



Being God's People in Small Ways

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32)

On Pentecost Sunday (May 19), I mentioned that the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus takes place not on the Jewish festival of Passover or Unleavened Bread, but the Jewish festival of Pentecost. The significance of this is that Passover commemorates the spectacular work of God in rescuing his people from Egyptian slavery. In comparison, the Feast of Pentecost commemorates primarily the first harvest in early summer. Later it also was connected to the giving of the Torah or the Law on Mt. Sinai.

I find it interesting that the coming of the Holy Spirit on the followers of Jesus is not connected to a once-and-for-all event like the Exodus, but is, rather, connected to the yearly first and most bountiful harvest. It's connected to the common and the ordinary.

Humans tend to struggle with a celebration like this because we tend to worship the extraordinary. We are drawn to what is flashy and bright. Our attention tends to turn toward what is most unusual not what is most common. But not Pentecost.

I don't think that this is a modern issue. I can't help but wonder if a connection of the giving of the Torah to Pentecost much later in Israel's history is an attempt to give some punch, some more eventful significance to this feast than just the yearly first harvest.

But there is something about the coming of the Holy Spirit—which is the catalyst for the birth and worldwide witness of the church—on Pentecost that reminds us that God is every bit as involved in the common as the uncommon. It also reminds us that we are called to be his people, his agents, his image-bearers in the common as well as the uncommon. It might tell us that we are much more likely that we will find ourselves bearing his image in the common than the uncommon.

In his book *Simply Jesus*, N. T. Wright talks about the importance of witness and presence in the common and everyday: *If the response is that these things are all very small and in themselves insignificant, I reply in two ways. First, didn't Jesus explain his own actions by talking about the smallest of the seeds that then grows into the largest kind of shrub? And second, it is remarkable how one small action can start a trend. One theologian has called it "cascading grace."*

We give thanks to God for opportunities to be his image-bearers in unusual and extraordinary circumstances. But even more, we pray that God will give us grace to be his image-bearers in every moment and in ways that on the surface seem mundane and insignificant, but in his hands, in his power, have the potential to be and accomplish more than we could have ever imagined.

How might God be prompting you in the everyday? In your home? Where you work? Where you shop? With your neighbors? In the church? The list is unlimited...and so is God.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes



ELECTION RESULTS

Elders Secretary: Jim Zoller

Church Treasurer: David Mercer

Facilities Stewards Chair: Mike Spateholts

Elders: Mim Case, Mike Cox, Daryl Stevenson

Nominating Committee: Eli Knapp, Norm Smithley, Gudy Stevenson

District Conference Delegates: Doyin and Josie Adenuga, Pat and Sarah Hager, Paul and Debbie Young

Community Financial Plan Vote: Yes – 130 / No – 1

Elders

Ken Bates (2025)

Jan Schilke (2025)

Paul Young (2025)

Josie Adenuga (2026)

Jill Jordan (2026)

Carolyn Miller (2026)

Mim Case (2027)

Mike Cox (2027)

Daryl Stevenson (2027)

Jim Zoller, Secretary

David Mercer, Treasurer

Mike Spateholts, Facilities Stewards Chair

Please continue to pray for our pastors and leaders as we begin a new year of ministry and service in Houghton.

Thank you to Elders, Tim McGarvey and Donnie Stockin whose terms have expired. We appreciate the thoughtful and godly leadership that each person has given us in the past years.

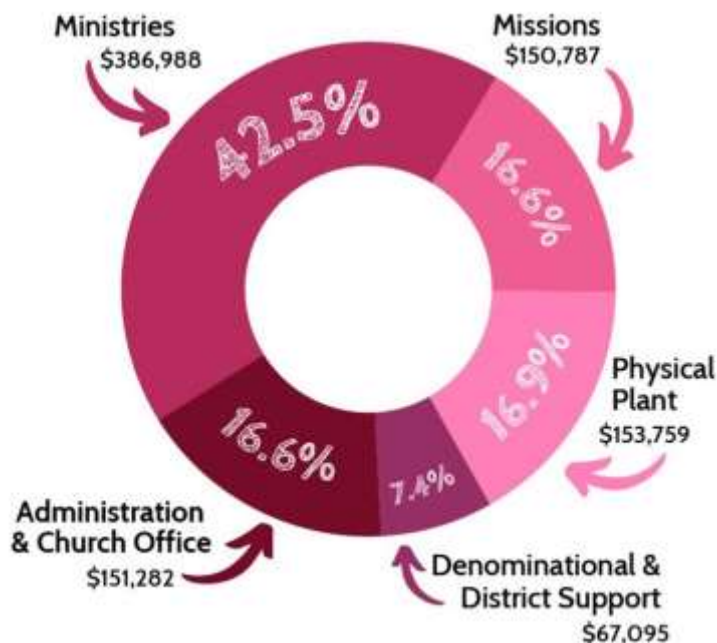
STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand,” 1 Chronicles 29:14.

