Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

*Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others*

*May 2018*
*Volume 50, No. 12*

# Thank You / We Need a Vision, Even If...

*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*
(Proverbs 29: 18)

Cindy and I feel humbled and privileged to be extended such a supportive call from this church and people that we dearly love. We feel blessed to have served you and with you for 22 years and we feel blessed to think of our ministry together for the years to come. We are grateful beyond the limits of words.

Now that we have had a few weeks to absorb the pastoral vote, the staff, the Elders and I are turning our attention to what lies ahead. We never want to ignore or forget the past—we learn valuable lessons from past success and failure. But neither do we want to remain in the past. God calls his people to remember and he calls his people to look ahead. He calls his people to embrace his vision. He calls his people to hope in him, even if….

I've been thinking about the "even if" as I look out the window and see snow falling. It seems at times that winter may never end. I've seen Facebook postings that declare this day not April 19, but rather January 109. When the snow and cold keep coming, it's difficult to imagine and believe that summer will indeed arrive. When April temperatures continue to hover around 20 to 30 degrees, it's hard feel hopeful for 70 or 80 or 90 degrees. But, something inside of us knows that it will happen. And the proof of our hope is our planning. When we have hope, we plan for what we believe to come. You have hope of what is to come if you sharpen the blades on your mower. You have hope of what is to come if you purchase seeds for your garden. You have hope of what is to come if you start cleaning up the grill and the lawn chairs that have been stored in your garage all winter. We do the same as God's people.

If we believe that God is trustworthy, if we believe that God is faithful, if we believe that God is for us, if we believe that God has conquered every foe and that he has no rival, we live with a vision of hope for the future. We plan and prepare, we dream and pray, in such a way that we expect God has more in mind for us than we might imagine. and we do this when life is good and comfortable and when it is not.

As we move into a new season of ministry, the staff, the Elders and I are looking, asking and listening for however God may lead us. We hope that you will help us hear God as he speaks to us by engaging yourself the annual Vision Meeting: Sunday, May 20, 5:00pm. We look forward to the opportunity to hear some of what God has done and to think and discuss what we are hearing from about what he is going to do.

Thank you for your prayers and your involvement as a part of the movement of God's Spirit in Houghton and beyond.

Blessings,

Pastor Wes

# Election of Leaders

Elections take place on Sunday, May 20 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 20, 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. 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 3 will be available at the church. Please bring a dessert to share.

## EASTER BAPTISM

Congratulations to Jack and Jared Boon, Joe and Lisa Breton, Lydia and Micah Christensen, Lily Pool, Jayne Swanson, Katherine Tiblow, and Wade Tran. who were baptized on Easter Morning, April 1.

## MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome new members Joe and Lisa Breton, Mike and Rhoda Burgett, Andrew and Addie Silbert, Katherine Tiblow and Floyd Richmond. Extend to them God's richest blessings.

## CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY MAY 5

Help beautify our church facility by participating in our annual Church Work Day on Saturday, May 5, 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.

# The budget is coming...

# Sunday, May 6.

# Youth Group Happenings

## Dates to Remember:

May 4-5: 30 Hour Famine
May 6: 6th Graders join Youth Group
May 13: No Youth Group
May 27: Youth Sunday w/ Senior Recognition

## STUDENT PROFILE

Hello! My name is Lexi Pool. I have been attending Youth Group for about 2 years. One of the reasons I continue to attend Youth Group is because of the people I get to be around; everyone interacts with everyone, and no one feels left out. I have learned that the gift of God's love is better than any other gift we can receive. My favorite part of Youth Group is being in our small group and talking about our personal thoughts on the lesson.

Favorite Verse:

"I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- John 8:12

**Lexi Pool**

# MISSIONS Notes!

- FAITH PROMISE – Rejoice that we are on target with our Goal of $33,334.00 for support of our Wesleyan missionaries due by the end of May. To God be the glory and thanks to all. The Austins, Caringals, Georges, Rodrigos, Strands, and Thedes thank you as well. (Note: In the new church fiscal year contributions for these and all our mission outreach is rolled into the church budget! Pray for God to continue His supply.)
- *"MISSION MAILBAG"* – Receive monthly news from the front lines of HWC missions by picking up your copy of the *Mailbag* news summaries each month in the foyer and by the C.E. mission bulletin board. Thanks to Elizabeth Ciobanu for editing each issue. (To receive Mailbag online contact the church office.)
- SHORT TERM – Dr. Lewis and Sports Ministry class head to Romania in May; Ben Lawrence to Spain in May, Dan and Kathy Moore to Perm, Russia in June, Jon and Luke Cole to Spain in June, Adriene and Crystal (Schierer) to Romania in July, Ken Huang to Asia in June. Pray for all.

## SMALL GROUPS -

Small groups concluded in April but will resume in the Fall. Several new groups were added this year.
Plan ahead for the uplifting fellowship and growth these groups provide.
Thanks to leaders and hosts alike:
Dashnaus, Finks, D. Gurleys, B. Hutton, M. Jordan, Leaxes, Mayhles, JL Miller, Sheas, M. Walters, Wartingers, Woolseys, Youngs, and all who participated.

