Houghton Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
April 2017
Volume 49, No. 11

Because of the Cross...

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **(Mark 8:34)**

Good Friday is a day to remember all that God has done for us in Christ. It's not our sin but God's love that makes this dehumanizing, violent act of evil into something we call good. Evil overwhelms Love on that Friday and it appears that evil wins. But when the dust settles, we discover that Love wins. We discover that Love takes evil's best shot and conquers.

The cross is the evidence that love always wins. It doesn't always appear to win. In fact, most of the time all the evidence points to love losing. In our world, love has a tendency to get trampled, manipulated, taken advantage of, forgotten. Love doesn't accumulate wealth and power. Love doesn't move the stock market or get you elected. Love doesn't stroke our egos. Love doesn't lead us to the ways in which our world measures success. It didn't in Jesus' day either. But it is still the only way to win.

The cross is the ultimate expression of God who is love. The cross is not just an event thousands of years ago that we remember; the cross is the turning point in all that matters. The shadow of the cross reaches through history right into our lives and world today.

In his stirring book, *Death on a Friday Afternoon,* Richard John Neuhaus makes this statement: *The Gospel is sometimes presented as though God is running a desperate rescue mission, saving a few survivors from the shipwreck of what had been his hopes for creation. First Timothy clearly declares that God "desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." ... God's plan is not to rescue a religious elite from an otherwise botched creation but to restore all things in Christ* (44-45).

This year's Good Friday event is focused on how the cross effects our lives, our world and all of creation today—how we are called to think, be and act because of the cross. This year's event takes us back to that Friday but it also moves us toward the meaning of that event for this Friday and beyond. You will see more information in the proceeding pages about this Good Friday event. Let me invite you on April 14 (10:00am – 6:00pm) to make space in your day to experience again or perhaps for the first time, this Journey to the Cross.

Because of Jesus,

Pastor Wes

Journey to the Cross: On Good Friday, April 14, we will host our annual prayer event from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This year's event is different from previous years. The event will be hosted in the church **sanctuary** with stations that help us to reflect on various truths because of the cross. The stations have some interactive elements as well as helps for meditation on each of the ideas.

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.

Marriage, Muffins and Mocha April 29

Marriage is a gift of God and like all of God's gifts it must be nurtured.
On Saturday, April 29, 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m., we are hosting A Morning of Encouragement about Marriage. The church will provide a breakfast of muffins and mocha (or coffee) and "munchkin care" (up to 6th grade). The cost is only $10.00 per couple. **Reservations are necessary by April 23.** We are excited to have Dr. Paul Young sharing with us on *The Art and Science of Marriage* as well as a panel discussion with some married couples. You will appreciate and enjoy this morning of encouragement and ideas to make our marriages more like God intends them to be. To make your reservation, contact the church office (567-2264). Thank you.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9	**Children's Palm Processional (all services)** All children are invited to participate in the procession of the palms at the beginning of each service (8:20, 9:40 and 11:00) on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Please meet in the sanctuary entry way 10 minutes before the service begins. (Jr Church Children will be brought over by their teachers to participate at the 9:40 service. All other children will need to be brought to the 9:40 service by their parents if they would like to participate.)	
Thursday, April 13	**Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm**	
Good Friday, April 14	**Journey to the Cross (see front page) 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**	
Sunday, April 16	**7:45am**	**Resurrection/Baptism Service**
	8:30am	**Easter Breakfast (Community Room)**
	10:00am	**Easter Worship Celebration**

The Flower Committee WELCOMES EASTER PLANTS

to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor a loved one, please give the information to Patty Stalker in the church office by Monday, April 10**,** and please leave your plant at the church by Good Friday, **April 14.** The flower committee will be purchasing lilies for $15 if you would like one.

Easter Breakfast!

Between services on Easter Sunday come and join us for one of the highlights of our church fellowship times, Easter Breakfast in the church Community Room. Eggs, ham, roasted potatoes, quick breads and cinnamon rolls, beverages and table service will be provided.

This year's donation breakfast is presented by the HWC Youth group in order to raise money for our Summer Mission Trip to Red Lake, Montana, Ojibwa Reservation.

