Houghton Wesleyan Church
Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

July 2019
Volume 52, No. 2

The God of Freedom

Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.
Mark 2:27, NLT

We say that we desire freedom, but do we really? Despite our claims, we make repeated decisions that **lead us to bondage rather than freedom. It's hard to see it until one day we awaken to the truth of our enslavement to things like alcohol, drugs, lust, anger, work, and so much more. It didn't take Adam and Eve long to** discover that what they thought was freedom was anything but. What we struggle to accept is that God is the only true source of freedom and that embedded in his definition of freedom is Sabbath.

Work is a gift of God. To be able to create, to help things flourish, to accomplish tasks are all gifts of God. The problem is that we think that work, like so much else, can become the means to freedom. It cannot.

A. J. Swoboda, writing about Sabbath, reminds us of a story from Numbers 15. In this episode, God orders a man to be killed for picking up some sticks in the desert on the Sabbath day. God seems incredibly harsh about this commandment. We have a difficult time understanding it. In fact, we often use stories like these as a defense of our rebellion against God and/or scripture. But as A. J. remarks, while Israel is in Egypt, **they believe the enemy's lie that freedom is work. If you work long enough and hard enough, you can be free. You would think that 400 years of slavery would change their mind. It doesn't. Why? Because it's part of our** sinful human nature to believe that our value is in work instead of seeing our value in being created by God. **Sabbath keeps bringing us face to face with this reality and face to face with God's passion that his people** would be free.

Swoboda says: "Maybe that is precisely why God got so angry with the guy picking up sticks on the Sabbath **—God is not joking about being a God of freedom. He really means it."**

There is much involved in understanding God's gift of Sabbath. Not the least of which is that we, like the Israelites, are fighting against a culture that cannot comprehend this kind of freedom. That's why it is a learned behavior. And like most learned behavior, it doesn't happen overnight: change never does. We have to be reminded again and again and again that God is a God of freedom and that he really means it.

Sabbath is not a time of prohibition but a time of rejoicing because we belong to God and in Christ, we are free. Christian freedom is not so much freedom *from* but freedom *to*—freedom to value, freedom to be, freedom to enjoy, freedom to try on, freedom to trust. This is why Isaiah can say that for those who truly follow God, the Sabbath is a holy day that brings delight to our parched and needy souls (Isaiah 58:11-14).

This is why Sunday worship is so important and this is why Summer Sabbath is important too. Neither **a day of worship every week nor a month or so every summer is going to turn us around, but it's a start. It's a reminder. It's a call to believe, a call to embrace this God of freedom who really means it**—not for his sake, but for ours.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

MISSION NOTES! Keeping up with global mission outreach at HWC.

- We say "hello" to **Leah Doty**, visiting for some weeks from S. E. Asia where she continues relationships and research in preparation for Bible Translation.
- Our 2019-2020 Mission Financial Plan includes adding regular support for **Martin and Sheri Hegeman** as they launch into language study and eventual ministry in Niger, W. Africa. Greet them as they visit HWC on June 30th.
- Another Financial Plan change is increased support for **Compass Care**, the crises pregnancy ministry in Rochester area. We are encouraged by its positive impact in these days of increased political pressures on the unborn and families.
- Introducing! Do pray for members of **HWC's Missions Committee**: Beth Beardsley, Elizabeth Ciobanu, Karen Daugherty, Jonathan Hilsher, Don Little, Carolyn Miller, Calvin Schierer, Paulette Schierer, Paul Shea, David Stevick, and Donna Zoller. Thanks for their diligent work.

Reserve an hour in the Prayer Room at
https://www.hwchurch.org/prayer-room/
or stop by the office to do so any time the church is open.

Weekly evening fellowship

Tuesdays at 5:30 in the Fillmore town park (every other week). Dinner included!
7/2; 7/16; 7/30; 8/13

Tuesdays at 7:00 at Belfast Free Methodist Church (every other week). Dessert included!
7/9; 7/23; 8/6; 8/20

College students and young adults will meet in the Randal Townhouse parking lot at 5:20 (Fillmore) or 6:45 (Belfast) to carpool

All are welcome to attend

If you are planning to attend please notify Austen Kewin (austenkewin@hwchurch.org).

