Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

*Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others*
*February 2019*
*Volume 51, No. 9*

# Living Witness of Jesus

*"Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."*
*"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."*
*The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"*
Mark 9:22-24

I just finished reading a more than 200-year-old biography of John and Charles Wesley. The author, John Whitehead, was so close to the Wesley brothers that he was asked to speak at John's funeral service.

Many parts of the book provide insights into the life, practice and mindset of these two remarkable disciples of Jesus. The author reminded me that the progress of Methodism throughout England was not without great opposition, particularly from the established clergy. Most of the Anglican pastors in London would not allow the Wesleys to preach in their church and those that were more amenable to them were prevented from opening their pulpits by the bishops above them. A number of clergy organized riots against them, some of which turned ugly and violent.

The brothers and the Methodist people were attacked verbally, insulted and maligned. Lies were spread about them, as well as heinous rumors of their beliefs and behavior. If anyone had reason to become cynical and antagonistic, it would have been John and Charles Wesley.

It is fascinating then, that the author shares a witness of one who spent time with them and knew them well. This particular quote is specifically about John: "For my own part, I never was so happy as while with him, and scarcely ever felt more poignant regret than at parting from him…."

As I read those words, I felt both conviction and inspiration. Conviction that there are too many people who would find it difficult to say something similar about me and inspiration to live in such a way that more would say this about me. My thoughts are not about people liking me, but rather, about people seeing Jesus in me. Throughout this book, story is stacked upon story of John's witness that anything and everything good in him is because of Jesus in him.

How do people see us? How do people think of us? More importantly, do people see Jesus in us? We are the primary means by which others will experience Jesus. Are they? Will they? Do they?

Because of Christ
Pastor Wes

# STEWARDSHIP

During February, our church focuses on the world—the world around us and the world far from us:

Annually, we commit 17-20% of our Community Financial Plan for others. This money received through general offerings underwrites our Local Outreach—Food Pantry, Benevolent Fund (crisis needs for people in our church and in our area), Celebrate Recovery, FCS snack bags for needy children, Foster Care, Wellspring Ministries and more. Your gifts also allow us to support missionaries and ministries around the world—Rochester, Buffalo, South Dakota, Czech Republic, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Haiti, Australia, the Middle East, West Africa, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Eleuthera and more.

In addition to the general offerings, we have periodic opportunities to express our generous gratitude to God as needs arise. For example, the 2017 Christmas Eve Offering enabled us to send more than $13,600 to the relief effort in Puerto Rico. And this year's Christmas Eve Offering is just shy of $22,000 for the building project of The Wesleyan Church in Egypt!

We also realize that many of you support people and organizations outside of what you give through the church. We are thrilled to be part of such a generous gathering of disciples of Jesus.

As you continue to serve God, may you find freedom and joy in the discipline and obedience of generosity.

# MISSIONS IN FEBRUARY at HWC!

*"**The Gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world"*** Col. 1:6

Something for everyone in February…

- **MISSION TOUR NIGHT – Wednesday Feb. 6, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. (All Ages!)**
  - 4 interactive locations: Austen live from Czech; You are there – Haiti Roof Report; Hands on Helps; & more.
- **COMMUNITY MISSIONS BRUNCH – Saturday Feb. 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**
  - Food; Escriban Music; Dr. JoAnne Lyon
  - RSVP by January 30 (see ad next page)
- **SUNDAY SPECIALS**
  - COMBINED Adult/Youth CLASSES, 9:45 – Fillmore Power House Presentation
  - WORSHIP Services 8:20, 9:40. 11:00 a.m.- Dr. JoAnne Lyon, guest speaker
  - YOUTH GROUP – 6:00 p.m. – Dr. Lyon, guest spot

# MISSION TOUR NIGHT

*The gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world*
*Colossians 1:6*

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**Wednesday February 6, 2019**

