Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

October 2018
Volume 51 No. 5

Find Out About Prayer

All the believers devoted themselves…to prayer. (Acts 2:42)
Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
Luke 11:1

When a doctrinal student at Princeton asked, "What is there left in the world for original dissertation research?" Albert Einstein replied, "Find out about prayer. Somebody must find out about prayer."

Perhaps Einstein's exclamation was not all that unlike that of the disciples and that of you and me. Through the ages—every religion, every race, every nationality, every person—wants to know about prayer. We may call it by different names or we may attempt to deny it, but everyone is seeking the same solution: how do I connect with the one I call God?

Most of our answers are an attempt to get the attention of the one we call God, to make ourselves appealing to the one we call God, to get what we want from the one we call God. Every religion has an answer—a formula, a means, a way of connecting with "God" and a way of doing so that we gain our desires from this God.

When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, they are probably thinking about a formula; later they would come to see that prayer is so much more than a formula. When the peoples of the world attempt to learn about prayer, more often than not they are seeking a formula: *if we can just figure out how to get god on our side, if we can just figure out how to get god to do what we want, life will be what we want it to be.* Most of the time, they are not asking for something untoward, rather they are asking for crops to feed their family and village, security from their enemies, happiness in their relationships. Sounds familiar, doesn't it. And yet, after thousands of years, we are still trying to find out about prayer.

This is why we are focusing on prayer this fall in Sunday worship. But not to figure out a formula for prayer, instead to open ourselves to the gift of prayer. This is also why our small groups are talking about prayer: again, not to devise a formula, but to open ourselves to the nuances of prayer. And this is why we are engaging for the 10th year in a three-week, 24/7 prayer event (October 28 – November 18), not as a formula but as a means of creating an atmosphere in which we encounter God.

Three weeks of 24-hour-a-day prayer seems like a lot to ask. Quite frankly, it is. But it's not an investment in sacrifice; it's an investment in gaining a greater understanding of who God is. As we pray, we come face to face with God and in that place of intimacy with our Creator, we find him to be who he declares himself to be—true, faithful, trustworthy, holy, love. When we encounter God as he is, we discover that his plans for us are always love. God himself tells Moses *Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness* (Exodus 34:6). This year's event will focus on the disciples' question: *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*, with a special emphasis on the Lord's Prayer. Sign ups will begin soon for this event that begins October 28, 5:00pm.

