Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

July 2018
Volume 51, No. 2

The God of Miracles or A Baby Is Born

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother's womb.
Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.
Psalm 139:13-14

On Wednesday, June 6, 2:28 pm Jerry David Oden was born into this world and Cindy and I became grandparents for the second time. As many of you know from your own experience, it is an indescribable thrill to hold a grandchild in your arms. There is a joy that comes from this experience that is virtually impossible to put into words.

In these moments, holding this little one, I am always astounded by the minute details of a new born. The tiny fingernails and toenails. The eyes that see. The ears that hear. The mouth that seeks nourishment. The muscles that though unable to control motor skills, nevertheless move and flex and squeeze. Of course, you can't forget the lungs that one moment were unnecessary and unused and the next moment are gasping for air and expressing need and the digestive system that assures everyone that all is…well…well!

Being around this little one reminds me of how little I know of the intricacies of the human body compared to people who give their lives studying how the human body works—how every nerve, bone and blood vessel is created to operate this fine-tuned existence we call a human being. I don't know how a heart pumps blood to all parts of my body, but a physician does. I don't know how the liver and kidneys process and cleanse that blood, but nurses do. I don't know how my bones connect or how testing my blood reveals symptoms and causes of health or disease, but technicians do. And like so much of life, the people who know the most about anything are the people who appreciate all that it took to create this thing.

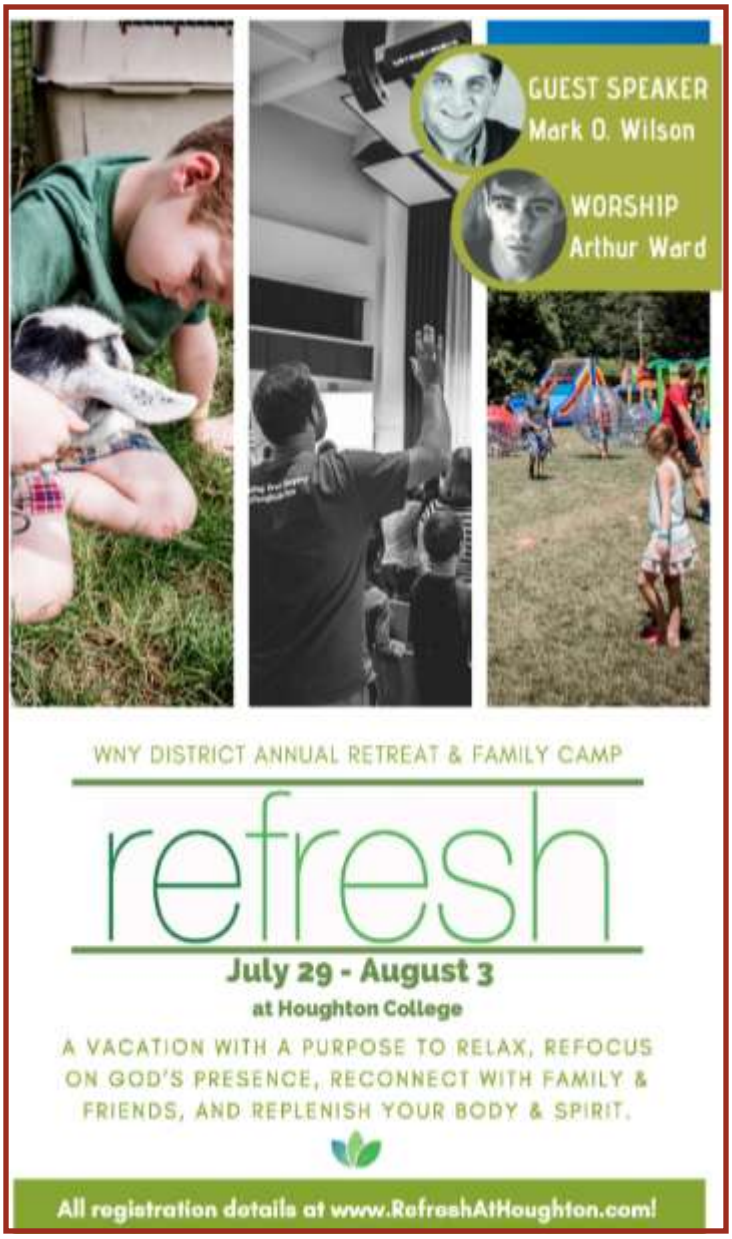
I think about a mechanic who appreciates the intricacies of an engine in a way I cannot. An electrician appreciates the nuances of voltage and amps in a way that I cannot. An accountant appreciates the value of how numbers can tell a story in ways that I cannot. I also recognize that I might be able to appreciate the subtleties of how a sermon is constructed in ways that others may not.

