Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
August 2024
Volume 58 No. 3

God's Amazing Connections

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
Matthew 7:11

From July 7-14, I was speaking at the Lamar Lighthouse Camp in Lamar, PA. It was a wonderful time of getting to know people that I had never met before. We all sensed the presence of the Spirit of Jesus. Not only as a dozen or so young people opened their heart to Christ—some for the first time—and because a number of young people were baptized, but also because people spoke of a renewed desire to work on a broken relationship, of feeling refreshed and restored, of finding joy in Jesus once again. I am humbled to have been a part of what God did there.

The camp also hosted a missionary couple who shared each night. On the day we started, I walked past their display and discovered that they served in The Philippines. I thought that was interesting since my parents spent 18 years in The Philippines. And then I noticed the logo of their mission. I was stunned. This couple worked with OMS in The Philippines—the ministry that my parents were instrumental in starting back in 1982!

We were able to spend some time together. They told me stories of what has happened and is happening there since my parents left 24 years ago. I kept thinking to myself: *what are the odds of me coming to the same camp in rural PA as this couple with our mutual connecting point of OMS in The Philippines?*

Preparing for the camp, I was praying that God would do something remarkable while we were there. This couple was praying the same thing. And God answered our prayers. But he also added the blessing of making this personal connection. Not because of its pragmatic outcome, but just because he loves to do things that bring us joy…even when we don't ask for it.

Sometimes it's hard to think of God this way. But it's good to see it from time to time. It's a glimpse of the nature of his kingdom. It's a glimpse of the nature of the kingdom to come when all is put to right. It's a glimpse into how God loves you and me.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP
- A Life of Generosity

Time.
Talent.
Treasure.

You must decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

It's August! The summer is almost gone, and we are looking forward with anticipation to the upcoming school year! On the calendar are

⇒ 30 youth group sessions with topics like Wisdom, Identity, Loving Others, Jesus, Evangelism, and Friendship.

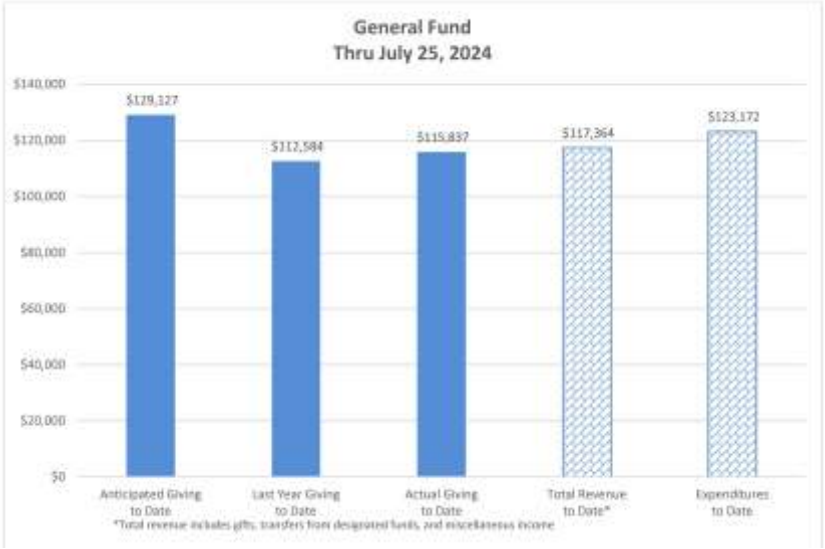
⇒ 35 Sunday schools: This year on Sunday mornings we have an Old Testament focus, so we plan to explore Exodus, some of the Poetic books, 1&2 Sam, 1&2 Kings, the minor prophets and maybe (if we have time) a major prophet or two!

⇒ There will be 33 prayer breakfasts containing hundreds of pancakes and even more prayers.

⇒ 6 big events like Storm the Heights, a foam party, the Christmas Progressive dinner, and the 30-hour famine.

⇒ Finally, also on the calendar, there are 5 trips including the District Winter retreat, The Follow regional event in Hamburg, NY and the summer excursions of 2025.

