



An Angelic Response

At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel.
Acts 6:15

As the sixth chapter of Acts unfolds, we find the disciples setting apart leaders to care for the widows among them. These seven men are chosen because they *are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom*. As the chapter continues, the author focuses attention on one of these men named Stephen.

Stephen is described as *a man full of God's grace and power who performed amazing miracles and signs among the people*. But despite the good work he is doing, opposition arises against him. They spread lies about Stephen blaspheming Moses and even God which rouses the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law against him and leads to his arrest and trial.

After reiterating the lies, the author says: *At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel*.

In the face of these lies and unfounded accusations, Stephen has the option to respond in righteous indignation or anger or treat them the way they are treating him. After all, he is right; they are wrong. He is on God's side; they oppose God. But he doesn't. His face, his countenance, is angelic.

He is a presence of peace and contentment. Everything about him is love. Just like Jesus. And just like Jesus, this response doesn't save his life; we might argue that this is what costs him his life. But his goal is not to save his life, just as his goal is not to prove to them that he is right: his goal is to be so full of the Spirit of Jesus that when they see him, they see Jesus.

I marvel at Stephen's response because it feels so unusual. In these kinds of circumstances, our natural reaction is to defend ourselves, to go on the offensive, to get angry, to walk away (which is our passive/aggressive way of telling people that we don't care about them, and we hope they get everything they deserve). I wonder how often our response would be described as *angelic*.

Surely, an angelic response is rooted in caring more for Jesus than for ourselves, in loving others more than we love ourselves, in being so full of the Spirit of Jesus that the fruit of our lives looks more like Jesus than anything or anyone else.

May I encourage you (as I encourage myself) to ask God to give you such a spirit of Christ that others look at you and see something that looks angelic. In his grace, it is possible.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes



STEWARDSHIP- A Life of Generosity

Stewardship, generosity and giving. Is there a difference?



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

Over the past few weeks, we have experienced the privilege of seeing our work with youth and children. We honored our high school graduates and heard an inspiring sermon from one of our seniors, Grace Jordan. We listened as our 2nd Grade Sunday School class stood in front of the congregation and recited all 66 books of the Bible in order. What a thrill to witness this annual event once again. And we congratulated our 6th Grade Catechism Class for their achievement of learning 120 questions and answers related to the essentials of what we believe.

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 materials 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 on 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

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Dan Chamberlain, former President of Houghton University, who, passed away on May 31, 2024, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.,

We also pray for the family and friends of Ange Szymanski whose life will be celebrated at Houghton Wesleyan Church on July 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.



Camp is just a few weeks away (to be held July 8-12 at Camp Asbury in Silver Springs), and the RFKC leaders are still looking for donations of old iPhones. Any iPhone that is able to hold a charge and still has a functional camera is appreciated. The children treasure their photo albums and your old phones will help camp staff capture candid photos efficiently. • Feel free to drop off phones at the church office • If you have questions, please contact Amy Tetta: amytetta@gmail.com

Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC) needs new (and returning) **prayer partners** for 2024! If you're willing to pray for a child or staff member attending this year's camp writing him or her a note (provided to you ahead of time) and then praying for him or her daily during camp itself email Laurie Dashnau at laurie.dashnau@houghton.edu



Children's Church for ages PreK-1st grade will continue during the 8:30 service through the summer! Want to see what kids' ministry is all about and see if it's a place where you could use your gifts, consider shadowing Miss Emily this summer for a Sunday of Children's Church. Come meet the kids, have fun, and show them Jesus' love for half an hour! Contact Emily at kidsmin@hwchurch.org to claim a Sunday!

- Nursery is available for both services throughout the summer.

- Kids Connect may be over for the school year, but electronic curriculum materials will continue to be emailed to parents every Friday morning through the summer. Materials include the lesson with coordinating crafts, games, lesson videos, and more! If you aren't receiving the emails and would like to, please let Miss Emily know.

Summer Events:



- Kids Club: Wacky Water events on Saturday, July 20th and August 17th, water balloons, slip-n-slide, bubbles, popsicles, and more. Wear your bathing suit and bring a towel!
- Royal Family Kids Camp: July 7-12th; please be praying for the kids and volunteers
- Refresh Family Camp: July 21-24
- VBS at Fillmore Wesleyan: August 5th-8th, more details to come
- Bikes on the Quad: informal gathering on the HU quad on Wednesday evenings, bring your bikes, scooters, and balls
- Family Fridays: July 19th and August 16th, 6:30 to 8:30, come and go gathering at the Spateholts' house in Fillmore for s'mores, games, conversation, and more.

YOUTH SHORT TERM MISSION

Did you know that 12 members of the youth group will spend June 30-July 5 on a short-term missions trip in the city of Niagara Falls. They will be working with city churches and organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Project CURE. You can help! They are collecting travel-sized hygiene items for distribution to the homeless. Drop off your donations at the church anytime between now and 2 pm on June 30th. Thanks for your sup-



Summer Youth Events-

- July 21 – July 26 – Refresh Camp at Houghton U– Teen Track - \$0!
Just show up and have fun.
- July 31 st –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.



