Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

June 2017
Volume 50, No. 1

Being Signs for Jesus

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

During the Vision Meeting, I reiterated some thoughts from Sunday morning's sermon as related to this passage at the end of John 20. I spoke about how John says that the signs he relates in his Gospel should point clearly enough to Jesus that people who see them are inspired to believe that Jesus is the long-awaited fullness of God in flesh through whom human beings experience a life of flourishing as God always intended for his children. John's point is that when we see the signs that reveal the nature and character of Jesus, we choose to be all-in with Jesus and experience the presence of his abundant life—not just when he appears to usher in the kingdom in all of its fullness, but in large part now as well.

But this wondrous promise is not the end of the story. Since the church is the visible presence of Jesus in this world, the church has the privilege and responsibility to be the signs that now point people to Jesus so that they may experience the life of flourishing God always intended. We get to point people to Jesus—not to be condemned but to be set free. But we will never be the signs that open people's eyes to Jesus unless we truly believe.

To believe is more than agreeing to a theological statement or a set of doctrines as important and helpful as the statements and doctrines may be. To believe is to embrace Jesus in such a way that it translates into action. And not just any action, but action that involves meaningful risk. To believe in Jesus is to put our full weight on him.

To put our full weight on Jesus will mean things like this. We trust Jesus with our finances so much so that we extend our giving to the church in order to help meet the increased budget for the coming year. We trust Jesus with our gifts so much so that we willingly and joyfully find ways to serve others. We trust Jesus with our time so much so that we commit to daily prayer and reading of scripture.

Why would anyone think that Christians are any different or have anything to offer, if we aren't fully engaged with Jesus? Why would anyone believe us when we declare that Jesus is the Savior of the world if we aren't willing to take meaningful steps of risk with him?

As we continue to think and pray about what it means for the church to be a sign that points people to Jesus—that reveals the nature and character of Jesus—we trust that God will help us to live in openness to him so that others may see him in us.

Blessings,

Pastor Wes

NEW MEMBERS: Congratulations to Andrew Sherman, Mason Sebian and Dan and Sarah Gurley who joined the membership of Houghton Wesleyan Church on May 21. We celebrate this important decision in their lives and welcome them with joy and love.

2017 Election Results

Elders Secretary: Jim Zoller
Church Treasurer: David Mercer
Elders: Kathie Brenneman, Jesse Fink, Matt Webb
Trustees: Dar Beardsley, Harold Blew, Nathan Danner
Nominating Committee: Beth Beardsley, Jane Buteyn, Paul Young
District Conference Delegates: Dick and Gerry Alderman, Dave and Karen Daugherty, Jonathan and Kathie Hilsher, Dean and Carmen Liddick, Nancy Luckey, Carolyn Miller, John and Sandy Roederer, Debbie Shea, Daryl and Gudy Stevenson

Elders:
Ellis Brotzman (2018)
Larry Mullen (2018)
Gudy Stevenson (2018)
Dave Brubaker (2019)
Troy Martin (2019)
Donnie Stockin (2019)
Kathie Brenneman (2020)
Jesse Fink (2020)
Matt Webb (2020)
Jim Zoller, Secretary
David Mercer, Treasurer
Pastor Wes Oden

Trustees:
Susan Martin (2018)
Phil Merrill (2018)
John Christensen (2019)
Mitch Liddick (2019)
Michael Spateholts (2019)
Dar Beardsley (2020)
Harold Blew (2020)
Nathan Danner (2020)
Pastor Jon Cole

Please continue to pray for our pastors and leaders as we begin a new year of ministry and service in Houghton.

Thank you to Elders, Doug Mayhle and Kathy Reitnour and to Trustees, Bryan Mastin and Charlie Smith whose terms have expired. We appreciate the thoughtful and godly leadership that each person has given us in the past years.

