Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
June 2025
Volume 58, No. 1

Whose Side Are We On?

One day, Joshua was near Jericho when he saw a man standing some distance in front of him. The man was holding a sword, so Joshua walked up to him and asked, "Are you on our side or on our enemies' side?" (Joshua 5:13)

The beginning of the book of Joshua tells the story of Joshua's rise to leadership after being mentored by Moses for 40 years. Joshua knows that he has huge shoes to fill. Moses is a presence like no other person in Israelite history. And as Joshua takes the reins of leadership, he's concerned. This is why God and the people keep telling him to be strong and courageous.

As he is preparing the people to move on Jericho, Joshua comes upon a man he doesn't recognize who is holding a sword. Not knowing if he is friend or foe, Joshua challenges him: Are you on our side or on our enemies' side? It's a legitimate question when one is preparing for battle. Joshua wants to know who he's dealing with.

The man answers: "Neither. I am here because I am the commander of the Lord's army." In other words, you're asking the wrong question. The question is not whose side am I on; the question is whose side are you on?

The difference in these two questions is the difference between, "I want everyone to know that I am right," and, "I want to surrender myself to God."

In our world that is continually pushing us into corners of divisiveness, it's easy to get caught up in taking sides, thinking about who's in and who's out, who's right and who's wrong. This caution isn't a call to ignore what is true or right; it's a realization that in our humanness, we aren't always right. It's a recognition that our decision-making is fallible. It's a spirit of humility toward others and even more toward God.

The only answer to our struggle with this is to do what Joshua does…worship! When Joshua discovers the identity of this man, he falls to his knees and buries his face in the ground, declaring, "I am your servant. Just tell me what you want me to do." That's the appropriate response to God. That's a response of humility, worship, gratitude, generosity and love. This is a response that puts aside trying to convince God to be on our side and instead focuses our attention on surrendering ourselves to him—to his purposes, to his plans, to his ways.

As we move into this time of transition, my prayer is that we will set our minds and hearts on God so that when faced with the temptation to divide, we will instead think not about who wins, who's right or who's wrong, but about what God is calling us to and find in this calling hope, joy, peace, unity and his amazing grace.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

ELECTION RESULTS
Elders Secretary: Mike Burgett
Church Treasurer: Terry Sweet
Facilities Stewards Chair: Mike Spateholts
Elders: Susie Roorbach, Norm Smithley, Paul Young
Nominating Committee: LuAnne Brubaker, Pat Hager, Betsy Webb
District Conference Delegates: Mim Case, Sharon Johnson, Jill Jordan, Jamie Mullen, Mark Sweet and Terry Sweet
Community Financial Plan Vote: Yes – 133 / No – 0

ELDERS
Josie Adenuga (2026)
Jill Jordan (2026)
Carolyn Miller (2026)
Mim Case (2027)
Mike Cox (2027)
Daryl Stevenson (2027)
Susie Roorbach (2028)
Norm Smithley (2028)
Paul Young (2028)
Mike Burgett, Secretary
Terry Sweet, 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, Ken Bates and Jan Schilke whose terms have expired.

We appreciate the thoughtful and godly leadership that each person has given us in the past years.
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CONGRATULATIONS!

We are pleased to announce that the Elders have wholeheartedly recommended Mike Carey and Emily Spateholts as Ministerial Students. Mike has attended our church since coming to Houghton University and joined our church this spring. He has just completed his sophomore year of college. Emily has been a member of our staff since 2018 as Director of Children's Ministry. She is feeling a call to greater service in our church.