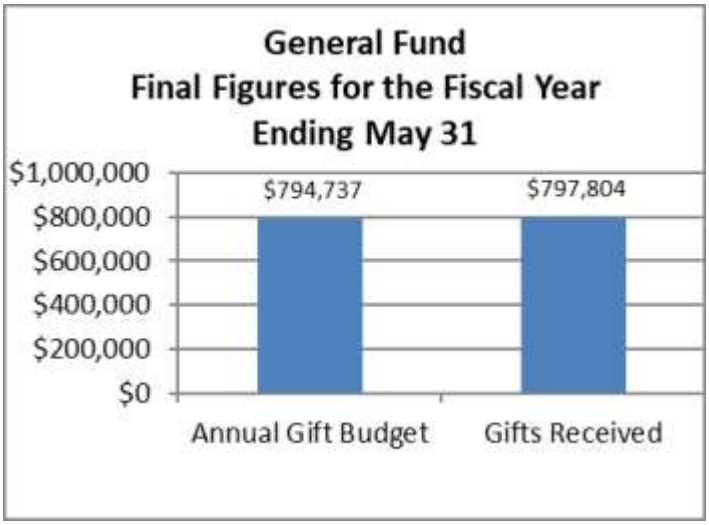
Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

Summer is a time for a change of pace – for relaxation, travel, and vacations! It's easy to be away from your home church for several weeks in a row. As a result, many churches experience what is termed as the "summer slump" where regular financial support can drop as much as 20 percent during this period.

We are grateful for the strong commitment by our congregation to the mission and ministries of the Houghton Wesleyan Church. This generous giving allows the church to sustain its work helping missionaries spread Christ's love around the globe; to continue ministering to abused and neglected children locally through Royal Family Kids Camp; to maintain a ministry staff that provides relevant and vibrant worship experiences throughout the year; as well as keeping our church facility a useful resource to our community.

We hope you will stay in touch with our church this summer. If you are not able to attend services in person, you can easily connect online. Wherever you have internet access, use your phone or computer to go to the church website and click on the "Watch Online" button at the bottom of the welcome area. You can even access past services. It is also easy to keep up with your regular financial support online as well. On the HWC website, click on the "Give Online" button at the bottom of the welcome area and specify your gift.

We hope everyone has a great summer filled with memorable experiences.



We would like to express our thanks for all the prayers and cards, our farewell gift from the church, the beautiful artwork, and all the many expressions of love that you all showed us this week. We love you all and will always call Houghton home! We will share our address as soon as we can. Our new e-mail address is: lauriesmalley1@gmail.com Our phone number will stay the same: 585-567-8302

Thank you so much, you all will always be in our hearts and prayers,
Bob and Laurie