Summer Sabbath has become an integral part of the rhythm of who we are as a congregation. During these weeks, most activities (Sunday School, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, committee meetings) except for Sunday morning (worship, nursery, children's church) are dismissed so that our volunteers have an opportunity for rest and to provide more time for friends and family to be together—to enjoy one another, to celebrate God's creation, to declare that our God is not a taskmaster but a loving Father who rejoices in our work and our play, and to remember that we are not loved by God because we are busy but because God is love.

Sabbath is not a time of prohibition but a time of rejoicing because we belong to God and in Christ we are free. Christian freedom is not so much freedom *from* but freedom *to*—freedom to value, freedom to be, freedom to enjoy, freedom to try on. This is why Isaiah can say that for those who truly follow God, the Sabbath is a holy day that brings delight to our parched and needy souls (Isaiah 58:11-14).

May God bless you with a restful, spiritual Summer Sabbath. May he renew your spirit, restore your body and refresh your mind for your life with him and for his glory.

Summer Worship Schedule

May 28 – June 25	8:30 am and 11:00 am
July 2 – August 13	10:00 am (Summer Sabbath)
August 20	8:20 am, 9:40 am and 11:00 am

June 4

6:00 p.m.

note time change

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

Pray for Short Term Ministries – Individuals and teams need our prayers for follow-up results and/or for future outreach: April 24-June 10 – Jim & Karen Szymanski teaching in Nepal; May 14-24 – Matt, Bjorn, Levi & Tobias Webb with HC Soccer team in Costa Rica; May 23-July 23 – Kathryn Taggart with Chicago Eagles in U.S. and Brazil; May 28 – August 11 – Ken Huang with Campus Crusade National Parks; June 2-June 27 – Dan & Kathy Moore with Perm Mission Network in Russia; July 10-14 – Jon Cole & youth with "Love Buffalo" in Buffalo; July 29-August 5- Jon Cole & youth/adult team to Native Americans in Minnesota; August 10-22 – Alicia and Jadyn Mucher with HC Basketball team in Nicaragua.

Meet outgoing workers in Eastern Europe & N. Africa – Houghton Wesleyan will play a part in the following new ventures: Stacia Niver from Hamburg Wesleyan shares in Kaleidoscope S.S. June 4th about her July departure for work in Bosnia with World Hope; Jaclyn Algier shares in Kaleidoscope on June 11 about her future work in Morocco. Keep these new missionaries in your prayers.

Faith Promise Miracles – 2016-2017 gifts have exceeded our goal by over $3000! To God be the glory. These funds will go directly to missionary support. New 2017-2018 Faith Promise totals are still coming in. Thank you for your faith and vision and thanks to God for allowing His resources to channel through us!

Special Need – New Members – The HWC Mission Committee is urgently looking for additional members. Interested in shaping policies, influencing our church in supporting people and projects in global mission? We need you! We meet monthly over 10 months. Contact paulshea@hwchurch.org.

Foster Care Parent Appreciation Picnic for county foster care families. June 3, 5-7pm, HWC. Volunteers are needed for setup, serving and cleanup! Contact Pastor Jon if you can help.

Youth Group Happenings

Love Buffalo
Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14
Cost:
$275- before June 1st
$300- June 1st - 25th
**We are in need of additional staff for this trip...Would you be interested in being a part of this fantastic home mission's experience? Only have one day to spare? Single Day staff are also greatly appreciated! Call Pastor Jen for details.

Refresh Camp
Monday, July 31- Friday, August 4
10am - 12pm
Other activities scheduled throughout the day:
creek walk, dodgeball tournament, night games/activities.
No Cost for the sessions.
Show Up.
Invite Friends.
Lunch is available for purchase in the College Dining Hall.

Discipleship Camp
August 13 - August 16
"D-Camp" is a 5 year program for those students that want a deeper intimate walk with Christ;
it is open to students entering 7th grade - 12th grade.
Our theme this year is "Worthy" and our prayer is that the students leave encouraged, equipped and empowered to live a life worthy of the call on their lives!
Register and pay by August 4 online at CNYDcamp.com

Valley Preschool

Applications are available on the VPS bulletin board outside the Valley PreSchool rooms or online at **www.hwchurch.org/children/**

The Wednesday AM Bible Study ladies will meet Monday, June 26th at 9:30 am for coffee, prayer, and 'catch up' at Subway. Anyone is welcome to join us there.

