Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
March 2018
Volume 50, No. 10

When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross.
(Luke 23:33)

During the Season of Lent, I have been thinking about the shadow of the cross. In my mind I picture the sun hitting the cross and as it moves, casting shadows on various people and objects. I envision the shadow of the cross highlighting people and objects that need to be exposed—the hardhearted hearts of the religious leaders, the political expediency of Pilate, the Holy Place curtain in the Temple torn in two, among others.

I am seeing more clearly than ever how the cross casts a shadow not to hide from the truth but to expose the truth. In a room filled with light, a shadow stands out. We find that as the light shines on an object, the object seems to embrace more than its space, but it stretches to places beyond it. Sometimes the shadow allows us to see shapes and nuances of the object that we would otherwise miss. This is how I see the cross.

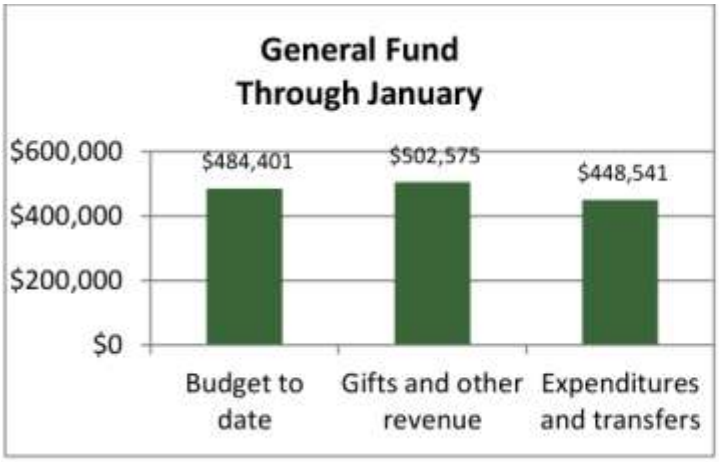
The cross as an object of shame and pain, of injustice and evil has a way of exposing the ugliness in us and the brokenness of our world. As the cross casts its shadow, we are called to honesty about ourselves and our world—an honesty that we spend much time and energy attempting to avoid. When we think of the cross this way, it seems to become an object we hope to avoid because it's asking more of us than we are willing to give. But God's intent is not just exposure; it's ultimately healing.

God never exposes our hearts for the sole purpose of shaming us but as the means to setting us free from the hiddenness of avoidance that enslaves us. The cross does convict us, but the ultimate purpose of the cross is to make us new—to fill us with joy, peace, creativity, love and life—abundant, eternal life. We will never experience this life until we see and accept the places in our lives and in our world that need God's touch. He can only touch what we are willing to let him. Only when we see ourselves as we really are, will we be willing to let him.

So, during this Season of Lent, let us allow the shadow of the cross to fall on us that we might be forgiven and set free through the grace of Jesus who dies for us.

Because of Christ,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP



A yearly event of our Finance Committee is to create a budget proposal for the Elders to consider and eventually for the congregation to approve. The process started in January and will not conclude until the congregation votes in mid-May.

This is not a task that the Committee takes lightly. The Trustees and the pastors work with various groups of people in an attempt to make a budget proposal that will enable each ministry to accomplish its work. By the end of February, the Finance Committee begins putting all of these proposals together in an attempt to create a budget that will provide necessary funds while being realistic about anticipated giving.

The tension of expanding ministries within the confines of our expected income is not an easy task. The Committee will spend hours in an attempt to be fair and equitable about the distribution of funds while at the same time encouraging ministry leaders to dream about new ways to help us grow in Christ and to bear witness to Christ.

There is no doubt that we all would love to see us continue to expand our programs and outreach. We would love to do more for the work of God's kingdom around the world. We would love to do more to help people in Allegany County who are struggling with the ups and downs of life. We would love to provide more resources for our children and youth to know and accept the grace of God in their lives. Often, we are able to provide for numerous growing opportunities. Sometimes, we are not. More often than not, what holds us back is available funds.

We believe that the budget is one indicator of our priorities as a church. How we spend the money that we receive speaks to what is important to us and what we hope to be as the people of God in Houghton. We also believe that the budget is one indicator of our priorities as individual disciples. How we spend our money speaks to what is important to us and what we hope to be as followers of Jesus.

As ministries are making budget proposals, as the Finance Committee and Elders are creating a budget, it would be a wonderful time to think about our spiritual health as it relates to finances. Give thanks for what God is already enabling you to do and ask God if it is time to trust him even more.

Membership:

On Saturday, March 3 (9:00am – Noon), Pastor Wes is hosting a membership class for all who are interested in becoming members of Houghton Wesleyan and for all who are interested in knowing more about Houghton Wesleyan. The class will focus on our mission, our history, our theological distinctives and our vision for the future as a body of believers. If you are interested in attending, contact the church office by Friday, March 2.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 11.

Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.

Easter Baptism

We are offering baptism on Easter Sunday, April 1 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 web-site by late Monday morning.

COLLEGE MINISTRIES

HWC welcomes each college student who attends worship and the many who serve in various ministries of the church. An advisory committee to guide in our outreach to students includes: Laurie Dashnau, Sharon McGarvey, Patrick Hager, Andrew Silbert, Jesse Fink and students , Jonathan Durbin, Tobin Sundstrom. Emily Allen, and Shannan Johson. Please keep our students and this committee in your prayers.

KOINONIA

People of all ages are invited to join college students in a time of worship and preparation for the week each Sunday Evening 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Wesley Chapel. A variety of contemporary settings are led by a musical team of Daniel Eager, Michalla Aliperti, Amanda Satre, Kingsley Kolek, Duncan Shalda, and Dave Cruz. Also the prayer leaders for KOIN are James McLean and John Khalaf. Keep these students and the College as a whole in your prayers.

Assistant Pastor, Paul Shea

SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP FUNDING REQUESTS

Submit applications by March 25
Link on this page: www.hwchurch.org/global-outreach/
or stop by the church office

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 25	**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, March 25th. 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, March 29	**Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm**	
Good Friday, March 30	**Journey to the Cross 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**	
Sunday, April 1	**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, March 26**,** and please leave your plant at the church by Good Friday, **March 30.** 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!

You can help by donating the following on March 28: 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

Lenten Rock Hunt

Family Activity for the month of March

There are 12 small rocks hidden around the church with Bible verses on them. Throughout the month of march, you and your family will have the chance to find 12 rocks with Lenten Bible Verses painted on them, which all tell part of the Easter Story.

If you find one, take a picture of your family with the rock and post the picture on the HWCKids facebook page and hide the rock in a different place so others can find it. Don't forget to read the verse together and talk about how it relates to the Easter Story!

The Annual Buddy Keith Memorial Grand Prix & Sailboat Races

The annual Buddy Keith Memorial Grand Prix boat and car race is on **March 21st!** Everyone is welcome to come and watch! Bring along some snacks to share and come cheer on the Kindergartners through second graders as they sail their boats and the Third through sixth graders as they race their cars!

If your child wishes to participate and did not pick up their boat or car, please contact Pastor Laurie at the church - lauriesmalley@hwchurch.org

VOLUNTEERS

If you are volunteering with our Children's Ministries or Youth Ministries and have not viewed the Stewards of Children video yet, please make plans to come on Saturday, March 17th from 8 to 10 am to the *Youth Room.* Please RSVP to the church office if you are planning to go so we know how many will be there.

We need some volunteers that would be willing to help with Children's Church during Easter Break and during the month of May at the 11:00 service. Please let Pastor Laurie know if you are interested. Thank you

Communion Sunday

is March 4. Junior Church will not be meeting this Sunday.

Memory Verse Challenge

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

> **They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." -John 4:42**

Youth Group Happenings

Dates to Remember:

March 10: E416 Leadership Conference -- at the Hub, leave HWC at 11AM.
Plan to stop for fast food at least once. Back to HWC 6:30-7PM.
Space is limited! See Pastor Jon to register!

STUDENT PROFILE

Hello! My name is Joe Derck. I have been attending Youth Group for just under a year. I keep going back to Youth Group because it is a lot of fun, and it gives me another chance to learn about God besides church. My favorite part of Youth Group is the small group portion. I really enjoy this because all my friends are in my group! One thing that I have learned from Youth Group is that I can help change the world now, and I don't have to wait until I'm older.

Favorite verse:
"But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."
- Ephesians 4:7

Joe Derck

Houghton College Alumni and Classics Professor Dr. Richard Gould and his brother Tom Gould died January 5th and 4th respectively at the Absolut in Houghton. Friends will be gathering at Houghton Wesleyan Church at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of April 27, 2018 for a time of celebrating their lives.
A Celebration of Life will take place at Johnson Funeral Home in Dexter, New York on April 28 from noon to 2:00 p.m. followed by a graveside service at the cemetery in Dexter.

From the
Library Shelves

During this month leading up to Easter, come read about The Passion of the Christ, or Six Hours One Friday Afternoon. How about when the Angels were Silent? There are quite a few books and some DVDs on the subject of Easter.

The library has a nice biography section and we are working to add to our large print book section. Don't forget our little box for any suggestions you might have. Your input is appreciated.

There are also Easter books and DVDs in the children's room. Did you know that the pretzel is a part of Lenten custom in many countries and why? And the egg reminds us of Jesus' tomb? Have you read Peter's story about his first Easter? Or heard about the Donkey That No One Could Ride? Come discover!!

