

August 2020

Hess Road
wesleyan CHURCH

Balancing Act

Matthew Rose

A few years ago I was watching my girls play on the wooden playground next to the Barker Library. In the distance, I saw a very little boy (just 2 years old) gliding effortlessly through the freshly cut grass on a balance bike (for those of you who don't know, a balance bike is designed for children who are old enough to walk, but not yet old enough to ride a pedal bike on their own).

As the boy came closer, I saw his father following behind him on foot and realized they were some of our neighborhood friends. When they reached the playground I expressed my amazement. "How does your son have such great balance at such a young age?" The dad explained to me the brilliance of balance bikes (which I had never heard of until that day). Balance bikes train very young children in the art of balance so they can, a little later, ride a regular bike at a very early age.

Well, a lot has changed since that day in the park several years ago. That wooden playground has been replaced. The Library building was lost in a fire. I have my own little boy now too. Our youngest daughter, Everly, just learned (thanks to half a year on her own balance bike) how to ride a pedal bike on her own. Other things haven't changed. It's summer now just like it was summer that day in the village park. The seasons come and go. Another thing that hasn't changed is the need to master balance, no matter one's age.

Much of life is a balancing act. Too much of pretty much anything becomes a dangerous thing. During this pandemic, balance is especially difficult. How do we balance important values like safety and fellowship, safety and our financial futures, safety and education, etc.? How do we minimize risk while simultaneously refusing to be imprisoned by fear? There are no easy answers.



At Hess Road Wesleyan, we've tried to maintain a balanced wisdom as we've slowly re-opened our church facility to the congregation and community. We've kept one eye on the recommendations coming from global, national, state, and regional health and safety experts. We've kept another eye on the importance of providing a place for believers to assemble, fellowship, sing, pray, hear from God's word, etc.

(Continued on page 4)



“THE CHOSEN” MOVIE NIGHTS

TUESDAYS AT 6:30

In the Sanctuary

Please wear a mask until seated

The Chosen is a 2017 television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. It is the first multi-season series about the life of Christ, and season one was the highest crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time. (Wikipedia)

August 18: Episodes 1 & 2

“I have Called You By Name”
& “Shabbat”

August 25: Episodes 3 & 4

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”
& “The Rock on Which it is built”

September 1: Episodes 5 & 6

“The Wedding Gift”
& “Indescribable Compassion”

September 8: Episodes 7 & 8

“Invitations” & “I am He”

Season Two is currently in process
studios.vidangel.com/the-chosen/welcome

In the Beginning

Nathan Marone

Over the past few weeks I have had the joy of preparing for our 101 class on the Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy). The richness of the Bible, its literary complexity and beauty can sometimes be overlooked in our daily devotions, but reading through these five books again while consulting scholars who have made it their life's work to study and write about scripture has been like walking through a great National Park. My eyes have been drawn again to the wonder and beauty of the Pentateuch.

These five books aren't just the first five books of the Bible. They are the foundation for the whole narrative of scripture. It is here that we first learn about creation, mankind's role in God's world, sin, judgement, and God's earliest promises for both Israel and the whole world. We are introduced to major biblical figures such as Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua. It is here, in the Pentateuch, that we begin to understand God's plan for the world, a plan that will be fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus.

But the Pentateuch is also difficult to read and understand at times. We can become discouraged by a narrative that takes odd detours, law codes that don't seem to apply to our lives, and architectural instructions that were clearly meant for Israel and not for us now. It is my hope that this 101 class gave you some healthy guidelines and footholds for your own reading of the Pentateuch. Even if you have missed the first two classes, I invite all to come to week three and learn about this fascinating, sometimes frustrating part of the Bible.

Good Grief

Matthew Rose

We're currently in the midst of a sermon series titled "Good Grief". The goal of the series is to help us understand that Christians are by no means immune to grief. On occasion, I've overheard well-meaning believers trying to push grieving Christians through the grieving process quickly.



