Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

August 2019
Volume 52 No. 3

The Blessing...and Curse of Water

> You shall have no other gods before me.
>
> Exodus 20:3

On the evening of June 19 and the morning of June 20, the Southern Tier received a lot of rain in a very short time. Returning from a brief trip to Olean on the 20th, Cindy and I discovered that our basement **had flooded…again! We waded into** 5-6 inches of water because the **sump pump just couldn't keep up with the amount of water running into** it. We were very grateful for neighbors, friends and family who came over and helped us pump out the water and begin the process of assessing the damage. Because of previous problems, the damage was less than it might have been, but it was frustrating, and we still lost some valuable items.

As I was vacuuming up water and cleaning out things, two thoughts kept going through my mind. One, compared to the images of people whose entire homes are flooded beyond repair, our situation was not too bad. Two, water can be a blessing and a curse.

Water is a gift of God. We need water to survive. In fact, we can live much longer without food than we can without water. Water enhances our lives—cooking our food, cleaning ourselves and our things, cooling us off on hot summer days. We should wake up every morning and give thanks to God for water because we know that there are far too many places in the world where the lack of water destroys.

But when water is out of control, it becomes a surging force of damage and destruction. Even as I write this, Hurricane/Tropical Depression Barry is dumping tons of water on the Gulf Coast and up into **Tennessee: entire towns are flooded. I've seen water become a massive stream so powerful it uproots** trees and cars and even homes. When water is unleashed, it is a force that cannot be stopped by anything humans can do.

You know, this is the struggle of God's gifts. We rejoice in them. They give life to us. They bring joy to us. But the moment God's gifts become more important to us than he is, these same gifts become the means of destroying us.

Money is a gift of God that enables us to do much good. But Jesus says that money is a terrible master. It leads to greed and can eat us alive. Relationships are a gift through which we find great fulfillment and joy. But Jesus says that relationships are a terrible master. As a master, they create in us a mindset of selfish manipulation that destroys us and others. Our ability to work and create are a gift of God. But Jesus says that if what we produce and accomplish becomes most important to us, then we will become workaholics who use others to get what we want.

We are all tempted to put something before God, which is why the first commandment God gives his people is: *You shall have no other gods before me.* **This command isn't given because God is insecure** and needs continual affirmation as number one. But rather, because he is the only source of life, of shalom, of meaning and fulfillment and to put anything before him is to cut ourselves off from him. And when we cut ourselves off from him, we cut ourselves off from his wonderful gifts.

We are all tempted to believe the lie—the false reality—that the gifts of the Giver are more important, more meaningful and more fulfilling than the Giver himself. Our only hope is to continue **giving all of God's gifts back to him. Because in the wrong order, they are destructive; in the right order,** they are life-giving. May God help us order him and all that we have well.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

WELCOME POTLUCK August 25

Welcome students to the community at the Welcome Potluck August 25th. The Welcome-To-Our-Community Potluck/Picnic will be held in the church Community Room and on the church side lawn (weather permitting) on Sunday evening, August 25th at 5:00 p.m. Because the church family will be welcoming 200 athletes and students already on campus to our community, we, the church family, will provide all of the food. The church will provide table service, hot dogs, hot dog buns and beverage.

Please bring **two** of the following four choices so we have enough food to serve everyone:

a large salad,
a large side dish,
a large main dish or casserole,
a large dessert.

The Lay Shepherd groups hosting this event are Belfast/Caneadea/Friendship/Rushford, Centerville Road, Route 19, and Fancher Heights/Luckey/Meadow Lane. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship and food as we welcome Houghton College students to our church and community.

Is Hospitality Your Gift?

Be a welcoming and friendly face on Sunday mornings as people arrive for the worship services. Greeters help prepare the hearts of members for worship as they welcome guests with a smile and warm handshake. If you enjoy meeting new people and have a genuine desire to make them feel comfortable, this may be the ministry for you. Please call Janyce Smithley at 585-307-0228. You may also fill out the form below to put in the offering plate or send to the church office. Janyce will be organizing a Greeter Calendar for the school year. Thank you.