You can help by donating the following on April 12: fresh eggs, ham, apples, potatoes, bananas, oranges.
(These items may be left in the kitchen—eggs in the refrigerator please!)
Fresh baked quick breads and cinnamon rolls—bring them to the church on Easter Sunday morning.

Please let Pastor Jon know what you can bring. Call/text 585-307-9950 or email joncole@hwchurch.org

We are now video streaming and archiving our Sunday morning worship services . Special service and funerals are also streamed and archived.
Access is available on most devices (computer, iPhone, Android, Tablets, Roku). Every sermon that we stream live is archived (On Demand) each week and can be revisited at a later day or time. Go to **http://streaming.hwchurch.org** .

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 web-site by late Monday morning.

A path of faith discovery for kids and their families as they walk through Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter morning.

WHEN:
Wednesday, April 5th
5:00 to 6:30 pm.
WHERE:
The Community Room

This is a come and go event. Each station on the path has an activity, a bible reading, time for prayer and questions to talk about as a family. This event is child friendly and adult friendly.

Nursery will be available.

The Buddy Keith Memorial Grand Prix and Sailboat Races were a blast! Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer on the kids. A BIG thank you to the Houghton College Field Hockey Team for hanging out with our toddlers and preschoolers and playing with them. Thank you to Miriam Miller and the Keith Family for generously donating all the prizes. Thank you to everyone that helped organize and run the event. Thank you to the clean-up crew and those who stayed late to help. And congratulations to all our winners! See you all next year at the races!

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!

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
Month of May: Helpers are needed various Sundays at both the 8:20 and 11:00

COMMUNION SUNDAY

There will be no Junior Church on April 23.
Enjoy the service with your church family!

Memory Verse Challenge

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

For nothing will be impossible with God.
Luke 1:37

BRINGING HOPE AND HEALING TO FAMILIES

EMPOWERED TO CONNECT CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY SHOW HOPE

LIVE SIMULCAST! | APRIL 7-8, 2017

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.

Great things are happening in our Children's Ministry.

This year we have had some wonderful ministry events for our children where they had opportunities, designed specifically for them to serve. Our children have been blessed to have many of you (adults) come alongside them and help to nurture and speak into their lives. The idea is for our children to grow in their faith by acting out what they are learning in Sunday School and other Bible lessons.

1. **Game Night** - Meeting new people (academy students, teens from our church, new church families) and enjoying some snacks and fun games. It was exciting to have over 100 people laughing and playing and enjoying each other.
2. **Operation Christmas Child Packing Party** – A fun night of putting together shoeboxes and learning a new craft! It was exciting to hear all the conversations between adults and children about the boy or girl who would receive that box and how happy God is to see us serve those in need.
3. **Christmas Caroling** to our Church Family - Hugs from 4 year olds, picture taking, Merry Christmas wishes and tears of joy. Our children, families and those we caroled to were all blessed. We were able to send out seven large caroling group to seniors living in Houghton and those a little farther away.
4. **Visiting the Nursing Home** – Card were made and cookies were baked to share at the nursing home. It was a great opportunity to talk to our kids about how we can take the time to share God's love to people in our community. The best part was watching two Grandpas and two little boys laughing and enjoying a game of bean-bag tic-tac-toe together.
5. **Buddy Keith Grand Prix and Sailboat Races** - This night was just fun and it went so well…cheering each other on…kids, parents, grandparents, friends.
6. Excitement for the upcoming **Easter Path** event where our families can visit seven stations with different activities, Bible readings, and prayer times. Our prayer is that they will grow in their understanding of the love and sacrifice of Jesus' death and the power of his resurrection.

Youth Group Happenings

Dates to Remember:
April 2: Fillmore Area Youth Meetup: 30Hour Famine Kickoff
April 11: No Prayer Breakfast
April 16: No Youth Group

Summer Dates to Remember

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

RE:GENERATION

ALL DAY EVENT
Houghton College
April 8, 2017
9:30am - 9:00pm
COST: $50
Permission Slip Necessary
Registration Deadline: March 26th

Student Profile

Hi! My name is Micah Christensen. I have been attending Youth Group off and on (depending on where my family was living) since I was in sixth grade. I continue to go to Youth Group because I like the people there and the games that we play. The games and seeing my friends are my favorite part of Youth Group. One thing that I have learned from Youth Group is that it is very imortant to be surrounded by friends and family.