At our Annual Meeting (May 14), David Mercer, our church treasurer, outlined positive elements of our financial condition: our history of balanced budgets stable giving, prudent spending; a margin built into the budget through expense budgets and contingency items; existence of designated funds for Local Outreach and Missions projects; building repairs and capital improvements; estate and memorial gifts; cash reserves for emergencies, and no debt. The result is that we have a healthy cash flow and healthy bank balances which are available to meet our obligations and to continue our ministries and our support for outreach—local and global.

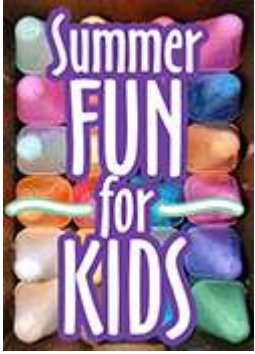
He also mentioned that there is room for improvement. We have a history of missing budget giving targets; Our net increases in giving to the general fund have not kept up with inflation’s effects on expenses; and we have a growing dependence on a few donors giving very generous amounts. The result is a budget which is below average for a church of our size and the reality that we are not able to support, through the budget, major enhancements or new initiatives for ministries, staffing, outreach or the physical plant.

Taking all of this into consideration, we have a reason to give thanks to God for his blessings and a reason to ask God to give us faith to trust him more by increasing our financial support of the church. Would you be willing to trust God to increase your giving 1 or 2 percent...or even more? And to do so cheerfully? *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*





Kids Connect: "Recess" - For a lot of us, recess is one of our favorite parts of the school day. We get to play dodgeball, hopscotch, or race our friends around the play area. Recess helps us to stay active so we can grow strong, but it also gives us a chance to grow in our relationships. In this five-week series, kids will discover through the stories in the books of Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel the unexpected ways God can help them grow. As they do, they'll learn how God helps us grow stronger, helps us belong, answers our prayers, tells us what is true, and can use anything we give.



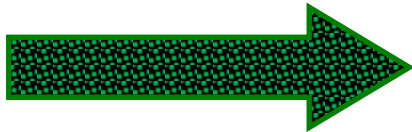
Kids Clubs: Saturday, June 15th, 9:30-11am for grades PreK-6th. Let's celebrate the end of school and start of summer together! More details to come in the bulletin, Tuesday letters, family emails, and more!



Mark your calendars:

- Last day of Kids Connect is June 9th! Families, please consider bringing in a note of thanks that day for your kids' teacher and assistant. They put in so much time and attention and love into their time with your kids each week!
- June 9th: 2nd grade Books of the Bible recognition in 11:00am service

JUNE Memory Verse



See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
— 1 John 3:1a (NIV)

CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome the birth of Sequoia Wynn Wartinger on May 16. Congratulations to parents, Dan and Jess and siblings, Adalyn, Elliot, Isaac, Oakley, Upton, Yukon and Wren.

Congratulations to new members:
Grace Deitrick, Lynlee Van Wicklin,
Steve Doty, Nick and Kate Drum.



Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC)

Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC) needs new (and returning) prayer prayers for 2024! If you're willing to pray for a child or staff member attending this year's camp (to be held July 8-12 at Camp Asbury in Silver Springs), writing him or her a note (provided to you ahead of time) and then praying for him or her daily during camp itself, please email Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu. Thank you for considering being part of this vital ministry!

From the Library Shelves



- Come in and see the changes we have made to the children's shelves in our church library.
- Some of the series, which could be for older primary or early junior ages, have a section to themselves. The non-fiction books are also in a new section. We hope readers will notice and want to check them out.
- Some of our adult readers have noticed and checked out books from the 'new' shelves.
- Why don't you come in and see what might interest you?
- Enjoy!!



Refresh Family Camp at Houghton University will be held **July 21-26, 2024**. We are pleased to announce our speaker for this year is Rev. Dan Leroy. Plan ahead to take a group from your church! This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your church family.

This "vacation with a purpose" has something for everyone!! Recreational activities, fellowship opportunities and spiritual challenges give you and your family the opportunity to relax, rejuvenate and most importantly, REFRESH!

YOUTH



Summer Events- use the links below to sign up!

July 21 – July 26 – Refresh camp at HU – Teen Track
- \$0! Just show up and have fun.

July 31st – Kingdom Bound - \$100 Reg deadline July 1st

August 4 – 8 – ADK’s Cranberry Lake - \$250 -

The deadline to register is July 1st. Space is limited.

Wellspring Words

Late Spring greetings!

Not a lot of news to share but are so grateful that both Jim Arthur (CEO) and Dennis Doell (Bd. member) are improving. Contributions continue which means folks are able to 'shop' for what they need or want.

Our continued prayer is that we as a Board and volunteers, would exhibit "**philoxenia**" - a love of strangers, and desire to show friendliness. Several come just to sit, chat, and be around people, before the meal.

We love that - and want to give them a welcoming smile, listening ear, a tasty meal, and perhaps a food box, if needed. I know our 5-7 minute devotional time is source of truth and blessing, too.