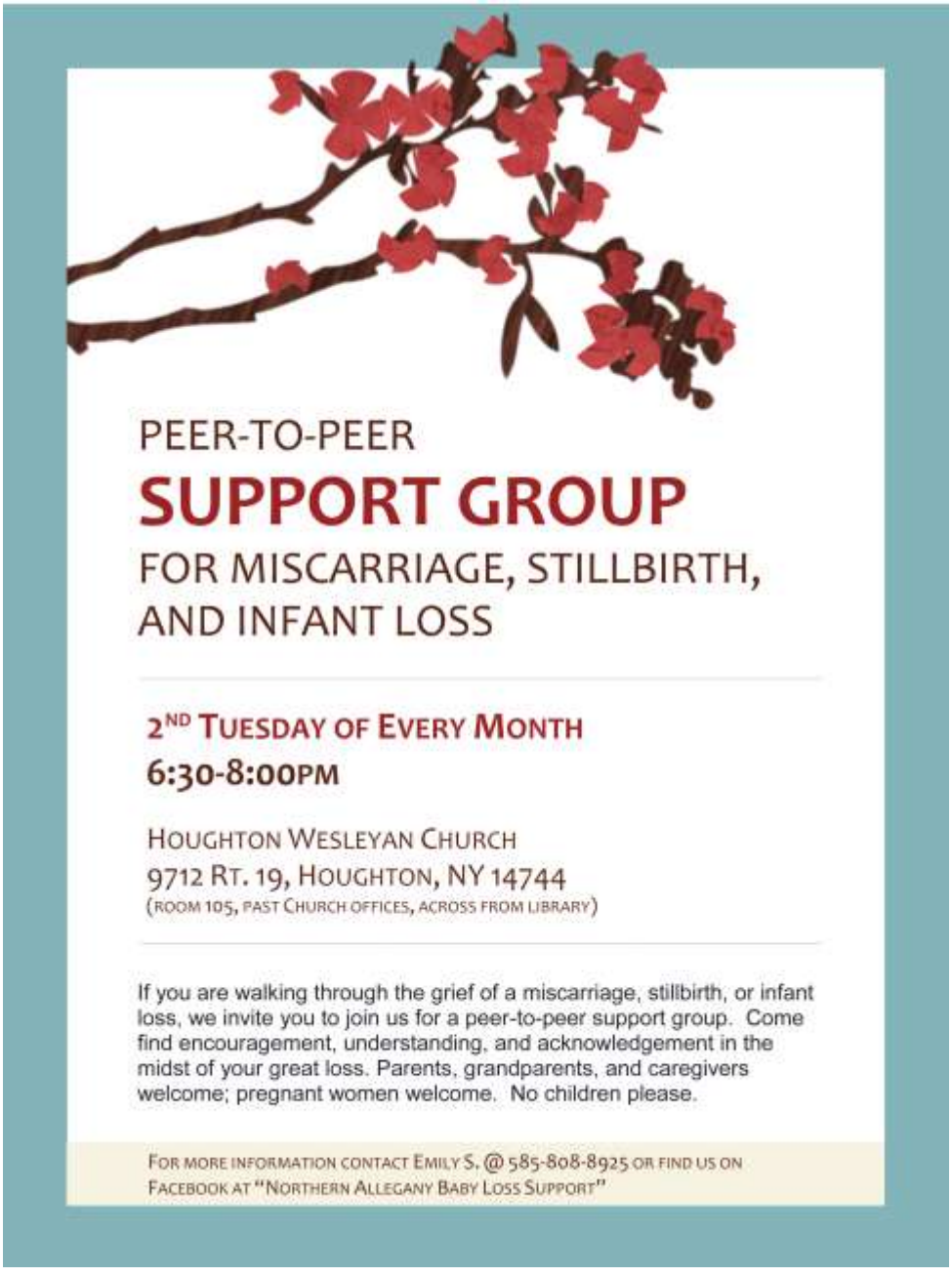
SEWING BEE MEETS IN JULY

Attention all who enjoy sewing or want to learn:

Our group will meet July 2, 16, and 30, 1:00-3:00 pm Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room to plan and make lap quilts for those who are ill or in need of love and comfort.

Bring your sewing machine and join us for afternoon of sewing and fellowship.

JULY 9



We welcome Liam Herbert Luckey who was born on June 6th to Garrett and Kristen Luckey and great grandparents Herb and Karen Williams.

Children's Ministry Spotlight- Karl and Jill Schmidt

If you ever walked the hallway upstairs in the CE building during Sunday School, you would hear a very enthusiastic group of second graders excitedly reciting the 66 Books of the Bible. Karl and Jill have been teaching second grade for a number of years and they do such a great job! The kids love them and learn so much from them each week. Many of our older kids talk about learning and remembering the books of the Bible from when they were in 2nd grade! What a blessing it is for our church to have such wonderful teachers. Thank you Karl and Jill for your ministry.

Congratulations

to the 6th grade Catechism class who were honored in the 8:30 worship service on June 9 for learning 120 questions and answers about what we believe and how we live and to the 2nd grade Sunday School class who recited the books of the Bible in the 11:00 worship service on June 16. Thanks to Harold Blew (6th grade) and Karl and Jill Schmidt (2nd grade) for their service in these classes. 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.

Sunday School Picnic:

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

Valley Preschool

A ministry of Houghton Wesleyan Church
Serving the community for over 50 years
Apply now for 2019-2020
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00—11:45 A.M.

18 83
HOUGHTON
COLLEGE
refresh
RECHARGE TOGETHER AT
REFRESH FAMILY CAMP
Open for all Families! You don't want to miss this!
SUNDAY, JULY 28 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019
AT HOUGHTON COLLEGE
ALL REGISTRATION DETAILS AT WWW.REFRESHATHOUGHTON.COM!
GUEST SPEAKER
MEREDITH GRIFFIN
WORSHIP LEAD BY
HANNAH KERR
www.hannahkerrmusic.com

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 meet every Wednesday through August 21.