The Library Corner

The era of barrenness was concluded;
the flowers appeared on the soil of my heart;
the birds sang of salvation, and hope, and seedtime,
and the passing away of old unhappy things, and the dawn of an age of gold.
***Alexander Smellie**, In the Secret Place, "Salvation"*

As you enjoy the flowers and beauty of this time of year the library committee would like to thank all those who have heeded the reminder to return library materials in a timely manner, so that everyone may enjoy the wonderful resources in the church library this summer.

Library news this month includes a new media format in the collection with the addition of our first MP3 capable CD entitled: You Are Free by Rebekah Lyons. MP3 CDs are shelved with the regular collection of CDs but numbered MP3CD-1, etc.

Two books for children were given to the *library this past month: What You Know First by Patricia MacLachlan, a marvelous picture book for children that deals with the emotions of moving and leaving a place you know and love. Also for children is the book Good Good Father* by Chris Tomlin, based on the song by that title.

New adult audiobooks on CD given to the library were: This Life I Live by musician Rory Feeks, and Hope Heals by Katherine and Jay Wolf. Rory tells the story of his dysfunctional youth, difficult path to faith, and final marriage to Joey, a beautiful, talented singer, and their struggles as she faced terminal cancer. Katherine and Jay Wolf experienced different trials when she suffered a massive brain stem stroke six months after their first child was born. Their story is of overwhelming loss, but also of hope and the support of their church and families.

Several adult books were also given to the library: The Pattern Artist is a novel by Nancy Moser about the garment industry in the early 1900s in New York and Paris, Answering the Call: Albert Schweitzer, a biography by Ken Gire about this famous doctor who gave his life to work in west central Africa, and the novel The Mark of the King by Jocelyn Green about a midwife in 18th century Louisiana. Another novel: The Dog Who Was There by Ron Marasco tells the story of about a stray dog who encountered Jesus. One review of this book says: *"No one expected Barley to have an encounter with the Messiah. He was homeless, hungry, and struggling to survive in first century Jerusalem. Most surprisingly, he was a dog. But through Barley's eyes, the story of a teacher from Galilee comes alive in a way we've never experienced before."*

Have you ever gotten to church and realized your checkbook is home?

We have had several requests in recent years for a way to make donations online.

A note about donating online:

To make it as convenient as possible for you to donate online, we have set up a way of giving electronically. We are only offering the ACH option which transfers your gift directly from your checking or savings account. We are not currently accepting gifts through credit card even through those buttons appear to be available.

We encourage you to set up an account at our "**DONATE online**" link on the church website.

- You can try it out as a guest or set up an account creating a user name and password. With an account, you may view your giving history or check on your Faith Promise giving made through the site.
- Houghton Wesleyan Church has partnered with Stewardship Technology's Electronic Giving Solution (www.egsnetwork.com) to provide a secure and easy to use way to manage your donations.

Speaker Derek Vreeland

Refresh is week long retreat with a variety of activities designed just for you!
This "vacation with a purpose" focuses on giving you opportunities to relax and be still in God's presence, to reconnect with family and friends, and to rejuvenate your body and spirit..

www.refreshathoughton.com

Bikes on the Quad

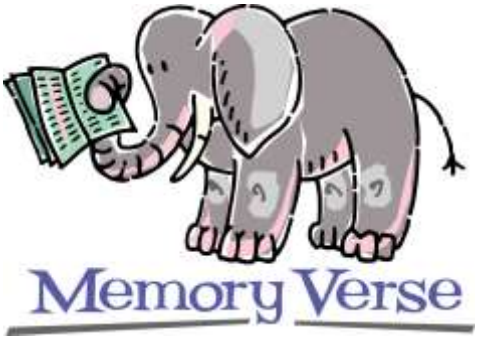
Join us on the Houghton College Quad on Wednesday Nights at 6:30 for "Bikes on the Quad," a time for family fellowship while the kids ride the quad. (We are not limited to bikes! Bring baseballs and gloves, soccer balls, Frisbees, sidewalk chalk.) We will meet every Wednesday through August 23.

