Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
April 2019
Volume 51, No. 11

Easter Is More Than One Day

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't' be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen…The women quickly ran from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy….
(Matthew 28:5-6, 8)

I like shortcuts. I take the back way to Mt. Morris. I will turn down a side street if I see the light ahead is red. I often set up computer icons that are designed to eliminate even one step of clicking to get where I want to go. I'm always happy when I can find a shorter way.

The interesting thing about resurrection is that it is impossible to be raised to life if one isn't dead first. That seems so simple and yet it is a recurring struggle for most of us.

I want resurrection without death. I want the joy of resurrection without the pain of death. I want the miracle of resurrection without the need that makes the miracle necessary.

In a smaller sense of everyday life, I want God to make me alive without first needing to bring me to the death of myself. I would like to have victory without the reality of defeat. I would like to see growth and progress without the pain of struggle and strain. I like shortcuts. But our journey with Jesus is never about shortcuts. It's always about engaging in the reality of the journey.

We are in the middle of Lent right now. Lent is a challenging season of acknowledging the suffering and passion of Jesus. Lent is also a challenging season of acknowledging how much we need the work of Jesus. We give thanks for the cross, but we also lament how often we create a need for the cross. So many of us struggle with Lent because we want to get to Easter.

I have discovered that a shortcut to Easter doesn't make Easter more celebratory, it actually makes Easter less. Instead of Easter being the light at the end of Lent's dark and foreboding tunnel, it is just another light that we see all the time. It's engaging ourselves in the reality of Lent—the struggle of the Garden, the betrayal of Judas, the arrest by the religious leaders, the denial of Peter, the agony of death—that the joy of Easter comes alive for us.

As we move closer to Holy Week, let me invite you and encourage you to enter in to this week of experiencing the cross. Attend the Maundy Thursday Service (April 18, 7:00pm) as we engage (through word, symbol and sacrament) in the last night of Jesus' life. Find a time to enter in to the Journey to the Cross (April 19, 10:00am -6:00pm) engaging in various destinations in those final hours with Jesus. And then, Easter morning (April 21, 7:45am/10:00am) come and celebrate the transformation of the church and our hearts in joyful celebration.

It's a long journey but the celebration is worth it.

Because Jesus died and is risen,

Pastor Wes

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 14	**Children's Palm Processional (all services)** All children are invited to participate in the procession of the palms at the beginning of each service (8:20, 9:40 and 11:00) on Palm Sunday, March 25th. Please meet in the sanctuary entry way 10 minutes before the service begins. (Jr Church Children will be brought over by their teachers to participate at the 9:40 service. All other children will need to be brought to the 9:40 service by their parents if they would like to participate.)	
Thursday, April 18	**Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm**	
Good Friday, April 19	***Journey to the Cross*** **10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room** Good Friday, April 19, we are hosting a ***Journey to the Cross*** prayer event. The church gym will be available for you to come and go at your leisure. Various destinations will help you experience the passion of Christ. Children are welcome, though adult supervision might make the experience most meaningful for younger children. New elements have been added to what we have done in the past in order to enhance your experience.	
Sunday, April 21	**7:45am** **8:30am** **10:00am**	**Resurrection/Baptism Service** **Easter Breakfast (Community Room)** **Easter Worship Celebration**

EASTER BREAKFAST

Between services on Easter Sunday come and join us for one of the highlights of our church fellowship times, Easter Breakfast in the church Community Room. Eggs, ham, roasted potatoes, quick breads and cinnamon rolls, beverages and table service will be provided.

This year's donation breakfast is presented by the HWC Youth group in order to raise money for our Wesleyan Youth Convention in Cincinnati at Christmas time.

You can help by donating the following on April 17: fresh eggs, ham, apples, potatoes, bananas, oranges, OJ..
(These items may be left in the kitchen—eggs, ham & OJ in the refrigerator please!)
Fresh baked quick breads and cinnamon rolls—bring them to the church on Easter Sunday morning.

Please let Pastor Jon know what you can bring. Call/text 585-307-9950 or email joncole@hwchurch.org

STEWARDSHIP a life of generosity

God calls children a blessing and a gift! Their spirits are filled with innocence, joy and laughter. Jesus actually tells us to be like children and to come to Him full of faith and trust.

