Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
April 2018
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Easter Is More Than One Day

...if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless ... And we apostles would all be lying about God, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. (1 Corinthians 15:14-20)

Most people think of Easter as one Sunday of the year. Technically, this is correct. Easter Day is the first Sunday after the Vernal (Spring) Equinox. On the equinoxes the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of day and night is nearly equal—the word equinox comes from Latin and means "equality of night and day." The March or spring equinox marks the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator from south to north and vice-versa in September. In the Northern Hemisphere, the Vernal (Spring) Equinox marks the first day of spring, around March 21. In the Southern Hemisphere, it marks the first day of autumn.

In 325, the Council of Nicaea established that Easter Day would be held on the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the Easter date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox. Easter is delayed by one week if the full moon is on Sunday, which decreases the changes of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover. The date of Easter, based on the Gregorian calendar (some eastern or Orthodox churches establish the date based on the Julian calendar), must fall on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

That may be more information than you want to know, but the point is that most of the world thinks of Easter as one day…so do many people in the church. But though Easter is a day; it is also a season. As glorious as this day is, one day is not enough time to truly celebrate and engage the meaning and power of Christ's resurrection from the dead. This is the watershed moment in history and our faith. Without Easter, the incarnation and crucifixion are empty, no matter the depth of God's love that we experience in both events.

Easter cannot be contained in one day because it is more than one moment in time; it is an event that transcends time. It is the event that triggers the Ascension in which Jesus establishes himself as King and the reappearing of Jesus that establishes his kingdom in all of its glory. Easter opens the door to the possibility of eternal life. Easter opens the door to the New Creation. Easter changes everything. This is why the Easter season is 50 days. We can't possibly grasp or experience this kind of event in one day. In fact, the early church felt this so strongly that they declared every single Sunday of the year a mini Easter. You just can't get enough of it.

I hope that you will join us in celebrating Easter Sunday, April 1. It will be a glorious day of celebration—music, scripture, prayer, preaching and baptism. I also hope that you will join us on the Sundays that follow as we celebrate Easter Season, pondering how the New Creation to come changes how we live as we anticipate its coming.

Because Jesus is risen,
Pastor Wes

Pastoral Call Vote April 15

It is again our privilege and responsibility to call our Senior Pastor for another term of service. The Board of Elders, after meeting with the District Superintendent, unanimously recommends to the congregation an "extended call" to Pastor Wes Oden.

Pastor Wes Oden has graciously served as our senior pastor for 22 years. Every 4 years, the church elders review Wes' service as our pastor, and make a recommendation to the church membership for continued service. Up to this point, the church has voted to offer successive four-year calls to Pastor Wes. This year marks the conclusion of Wes' most recent four-year call to our church.

In accordance with the procedures outlined in The Wesleyan Discipline, the Elders met on March 20, 2018 with the District Superintendent and discussed a lengthy evaluative review of Pastor Wes and voted unanimously to recommend to the church membership an "extended call" of service to our church. Slightly different from a 4-year call, an extended call means that four years from now, the church Elders will meet again with the district superintendent to determine Wes' continued service. Pending the Elders review at that time, the vote for continued service will not need to go before the church membership, but rather will be determined by the local Elders. The Elders will still have the prerogative at that point to take a recommendation to the church membership if deemed necessary, but would not be required to do so. This process would then repeat every 4 years.

The congregational vote by church members will take place around each morning service on April 15. The Elders encourage you to commit this to prayer and then be in attendance to vote. Absentee ballots are available for those who will be away from Houghton and can be obtained at the church office. Absentee ballots must be returned to the church office by Friday, April 13, at 5:00 p.m. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Matthew Webb, Vice Chair, Board of Elders

To Honor our COLLEGE STUDENTS and upcoming GRADUATES!

Sunday, April 29, noon. Community Room.

Please bring a MAIN DISH and a salad or desert to share

STEWARDSHIP

Your Stewardship Now
Builds the Church Now and in the Future

Children are vital to who we are as a church, which is why we budget more than $27,000 a year to Children's Ministries. We invest these funds in our children because we believe that they are special to God—not just in the future when they grow to be adults, but right now as children. We believe that this financial investment enables us to help our children know and experience God's grace and truth now so that they will desire to build their lives on this foundation. It's because of your generous and continuous gifts to our church that the ministry to our children is possible.