We are grateful for our place in HWC's budget, and for prayers that go up regularly. God is at work. Please stop by any Wednesday or Friday and bring a friend.. We open at 10 am. You're only a 'stranger' once, but HWC family are **never** strangers, even the first time!!

Beth Beardsley (Bd member)

Hebrews 13:1.2. "Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers..."



We offer our condolences to Terry and Tracy Paige and their family at the death of Terry’s mother Lenore Paige who died May 20.



JUNE 22, 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Caneadea Town Park
Native American Arts and Crafts, Dance,
Food Vendors
2:00 p.m. “Food and Medicinal Herbs”
Walk on the Greenway

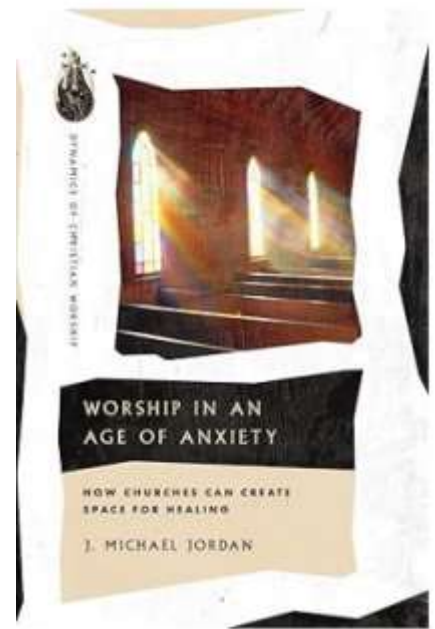
A NOTE FROM MIKE JORDAN

In case you're not on facebook and haven't heard the news, we're having a launch party to celebrate the release of my first book, *Worship in an Age of Anxiety: How Churches Can Create Space For Healing!* The party is being held on **Monday, June 3 at 7:30 PM in the community room at the Houghton Wesleyan Church**, and the book formally launches the next day.

This is not a closed, invite-only event—all are welcome— so feel free to invite a friend, and all ages are welcome.

I'll be doing a brief (I PROMISE!) talk partway through, but no big agenda other than to celebrate the launch of this new piece of the conversation about worship, and to enjoy this milestone in my journey and in the life of our community.

Copies of the book will be available, \$30 (tax included) and I'll be signing—but of course, zero pressure to buy one!



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The Rapids are Coming

The 2024 Genesee Rapids players will be arriving on Monday, June 3. Players from throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and Taiwan will make up our roster this year. We are really pleased that our entire coaching staff from the last two years will be returning this summer.

We are celebrating our 10th Anniversary as a team and have some special things planned as well as very special anniversary swag.

Our first game is Thursday, June 6 in Olean. Our first home game, at Houghton University is Friday, June 7, our Annual Kids Day Game at 10am. Free admission for everyone. On Saturday, June 8 we will host the Horseheads Hitmen for a game at 7pm. Our complete schedule is on our website GeneseeRapidsBaseball.com

Players will be joining us for "outside" church each Sunday throughout the summer. Please reach out to the guys and make them feel welcome.

Monday, June 10 we will be having our Annual Old Timers Game at 7pm. If you are interested in participating please contact Souly Sanasith.

During the summer we will also be having our Basic and Advanced Baseball Camps. Complete information is on our website.

We are still looking for a couple more families or individuals to Adopt a Townhouse, providing breakfast and snack type food for players staying in the Townhouses. Please call me if you need more information about this or anything else related to the Rapids, Ralph Kerr, 716-969-0688.



POSITION FILLED....POSITION FILLED.....POSITION FILLED.....POSITION FILLED

The Inn at Houghton Creek is looking for a new staff member to join our team. Duties will include housekeeping, front desk management, taking reservations, and more. Paid training is provided. A qualified candidate must have great customer service skills, be self-motivated, problem-solving and hard-working. Must be available during the day and weekends. Looking for someone to help during the summer and beyond. 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.

Car For Sale

Ford Fiesta 2019, grey, in good condition with 56,000 miles. Asking \$10,000. Contact Nancy Jo 585-307-1863



Valley Preschool applications are available for the 2024-25 school year. The application fee is \$25 through June 15th. After that date the fee goes to \$50. Apply soon and save \$25 toward your ice cream fund this summer!
<https://hwchurch.org/valley-preschool/>

SUNDAYS IN JUNE



June 2 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. *When the Foundations are Crumbling* (Psalm 11)

June 9 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. Pastor David Huizenga

June 16 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. Dr. Paul Young

June 23 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
a.m. Pastor David Huizenga

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

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor , wesoden@hwchurch.org

David Huizenga, Assistant Pastor, davidhuizenga@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor, joncole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor, cindyoden@hwchurch.org

Grace Deitrick, Assistant Pastor, gracedeitrick@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director amandacox@hwchurch.org

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

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM, 567-2264 office@hwchurch.org

Website: <https://www/hwchurch.org>