FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
11:00 MORNING WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

As the prelude begins, let us observe silence as we prayerfully anticipate this hour of corporate worship of Almighty God.

Prelude: *"Invocation"* ……...Charles Callahan

*Call to Worship (from Romans 8)

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Invocation

*Hymn 273 ***And Can it Be?***

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40: 28-31
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: ***Thanks be to God!***

Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Be Thou My Vision* …….Dan Forrest

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, you are perfect in love, power, holiness, compassion, and truth…we are not. Forgive us for being more concerned with taking love than with giving love. Forgive us for being more concerned with wielding power than with embracing weakness. Forgive us for believing that holiness is defined by behaviors we check off a list than with openness to being filled by your Spirit. Forgive us for being unmoved with apathy toward people in need rather than being moved by compassion like Jesus. Forgive us for minimizing the truth so that people will think well of us rather than embracing the truth that sets all of us free. And forgive us for giving others the impression that we are more like you than we are. In your grace and mercy, hear our prayers and give us fullness of life that can be found only in you and let us hear once again the promise of your word: *If you confess your sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive your sins*. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**

Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father. If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.

Song of Response: ***I Know Whom I Have Believed***

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 13:44-52
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: ***Thanks be to God!***

*Hymn 390 ***Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us***

Sermon: **I Know What I Believe… Or Do I?**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Hymn 404 ***How Firm a Foundation***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Processional in D* ……David Johnson

*Please stand if able
Organist: Judy Congdon
Worship Leader: James Mullen
Acolyte: Wesley Stevick

NURSERY: We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building and is available during services.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Preschool Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon: they meet in room 116 in the Christian Education Building

There are **KID'S BAGS AND BIBLES** available in the bookshelf on the left side of the foyer next to the Men's restroom.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist proclaims, "The Lord is great…and he is high above all the people…Exalt the Lord our God, and worship…for the Lord our God is holy" (Psalm 99: 2, 9). We come today to acknowledge that God is great and holy, that we are his people and that we owe our lives to him. Through music, prayer, the reading of Scripture, and the spoken word we an opportunity to experience the grace of God in Christ.

SMALL GROUPS begin meeting this week.

KOINONIA MEETS TONIGHT, 7 PM IN WESLEY CHAPEL

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we invite you to worship with us at 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00. Next Sunday Pastor Wes leads us to think about *Just the Facts … Or Tryin' to Get the Feeling?* (Romans 8:1-17; Philippians 2:1-11).

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: Pastor Wes is hosting a membership class the week of September 23. If you are interested in joining the Houghton Wesleyan Church or in knowing more about what it means to be a member of this church, contact the church office (office@hwchurch.org) in order to reserve your place in the class.

CHURCH WEBSITE: Please visit our church website (www.hwchurch.org) for information relating to the church and ministries. Email us at office@hwchurch.org.

LIVE STREAMING 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.

PRAYER GROUP – Wednesday, 6:30 -7:30 pm. in Room 9 below the sanctuary.

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.

STEWARDSHIP
Received (June 1—Present): $ 214,330.28
Budgeted (June 1—Present): $ 232,012.95