The Final Day of Sunday School and Junior Church

The last day of Sunday School and Junior Church will be June 11th. Enjoy your summer and we will see you again on September 3rd.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Mastin family on the adoption finalization of Izabella "Bella" Shae on May 4th. Parents are Bryan and Becky. Bella joins siblings Tyler, Derek, Morghan, Kelcie, and Quinn.



Memory Verse Challenge

We would like to encourage our children, youth and congregation members to memorize scripture. Work on learning this verse in June.

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and you will be saved,

Welcome to Summer Potluck

June 11 at Noon
Community Room

Please join us as we close out the sunday school year and welcome the changing seasons in our second Welcome to Summer Potluck. We'll gather as a church family to thank our elementary sunday school, children's church, and junior church teachers for their dedication to our kids and enjoy a delicious lunch together. In order for this to be a success we need you, our church family! Please mark the date on your calendar and consider attending this whole-church event whether or not you currently have children in sunday school!

Families with children in sunday school and/or junior church, keep an eye open for a special way you can honor your child's teachers at this event!

What to Bring:
A Dish to Pass & A Dessert

When:
Sunday, June 11 at Noon

Where:
Community Room

Who:
You! The ENTIRE church!

Wellspring Ministries

"REFRESHMENT" ! Would you like to experience it? Now that summer is all but here, many of us will reach for icy cold drinks, especially tea or lemonade. Did you know God's description of refreshment involves generosity?

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25

Generous hearts experience the refreshment that comes through blessing people - helping a bedridden friend or spouse, giving a gift of cookies or freshly cut flowers, weeding a neighbor's garden bed, listening to and praying with someone in need, and...contributing to the ministry at Wellspring!

If you'd like a little more refreshment in your life, Wellspring has these options to consider and pray over:
~Refresh our building with some general cleaning help
~Refresh our guests at the door as a greeter
~Refresh our kitchen staff as a volunteer, even as a substitute
~Refresh an older lady in Belmont, NY who loves to come on Fridays for lunch, but often needs a ride
~Refresh all of us by visiting for lunch some day. You are family, and we'd love to have you refreshed, as well.

June will find us refreshing and affirming our volunteer staff at a special meal in their honor to be held at Genesis Bible Church in Scio. We thank the Lord for each one He has directed here, and ask for continued prayer for harmony among us and closer relationships with the Lord.
Keep in touch. We need you.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

Don't forget Jericho Road's
Bundle up Buffalo
is coming this October! Junior Church will be collecting coats, hats, gloves and mittens again this year. They will collect new and gently used items for all ages. Keep an eye out at garage sales and summer sales!

Summer Women's Bible Study

Are you interested in digging deeper into the Bible this summer? Come join our Summer Bible Study, beginning June 19 and running about 7 weeks. We'll be using Lauren Chandler's Steadfast Love and looking in-depth at Psalm 107. A private facebook group allows us to view a short weekly video, respond to discussion questions, and interact with each other throughout the study. The online nature of this group allows for flexibility during summer travel; if you have an internet connection once a week you're ready to participate!

Participants will need a study guide, approximately $13. A group order will be submitted June 5 or you're welcome to purchase one on your own at goo.gl/qk0pno. Let me know if you're interested in this Summer Bible Study Opportunity!

