



## Going in the Presence of God

*Moses said to [the Lord], "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"*

**(Exodus 33:15-16, NIV)**

One of the great sins of the church is to believe that we can accomplish the work of God in our own power and strength. No one in the evangelical movement admits to this idolatrous mindset, but our denials do not eliminate the temptation nor the willingness to operate in this frame of mind.

Because the temptation to rely on our wisdom, gifts, goodness, ingenuity and hard work is so strong, we need to be reminded of our dependence upon God. We need to acknowledge corporately and individually that without the presence of God in us, among us and with us, we have absolutely no chance of being the people of God we are called to be. Moses' encounter with God is a perfect reminder.

In Exodus 32, the Israelites fashion a golden calf and set it up as their god. They declare that this is the god who brought them out of Egypt and they engage in all sorts of sinful activity. When Moses arrives from the mountain, he becomes the messenger of God's judgment upon the people. As chapter 33 unfolds, Moses is back on the mountain and God says to him, "Moses, you take the people to the land I promised them...but I'm not going with you." You get the feeling that God is saying, "Look, I keep my word. I promised you the land; go get it. But I'm not going with you."

We might argue with God a bit, but we might also say, "Well, let's go. We're getting what we want. We'd certainly rather have God with us, but at least we're getting His gift, we're going to receive our reward." But not Moses. Moses, who has been through a lot with God and with these people says to God, "If your Presence doesn't go with us, we would be fools to go at all. Because if you, O Lord, do not go with us, we'll never make it!" And God decides to go with them.

May is a month of endings in our community: our fiscal year ends May 31, spring semester at the college ends the first week of May, the college Commencement is May 9, the Academy year ends just after the end of May. It's also a time for thinking about the future—evaluating our ministries, planning for the fall, exploring new ideas for ministry and service—particularly as the people of God in this church. As the Senior Pastor, my concern is that whatever decisions we make about the future that we will do so firmly grounded in the attitude of Moses: if God doesn't go with us, if our plans are not blessed by God, if our path of ministry and service for God is not done in the Presence of God, then let's just stay right where we are. I pray that we will join our hearts and minds and together declare that if God isn't in the middle of everything we do we aren't going to do it.

In Christ,

*Pastor Wes*

**The ANNUAL MEETING of the Houghton Wesleyan Church will be held** Wednesday, May 27, 6:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. During this meeting members will approve a 2009-2010 budget, elect Elders, Trustees, Nominating Committee and Delegates to District Conference, and hear reports from our pastors, the Trustees and the Elders. Copies of the proposed budget will be available in the church sanctuary foyer and on the church website ([www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)) in the coming weeks. Sample ballots will be posted around the church. Thank you for your prayers in advance of the meeting. Please make this meeting a priority. We typically meet only once a year, so your presence is important to the life of our church.

### Sundays in May

- May 3** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)  
a.m. *If I Should Die Before I Wake* (1 Corinthians 15:35-57)  
p.m. Small Groups
- May 10** (8:30 am / 11:00 am)  
a.m. *If I Should Live Before I Die* (1 Corinthians 15:1-58)  
p.m. NO EVENING ACTIVITIES
- May 17** (8:30 am / 11:00 am)  
a.m. *We've Been Left Behind* (Acts 1:1-11)  
p.m. Bethany Bible School Choir
- May 24** (8:30 am / 11:00 am)  
a.m. Neil Koppen  
p.m. Chris & Melissa George, Missionaries to Australia
- May 31** (8:30 am / 11:00 am)  
a.m. Pastor Cindy Oden  
p.m. High School Senior Recognition Night

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

*“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night...” (Psalm 92:1-2)*

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last meeting of our Sunday night small groups this semester. Throughout May and June, we continue to meet on Sunday evenings at the church at 6:00 PM. Below is our schedule for the Sunday evenings leading up to Summer Sabbath:

- May 3 – Last night of small groups
- May 10 – NO EVENING SERVICE – Mothers’ Day
- May 17 – Testimony and Bethany Bible School Choir
- May 24 – Chris & Melissa George - Missionaries to Australia
- May 31 – High School Senior Recognition Night
- June 7 – Evening Service (To Be Announced)
- June 14 – John & Sylvia Christensen – Kisar Celebration Service/Ice Cream Social
- June 21 – NO EVENING SERVICE – Father’s Day
- June 28 – SUMMER SABBATH begins

All our Sunday evening services begin at 6:00 PM. We hope you’ll plan to join us for Sunday evening services during the months of May and June!