**6:00 - 7:15pm**

*Tour starts in the Community Room*

All Ages Welcome

# SATURDAY

**The gospel is bearing fruit & growing throughout the whole world**
**Colossians 1:6**

| February 9 2019 | 9:30-11:30am | Houghton College |
|---|---|---|

**Special Guest: Jo Anne Lyon**
**Music by: The Escriban Family**

**Houghton College Dining**
**Reinhold Campus Center**
**One Willard Avenue**
**Houghton, NY 14744**

**Buffet breakfast provided by Houghton College dining services:**
**Adults $6**
**Children 4-12 $4**
**Family Max $15**

*Tear off, place in offering plate or in box in foyer.*

RSVP by January 30 Pay at Door

NAME_____

Phone/Email_____

NUMBER ATTENDING:
_____Adults _____Children _____Family

From the
# Library Shelves

During Missions month, come on in to the library. In our adult sections there are missionary biographies and other books on missions also. For parents wanting to help their family learn about missions we have Missions Made Fun for Kids, You Can Change the World, and Window on the World in our junior's section. Other missionary books in the children's section include Fly Beyond the Mountain, Knock on a Door, and Nid's Exciting Day to name a few.

Did you know we have a shelf in our library just for our youth? There are just a few books on it, but I hope they might be of interest and help to the young people of our church, and/or their parents. Come see what we have!!

# Stone Soup Dinner

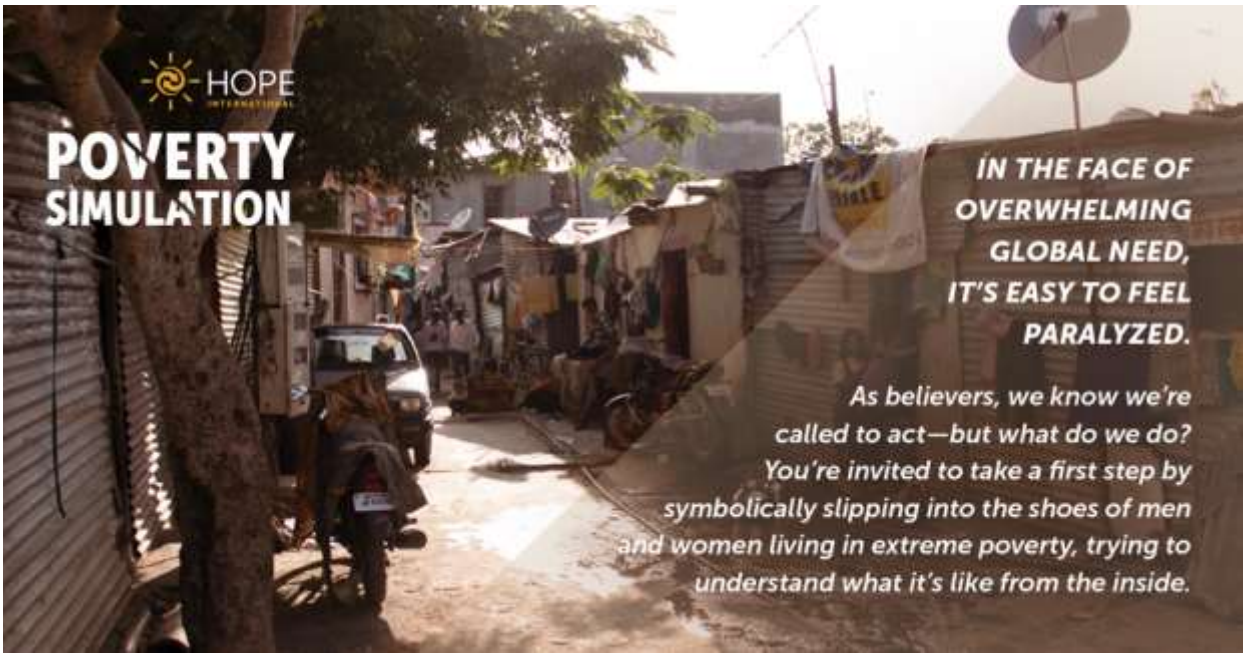
## to benefit

## Valley Preschool

Come enjoy some warm soup and a reading of "Stone Soup"
on a winter evening while supporting
Valley Preschool through this donation dinner.