Whew! When you put them all in a list like that it feels like a lot! These are the rhythms of our youth ministry and throughout all of the activity, our goal is to continually be connecting students to Jesus and to this local body of believers. We want students to understand themselves not as "the future of the church", but instead as a critically important part of who God has called HWC to be in this time and place. Thank you for faithfully giving so that this ministry is possible! As always, I am incredibly thankful to be part of a community that cares for and invests in its youth! Please pray for God's blessing on our young people and on this ministry. Thank you!
Pastor Jon



HWC Kids: August series - "Game Plan: On your mark, get set, go! When a shepherd named David became king, it was a whole new ballgame! He had some big wins and some big losses, too, but he also had a great plan for how to overcome his challenges. In this 4-week series, kids will team up with David and learn that making peace, following God, showing kindness, and forgiveness are all part of God's game plan for us!"

August Memory Verse:

"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." - Psalm 33:11

VBS : Register today to participate or to volunteer!

Family Friday: August 16th, 6:30-8:30pm at Miss Emily's house

Kids Club: August 17th, 9:30-11:00am at the Church - "Wacky Water" slip-n-slide, water balloons, water games, popsicles, and more!

Mark Your Calendars! Kids Connect begins on Sunday, September 8th

Interested in joining our HWC Kids team? We currently have openings in Children's Church, Kids Connect, and nursery for teacher and assistant roles. Have questions or want to know more? Contact Miss Emily at kidsmin@hwchurch.org or 585-808-8925. I'll buy you a coffee if you want to chat!

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Valley PreSchool

VPS

July 2024 Highlights

Valley PreSchool, a non-profit organization sponsored by Houghton Wesleyan Church, has been in operation for 55 years. We meet from mid-September through mid-June on Monday through Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45 with two, three, and five morning options. The program is designed to supplement the home experiences of children ages two through five years old.

We encourage children's social, emotional, cognitive, physical and spiritual development. An environment is created which allows the child to investigate, explore, experiment, create, communicate and manipulate. This takes place in learning and activity centers in small groups, in times of full group or individual class instruction, and through projects and activities that go with various themes.

Children are given opportunities to develop social skills with peers and non-parental adults and are exposed to a variety of learning activities and educational experiences. Our curriculum allows educational concepts to be developed and helps children experience success and gain confidence in their abilities as we incorporate chances to improve fine and gross motor skills, use analytical thinking, sharpen listening skills, follow directions, develop language skills, and share creative ideas. Field trips and special visitors enhance the experiences of the children. All of this prepares the children to be lifelong learners.

Things to note

- **We have openings for the 2024-25 school year.** (Two-year-old children must turn two by September 1st.)
- Our application fee goes from $50 to $75 on August 1st, but **we'll extend the $50 price through Sunday, August 4th** for those who see this and can get applications in by then.
- More information at https://hwchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/VPS-Information-pages.pdf
- **Tuition discounts and partial scholarships are available.**
- Applications are available online at https://hwchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-25-Application-for-website.pdf, on the VPS parent bulletin board, by calling the church office (585-567-2264), or **contact Casda Danner, director, at** casdadanner@hwchurch.org

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

We offer our condolences to the family of Vesta Mullen who died July 4.
We also offer our sympathy to the family of Ange Szymanski who died May 31.

Words from Wellspring

Did you ever wonder what Jesus did with leftovers?

"Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." John 6:12

At Wellspring Ministries we 'gather up' what is used and left over, only to give it away for a new use to others. Thank you for every leftover - even garden produce. We love leftovers that are in good clean condition.. Lunch, clothes, toys, home furnishings, books, tools, are free. Wellspring is open - Wednesdays and Fridays - 10am to 1:15, with free lunch at 11:55.

Thank you to our volunteers and donors who make Wellspring thrive!

From the

Library Shelves

Go on little vacation-adventures-at-home with books from your church library. Browse through our collection to find just the right adventure for you and your family. Then find your comfy seat and begin your journey. Happy reading!!

Please join us August 25 at 3:00 p.m. outside on the north lawn for Ice Cream and a time of fellowship welcoming early new and returning students.

