Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

May 2017
Volume 49, No. 12

Easter is More Than a Day

*He was buried, and he was raised on the third day, just as the Scriptures said…So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless (*1 Corinthians 15:4, 58).

When we think about Easter, most of us imagine a day. The word Easter triggers thoughts of the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. But the church fathers wanted us to understand that Easter is more than a day; Easter is a season.

The day we call Easter is not the end of the commemoration of Lent, but rather the beginning of the celebration of Easter. Easter Day is intended to impel us into almost two months of celebration. The season of Easter is a 50-day extravaganza of joy and hope.

The church fathers understood what we often miss: that the resurrection of Jesus is pivotal to everything about our faith. The incarnation—Jesus born in human flesh—has limited meaning without the resurrection. The crucifixion—Jesus dying in human flesh—has limited meaning without the resurrection. This is why one day is not enough to think about it.

But even more than this, the resurrection is a season because it impacts every moment of our lives. Why do we believe that we can live in freedom despite the continual struggle with sin? Because when Jesus is raised from the dead, we know that our sins that he bore on the cross do not defeat him, but rather are defeated by him. Why do we believe that evil doesn't have the last word in this world, that love is a greater power than evil? Because when Jesus is raised from the dead, we know that though it appeared that evil had won, it actually lost. Why do we believe that the kingdom will come and that we will experience life as we were created to experience in the new heaven and new earth? Because when Jesus is raised from the dead, we know that death does not have the last word about anything, the living Christ does.

You can't absorb all of this in one day—even one day every year. You have to hear it repeated week after week after week, year after year after year, decade after decade after decade. It's just too big, too glorious, too much for one day once a year. Actually, one season isn't enough.

The church fathers talked about every Sunday being a mini Easter. Every week, no matter the season, no matter the circumstances of life, no matter anything, every Sunday is another celebration of the resurrection.

So, I hope that Easter Sunday was a glorious day of worship and celebration for you. I also hope that you will engage in the rest of the season of Easter as well. Let's live every day in the reality and truth of Easter.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

Election of Leaders

Elections take place on Sunday, May 21 before and after the morning worship services. Voting stations will be available in the sanctuary and CE building foyers with members of the Nominating Committee on hand to assist you. Sample ballots and nominee information will be posted throughout the church in order for you to think and pray about the election. You may also access the ballot on the church website (www.hwchurch.org). A vote on the budget will also be a part of the election process.

Dessert and Vision Gathering —Celebrating God's Faithfulness Together

Everyone who attends the Houghton Church is invited to gather Sunday evening, May 21, 5:00pm to hear what God has done in and among us this past year and to think about what God is calling us to in the year ahead. Along with the desserts, we will hear some words of encouragement about God in our lives and you will have the opportunity to discuss your ideas about how the Houghton Church can more effectively embrace God's mission for us as we serve each other, our communities and the larger world. Childcare through Grade 6 will be available at the church.

Church Clean-Up Day May 6

Help beautify our church facility by participating in our annual Church Work Day on Saturday, May 6, 8:30am - noon. Doughnuts and coffee will be available. Our attention will focus on the exterior of the building and landscaping of the church grounds so bring gardening tools, such as shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows. Children are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Charlie Smith through the Church Office (567-2264).

You're invited…

SUNDAY LUNCH POTLUCK

– Internationals Appreciation!

MAY 7 – NOON – HWC Community Room

Join a time of fellowship, appreciation and great food. Special recognition of the dozens of Academy and College international students who attend HWC.

Bring a main dish and salad or fruit. (International flavor optional.) Drinks, dessert and tableware will be provided. Sign up at church or Email paulshea@hwchurch.org or contact the church office if coming.

Announcing…

FAITH PROMISE 2017-2018

SUCCESS – TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Over the Top in 2016-17 – Giving God the glory and thanks to faithful, trusting people, we are over the top for this fiscal year -- $31,800 and still counting. God is so good!

Onto the Future – The goal for 2017-18 is **$33,333.** Faith Promise will continue to sustain the same six Wesleyan families and their ministries: Austins in Czech, Caringals in Asia, Georges in Australia, Rodrigos in Sri Lanka, Strands in Buffalo, and Thedes in Haiti.

Make your Faith Promise – *"Trusting God to provide above and beyond our regular church giving…"* Collection day is **MAY 21st. Let's see what God can do!**

THE HWC GLOBAL PARTNER DREAM TEAM!

Kevin & Cindy Austin
Czech Republic

Chris & Melissa George
Australia

Romy & Linda Caringal
Asia Directors

Steve & Ruth Strand
Buffalo N.Y.