The Greeter Ministry is looking for Greeters

Would you be willing to help with this ministry by giving a friendly handshake and warm smile to people as they enter our worship services? If so, please print your name and contact info below and check off which service you can help with and put in the offering plate or send to the church office. We welcome college, academy and high school student involvement. Thank you for considering becoming part of this ministry of the Houghton Wesleyan Church!

Your name_____

Your phone/email_____

Address/CPO_____

Service you prefer to be a greeter:_____**8:20**_____**9:40**_____**11:00 a.m.**

Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

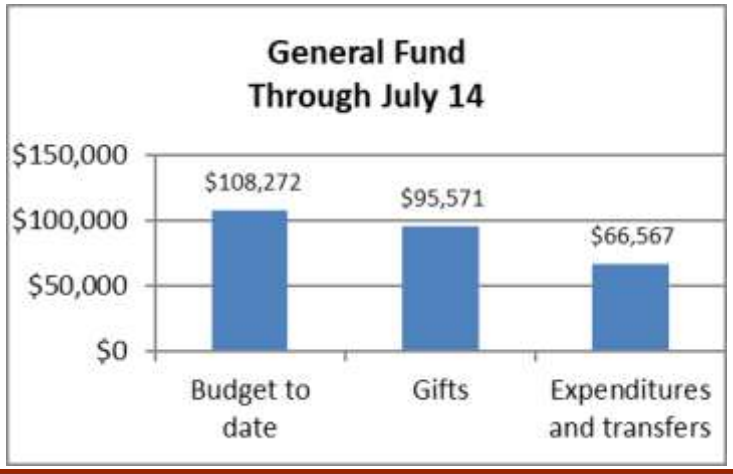
In most discussions about giving to the church, the account of the poor widow giving two coins at the temple comes up. Jesus watched everyone putting their offerings into the money box, but he stopped to comment on the widow. “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others.” — Luke 21:3

Perhaps what Jesus appreciated most was her attitude and her willingness to give.

Something else here should also catch our attention. Jesus made sure that everyone knew the widow’s story because he wanted to remind us that everyone has something to give and that every gift matters.

Sometimes people feel that the amount they can give doesn’t matter much and won’t make a difference because it isn’t very big. What’s important though is that Jesus notices—and that makes all the difference.

Yes, we all have something to give as we work together and share together to bring God’s love to the world. Thank you for your giving to the Houghton Wesleyan Church.



COUNTDOWN!

Launch of Fall Adult Ministries begins. Make plans now.

- September 8 – Adult Sunday School – Something for everyone.
- September 15 – Small Groups – Listing in September Highlights

SEWING BEE MEETS IN AUGUST

Attention all who enjoy sewing or want to learn:

Our group will meet August 13 and 27, 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.

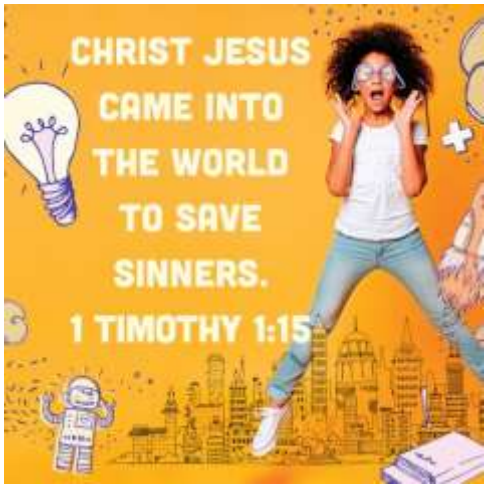
Bring your sewing machine and join us for afternoon of sewing and fellowship.

*Children's Ministry * Children's Ministry*

September 8
Sunday School begins for all ages

Bikes on the Quad

Join us on the Houghton College Quad on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for an hour of family fellowship while the kids ride the quad. Balls, bikes, chalk, bubbles, and other sports equipment welcome! We meet every Wednesday through August 28th.