In His Love,  
*Pastor Todd*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ephesians 1:17&18: *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you....*

Each Sunday two dozen volunteers - 16 community members and 8 college students - teach our preschool and elementary school children in Sunday School while another dozen or more work with the Jr and Sr High School students. There are also volunteers coordinating and/or teaching 6 adult classes. Sunday School would not happen without these people who serve week after week, in some cases year after year (or even decade after decade). We thank the Lord for giving these servants the abilities and energy to minister to this local Body in this way!! And we are grateful that these brothers and sisters are willing to give of themselves and to use their talents for our benefit and enlightenment.

As the college year comes to an end, and as those college students who have been serving this Body leave town to serve in other places, we will need community members to step forward and minister to our children in Sunday School. If you are willing to help this summer (even if you cannot serve every week), please let us know!! Contact Jon Cole to help with Jr or Sr High. Contact Robin Pawling or Cindy Oden to help with Pre-School or Elementary.

## YOUTH GROUP, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

- May 6 .....Worship Jam Session – bring your instrument!
- 13 ..... Story
- 20 ..... Movie Nite!
- 27 ..... Service Project

## Prayer Breakfast:

Tuesday Mornings: May 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 7:00 AM in the community room.

**Youth Committee Meeting** - Monday, May 11, 7–8:00 pm in the Youth room

## EVENTS:

- ◆ **May 29–30** “Do Nothing Retreat” – Solitude and silence are words and situations that are foreign to our fast paced world. Come and experience a retreat loaded with these types of contemplative situations. Bliss Summit Bible Club Camp – Come ready to “do nothing”!
  
- ◆ **May 31 – 6 p.m.** Senior Recognition Service Sunday: All seniors should submit a baby photo and a senior photo to Pastor Jon by May 13. Reception in the community room following the service.
  
- ◆ **June 7**–the youth will be leading the Sunday morning worship services at Houghton Wesleyan Church. Youth who wish to be a part of this service should contact Pastor Jon.

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## BAPTISM:

Congratulations to Allyson Murphy, Ben Murphy, Naomi Woolsey, Leah Doty, Luke Doty and Audra Beardsley who were baptized April 12, Easter Sunday morning. We rejoice with them in this significant and sacred event in their lives. May their baptisms encourage us to review and recommit our baptismal vows.

## AWANA Boys' Club - Sparks' Ministry

(Grades Kindergarten through Second Grade)

This year twenty boys have been involved in the AWANA Sparks' ministry on Wednesday evenings. The boys enjoy memorizing Bible verses and earning jewels for their pins. Two of the twenty boys have already completed their handbooks for this year. The boys have fun performing in skits about and learning stories about Jesus' life. The highlight each week is when the boys share their prayer requests and praises. It is exciting to see how God is answering their prayers! We have a wonderful group of Houghton College students who work with the boys each week: Dan, Jared, Adam, Nate, and Zac give so much attention and love to our boys. The annual sailboat races on Wednesday evening, April 6th, were a great time for all involved with boys, parents, and families in attendance for this special event.

Thank you,  
Emily and Brandon Hoffman

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Dan and Jessica Wartinger at the birth of their daughter Adalyn Grace on March 28. She weighed 7 lb. 4 oz. and was 19 inches long. We praise God for the gift of new life.

## Sunday School and Children's Church Ministry Opportunities

With college students leaving our community for the summer as well as many people away for vacation, we have openings for:

- Sunday School teachers and assistant teachers as well as occasional substitute teachers at various age levels during the spring and summer months. To learn more about some of these ministry opportunities, please contact Sunday School superintendent, Robin Pawling (567-8496), Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Betsy Webb (567-4619), or Pastor Cindy (567-2264).
- Children's Church teachers and assistant teachers as well as occasional substitute teachers for children ages 2-5 during the 8:20 and 11:00 worship services in May, June, and August, as well as during the 10:00 worship service during the summer Sabbath. To learn more about these ministry opportunities, please contact one of the Children's Church Ministry Leaders: Mary Anne Majoros (567-2653), Kathy Bogdan (365-8359), Bitsy Mayhle (567-8241), Karry Beardsley (567-4631), or Pastor Cindy (567-2264).

Thank you for prayerfully considering your involvement in one of these important ministries to our children.

### Wesleyan District Kids' Camp

## The Really Amazing Race

August 17-20

Camp Mission Meadows on Chautauqua Lake, 5201 Route 430, Dewittville, NY

Open to all children in grades 3rd-6th (Campers must have completed grades 3rd-6th).

Cost - \$170 per camper (\$150 early bird discount with deposit postmarked before July 1st).

Each additional camper from the same family is \$125 if postmarked before July 1 or \$150 thereafter. Please note that a \$50 deposit/per child is due with registration no later than July 18th. Please pick up a brochure/registration form about our Western New York Wesleyan District Kids' Camp in the church or Christian Education foyer to learn more about this camp.