Wellspring Ministries

Faces and hearts were brightened on Valentine's Day as folks enjoyed the colorfully decorated heart doilies on all the tables. These, along with delicious heart cut-out cookies, were made by the K-3rd grade children of our church during junior church time. We thank them for this kindness, and for the teachers who encourage kindness to others. Our Rich Stegan spoke to us that day of love's true meaning.

Donations of all types are down right now, so we welcome clean usable items, as we head into a bit warmer weather in March. Thank you for keeping us on your radar. We also welcome volunteers from HWC, for even a few specific needs we have. Our greatest prayer is that people are drawn to the Savior through this ministry."

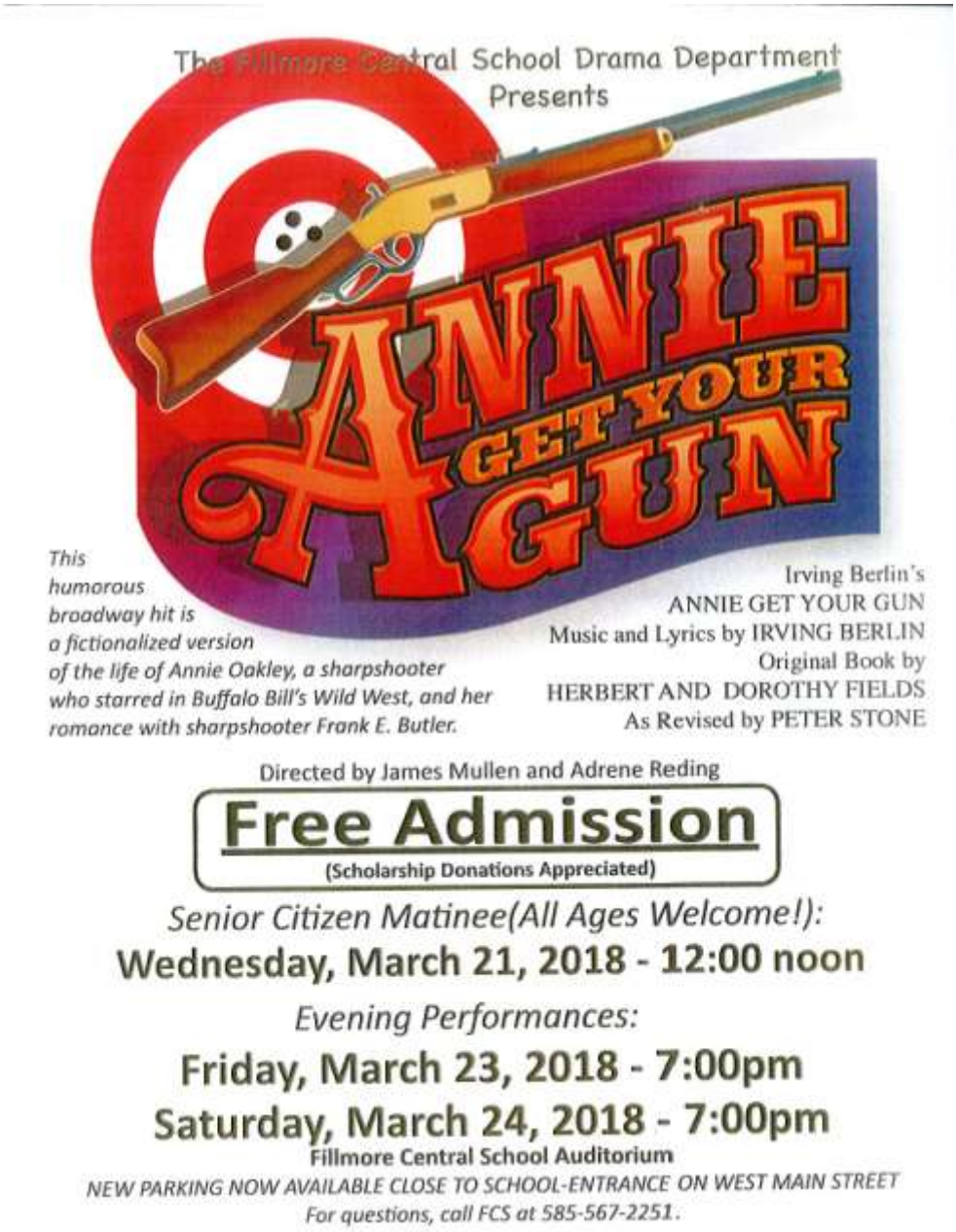
With grateful hearts,
Beth Beardsley for the Board

Houghton Area Senior Citizens
March 8 Lunch & Music Program

- The dish-to-pass luncheon begins at noon.
  The first letter of your last name determines your food to share:
  A-F Desserts G-N Casseroles O-Z Salads

- At 1:00 p.m. the Greatbatch School of Music presents customized musical selections featuring a small percussion and vocal group.