Favorite Verse:
"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

-Micah 6:8

Micah Christensen

The Library Corner

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

"A room without books is like a body without a soul." G.K. Chesterton

This is a gentle reminder from your church library committee members to return your overdue library items. Many folks have numerous books and DVDs out that are overdue or way overdue. Please return them so others may enjoy them and our library won't be a "body without a soul"! As we no longer charge late fees, you may wish to "Feed Our Kitty" at the side of the library return desk, so that more materials can be purchased for the library.

These new books were added to the collection this past month: *Thomas Comes to Breakfast, Tinker Bell, Saggy Baggy Elephant,* and *Lion, Tiger and Bear* (Step Into Reading series). *In the Ten Girls Who . . .* series, the following were purchased: *Made History, Didn't Give In, Changed the World, Used Their Talents,* and *Made a Difference*. For adults Kenneth Richard Samples' book, *God Among Sages,* compares Christianity to other major world religions. *Saint Simons Memoir* by Madeleine L'Engle, and *Homestead* by Jane Kirkpatrick we donated, and three large print books were given to the library: *Truth and Consequences*, and *Protect and Serve in the K-9 Rookie Unit*, and Jan Karon's novel *Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good*.

New recorded books on CDs were donated and include: *The Spirit-Filled Life* by Charles F. Stanley, *Is This the End?* by David Jeremiah, *Great Stories*; *Vol. 1,* and Billy Graham: *Abiding in Christ*.

DATE: Saturday, May 6th, 2017
TIME: 11:00AM
LOCATION: Houghton College Field of Dreams. Registration and start location is at the back of the Houghton Wesleyan Church parking lot (9712 NY-19, Houghton, NY 14744).

THIS SPRING, CHANGE A LIFE. Join us and advocates across the globe in our mission to bring clean water and fullness of life to children in communities around the world.

Walk, run, or push a stroller with us at the World Vision Global 6K for Water on May 6th, 2017. Each registration provides lasting clean water to a child and on race day, you walk/run with that child's picture on your race bib.

Wellspring Ministries

"We really do need each other":..especially when
life becomes wearisome, mundane, and tedious
technology increasingly impersonalizes our world
Spring is here on the calendar, but it feels bitterly cold
things are not going well financially, physically or otherwise
we miss a loved one, a pet, a familiar place
we are grumpy, and bogged down with 'ourselves'

I personally thank the Lord for a place like Wellspring. I find that warm relationships among members of God's family take on major importance to me. I see folks 'hanging out' with us who just need to know they are included, accepted, and loved the way they are.

THANK YOU for affirming this ministry as a church. Your generosity is a gateway for others to hear the gospel, and experience it in the lives of real people. Your personal contributions keep my car full.. and the driver happy!

This month our annual Easter ham dinner is Wed. April 12, beginning at 11:30am.
We are closed Good Friday, the 14th.
On April 18, the third Tues. of the month, at 5:00 we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers on up to age 12. All children with their families are welcome. A meal follows at 5:45. We'd love to have some of you join us this year.

(We are accepting wrapped Easter candy donations for this event, by April 12, please.)
Our goal in April is to have the sewing class with the Blakes running smoothly. There are still a few openings for others to join us each Wednesday at 9:30 am.

Please direct any questions about any aspect of Wellspring to Beth Beardsley or Gudrun Stevenson.

May the cross of our Lord Jesus be the source of our boasting. (Galatians 6:14)

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

Valley PreSchool Applications for 2017-2018

Applications for 2017-2018 will be available the end of April.. Our preschool is open to three, four, and five-year-old children. The preschool meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 am – 11:45 am. (September – May) on the first floor of the Christian Education Building. The early childhood program of V.P.S. is designed to augment home experiences, providing opportunity for social, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth and development..