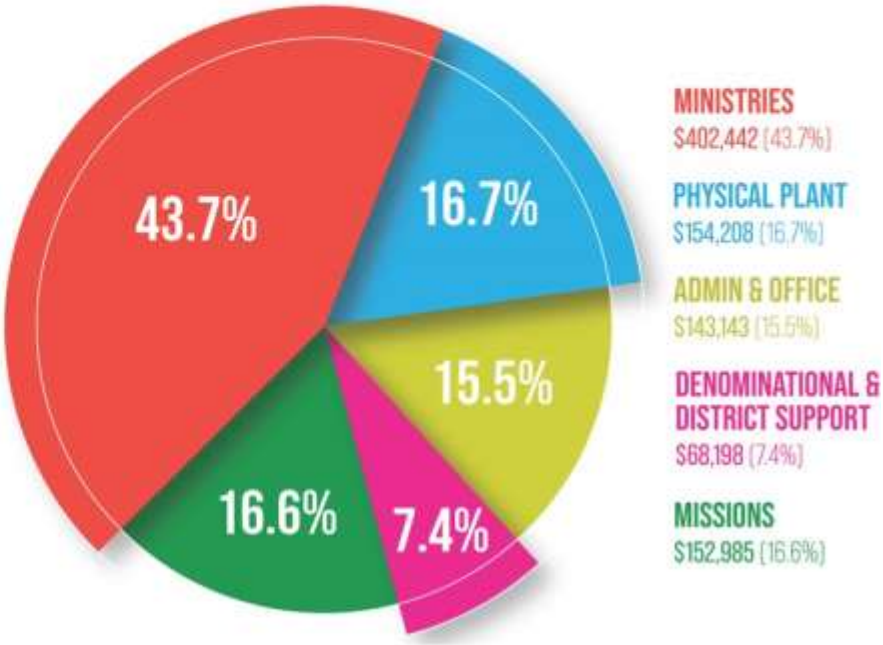
Please note Gloria Huizenga's new address:
9216 Coventry Lane
Louisville KY 40219

Her phone and email contact is the same.

Our condolences to Doug and Judi Mayhle at the death of Doug's mother, Norma on April 30.

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.



As we conclude the current fiscal year, we are grateful for your ongoing generosity that enables us to serve one another, the communities around us and the wider world. Your giving provides for our staff, equips our ministries and makes funds available to assist people in times of crisis and need.

In light of the congregation's approval of the 2025-2026 Church Financial Plan, we are asking you to prayerfully consider how you might trust God to increase your level of generosity. For some, it might involve giving consistently rather than sporadically. For others, it might mean starting to tithe, giving to the church 10% of your income. For others, it might be moving beyond the tithe to a level of giving that can only be described as generosity. As we think about this coming year, we are reminded that we are giving to the kingdom purposes of God who is more generous with us than any of us could ever imagine.

As the Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians:
You must each 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." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say,

> *"They share freely and give generously to the poor.*
> *Their good deeds will be remembered forever."*
> *For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.*
> *Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.*
> *And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.*

Again, thank you for your generosity and thank you for your loving support of the ministry and service of Houghton Wesleyan Church.

The Stewardship Committee

REFRESH
RETREAT & FAMILY CAMP

JULY 20-25, 2025
More info at refreshathoughton.com

From the
Library Shelves

Come on in to the church library and see what we have for you. There are books on a lot of different subjects for reading and study. A good-sized fiction section has many favorite authors. We also have DVDs, music CDs and books on CD.

Our children's rooms—preschool/primary area and junior area—have many books—fiction and non-fiction—for your children to enjoy. There are also DVDs, music CDs and books on CD.

The library is available whenever the church is open. Come enjoy!

Find a new treasure and help us clear our storage rooms (and the basement before renovations). Visit our Church "yard sale" on Saturday, June 21st from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Take home furniture, home goods, decor, games, toys, electronics, and more at a price you choose.

All donations will go towards a ministry at the Church. More details to come.

Contact Emily Spateholts at emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org with questions.

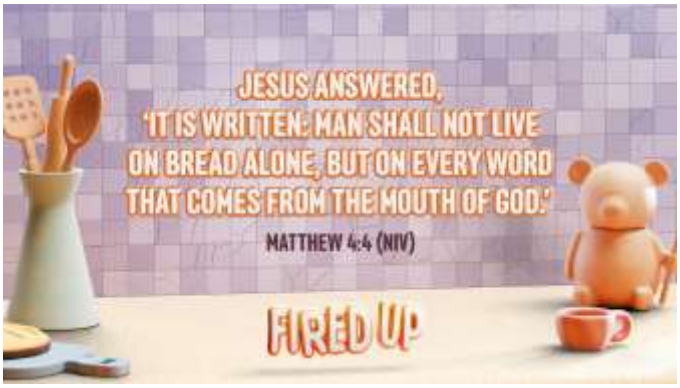
Royal Family KIDS

RFKC WORK DAY Have you always wanted to help with RFKC but couldn't commit time during the week? This year, we have a new opportunity to serve camp on the weekend! Join us the day before camp on Saturday, July 5th starting at 10am for a work day at Camp Asbury in Perry, NY.
Camp Asbury has faithfully served RFKC for over 30 years and we want to give back. RFKC uses more of their facilities than their other summer camps and they could use extra hands to get their buildings ready. Would you consider joining us for a few hours to get things in top shape before staff and campers arrive?
If interested, please email Miss Emily at emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org.
Thanks!