The Healing Journey

Are you seeking a peaceful mind, healed heart, and a life that is filled with joy and hope? Then please join us for the Ladies Healing Journey Bible Study offered at Fillmore Wesleyan Church. This study is a wonderful opportunity to heal from emotional, mental, and spiritual wounds. We will begin Thursday September 12 and you can choose a morning or evening class. Times are 9:30-11:30am and 6:00-8:00pm. The cost of $75 covers the materials for the 29-week study. We would love to have you join us. For questions or to register, contact Gloria Poorman (585)610-3871 or Vaughn Hark (585)567-4893. Sign up soon to reserve your spot.

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 request 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.

- Food Pantry Shoppers are Needed
- Food donations may be brought to the church any time the office is open or on Sunday next to the foyer Coffee Bar
- Thank you for your generosity in donations, food and time!

Vintage Finds

Treasured Memories at 6 Chapel Street in Belfast.

We will be hosting a tour of the former Baptist Church of Belfast during the Belfast Bicentennial on Sunday August 11 from 1 to 3 pm along with several other Belfast churches The historic building completed in 1836 has the original stained glass windows and hardwood floors.

Email: vintagefindstreasuredmemories@gmail.com
Call: 1 585-365-1056

Join us for a two-day musical theatre lab taught by professional actors!

Participants will enjoy enlightening lectures followed by valuable workshop sessions practicing the skills necessary for a strong audition, including acting, singing, and physical presentation. The weekend wraps up with a professional-feeling, mock audition where participants will implement all the skills they gained over the weekend. Meals will not be provided, there will be a meal break on Saturday for lunch.

Classes will be taught by Family Life Performing Arts staff and will include Audition Techniques, Monologue and Song Presentation, Physical Presentation, and Call-Back Techniques.

Participants must prepare and bring a physical copy of a 60 second monologue and a 32-bar cut of a musical theatre song to work on over the two days. In addition, it is recommended, not required, that these pieces be digitally scanned and submitted via email to performingarts@familylife.org.

Dates & Time
Friday, September 6 | 6pm – 9pm and Saturday, September 7 | 9am – 5:30pm

Location
Houghton University – Center for the Arts in Houghton, NY

Registration
Registration is $45 Register HERE

TRAUMA-INFORMED COMMUNITIES

Throughout Allegany County

AUGUST 27, 2024, from 5 to 7 PM

Houghton Wesleyan Church
Community Room
Pre-registration required by calling Ardent Solutions at 585-593-5223
Everyone has experienced personal challenges. What has helped or hindered your healing process living in Allegany County?
Refreshments served.

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor
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Jon Cole, Youth Pastor
joncole@hwchurch.org

David Huizenga, Discipleship & College Pastor
davidhuizenga@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor
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Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry
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Judy Congdon, Organist & Choir Director
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Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director
amandacox@hwchurch.org

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

"As parents of young children in our congregation, we are so appreciative of the dedication and support from our children's ministry volunteers and Valley Preschool teachers. It's especially touching when parents whose children have "aged out" of nursery, children's church, and elementary Sunday School are involved in these ministries. Having volunteers from multiple stages of life involved in our children's lives is essential in making them feel like a valued part of the church family. It truly shows our children that the Church as a whole cares about them when other adults, besides their own parents, invest time in getting to know them, developing relationships, and serving as healthy role models. We all know the saying "it takes a village to raise a child," and we view the Church and its ministries as a crucial part of our village!"

- Susie & Andrew Roorbach

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

August 4 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Rev. Dr. Jon Case

August 11 (10:00 a.m. Outdoors)
Doing the Math (Psalm 112)

August 18 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
A Community of Peace (Psalm 122)

August 25 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors; 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Deliverance Through Praise (Psalm 148)

CHURCH BARBEQUE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, we are combining our worship services for one outdoor service at 10:00 a.m. with a picnic barbeque to follow. The service will be streamed, and a radio broadcast will be available for all who desire to remain in a vehicle. The church will provide meat and table service. We are asking you to bring a couple of dishes to share. You are also invited to bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on in case we run out of table space. We will have some games for children. In the case of inclement weather, the picnic will be moved inside. Thank you.