Jess Wartinger
wartingers@gmail.com

Houghton Area Senior Citizens Luncheon

Picnic June 8 ~ Noon

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

A-F Fruit tray, veggie tray or chips-and-dip
G-N Salad, Relish Tray or Baked Beans
O-Z Desserts

*Texas Hots will be provided as our main meat or casserole
The program follows at 1:00 p.m. :

***Texas Hot, a Wellsville and Raptis-Rigas Families Success Story* – Jim Raptis**

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

Fillmore Central School
Baccalaureate Service
Class of 2017

The Baccalaureate Committee, along with the parents of the Class of 2017, cordially invite you to attend the Baccalaureate Service to be held on Sunday, June 18th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fillmore Central School Auditorium. There will be a reception in the school cafeteria immediately following the service .Please join us on this occasion of worship and celebration as our seniors prepare to graduate from Fillmore Central School.

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.

Watch for the season schedule at
http://www.geneseerapidsbaseball.com/

The Town Theatre of Short Tract presents

Beauty and the Beast

The Broadway Musical
July 6 & 7 ...7:00 p.m.
July 8 … 2:00 p.m.
at the Fillmore Central School Auditorium
Watch for further details!
Contact Amanda Cox with any questions
(amandacox@hwchurch.org)

LIPSCOMB HOUSE (SPRING 2018, available January through early May): 21
Torpey St., Fillmore
Renters: Ben and Susan Lipscomb 585-567-2060
Lovely three-bedroom house with living and dining rooms, two baths, washer, dryer, upright piano, and large yard with firepit. Ideal for someone moving into the community, needing/wanting something house-like but not wanting to commit too quickly. Heat, water, electricity, and wi-fi included. Below-market rent (we would investigate with you to make sure you were getting a good deal) in return for watching our two cats and our chickens. Any eggs you collect would be yours.
Email benjamin.lipscomb@houghton.edu or susanbruxvoort.lipscomb@houghton.edu or call for further details.

RENTABLE TWO-APARTMENT HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER:
9766 Fancher Drive, Houghton. Affordable, rentable, well-built, two-apartment efficiency duplex. Retirement, investment and rental options. Near Houghton Academy, walking distance to College. Upper and lower each: 2 BR, single bath, closets; open LR/dining/kitchen. Each apartment has ground-level parking and entry. Refrigerators and natural gas kitchen ranges. Gas-fired, excellent hot-water baseboard heating system with programmable thermostats. Town water and sewer. Washer/dryer (lower level only). 0.25 acre lot includes storage/work shed. $57,900 Call! Jon and Pat Shea, 585.207.4002 or 803.389.4662 (cell used only when traveling)

For Rent--House at 9603 Route 19: 3BR, 2-1/2 baths, finished basement, garage, washer and dryer in basement. $600/month (renter pays utilities). Available August 1. Call 765-716-6961 for more information.

Hi Everybody

I know by now you have heard that I have my own studio. Well I and a couple of others have teamed together to form an alliance. There will be handmade items, calligraphy, quilts and of course my art work both on canvas and in greeting card format. Come on down and see what all we have. We are in Buddy's place just come through the front door and walk straight to the back where the sun porch is located. My hours will be Friday evenings 3pm–6pm and Saturdays from 10am– 2pm.

Come on down and visit the store Helping Hands Christian Alliance. I am continuing my other ministry as well where I take care of dogs, elderly, house sitting and house cleaning.

Barbara J Elliott
9722 Rt 19 Apt B
Houghton, NY 14744
716 801 2077
Barbara.elliott17@houghton.edu

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 4 (8:30 and 11:00 am, 6:00pm)
a.m. *Spiritual Gifts as God Designs*
(1 Corinthians 12:1-11)
p.m. Ice Cream Social

June 11 (8:30 and 11:00 am)
a.m. Pastor Cindy Oden
Redeeming Your Wilderness
(Deuteronomy 8:2)

June 18 (8:30 and 11:00 am)
a.m. *When the Church isn't the Church* (Jude)

June 25 (8:30 and 11:00 am)
a.m. Pastor Paul Shea
Wholeness, Worship, Work
(Isaiah 60: 1-3; I Peter 2: 9)

CHURCH STAFF

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

Jon Cole, *Youth Pastor*
585-307-9950 **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**

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

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Houghton NY 14744

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