## Camp Cherith of Western New York 2009

Camp Cherith of Western New York is a Christ-centered, Bible-based outdoor program. They teach Christian values and life-skills. Their unique program promotes a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in every aspect of daily life. Campers grow spiritually, socially, and emotionally in a safe and nurturing environment.

Girls' Resident Camp - June 28-August 1

Boys' Resident Camp - June 28-July 11

and more!

Please pick up one of the Camp Cherith brochures in the church or Christian Education foyers or visit their website, [www.campcherithwny.org](http://www.campcherithwny.org) to learn more about all of the various camps and options available this summer.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:

You are invited to join Christians from around the county to pray for our nation on Thursday, May 7 at noon on the Allegany County Courthouse Lawn in Belmont. If you would like more information, please call 365-2250.

## W.K.F.M. Corner

What country has over 3,000 islands?

Why, JAPAN, of course!

On **MAY 17**, we will be "down by the sea" again in Japan. Offering monies will go to the missionary support of Andrea Swarthout who serves in Japan. It will also go toward WKFM Resources for District and local coordinators.

Come join us at the Sunday School hour of 9:40 to 10:40 (grades 1-5).

# HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS

## May 14, 12:15 p.m. Monthly Luncheon Meeting

(NOTE: Corrected Date)

1:00 p.m. Program: *Craig Braack, County Historian, will present:  
"Pearl Harbor Revisited"*

Food Guide for Potluck Dinners - *Please bring your table service and the dish designated  
by the initial of your last name:*

A-F, Dessert

G-O, Casserole

P-Z, Salad

### PRAYER PARTNERS FOR ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP

Would you be willing to pray for a RFKC Staff member, counselor, or camper during the week of camp, July 5-10? *This would also include writing a note of encouragement to the person you are assigned.* If you are interested, please contact Lyn Harter at 567-2622 (h), 567-8115 (w); [lharter@hotmail.com](mailto:lharter@hotmail.com) or [lyn.harter@houghtonacademy.org](mailto:lyn.harter@houghtonacademy.org). I will need your name, address, phone number, email address and any special requests (camper, counselor, same person as last year, etc.) This is a great opportunity for families. **I have lost several volunteers from last year so I can really use some new people.** Thanks for volunteering!



## THE LIBRARY CORNER



“Know your enemy! Read his mail!” begins the commentary on the back cover of Lord Foulgrin’s Letters by Randy Alcorn. Chuck Colson said, “Lord Foulgrin’s Letters is a welcome addition to the world of Christian fiction...(it) provides a needed reminder of just what it means for Christians to be engaged in battle with principalities and powers not of this world.” The late D. James Kennedy wrote, “—one of the most unusual inquiries into the demon mind since Screwtape Letters. This book will disturb, stimulate and enlighten.”

Joel Rosenberg, author of Epicenter and several books of fiction based on east-west interaction, has written a new non-fiction book called Inside the Revolution. In the book he discusses the Radicals, the Reformers and the Revivalists who are battling to dominate the Middle East and transform the world. Rosenberg says, “What the Radicals need most is Western ignorance, apathy and lack of moral clarity. If the West can be lulled to sleep, then the Radicals will soon be able to pull off a series of attacks that make 9/11 pale by comparison.”

There are four new books in the A. D.. Chronicles series by Bodie and Brock Thoene. Previous books in the Zion Covenant and Zion Chronicles series have received numerous awards and are used in college classrooms because of their historical accuracy. The new titles are: The 5th Seal, The 6th Covenant, The 7th Day and The 8th Shepherd.

From Life on the Edge with Dr. James Dobson are two VHS tapes for teens: Finding God’s Will for Your Life and Emotions: Can You Trust Them?

DVDs for children include: Danger Rangers and Slither and Slime and Other Yucky Things from Popular Mechanics for Kids.

## MEMORIAL GIFT

The Houghton Wesleyan Church is very grateful to family of Janis Kenyon for a generous gift in her memory. The Elders have chosen to honor Janis's life and memory with four separate, yet related, projects.

First, we have completed the purchase of new robes for the adult choir and robes for the children who serve as acolytes. The current robes are more than 35 years old and, as you might imagine, in disrepair. For a number of years children have carried a flame to the communion table at the beginning of the service and light the two candles; they carry out the flame at the end of each service. (This symbolizes God's presence with us in worship and His call to take His light into all the world when the service ends). The robes give status and uniformity to the many children who participate.

Second, we have purchased two portable banner stands. Through the years, members of the congregation have made seasonal banners which have been hung on the walls in the front of the sanctuary. Unfortunately, as part of the sanctuary remodel, we lost those places for hanging banners as they are now projection screens. The portable stands will allow us to once again hang banners and give us flexibility in doing so.