In Christ,

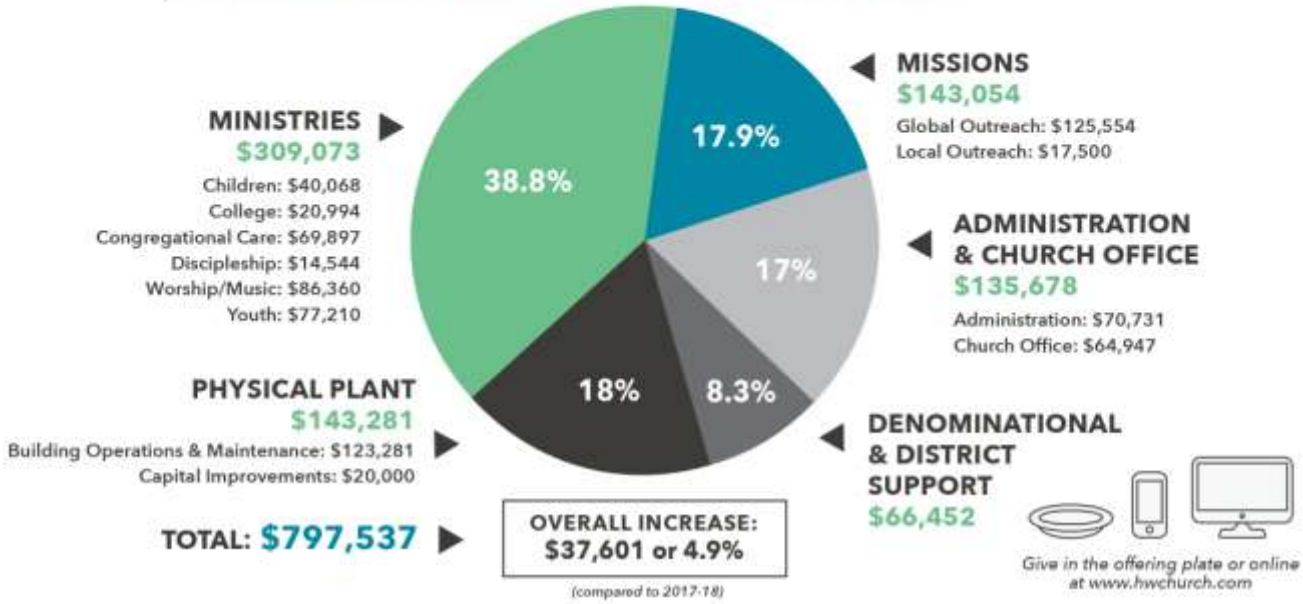
Pastor Wes

Time. Talent. Treasure.

Living Generously at HWC

At HWC, we are on a mission to create a flourishing spirit of abundance created by living out of opportunity and considering the most we can do for others. While we must speak practically about finances, we believe generosity is not limited to our checkbooks. HWC desires to be a body that gives generously of our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Treasure | 2018-2019 HWC COMMUNITY FINANCIAL PLAN:



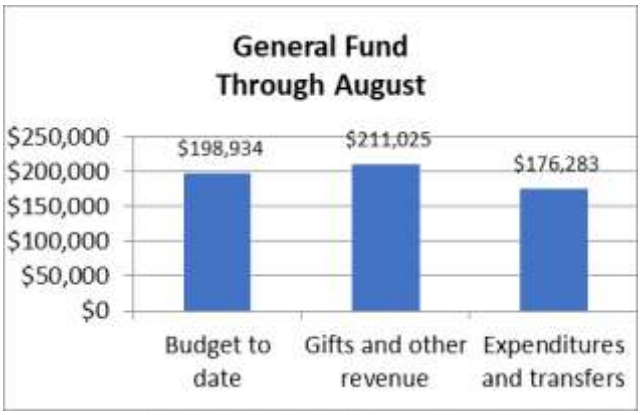
These finance updates are meant to let you know what your faithful support of Houghton Wesleyan Church accomplishes.

In the 2018-19 HWC Community Financial Plan 18 percent was budgeted for Physical Plant. That portion is managed by the Trustees which are elected by the congregation. Funds from that budget enabled several projects to be completed this summer that improve our facility:

- A new light fixture for the parking lot was purchased and installed.
- New carpeting in the 5th grade Sunday school room was installed and looks great.
- Railings at the side entrances have been put up and improve safety on those steps.
- A new faucet for the kitchen sink is now in place.

These repairs/improvements help keep the facility of Houghton Wesleyan Church safe, functional and comfortable for our ministries and other activities that happen in our church building.

Thank you for investing your Time, Talent and Treasure that we might be the church God intends us to be. If you have any questions about the Financial Plan or church finances, please don't hesitate to contact our Treasurer David Mercer or Pastor Wes.



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

We have an unprecedented opportunity to partner with Christians in Egypt in our 2018 Christmas Eve Offering. Houghton Wesleyan Church joins other churches, a matching donor in Egypt, and Christian friends internationally in the construction of a church/conference center building for the Wesleyan Church in Egypt under the leadership of Rev. Atif Sedhom Kilf, National Superintendent (pictured). Unexpectedly the Egyptian government granted free land on condition of a two year window to build. We join in prayer anticipating our share in this miracle. (More information forthcoming.)

