Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

October 2019
Volume 52 No. 5

Always Pray and Never Give Up

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.
Luke 18:1

Luke's introduction in chapter 18 comes on the heels of Jesus answer to the disciples' question about the final coming of the kingdom in chapter 17: "When will this happen, Lord?" Jesus tells them that though there will be signs, there is a need for continual readiness because it will come unexpectedly as the flood came in Noah's day. And then Luke writes: "One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up."

Jesus' story is about a widow who is seeking justice from an unjust judge. She comes before him and he sends her away. She comes before him and he sends her away. She comes before him and he sends her away. It happens so many times that eventually the judge gives in and gives her the justice she seeks.

Jesus says: "Learn a lesson from the unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?" (Luke 18: 6-8)

Jesus seems to be telling his disciples that faith is the mindset of his disciples and that continuing to pray is a profound act of faith. It's a profound act of faith because every time we keep praying when we are growing weary and are tempted to give up, it is an act of faith that God is good and gracious and that we can trust him. Every time we pray when we are tempted to give up, we are declaring that whether God answers as we desire or not, we believe that he is who he says he is and that we can trust him.

Every Sunday the prayer list in the bulletin contains names of people, some of whom we have been praying for a very long time. We may be tempted to think that the situations are hopeless or that we might as well give up. But every Sunday when we pray for them, we are declaring our faith in who God is and that we trust him for this situation and every situation.

This is also why the three-week, 24/7 prayer event has become a part of the rhythm of who we are as a church. It's not that we don't pray any other times or that this prayer event is more important than what we do every day. But most of us need to be reminded of Jesus's admonition: *always pray and never give up.* The prayer event is one means of obeying this command.

This year's prayer event commences Sunday, November 3, 5:00pm. I hope that you are making plans now to add your prayers to those of others that together we declare our faith in God who can always be trusted.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

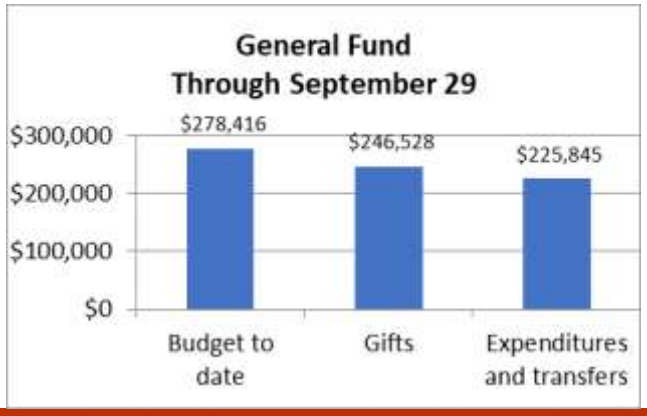
Houghton Wesleyan Church is blessed by faithful and generous giving from its members. In fact, this year the Elders were faced with an unusual situation – a budget surplus. The surplus from Fiscal Year 2019 was $39,552 ($2,948 from gifts above budget plus $36,604 under spent budget).

The Stewardship Committee spent considerable time discussing what to do with this surplus and recommended to the Elders the following distribution, which they approved:

- $15,000 - Outreach
  - $6,500 Global Missions—$341 to each of our 19 supported missionaries
  - $6,500 Local Outreach—Benevolent Funds used to assist a variety of people, some in our church, many not;
  - $2,000 Valley Preschool scholarships
- $12,052 – Reserve Fund (to keep our church financially stable in the case of unexpected, emergency needs)
- $5,000 – Other projects not included in the Financial Plan
- $7,500 – Pulpit supply during a Sabbatical for Pastors Wes and Cindy (at some point in the future).

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 one of the church Elders or Treasurer David Mercer or Pastor Wes.

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God." 2 Cor. 9:11 NLT



New Vision Week October 7

New Vision Week at Houghton College will present a very special event on the world refugee crisis, featuring a compelling, award-winning film on the Syrian refugee crisis followed by a lively panel discussion and Q & A. Refreshments will be served and all proceeds benefit the work of Houghton College partner Journey's End Refugee Services. Join us on Monday, October 7, at 7 pm in the Music Building Recital Hall. $5 for students; $10 for non-students and community members

*Children's Ministry * Children's Ministry*

Kids' Club Kids - Get excited about our next several club meetings! We are going to trek to Mount Sinai to hear the Ten Commandments and figure out how to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength. Are you ready to sing along our terrific band members again? Invite a friend from school - we have plenty of fun for everyone. See you on Wednesday nights at 6:00 - 7:15.

Parents - please sign your children in and out at the foyer welcome center & look for schedules & family fun take-home sheets.