Third, Wil Zike and Fred Shannon have constructed steps that reach from the middle of the altar rail to the middle front of the platform. They will be used primarily for weddings. Up to this point, the bride and groom have had to walk around the sides of the platform: it was awkward and a bit anti-climactic. These new steps will allow the couple to walk right down the middle of the platform and straight out the middle aisle. The couples being married in the church this summer are very excited about this addition.

Fourth, the bulk of the gift has been applied to the costs incurred for the new platform floor and side steps. The wooden floor was essential for the organ construction and general acoustics; the steps are wider and contain railings on both sides which have proven beneficial for those who find it a bit difficult navigating steps. Including this project enables us to reduce our debt service by more than \$6000, which in these economic times is most helpful. A small plaque will commemorate the floor in Janis's memory.

## CHURCH WORK DAY:

You are invited to help beautify our church facility by participating in a Church Work Day on Saturday, May 16, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Doughnuts and coffee will be on hand. We will focus our attention on the exterior of the building and landscaping of the church grounds. If you have questions, please contact Judi Mayhle (567-8241) or Bill Roeske (365-2296).

To our dear Houghton family:

We would like to thank each one who ministered to us with your presence, kind words, cards, flowers, food and most importantly, prayers. You made Bill's entry into heaven a truly uplifting celebration. He would have been "in his glory" at the outpouring of love. To paraphrase "there's no place like home," there is most certainly "no place like Houghton."

Bill Jr., Tara and Sylvia Greenway

## Book and Bible Sale at the Houghton College Campus Store

All books (excluding textbooks) and Bibles will be **discounted 20%** during the month of May. Special orders from major distributors will also receive the 20% discount and shipping charges.

**Bridal Shower May 9**  
**For Mark Miner and Laura Albrecht**  
**Come-and-go Saturday, May 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Gillette Hall Fireside Lounge**  
**The couple is registered at Macy's and Crate & Barrel**  
**(Hostess is the groom's aunt, Barb Bates)**



Peter W. Roeske  
New Home Construction  
(585) 689-0368



**HOUSE PAINTING & POWER WASHING:** If you are interested in having your house painted, house power washed, or deck stained, contact Phil Merrill at 567-8809 (H) or 567-8115/8500 (Academy).

**WANTED: Double or queen size bed and treadmill or exercise bike:** <mailto:cindy.austin@houghton.edu>

## Kids' Readings Come Alive!

Join us Saturday morning, May 2 at 9:00 a.m. in the Recital Hall of the Center for the Arts at Houghton College for a fun time of drama, bringing to life some childhood favorites. Exciting fairy tales, silly poems, and favorite stories will make for a memorable outing on a Saturday morning. The program will be performed by the Readers Theater class. Come share the fun.



**GREEN ACRES LAWN CARE**  
**567-4515**

Missionaries Benjamin & Christine Hegeman would be most grateful to purchase or babysit a reliable used washing machine. Our present one has turned into a holy roller and shakes the whole house. It will be excommunicated once a "calm Wesleyan" washer can be installed. Phone 585-596-0529 or <mailto:Christine.Hegeman@houghton.edu>



## Come-and-Go Wedding Shower

June 6, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

in the church Community Room

for Vara Whiting and Aaron Morley who will be married August 15, 2009

They are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond, and at Macy's.

Home color preferences are earth tones.

*Committee: Beth Beardsley, Kathy Reitnour, Ruth Boon, Martha Whiting, Terri Ayers*



**Men & Women of the Community  
are invited to a Wedding Shower  
for JoAnne Rohe & Rob Campbell  
on June 13**

**between 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**at the Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room  
JoAnne & Rob are registered  
at Bed, Bath, and Beyond and Target.**



*The Community is Invited to attend Houghton Academy's  
Baccalaureate service on June 5 at 7:30 p.m. and  
Graduation on June 6 at 10:00 a.m. Both services will be  
held in Houghton Academy's Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium*

**Houghton Wesleyan Church  
P.O. Box 127  
Houghton, NY 14744**

**Address Service Requested**

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Wes Oden, Senior Pastor, 567-2024, woden@hwchurch.org**

**Todd Leach, Assistant Pastor, 567-8288, tleach@hwchurch.org**

**Jon Cole, Youth Pastor, 307-9950, jcole@hwchurch.org**

**Cindy Oden, Discipleship Pastor, 567-2024, coden@hwchurch.org**

**Amanda Cox, Worship Director, 567-4870, acox@hwchurch.org**

**Laurie Smalley, Volunteer Pastor for Outreach, 567-8302, lsmalley@hwchurch.org**

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