casda Danner

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Provided by IRS (VITA) Certified Volunteers
(Return income less than \$54,000)

HOUGHTON UNIVERSITY

In-person appointments for 5:30 PM or 7:30 PM on Mondays for the tax season. Email elianna.mchenry@houghton.edu or call 585-567-9447 for more information and to schedule an appointment. Our filing season will run from 2/12/24 to 4/8/24.

Thank you for supporting the Houghton University Business and Accounting students!



Pete Roeske
SNOWPLOWING
service

585-689-0368

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Looking to buy or sell?

Contact me today!

Andrew Roorbach

716.983.9671

Andrew@Brixwood.com



2023 NextHome Masters Club Award Winner
NextHome Brixwood Top Producing Agent



Jockey Street Coffee Roasters Have you heard?!?

Jockey Street has some pretty amazing fundraising opportunities. Bags of coffee, sample packs, and extra perks for the fundraising leader. It's one way we love to engage with community.

Interested in earning extra money for your group while drinking delicious Jockey Street Coffee?

Connect with us here -

<https://www.jockeystreetcoffee.com/fundraising>



We care about coffee from the tree to your cup



Help Protect Yourself and Your Family!

FREE!
Emergency Go-Kit Backpack*
Pre-Registration Required



Emergency kit contains preparedness items such as coverings, first aid kit, water container, flashlight, AM/FM radio, batteries, glow stick, emergency food, work gloves, Duct tape and more.

6:30PM – 8:30PM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024
HOUGHTON ACADEMY
9790 THAYER STREET | HOUGHTON, NY



PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED
One Backpack Per Family with
Pre-registration at the above link.

SUNDAYS

IN

FEBRUARY

February 4 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
A Culture of Hospitality (Acts 2)

February 11 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
Surprising Hospitality (Matthew 22)

February 18 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
When We Struggle with Jesus (Luke 22)

February 25 (8:30 Indoors / 11:00 Indoors/Streaming)
When We Struggle with Power (John 18:1-12)

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CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor
wesoden@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor
joncole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor
cindvoden@hwchurch.org

David Huizenga, Assistant Pastor
davidhuizenga@hwchurch.org

Grace Deitrick, Pastoral Assistant
gracedeitrick@hwchurch.org

Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry
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.

