Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
June 2026
Volume 59 No. 1

T his has been a special year for Robbie and me as we have journeyed with you through this time of transition.

H aving your support and prayers has made such a difference in our lives and our work.

A ll along the way you have been a source of encouragement with a food pounding, and your words, notes, meals, and gifts.

N eeding a Transition Team to work with our assessment report, we found a dozen folks eager and engaged and together we have taken significant steps forward.

K nowing and working with an outstanding staff has been a pure joy as I have come to love and appreciate their hearts, skill, love for Jesus and for all of you.

Y ou can be proud of the outstanding work being done with young people... college, teens, children, our pre-school... through good programing and role models.

O ur church's influence is impacting folks in our community and county through food and care; our missionaries with prayer and finances; our online presence as people far and wide check in to worship with us weekly.

U pdating the facility with an indoor pathway tying the buildings together has been a major accomplishment made possible by your generous financial support.

H omeward bound, Robbie and I go feeling good about what God has allowed us to do with you as you have showed us your love for Jesus and for the work of the church.

W e are excited about the strong vote inviting Kristen and Bill to be your next pastors, and we believe they are going to give you strong leadership as you continue to walk the Jesus Way.

C alled here to "Journey With You" we go thankful for the privilege of knowing and loving you. You have a special place in our hearts and always will.

Voting Results for the 2026 Annual Elections
and Community Financial Plan (2026-2027)
Total votes cast – 118
Community Financial Plan (2026-2027) – approved 116 – 0

Secretary – Susie Roorbach (2026-2027)
Treasurer – to be determined
Facilities Stewards Chair – Mike Spateholts (2026-2027)

Board of Elders New Members
Josie Adenuga – 2026-2029
David Brubaker — 2026-2029
Carolyn Miller — 2026-2029
Mike Jordan — 2026-2028

Nominating Committee Members for 2026-2027
Casda Danner
Andrew Roorbach
Jan Schilke

Delegates to the WNY District Conference June 13
Josie Adenuga
Mike Cox
Nathan Danner
Jill Jordan
Andy Walton
Paul Young

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.

May 26, 2026

Dear Houghton Wesleyan congregation members and friends:

May 24, Pentecost Sunday, was a seminal day in the life of Houghton Wesleyan. Many of you were in attendance as Pastor Kristen and Pastor Bill Allen presented themselves at our request as candidates for leading us forward as co-pastors. They both shared the morning sermon in both services, directing our attention to Acts 2 in a sermon titled, *Church on Fire*. Both led their share of the remarks with "Jesus is Lord," a purposefully first-uttered three words that they wanted their listeners to hear from them.

In the weeks prior to their visit, the congregation was provided documents and multiple introductory videos. During the whole weekend visit, the church provided opportunities to get to know the Allens. There were informal meals with staff members, a public "meet and greet" hour, a period to hear their personal spiritual journeys, and an extended period for questions and answers about anything church members and attenders wanted to know about them.

Then, following the morning services and in the Wesleyan tradition of being a congregationally-governed church, the membership was invited to vote on whether to extend a call to them. As a result, 157 church members voted, yielding a strong show of support of 97.5% in favor of this invitation. In response to knowing this result by phone, the Allens were pleased and excited to accept the invitation, and they will join our community during the summer. Currently, we expect their employment to begin August 1 (Pastor Bill's birthday, by the way!), and we are anticipating that our Western New York District Superintendent Joey Jennings will conduct their installation as co-pastors on Sunday, August 2. We also expect that our Interim Pastor Randy and Robbie Craker will be with us for this memorable occasion.

Thank you to the whole church congregation for your prayers, patience, support, and enthusiasm during this pastoral transition year. I think I speak for everyone—staff, Elders, and congregation—that navigating this transition year has been incredibly productive, fulfilling, and spiritually enriching under the Crakers' mature and experienced leadership. We believe God's blessing has been upon us all as we have now come to this new transition point.

Grace and peace to you all,

Daryl Stevenson

Daryl Stevenson
for the Board of Elders

- In the Beginning: Take a moment to pause and get a closer look at the amazing world around us—trees, oceans, animals, and even you! What's even more amazing is that it was all created by God, for God. From the beginning of time, God created everything with care and purpose, showing incredible love for all of creation—especially us. The best thing we can do is give that love back by taking care of the world God has given us. In this 4-week series, kids will learn that God made the world and everything in it, we are made in God's image, God made a plan to save us, and God helps us make good choices!"

June Memory Verse:

Kids Club: Saturday, June 20th, 9:30-11:00am

Preteen Hangout: Sunday, June 21st, 6:00-8:00pm - Future 5th and 6th graders invited!

Reminder: The last Kids Connect before summer is Sunday, June 14th. I would encourage you to write a note of thanks to your kids' teacher(s). They have poured their hearts and time into discipling your kids this year! We couldn't do it without them!

We will **recognize the 2nd graders** and their memorization of the books of the Bible during the 11:00 service on **June 14th. 6th graders** will be recognized for their Catechism memorization on June 21st. We are proud of you!