But our investment is not limited to finances. Thanks as well for the investment of time, gifts, energy and service. Dozens of people invest themselves teaching, helping, nurturing and loving our children. For those of you who are unaware, here is a brief description of the various children's ministries.

Wednesday evenings fifty to sixty children, along with a wonderful group of volunteers. hear a Bible story presented by Doug Gaerte, followed by a game time, and Bible-based songs, some of which are originals written by Sarah Gurley and crafts that are organized and prepared by Jenny Johnson. And while parents are working with the children, Donna Blew and Terry Ayers organize a program for the preschoolers. They have their own Bible lesson, games, crafts and snack time too!

Family nights such as: the Operation Christmas Child packing party; Christmas caroling, the Annual Buddy Keith Grand Prix car and boat race, and the end of the year family swim night at the college pool reach out beyond our own community.

Junior Church, led by Heidi Miller and Andrea Boon, meets during the 8:20 service on non-communion Sundays with about 20 first, second and third grade children. In the fall the Junior Church students undertook a project to support World Hope's child sponsorship program. The children were overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation and exceeded their goal, raising $1205!

Children's Church meets during the 8:20 and 11:00 services with about 20 children. A variety of people assist with this ministry, including the Houghton College men's basketball and men's soccer teams.

Jess Wartinger and Jamie Potter, our Sunday School Superintendents recruit and provide adequate supplies for and oversee the 85 to 100 students and the more than 30 teachers and helpers. Jess manages a Facebook page (HWCKids) that provides communication about events in the church that relate to our children.

Jan Schilke oversees the nursery doing all the scheduling and making sure everything is safe and clean. Most Sundays the nursery workers care for about 10 babies. We are also committed to serve the parents of these babies. Kathy Reitnour oversees our Cradle Roll ministry, connecting with parents when a child is born and providing them with timely information about infants and parenting.

In addition, Valley Preschool welcomes 16 children Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Casda Danner, along with her assistants, does a wonderful job of directing and teaching.

We are thankful for all of our volunteers who teach and help with Sunday School, Children's Church, Junior Church, the nursery and Valley Preschool. We are also appreciative for all of the youth that come in to help the teachers during Children's church and Junior Church, some almost every week.

Finally, stop by the Children's Library to see the expanded facilities which were artistically created by the Otts and Blews. It is a wonderful, quiet space for children to go and choose books and DVDs or just spend some time.

Please join with our children in memorizing the monthly Bible verse that is printed in each "Highlights." We're never to old to learn.

Youth Group Happenings

Dates to Remember:

April 1: No Youth Group – Easter Sunday
April 3: No Prayer Breakfast
May 4-5: 30 Hour Famine
May 6: 6th graders join Youth Group for the first time

STUDENT PROFILE

Hello! My name is Ayrianna Potter. I have been attending Youth Group for about a year and a half. I continue to come to Youth Group because it is very educational for me and helpful in situations in my life. I have also made a lot of friends here who do not go to school with me, so this is my chance to see them. My favorite part of Youth Group is our small group time where I get to vent my ideas about how I feel about the topic we are discussing. It also gives me a chance to hear the perspectives of others in my group. I do not come from a Christian background and Youth Group has taught me that God truly loves everyone and that He saved us all from sin.

Ayrianna Potter

Kids and Parents! Our verse for April is Matthew 28:6

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Congratulations!

- to parents Patrick and Sarah Hager at the birth of Miles Joseph on February 27.
- to parents Vali and Elizabeth Ciobanu and siblings Zoe and Anna at the birth of Naomi on March 26.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and helped with our Annual Grand Prix race this year. It was a wonderful event and all the contributions and work on the cars and boats is so appreciated!

Pastor Laurie

This is the first in a series honoring those who are volunteering in our Children's Ministry at Houghton Wesleyan

Grace Taylor has been volunteering in our Special Ed Sunday School classroom for over 25 years, often with the help of her daughter Cindy Lu. She has been so faithful to work with our students and shows her love and kindness in so many ways! We appreciate Grace and Cindy Lu Taylor so very much!

Applications for Valley Pre School will be ready in early April.

