Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
May 2024
Volume 55, No. 12

Wait

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4-5)

It must have been difficult for them to wait for something that they couldn't fully comprehend. After Jesus tells them to wait because the Holy Spirit is going to come upon them, they ask him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the Kingdom to Israel?" You can see from their question that they just can't quite grasp what Jesus is telling them. But after a bit more instruction, he ascends into heaven before their very eyes.

After this, they go back to Jerusalem, back to the room where they are all staying. All the disciples are there, including a number of women, Jesus's mother, and his brothers.

It's difficult to know how long after returning they wait but at some point Peter stands up and declares that in order for the scripture to be fulfilled they need to appoint someone to replace Judas. His argument must be convincing because they choose two from among them and after prayer, cast lots to choose one of them.

It's hard to know if what Peter does is correct or not but I do find it interesting that even though Jesus tells them to wait, Peter decides to act. You almost get the feeling that Peter is willing to wait but only if he does something while he waits. I don't know about you, but I can relate to Peter in this story.

I'm not good at waiting. I don't like waiting. Waiting always feels like a waste of time. It doesn't matter if I'm in the car waiting or at an appointment waiting or standing in front of my computer waiting: I don't like waiting and I'm not good at it. I'm always trying to think of ways in which I can redeem my time when I find myself in a circumstance in which I must wait. I suspect this is because I tend to think that waiting doesn't accomplish anything. That waiting has no value. And that for waiting to have value, I have to find ways of redeeming it.

Jesus seems to view waiting much differently than I do. Jesus seems to imply that the very act of waiting is important, even redemptive. When we read through the scriptures we find waiting connected with listening, resting, praying, trusting. I don't get the feeling that people who walk with God in a way that is worthy of being modeled view waiting as something to be redeemed but rather view the waiting as an act by which they will experience the redemptive presence of God.

I wonder what would happen in our journey with Christ if we viewed waiting—in and of itself—as a means of experiencing God's redemptive presence? I have a feeling it might enable God to do more in us then we might have imagined. May it be so for you even as I pray it will be so for me.

Because of Jesus,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

As we enter the last month of our fiscal year, we are so grateful for your generosity!

In a few weeks, our congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2024-25 Financial Plan (FP), sometimes referred to as the budget.

The 2024 FP 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 2024-25 FP 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
Preparing for the future by continuing to set aside funds for emergencies and future projects

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

Staff Salaries – A Cost of Living increase of 2%. The plan also includes an additional 2% at the end of the year contingent on sufficient giving.

Continued to support vital areas of ministry – Streaming, curriculum, youth events, discipleship opportunities, children's programing, 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 Central School 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.

A vote to approve the 2024-25 Financial Plan indicates your commitment to support Houghton Wesleyan Church through your faithful giving. Prayerfully consider how you can support it with your gifts.

The proposed FP will be posted on the church website at www.hwchurch.org/vision/vision-meeting-annual-meeting. You can also obtain a paper copy by contacting the church office.

Annual Meeting: On May 14, 6:30pm in the Community Room, we will be gathering for our annual meeting of the congregation. During this time together, brief updates will be presented from Pastor Wes, Daryl Stevenson (Chair of the Elders), David Mercer (Treasurer), Mike Spateholts (Facilities Stewards Chair) and Paul Young (Stewardship Committee Chair) who will explain the 2024-2025 Financial Plan. This is an opportunity to get information and to ask questions related to the various areas of our church.

Election of Leaders: Will offer three options for voting again this year: In Person (May 19), Online (May 13-19) and by Absentee Ballot. If you prefer to vote by Absentee Ballot, contact the church office by May 13. We will need to receive mailed ballots by Friday, May 17. For online access to the ballot, we will send a link the week of May 13. All online ballots must be cast by noon on May 19.

Financial Plan: You will be receiving information related to the 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.

Kids Connect: "One Small Step" - Astronaut Neil Armstrong once said landing on the moon was "one small step for man." The biggest adventures start in such a simple way — especially when it comes to space! Asteroids, distant planets, and brand new galaxies await us once we leave earth's atmosphere. Being the first to explore such uncharted territory can be intimidating. In this four-week series, we'll take a look at the Book of Acts to learn from the first Christians. Through their stories of faith and bravery, kids will learn how to take the first step of believing in Jesus, the next step of praying for others, and an even bigger step of trusting the Holy Spirit makes us brave. But they won't want to skip the last step of telling others about Jesus.

Memory Verse: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." — Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

- Kids Club: Saturday May 18th from 9:30-11:00am for grades PreK-6th. The Olympics are coming soon and whether your kids consider themselves athletes or not, "Go for the Gold" is designed to be an event that promotes healthy competition, creative problem-solving, and plenty of laughter. From water balloon archery to a DIY version of connect four, this silly sports day has something for absolutely every kid to love.

- HWC Kids/Youth Sunday – Join us on May 26th for Sunday morning worship led by the kids and youth of Houghton Wesleyan. There will be no Children's Church that morning; kids are encouraged to worship with their families and see their peers lead the service.

