Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

*Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others*
*March 2017*
*Volume 49, No. 10*

# *The Purpose of Lent*

*As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.* (Luke 9:51)

The season of Lent is rooted in two truths and experiences. On one hand, it is a time to contemplate and experience the cost of God's love for his creatures. Jesus willingly and lovingly turns his face to the cross. Lent is a time to engage ourselves fully in the sacrificial love of God in Christ. On the other hand, Lent is a time to contemplate and experience the depths of our sin that makes the cross necessary. During Lent, we do not ponder and enter into the sacrifice of Christ as if we had nothing to do with it.

I remember years ago, reading a book about a South African boy who was ridiculed, hated and ostracized because he was Jewish. It started in class one day when the teacher told the class the story of Jesus dying on the cross and described for the class in great detail and passion that Jesus was murdered by the Jews. From that moment, this boy was hated by his peers.

What this teacher missed was that Jesus didn't die because of the Jews or any other race or nationality of people. Jesus died because human beings need an answer for our sin. Jesus died because God wants relationship with his beloved creatures whose sin continues to keep us at a distance from him. Jesus died to reconcile human beings to our Creator and in reconciliation, to experience hope, joy, peace and life.

Because we live in a world that diminishes our sin and the need for a savior, the 40 days of Lent keeps these truths in front of us. It's in forgetting these truths that we forget who God is and how much we need him.

It's because of these two ideas that when the ashes are placed on our forehead during the Ash Wednesday Service, we hear these words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words initiate the central focus of this season: we are sinners and Jesus is our Savior. If we could fully grasp the reality of these two truths, it would dramatically change our lives. I pray that you will engage yourself in all of our Lenten activities—Ash Wednesday Service (March 1), Sunday worship, Maundy Thursday Service (April 13), Good Friday Prayer Event (April 14)—and in so doing, experience Jesus in truth and grace.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

***Ash Wednesday, March 1, is the beginning of Lent.***
You are invited to an Ash Wednesday Service at the church at 6:30pm. During this service, we will begin to contemplate the passion of Christ through scripture, song, and the imposition of ashes.

## Easter Baptism

We are offering baptism on Easter Sunday, April 16 in the 7:45am service. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Wes for more information about the process of preparing for this event.

## Church Services on the Internet

You may access our worship services on the church website (www.hwchurch.org) or on iTunes (www.itunes.com). Most weeks the services are available on iTunes by late Sunday afternoon and on our website by late Monday morning.

## Marriage, Muffins and Mocha

Marriage is a gift of God and like all of God's gifts it must be nurtured. On Saturday, April 29, 8:00am – 12:00pm, we are hosting A Morning of Encouragement about Marriage. The church will provide breakfast and childcare up to 6th grade. The cost is only $10.00 per couple. Reservations are necessary in order to make adequate plans. If you think that your marriage is great or not-so-great, you will appreciate and enjoy this morning of encouragement and ideas to make our marriages more like God intends them to be. For more information or to make your reservation, contact the church office (office@hwchurch.org/567-2264) or check out the church website (hwchurch.org)

## Streaming

All of our worship services are live streamed through the church website (http://www.hwchurch.org/sermons-and-worship-services/) and through StreamSpot on streaming devices (AppleTV, Roku, etc). They are also archived for later viewing.

**Thank you!** Thanks to our guest speakers over the Missions Month of February – Carolyn Paine Miller, Steve and Ruth Strand, Pastor Yoshua Bashizi and the Houghton Buffalo students, and Jon and Pat Shea. Thanks also to the "Mission Tour" host groups from Houghton Women's Basketball, Wycliffe Bible Translators, TEN3, Haiti Dental/Medical, G.R.A.C.E., Eleuthera Outreach, and Lilias Trotter Center/ GCF. Thanks to all who attended and participated.

**Faith Promise Update –** Faith Promise Funds need to be received before the end of May. These funds support our five Wesleyan families – the Austins - Czech, Caringals – S.Asia, Georges - Australia, Rodrigos – Sri Lanka, Strands - Buffalo, Thedes – Haiti. **How close are we to our goal?** Praise God -- 89% of the $31,475 needed has been received. But let us pray and seek God for the over $3600 is still needed to complete our commitment.