But whether we understand how our bodies work, all of us have the privilege of giving thanks for the gift of human life—our life, the lives of those close to us, the lives of people all over the world. I need to be reminded that God the Creator isn't only calling me to give thanks for his wondrous creation, but also to see people the way he does—not just as intricacies of complex design, but as needy people seeking love.

Isn't this the greatest miracle of God's creation, of a newborn? Everyone is not just an intricate design to be admired and studied but a miracle to be loved. So, whether or not we can explain how our bodies work, we can love. We are created to love. We are redeemed and restored by Jesus to love. As you think about a newborn, let it trigger the realization that we are loved to love and may we find joy in being loved and in being channels of love.

Pastor Wes

to the 2nd grade Sunday School class who recited the books of the Bible in the 11:00 worship service on June 24 and to the 6th grade Catechism class who were honored for learning 125 questions and answers about what we believe and how we live. Thanks to teachers Karl and Jill Schmidt (2nd grade) and to Harold Blew (6th grade). And thanks to everyone who teaches, helps, subs or anything else to allow us to operate Sunday School so that our children, youth and adults may develop in our faith in Jesus. Special thanks to Jess Wartinger and Jamie Potter, co-Sunday School Superintendents for your leadership.



MISSION NOTES:

Summer visits to Houghton!

Several in our missionary family will be making visits to church and community. Make a point of catching up. Some special events may be further announced:

- July 8 – Cindy Austin, visiting from Czech Republic / 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- July 29 – Martin and Sheri Hegeman, preparing for Niger
- August 5 – Kris and Cory Thede, visiting from Haiti.

<u>God blesses!</u> HWC was recently recognized as the top church in WNY for giving to Global Partners. Thanks for allowing us to pass God's blessings on to others near and far.

<u>Mission Committee expansion!</u> Yes, Houghton Missions wants you. The Missions Committee desire more and diverse membership. Contact Beth Beardsley, Elizabeth Ciobanu, Karen Daugherty, Jonathan Hilsher, Don Little, Carolyn Miller, Calvin Schierer or Paul Shea for info.

NOTE: Missionary Mailbag will be taking a break during July and August and will resume in September. Remember to contact Patty (pattystalker@hwchurch.org) to sign up for the email version if you wish .

Puerto Rico July 21-29, 2018

This summer Houghton Wesleyan Church is sending a team of 23 people to Puerto Rico to work at the Wesleyan Academy of PR. Our inter-generational team will be doing cleaning, light maintenance, and generally whatever we can to help the school get ready for the new school year, which begins approximately ten days after we leave. See their website at WWW.WesleyanAcademy.info

Please be in prayer for this team! Pray that God will use us to support the mission of the Wesleyan Academy of PR and pray that we will be a blessing to everyone we meet. Here's the team:

Jon and Sally Retz
Grace Retz
Sarah Retz
Emma Retz
Jadyn Mucher

Jon Cole
Luke Cole
Emma Cole
Levi Webb
Tobias Webb

Steve Tucker
Ali Tucker
Zac Tucker
Sadie Noyes
Josh Derck
Joe Derck

Jonathon and Kathie Hilsher
Carissa Hilsher
Caleb Hilsher
Austin Propert
Maya Cooley

In addition to praying for us, if you would like to help the team with a monetary gift, make your check **payable to Houghton Wesleyan Church** and include the attached response device. May God bless you richly as you consider your involvement.

Giver Response Form

NAME_____

We will pray for the trip, the ministry to be performed, the members of the ministry team, and specifically for _____.