PRAYER PARTNERS Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC) needs new (and returning) **prayer partners** for 2025! 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 it-self email Laurie Dashnau at laurie.dashnau@houghton.edu

June curriculum "Fired Up" Fire up the ovens! We're headed to the kitchen to bake up something special. Kitchens are incredible places where the most basic ingredients are transformed into delicious treats. Our faith can be a lot like that, too. In this 5-week series, kids will follow the life of the prophet Elijah, whose ministry involved a lot of fire and bread as he formed a special relationship with God. They'll learn how knowing God helps me find what I need, hears my voice, guides me when I'm scared, comforts me, and is always with me. These are all the ingredients they need to get fired up!

June Memory Verse:



Kids Club: Saturday, June 21 from 9:30-11:00 for PreK-6th grade -"Bake Through the Bible" with us!

Preteen Hangout: Sunday, June 15 from 6-8pm for current 4th and 5th graders! 6th graders join the youth.

VBS August 4-7 at Fillmore Wesleyan brought to you by Fillmore and Houghton Wesleyan

Participant registration:

https://hwc.breezechms.com/form/035e873815

or

Volunteer registration:

https://hwc.breezechms.com/form/035e87381555

or

Biography -- Rev. Randall Craker

Houghton Wesleyan Interim Pastor

Randall J. Craker was born to G. Donald & Lydia Craker in Pullman, Washington, where his dad was pastoring the Church of the Nazarene. Following his high school years in Zillah, Washington, he enrolled as a Philosophy/Religion major at Northwest Nazarene University, graduating in 1973. During his years at NNU he served in student government and as editor of the student newspaper, The Crusader. In the fall of 1973 he married Robinette Powell, whom he met at NNU.

Following college graduation, he spent 15 months in Longmont, Colorado, as a youth pastor. Then it was on to Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. While attending seminary he was editor of the newspaper, *The Seminarian*, and wrote monthly for the denomination's youth publication, *Bread Magazine.* Craker graduated from seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 1978. From there he moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, where he pastored for five years. In 1983 the family moved to Leavenworth, Washington, to pastor the Nazarene Church. Kirkland, Washington was the next stop on his pastoral journey, where he spent 16 years. In 2004, Dr. Craker was appointed the District Superintendent of the Northwest District where he served for 15 years. Randy and Robbie retired and moved to Nampa, Idaho in 2019. In retirement he has served a year as the interim pastor at Mt. View Church of the Nazarene in Tumwater, WA and another year at Valley Shepherd in Meridian, Idaho. He also served the Oregon Pacific and Washington Pacific districts as interim DS.

Craker has served the Church of the Nazarene in numerous roles: District NYI President, District Advisory Board member, Ministerial Development Board leader, and District Work & Witness Coordinator. He has served the global church as a member of the General NYI Council from 1983-1991 and the General Board from 2001-2023. He chaired the Global Education and Clergy Development Committee and served as a member of the Executive Committee from 2010-2023. He joined the Board of Trustees at Northwest Nazarene University in 1994 and became a member of the Executive Committee three years later. In 2006 he was elected chair of the Board, a position he held until his retirement. He was granted an honorary doctorate by NNU in 2009.

In 1991 Randy made his first Work &Witness trip to the Island nation of Haiti where his life was changed as his heart opened to the peoples of the world. This was the beginning of 30+ trips to either build or teach, traveling to Haiti, Venezuela, Trinidad, Romania, Mozambique, Russia, Kazakhstan, China, and Bangladesh. He had a role in the beginning of the work of the Church in post-communist Romania, committing to a three-year involvement which included recruiting teams to establish compassionate ministries, small business training, pastoral education, and building projects. In 1996 he went to Mozambique, Africa, for the trip of a lifetime. That one trip turned into nearly twenty visits and encompassed leading the "Mozambique Miracle" which established the campus of the Nazarene Seminary in the capital city of Maputo. The Miracle project also involved recruiting compassionate ministry teams, raising scholarship dollars, providing pastoral education, and running youth camps. He continues to travel to Africa to strengthen the work of clergy development.