Children are vital to who we are as a church which is why we set aside more than $27,000 each year for children's ministries. Our investment is not limited to finances, however. Dozens of people (some of whom are mentioned below) invest their time and talent in teaching, helping, nurturing and loving our children. If you don't have children in your home right now, you might wonder what this support involves. Here's a brief description of the children's ministries at our church:

Sunday School superintendents Jess Wartinger and Jamie Potter oversee this ministry recruiting and equipping over 20 volunteer teachers and helpers to serve toddlers through 6th graders. Each week over 100 children participate in Sunday School at our church. Jan Schilke leads the Assembly time and teaches scripture songs to the kids before Sunday School starts for the 2-5 grades.

Junior Church for first, second and third grade children is led by Heidi Miller and Andrea Boon and meets during the 8:20 service on non-communion Sundays. Over the past few years the kids in Junior Church have participated in projects, such as collecting coins for the *Hope for Children* project and collecting coats to be given to needy children.

Children's Church meets during the 8:20 and 11:00 services. The chief volunteers for Children's Church are Kim and Steve Tucker, Angela Babbit, Sally Retz, Rebecca Williams, and Jordan Mullen.

Nursery: Jan Schilke oversees the nursery doing all the scheduling and ensuring that everything is safe and clean. Most Sundays the nursery volunteers care for about ten 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.

Kids'Club meets every Wednesday evening. Activities provide fun and Bible teaching for between 45 -50 local children each week. Donna Blew leads the Junior Kids' Club for preschoolers; Beth Beardsley and Jeff Babbitt lead the 1st and 2nd graders; Lydia Christiansen leads the 3rd and 4th graders, and Kurt Habecker leads the 5th and 6th graders. Sarah Sardinia provides lively music. Interesting crafts are organized and prepared by Kathy Moore and LuAnn Brubaker. Bob Smalley and Eliza Kelly lead our games. Karen Liddick fills in where needed every week. Engaging Bible lessons are prepared and presented by Bethie and Nick Liddick. Doug and Phyllis Gaerte have been wonderful support staff as well.

Valley Preschool welcomes 24 three- and four-year olds each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning providing fun socialization time and helping preschoolers to be prepared to enter Kindergarten.

In addition to these regularly scheduled programs, there are several other family-focused activities throughout the year: Operation Christmas Child Box packing; Christmas Caroling; The Buddy Keith Grand Prix car and boat (and vegetable??) race; End-of-the-year Family Swim night at the college pool; Missions Tour (during Mission Emphasis Week); and Journey to the Cross.

And, remember to stop by the **Children's Library.** Recently added new shelving helps keep the books nicely organized and accessible.

Please join our children in memorizing the monthly Bible verse that is printed in each "Highlights" and check out the **HWCKids Facebook** page for current information on children's activities at HWC.

Such wonderful opportunities for our children to know the great love of God would not be possible without the host of volunteers each week who serve and share. We are grateful for their commitment to our children.

Rev. Atif at the work site in Badr City in mid March

Forms for the foundation take shape beyond excavator

UPDATE on the EGYPT BADR CITY CHURCH PROJECT

Workers continued excavation and began laying the forms for the foundation of the Badr City Wesleyan Church near Cairo, Egypt in mid-March. The first phase of construction is the basement and first floor. Rev. Atif Seldhom, head of the Wesleyan Church in Egypt is grateful for the Christmas offering from HWC that helps with this phase. In response to our $20,000 donation, the friends in Egypt have so far matched $16,000 in funds and materials with more to come. We pray with them as they shoulder this challenge.

Great news is that the church is planting another new church with government approval. Rev. Atif explains, "This one is also in a new city of mostly manufacturing facilities and factory workers. There are zero churches there as of now and we are working with local leaders to raise about 80% of the money needed and the church will try to help with the rest."

John Khalaf, son of Rev. Atif urges, "Please pray for wisdom for how the church continues to manage what is happening and how it is presenting itself. There are so many opportunities and limited resources. But God is so good and he is awesome."