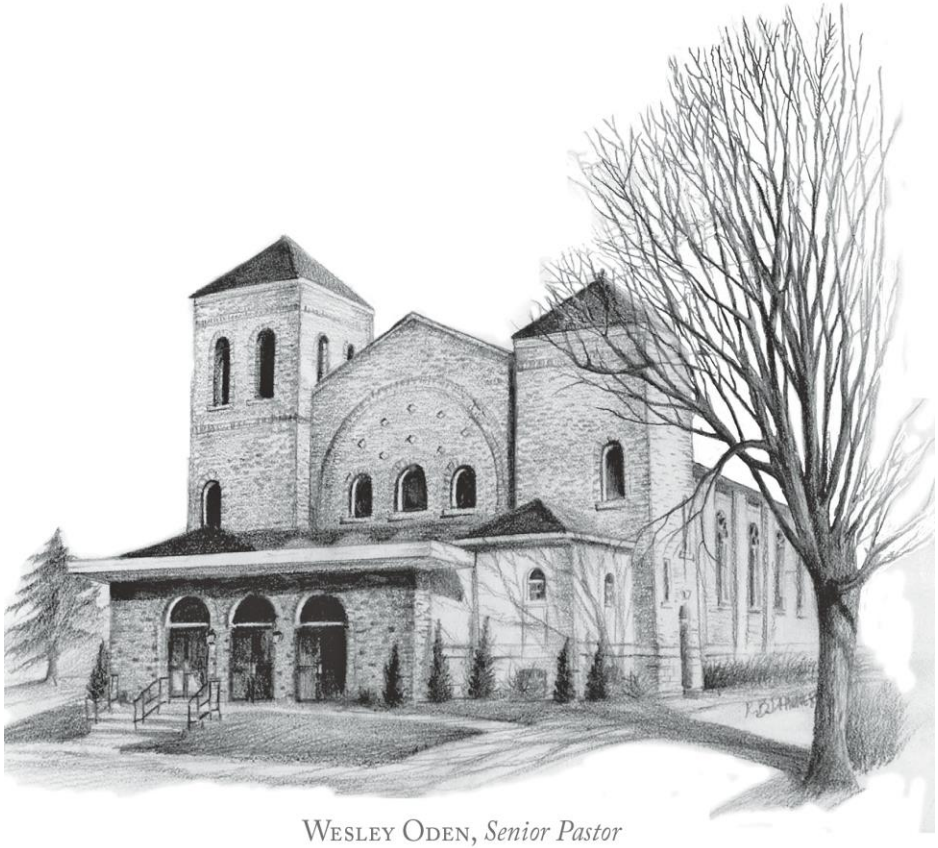
MISSION MOMENT - What a privilege to hear from Leah Doty, WBT worker, today in services and Kaleidoscope at 9:40. As she returns to S. E. Asia we must hold her up in prayer for language studies, academic rigors, and especially for the people she works with who eventually will receive the Bible in their language.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Sometime the church is amongst people as salt and light and compassion in the name of Jesus. May God bless all who show mercy in Jesus' Name to those who've lost so much in the Bahamas, including World Hope Int'l staff workers and planners.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Robert Stalker, Andrew Zambrano, Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Paulette Schierer, Ruby Schierer Williams, Elly Plaza (Alejandra Koch's sister), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Debbie Alderman Wilson, The Marsh Family, Jon Retz, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor's cousin), Bob Brown, Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, Sheryl O'Brien, Bethie Liddick, Bev Rhett, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Eila Shea, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government; for Peace Wesleyan Church, Falconer (Pastor Jason Claydon).

Houghton
Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others



Wesley Oden, *Senior Pastor*
Jon Cole, *Youth Pastor*
Cindy Oden, *Assistant Pastor*
Paul Shea, *Assistant Pastor*
Amanda Cox, *Music and Worship Director*
Emily Spateholts, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Ann McNeill, *Director of Children's Ministry*

P.O. Box 127, Houghton, NY 14744-0127 • (585) 567-2264 • www.hwchurch.org

HWCKids

hosts

Kids' Club from 6:00-7:15 each Wednesday night

for grades 1-6

Do your children enjoy music, activities, & scripture fun? Then Kids' Club is for your family!

Our opening band will have your kids singing and laughing. Following that, gifted teachers & assistants use curricula that encourages active participation of young bodies, minds, & hearts in Bible lessons, games, and crafts. The spring Buddy Keith Memorial Boat & Car Race and the annual Christmas party offer fellowship and festivity for all. Programming is also available to preschool children of team members and the siblings of club members.

Our fall 2019 Club begins this week, September 18th. To enroll your children click on the Kids' Club Registration Form link:

https://hwc.breezechms.com/form/kids19-20

Parents are also invited to join our

HWCKids Wednesday Facebook page

in order to see posts and to receive rare but important messages & weather cancellation information.

The College Ministry Committee will be organizing a progressive dinner on **Sunday, September 22**, starting at 12:30pm.

A progressive dinner is a three-part lunch where each course is hosted in a different home with a different group of guests. College students (or others if especially interested) are encouraged to sign up as a carload of 3-5 that will drive to three different homes throughout the afternoon. All are invited and encouraged to participate. This is a great way to connect with and get to know new and returning college students!

Salad/Appetizer: 12:40-1:15
Main Course: 1:25-2:05
Dessert: 2:15-2:50

We are looking for multiple homes to prepare and host any or all of the progressive dinner courses throughout the afternoon. Please sign up by placing this slip in the offering plate or by emailing **austenkewin@hwchurch.org**.

Host Name: _____

Host Address:_____

I would like to host (check all that apply):

___ Salad/Appetizer ___ Main Course ___ Dessert

If you would like to be a progressive dinner guest, please sign up by indicating your car driver and passengers. You can do this by placing this slip in the offering plate or by emailing **austenkewin@hwchurch.org**.

Attendees: _____ _____

_____ _____

Safety First – for Children, Staff, and the Church!