Thanks to all who have participated
in the 2017-18 Faith Promise.
Final gifts should be submitted by 27th of May.
Our FP Wesleyan missionaries

- Austins, Caringals, Georges, Rodrigos, Strands, and Thedes – say "thank you" too. God has been faithful once more.

To Him be the glory.

We offer our condolences to the family of

- Bob Smalley whose father died February 23.
- Skip Lord whose mother died February 27.
- Mike Jordan whose grandmother Kay Lindley died March 8.
- Dick Alderman whose wife Gerry died March 16. A memorial service will be held for Gerry Alderman on Saturday, April 14 at 11:00 at the church. Visitation with the family will take place prior to the service.
- Ella Woolsey who died March 29. A funeral service will be held for Ella Woolsey on Saturday, April 7 at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Visitation with the family will take place at Kopler-Williams Funeral Home in Fillmore on Friday, April 6, from 6-8 p.m. and on Saturday at the church from 10-11 a.m..

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.

LIVE STREAMING: All of our worship services (and funeral/memorial services, unless otherwise requested by family) 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.

What is Celebrate Recovery?

It is a Christ centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind.

It is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life.

The purpose of Celebrate Recovery ministry is to fellowship and celebrate God´s healing power in our lives through the "8 Recovery Principles." This experience allows us to "be changed." We open the door by sharing our experiences, strengths and hopes with one another. In addition, we become willing to accept God´s grace in solving our lives´ problems. By working and applying these Biblical principles, we begin to grow spiritually. We become free from our addictive, compulsive and dysfunctional behaviors. This freedom creates peace, serenity, joy and most importantly, a stronger personal relationship with God and others. As we progress through the program we discover our personal, loving and forgiving Higher Power - Jesus Christ, the one and only true Higher Power.

HISTORY: "Celebrate Recovery started in 1991 at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. At that time, the church was meeting at a high school gymnasium. John Baker wrote Pastor Rick Warren the "now-famous, concise, 13-page, single-spaced" letter outlining the vision God had given John for Celebrate Recovery. After reading John's letter, Pastor Rick said, "Great, John — go do it!" The first night 43 people attended, and Celebrate Recovery was born. Beginning with only four Open Share Groups — Men's and Women's Chemical Dependency, and Men's and Women's Codependency — the ministry has grown to over 14 groups today. Over 27,000 people have gone through the program at Saddleback Church. Many of them are now serving in Celebrate Recovery and the Church. Celebrate Recovery is the number one outreach ministry at Saddleback Church, with over 70 percent of its members now coming from outside the church. There are now 35,000 Celebrate Recovery churches around the world, and that number continues to grow. We are part of a movement that is bringing the healing power of Jesus Christ to the hurting and broken through working Celebrate Recovery's Step Studies, The Journey Begins, and The Journey Continues. To date, over 5 million individuals have completed a Step Study.

"In addition, Celebrate Recovery is not just growing in churches, but in recovery houses, rescue missions, universities, and prisons around the world. New Mexico was the first state to adopt Celebrate Recovery into its state prison system and now has Celebrate Recovery pods in all its state prisons. In August 2004, Celebrate Recovery was announced as California's state-approved substance abuse program for prisons. This is an exciting and growing outreach opportunity for every Celebrate Recovery. We are a part of something much larger than one church's Celebrate Recovery. We are part of a movement that God is blessing."

There are two Celebrate Recovery groups meeting already in Allegany County, one on Thursdays in Yorks Corners south of Wellsville and one on Saturday evenings in Scio at Knights Creek Church. Celebrate Recovery Inside began in the Allegany County Jail in August 2017 at the request of the Jail administrators.

Houghton's leadership team has formed and meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 in Room 105 across from the church Library and are doing the step study together. If you are interested in learning more about Celebrate Recovery or joining the leadership team, call Addie Silbert at 716-499-9154.

From the

Library Shelves

Have you noticed our Parenting shelf in the library? There are many helpful books with parenting ideas for infants to teens, books for moms, books for dads, books about family finances, and books about getting your teen ready for college. Look it over to see what might be of benefit to you and your family.

In the children's room we have a shelf with just Easy Reading books, especially for our beginning readers. We hope they will be excited to find books they can read all by themselves, and will learn to love books and the adventures they can have through them.