Reported by Pastor Paul Shea

SMALL GROUP GROWTH:

We are grateful for many in the congregation who participate in Small Groups, including some new leaders/ hosts and groups this year -- Kim and Chris Prins-Moeller, Phil and Rebekah Tumbaga, A.C. Taylor and Christian and Laura Esh. Continuing faithfully – Michael Jordan, Becky Hutton, Debbie Young, Jack and Linda Leax, J.L. and Heidi Miller, Dan and Jess Wartinger, Doug and Judi Mayhle, Jesse and Melissa Fink, Paul and Debbie Shea. Another team shares with Pastor Shea in weekly Nursing Home Bible Study -- Harold Blew, Rich Stegen, Larry and Vesta Mullen, Nancy Walters, Carolyn Kindley, Debbie Shea, Josie Adenuga, and Carolyn Washburn. Women's group leaders include – Laurie Smalley, Sandy Roederer, Marilyn Hiler, and Annie Wiesman. **Thanks to all**. (For information contact Pastor Paul Shea)

We offer our condolences and prayers for

- The family of Paul Johnson who died March16.
- The family of Florence Teuber (Terry and Gene Ayers, daughter; Heather and Jeremy Templeton, granddaughter; Robin and Ryan Cool, granddaughter; Clayton, Sophia and Brooklynn Templeton, Mason, Jack and Sam Cool, great grandchildren) who died March 17.
- The family of John Essepian who died March 17
- The family of Anne Knowlton who died February 27

Kid's Club

April 10th is our annual pool party! We will meet up at the college pool rather than at the church. Bring your bathing suit and towel and prepare for some fun!
April 17th is our last Kid's Club meeting. We are having a special Easter presentation that evening.

Children's Church

We always like to give our regular Children's Church teachers some time off in the summer, which means we need to add a few more people to our Children's Church team. If you feel called to work with 2-5 year olds and would like to volunteer to teach or assist, we have opening starting May 12th for the 11:00 service and July and August during the 10:00 service. Please let Pastor Laurie know if you would like to join us.

Sunday School

We are sad to have to say goodbye to Claire and Jason Bintz and their 4 lovely children. We certainly will miss them as they move in a few weeks. Claire has been teaching our 4th grade Sunday School class and I am so thankful for the excellent job she has done! Thank you Claire.

Also, Jon Loran Bintz has done some artwork for our kid's bags! He designed and drew 2 coloring pages for us to use in the bags. I am thankful for you, too, Jon Loran and will continue to think of you as we share your talent at church!

New Check-in System

Thank you to Jess Wartinger and Jamie Potter for all the work they have done to set up our new Children's check in system! Now, as kids come to Children's Church, Junior Church and Sunday School, parents sign in at our check-in stations and receive tags for themselves and their children. This is an important step in the process of keeping our kids as safe as we can! The church purchased 3 computers and printers and 2 more sets were donated to the Sunday School program.

Buddy Keith Boat & Car Race

We all enjoyed a great time at our annual Buddy Keith boat and car race this year. For the first time, we raced vegetables rather than wooden cars. We are thankful for the legacy that Buddy left us - a true example of a servant heart. And for those that helped us this year: Our Wednesday night Kid's Club team, Daryl Stevenson who cut out all of the wooden boat kits, Josh and Joe Derck who helped with the car race, Brandon Hoffman who helped with the boat race, Donnie Stockin for her calligraphy on the certificates, Patty Stalker for making the certificates and Katie Sinclair and the Houghton Women's Softball team for all their help with setting up and running the races! Thanks, too, to Rachel Blew for taking pictures and Harold Blew for helping kids construct their veggie race cars.

Our April Scripture

HOUGHTON/FILLMORE WESLEYAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

APRIL 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs	Friday	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Go to SS w your parents today! Life Groups! 6pm	8	9 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	10	11	12	13
14 SS Life Groups! 6pm	15	16 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	17	18	19	20 Help Set up for Easter Breakfast at 1pm
21 Easter Sunday!	22	23 No Prayer Breakfast	24	25	26	27
28 SS Life Groups! 6pm	29	30 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am				

Holy Week Activities!

Palm Sunday April 14

Thurs April 18
7:00pm
Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday:
Journey to the Cross
10am-6pm

Easter Sunday Morning
7:45—Resurrection/ Baptism service
8:30—Easter Breakfast
10:00—Easter Worship Service

Easter Sunday Breakfast Youth Fundraiser

Saturday—1pm, help setup for Easter Sunday Breakfast

Easter Sunday:
7:00am—Setup and cook crew
8:30am—Serve crew
10am—cleanup crew

Please let PJ know if you can help!