Grieving doesn't work that way. It's a process. In her well-known book "On Death & Dying", author Elisabeth Kubler-Ross describes the various stages of grief as denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. There is no schedule for these stages. They don't always occur in order or last the same amount of time. To help each other through the grieving process, we hosted a grief gathering in early July. The gathering was well attended, with a mixture of people at the beginning of the grieving process and people who have made it to the acceptance stage and found their new normal in some beautiful ways. **We are glad to offer another grief gathering on Thursday, August 20th @ 6:30 PM.** Additionally, our sermon series will end with a congregation-wide memorial service as we collectively grieve the many losses that have come during this pandemic. This applies to more than just the lost of loved ones. We've all experienced loss during this time. It is healthy to grieve those losses, even as we turn, more and more, toward the hope that we have in Jesus Christ for a better tomorrow and a perfect eternity.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Church Directory Update

The NYS Pause limited our ability to finish taking pictures for our 2020 church directory, but we are just wrapping up and hope to have them ready for distribution by Fall.

If you have not yet had your picture taken (or submitted a photo) please do so asap. Additionally, if you have had any changes to your address or telephone number since March, please contact the church office to make sure we have the correct information. The office phone number and email is listed on the back of this newsletter.

(Continued from Page 1)

Maintaining this balance can be hard work. As I watch Everly riding her bike around, there are many moments when it appears that she's about to fall. But, almost every time, she figures out how to stay upright. I pray that God will continue to help our church leadership as we navigate these dizzying days with the balance that comes from God's wisdom. And I pray that God will help you as you navigate this balance as an individual.

Because there are so many different opinions and perspectives when it comes to the pandemic, we recognize that it'd be easy to point fingers at each other and accuse one another of leaning so far in one direction that a fall is inevitable. It is so important for us to show grace to one another and recognize that each individual (and each church!) needs to figure out this balancing act for themselves, with the help of the Lord!

Below, I will share some of the ways we are attempting to bring balance to our various ministries at Hess Road Wesleyan:

Sunday Morning Services

After about 3 months of online-only worship services, we began to open up our facility in accordance with government regulations. We transitioned through drive-in services to lawn-services to fully indoor services. We presently have indoor worship services in the sanctuary at 8:45 & 11 AM each Sunday morning. Attendees are asked to wear a mask on their way to and from their seat, but may remove their masks during the service (extra masks are available and hand-sanitizer is provided). Every other row in the sanctuary is roped off so as to create 6 feet of separation between households. Rather than pass around an offering plate, there is also an offering box at the door (as well as online giving options). So far, we've been averaging about 40 people at the 8:45 service and about 60 people at the 11:00 service. Regulations allow for about 100 in each service, so there is room for you if you're ready!

Of course, the worship service wasn't the only ministry going on each Sunday in the pre-pandemic world. We also had Sunday School classes for all ages, children's ministry during the 11:00 service, soup fellowship meals in the afternoon, prayer meeting at 4:30 PM, and another worship service at our Lockport Campus (The Refinery) at 6:15 PM. Let me provide updates on each of these ministries as well:

Sunday School

We believe it is necessary to delay the re-start of Sunday School for the safety of our students and teachers. By not having Sunday School, which was usually between 10-11 AM, we assure little to no mixing between the 8:45 and 11:00 congregations. We also would not be able to maintain adequate social distancing in many of our Sunday School rooms. We very much look forward to re-launching this ministry in the future. In the meantime, consider taking part in the Wednesday night 101 classes that we've been offering all Summer or doing Bible studies online or in your home with family and friends!

Prayer Meeting

Pre-pandemic, a small group of us gathered for prayer each Sunday at 4:30 PM. Aside from physically gathering, we have not missed a beat. Prayer Meeting is available on Facebook Live each Sunday at its regular time in the "Hess Road Church Family Group." In fact, during the pandemic, we've had more participation in prayer meeting than ever before!

11:00 AM Children's Ministry

You may be interested to know we are re-starting a child-care ministry for our little children during the 11:00 worship service. Details and guidelines for this ministry are still being finalized, but if you are among those interested please contact us to share your concerns and questions.

Specific ministry for our grade-school children will return at a later date, but we are currently providing in-service interaction. There are Sermon Note Sheets they can pick up on their way in, and at the end of the message Pastor Matthew will ask them some questions about the message, complete with many prizes. We will also have a couple sword drills (speed challenge to look up Bible Verses) so kids, be sure to bring your Bible!

