Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
May 2026
Volume 58, No. 12

Spring!

It has been said,

"Spring is a reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."

As nature comes alive all around us, I think of Christopher Morely's words,

"April prepares her green traffic light, and the world thinks, 'Go.'"

Song of Solomon reminds us

For behold, the winter is past… the flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

This has been a year of change. Last spring you were preparing for the retirement of beloved Pastors Wes and Cindy Oden. Nine months ago, you welcomed Robbie and me to be your interim pastoral couple. This past Sunday we learned that the Pastoral Search Team has made a recommendation to the Elder Board. Excitement is building as we anticipate our next season of church life.

We have been challenged and blessed by our mission weekend. Our youth Sunday and send off of Pastor Jon and Nancy to a 3-month sabbatical reminded us of the importance of our young people.

Now we anticipate our Ministry Fair on May 3rd. I would invite you to "come and see" what is happening here at HWC. Tables full of information, will offer opportunities to find out about our many ministries and ways you can be engaged. People will be ready to answer questions. Refreshments will be served. You will have opportunities to talk with friends and make new ones. This is an exciting event that you won't want to miss.

We will have a **photo booth** to take family pictures. We would love to make a picture book to help our incoming pastor know the names and faces of our church family.

The Ministry Fair will run from 9:45-10:45 and from 12:00-12:45. Take advantage of this engaging event.

Seasons bring change. I shared on Sunday that another transition is ahead of us. Pastor David Huizenga has submitted a letter to the Board of Elders stating his intentions to conclude his pastoral duties at HWC on July 31, 2026. Pastor David and Heidi will be missed. We will celebrate their vibrant life-shaping ministry with us. Keep them in your prayers.

As spring continues to unfold, I remind you we are all part of the Body of Christ. We need one another to accomplish the mission that Christ has given to our church. This season of transition has been intentional to move the church forward and get ready for the arrival of our next pastor. It's Spring!!!!

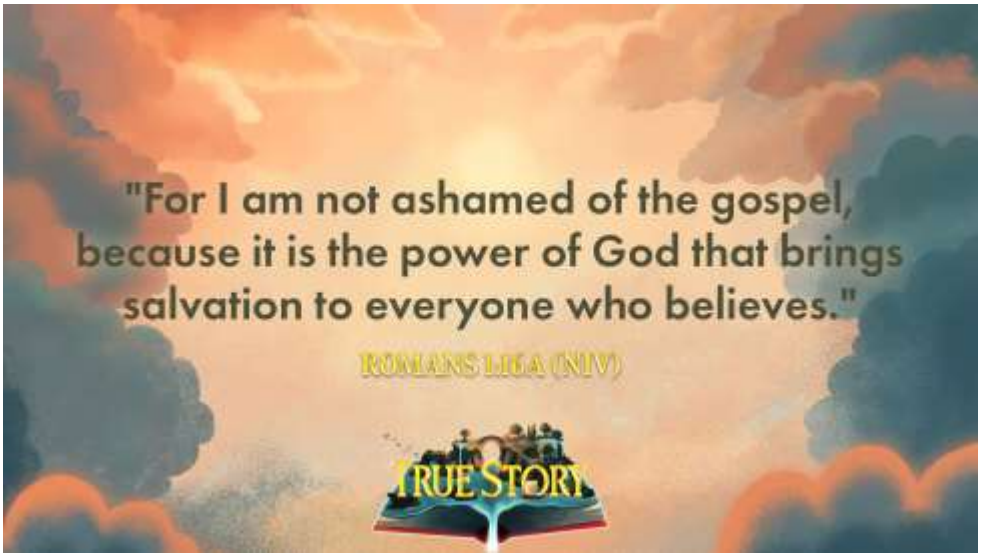
Pastor Randy

HWC kids

-What we're learning in May: "True Story - Can you remember the last time you got lost in a really good book? The epic quests, daring escapes, and wild adventures make it hard to put down! While our lives might not include mythical creatures or fantastical lands, we're all part of an incredible adventure—following God and helping others do the same. Each week, kids will explore the amazing and true stories about Jesus that show us what it means to live for God. In this 5-week series, kids will discover the true story of how Jesus is always with us, God helps us be righteous, God hears us when we pray, the Holy Spirit gives us power, and God helps us share the good news."

Kids Club: Saturday, May 16th, 9:30-11:00am

May Memory Verse



Preteen Hangout: Sunday, May 17th, 6:00-8:00pm - "Move Up Day!" - 6th graders are invited to join youth group that night and 4th graders are invited to come to preteen hangout!