Refresh

JULY 21 - 26, 2024

RECONNECT

Hosted by Houghton University and the Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church, Refresh is a five day retreat with a wide variety of activities for all ages. Attendees have options regarding number of days attending, lodging/commuting, and meal packages in the all-you-can eat campus dining hall.

RELAX

Use the campus facilities like pool, gym, pickleball/tennis courts, and disc golf. There are also organized sporting/lawn games, crafting, inflatables, water games, and more. Also take advantage of peaceful benches, nature trails, and the air-conditioned Campus Center.

SCAN ME



REFOCUS

Spend time alone with God or join with others for morning praise and classes (for all ages) before lunch. After supper, gather together for an inspiring chapel service (childcare ages 0-12).

RefreshAtHoughton.com



EVENING SPEAKER

Dan LeRoy



WORSHIP LEADER

Chris Stephens

TRAUMA-INFORMED
COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT ALLEGANY COUNTY

Community Conversations

REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT IN-PERSON EVENTS

July 30, 2024

Family Resource Center
83 North Main Street
Wellsville, New York

5-7PM

AUGUST 27, 2024

Houghton Wesleyan
Church 9712 NY-19,
Houghton, NY 14744

5-7PM

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Virtual Conversation

2-4PM

\$20.00 Gift Cards Offered to the First 50 Participants.



*Everyone Has Experienced Personal Challenges.
What has Helped or Hindered Your Healing Process
Living in Allegany County?*

Pre-Registration Required by Calling Ardent Solutions at 585-593-5223

Wellspring Words for July

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if people claim to have faith but have no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well-fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:14-17 (TNIV)



We, who have had the privilege of serving at **Wellspring Ministries of Allegany County**, are praising God for Director Jim Arthur’s cancer having been declared in remission. He is feeling well and expressed appreciation for the many prayers of friends and supporters of Well-spring, which includes HWC. I, Gudy Stevenson, have had the privilege of standing in with him since he began chemo treatments in April. It has truly been a joy for me to visit with our clients who come to fellowship with us on Wednesdays and Fridays and often stay for a delicious lunch after finding some clothing or other items, all donated, sorted, and offered at no charge. Thanks to all who donate both monetary gifts and tangible items to benefit all who come through our doors.

FYI: Wellspring Ministries will be closed on both Wednesday, July 3, and Friday, July 5. We reopen on Wednesday, July 10.

From the Library Shelves



Have a family movie night, or go on an adventure reading a book together this summer. Your church library is open and ready for you to browse through the collection and find something for you and your family to enjoy as you go through the summer. Happy reading!!

Food Pantry Shoppers Needed



The Food Pantry has been a part of our Church ministry for many years, providing food for upwards of 100 people each year.

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 supplements the package with fresh meat, vegetables, eggs, milk, and specific needs (diapers, wipes, formula, etc.). Though we do help members of our 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!



The Genesee Rapids are off to our best start in 10 years. As of this writing we are currently 10-1. Our players and coaches are doing a great job of representing our area.

Games continue throughout the month of July. Please check out our schedule on our website geneseerapidsbaseball.com for our game schedule.

Friday, July 20 will be our final regular season game. After the game we will have our fireworks display and a special picture review of the season, prepared by our Rapids Photographer, Sophia Templeton. Playoffs games will begin on July 22.

Also in July the Rapids players will lead our Annual Baseball Camps. July 1-July 3 will be our Baseball Basics Camp, designed for players ages 6 - 12. Registration is filling up fast so be sure to visit our website and complete the registration form for your player today.

July 10 - July 12 will be our Advanced Skills Baseball Camp designed for players aged 12 - 18. Players will be challenged to improve their skills and have fun interacting with Rapids players.

Lots of great baseball left to be enjoyed. Please join us soon to see out talented players play a high level of college baseball.

For questions or additional information call Ralph Kerr 716-969-0688.



Houghton Volunteer Ambulance Service (HVAS) has an urgent need for volunteers to serve as ambulance drivers and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). All positions require training, which is provided free of charge to accepted applicants. Although HVAS is now a separate organization from the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department, we work closely together and share a single application form: <https://www.houghtonvfd.org>. For more information about serving with HVAS, please contact Peter Torraca, Kurt Habecker, Paul Shea, or any other member of HVAS. We need you!

Kurt Habecker, Houghton Volunteer Ambulance Service



Retirement Party for Robin Pawling
Saturday, July 27, 2-4pm in the Community Room
Hosted by The Sisters

Come and share words of Congratulations and Appreciation with Robin and meet her sisters (all five of them will be here) and tell them what an amazing big sister they have!

SUNDAYS IN JULY

July 7 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Getting Out of Our Own Way (Psalm 77)

July 14 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Rev. Paul Rowley

July 21 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Pastor Jon Cole

July 28 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Pastor David Huizenga



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.



CHURCH STAFF

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Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon & 1 to 5 p.m.

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