PRAISE the LORD! Our May Preteen Hangout had 28 attendees - more than are even grade-eligible from our congregation! We had so much fun and are looking forward to a great year next year together. Would you like to join the fun and spend two hours once or twice a month hanging out for two hours with our preteens? Contact Pastor Emily at emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org.

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

Youth Group – Sundays 6:00–8:00pm (Now welcoming 6th graders)

May 31 – End of year party! Bigger and better and more!

No more youth group until September!

Discipleship Hour (Sunday School) – 9:45am

- June 7 – 1 Corinthians
- June 14 – 2 Corinthians
- June 21 through September – Summer sabbatical
  One service, no discipleship hour (see elsewhere for more details on outdoor services)

Success from May 17th car wash- $603.75 raised!

No more Prayer Breakfast until September

Nerf and Game Night – June 18th – 7-8pm – Community Room

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! Registration closed, see you there if you have registered!

Looking Ahead:

FOLLOW 2026 - December 28th-31st in Cincinnati, OH. The first registration 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 for details.

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

From the
Library Shelves

"God knows your heart and all your fears. He sees your smiles. He counts your tears."

Something for adults and children alike to remember, but this happens to be a quote from one of the new children's books, ***You Count, a five-senses Countdown to Calm,*** by Champ Thornton. Another book that could bring some summer family time and fun is ***A Pocketful of Wonder, 50 Hands-On Adventures for Kids to Discover God's Creation***, by Amanda Dykes. It gives something to ponder, pray and play for each subject.

The NEW shelf in the adult section has a few new books, in addition to the many books that are already on the shelves. Come find something for you to enjoy!

"We learn how to listen because we want to learn how to love."

Join us for a summer book club:

The Listening Life

by Adam McHugh

Christianity Today's Book of the Year Award

- **Wednesdays at 7**
- **Starts June 17th, runs for 9 weeks**
- **On the north lawn, weather permitting -- bring a lawn chair!**
- **In case of rain, signs on the north door of the church will direct you**

To learn more contact Melissa Fink -- melissfink@gmail.com, 716-572-2077
or Beth Stevick -- bethstevick@gmail.com, 585-365-2804 (land line).

Congratulations to Patrick and Sarah Hager and big siblings, Miles and Emilie, at the birth of Benjamin on May 27th .

A restored four-bedroom, two-bath Victorian home in Houghton, within walking distance of Houghton University campus, will be available for rent on August 1. The house combines historic charm with some recent updates.

For more information, please reach out to Joanna Bates at 716-531-8685.

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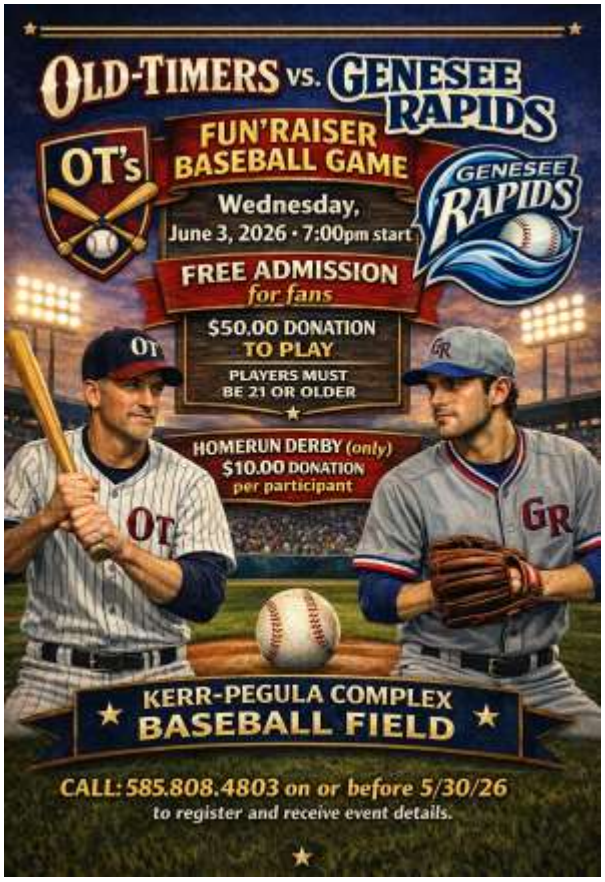
DELIVERY TO *this* AREA!

DROP NAME **Houghton** DROP LOCATION **Houghton Wesleyan Church** CONTACT Deanna Scott dscottstringstudio@gmail.com

Applications for Valley PreSchool are Available

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



https://geneseerapidsbaseball.com/
for more information

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 7 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Services
9:45 Discipleship for all ages

June 14 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Services
9:45 Discipleship for all ages

June 21 10:00 in-person & streamed
Worship Service

June 28 10:00 in-person & streamed
Worship Service

CHURCH STAFF

David Huizenga,
Assistant Pastor
davidhuizenga@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Music & Worship Director
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Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry
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Judy Congdon, Organist and Choral Director
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Kat Tiedemann
Interim Youth Director
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Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM,
567-2264 office@hwchurch.org