BAPTISMS Congratulations to Anna Ciobanu, Delaney Grant, Phebe Grant, Arija Grant, Kanta Ueno, and Maddalin Myers who were baptized on Easter Sunday morning and Adalynn Lundeen who was baptized April 26.

Friday, May 1, at 7:30 PM, in the Church Sanctuary

The Houghton Choir will perform the music of twentieth-century French composer, Maurice Duruflé, including his innovative and passionate Requiem. The Choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra of strings, trumpets, timpani, harp, and organ played by Dr. Judy Congdon. The vocal soloists are graduate student Jonathan Hutmire, and voice faculty member Dr. Kimberly Prins Moeller. Written during WWII and premiered shortly after, Requiem combines Gregorian chant, lush romantic harmonies, and innovative chromaticism into a devout work that combines the ancient with the modern, the serene with the dramatic. There is no admission charge. All are welcome!

Applications for Valley PreSchool are Available

VPS meets from September to June and is for children ages two (by September 1st) through five. Join us for the 2026-2027 school year.

Summer Services Schedule

1. **June 14** final Sunday of Discipleship Classes and two services
2. **June 21-August 23** one service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary with the following exceptions…
3. **July 12, August 9, and September 13** (the second Sunday of each month) we will meet outside. The July and August services will be at 10:00 (weather permitting). The September service will be at 8:30.
4. **August 9** will be the "Pig Feast" following the outdoor service.
5. **August 30 and September 6** we will return to two services at 8:30 and 11:00.
6. **September 6** we start Discipleship Hour again at 9:45.
7. **September 13** early service will be outside at 8:30 with indoor Discipleship Hour and 11:00 service to follow.

HWC Youth Group (Grades 7-12)– May 2026

Youth Group – Sundays 6:00–8:00pm

- May 3 – We'll intro our Spring Service Weekend
- May 10 – ***No Youth group*** – Mother's day! Spend time with Mom!
- May 17 – Spring Service Weekend (*formerly 30 Hour Famine*)
  - ***6th Graders Welcome!***
- May 24 – Parking lot night
- May 31 – End of the year party! Great Games!!

Discipleship Hour (Sunday School) – 9:45am

- May 3 – Church Ministry Fair in the Community Room
- May 10 and 17 - 1& 2 Peter
- May 24 and 31 – 1 Corinthians
- June 7 and 14 – 2 Corinthians

Prayer Breakfast – Wednesdays 7am - Join us in the Community Room for pancakes, prayer and connection before school. May 6,13,20,27

Nerf Night – May 21 – 7-8pm – Community Room

Spring Service weekend! (*Formerly 30 Hour Famine*) – May 16–17

- 6th Graders are welcome to attend!
- Saturday, May 16 – Meet at the church at 3pm for our "door-to-door" Food drive! Students will go door-to-door in the Houghton community collecting food for our food pantry.
- Sunday, May 17 – Donation carwash at the church, 2pm – 5pm.
- All donations will be used to support World Vision's poverty relief efforts.

Looking Ahead:

FOLLOW 2026 - The first Follow 2026 Deadline is ***May 31st***! If your student is planning to attend Follow 2026 with HWC youth group, register here. You may submit the registration deposit of $50 to the church at your convenience. Registrations received by May 31st qualify for the Super-Early Bird rate of $300. Make Checks payable to Houghton Wesleyan Church and put "Follow 2026" and your students name on the memo line. The regular deadline will be September 30th and will cost $325. Our standard family rates apply! Scholarships available! See Kat or PJ for details.

May 29 – District Gym Night ($10) – Gymnight at HU! Meet at the Nielsen Center at 5:30pm. Rally with live worship, pizza, rock-climbing, swimming, soccer, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball and more! Register at Youth group or at this link by May 18th

CompassCare Walk for Life, May 2, 10am-12pm

Starts at **Houghton Wesleyan Church**

Ends at **Houghton Firehall** with a **Free celebration lunch** for the **whole family**

Our local Goal ---raise $8,550 to enable CompassCare to serve **15 women.**

Come walk for the value of all life:
Go to **CompassCareWalk.com**.
Register to walk with team "Houghton Wesleyan"
or donate to a walker or the team.

CompassCare Mission:
Because all people are made in the image of God and are equally valuable, CompassCare is dedicated to erasing the [perceived] need for abortion by transforming a woman's fear into confidence.

$570 serves one woman considering abortion.

70% of women who had abortions felt coerced.

In Brooklyn for every 100 black babies born, 114 are aborted.

Did you know...

That abortion is on the rise in American, most being chemical abortions.
The World Health Organization estimates nearly 80 million abortions occur globally each year.
NYC is the abortion capital of the nation.