Greetings Houghton Wesleyan church family,

It has been a joy and privilege to join you all here in Houghton as our church's student ministry resident. I spent six years in the Houghton community, graduating in 2015 with a B.A. in music and B.S. in Christian formation, as well as in 2017 with a Master of Arts in Music. I have a deep place in my heart for Houghton College students and the challenges that so many encounter and wrestle through during their time at school.

As we continue into this new academic year, I'd like to invite each of us to consider the question, "What is it that students on Houghton's campus most need, and how might God use me to help provide that?" As I have asked myself this question, the primary answer has not necessarily been to provide more Bible studies, teaching, or worship opportunities. The challenge does not seem to be finding opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship, but rather finding the time and space that allow God's Spirit to meet with and speak to students within a space of rest and stillness. When you read the psalms, the word "Selah" indicates a rest or pause. This is a call for space—a time to breathe and "soak" in what has been said, experienced, or taught. Selah is vital in the process of spiritual formation, and it is a desire and thirst for this space that I sense in the student body. Will you prayerfully consider with me how we as individuals, and as an entire church body, might best provide opportunity for Selah—for rest, fellowship, encounter—in our own lives and in the lives of Houghton College students?

Austen Kewin
Pastoral College Ministry Resident

Houghton Wesleyan Church's 5th Annual
FAMILY
extravaganza
HARVEST
neighborhood outreach celebration at no cost
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27
2PM-5PM

Houghton Wesleyan Church's 5th Annual
FAMILY
extravaganza
HARVEST
CANDY DRIVE
Accepting donations thru October 26th.
Please drop your donations off at the church
office any time during office hours:
Monday - Friday: 8AM - 5PM
Questions? Contact Rachel Blew at 585.610.5520

We would like to remind everyone that we will be collecting shoe boxes for OCC starting in October - there will be a table set up for the boxes in the foyer by the Community room.

KID'S CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT!

November 10th is our OCC Packing party!

Watch for collection boxes in October! We'll be collecting items for the packing party in the foyers of both the CE building and sanctuary.

Verse for October is Romans 12:10 CSB : Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing love.

Wesleyan Kids For Missions

Wesleyan Kids for Missions (WKFM)
Launches Sunday, October 7th, with the theme of:
"God's Love is the Greatest Treasure!"

Grades 1-5 meet during the Sunday School Hour in the Primary Sunday School Room of the Christian Education Building. We will enjoy a skit performed by HWC youth, hear stories from the Smalley family about their ministry in the Caribbean island of Eleuthera, and have other special surprises. We can't wait to learn, grow, and have fun together!

TUESDAY PLAYGROUP meets Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 in the Community Room/ Gym. All moms, dads, caregivers and kids are welcomed!

Wednesday Evening Kid's Club
KIDS UNDER CONSTRUCTION : Nehemiah and the 3 Bullies
Kid's Club starts up on October 10th from 6:00 to 7:15 pm! All First through Sixth graders are welcome to join us as we study the book of Nehemiah and learn together about building our faith and relationship with God.

There will be a special Junior Kid's Club for preschoolers and kindergartners who have siblings in the Kid's Club program run by Donna Blew.

Here is this semester's schedule:

Oct 10 - Parents register/Kids' first class
Oct 17 - Lesson 1 - Choose a Firm Foundation
Oct 24 - Lesson 2 - Choose to Trust God
Oct 31 - Harvest Party at Fillmore Wesleyan
Nov 7 - Lesson 3 - Choose to Pray to God
Nov 14 - Lesson 4 - I Choose to Follow the Bible
Nov 21 - Thanksgiving - no club
Nov 28 - Lesson 5 - I Choose a Godly Future
Dec 5 - Special Christmas Lesson
Dec 12 - Christmas Party

We have had a record number of kids in **Sunday School** this fall - averaging so far about 130 in our Children's Sunday School program. Thank you to all who are participating and volunteering - and a big "Thank you" to our Sunday School Superintendents Jamie Potter and Jess Wartinger for the great job they are doing!