Congratulations to Ella Pocock, Emma Oden, Keagan Oyer, James Jacoby, Lucy Jordan, Grace Jordan and Alexander Burgett who were baptized on Easter Sunday morning!

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!

Applications for next year are available! We serve children ages two (by September first) through five. We have two morning (ideal for our youngest children), three morning, and five morning options. The applications, which include an information "folder" for you to keep, are on our parent bulletin board. Online applications are available now. Please email (casdadanner@hwchurch.org) with questions.

Did You Know?

Our numbers are up to where they were a few years ago. We have twenty children at VPS. Nine of them are second generation students! **It's a big year for siblings.** Our 20 children come from only 15 families! We have two sets of "regular" siblings with a four-year-old sister and two-year-old brother and two sets of twins with one set having an older brother with us as well. We now meet five mornings a week. Eighteen children come on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings and seven on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Of those seven, five come every morning and two are with us for Tuesdays and Thursdays only. **On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays we have two classes.** Rachel Blew teaches our two and three-year-olds assisted by Melissa Rosier. Joy Mansfield assists Casda Danner in teaching our fours and fives. Joan Zieja and Brenda Montanye are our volunteers. For many years they have selflessly given many hours each week along with their love, knowledge, and helpful attitudes to make our program run smoothly. We have one mixed age class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Rachel and Melissa work with two five-year-olds, one four-year-old, one three-year-old, and three two-year-olds on those days.

This year our Stone Soup dinner raised $2,071 after expenses. About 16 gallons of soup were made. Almost seven gallons went to pre-order take-out orders. The rest went to the 103 people who came in person. Only about one gallon was left which got divided among our staff who put in more than a full day's work! **Twelve of our families (17 of our 20 students) receive our Stone Soup discount this year!** That gives them $10 off per month for MWF and an additional $5 off for Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Nine of these families (14 students) also receive additional financial assistance.** This assistance is in the form of sibling discounts and partial scholarships 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 our children have a fun, loving introduction to school as they learn about Jesus' love for them each week.

Things to watch for in the coming weeks...

- A life-sized blue whale painted on the back parking lot as part of our animal unit
- The spring to summer tree in our hallway
- May baskets on the doors of downtown Houghton residents
- Groups of VPS students on walking field trips as we learn about community workers
- Projects to go with the Eric Carle animal books we're reading
- Our "closing" graduation program on May 15th (even though many students will return to attend VPS until June 14th - the first year we have offered this).

Please be in prayer for

Judi Mayhle and her family at the death of her mother Betty Cook on April 6
The family and friends of Louise Prinsell who died March 15
The family and friends of Carolyn Hale who died April 4
Betsy Webb and her family at the death of her father, Harold Broman on April 16.
The family and friends of Grace Taylor who died April 19
Debbie Shea and her family at the death of her sister Gail Armstrong who died April 22.

May 2024 HWC Youth News:

Youth Group Sunday evenings in May – 6-8pm

- May 5 – Theology of the Body – Questions answered.
- May 12 – No Youth Group – Mother's Day!
- May 19 – Parking Lot night! – **6th Graders Welcomed!**
- May 26 – End of the Year Party – Color Wars!

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

Prayer Breakfast in May happens May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Discipleship Hour (9:45-10:45 am) in May, we'll be studying the book of Revelation.

Youth Sunday School will meet on May 5, 12, and 19.

Youth and Senior Recognition Service May 26 – We'll recognize our graduating High School seniors in the worship service on this last Sunday in May.

30 Hour Famine – May 10-11 – Permission Slip Required!

How you can help:

1. ***Give.*** Every $40 we raise helps feed and care for a child for one month.

https://30hourfamine.worldvision.org/team/HWCYouth Or text **GIVE30HF** *to* **44888**, then search for: Houghton Wesleyan Youth

2. ***Volunteer.*** We need your help to make our Famine weekend a success! There are lots of ways to help out, from assisting with our fundraising events to serving a delicious spaghetti meal on Sat afternoon to break our fast. *Contact Pastor Jon for details!!*

3. ***Pray.*** Ask for God's grace over our event and our fundraising, and that we grow deeper in our love for Him while helping change the lives of kids who are hungry.

30Hour Famine Schedule of Events May 10 -11:

Friday May 10, 5:30-7:30 - Food drive in the village of Houghton. Students will go door to door in Houghton collecting food for the HWC food pantry. **Be ready to participate!**

Saturday May 11:

- 8:30-12:30 - Service projects
-1:30-4:30 - Car Wash at the church. **Bring your car to be cleaned!**

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

Dear HWC Family-

A sense of **EXPANSION** is what we feel as we head into summer.
Here's why:

- new slate of volunteers about to find avenues of service among us
- more diners at our tables, as well as building visitors
- wood shed is being built to hold and protect clothing donations, so the porch will not be overflowing
- increased personal contact with those who come

This calls for **EXPANDED** prayer and praise from you to our great God. We so desire the Lord to use the staff's ***simple faithfulness*** to **EXPAND** His kingdom.