We want to support the missions outreach of Houghton Wesleyan Church and are sending our gift of $_____. We understand that the use of the gift is subject to the discretion and control of Houghton Wesleyan Church.

AUSTIN REPORT COFFEE HOUR

Sunday July 8, 9:00 a.m., Community Room

Come early and hear first hand news from Cindy Austin from their evangelism and discipling ministry in The Czech Republic.. Sweet rolls and beverages will be provided. Don't miss this great update opportunity.

Summer Small Group Fellowship

We are hosting a summer small group and we'd be glad for you to join us: **Monday nights at 6 pm with dinner provided!** Our goal: to provide a time and place where Christians can get together to support one another's spiritual growth -- sharing spiritual goals, talking of ways we can support one another, and letting the Spirit do the rest. All ages welcome. We don't currently plan on having childcare, but if we have a lot of interest from parents with children we'd be glad to figure something out. Email or call us to rsvp so we can get a rough estimate of how many people to plan for and if you have any allergies or food restrictions. Even if you don't get around to rsvp-ing you're welcome to join us, we just need a rough estimate of who might join us.

Email: ptumbaga@hawaii.edu Phone: 808-489-1819.
Address: 9619 Route 19, Apt 1 D, Houghton, NY 14744.

Thank you,
Philip and Rebekah

Report from Assistant Pastor Paul Shea

Adult Discipleship/College Ministry/Missions

It is a distinct privilege to serve as Assistant Pastor alongside Pastor Wes and the splendid pastoral staff and with the amazing folks in this congregation. Thanks to all who have upheld us in prayer and so often supported and affirmed the work God is doing. My areas of responsibility are actually very dependent on the sacrificial labors of others in the following ministries: Adult Sunday School, Adult Small Groups and Prayer Groups, College Ministry – including Koinonia supervision, and Missions program oversight including WKFM. In addition, having done so prior to joining staff, I've continue to organize and lead weekly Bible study and worship at the Houghton Nursing Home. Last Fall, it was a special joy to mentor our student intern, James Mclean, who served so faithfully.

In recent Highlights, I've tried to list names of those who lead classes, groups, and ministries so I won't list again, but God has provided wonderful seasoned and new workers. Thanks goes out to those who have helped for long years and for new ones who've stepped up this year. Our goal is to grow ever deeper with God and to lovingly serve each other in the church and beyond.

Special thanks: We praise God for helping the congregation to surpass its Faith promise goal for the year and to give so generously for Puerto Rico relief. The mission outreach of HWC is heartwarming and exciting. For missions giving, the recent District conference cited Houghton Wesleyan as ranked #1 in our WNY District, with 27% of our offerings going beyond our own boarders. We praise God for reports of real growth and care through smaller groups and classes. We praise God for the good number of college students connecting with our church.

Big news: HWC has hired a half-time College Ministry Resident to assist with ministry to college students starting in the Fall. We welcome Austen Kewin, Houghton College, M.A. Music, 2017; B.A. Music, and B.S. Christian Formation 2015. Most recently Austen has been Spiritual Integration Fellow at HOPE International, Lancaster, PA. You will find Austen to be a wonderful, mature, talented addition to our church staff. I so look forward to working with him.

Finally, I seek your prayers and participation for greater days ahead of walking close to the Lord and reaching out in even more significant ways in the year to come.

– Paul Shea, Assistant Pastor

Youth Group Happenings

Pray for our team heading to Puerto Rico
July 21 - 29

Sunday School averaged
30 students
Prayer Breakfast averaged
24 students per week

Words of Wisdom: We invited someone from our church, on the other end of the age spectrum, to join us in Sunday School. These were fantastic times of fellowship, of hearing stories of God's faithfulness, and of interacting with people from our faith community that we might see in church, but not otherwise interacted with.

Sunday Night Life Groups: Gather, first, as a large group for games, announcements, & celebration of birthdays. The bulk of our time is spent in small groups. We have a fantastic team of more than 20 committed small group leaders who are a consistent nurturing force in the lives of our students.

Youth Events: Storm the Heights, District Winter Retreat, 30 Hour Famine,
Upcoming Missions Trip to Puerto Rico

Please Pray:

-that God will make our church a place where young people are drawn into transforming relationships with Jesus & with this community of faith.