Please remember to return any library items you have finished with so others may enjoy them also.

Wellspring Ministries

With Spring here we encourage you to pump up our ***sagging donations*** by entrusting us with your unwanted, in good shape household items, including spring/summer wear, toys, games, knick-knacks, fabric, furniture, etc.

We cautiously now will accept items placed on the porch at Wellspring when we are closed, provided there is not already an overflow situation. Donations on the Beardsley porch table are welcome any Monday or Tuesday. No phone call is necessary.

Do come visit any Wednesday or Friday from 10am to 1:45. A healthy, tasty lunch is served at noon. ***Our meal attendance needs the boost of your presence*** among us. Come, be a part of the Wellspring family. There are also specific volunteer needs if you have an extra hour or two to give us.

We are closed on 3/30 for Good Friday.

With grateful hearts for your fellowship in prayer and giving. Thank you for not "reaping to the very edges of your fields, leaving your harvest gleanings for the needy and the foreigner residing among you." God provides through His own.

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

Going Away in the Winter? I'll come check your house, daily if it's <u>really</u> cold so you don't have to worry (Sorry Tom!)
Tom Machamer 716-498-5100

Beef on Weck Fundraiser

for the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department

WHEN: Thursday, April 19th from 5-7pm
WHERE: the Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room
All proceeds will go towards the Fire Hall Renovations

$9.00 for adults
$6.00 for kids under 10

Dinners include traditional Beef of Weck, macaroni salad, baked beans, tossed salad, and homemade desserts.

Come enjoy an evening of friends and food
and help support your local fire department!

*If you would like to donate a dessert or two
to help support the fire department, please let Mae Stadelmaier know
at maegan.stadelmaier@houghtonvfd.org or 210-827-2562

Houghton Academy will present Hello, Dolly! on April 26-28 at 7:00 pm in the Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy. Tickets will cost $4 for students and senior citizens, and $7 for adults. The story of Dolly & Horace is the basis of one of the most beloved musicals in the history of American theatre. Houghton Academy's production of Hello, Dolly!, directed by Tim Nichols, stars Elise Poorman '18 as Dolly and Liam McNeill '18 as Horace.

The musical was written by Michael Stewart with music & lyrics by Jerry Herman and based on the play "The Matchmaker," by Thornton Wilder. Original Production Directed and Choreographed by Gower Champion Produced for the Broadway Stage by David Merrick and Champion Five, Inc. HELLO, DOLLY! is presented by arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC. 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022

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).

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!

Employment Opportunity for Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Richardson & Pullen, P.C., a small law firm based in Fillmore, New York, is currently seeking a part-time or full-time legal assistant or paralegal to join its team.

It is preferred that candidates have prior secretarial and/or paralegal experience, but this is not a requirement as on the job training will be provided. Strict adherence to confidentiality is required.

Pay and benefits commensurate with experience.

To apply for this position please send your resume and cover letter to **rpullen@rppclaw.com.**

WANTED: Win Win Wireless, a local Internet Service Provider, is looking to hire a full-time installer. The position requires and individual with technical and mechanical skills, who can install and connect wireless radio receivers in customers' homes. Other duties include providing on-going technical support, marketing and public relations, and customer and inventory record keeping. If interested, or for a full job description, please contact rachel.pullen@winwinwireless.com.

Houghton Area Senior Citizens Luncheon April 12 at Noon

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

Program at 1:00 p.m.
Pathway To Empire—The Story of The Erie Canal
Presented by Craig Braack—retired County Historian
Hailed as the greatest engineering feat of the 19th century, the Erie Canal survives today. However, it is now used mostly for recreation purposes. Program covers why it was built and problems encountered.

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

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

April 1 (7:45 am / 10:00 am)
7:45am Easter Baptism
10:00am Easter Worship: *When the Earth Shakes*

April 8 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
Living in Freedom … Then and Now (Colossians 3:1-4)
p.m. Small Groups

April 15 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
Hope of New Bodies … Then and Now (2 Co. 5:1-10)
p.m. Small Groups

April 22 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
Joy in Creating Beauty … Then and Now (2 Co. 9; 2 Peter 3)
p.m. Small Groups

April 29 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
College Graduate Recognition
p.m. Final Small Groups

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**