Cedric & Sharlini Rodrigo
Sri Lanka

Cory & Chris Thede
Haiti

Be praying about your part on May 21!

Youth Group Happenings

Dates to Remember:
May 7: 6th Graders Join Youth Group
May 14: Mother's Day! No Youth Group
May 28: Youth Led Worship Service/Senior Recognition

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

Friday, May 5 - 7:00PM - Saturday, May 6 - 6:00PM

Student Profile

Hi! My name is Carter Sisson. I have been attending Youth Group for one year. I continue to go to Youth Group so that I can see my friends and learn more about God. One thing that I have learned from Youth Group is that I can trust God with all areas of my life. My favorite part of Youth Group are the games we play at the end and the good snacks we get to eat.

Favorite Verse:
"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

-Philippians 4:13

Carter Sisson

Valley Preschool

Valley Preschool is about to complete its 48th year of operation. Meeting from September through May on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 – 11:45, the program supplements the home experiences of three, four, and five-year-olds and helps meet their developmental needs.

At VPS, children actively explore, experiment, create, and communicate, forming an understanding of self, others, and the world. In this social setting, children learn to share, participate in group activities, take turns, follow directions, and make decisions independently. A variety of topics is explored using books, songs, finger plays, drama, and group discussion. Topics include Bible stories, comparing and contrasting, holidays and seasons, shapes and numbers, forming sets, understanding patterning, recognizing letters and their sounds, children's literature, science concepts, and many others. Lessons and activities incorporate chances to improve fine and gross motor skills, use analytical thinking, sharpen listening skills, develop language skills, and share creative ideas. All of this prepares the children to be lifelong learners.

This year we've had 26 interesting and enjoyable children divided between our two classrooms! Casda Danner and Brandy Joslyn have worked with the youngest group while Angela Babbitt and Joy Mansfield have the "older" children. There's been a learning curve with mostly new staff, but we've had a really great year. A big thing we've done is taking Valley Preschool on the road. Twice this semester we have had our whole school day at the nursing home! We did marble painting and other art projects, shared our play dough, read stories, sang songs, frosted cookies for our snack, played parachute games, and had a generally wonderful time with the grandmas and grandpas. Some of the residents joined us for our "Green Eggs & Ham" Grandparents' Brunch this year. During our Easter time visit we planted marigold seeds with the residents in addition to more crafts, stories, songs, egg dyeing, cookies again, and an Easter Egg hunt. Residents will join us again for graduation on Wednesday, May17th and bring along the marigolds we planted together.

Applications for the 2017-18 school year will be available on our bulletin board soon. Please feel free to call (567-4314) or email (casdadanner@hwchurch.org) if you have questions.

EASTER BAPTISM

Congratulations to Adalyn Wartinger, Brooklynn Templeton, Claire Schilke, Ellie Brubaker, George Altvater, and Katie Brubaker who were baptized on Easter Morning, April 16.

Thank you for bringing bar soap to the CE foyer box for the Haiti Medical Team.
We cannot transport liquid soap and no longer collect eyeglasses.
- Thanks from the Schierers

Sunday evening, June 4 at 5:00 p.m.
in the Church Community Room

Sunday School Ministry Opportunities -

We are so grateful for the college and academy students who faithfully serve in our Sunday School ministry. With the school year coming to an end, we need volunteers to help with our Sunday School ministry. We need a teacher for our 1st grade Sunday School class and an assistant teacher for our 4th grade class. As our Academy Students leave, we will need helpers for our 2 year old, 3 year old, kindergarten, and 1st grade Sunday School classes in May and June. Please contact Jess Wartinger, Jamie Potter or Emily Hoffman to learn more about these Sunday School openings. Thank you.

Children's Church

Children's Church needs teachers and helpers during the months of May, June, July, and August! Two adults (18 and older) are needed for each class. Youth helpers are also appreciated!!! Contact Emily Hoffman (emilyhoffman@hwchurch.org or 585-2264).

Starting May 17, join us on the Houghton College Quad on Wednesday Nights at 6:30 for "Bikes on the Quad," a time for family fellowship while the kids ride the quad. (We are not limited to bikes! Bring baseballs and gloves, soccer balls, Frisbees, sidewalk chalk.) We will meet every Wednesday May 17 – August 23.

Memory Verse Challenge

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

> I rejoiced with those who said to me,
> "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
> Psalm 122:1

COMMUNION SUNDAY

There will be no Junior Church on May 21. Enjoy the service with your church family!