Did you know? Every Children and Youth ministry team member in our church goes through an important volunteer application process that includes signing a Code of Conduct, participating in a sexual abuse awareness and prevention training, and contacting references. Our goal is to staff our programs with people who love Jesus and who are equipped to provide a safe and loving environment for the young people in our community. We all have a role to play in safety! In order to create the safest possible environment, we want ***everyone*** to understand our safety plan and our Code of Conduct.

Check-In System

- All Children and Youth must check-in at a computer/phone station to all Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday night, and Valley Preschool programming to keep an updated tally of who is in the CE building in case of an emergency.

- Children from nursery to 6th grade must wear their name tag (with family and allergy information) at all times.

- Children from nursery to 3rd grade must be checked-in, dropped off, and picked-up by a parent or trusted adult who has the matching parent tag printed out from the computer station.

- Children in 4th-6th grade may self-dismiss from classes with prior parental permission.

CE Building Access

- All doors to the CE building, excluding the main office door, will be locked during Valley Preschool hours - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from approximately 9:00-11:45am.
- Children and caregivers are encouraged to take children to the main foyer of the CE building to check in via the hallway under the Sanctuary; this will prevent people from travelling through the parking lots.

* For more complete instructions or questions, please contact Jon Cole or Emily Spateholts

Houghton Wesleyan Church

Youth and Children's Ministries Code of Conduct*

We, as youth and children's ministry workers (hereafter "Staff"), at HWC, are people who acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives and have a personal relationship with God through faith in Him. As a community we are committed to growing and maturing in our relationship with God through quiet times, active attendance at HWC and involvement in accountability. We commit together to stop serving if, at any time, our personal spirituality becomes compromised

1. To protect HWC staff and program participants (hereafter "PP"), at no time during a HWC program may a staff person be alone with a single PP where the staff person cannot be observed by others.
2. Staff shall never leave a PP unsupervised.
3. Staff will not abuse PPs or use corporal punishment of any kind.
4. Staff will use appropriate touch
5. Staff will respond to children with respect and consideration
6. Staff are committed to a lifestyle that is both Godly and above reproach.
7. Under no circumstances should staff release PP's to anyone other than an authorized parent/guardian
8. Staff are required to report any suspicion of child abuse

**Due to space restrictions here, this is a partial listing of the Houghton Wesleyan Church Children and Youth Ministries code of conduct. Please contact the church office to see the full document.*

To participate in making our Church a safe community, consider attending the Stewards of Children training on Sept. 21 from 1-3pm in the Community Room. Please place in the offering plate or return to the church office.

Yes! I plan to attend the Stewards of Children Training on Sept. 21.

Name: _____

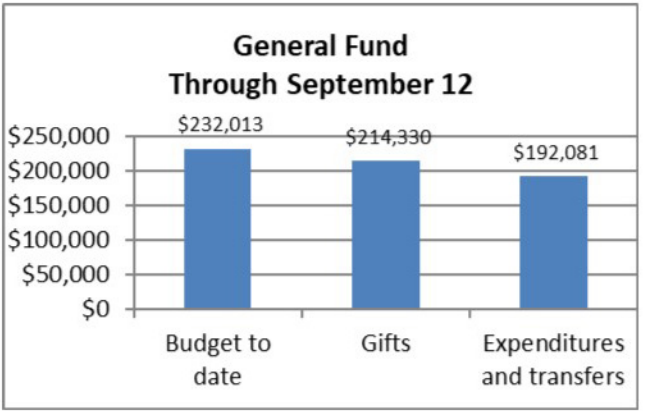
(Tear off and place in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.)

STEWARDSHIP

A life of generosity

Each month you may have noticed that financial updates are included in the bulletin. This is one way we can let you know what your generous support of Houghton Wesleyan Church accomplishes.

In the church's financial plan for this year, nearly 38 percent was budgeted for Ministries. This encompasses six important areas—College Ministry, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, Congregational Care, Discipleship, and Worship/Music Ministry.

One of the places you can see examples of the impact of your support is in Pastor Jon's office. We encourage you to spend some time there looking at the many photos posted on his wall of our youth growing their faith through relevant teaching and exciting activities. In his sermon on August 11, Pastor Jon commented, "When I look at those faces, it stirs in me a deep sense of excitement and it helps to put me back in touch with my calling. I am so grateful to be part of a denomination and community of faith that deeply values our young people."

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 Elders Vice-Chair Matt Webb (matthew.webb@houghton.edu), Treasurer David Mercer (mercerdg@frontier.com) or Pastor Wes (wesoden@hwchurch.org).