Date – Friday, January 25, 2018
Time – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. (readings at 6:00 & 6:30 p.m.)
Place – Houghton Wesleyan Church community room
Food – Stone Soup (beef soup or vegetable soup), breads/rolls, and dessert

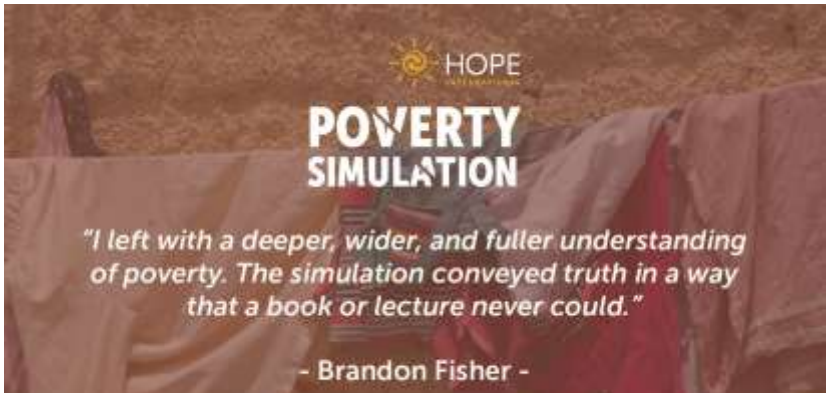
You can contribute by donating at the dinner and/or by providing cookies and brownies to be our desserts for the evening. We welcome other help as well, so if you would like to assist in some way or if you have questions, please contact Casda Danner at 567-4314 or casdadanner@hwchurch.org




Houghton Wesleyan Church, in partnership with Houghton College, invites all Houghton students, staff, and community members to participate in the HOPE Poverty Simulation, a 2½ hour, immersive, experiential learning opportunity designed to help participants catch a glimpse into the realities of a lifetime spent living in extreme poverty. Over the course of the simulation, you will be confronted with a series of challenges that mimic the complex, everyday realities that men and women living in poverty are forced to grapple with. **Simulations will be held in the Houghton Wesleyan Church community room on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 12th and 13th from 6:30-9:00pm.**

This simulation is for ages 14+.

**Learn more and *register* by March 1st to be a part of the HOPE Poverty Simulation [www.hopeinternational.org/simulation](www.hopeinternational.org/simulation).**

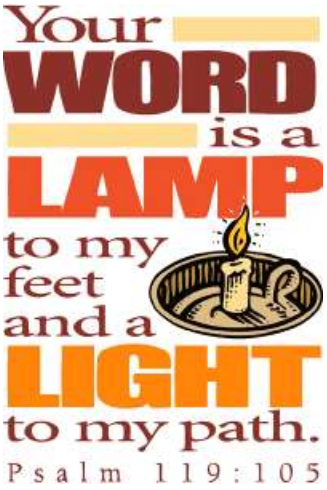



# FROM DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR…

It is encouraging how many adults are taking advantage the opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth beyond the weekly worship services. We have 11 small groups, 3 women's Bible Studies, and 4-5 other prayer groups serving nearly 200 adults.
Contact Pastor Paul if you need connection to any of these. paulshea@hwchurch.org.

- In addition there are 5 unique groups that meet Sunday mornings at 9:40 a.m.:
  - When Moms Pray -Room 7
  - II Timothy study -Room 9
  - Book Discussion – Wesley's *"Plain Account"* – Room 10
  - Book Discussion – "*The Dark Side: Confronting Evil"* – Room 105
  - Kaleidoscope topics – Community Room.
- May every adult connect to others who care and grow in Christ together. Pastor Paul Shea.