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



UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

DISTRICT CONFERENCE
Saturday, June 16, 2018 (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM) at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church

REFRESH RETREAT AND FAMILY CAMP
July 29 - August 3 2018 @ Houghton College
https://www.refreshathoughton.com/

ORDINATION
Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 6:00 PM (Location TBD)

Unique Ministry Opportunity

The Genesee Rapids Baseball Team is looking for Host Families for the 2018 season. We ask Host Families to provide a bed to sleep in and breakfast each morning. All other meals are provided by the team. We generally try to have two players assigned to each family. Players spend most of the day practicing, working out or eating. We provide all transportation.

We expect players to follow your house rules and set high expectations for the players living with you. Players will be arriving on Tuesday, May 29 and will be here until the end of July.

Host Families are given Family Season Passes and may be eligible for an income tax deduction.

Just think, someday in the future you may be able to point to a Major League Baseball player and say, "He stayed with our family when he played for the Rapids in 2018."

For more information please call Stephanie Wittenrich (585-307-0823) or Ralph Kerr (716-969-0688).

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Provided by IRS (VITA) Certified Volunteers

(Return income less than $54,000)

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Library Third Floor

ROOM 303

February 5 through March 26

(except 2/26)

MONDAY Evenings

6:00–7:30 pm or 7:30–9:00 p.m.

***To schedule an appointment, dial 2-1-1 (the United Way Help Line) or 1-800-346-2211 and ask for a tax preparation appointment at Houghton College**

For more information email Elianna Chroniger at Elianna.Chroniger19@houghton.edu

Open again in the Spring

HELPING HANDS CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE

BARBARA ELLIOTT

9722 RT 19 APT B

HOUGHTON NY 14744

716 801 2077

DESSERT AUCTION
March 16

The Houghton College Sports Ministry class is raising funds for their upcoming mission trip to Austria and Romania (in May) with a dessert auction to be held on Friday, March 16th from 7:00 – 8:30 in the Houghton Wesleyan Community Room. Come bid on some desserts while live music and information about the trip will be shared by members of the class! All proceeds from the baked goods and any donations will go toward the cost of the trip.

We are also looking for baked goods and desserts to be donated for the auction, so if you are interested in donating, please email either Sadie.dunnett19@houghton.edu or Sarah.hoag20@houghton.edu
We hope to see you there!

Hillside
Family of Agencies

Southern Tier Regional Permanency Center

Hillside Children's Center (Steuben/Allegany)

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Southern Tier Regional Permanency Resource Center is a post-adoptive & kinship service to help families in NY state counties to access support groups, receive one-on-one guidance, and participate in relevant workshops/trainings (i.e. trauma informed care and need/strength behavioral techniques, speakers)

Criteria to enroll:

1. Residency in Steuben or Allegany County
2. Adoptive parent or legal guardian to one or more children

Participating families will be connected to a Parent Liaison/Permanency Specialist who can provide support with educational, parenting and behavioral issues and also assist families with referrals to other community resources if needed.

Services once enrolled:

- Information & help with referral to services including 24/7 crisis management
- Individual Advocacy & Support
- Monthly support groups & lifestyle events
- Parent education groups, trauma-informed trainings & family-oriented workshops
- Additional competency & psycho-educational training for parents and professionals

CONTACT INFORMATION Call Ellen at 315-355-6109 or email at efazio@hillside.com

Houghton Academy Senior Class Take-Out Chicken BBQ

Friday, April 13th.
Half a Krolick's BBQ chicken, roll, butter, salt potatoes, coleslaw and brownie
4 p.m. - 5:30 pick up time
Cost: $9.00
To place an order see a senior or phone 585-567-8115.
Thank you for your patronage!

LIVE STREAMING: All of our worship services are live streamed through the church website and through streaming devices (AppleTV, Roku, etc.). If you use Roku, you will need to find the services on our new Roku app. Search for Houghton Wesleyan Church. Our new app will enable easier access.

SUNDAYS IN MARCH

March 4 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Cross Casts a Shadow on Our Barriers with God* (Mt. 27)
p.m. Small Groups

March 11: (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Cross Casts a Shadow on Our Willingness to Risk* (Mt. 27)
p.m. Small Groups

March 18 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Cross Casts a Shadow on Our Curiosity* (Mt. 27)
p.m. Small Groups

March 25 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Cross Casts a Shadow on the Nature of God* (Mt. 27)
p.m. Small Groups

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11
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**

Laurie Smalley, ***Children's Ministry Director***
567-8302 **lauriesmalley@hwchurch.org**

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