--that our youth will experience Jesus in personal & powerful ways as we worship & serve together

-that God will enable each of us as adults to live our lives with Christ in such a way that young people in our church community can't help but be drawn to Him.

-for our study of God's Word, that this solid foundation will result in students who are effective, lifelong, servants of Jesus Christ.

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 base-balls and gloves, soccer balls, Frisbees, sidewalk chalk.) We meet every Wednesday through August 22.

THANK YOU!

Sunday School Picnic

Thanks to Jess Wartinger and Jamie Potter and all who helped make this a successful time of food, fellowship and recognition.

If you love working with children, we have two great opportunities for you to consider:

- We still have a need for two Sunday School teachers next year - for our one-year-old class and our four-year-old class. If you have an interest in being part of the team - please let Jess, Jamie or Laurie know.
- If you enjoy older children, we can use a few more people helping with our Kid's Club on Wednesday nights - working with our 1-2 graders. Please let Laurie know if you would like to join in the fun!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

We have 2 dynamic Junior Church Leaders in our Children's Ministry - Heidi Miller and Andrea Boon. They took on the role of leading this ministry so that our kids that are too old for Children's Church, but a bit too young and energetic to sit through an entire worship service can learn about the Bible and how to apply what they learn to their lives. These ladies area doing excellent work and really making a difference in the lives of the 25-30 kids that attend 3 out of 4 weeks each month. Their classes are full of fun and energy, but more importantly, full of great Biblical content with an emphasis on serving others. Thank you Andrea and Heidi!

July's Verse: Mark 16:15 - Jesus said to them, Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation.

Valley Preschool

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

G.R.A.C.E. Community Outreach

Foster Family Picnic
—July 20 @ 5 pm—

Department of Social Services and Hillside work together with PAH and the Genesee Rapids for a night at the ballpark. PAH is purchasing and preparing the food for the event; donations of food or volunteers for food prep would be greatly appreciated. Menu for about 150 people includes: pulled pork, salt potatoes, watermelon, veggie trays, chips, lemonade, and ice cream sundae bar.
Contact Addie Silbert at: addie.silbert@gmail.com or Emily Spateholts at emily.spateholts@gmail.com for more information.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.

Blood Drive
Houghton Wesleyan Church

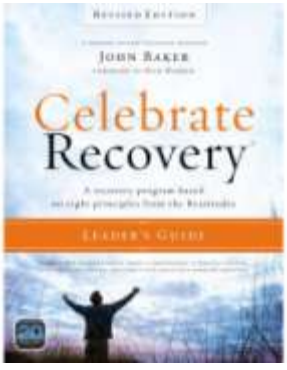
Community Room
9712 NY-19
Houghton, NY 14744

JULY 27, 2018
2:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Contact Emily Spateholts at emily.spateholts@gmail.com for more information.



A leadership team for Celebrate Recovery has been working together for a few months to tackle the training material to get a group started at the Church. However, someone is needed to take the reigns and lead the team in the fall. Interested? Contact Jon Cole or Addie Silbert (addie.silbert@gmail.com).

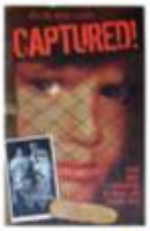
We welcome any flowers that you would like to donate for Sunday morning services throughout the summer. Contact Linda Knapp at 567-8131.

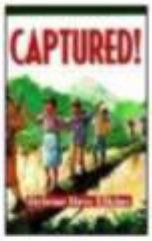
Wellspring Ministries

Our own Kathie Brenneman is now in charge of planning meals for our Wednesday kitchen at Wellspring. Kathie loves doing the meals, but she depends on a team to help her with the various tasks involved in preparing a warm main meal for our clients. We typically host anywhere from 35-50 people.

Currently we are short at least one regular kitchen helper on Wednesdays. Would someone in our community please consider being a kitchen helper? If serving weekly is too much of a commitment, why not find a friend with whom you could alternate Wednesdays? This volunteer job involves meal prep, serving up and clean-up: about a 3 1/2 hour commitment from 9:45 am- 1:15 pm. Remember the old adage: "Many hands make light work?" It's true!