30 Hour Famine
New Dates! - **May 10-11!**
Hunger isn't just. But your hunger can be.
JUST HUNGER.

April Lifegroups...

April 7—FLW 4— Because of Jesus, we can be close to God. John 15:37-38

April 14—FLW 5—God's Grace is Unfairly Good! Matt 26:33-35; John 21:15-17

April 21—No Youth Group— Easter Sunday!

April 28— I Have Questions! Don't let lies steal your Life. John 10:10

The Flower Committee WELCOMES EASTER PLANTS

to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor a loved one, please give the information to Patty Stalker in the church office by Monday, April 15**,** and please leave your plant at the church by Good Friday, **April 19.** The flower committee will be purchasing lilies for $15 if you would like one.

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" from the Beatitudes. 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 unhealthy 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. 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.

There are three **Celebrate Recovery** groups meeting in churches already in Allegany County, one in Houghton, one at Yorks Corners south of Wellsville and one 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 group meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room. If you are interested in learning more about **Celebrate Recovery** call Cathy Morley 567-8162 or just stop by on a Thursday evening.

Ministry leaders display new fliers promoting Celebrate Recovery .

From the
Library Shelves

This month we would like you to notice the children's area in our church library. We have two sections—one for the younger children with more picture books and one for the older children with interesting chapter books. From this area for Spring and Easter there is the story of the sad little thornbush and Jesus, or the little sparrow singing about Jesus' resurrection in *The Sparrow's Easter Song*. There is also a spring story with Bear and Mole, or the story *Caterpillar Spring Butterfly Summer.*

In the children's area there are also DVDs—VeggieTales, Bible stories, *Thomas the Tank Engine*, and *People in History* to name a few, and some story CDs such as *Adventures in Odyssey* and *Hermie the Caterpillar*. Come with your children and see what we have!!

As always, PLEASE remember to return your books when finished so others may enjoy them as you have. THANKS!!

A Quiet Day Retreat

Take time out of your busy life and give yourself the gift of a day away to slow down and experience quiet and time to be with God. There will be an opening and closing prayer time with the rest of the day in silence to rest, pray and enjoy walking in this beautiful setting. Snacks and lunch will be provided. If you feel drawn to a quiet day, please join us! *This retreat is open to men and women.*

When: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Sally Johnson's home
6433 Dutch Hill Road, Fillmore, NY 14735

Facilitator: Jeanie Little

Cost: $20 - includes snacks, drinks and lunch

For more information and to **RSVP** *(space is limited)*, please call or email **Jeanie Little**, jeanielittle5@gmail.com, 585-610-5999.

"Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10)

Wellspring Ministries

Dear Supporters by prayer and gifts,

God continues to provide our needs through you, other churches, civic groups and individuals to cover our annual budget of $38,000.00. We thank you, and desire to be good stewards of all we receive.

As Spring dawns, do consider passing on good condition outgrown baby/ children's clothing, linens, and small appliances. We also take prom dresses for teens. (Beardsley porch on Chamberlain St. - a drop-off for goods on Mon. & Tues.)

We can always use an on-call kitchen meal prep substitute to add to the list when needed, and a greeter(s) at the door. If you'd like to bring a table game to play with someone who just comes for coffee/chatter, that would be a blessing.

Do spread the word about Wellspring to others that you meet. Allegany County was ranked the 4th poorest county in NYS, and Cattaraugus, the 3rd in 2014, with median incomes of under $40,000.00. These are our clients. We are blessed by their visits and pray against a spirit of favoritism, as James cautions us. Evaluating, judging at 'face value' is not God's plan, and we need His help to have hearts of love, accepting those who walk through the door regardless of apparel, size, age, color, affiliation, status, smell, ability. If Jesus, 'the Lord of Glory" shows no favoritism or partiality, why should we? Will you pray for us along these lines? Will you come and have lunch with us? There is no cost, and your presence would be an encouragement. We eat at 11:55.