Its great to see our **Junior Church** program get off to such a great start! I am so thankful for Heidi Miller and Andrea Boon and the great work they do with our K-3rd graders on Sunday mornings during the 8:20 service. We also have a great lineup of youth helpers that alternate every week: Sophia Templeton, Nicole Torraca, Emma Cole, Jadyn Mucher, Lydia Schilke and Sophie Tang.

Children's Ministry Volunteer Spotlight - Kathy and Dan Moore

When a new Kindergartner walks into Mrs. Moore's Sunday School classroom, they feel the warmth and love of this wonderful teacher. I've seen Kathy welcome a child into her class as if that little one is the most important person in the church! She brings her years of experience as a teacher and her love of Jesus to her classroom in such a beautiful way. Kathy, what a blessing you are!
I also want to Thank Dan Moore and the great job he did setting up all of the smart TVs and DVD players in our upstairs Sunday School rooms and in room 105. Thank you Dan and Kathy for all you do for our Children's Ministry. You both are such wonderful blessings to our church in so many ways!

If you have any questions about any of our Children's Ministries, please contact Pastor Laurie at the church - 567-2264 or lauriesmalley@hwchurch.org

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

Dates to Remember

October 7: Storm the Heights

Where: Houghton Academy Soccer Field

When: 3:33PM - 5:55PM

**Close-toed shoes and permission slips are required!

October 27: Family Harvest Extravaganza 2PM-5PM

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR RECAP

This year has started out with a bang and a little bit of foam...Ok, a lot of foam. As a beginning of the year kick-off, we had a Foam Party, which is essentially a giant slip-n-slide, but instead of being covered in water, it is covered in foam. We have no injuries to report, which is always a plus when working with teens, and everyone had a great time.

We began the year discussing Genesis 1, being made in the Image of God. Future topics include: Male and Female (also from Genesis 1), Spiritual disciplines, prayer, feasting, the Trinity and Holiness! Please pray for students and leaders as we fellowship together and tackle some challenging subjects. Pray for students to have open minds and a heart to learn. Pray for leaders to have wisdom as we walk alongside students. Thank You!

ALL WOMEN -
Join us for our Fall Women's Gathering on Saturday, October 20 from 9 am to 11:30 am in the Community Room. Speaker Rebecca Rowley will share, "Adventures in Prayer: Encountering God with the Whole Self." For our snack, it's a "Half-Dozen Pot Luck!" If you can, please bring Six of Something (six individual servings - sweet or snacky - home-made or store-bought) to share with the group. Don't miss this inspirational morning of worship and fellowship. Child-care is provided. No need to sign up.

Remember the Food Pantry when you shop.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETS THURSDAYS: If you are human, chances are you have experienced some of life's hurts, habits and hang-ups! A small group of us have been meeting on Thursday evenings @ 6:30 pm in Room 105 of the Christian education building, in forming a Celebrate Recovery group at HWC. Celebrate Recovery is based on eight principles from the Beatitudes. The purpose of Celebrate Recovery is to encourage fellowship and to celebrate God's healing power in our lives as we work our way along the road to recovery. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, or finding out more about it, please join us. Questions? Contact Cathy Morley at catmo57@hotmail.com or 567-8162.

HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS
2018–2019

October 11 – "What Will They Think of Next?" Tom Cook – Local Historian
Using the towns of Nunda and Portage as case studies, Tom will explore ways in which railroads, electricity, telephones and the automobile impacted rural life in Western New York.

November 8 – A Family Vacation Dr. David Brubaker
Join Dave and his family as they journey to China for a teaching engagement and a visit with Houghton Academy students and families on their turf. (Meal reservations required in advance.-Nov. 2)

December 17 (MONDAY) – Holiday Music Program Houghton Academy
Our annual visit to Houghton Academy where we will enjoy a music program presented by the bands, choirs and bell choirs of HA. (Transportation provided.)