If you are willing to be a part of our Wednesday kitchen team, please contact Gudy Stevenson (585-567-4277, call or message; email is gudycm@yahoo.com).





YOU ARE INVITED!

WHAT? The book signing of "Captured"
WHEN? Friday July 6 from 3-5 O'clock PM
WHERE? Houghton College (campus center) Van Dyke Lounge
WHO? The author Arlene Hess Elkins & her siblings.

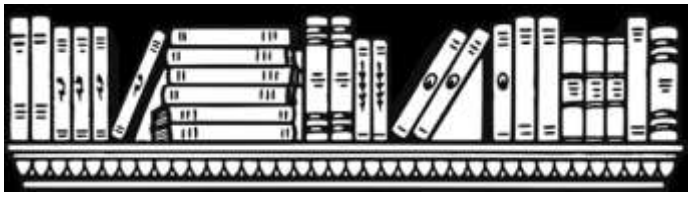
9 chapters especially for children ages 6-12. A story of *capture* and *rescue* which took place in the Philippine Islands during WW2. It was written by Arlene Hess Elkins. The signature of the author and of her 5 siblings will be included. This is the 5th edition of Captured with a new wrap-around cover with the sub-title "A true tale of escape, capture, rescue and faith."

Also, any and all who want to obtain an autographed copy of Captured for $5. With its attractive new cover. You may also obtain a copy of the attractive coloring book for $3.

FYI, the Hess family members, whose missionary story is told, are all ***Houghton College*** (HC) or ***Houghton Academy*** (HA) connected ie: Mary Viola Roth Hess HC "28, Robert Reuel Hess HC "29, Arlene Hess Elkins HC "53, Hudson Smalley Hess HC "55, Robert Bruce Hess HC "58, Lois Hess Yankowski HC "60, Victor Glenn Hess HA "60 and Philip Warren Hess HA "63. We look forward to seeing you there to share our story of capture and rescue and the faithfulness of God through it all.

From the

Library Shelves



Vacation....Camp time….Family time. Whatever you are doing this month, remember to take some time for yourself also. We have quite a number of Christian living books that you might find interesting, or choose a fiction book and have an adventure right where you are.

Kids can have adventures with the Animal Friends series by Janette Oke, the Cul de Sac Kids by Beverly Lewis, or the Mandie books by Lois Leppard. Or just read through the whole Easy books shelf. There are Bible stories, Brown Bear books, and some VeggieTales books, among others. Come see what we have!

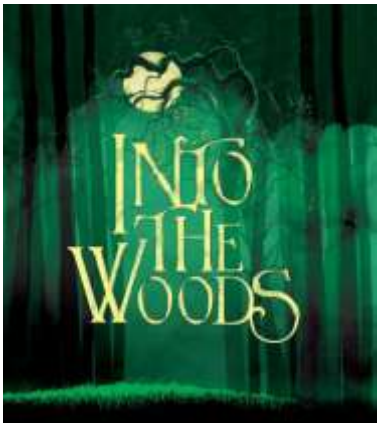
We still have over 50 items that are very overdue. These are adult and children's books, DVDs and CDs. Please check around at home to see if you might have an overdue item. If you are not sure, ask a librarian. THANKS!!

COMMUNITY SENIORS: A number of Houghton-area friends, who were young people in the 1980s, are gathering in Houghton for a reunion this July.
We would LOVE to see any older community folks, including Academy/FCS/College teachers we may have had at the time, at an informal

Meet & Greet Time
on Wednesday, July 18,
from 10:00 a.m. to noon
at the HWC Community Room.

This will be a simple time of chatting and reminiscing (no food).
You are a big part of why we are who we are today, and we'd like to thank you—please come!

Bill Allen
Eric Brown
Kirsten (Huizenga) Caminiti (kjcaminiti@gmail.com)



-THE TOWN THEATRE OF SHORT TRACT PRESENTS-

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 5-7 at 7pm
in the Fillmore Central School Auditorium

Please contact Amanda Cox (amandacox@hwchurch.org) with any questions!

2009 Honda Civic LX Sedan. 68,000 miles. Red.
Very clean interior and exterior. Runs well.
Asking $7,200. If interested, call 585-567-8191

5th Annual Youth Baseball Camp

Camp will cover the fundamentals of the infield, outfield, pitching, catching, base running and mental preparation.