Congratulation to Dan and Amanda Zambrano and big brother Alexander at the birth of Andrew Luke, born on September 2. Andrew weighed 6 lb. 4.8 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Operation Christmas Child

- ⇒ Shop back-to-school sales for great buys on scissors, crayons, pencils, erasers, colored pencils, markers, pencil sharpeners, pencil pouches
- ⇒ Also, in October, we are specifically looking for hygiene items like washcloths, toothbrushes, hairbrushes/combs, and hair ties (no soaps or toothpastes), and toys like yo-yos, balls, matchbox cars, playdough, slinky, stuffed animals or figures.
- ⇒ Drop off items in boxes located in the CE Foyer, church foyers, and around the church
- ⇒ All welcome to packing party. November 2 from 10-11:30. Come and go.
- ⇒ Bring a $10 donation if possible to help cover the cost of shipping.
- ⇒ Questions—contact Jessica Romance Jessica.r.mullen@gmail.com

THE SIXTH ANNUAL

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

Family Harvest Extravaganza

OCTOBER 26 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Games
Crafts
Hay Rides*
Bounce House

Prizes
Snacks
Live Animals*
Facepainting

AND JOIN US FOR:

Valley Preschool Open House

&

Youth Group Pulled Pork Take-out Fundraiser Dinner
•11:30 until sold out
•By Donation

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH CELEBRATION AT NO COST

*Weather Permitting

Donations of candy, individual, pre-packaged pretzels, and goldfish crackers are greatly appreciated. Please drop your donations off at the church office any time during office hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to noon or 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or on Sunday mornings.

Contact Emily Spateholts or Cindy Oden

We are also looking for food donations to help make the Family Harvest Extravaganza a success! If you would like to serve our community in this way, please sign up to bake a breakfast treat or shop for drinks:

https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/CNTL3157.

Donations can be dropped off at the church on Friday, October 25th. Please contact Susie Roorbach with any questions at susanna.roorbach12@houghton.edu or 716-374-4290 (text or call).

HOUGHTON/FILLMORE WESLEYAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs	Friday	Sat
		8 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	2	3	4	5
6 SS ***Storm the Heights! 3:33—5:55 Field of Dreams***	7	8 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	9	10	11	12
13 SS Life Groups! 6pm	14	15 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	16	17	18	19
20SS Life Groups! 6pm	21	2 2 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	23	24	25	26 Harvest festival—Pulled Pork Fundraiser
27 Youth Sunday! Life Groups! 6pm	28	29 Prayer Breakfast @7:00am	30	31		

Register by the final deadline of Nov. 15! Scholarships are available.
See the online registration form here:
https://hwc.breezechms.com/form/HWCFollow2019

October Lifegroups...

Oct 6—Storm the Heights! Field of Dreams—3:33-5:55; Permission slip and closed-toed shoes required!

Oct 13—New Series! "Rhythm" begins. Mark 12:30

Oct 20—R2—Worship with Connection

Oct 27—R3—Worship with your Rest

From the
Library Shelves

Have you seen the shelves of biographies in our church library? There are biographies on missionaries, Christian leaders, past U.S. Presidents, sports figures, and many other interesting people.

Our children's area has biographies also. We have books on Johnny Appleseed, Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Betsy Ross, and many others.

Come on in and enjoy learning about other people!

Wellspring Ministries

HARVEST time is here. What have we garnered?

~New friends ...some impacted by financial setbacks, a move into the area, hardships, loneliness ...some just desire to share kindness and financial gain with us.

~Old friends... that keep returning to bless us and be blessed.
~"Stuff" of all sorts that we readily sort, and pass on to others in need.
~Nutrition... healthful menus carefully planned and skillfully made are lovingly served to appreciative folks. (Some even ask for leftovers to take home.)
~Grateful hearts to hear and receive the Word each Wednesday and Friday for 5-8 minutes before we eat.

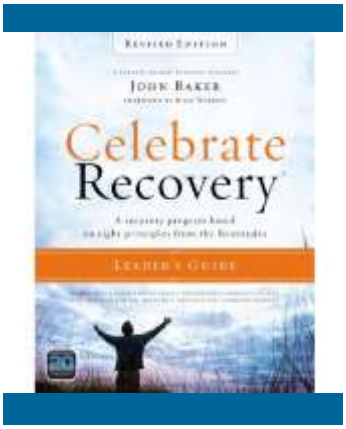
What do we need as the HARVEST season continues?
~Winter clothing - all kinds for all ages.
~Blankets, towels - used or new
~Baked goods like desserts or coffee bar items. (Tops' supply has dwindled.) (These can be store-bought or homemade.)
~Your prayers for our volunteers and board to work well together and shine clearly HIs love.

Grateful to God, the giver of the HARVEST. Evidences of His Hand upon us abound..

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

" It's the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor." M. Luther

Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday at Houghton Wesleyan Church



Also...
Celebrate Recovery will be starting a step study group for women beginning October 2 at 1:00 p.m. at the church. The step study groups actually go through the Celebrate Recovery participants guides together. They answer and discuss the questions at the end of each lesson together. They close the group (no new participants) after they have completed the lessons on the third principle. Step study groups meet together for approximately 12 months. Participants of step study groups get into the heart of the Celebrate Recovery program where true healing from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits occur. If interested, please contact Terry Ayers at Terry@thecools.org or Cathy Morley at catmo57@hotmail.com.

NOT TOO LATE -- SMALL GROUPS

If you are interested in joining a Small Group or interested in creating a new group contact Pastor Paul Shea. It's not too late to join this amazing means of discipleship and growth spiritually.
paulshea@hwchurch or 585-567-2264

PROGRESS AT THE BADR CITY, EGYPT CHURCH CENTER PROJECT

$100,000 spent so far for basement and church level. Pray for funds for next stage. Report from Rev. Atef Sedhom.