Our scripture for this month




**We are back up and running with a new semester of Children's Ministries. Children's Church, Junior Church and Sunday School are going strong - we are so thankful for all of our leaders and attenders! We're blessed to see so many kids hearing the Gospel each week.**

**Kid's Club is up and running with about 50 kids coming on Wednesday nights. There is room on the team for a few more helpers. No preparation needed - just a heart for children and a willingness to shepherd them from station to station as they go from Bible Class, crafts and game time. Please contact Pastor Laurie if you are interested.**

## KIDS CLUB IN FEBRUARY:

**February 6 -Missions Night—-No Club**
**February 13 -Club—The Lamb (Abraham and Isaac)**
**February 20 -Mid Winter Recess**
**February 27 -Club—The Camel (Jesus teaches about money)**

**REMINDER: the Buddy Keith Annual Car and Boat Race takes place March 20**

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# Spotlight on Sunday School Teachers Doug and Judi Mayhle

We are blessed with a couple who feel called to minister is such a special way to our 2 year olds! Doug and Judi have been teaching our 2 year old Sunday School class for several years and they have been absolutely amazing! Not only do they put their hearts and souls into teaching the kids Bible stories and songs, they also mentor several Academy students each year who have the privilege of volunteering in their classroom. Our kids love to be in the Mayhle's classroom, in fact several have wanted to stay in the 2 year old classroom instead of moving up with their peers when they turn 3! I am so thankful for the love they share in so many ways.

**Dear Houghton Wesleyan Church family:**

**We want to improve our communication at HWC and we need your help!**

**As a way to serve you better, we'd like to find out what methods of communication are working and what needs to be improved. Would you be willing to take the following survey?**
**https://houghton.formstack.com/forms/hwc_survey**
**The survey should take less than 10 minutes and is completely anonymous.**

**Thanks in advance for your time!**

**HWC Communications Group**

# WEATHER INFORMATION

If you are concerned that weather conditions may alter church activities, please check the church website, Facebook, your email (if you signed up to receive news from the church), Channel 7 (WKBW) or the church answering machine (585) 567-2264.

**Thank you so much for all your prayers and support while we were on our 17th missions trip to the island of Eleuthera in Dec/Jan. We had a large group of kids that showed up to our Bible camp each day! The Lord blessed us through you as we tried our best to be a blessing to the families in Hatchet Bay.**

**Bob and Laurie Smalley**

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

# What's up with HWCYG?

***Joyfully Loving God, Wholeheartedly Serving***

## Feb. 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 SS<br>No Life Groups! | 4 | 5 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 - Missions Brunch! 9:30am |
| 10 Super SS—All classes meet in the CR at 9:40<br>Life Groups! 6pm | 11 | 12 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 SS<br>Life Groups! 6pm –Meal!! | 18 | 19 NO PB! | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 SS<br>Life Groups! 6pm | 25 | 26 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am | 27 | 28 | | |

**Missions Brunch**
**9:30am—11:15am**
**HC Cafeteria**

***Stay Connected:***
*Houghton Wesleyan Church Youth group* Facebook Page… "Like" us today!

*HWChurch.org/youth* - Permission slips, Calendars, Event info and more!

PARENTS: One permission slip does it all! Consider filling out an annual permission slip which covers your student for all of our activities throughout the year! Get the form and more info at

"MADE"
Love Life & Love Others -
a series about sexual integrity
**Starts February 17!**

*When it comes to sex, we all have certain ideas and expectations of what it should—or shouldn't—be about. But what if all those thoughts and ideas are actually missing the mark? In this series, as we take a look at God's design for sex, we'll discover that there's more to it than we think.*

**Feb 17**—"Others weren't Made to be Objects"
**Feb 24**—"Sex Was Made to Matter"
**Mar 3**—"You were Made to be the boss of your body"
**Mar 10**—"You were Made for more

## Sunday School

*Junior and Senior high students meet for Sunday School at 9:40am most Sunday mornings in the youth room. Bring your Bible and an inquisitive mind! :)*

## *February Lifegroups...*

Feb 3 - No Life Groups

Feb 10—Jo Anne Lyon will be speaking to us about Missions!

