Houghton
Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others

October 6, 2026

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

During the last four Sundays our sermon series has been entitled **Empowered!** We've been looking at examples of the Holy Spirit at work in the book of Acts (which, you'll remember, is the story of the actions of the early Apostles). Our four emphases have been:

- Listen Up – the Holy Spirit is available to everyone
- Link Up – the Holy Spirit helps us grow in community/together
- Get Up – the Holy Spirit can bring real healing and hope into our lives
- Show Up – the Holy Spirit can send us to others who are eager to know Jesus

In each of these cases, it's not been the righteousness of the persons involved which has brought about the receiving of the Holy Spirit. Nor has the empowerment to act in Godly ways been something people have to do in their own strength. As well, it has not been necessary for us to get God's attention before he is willing to share the Holy Spirit with us. Instead, we have seen over and over again that God is eager to pour out his Holy Spirit on anyone who desires it, and he is happy to empower people so they can do his will.

Why are we focusing so much on the Holy Spirit? Because none of the actions of the Apostles would have ever been accomplished without the Spirit filling people and giving them courage and hope and literal power. And, in a similar vein, we will accomplish nothing without the presence of the Holy Spirit. What was true for the early church is also true for us. No Spirit means no power. And conversely . . . with the Spirit, nothing is impossible!

One of our goals as Christians is to put our faith into action. We want to be living in such a way that someone could write the Acts of the Houghton Disciples . . . and it would be filled with amazing stories of God using us to build his kingdom.

Friends, that vision is not a pipe dream. With the Holy Spirit, anything is possible!!

God is on the move!

Pastors Bill & Kristen
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THIS SUNDAY Pastor Bill will be preaching from Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-3 (NIV)

KALEIDOSCOPE

Upcoming Kaleidoscope Class Topics

- October 11 - Michael Jordan finishes a *3-week series giving an overview of his new book, The Sacramental Life: Baptism, Communion, and God's Great Story*
    - *A walk through 10 suggestions for Gospel-centered worship that orients us in God's story*
- October 18 - Garrett Luckey & Herb Williams
    - *Everything You Wish You Knew About Funerals from a Funeral Director*
- October 25 - Grace Deitrich-Johnson & Cody Johnson
    - *Sharing about their ministry with Global Partners*
- November 1 - Sharlini Rodrigo
    - *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
    - *TBA*
- November 22 - Paul Shea
    - *Christmas Offering Project Kick-Off*

Mark Your Calendars

HWC's Prayer Vigil is back! We will be having a week of 24-hour prayer from Sunday, November 11 to Sunday, November 22. Stay tuned for more details!

HWC KIDS

- This week in Kids Connect, kids find out more about loving God by taking a closer look at the third and fourth commandments.
  THE BIG IDEA: We obey God by worshiping God.
  THE BIBLE: Exodus 20:7-11; 32:1-14; Philippians 4:8-9
- October Memory Verse: "He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.'" - Luke 10:27
- Looking ahead: Kids Club on the 17th and Preteen Hangout on the 18th

YOUTH Storm the Heights – THIS SUNDAY - 3:33-5:55pm!

- Meet at the Field of Dreams for outdoor games followed by our famous chili dinner.
- Wear clothes and closed-toed shoes that can get dirty; dress for the weather. Sign a permission slip!
- **Parents: We need chili and desserts.** Contact Pastor Jon if you can help.

CHURCH FINANCES: Here are the current giving totals for our fiscal year, June 1, 2026–May 31, 2027.

Budget Needed: $313,141.68 Monies Received: $283,417.23

Thank you for your generosity! Offerings can be given in whatever way is most convenient for you: place them **in the plate** during worship services on Sunday, **donate online** (or follow the "GIVING" link at the top right of the church website), drop contributions off **in person** at the church office, or **mail** a check to the church (P.O. Box 127, Houghton, NY 14744). As always, we are happy to make church budget and financial details available upon request; just contact the church office.

If you have questions, concerns, or needs of any sort, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 585/567-2264 or pattystalker@hwchurch.org.