Valley PreSchool

Valley Preschool has openings for the 2019-20 school year. We meet on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings from 9:00 to 11:45 during September through May. Our students range in age from three to five years old with our youngest needing to be three by December 1st. Children enjoy learning center activities (literacy, sand & water play, free and directed arts & crafts projects, imagination/roll play, block building, puzzles, games, & manipulatives), full group and small group lessons, Bible stories, music, and gym/playground fun daily. Communication, social, emotional, fine & gross motor, and academic skills are developed throughout the year.

For more information please contact Mrs. Casda Danner, director, at 585-567-4314 or casdadanner@hwchurch.org. Applications are available through the church office (585-567-2264), the church website (hwchurch.org), and on our bulletin board on the lower level of the church's Christian education building.

Sunday Morning Children's Ministries - We Need You!

From September to mid-June (with breaks for holidays), our Children have the opportunity to grow in their faith and friendships as a part of our Church family! In classes that are geared toward their level of development, they are immersed in God's love and grace, but we need your help to guide our children through this time whether it be as a teacher or an assistant. There are currently openings for the fall in the 3-year old and 4-year old Sunday School classrooms, 1 Sunday a month for Jr. Church, and assistant positions in Children's Church during the 8:20 and 11:00 services. If you love kids and would like to share the love of Christ with them, this is the place for you! There are also opportunities for teens to help out in Jr. Church during the 8:20 service. Please contact Emily Spateholts (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org) or Jess Wartinger (for Sunday School positions - sundayschool@hwchurch.org) if you are interested. If you are interested in serving our younger kids in the nursery, please contact Jan Schilke (567-4889). Thanks!

**There will be a Sunday School teacher training and fellowship on September 1st during the 9:40 service

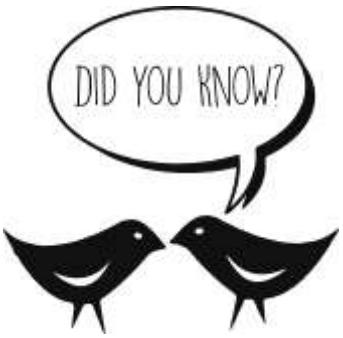
Wednesday Night Kids' Club

The Kids' Club Wednesday night program starts on September 18th **this fall for children in 1st - 6th grade. A new, exciting curriculum includes game time, crafts, Bible lesson and Scripture memorization fun. We also have a special Junior Kids' Club for preschoolers and kindergartners who are siblings of children in the elementary classes. Assistants and coaches are needed, so contact Ann McNeill if you'd like to join our team - annmcneill@hwchurch.org.**

From the
Library Shelves

The church library is always open when the building is open. Directions to check out a book, CD or DVD are on the bulletin board by the check-out counter. Get a book from our children's/junior's room to read through with your family. Or find a book for your own me-time in our adult area.

Come in and browse to your heart's content in our cool library!



- The Prayer Room is available whenever the church is open.
- All our worship services are live streamed through the church website and Facebook and archived for later viewing. This week 34 people watched from the website and 124 viewed from Facebook.
- Wednesday evenings the Prayer Group meets from 6:30 to 7:30 in Room 9 below the sanctuary. Donnie Stockin gathers prayer requests and if you would like to pray at another time or place, email dstockin1@gmail.com for the list.
- The Church Directory can be accessed online . Please update any information that changes over the summer. Call the office (585-567-2264) for a password.
- ***Celebrate Recovery*** meets Thursday Evenings from 7-9 pm in the Good Shepherd Room. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to share hurts, habits, and hang-ups.
- ***Playgroup*** continues over the summer on Thursday mornings in the gym from 10:00 to 11:30. Come join us for an informal gathering while our kids burn off some energy. All parents (or babysitters) and their babies, toddlers, or pre-schoolers are welcome.
- Bob & Laurie Smalley's new address is 53 Summit Rd., Brant Lake, NY 12815

Wellspring Ministries

What's new?

- We now have hand-sewn window valances for our dining room - a homey addition.
- You'll soon be able to identify staff members by their blue smocks with the WM logo imprinted on them.
- Lots and lots of 'stuff' arriving weekly as folks clean out and share.