Faith Promise

FAITH PROMISE UPDATE.

Two months to go!! 2016-17 FAITH PROMISE funding closes at the end of May. This year we are helping to fund Wesleyan ministries in Asia (Caringals), Australia (Georges), Buffalo (Strands), Czech Republic (Austins), Haiti (Thedes), and Sri Lanka (Rodrogos). Thanks for everyone who is trusting God to supply the remaining **$2000 needed to support fully!** In addition to collecting these funds, the church will be receiving Faith Promises for the new fiscal year in May. Be praying about your part to play!

A Faith Promise prayerfully sets a goal that we trust God to provide above and beyond regular income and giving. God has been faithful every year HWC has participated in this step of faith.

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 www.hwchurch.org
2. Look for a sign-up table on Sunday in the Community Room foyer
3. Or for assistance, call the church office at 585-567-2264 to schedule.

Previously taken portraits will not be used for the new format so all who wish to be in the new directory need to schedule a sitting.

Lifetouch encourages fun and creativity!

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

View your images electronically and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family & friends. watch for Sunday sign-ups or visit our website to schedule your own Appointment on **April 24, 25, or 26.**

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

We offer our condolences to the family of Dr. John Andrews, II. who died March 9, 2017.

Houghton Area Senior Citizens

Luncheon April 13, noon, in the church Community Room
Bring a dish-to-pass based on the first letter of your last name:

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

Program, 1 p.m. Allegany Department of Health
– Lori Ballengee, Public Health Director

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

FOR RENT

Four-room House
Large Living Room-Dining Room
Patio and Yard
Located in Houghton on Route 19
Phone (585) 567-8885

FOR RENT

3-room upstairs apartment.
Gas heat, water, sewer, and trash disposal all included in rent.
Located on Route 19 within easy walking distance to the college.
Phone (585) 567-8885 mornings and evenings

FOR SALE:

double-size plush mattress and box spring, lightly used, $75 for both. Also, a foam folding lounge chair, $15; good for dens. Contact 585-567-8239 if interested.

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER
FOR RUTH MILLER'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MARCH 29.
Please send her greetings to P.O. Box 155, Houghton NY 14744

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 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

at the home of Nathan and Casda Danner (7773 Tucker Hill Road).

The couple is registered at

https://www.amazon.com/wedding/elizabeth-martindale-nicholas-liddick-dallas-june-2017/registry/5VROHBG1GQPP

Please contact hostesses Casda and Courtney Danner and

Gwen Mercer if you have questions.

Wedding bells are ringing!
There will be a come-and-go wedding shower for
Courtney Danner and Jonathon Meyer
on Saturday, May 13, 2017, from 2-4 p.m.
It will be at the home of
Mitchell & Karen Liddick
10590 County Road 23
Fillmore
All are welcome.

The **Houghton Area Woodworkers' Club** meets again on Monday, April 17.

We will meet initially at the church at 7:00 or slightly before, as usual, and then car pool up to my house and basement shop (9820 Fancher Hts). You will be making some sawdust and shavings! That is all we are telling you right now. The project has a purpose, but it will be explained that evening. All the power tools, hand tools, hardware, and lumber will be supplied. My shop is large enough to have several work stations that should accommodate everyone. Wear work clothes and bring any personal safety glasses, if you like.

We will remain at my house until we dismiss about 9:00. Bring any items for the "projects table" (objects or images) with you to the house.

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

April 2 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am / 5:00 pm)
The Challenge of the Cross (Mark 8:34)
p.m. Will Bruno

April 9 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
Recognizing King Jesus (Luke 19: 28-46)
Pastor Paul Shea

April 16: (7:45am / 10:00 am)
7:45am Easter Baptism
10:00am Easter Worship

April 23 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Resurrected Jesus in Our Grief* (John 20:11-18)

April 30 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *College Student Recognition*

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, *Senior Pastor*
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Jon Cole, *Youth Pastor*
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Cindy Oden, *Assistant Pastor*
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Paul Shea *Assistant Pastor*
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Emily Hoffman, *Children's Ministry Director*
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Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM,
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