In retirement Randy continues to chair the board of "Next-Steps Church Services" (NCS) working with churches in transition by providing coaching and intentional interim work. In addition, he chairs "Education Development United Fellowship" (EDUF) which exists to support pastoral training for the continent of Africa.

Randy is an avid reader and sports fan. One of his hobbies is to visit major league baseball parks. To date he has visited thirty-six. The Crakers have three children Mick (Kimberly), Olivia Metcalf (Dustin), Craig (Veronica) and five grandchildren – Eleanor and Emmett Craker, Andrew and Ethan Metcalf, and Catarina Craker.

Randy and Robbie will arrive in Houghton about August 1. The church is renting Sylvia Greenway's home on Fancher Heights for them.

The 3rd Annual Seneca Caneadea Field Day

JULY 5, 2025 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Caneadea Town Park

- The 3rd Annual Seneca Caneadea Field Day will feature enhanced programming and new and returning food vendors.
- In addition to Seneca exhibition dance and lacrosse, come to experience hands on activities for all ages to get a feel for life on the ancestral Seneca land and home to early settlers in our region in Caneadea. Stop by the museum and cultural tent, arts and crafts row, and the new agricultural exhibits as we celebrate our shared history and friendship with the Seneca Nation.

Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room
Evenings of June 26 and August 8
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Questions or to register (no later than 4 days prior to the event) call Office for the Aging at 585-268-9390.

WES & CINDY ODEN

retirement celebration & send-off

SUNDAY | JUNE 1

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	Pre-Service Music Worship Celebration (*featuring Pastor Wes*) HWC SANCTUARY
10:00	**Combined Worship Service** **HWC SANCTUARY**
11:30	Retirement Tribute HWC SANCTUARY
12:00 NOON	Community Celebration w/ Light Lunch HWC COMMUNITY ROOM
1:30 PM	Retiree Send-Off

As we look forward to celebrating with Pastors Wes and Cindy, we have some details to share about how you can be involved in the planned festivities and special events. Please plan to join us on June 1!

CONTRIBUTE TO THE GIANT WALL CARD

We have appreciated Wes and Cindy's involvement in our lives since they first arrived in 1996. To help us remember and celebrate some of those "life moments" in our journey together, we have created an interactive giant wall card for you to add to! Everyone is invited to sign the poster and include photos, stories and memories with the Odens through the years.

The card is now laid out in the church basement piano room located across from the elevator. Come anytime the church is open. While you will be able to add to it on June 1, it will be our send-off card so we hope to have it mostly full prior to the Community Celebration at noon that day. Add your message now!

Houghton Wesleyan Church

Questions? Contact the church office: **office@hwchurch.org** | **585.567.2264**

Please join us for a

Wedding shower

Honoring

HANNAH FRASER & GABE HUIZENGA

June

Saturday **28** 4-6 pm

Valley Bread & Bounty
10 West Main St, Fillmore, NY

Please RSVP to: lindashea.knapp@gmail.com

The couple is registered at the Knot
https://www.theknot.com/us/gabriel-huizenga-and-hannah-fraser-jul-2025/registry

Applications for next year are available! Valley Preschool applications are available for the 2025-26 school year. We serve children ages two (by September 1st) through five

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/

We meet from mid-September through mid-June , Monday through Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45 We have two morning (ideal for our youngest children), three morning, and five morning options. Valley Preschool will soon complete our 56th year. The program is designed to supplement the home experiences of preschoolers, encouraging social, emotional, physical and spiritual development. The applications, which include an information "folder" for you to keep, are on our parent bulletin board and Online applications are also available at www.hwchurch.org/valley-preschool/ . Please email (casdadanner@hwchurch.org) with questions.