Needed?

-Since Tops store in Wellsville no longer provides surplus baked goods to us, we could use people to possibly get on a schedule to provide dessert-type foods. (We do so appreciate Karen Gaerte's tasty cookies from time to time.). If you have that inclination, let us know.
-Pots, pans, towels, bedding, back-to-school clothing
-Prayer for future leadership of W.M. (Board and CEO). Life is moving us all along.
-Prayer for God to open minds and hearts to the Gospel.

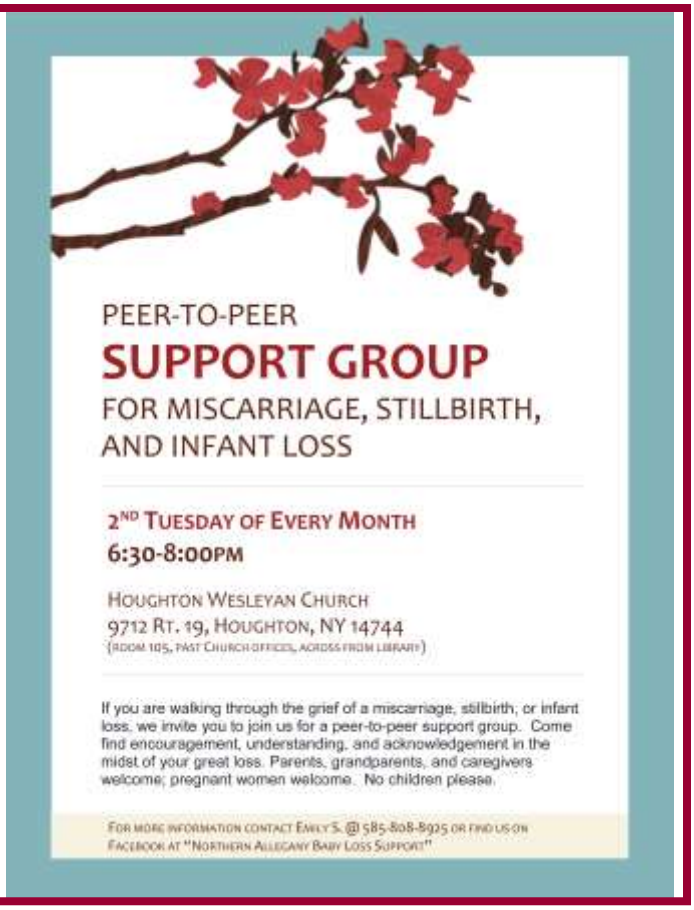
Reminders

-Items can be placed on the Beardsley porch Monday and Tuesday only, please, except not on Aug. 5,6,12,13. W.Min. is open to receive items on Wed. and Friday from 9:30am to 1:30pm.
-YOU are loved and cherished by the Wellspring family. Come visit - the coffee is ***pretty*** good.

Beth Beardsley (for the board)

I Thessalonians 4:1 -"As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to ***live in order to please God***, as in fact you are now living. Now, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, to do this MORE and MORE."

August 13



August 25 - Parent meeting in the Community Room during the Sunday School hour (9:40 to 10:40 a.m.)

Sept 8 - Foam Party - Youth group kickoff!
Sept 15 - Youth group 6pm
Sept 22 - Youth group 6pm
Sept 29 - Youth group 6pm

Sept 21 - Volunteer training day! 9:00am in the Community Room - Stewards of Children Training for all youth and children's ministry volunteers - 1-3pm.

Congratulations!

We welcome Agnes Margaret Reusser who was born on July 9 to parents Alison & George, big sister Isobel, grandparents Paul & Debbie Young and the Mike & Amanda Cox and the Nick & Hilary Gunning families.