PRAYER GROUP – Wednesday, 6:30 -7:30 pm. in Room 9 below the sanctuary a growing number gather for prayer for the community and church. All are invited to join each Wednesday evening. Those who would like to pray but cannot attend the physical prayer group are invited to email Donnie Stockin at dstockin1@gmail.com and she will forward the weekly prayer concerns.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY meets Thursday Evenings, 7-9 PM in the Good Shepherd Room. CR is a safe place to share hurts, habits and hang-ups. (No meeting July 4.)

NOTE: Items left in the Lost and Found will be donated the first week of July. Please check out racks and closets for items your family may have left behind.

From the
Library Shelves

Don't forget the adventures you can have this summer through books. Choose a biography and go thru the person's life with them; or a fiction book and join the characters in the story someone has made up. Pick a book about the Bible, or another subject that interests you and enjoy learning something new.

In the kids section, we have adventures with horses and other animals, wild rides on the Magic School Bus and fun times with VeggieTales. Great times can be had with the Sugar Creek Gang, or Mandie, or the Boxcar Children.
Come on in and choose your adventure today!

ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP
July 7-12
This will be our 25th year!

Wellspring Ministries

I have had a number of phone calls from Houghton Wesleyan attendees lately asking about when it is best to drop off donations to Wellspring. Many of you may not be aware that we have a Facebook page under "Wellspring Ministries of Allegany County." There are a number of Wellspring pages, but ours specifically states "…of Allegany County." Please take a moment to check it out and "Like" us! If you click on "About" in the left hand column on the Home Page, you will find our hours for your reference.

Thank you to those of you who donate your resources, whether financial or with reusable clothing and household items in working condition. We and our clients are so grateful for your continued support.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."
I John 3:17-18

Gudy Stevenson for the Board

Our Farmer's Market continues every Wednesday, 1:00-6:00 Market will be held every Wednesday throughout the summer.. Local Honey produce, crafts, quilts, bags, Farmhouse decor, plants & more... We hope you can join us! Call 585-207-5077 for vendor information.

House for Rent:

9763 Fancher Drive.

Family home, raised ranch--3 bedrooms, den, 1 and 1/2 bathrooms.

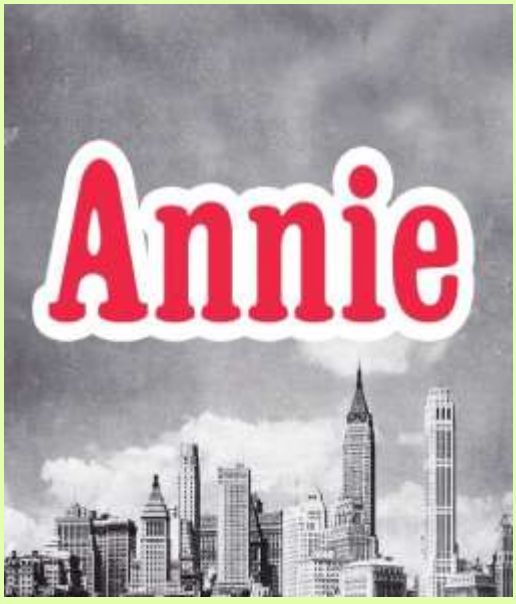
Large open living room, dining room, kitchen area, upstairs laundry, deck.

Living area 1700 sq ft plus basement garage and half of basement.

Nestled against woods, view of valley, large yard, wonderful neighbors, quiet street.

Unfurnished. Available August 1.

Contact Becky Hutton for details--585.567.2727.



The Town Theatre of Short Tract presents

Annie!