Share with Family and Friends as we celebrate the lives of~

Saturday, May 31, 1:00 p.m.
Alice Fletcher

Saturday, June 14, 10:00 a.m.
Paul Parks

Saturday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.
Beth Beardsley

The May/June Missionary Mailbag is available in the Sanctuary and CE Building Foyers

THE RAPIDS ARE COMING!

The 2025 Genesee Rapids players will be arriving **o**n Monday, June 2. Players (31) from throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and China will make up our roster this year.

We are really pleased to welcome two new coaches to our coaching staff this year. Spencer Crane who played for the Rapids two years and is now an assistant coach at Ohio Wesleyan University, is our new head coach.. He's well-known for hitting two grand-slam homeruns a couple of years ago against the Olean Oilers.

Gary Puccio, also an assistant coach at Ohio Wesleyan, will be our new pitching coach. Gary is in his 29th year of coaching at the collegiate level and has 12 years of professional experience as an associate scout for the Seattle Mariners. Over his five head-coaching positions, across all levels of collegiate coaching, Gary has amassed over 428 career victories, including being Coach Evan McDonald's head coach at Division 1 Fairleigh Dickinson University.

They'll be joining our veteran assistant coach, Bill Swanson (his 11th year), and life coach, Alex Wright (our chaplain).

As we celebrate our 11th year, we're pleased to welcome Thom Kettelkamp (TK) as our new General Manager, taking over the reins from Ralph Kerr. Ralph continues as Chair of our Board of Directors.

Our first game is at Houghton University field, Friday, June 6 at 10:00am against the Dansville Gliders. We'll be welcoming roughly1,000 guests for our Annual Kids' Day that morning. Free admission for everyone.

Then the following night, June 7, it'll be the Rapids at home taking on the "rough & ready" Old Timers. If you still have some baseball chops or just want to join in the fun, connect with Souly Sanasith ((716-572-5095) to join the team and get your special T-shirt for the event. We promise a very fun evening along with a new Home Run Derby that night.

Our complete schedule is on our website at www.geneseerapidsbaseball.com

Players will be joining us for “outside” church each Sunday throughout the summer starting on June 8. Please reach out to the guys and make them feel welcome.

During the summer we will also be having two different weeks of our Rapids Baseball Camp. Complete information is on our website.

We are still looking for a couple more families who might be able to host a couple of players. The only thing you need provide is breakfast and a bed.

Please call Thom (585-365-5439) if you need more information about this or anything else related to the Rapids.

The Genesee Rapids Board of Directors

HWC Graduates of 2025

Houghton Academy

Stella Dover
Huy Ho
David Jatta
Weiqi (Lucy) Lu
Nassim Monroe
Andrea Peralta
Gia Khiem Pham
Abigail Reitnour
Thi Kieu Phong (Christa)Nguyen
Li Bai Jia (Rebekah) Qian
Jonathan Habecker
Ming Sum (Summer) Lee
Xianzhi (Alter) Ke
Jia Le (Caleb) Yi
Yuan (Isaac) Ning
Jack Prentice
Angela Qiu
Yihan (April) Wang

Fillmore Central School

Julia Beardsley
Jack Boon
Nathan Tanner
JD Bialek
Evelyn Cox
Scarlet Dowling

Home School

Alexander Burgett

Houghton Academy Graduation Exercises

May 30 - Baccalaureate Houghton Academy Auditorium - 7:00 pm

May 31 - Commencement Houghton Academy Auditorium - 10:00 am

Fillmore Graduation Exercises

June 22 - Baccalaureate
Fillmore Auditorium – 7:00 pm

June 27 - Commencement
Fillmore Auditorium – 7:00 pm

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 1 (9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
What Do We Do Now? (Isaiah 40)

June 8 (8:30 a.m. Indoors / 9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour / 11:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Mike Jordan

June 15 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Andy Walton

June 22 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Pastor Jon Cole

June 29 (8:30 a.m. Outdoors / 10:00 a.m. Indoors/Streaming)
Paul Young

CHURCH STAFF

Daryl Stevenson, Staff Coordinator, daryl.stevenson@houghton.edu

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor, joncole@hwchurch.org

David Huizenga, Assistant Pastor, davidhuizenga@hwchurch.org

Judy Congdon, Organist & Choir Director, judycongdon@hwchurch.org

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

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

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM, 567-2264, office@hwchurch.org