Houghton
Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others

November 3, 2026

"Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Psalm 90:12

Dear HWC Friends,

The beginning of November always seems like a bit of a shock to me. September has the freshness of the new school year and October lulls me with beautiful colors and that feeling like "it's only fall . . . the holidays are far away." But November arrives and suddenly I realize that Thanksgiving is only a few weeks off, Advent is just around the corner, and Christmas immediately follows that! What?! How can this be?

This year seems especially shocking due to all the amazing weather we have been experiencing. It's felt like mid-September for about six weeks! Crazy! The unusual temperatures, the earlier time change (it used to be a few weeks later), and the distraction of my work load have left me vulnerable to being surprised by the arrival of our eleventh month. It's snuck up on me once again.

Sneaky November is a powerful object lesson for our lives. It feels like you're just getting started, and suddenly you find yourself breathlessly behind, wondering where all the time went. Psalm 90 (above) asks God to help us number our days. This isn't some morbid obsession with death. It's a tangible image reminding us that we only have a few, short days, and it's good to realize that time slips away quicker that we think. It encourages us to appreciate every day we have been given, and to not waste our lives on trivial things. In other words, it's a good wake-up call to stop, get our bearings, and ask ourselves if the tasks we are doing and the habits we are forming are worthy of the limited number of days we have. Hmm. That is challenging. But thanks to November, we are jarred awake once again and given another chance to assess our lives.

How am I living each day? Am I choosing activities and attitudes which draw me closer to Christ, or ones which lure me away from the Savior? Just sit with that for a moment. We only have a limited number of days. Let's live them well.

God is on the move!
Pastors Bill & Kristen
kristenallen@hwchurch.org
billallen@hwchurch.org

THIS SUNDAY Pastor Kristen is preaching from Hebrews 4:14-16 on ***Praying with Confidence***. When faced with the idea of talking to the almighty God, prayer can be intimidating. How does knowing what Jesus did for us change that. What does it mean for our prayers that Jesus was tempted just as we are. How can we learn to approach God in prayer with confidence?

KALEIDOSCOPE Upcoming Kaleidoscope Class Topics
- 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 in Kids Connect, kids hear breaking news from the prophet Amos. THE BIG IDEA: When I worship God, I can be sincere. THE BIBLE: Amos 5:18-24; (Matthew 25:1-13)
- November Memory Verse: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13
- Looking ahead: Preteen Hangout on the 15th from 6-8pm and Kids Club on the 21st from 9:30-11am

YOUTH PRAYER BREAKFAST, Wednesday at 7am in the Community Room

PRAYER VIGIL November 15-22 sign up at www.hwchurch.org/prayer/
Music and prayer November 15 beginning at 6:00 p.m. through November 16 at 8:00 a.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 21, A COMMUNITY -WIDE "THANK YOU SHOP N SAVERS" COME-AND-GO DESSERT RECEPTION FROM 4:00 TO 5:30
DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS NOVEMBER 28 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON

CHURCH FINANCES Here are the giving totals for the fiscal year (June 2026 – May 2027)
- Budget Needed: $382,728.72 / Budget Received: $343,331.70

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.