30 HOUR FAMINE

VILLAGE FOOD DRIVE MAY 4, 5 to 7 pm

30 HOUR FAMINE

**Saturday, May 5**
**1:00 to 4:40 p.m.**
**church parking lot**

# Bikes on the Quad

Starting May 16, 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 16 – August 22.

## Children's Church

Need for help with Children's Church

For every service we have here at our church, we offer Children's Church for ages 2-5. That requires at least 2 volunteers over age 18 for each class. We appreciate all the teachers and assistants that help during the year. From May through August, we want to give our regular school year helpers some time off, which means you have an opportunity to worship God by helping our children learn more about Him. If you are interested in helping out during May-August, please let Pastor - Laurie know (567-2264) or check out the opportunities for teaching or assisting with Children's Church here:

Scan me

https://goo.gl/z3Qib4

**Our Children's Ministry Volunteer spot light is on Jan Schilke this month.** I am so thankful for the more than 15 years that Jan has been coordinating our nursery ministry which is so much more than recruiting and training volunteers. Jan also plays the piano every week for our Sunday School opening and teaches our kids songs that come straight from scripture, many that are written by Pat Shea! We appreciate all of our Children's ministry volunteers and thank Jan for her faithful service.

**May Sunday School Scripture is Psalm 50: 15** (HCSB)
"Call on Me in a day of trouble; I will rescue you, and you will honor Me."

**Put on your calendars:**
June 10th is our Annual Sunday School picnic to honor our Sunday School teachers and helpers. The Congregation is invited to participate!

**On June 17th, all Sunday School teachers** are encouraged to meet during the 9:40 service in the Conference Room for the year-end meeting and planning session for next school year.

# Valley Preschool

Valley Preschool's three mornings per week program for children ages three through five provides a safe, nurturing environment in which young children learn, explore, develop physically, mentally, and spiritually, engage with peers and caring adults, and develop a love of learning.

Children have daily opportunities to learn through time in learning and activity centers (reading, literacy, & dramatic play, art, sand & water, blocks & puzzles, etc.), as well as through planned lessons on a variety of topics. Using books, music, Bible and other stories, daily gym or playground time, table projects, and lots of conversation, our children sharpen listening skills, use analytical thinking, develop language skills, improve fine and gross motor skills, and share creative ideas all of which gives them good preparation and competency for future learning and understanding in more formal school settings.

We have had a wonderful year at Valley Preschool. Casda Danner, Brandy Joslyn, Joy Mansfield, and volunteer "Grandma Joan" (Zieja) have been kept busy working with the sixteen children in our two classrooms. Come see all of the projects in "our" hallway of the Christian education building including our transforming winter mural. The arrival of spring on our mural is preceding the outdoor arrival! At this writing we just had our annual zoo days and are anticipating our second day at the nursing home, learning more of the story of Moses and acting it out on "Exodus Day," and learning more about animals. Along with all this we're working on our songs and presentation of Eric Carle's "The Very Busy Spider" for our graduation on May 16th. Please pray for this ministry as we finish this year and prepare for our upcoming 50th year.

Applications for the 2018-19 school year are available on our bulletin board and online at hwchurch.org. Please contact the director/teacher, Casda Danner (585-567- 4314 or casdadanner@hwchurch.org), if you have questions about your child ages 3-5 attending VPS next year or would like more information.

## MEALS ON WHEELS - Service Opportunity

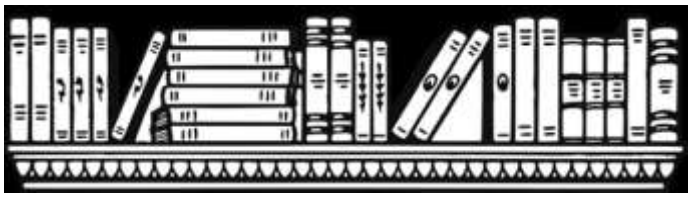
**We need drivers for this vital community service of delivering meals to people in the Houghton, Fillmore, Hume and Wiscoy area. You would be asked to drive one day each month, for example, the 2nd Tuesday or 3rd Friday. It takes about an hour of your time to provide for those in need. We are currently working on the summer schedule (May-August). If you can even help over the summer months, it would be appreciated. Your children may ride along as you make the deliveries, experiencing Christ's love in action.**
**Please call if you're interested in helping.**

**Judi Mayhle, local driver coordinator for Meals on Wheels**

**(h) 567-8241 (c) 585 356-8695**

From the

# Library Shelves



Do you like to listen to stories? In the adult section we have a number of books on CD in our collection. We also have the Bible on CD and quite a number of music CDs.
Our children's section also has story CDs, some of which are Adventures in Odyssey and Hermie the Caterpillar. There is also kids music on CDs.

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

**WNY District Conference…….. June 16, 9am-4pm, Eastern Hills Wesleyan**

**Refresh Retreat and Family Camp…… July 29—August 3 @ Houghton College**

**Ordination Service……..... October 14, 6pm (Location TBA)**

# Wellspring Ministries

Thank you for increased donations with the arrival of Spring. Our clients seem to be looking for something 'new' and 'fresh'.