**Short Term Mission Applications –** People seeking financial assistance for late Spring or Summer short term missions ministry must apply to the Mission Committee by March 19.
Application Forms are available on line or at the church office (585-567-2264).

**A Record 300 Years!** - Three couples in our church -- 50 years of service x six. What local church supports and fellowships this kind of "all-star" missionary team. We honor the commitment and service of **John and Carolyn Miller** with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Asia since 1960, **Bruce and Donna Hess** with OMS in South and North America since 1962, and **Jon and Pat Shea** with SIM in West Africa, South and North America since 1964. To God be the glory.

**Matthew 8:20 Update -** Our most recent collection has totaled $1265.00 to date. That brings our giving to World Relief and Global Partners Europe for refugee needs to $ 6,290.00 so far. Our prayers go with our donations for the love of Christ to be seen and felt. Final update forthcoming.

# Junior Church

This year the children in Junior Church are "digging deep" into Old Testament Bible stories to uncover truths about God. Through a mixture of songs, lessons, and games the children are discovering facts about God's character. In trying to make the stories relevant, the children have carried the Ark of the Covenant across the parted sea, made scrolls out of pretzels and fruit rollups, brought stories to life using modalities such as clay and tin foil, and traced outlines of themselves where they contemplated God's character traits and gifts that were displayed in them. This year especially, we have been blown away by the children's understanding of Old Testament facts and are impressed with their ability answer Biblical trivia. The children always love when our puppet, Sylvester the Salamander, visits and teaches practical Biblical truths through funny skits. Buck Denver has also been a part of our lessons this year and "The Butterfly Song" has been a common favorite. Thank you again for your prayers and support as we continue to dig for truths and minister to our young school age children.

## The Annual Buddy Keith Memorial Grand Prix & Sailboat Races

We have named the annual races in memory of Buddy Keith because of his faithful assistance to them for the past several years. Not only did Buddy cut out all the sailboats, he also helped many of the Wednesday evening club children with their race cars. We are so grateful for all of Buddy's work and help to make these races possible.

### Buddy Keith Memorial Grand Prix and Sailboat Races

Wednesday, March 8th
6:15 to 7:30 pm

Grand Prix races for 3rd to 6th graders

Sailboat races for Kinder to 2nd graders

(Cars and sailboats can be picked up on the 2nd floor of the Christian Education Building. Look for the table.)

Fun activities for our little ones

Nursery is available. Bring a snack to share! All are welcome!

## Memory Verse Challenge

We would like to encourage our children, youth and congregation to memorize scripture. Work on learning this verse in March. This verse goes along with our Children's Sunday School Lessons for March:

> Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart. Psalm 119:34

# Empowered to Connect Conference

April 7 – 8th
10 am – 6 pm both days

Fillmore Wesleyan Church
20 E Main Street
Fillmore, NY 14735

- Bring your own sack lunch.
- Light refreshments provided.
- Donation of $10 to attend.

- Visit HWChurch.org for tickets & more information.
- Equipping families, churches and professionals to better serve children impacted by adoption and foster care, as well as children who experience anxiety, anger and/or sensory processing issues.
- Featuring Trust-Based Relational Intervention® methods developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Dr. David Cross from the TCU Institute of Child Development to help bring attachment and connection in families.
- NASW Continuing Education Credits for this conference are available.

## Teachers and Helpers Needed for Children's Church

Because of College breaks, we have a couple dates where some extra help is needed in Children's Church for our 2-4 year olds. Teaching materials are available and all supplies and snacks are provided. Contact Emily Hoffman (emilyhoffman@hwchurch.org) if you can help!

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| Sunday, March 5: | 11:00 service – Teacher and Helper needed |
| Sunday, April 9: | 8:20 service - Helper Needed |
| | 11:00 service – Teacher and Helper needed |
| Sunday, April 16: | 10:00 service – 2 Teachers and 2 Helpers needed |

**COMMUNION SUNDAY** **There will be no Junior Church on March 26th.**
**Enjoy the service with your church family!**

# The Library Corner

*The church library is open whenever the Christian Education Building is open.*

*This is a piece too fair*
*To be the child of Chance, and not of Care,*
*No atoms casually together hurl'd*
*Could e'er produce so beautiful a world.*
**John Dryden,** 1600s

Two lovely picture books added to the children's library this past month about God's marvelous creation are: *Babies in the Bayou* by Jim Arnosky, and *Sam, the Sea Cow* by Francine Jacobs. For junior readers, *Who Was Abraham Lincoln*? by Janet Pascal was purchased.