Food Pantry

We are out of the following items:

- **Canned fruits**
- **Canned vegetables**
- **Tuna**
- **Canned Soups**
- **Canned Chili**
- **Canned Beef Stew**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Jelly**
- **Pancake Mix**
- **Syrup**
- **Cereal**
- **Boxed Potatoes**
- **Rice**
- **Jarred Applesauce**

refresh
retreat & family camp

Sunday, July 28 to Friday, August 2, 2019
at Houghton College (Houghton, NY)
All registration details available at:
www.RefreshAtHoughton.com

SPEAKER
Dr. Meredith Griffin Jr.
Senior Pastor
Harvest Christian Fellowship
Wilmington, Delaware

WORSHIP LEADER
Hannah Kerr
www.HannahKerrMusic.com

18 83
HOUGHTON
COLLEGE

House for Rent: 9763 Fancher Drive, Houghton
Family home, raised ranch--3 bedrooms, den/office, 1 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. Attic storage area.
Nestled against woods, view of valley, large yard, wonderful neighbors, quiet street.
Unfurnished. Available August 1.
Contact Becky Hutton for details--585.567.2727 or lindolruthhutton@hotmail.com.

PIANO TUNING
repairs - restoration

-Over 20yrs experience.
-Formally educated.
-Steinway factory training.
-BS Mus.Ed./Piano.

Nathan Baldwin
585-928-1419
(570-259-4564)

Genesee Rapids Season Comes to an End

Rapids players from 18 states have returned home after spending the summer here in Houghton. One of the comments we heard again this summer relates to the wonderful support the players receive from our community. Many people contribute in so many ways to make the summer an outstanding success.

Thanks goes out to host families, press box personnel, concession stand and team store workers, bus drivers, families who provided special dinners, our sponsors, ambulance personnel, and everyone else who contributed in anyway.

This year we planned a special emphasis on the spiritual growth of the players. In addition to regular church attendance this effort was arranged and conducted by Rev. Paul Shea who lead a meaningful study of the book of Proverbs. On a scale of 0-4 the players rated the Proverbs character study as relevant/good at 3.9.

Please continue to pray for the players as they return to their homes and colleges this Fall.

FILLMORE WESLEYAN CHURCH VBS
AUGUST 12-15 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Calling all kids! Mission with us to Mars and Beyond and learn to see God's power at work! VBS for all Fillmore area kids, pre-K to 6th grade, will be held at Fillmore Wesleyan Church on August 12-15 from 6:00-8:30 PM. Join us for 4 days of out-of-this-world fun - games, songs, skits, Bible stories, crafts, science experiments, snacks and friends!!! Register online at Tmab.CokesburyVBS.com/Fillmore and please invite your friends and neighbors to join us as well!

Are you an older adult interested in making music with others in a non-competitive and supportive environment? Do you like to sing or play musical instruments? If so, New Horizons might be just what you've been looking for! People with NO PREVIOUS MUSICAL EXPERIENCE are welcome.

On July 16th a group of 20 interested people met at the Campus Center to explore the possibility of forming a New Horizons group here in Houghton in collaboration with the Greatbatch School of Music. We'd like to meet again soon. Watch for another meeting date in early September.

Never heard of New Horizons? Contact Diane Emmons (at (585)567-2790 diane_emmons@hotmail.com) or visit the following website to see a documentary about this international organization that began in Rochester, NY and now involves 10,000 people all over the world:
https://www.pbs.org/video/music-for-life-the-story-of-new-horizons-brm0sf/

Come CELEBRATE Jane Roeske's 80th Birthday!!!

-celebration at HWC community room Friday August 16th.
-6-8 pm Come and Go.
-Happy Birthday song and candles at 6:15.

***please bring the gift of your presence and let's shower Jane with cards filled only with precious memories and birthday wishes.**

Sundays in August

August 4 (10:00 am)
am Dr. Michael Jordan

August 11 (10:00 am)
am Pastor Jon Cole

August 18 (8:20 am, 9:40 am and 11:00 am, No Sunday School)
am *When Our Enemies Catch Us* (Psalm 86)

August 25 (8:20am, 9:40am and 11:00am, 5:00 pm No Sunday School)
am *When God Comes After Us (Psalm 139)*
pm Church-College Potluck Picnic

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM
585-567-2264 or 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*
585-567-2024 **cindyoden@hwchurch.org**

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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