Directed by Rebekah Brennan,
Musical Direction by Victoria Pitre

July 11, 12 at 7pm and July 13 at 2pm
Fillmore Central School Auditorium

Tickets available at the door:
$10 Adults, $8 Seniors & under 13

HOUSE PAINTING & POWER WASHING

If you are interested in having your house painted, house power-washed or deck stained, contact Phil Merrill at (585) 610-8882

2019 Genesee Rapids Baseball Schedule (Home Games in BOLD)

Monday	July 1	@ Olean	6:00 PM
Tuesday	July 2	@ Niagara	6:00 PM
Wednesday	July 3	@ Mansfield	5:30 PM
Thursday	**July 4**	**Olean**	**5:00 PM**
Saturday	**July 6**	**Hornell (DH)**	**4:00 PM**
Sunday	**July 7**	**Mansfield**	**2:00 PM**
Monday	July 8	ALL-STAR GAME	
Wednesday	July 10	@ Hornell	7:00 PM
Thursday	July 11	@ Mansfield	5:30 PM
Friday	July 12	@ Niagara	6:00 PM
Saturday	**July 13**	**Olean**	**7:00 PM**
Monday	July 15	@ Hornell	7:00 PM
Tuesday	July 16	@ Mansfield	5:30 PM
Thursday	July 18	@ Olean	6:00 PM
Friday	**July 19**	**Niagara**	**7:00 PM**
Saturday	July 20	@ Hornell	7:00 PM
Sunday	**July 21**	**Olean**	**2:00 PM**
Monday	July 22	PLAYOFFS BEGIN	

Start times subject to change. Call 716-969-0688 to confirm start time.

DH: Double Header

Backyard mechanic, lawn mowing, split and stack firewood, appliance repair, scrap metal pick up (have own truck). Call Jason at 763-310-6451 for project per-hour rates.

World-renown and GRAMMY-award-winning organist **Nathan Laube** headlines a truly exciting concert series to kick-off the **American Guild of Organists's Northeast Regional Convention**, to be held in Buffalo, New York July 1st through the 4th. This is your chance to see and hear Buffalo's most magnificent and powerful pipe organs brought to life by some of the globe's most gifted and accomplished organists, brought together for **one amazing week to celebrate through music and song the 100th anniversary of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.** It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity where you can enjoy a concert given by these famous and talented organists who have been invited to perform at many of our landmark churches and the University at Buffalo.

If you have always wanted to see, hear and literally feel these mighty organs played by the masters, this your chance! If you are an organ music aficionado, you simply can't let this opportunity go by.

Individual Tickets are now available for these exciting concerts!
To purchase tickets go to https://www.buffalo2019.org/concert-tickets.

July 1, 8:00 PM, Nathan Laube at St. Joseph Cathedral

July 2, 1:00 PM, Michael Hey at Westminster Presbyterian

July 2, 2:30 PM, AGO/Quimby Young Organist Competition Winner at First Presbyterian Church

July 2, 7:00 PM, Theater Organist Richard Hills at Shea's Performing Arts Center

July 3, 11:15 AM, Katelyn Emerson at Lippes Concert Hall at the University at Buffalo

July 3, 6:30 PM, Chelsea Chen at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

July 4, 10:30 AM, Judy Congdon at Trinity Episcopal Church

July 4, 1:30 PM, Abigail Rockwood and Members of the Buffalo Chamber Players at St. Paul's Cathedral

July 4, 7:00 PM, David Higgs at Westminster Presbyterian Church

SUNDAYS IN JULY

July 7

10:00 a.m. *Who Is the King of Glory and Why Does It Matter?* (Psalm 24)

June 14
10:00 a.m. *Rethinking Worship (Psalm 8)*

July 21
10:00 a.m. Dr. Terry Paige

July 28
10:00 a.m. Rev. Jason Shambach

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

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, ***Senior Pastor***
585-567-2024 **wesoden@hwchurch.org**

Jon Cole, ***Youth Pastor***
585-307-9950 **joncole@hwchurch.org**

Cindy Oden, ***Assistant Pastor***
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Paul Shea, ***Assistant Pastor***
585-365-3102 **paulshea@hwchurch.org**

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

Ann McNeill, ***Director of Children's Ministries***
Wednesday Kids Club, Library, RFKC, Cradle Roll
437-5151 **annmcneill@hwchurch.org**

Emily Spateholts, ***Director of Children's Ministries***
(Sunday ministries & Valley Preschool)
808-8925 **emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org**

Austen Kewin, ***Pastoral Ministry Resident***
215-353-8692 **austenkewin@hwchurch.org**

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