Adult non-fiction books that were recently donated or bought include: *The Normal Christian Life* by Watchman Nee, *The Economy of God* and *A Life of Forbearance* by Witness Lee, First We Have Coffee by Margaret Jansen, *I Gave God Time* and *Taste of Tears Touches of God* by Ann Kiemel, *Lifelines for Tough Times* by Mike Fabarez, *Spiritually Strong: The Ultimate 6-Week Guide to Building Your Body and Soul* by Kristen Feola, *The FastDiet: Lose Weight, Stay Healthy, and Live Longer with the Simple Secret of Intermittent Fasting* (revised and updated) by Michael Mosley, *Slow Kingdom Coming: Practices for Doing Justice, Loving Mercy and Walking Humbly in the World* by Kent Annan, *Raising Uncommon Kids: 12 Biblical Traits You Need to Raise Selfless Kids* by Sami Cone and *Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters* by N.T. Wright. A large print Christian historical fiction book, *Not By Sight* by Kate Breslin was added, and book on CD, *On Hallowed Ground: the Story of Arlington National Cemetery* by Robert M. Poole was accessioned.

The library committee continues to transfer the church's collection of older videos to DVDs. Stop by and see what's new.

## *Seasons of Friendship*

***All women are invited to a morning of fun, fellowship and yummy food on Saturday, March 25, beginning at 9 am in the Community Room. Janyce Smithley and Connie Finney will share about their long friendship and we will all have the chance to learn more about each other, win prizes, and enjoy snacks together. Childcare will be provided. No need to sign up – just come and join the fun!***

We are still calling for Labels for Education (Campbells) for Hephzibah Children's Home.
The collection box is in the Community Room foyer.

# Youth Group Happenings

Dates to Remember:
March 5: Youth/Parents Informational Meeting
9:40AM in the Youth Room

## Spring Dates to Remember

April 12: Fillmore Area Youth Meet-up
April 7-8: Spring Fling
May 5-6: 30 Hour Famine

## Summer Dates to Remember

July 10-14: Love Buffalo
July 30-Aug 4: Refresh Camp
August 13-16: Discipleship Camp

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## Student Profile

Hi! My name is Hannah Dunmire. I have been attending Youth Group for almost a year. I continue to go to Youth Group because everyone is always so friendly. Something that I have learned while attending is that what God thinks of you matters most, and you can't let it get to you when others are mean to you. My favorite part of Youth Group is the when we play the fun games in the beginning.

Favorite verse:
"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

- Luke 12:7

Hannah Dunmire

# Wellspring Ministries

Could the 'bleak midwinter' be *fading*? We hope so, and look forward to more of a 'spring' in our step. What is *not fading*, however, is our 'General Fund'. We thank the Lord for leading folks and churches (including HWC) to give, helping us stay up and running. One example of that is Belfast Central School's student group, 'Love in Action', who recently collected $193.00, as well as 10 boxes of food for our use in food boxes, or meal preparation.

Contributions of household items and toys are needed. We now have a sparate holiday room with space for year-round holiday-type decor. If you have those kind of items, and are weary of them, do send them along.
As always, towels, bedding, pots, pans, and small appliances are often requested. As spring approaches, we like to have prom gowns and special occasion dresses to offer our teens and women. Check those closets!

Due to new regulations at the transfer station, we are unable to drop off unusable electronics there, especially televisions. Please do not send these to us any longer, even if in working order.

Our hours for accepting items are 9 am to 1:30 pm Wed. and Fridays. (Small items may be placed on the Beardsley porch for transport there any Monday or Tuesday.) We are open to the public from 10 am to 2pm Wed.and Friday. The third Tuesday of March (21st) we are open from 5 to 7 pm, with a meal at 5:45 prepared and served by the Valley Wesleyan Church in Canaseraga. All are welcome.

Thank you for continued prayers. Our desire is to 'freely give' what we have 'freely received' from His Hand through you.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

## Houghton Area Senior Citizens

CARRY-IN LUNCHEON

MARCH 9 at NOON

in the HWC Community Room

Please bring your own tableware.