In 2025 CompassCare
-served over 6,100 women, saw 2871 babies saved, and 727 decisions for Christ.
-gave $4.2 million in free medical care.

CompassCare is on the frontlines of the abortion battle with new offices in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island.

Houghton Academy Graduation Exercises

May 29 - Baccalaureate Houghton
Academy Auditorium - 7:00 pm

May 30 - Commencement Houghton
Academy Auditorium - 10:00 am

Fillmore Graduation Exercises

June 21-Baccalaureate
Fillmore Auditorium – 7:00 pm

June 26-Commencement
Fillmore Auditorium – 7:00 pm

Royal Family Kids' Camp needs new (and returning) prayer prayers for 2026! If you're willing to pray for a child or staff member attending this year's camp (to be held July 5-10 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.

Royal Family KIDS

Royal Family Kids Camp is looking for 8 - 10 individuals or cohort groups to provide financial support at the "Campership" level. With a donation of $300, you will provide one of our 52 campers with the following*:

- ☐ Room and board for 5 days & nights at Camp Asbury (Perry, NY);
- ☐ A Green Tie-dye t-shirt with "*I am Known*" and John 10:27 (*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*) on the front;
- ☐ An MP3 player with camp music from our "Follow the Shepherd" curriculum;
- ☐ A Hands On BIble;
- ☐ Also, campers 6 - 9 years old will receive the Jesus Storybook Bible; campers 10 - 12 will receive The Action Bible.

Please make checks payable to Houghton Royal Family Kids Camp, and send to the HWChurch (PO Box 127) or to Nancy Murphy, 7448 Centerville Road, Houghton, NY 14744. Thank you.

*In addition to the items above, each camper receives an "Every Kids' Birthday" duffle bag with gifts donated through the Houghton Wesleyan and Fillmore Wesleyan Churches Giving Tree Initiative and a Memory Book filled with photos of them swimming, boating, fishing, crafting, woodworking, singing, playing games, and enjoying the campfire, Polar Bear Swim, Pontoon Parade, Carnival and Juggling Show.

Do you have small- or medium-sized beanie babies and stuffed animals languishing in a closet somewhere? They could be snuggling a Royal Family camper. A collection box can be found in the HWChurch foyer. Thank you! Love, "ET"

RAPIDS

Batter up! The Genesee Rapids baseball team is gearing up for their 12th season, which kicks off on June 4. They are still looking for a few more host families for our players. Typically, two players are hosted per home. Hosts are only asked to provide breakfast. A variety of volunteer opportunities are still available, and we'd love your involvement! Contact Thom Kettelkamp (585) 365-5439 for more information.

https://geneseerapidsbaseball.com/ for more info

On Sunday, May 17, we will collect food for our reopening food pantry.

Please bring your contributions to the church that morning. Items needed:

- Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Macaroni & Cheese, Rice, Helpers (Hamburger, Tuna, Chicken)
- Canned Meats, Soup, Chili, Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Baked Beans
- Tea, Coffee, Dry Creamers, Dry Milk, Evaporated Milk, Fruit Juices, Instant Potatoes, Potato Casseroles, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Breakfast Cereal
- Disposable Diapers, Baby Foods, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo/Conditioner, Laundry Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Paper Products, Pet Food
- Sugar, Flour, Brown Sugar, Brownie Mixes, Cake Mixes, Frosting, Peanut Butter, Jelly or Jam, Crackers, Cookies, Cooking Oil, Bisquick
- Monetary Donations (checks to Houghton Wesleyan Church with "FOOD PANTRY" on the Memo Line) provide fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, eggs, cheese, and milk, as well as emergency help for families in our community.
- The Food Pantry has a refrigerator and a freezer to store items.
- Perishable items may be brought to the church office Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

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sschilkes@gmail.com

Come and Go, or stay for a
"BERRY SWEET BEGINNINGS"
Jack and Jill Wedding Shower
for Hannah Farley and William Roeske.
June 14 HWC community room 3-5
Couple is registered on Amazon and at Target

SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 3 *8:20 am / 11:00 am Communion both services*
Ministry Fair in the Community Room after services
5:00 pm Prayer in the Sanctuary

May 10 *8:20 am / 11:00 am*
9:45 Annual Meeting in the Community Room
p.m. Small Groups

May 17 *8:20 am / 11:00 am*
In-person Annual Election; online May 10-noon 17
p.m. Small Groups

May 24 *8:20 am / 11:00 am*
p.m. Small Groups

May 31 *8:20 am / 11:00 am*
p.m. Small Groups

CHURCH STAFF

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