Dates of interest: April 17 - Easter ham dinner at 11:30 (served by the men of Genesis Bible Church)
April 19 - Closed (Good Friday)

For the Board, Beth Beardsley

"If you really keep the 'royal law' found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself", you are doing right." James 2:8

WEDDING SHOWER

Please join Jane and Faith Roeske in celebration of
the upcoming marriage
of Aubrey Skeele to Samuel Evans
on April 6th from 2-4
in the Church Community Room for a
Come and go Bridal Shower!

Aubrey and Sam are registered at
https://www.theknot.com/us/aubrey-skeele-and-samuel-evans-jun-2019/registry

Any questions please call
Faith 716 244 2860

Special Olympics

Join Us!!!

What: Special Olympics Volunteers
When: Monday afternoons, 3:30-4:30 through early June
Where: Kerr-Pegula
Skills needed: Willing Heart!

Special Olympics strongly recommends having 1 adult for every 4 athletes, so we need volunteers! Volunteering with Special Olympics has been one of the most rewarding life-experiences for me!

Special Olympics of Allegany County has expanded, and has added track to the other programs they offer for individuals with disabilities.
If you know of anyone with a disability aged 8 and older who would like to participate, please share this opportunity with them. It's FREE! Participants don't even need to be able to run. Just a desire to participate – even walking is OK! Special Olympics 'levels' athletes so that they are participating with persons with comparable abilities.

For information call or email:
Coach Sara Massey
Cell: 336-549-2755
Email: smmasse2@gmail.com
Stephanie Kubiak: Special Olympics Coordinator
Western New York: 585-808-4379

A Night for Change

A donation dinner to benefit
Journey's End Refugee Services
Middle Eastern soups and breads
fashion show
Silent auction of Fair Trade items
Hosted by Impact C.R.E.W. Service Club
at Houghton Academy
5:45-8:00 p.m.
April 25th, 2019

Call to make reservations 585-567-8115
by Thursday, April 18th by noon

HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS

The Houghton Area Seniors from northern Allegany County meet monthly on the second Thursday for fellowship, food, and an interesting program—sometimes music, sometimes a travelogue, sometimes local color, sometimes valuable information—always interesting.

APRIL 11 – *GREATBACH SCHOOL OF MUSIC PROGRAM at 1 PM*

The 12-member Houghton A Capella Choir of the Greatbach School of Music will perform a wide variety of contemporary and classical music. They only use creative rhythms and percussive sounds by human voice for accompaniment.

Our noon luncheon is in the Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room. Bring your own table service. Anyone reaching the mature age of 55, and any caregivers, will be warmly welcomed. Bring a friend who may not normally attend.
As a reminder, here is our April potluck meal schedule:
initials A-F bring salads

G-N bring desserts

O-Z bring casseroles (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 daryl.stevenson@houghton.edu or 716-397-6864.

Applications for Valley Pre School will be ready in April.

Applications for Valley Preschool, a ministry of Houghton Wesleyan Church, will be available sometime this month. VPS meets on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings from September through May and is for children ages three (by December 1st), four and five. Join us for the 2019-20 school year.

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

URGENT NEED

The Genesee Rapids are in need of Host Families for 8 baseball players coming in June. This involves providing a bed and breakfast for a player or players. All other meals are provided. Great relationships have been formed with host families in past years. For more information call Ralph Kerr 716-969-0688.

Phil Merrill (585) 610-8882

INSIDE & OUTSIDE
PAINTING &
POWER
WASHING
(HOUSES & DECKS)

Rochester NY
Register at
WWW.COMPASSCAREWALK.COM

Allegany County Office for the Aging

2019
PUBLIC HEARING
and
SENIOR FORUM

May 10, 2019 — **Houghton Wesleyan Church**
9712 NY 19, Houghton

8:30-9:00 am	Registration
9:00-10:00 am	PUBLIC HEARING
10:00-10:15 am	Break
10:30-12:00 noon	Protect From Scams & ID Theft
12:00 noon	Lunch

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

April 7 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
Abused by God's Shepherds (Matthew 26:57-68)

April 14 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
Associating with Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75)

April 21 (7:45 am / 10:00 am)
7:45am Easter Baptism
10:00am Easter Worship: *Easter Is Restoration*

April 28 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)
College Graduate Recognition

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Good Friday Journey to the Cross 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room

REMINDER: Easter Breakfast between services (8:30 am) is one of the highlights of our church fellowship

CHURCH STAFF

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austenkewin@hwchurch.org

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