Feb 17 - "Other's Weren't Made to be Objects" - Psalm 139:14

JOIN US *for an* AREA-WIDE WOMEN'S EVENT

**LAURA STORY**
*Guest Speaker & Recording Artist*

**ANN VOSKAMP**
*Best-selling Author & Speaker*

**SHAUN GROVES**
*Worship Leader*

# FRESH GROUNDED FAITH ... Buffalo

SAVE up to $10 LIMITED TII

## MAY 3&4

**FRI** *7:00PM-9:30PM* / **SAT** *9:00AM-12:30PM*

### Cohosted *by* Many Area Churches

LOCATION:
Eastern Hills Church
8445 Greiner Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

For directions call:
(716)688-7165

*See website for complete list of co-host churches*

### Tickets**

ONLINE: www.FreshGroundedFaith.com
BY PHONE: (800)859-7992
IN PERSON: Co-Host Churches

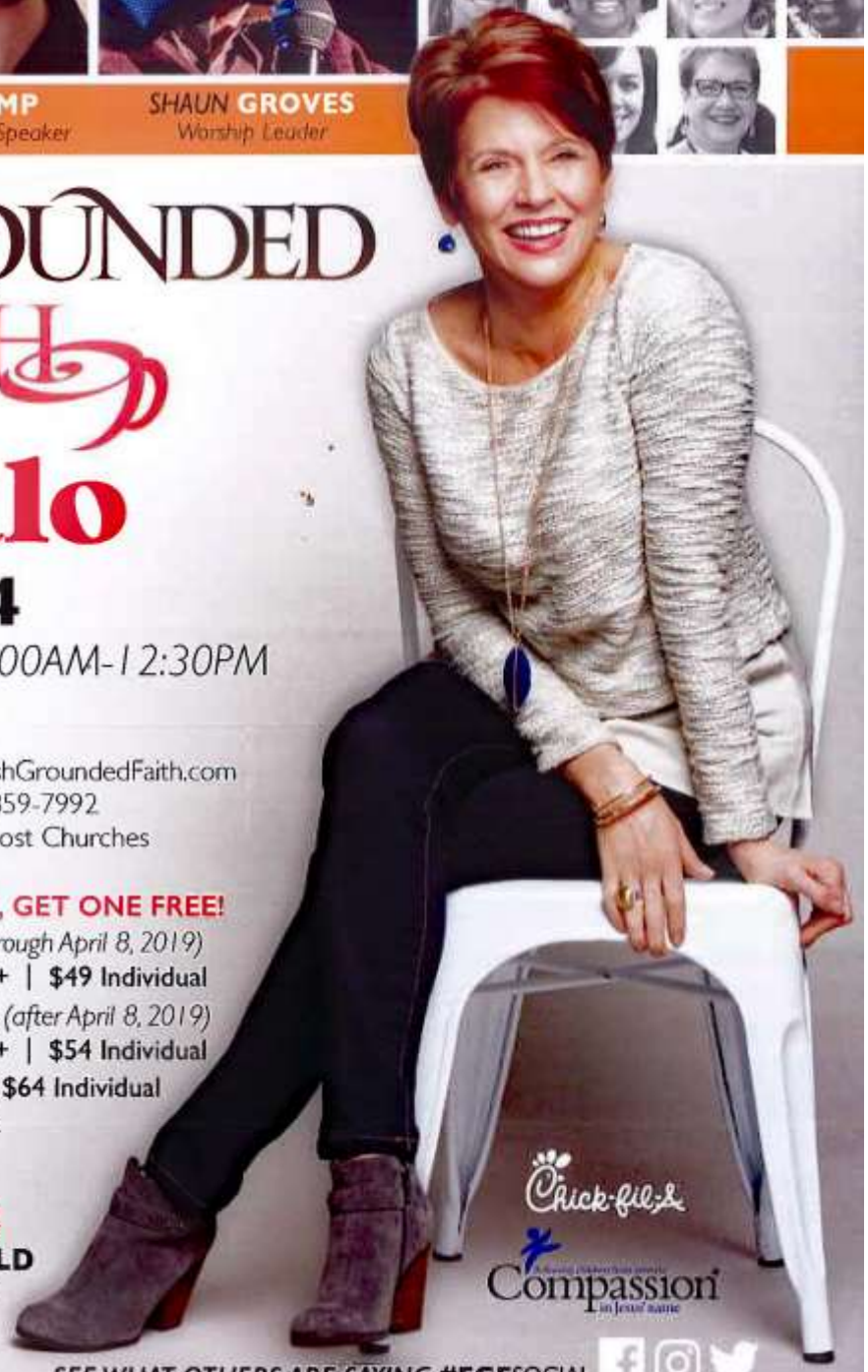
**BONUS:**
**BUY 10 TICKETS, GET ONE FREE!**