To Note -

- Closed Friday, May 24 for Memorial Day weekend
- CEO Jim Arthur is finished with 5 of 6 chemo infusions. He comes most Wednesdays and Fridays. Gudy Stevenson hopes to stay through May as a source of stability and relationship.
- Our hearts were saddened by the sudden death of a son of a Board member, as well as by Carolyn Brown Hale's passing. She was a marvelous help in the kitchen for a few months in 2022.
- Donations always welcome - in good working order and condition. Summer clothes are now neeed. Thank you for being there for us. Remember, YOU are aways welcome to come by for a visit. Coffee pot is on by 10 am. Lunch is at 11:55.

Because of His **EXPANSIVE** love and grace,
Beth Beardsley, for the Board

"SIn arises not when I posses riches, but when riches possess me."

From the
Library Shelves

Coming soon!---to your church library shelves: *Hidden Places*, by Lynn Austin; *Harvest of Gold*, by Tessa Afshar; *Double Take,* a new book by Lynette Eason, and more books by *Patricia Bradley*. Also a book of encouragement and a different perspective on parenting, *Hard is Not the Same Thing as Bad,* by Abbie Halberstadt.

Also coming to the children's/junior shelves are more horse stories in a series by Dandi Daley Mackall, and the *Circle C Beginnings* series by Susan Marlowe. There are more in the *Imagination Station* series, combining adventure and history; and a new series "*The Adventures of Rooney Cruz",* looking at the lives of two Bible women, Ruth and Hannah.

Be watching!! and come on in to see what might interest you!

BETTY COOK MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Betty Cook, former Houghton resident and Houghton University Biology professor, will be held on May 4, 2024 at the Warm Beach Senior Community Center, Stanwood, Washington. Streaming will be available at: http://vimeo.com/event/788910 beginning at 1:30PM PDT

Memorial gifts may be made to
the Arnold and Betty Cook Scholarship Endowment Fund
Houghton University, 1 Willard Avenue, Houghton, NY 14744

ADOPT A TOWNHOUSE PROGRAM

In our 10th Anniversary Year, your Genesee Rapids are offering a unique way to support Rapids Players. In addition to praying for the guys, It's our new "***Adopt a Town House Program.***"

Here's how it works:

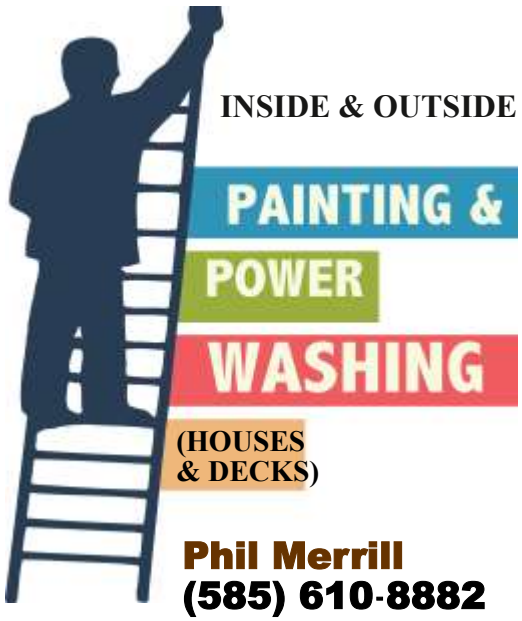
1. Each individual or family that adopts a town house will provide breakfast food for the players in "their" townhouse on a weekly basis.
2. The Rapids will provide a box for breakfast food to be delivered to the players each week.
3. Individuals or families will also be encouraged to invite the players in "their townhouse" for a meal or other family outing as time permits.

List of suggested items for the "Adopt a Townhouse" box.

Eggs	Bananas	Oranges	Apples	Peaches	Bagels	Granola Bars
Hot Cereal packets i.e. Oatmeal			Milk	Water	Juice	Cold Cereal

Players preferences for cereals etc. can be noted once "Adopt a Town House" individuals and families meet each other. Players will arrive Monday, June 3 and leave no later than July 27.

Please contact Ralph Kerr, 716-969-0688 if you can help in this unique way.



We want to thank our church family for all the cards, flowers, and gifts in memory of our dear mother. Your outpouring of love was so evident and a great comfort to us all.

~Cindy-Lu, Ed and Tracy Taylor.

Drive Through Food Distribution May 1

in the church parking lot.

Sign-up opens April 29 at:

https://ACCORDCORP.ORG/PUP

REFRESH
RETREAT & FAMILY CAMP

At Houghton July 21-26, 2024
RefreshAtHoughton.com

Summer Plans

Outdoor services (8:30) will begin June 2 and will continue through the end of September. Bring a lawn chair, use one of ours or drive in and participate in your car- with your FM set at 106.9

When Sunday School concludes, the current 11:00 service will be moved to 10:00 on June 16; when SS resumes (September 8), the service will return to 11:00.

We will have one 10:00 a.m. service on August 11 followed by the annual pig roast.

SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 5 *Service of Prayer and Healing*
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

May 12 *We've Been Left Behind … and That's a Good Thing* (Acts 1)
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

May 19 *The Abundance of Pentecost* (Leviticus 23)
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

May 26 Youth Sunday
8:30am – Worship Service
9:45am – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00am – Worship Service/Streaming

CHURCH STAFF

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