6 kilometers is the average distance that people in the developing world walk for water — water that is often contaminated with life-threatening diseases. On Saturday, May 6th, 2017, people from around the globe will walk or run an average distance for an extraordinary cause. Grab your friends and family and walk/run the 6K at the Field of Dreams at 11:00 AM.

You can register at https://www.teamworldvision.org/

Our team name is Houghton, NY Walking for Water.

Every Global 6K for Water participant provides clean water to one child in need through their registration fee and will get to wear the name and photo of a clean water recipient on their race bib during the race. Each participant will also receive a t-shirt and finisher's medal. Registration for adults is $50 and $25 for kids under the age of 15. **Registration is not required to participate! If you would like to join us for the walk/run – we would love to have you! Come out and help us raise awareness about the average distance people in developing countries walk to get water – sometimes not even clean. We will also have a shorter walk from the church to the creek to fill water jugs for young children at 11:00 AM.

Fun for the whole family! For more info: Kim.Pool@houghton.edu 315.398.2610

Watch the YouTube video: **https://www.teamworldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=848**

The Library Corner

Happy are they, in my opinion,
to whom it is given either to do something worth writing about,
or to write something worth reading;
most happy, of course, those who do both.
Pliny the Younger (AD 61-113), *letter to Tacitus about the Mount Vesuvius eruption*

Several classic books for adults were donated to the library recently: Evelyn Christenson's *A Journey Into Prayer,* J. Oswald Sanders' *Enjoying Intimacy With God* and *The Joy of Following Jesus*, and David Ausburger's *The Freedom of Forgiveness*. Two other books given were Jill Kelly's book dedicated to her son Hunter, *Messages of Hope,* and Amy Ng Wong's *The Everyday Guide to God*.

In the children's library we purchased some more books for junior readers using funds from Bonnie Szymanski's memorial gifts. These include several from the series *Here's Hank!* by actor Henry Winkler, and 10 books authored by Lauren Tarshis from the *I Survived* series. Among these are: *I Survived the Japanese Tsunami, 2011, I Survived The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863,* and *I Survived the Destruction of Pompeii, AD 79.*

Two new audiobooks on CDs were given to the library. One is *In the Presence of My Enemies* by missionary to the Philippines Gracia Burnham who, along with her husband was kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf terrorists. She survived, but her husband was killed in the rescue attempt. The other CD is by Pastor Chip Ingram: *God As He Longs For You to See Him.*

Please remember to return you items on time, or check them out again so others may enjoy the wonderful resources in our church library. Thank you!

Wellspring Ministries

Concurrence: a situation in which people, things, or events concur - agree, act together.
At Wellspring we often see a flowing together of divine and human volition and activity that is truly concurrence. In fact, Wellspring Ministries in its totality is concurrence - God and man working together, making things happen. One example this month is seen in Bob and Sandy Blake, with their unique talents of sewing and technical skills, coming alongside a few folks to help them learn to sew. It is beautiful to see.

In the kitchen this was evidenced clearly just before Easter as willing, capable hands served quite a meal to almost 100. We also were able to distribute ham chunks to families. Over and over we see God bringing about the ends He desires through people yielded to Him. Sometimes an item left there **perfectly** meets the need of another. We are now 12 years old - a dozen years of God and man acting together - concurrence! Thank you for being part of this through prayer, gifts, and presence.

Spring and summer apparel is welcome now, as well as prom wear, baby items, and maternity clothes. In the summer months when more children visit, we like to have a good supply of books, puzzles, games, and toys. Remember, electronic items are no longer accepted. We are open each Wed. and Friday for drop-off, from 9:30 to 1:45.

Note: We no longer will be open the third Tuesday evening of the month for 'shopping' and a meal. Exceptions to this will be publicized.

Needed: a kitchen worker (once a week) and a kitchen substitute

Prayer need: for God to continue to work in hearts to soften and accept His salvation - especially our volunteers.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

"...He who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we.. might be for the praise of His glory." Ephesians1:11,12

Houghton Area Senior Citizens Luncheon

May 11 ~ Noon

Luncheon at noon in the church Community Room
Bring the Dish-to-pass indicted by your surname initial:

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

The program follows at 1:00 p.m. ***Sacred Space*** **– Dr. Sarah Derck**

New members age 55+ always welcome ~ caregivers, also, regardless of age

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General questions – Ken Gaerte
Meal Questions – Jill Schmidt

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WNY District Conference…….. June 17
Refresh Retreat and Family Camp…… July 30—August 4
Ordination Service…….... October 8

Connecting Our Community

One day added for portraits! May 8

We are creating 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 hwchurch.org.
2. Or for assistance, call the church office at 585-567-2264 to schedule.