- When: Week 1: Tuesday July 10 – Friday July 13 Week 2: Tuesday July 17- Friday July 20
- Who: Ages 6-18 Time: 8:30-11:30 each day
- Where: Houghton College Baseball Stadium
- Cost: $60 per player per week

What you get: T-shirt • Snacks each day • Quality instruction from Genesee Rapids coaches and players

Complete registration form / health form (on website) and mail with payment to: Genesee Rapids 9726 Rt. 19 Houghton, NY 14744

For more information visit our website @ geneseerapidsbaseball.com or email stephwitt2403@gmail.com

Larry and Vesta Mullen wish to say, "Thanks, and God bless you," to all who remembered us on our 90th birthdays. Thank you all so much for being an

File Cabinets, TVs available - if anyone is interested, please come to the church to check them out.

Barbara's Boutique at Buddy's Place

Sidewalk Sale June 30 to July 9 from 11 a.m. to 5:p.m. weather permitting.

Featuring: Framed Calligraphy by Donnie Stockin
Quilting and other fine products by Katherine Tiblow
Crocheted items by Pam Wilkerson
Handbags and warming bags by Karen Syzmanski
And of course cards and other odds and ends along with artwork by Barbara

June Hours of Operation - Fridays & Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: I am still available for house cleaning, pet sitting, etc. –Barbara Elliott

Kitty looking for a new home.

Neutered 3 year old cat named *Crookshanks.* He is very affectionate and loves people, but he doesn't like other cats. We have 4 cats, so we get to hear a lot of cat fights. *Crookshanks* would love to be an only-cat. He loves to sit on laps and purrs loudly. Call 585-307-1863 or email: d_npullen@hotmail.com

NOTICE: There will be an Education Session, presented by the WNY Alzheimers Association on July 20th at 1:00pm, "The Basics of Dementia" at Houghton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. There will be light refreshments served. This is FREE to the public! Directly following the session at 2:00, there will be the second in our Concert on the Hill series with music by Dave Battistoni! Bring your own lawn chair and join us for some wonderful music!

HELP WANTED

Experienced Medical Office Coding & Billing Specialist needed. Part time.

Please mail resume to:
Northern Allegany Medical Group
9734 Route 19
Houghton NY 14744

The Allegany Senior Foundation, in conjunction with the Dresser-Rand Challenger Learning Center, present:

FAMILY DAY
THE GENERATIONS MISSION TO COMET HALLEY AND S.P.A.C.E. ACADEMY

Tuesday, July 12th, 2018

9:00 am Bus leaves Office for the Aging
10:00 am Arrive at Challenger Center
1:30 pm Bus returns to OFA

Cost: $5.00 per person
Includes Bus Transportation from the Office for the Aging in Belvidere and Lunch

TWO PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED:

Mission to Comet Halley for children *age 10 and older* with adult
Study the comet and help construct a space probe, study rock samples, navigate the ship, and keep the crew alive and safe. This simulation requires reading.

S.P.A.C.E. Academy for children who have *completed Kindergarten and older* with adult
S.P.A.C.E. Academy participants will discover a New World and learn about electricity in hands-on STEM activities.

To Register, please call: Office for the Aging 585-268-9390

Registration Deadline is July 5th

Thank you to Cuba-Rushford Central School for transportation and to Sherry Walton and Charlie Joyce for funding the day!

SUNDAYS IN JULY

July 1
10:00 am *When God Isn't Fair* (Psalm 44)

July 8
10:00 am Dr. Michael Walters

July 15
10:00 am Pastor Jon Cole

July 22
10:00 am *How Do the Guilty Sing?* (Psalm 126)

July 29
10:00 am Dr. Michael Jordan

CHURCH STAFF

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

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585-307-9950 **joncole@hwchurch.org**

Cindy Oden, *Assistant Pastor*
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Paul Shea, *Assistant Pastor*
567-4597 **paulshea@hwchurch.org**

Amanda Cox, Music & *Worship Director*
567-4870 **amandacox@hwchurch.org**

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

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