The first letter of your last name determines your contribution at the March carry-in lunch:

- A-F Casseroles
- G-N Salads
- O-Z Desserts

All 55+ and caregivers are welcome.

Program at 1:00 p.m.

A Music Presentation by the Greatbatch School of Music

# Connecting Our Community

We are getting ready to create a new photo directory and we need you to help make it complete! By participating you will receive a printed directory, a complimentary 8”x10” portrait, and an app for smartphones that will allow you to connect easily with our church community. Sign up for your professional photography session in three convenient ways:

1. Schedule your appointment online at our website _____.
2. Look for sign-up tables on weekends, located in the church foyer
3. Or for assistance, call the church office at 585-567-2264 to schedule.

**Lifetouch encourages fun and creativity!**

Families can
Bring meaningful items, like instruments & sports equipment
Bring pets
Invite others to pose with you, like extended family or friends

At your session you will be able to view your images electronically and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family & friends. Watch for weekend sign-ups or visit our website to schedule your own appointment.

**We have reserved**
**March 14, 15, and 16**
**and**
**April 24, 25, and 26 .**

Lifetouch photographers will come to the church Community Room for this event.

## Houghton College Lyric Theatre presents

"Everything you have ever secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, husbands, wives and in-laws, but were afraid to admit."
March 16 & 17 at 7:30pm and March 18 at 2pm
Recital Hall, Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College
Questions and ticket info: Amanda Cox (amandacox@hwchurch.org)
**or houghton.edu/opera**

# Learn to Sew

WHERE: Wellspring Ministries
WHEN: Wednesdays starting March 1, 2017
TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
DURATION: 6 to 10 weeks depending on personal schedules
WILL LEARN Basic machine operation; care of machine; Actual first steps of sewing; A beginning project; Experienced sewers are welcome to bring a project they would like help with.
If you have a machine, feel free to bring it
Try to find/bring thread, fabric, scissors, cutting board, cutting wheel, etc.
Thank you to Bob and Sandy Blake, sewing instructors.
Anyone interested needs to contact Beth Beardsley at 567-8117 or email, willisb13@aol.com for a spot in the class.

Looking for a beater car that can get me about and do the errands I need to do.
Looking mostly for one that is cheap on gas
Call Barbara Elliott at 716-801-2077.

Pete Roeske
SNOWPLOWING
service

585-689-0368

Men & women of the community are invited to a come and go wedding shower for Elizabeth Martindale and Nicholas Liddick on Saturday, April 29, 2017 (late morning or early afternoon) at the home of Nathan and Casda Danner on Tucker Hill Road.

The **Houghton Area Woodworkers' Club** plans to meet again on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 pm in the church basement. While normally we meet on the third Thursday, we will accommodate our presenter on carving. Any changes will be announced via email. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive program updates and reminders closer to events, send your address to daryl.stevenson@houghton.edu. Everyone is welcome.

## The Genesee Rapids are looking for:

* host families who would offer housing and breakfast to a couple of players or a coach and his wife for two months beginning after Memorial Day.
* advertisers for the team program book and recognition during all home games
* players for the Old Timers Game, Sunday, June 4

For more information please call Rachael Blew, Assistant General Manager 585-610-5220 or Ralph Kerr 716-969-0688

## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

***March 5*** *(8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)*
*a.m. The Scandal of the Cross (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)*
*p.m. Small Groups*

***March 12:*** *(8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)*
*a.m. The Magnetism of the Cross (John 12:32)*
*p.m. Small Groups*

***March 19*** *(8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)*
*a.m. The Judgment of the Cross (Philippians 3:18)*
*p.m. Small Groups*

***March 26*** *(8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)*
*a.m. The Triumph of the Cross (Colossians 2:15)*
*p.m. Small Groups*

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**
**BEGINS SUNDAY MARCH 12**
**Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.**

## CHURCH STAFF

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

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

**Cindy Oden,** ***Assistant Pastor***
***567-2024*** **cindyoden@hwchurch.org**

**Paul Shea** ***Assistant Pastor***
***567-4597*** **paulshea@hwchurch.org**

**Amanda Cox, Music &** ***Worship Director***
***567-4870*** **amandacox@hwchurch.org**

**Emily Hoffman,** ***Children's Ministry Director***
***567-8138*** **emilyhoffman@hwchurch.org**

***Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM,***
***567-2264*** **office@hwchurch.org**