We had 90 folks at our Easter dinner the end of March. The men's small group from Genesis Bible Church, as well Allegany County sheriff Rick Whitney and three of his undersheriffs carried a meal to each person at the tables, and then passed out ham pieces. It was a positive opportunity to connect with kindness and good will.

Your prayers and generosity enable us to keep serving others effectively. Volunteers are welcome, and this past month we welcomed a few new ones, including Robert Stalker, Patty's husband, who is a wonderful addition.

Note: closed: Friday, May 25th (Memorial Day weekend)
open: Wed. and Fridays from 10am to 1:30pm

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

# Houghton Area Senior Citizens Luncheon
## May 10 ~ Noon

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

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

The program follows at 1:00 p.m. ***Animal Sounds*** **– James Pomeroy, teacher & biologist**
*This program attempts to motivate people to identify by ear some of our fellow crew members on Spaceship Earth. There are a few mammals, a few amphibians, and some of our species of birds.*

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General questions – Ken Gaerte
Meal Questions – Jill Schmidt

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

We offer our condolences and prayers for the families of

- Ella Woolsey who died March 29. A funeral service was held for Ella Woolsey on Saturday, April 7 at the church.
- Hudson Hess who died April 13 in Lynchburg, Virginia. A funeral service was held April 21 at the church.
- Phyllis Joyce Robbins Moore, Dan Moore's Mother who died April 17. Joyce served as head librarian at Houghton College from 1977-1986.

Funeral and Memorial services are video streamed and archived on our website along with our Sunday morning worship services. Go to https://www..hwchurch.org and click on "WATCH ONLINE."

## FUNERAL MEALS – Service Opportunity

If you are interested in helping families who have experienced the death of a loved one and would like to assist in a tangible way, please consider joining the group who set up, serve and clean up for funeral meals that are provided by our church for those who have lost a loved one. Men, women and teens are needed. Please call if you're interested in helping.

Judi Mayhle (h) 567-8241 (c) 585-356-8695

# Allegany County Office for the Aging

## 2018
## PUBLIC HEARING
## and
## SENIOR FORUM

**Thursday, May 17, 2018** — **Houghton Wesleyan Church**
**9712 NY 19, Houghton**

**OR**

**Thursday, May 24, 2018** — **Wellsville American Legion**
**23 Jefferson Street, Wellsville**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:30-9:00 am | Registration |
| 9:00-10:00 am | PUBLIC HEARING |
| 10:00-10:15 am | Break |
| 10:30-12:00 noon | AVOID, DENY, DEFEND |
| 12:00 noon | Lunch |

### PUBLIC HEARING

The Allegany County Office for the Aging is offering its annual hearing to discuss our 2018-2019 programs. The public hearings offer you the opportunity to express your opinions to your elected Legislators on how we can better serve the elderly of Allegany County.

### AVOID, DENY, DEFEND—Sheriff Rick Whitney

Active shooter events are happening across the world, so it only makes sense to be prepared. This training provides strategies and guidance for surviving an active shooter event.

**$3.00 Suggested Donation for Lunch for Anyone 60 and Over**
**$8.00 Charge for Lunch for Anyone Under 60**

**Reservations are required**
**Please call the Office for the Aging @ 585-268-9390**

Sunday evening, June 3 at 5:00 p.m.
in the Church Community Room

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

is coming Saturday, May 26 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 26, 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!

**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**

## $10 adult, $5 child

Chicken & Biscuits dinner includes Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Applesauce & Dessert

Sponsored by Fillmore Fun Fest

**BABYSITTER:** My name is Lydia Schilke and I am interested in starting to babysit more this year. I am 14 years old (15 in October), love kids, and have lots of experience with them since I come from a family with seven children. I have taken an American Red Cross course in babysitting. I have babysat for multiple other people besides my own family and am excited to have more opportunities to do so. Currently I am not involved in any sports or plays at my school so I have lots of free evenings and my weekends are pretty open as well. Soccer is my only sport so future years should also be fairly open.
Please contact me at 567-4889. I look forward to spending time with your kids!

**Ticket Prices**
**$20—Artist Circle**
**$10—General Admission**
**$25—At the door Artist Circle (if available)**
**$12—At the door General Admission (if available)**

**Tickets at itickets.com or may be purchased locally thru Southern Gospel NY...call 585-329-3840**

## SUNDAYS IN MAY

**May 6** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Resurrected Life of Mind and Body* (2 Cor. 5)
p.m. Small Groups

**May 13** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *The Resurrected Life of Our Inheritance* (1 Cor. 6)

**May 20** (8:30 am / 11:00 am, 5:00 pm)
a.m. *God's Blessings are Abundant* (Psalm 104 & Acts 2)
p.m. Vision Gathering

**May 27** (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***
***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**

**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**

### *SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE*

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|---|---|
| *May 20 – June 24* | *Worship – 8:30 and 11:00 / Sunday School – 9:45* |
| *July 1 – August 12* | *Worship – 10:00 / No Sunday School* |
| *August 19 – August 26* | *Worship – 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00 / No Sunday School* |
| *September 2* | *Worship – 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00 / Sunday School – 9:40* |