Last year's Christmas offering went to support this project.

YOUNG AT HEART ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ 2019-2020

(Formerly Houghton Area Senior Citizens)

The Houghton Area *Young at Heart* group of Northern Allegany County meets monthly. *Young at Heart* welcomes everyone ages 55 and up (and their caregivers) to join us for the programs outlined below. We typically meet in the community room of Houghton Wesleyan Church for a carry in lunch starting at noon with a 45-50 minute program to follow. A couple of the dates are tentative at this time and will be updated as plans are completed.

October 10 - Choosing Medical options — **Gudy Stevenson**

Gudy will share from her extensive experience dealing with making later-in-life medical choices. She will discuss Medicare, health insurance, and other senior finance decisions and introduce the necessary paperwork.

November 14 - Drugs and Your Brain — **Professor Paul Young**
Reservations are required in advance of this date.

December 12 - New Horizons Music program — **Diane Emmons**

January 22 - Financial Planning (Wednesday) — **Professor Richard Halberg**

February 13 - Staying in Your Own Home — **Jan Schilke and Becky Hutton**

March 12 - Musical Performance — **Greatbatch School of Music**

April 16 - War Propaganda — **Professor Douglas Gaerte**

May 14 -A Day at The Park Letchworth Park
(car pool to Charcoal Corral for lunch and then enter the park at the Castile entrance)
.
June 11 or close date - Baseball Game — **Genesee Rapids**
Questions or reservations: Daryl Stevenson 716-397-6864 or Ken Gaerte 585-567-8522

CARRY-IN MEAL SCHEDULE

Our monthly meetings begin at noon with a carry in meal, followed by a 45-50 minute program. All guests are requested to bring their own table service and a dish to place on the buffet table. Beverages are provided. Please follow the schedule below, or swap with a friend.

Last Initial	Desserts	Casseroles	Salads
A-F	Sep, Jan, Mar	Oct, Feb	Dec, Apr, Jun
G-N	Dec, Apr, Jun	Sep, Jan, Mar	Oct, Feb
O-Z	Oct, Feb	Dec, Apr, Jun	Sep, Jan, Mar

*November 14 is a catered Thanksgiving dinner at noon, with reservations needed by November 8. Contact Daryl or Ken.

*Our May 14 visit to Letchworth Park will feature lunch at the Charcoal Corral prior to our program in the park. Travel and departure details provided closer to the date.

- *The family of Don Munro, former Houghton College professor and community member. Don died September 3.*
- *The family of Dave Stanley, Carol Stonemetz's brother, at the death of his wife Cheryl who died September 14.*

The next New Horizons "Taste of Music" preview day will be THURSDAY, October 24th at the Center for the Arts (CFA) on the Houghton College Campus. All music-loving adults (age 50-100) are welcome to join us for singing and playing ORFF instruments. Beginners are welcome, too! Please gather in the atrium at 9:45 to visit and meet new friends. We will begin making music together at 10:00 am and finish with lunch in the Campus Center ($6.00 for Sr. Citizens). For more information or to sign up, please contact Diane Emmons (585-567-2790). We hope to see you there!

Don't know what New Horizons music is about? Check out the 56-minute documentary here: https://www.pbs.org/video/music-for-life-the-story-of-new-horizons-brm0sf/

All our worship services are live streamed through the church website, through streaming devices (Apple TV, Roku, etc.) and on Facebook. Services are also archived for later viewing

A reminder that the Sunday morning sermon can also be accessed through iTunes (search "Houghton Wesleyan Church").

Support Our Houghton Volunteer Fire Department!

OCTOBER 11

8th Annual Open House

&

Chicken BBQ

5-7 p.m.

3years running!

Helping Hands Christian Alliance

is a growing company and now expanding to include towns outside as well as inside Houghton N.Y. Call Barbara Elliott at 716-801-2077.

Services include:

Elder care up to and including shopping.
Medical appointment service
Housekeeping - one time or routinely,
includes steam cleaning floors and rug shampooing.
Pet sitting
Some sewing and alterations
House sitting
Call about pricing

References:

Donnie Stockin Becky Hutton Patty Stalker Karen Daugherty

FOR SALE: Singer sewing machine with cabinet. Very good condition. Call 567-8885.

PLAYGROUP

meets Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Community Room/ Gym. All moms, dads, caregivers and kids are welcomed.

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**

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

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

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

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Office, ***585-567-2264*****, office@hwchurch.org HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 6 (8:20, 9:40 and 11:00)
a.m. *With Jesus, It's Personal … Or Is It?* (Exodus 19; 1 Peter 2)
p.m. Small Groups

October 13 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. *Living with Authorities* (Romans 13)
p.m. Small Groups

October 20 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. *Praying about Pain* (Psalm 30; Philippians 1)
p.m. Small Groups

October 27 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00, 4:30pm)
a.m. *What Do We Do About Prayer?* (Esther4; Philippians 2)
p.m. Small Groups

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