Houghton
Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others

10/20/26

Houghton Church Friends,

We are excited to report that, last week, after the invitation in the worship services to respond to a sense of calling, we had 10 different people respond with a willingness to explore some sort of ministry calling in their lives! That's awesome! God is on the move!

As a reminder, we are ALL called to be in ministry to the world around us. We are ALL called to be people who know, love, and follow Jesus, and help others do the same. We are ALL empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve the people of this world in the name of Jesus, sharing the good news that God loves us and desires that we live lives filled with an abundance of hope and love. As well, some folks are called to serve as leaders in the local church. These people help others grow in their faith by keeping the systems and structures of the church alive and growing. Leaders help motivate others and keep us on the move.

And, there are some people who are called by God to be ordained - set aside for the work of the Kingdom. There is an urgency within them to preach the word, to administer the sacraments, to shepherd others, to take responsibility for holding up the vision of Jesus that his church would bring the gospel to the world and make disciples of all who will respond. People who are called to ordination are also recognized by others around them as those in whom the Holy Spirit is moving. They are raised up by the community to lead.

The people who responded last Sunday are exploring what God wants for them. It could be ordination for some and something completely different for others. And there may be some who didn't respond on Sunday, but who are reading this letter right now, thinking to themselves that maybe God has a special plan for them. If you are feeling that, please let one of the pastors know. The beautiful thing is that God will continue to raise up leaders for his church. We don't always know how it works, but we can trust that God will make it happen.

May we all continue to ask ourselves what God has in mind for us. And may none of us fear what God's plans are, because those plans are always wonderful and good. We can have the greatest confidence because . . .
God is on the move!

Pastors Bill & Kristen
kristenallen@hwchurch.org
billallen@hwchurch.org

THIS SUNDAY Grace Deitrick Johnson will preach from Luke 19:1-10, "Don't Quit Your Day Job!"

KALEIDOSCOPE Upcoming Kaleidoscope Class Topics
- October 25 - Grace Deitrick Johnson & Cody Dietrick Johnson share about their ministry with Global Partners
- November 1 - Sharlini Rodrigo o HWC Missionary in Sri Lanka will give us an update on the work there
- November 8 - Josie & Doyin Adenuga: Tributes to Our Dad
- November 15 - Beth Stevick
- November 22 - Paul Shea: Christmas Offering Project Kick-Off

KIDS MIN
- This week, kids find out more about loving others by taking a closer look at commandments eight, nine, and ten. THE BIG IDEA: We obey God by loving everyone.
  THE BIBLE: Exodus 20:15-17; Romans 13:8-10; I Thessalonians 2:7-8
- **October Memory Verse:** "He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27
- **We're supporting Fillmore Wesleyan's Harvest Bash on October 31st at 6:00pm.** Would you be willing to help? Set up Friday night, the 30th, from 6-8pm at FWC. Donations of apple cider and candy. A couple of volunteers to help run carnival games during the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Emily.

YOUTH

PRAYER BREAKFAST, Wednesday at 7am in the Community Room

SATURDAY, October 24, Ron Sweeney's Celebration of Life: Slides and visiting begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary; followed in the Community Room by Refreshments.

HWC'S PRAYER VIGIL IS BACK! We will be having a week of 24-hour prayer from Sunday, November 15 to Sunday, November 22. Stay tuned for more details!

TOM MACHAMER ESTATE AUCTION: Tom Machamer had a gift for seeing the value in things others might overlook. In that spirit, an online auction of items he collected and salvaged will be running for a few more days.

CHURCH FINANCES Here are the giving totals for the fiscal year (June 2026 – May 2027)
- Budget Needed: $347,935.20 / Budget Received: $311,012.98

Thank you for your generosity that enables us to serve one another and others.
- If you have questions, concerns or needs, do not hesitate to contact us (585-567-2264) or pattystalker@hwchurch.org.