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.

HOUSE PAINTING AND POWER WASHING

If you are interested in having your house painted, house power-washed or deck stained, contact Phil Merrill at (585) 610-8882

Looking for help with mowing and yard work this year? Please call Christopher Danner at 585-520-2095. I am available for regular, weekly jobs or occasional work for special projects.

The Houghton Area Woodworkers' Club will meet Monday, May 15, 7:00 pm,

This year's last meeting of the **Houghton Area Wood Club** will be on **Monday, May 15, 7:00 pm** at the Houghton Church in the Good Shepherd room. Those who have been working on their project from the 2 x 10 oak plank challenge should bring it to the meeting. If there are other projects or pictures of them you can bring to show, please bring those as well. We will have further discussion about how to proceed for the coming year. All are welcome. If you have questions, contact Daryl Stevenson.

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 in Fillmore.

Their registry can be found at: myregistry.com

Courtney would also appreciate it if you would bring a recipe to share with them. Thanks.

RAPIDS NEWS

The Genesee Rapids need your help!
We have 27 players and 2 married coaches coming to play this summer. Right now we need 7 more host families to accommodate these players and 2 host families for the coaches and their wives. Hosting players give your family and opportunity to share spiritually with young college students, help them feel the caring community we share, perhaps make friends with a future professional baseball player (three families have done that already) and enrich your family life. For more information call Ralph Kerr 585-567-2695

Houghton Academy will present *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* on May 12 at 8:00 pm and May 13 at 7:00 pm in the Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy. Tickets will cost $5 for students and senior citizens, $7 for adults, and a maximum of $25 for families (father, mother, dependent children). The comedy is based on a poem of the same name by Robert Fulghum, with music & lyrics by David Caldwell, was conceived & adapted by Ernest Zulia, and produced by arrangement with the DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

Sunday Morning Worship Service Schedule

May 21 – June 11	*Worship – 8:30 and 11:00 / Sunday School – 9:45*
June 18 – June 25	*Worship – 8:30 and 11:00 / No Sunday School*
July 2 – August 13	*Worship – 10:00 / No Sunday School*
August 20 – August 28	*Worship – 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00 / No Sunday School*
September 3	*Worship – 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00 / Sunday School – 9:40*

The Annual Memorial Day Firemen's Festival Yard Sale and Chicken BBQ

is coming Saturday, May 27 from 8am-2pm! Join us for donuts and coffee in the morning, lots of great bargains at the yard sale followed by a delicious Chicken BBQ cooked up by the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department. This is a great fundraiser for the HVFD.

If you are interested in selling your items at the festival this year, 8x10 slots can be reserved for $10 ($5 for each additional slot). Tables are not provided. No need to pre-register. Setup will begin at 6am on Saturday, May 27, so just come on down and get your space. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a specific spot, please email us at Maegan.stadelmaier@houghtonvfd.org (Email is preferred) but you can also contact us at (210) 827-2562.

Hope to see you at this great community event. It's a wonderful way to help support our firefighter and ambulance crews!

SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 7 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Resurrected Jesus in Our Fear* (John 20:19-23)
p.m. Small Groups

May 14 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Resurrected Jesus in Our Doubt* (John 20:24-29)

May 21 (8:30 am / 11:00 am, 5:00 pm)
a.m. *Jesus the Miracle Worker* (John 20:30-31)
p.m. Vision Gathering

May 28 (8:30 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. Youth Sunday

CHURCH STAFF

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

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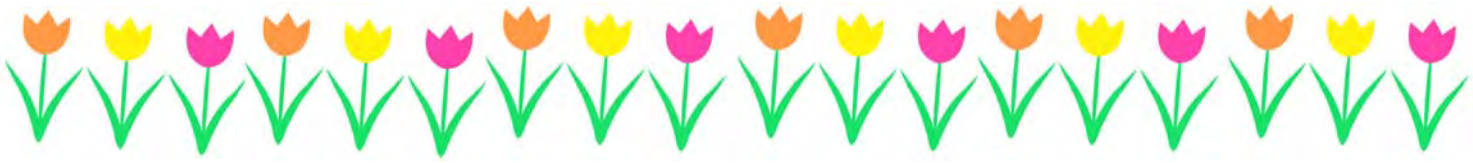
Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM,
567-2264 **office@hwchurch.org**