January 10 – Notes from the ER Dr. Doug Mayhle
Experience the drama of the Dansville Hospital emergency room through the eyes of Houghton's own ER Doctor Doug Mayhle.

February 14 – Are you being cheated? Gilbert Green, Director of Weights and Measures
Learn what Mr. Green, an employee of Allegany County, does to insure that you get the correct amount of products you purchase for the money you pay.

March 14 – Greatbatch School of Music Program Rebekah Brennen, Group Hostess
A program of vocal and instrumental musical selections presented by one of the nation's premier music schools located right here at our own Houghton College.

April 11 – Career of an Army linguist Newspaper Columnist, Mark Getzin
Reflections on the importance of foreign language proficiency in US Military. What is language proficiency? Challenges of changing language requirements. How and where linguists are employed in the military; and a personal testimony regarding God's guidance during a 40 year career.

May 9 – Annual Picnic Karl Schmidt, hobby birder
"A lifetime of birding in western NY, seeing God in my backyard and beyond"

Questions and reservations: Ken Gaerte 585-567-8522 or 585-610-9402

Meet at noon in Houghton Wesleyan Church community room on dates shown. Share a carry in lunch.

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

CARRY-IN MEAL SCHEDULE

Our monthly meeting begins at noon with a carry in meal which is followed about 1:00 p.m. with a 40-45 minute program. Drinks are provided and all guests are requested to bring their own table service and a dish to pass potluck style in accordance with the following schedule:

Initial of Last Name	Desserts	Casseroles	Salads
A-F	Jan. Mar.	Oct. Feb.	Dec. Apr.
G-N	Dec. Apr.	Sept. Jan. Mar.	Oct. Feb.
O-Z	Oct. Feb.	Dec. Apr.	Sept. Jan. Mar.

November is a catered Thanksgiving Dinner at noon with reservations required by November 2, 2018. May is our annual picnic with normal picnic fare to share family style.

Houghton Volunteer
Fire Department and Ambulance Service
Annual Open House and Chicken BBQ
Friday, October 12th 5-7pm
in the Fire Hall parking lot

Free donuts and cider, balloons, face painting, bucket rides, Mercy Flight (weather dependent) and lots of other activities for all ages! Representatives from Mercy Flight, the Sheriff's office, 911 Dispatch Center, Olean General Hospital, and Jones Memorial will also be there. Chicken Dinners are $10 and include salt potatoes, applesauce, baked beans, a roll, and a drink. Chicken only is $7.

Wellspring Ministries

Especially needed are Children's Bibles and fabric.

All are welcome to come to
Wednesday Evening Prayer
meeting in
Room 9 below the sanctuary
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Houghton Academy Chicken Barbecue

On Friday, October 26 from 4-5:30 PM, the Senior class will be sponsoring a takeout chicken barbecue dinner in the Dining Hall of the Academy. The dinners are $9.50 and will include salt potatoes, cole-slaw, roll, and a brownie. Orders will be taken from Monday, October 1 to Wednesday, October 17. Call 585.567.8115 to place your order by Wednesday, October 17. Support the Seniors and have a great meal!

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 7 (8:20, 9:40 and 11:00)
a.m. *When Prayer Costs Us*
(Exodus 32:30-35ff; 1 Samuel 12:23)
p.m. Small Groups

October 14 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. *When Prayer Is What Saves Us*
(Daniel 6)
p.m. Small Groups

October 21 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. *When Prayer Is an Acquired Smell*
(Revelation 8:1-5)
p.m. Small Groups

October 28 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00, 4:30pm)
a.m. *When Prayer Is More Than We Think*
(Matthew 11:20-30)
p.m. Prayer Vigil Opening / 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 Pastor*
567-8302 **lauriesmalley@hwchurch.org**

Austen Kewin, *Pastoral Ministry Resident*
austen kewin@hwchurch.org

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

Houghton Wesleyan Church
P.O. Box 127
Houghton NY 14744

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