*Early Bird Special (through April 8, 2019)*
**$44 Groups* of 10+ | $49 Individual**

*After Early Bird Date (after April 8, 2019)*
**$49 Groups* of 10+ | $54 Individual**

*At Door (if available)* **$64 Individual**

* *Offer available online or by phone. No per ticket fee for groups.*
** *Tickets are non-refundable, but fully transferable. Platform guests subject to change.*



**FEATURING**
**JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD**
*Speaker, Best-selling Author & Bible Study Teacher*

Chick-fil-A

Compassion

*SEE WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING* **#FGF**SOCIAL

FRESHGROUNDEDFAITH.com 800-859-7992

# Wellspring Ministries Annual Report

Wellspring 2018 Highlights for Houghton Wesleyan Church

- Donations - $41,817.91
- Expenses - $44,211.96
- Benevolent disbursements - $2,909.52 for:
    - Home water pump, mechanical car repairs, car payment, rent payment, tires, car windshield
- Meals served – 4,570
    - Easter Dinner – 90 – distributed Easter hams to each family present
    - Thanksgiving Dinner – 92 (big snow storm that day – usually around 120)
    - Christmas Dinner – 120 – distributed Christmas hams to each family present
    - Men from Genesis Bible Church and the Sheriff's department come and serve these big meals
- Shoppers for clothing and household goods – 3,456
- Devotionals before lunch provided by pastors from Genesis Bible Church, Angelica Baptist Church, Belmont Baptist Church, Belfast Free Methodist Church plus Rich Stegan and Ken Stanton
    - All devotionals are sound, Biblical presentations of scripture, often with a salvation message and an opportunity to respond to the plan of salvation.
- Christmas Room:
    - 140 family units shopped for 2 gifts per child in the household
    - Parents shopped for 349 children
    - In addition to the '2 gifts per child', the Christmas room provided lots of clothing, books, footwear and other items.
- Had to replace a furnace and a freezer during the year.

- Wellspring is low on kitchen and linen items – any donations would be appreciated.

Pete Roeske
SNOWPLOWING
service
585-689-0368

# HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS

Our February gathering will be on **Thursday, February 14.**
Our meal begins at noon in the Houghton Church Community Room, and following good fellowship over the meal, we will hear from **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.,

As a reminder, here is our February potluck meal schedule:
initials A-F bring casseroles, G-N bring salads, and O-Z bring desserts (or swap with a friend.) Bring your own table service. Everyone 55 and older (including any caregivers) will be warmly welcomed. Ask a friend who may not normally come to join you, and all of us.
Questions? Contact Daryl Stevenson at 716-397-6864 or at daryl.stevenson@houghton.edu.

**FOR RENT:**
**4 Room House**
**Route 19...within walking distance to the college**
**Available now.**
**Phone 567-8885**

**In the HWC Community Room**

## INFO NIGHT FEBRUARY 11

6:45 - 7:45pm.

Free gift for every family in attendance. Other prizes given out throughout the event. Learn about players, coaches, game information and volunteer opportunities.

**Rental space available in Buddy's Place. Contact Ralph Kerr, 716-969-9688 for information**

# SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

**February 3** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *Is Jesus Amazed by Our Faith?*
(Matthew 8:5-13; Mark 6:1-6)
p.m. Small Groups

**February 10** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon (Missions Convention)
p.m. Small Groups

**February 17** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *Have We Experienced the Amazing Jesus?*
(Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-25)
p.m. Small Groups

**February 24** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
a.m. *Do Jesus' Expectations Amaze Us?*
(Luke 11:37-54)
p.m. 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 Pastor**
**567-8302, lauriesmalley@hwchurch.org**

**Austen Kewin, Pastoral Ministry Resident**
**austenkewin@hwchurch.org**

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