Meal Ministries

We are holding off on most church-wide meal ministries at this time. The main goal of Soup Fellowship has always been to, well, fellowship! It would be difficult to maximize fellowship while maintaining required social distance between households, among other challenges. We look forward to the return of this ministry at a future date. Our "Meal Train" of hot and ready dinners for those recovering after injury/hospitalization etc. is also on pause, but we do have the ability to deliver ready-to-go freezer meals that were prepared just before the quarantine started. Please contact us if you need any assistance with meals or groceries at this time.

Refinery @ Lockport Wesleyan

As many of you know, our Hess Road ministry extends to Lockport where we have another facility and another congregation (The Refinery). A group has been meeting for over a month now at 6:15 PM each Sunday evening. The biblical content is the same as was given that morning at Hess Road, but the style is more conversational and interactive. Contact us if you'd like more information about this worship service.



Family-Night

Wednesday Family Night has been a wonderful part of our ministry at Hess Road Wesleyan, now, for many years. This ministry has flourished, and we were so looking forward to another year of discipling children, teens, and adults. Sadly, we will be delaying the launch of AWANA this year. We determined that it would be next-to-impossible to offer a meal given the current guidelines. What's more, many of our volunteers are elderly and/or immunocompromised. We continue to search for ways to make this ministry work as soon as is safely possible and will keep a close eye on how the school systems do as they re-open on-site education. It should be noted, however, that we ARE currently offering teen ministry. Contact us for more details. In the meantime, we miss our AWANA families. Please let us know if there are specific ways we can be praying for and assisting you!

101 Series

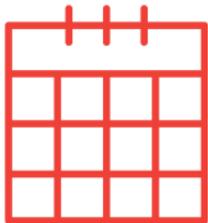
Each of the past 5 years, we've offered a special Summer '101' class. These classes take place over 3 consecutive Wednesday evenings and provide thorough overview of a specific topic or section of Scripture. So far this Summer we have offered 3 different 101's (Biblical Geography & Archaeology, Racism in America, and the Pentateuch). I'm excited to announce that we'll be offering yet another 101 class this Fall: "The Rise of Christianity" will be taught by Pastor Matthew and will provide historical explanation for how a small Jewish sect (later known as Christianity) experienced enormous growth in the first few centuries of its existence. The class will take place on Wednesday, September 2, 9 & 16 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION

The Newfane Food Pantry is offering school supplies to families in need on Tuesday, August 18 and August 25. Any donations of school supplies, Kleenex, and sanitizer can be brought to the coat room bins for distribution.

As always, non perishable food items are also welcomed! Thank you your for your support.



Upcoming Calendar At a Glance

The Chosen Series Movie Nights

Tuesdays August 18-Sept 8, 6:30 PM

101 Class: The Pentateuch (Week 3)

Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 PM

Grief Gathering

Thursday, August 20, 6:30 PM

Church Bonfire/Camp Out

Saturday, August 29, 7:30 PM

Combined Worship Service & Chicken BBQ

Sunday, August 30, 10:30 AM

101 Class: The Rise of Christianity

Wednesdays, Sept 2-16, 6:30 PM



The new location on Lincoln Ave is up and running (see picture below)! Thank you for all your generous donations of diapers, wipes, baby/maternity clothing, and more. We have new bins in the coat closet ready for your donations!

Since CareNet was not able to hold its regular Baby Bottle Campaign this spring, we are going to do our own version. **Please bring in your change between now and August 30** to help fill the giant pink and blue bottles we have at the church. But there's a catch: If the BLUE bottle brings in more money, Katie gets to put a pie in Pastor Matthew's face at the combined service on August 30. If the PINK bottle brings in more money, Pastor Matthew gets to put a pie in Katie's face!

Note: Thursday, October 15 is Care Net's annual fundraising banquet at Classics V on Niagara Falls Boulevard. If you have interest in attending this event, please contact Katie Rose before September 8 to reserve seats .



New Facility at 6713 Lincoln Ave, Lockport

CHURCH CAMPOUT & COMBINED SERVICE

Prior to the pandemic, we had planned a fun weekend for our church family for the end of August. After careful consideration, we believe it's still possible to carry out most of that plan. **It'll begin with a bonfire on Saturday night (August 29) at 7:30 pm.** We will also have a kids/ family movie projected outside (title TBA). 'Smore ingredients & popcorn will be provided; please bring your own personal drinks.

As in the past, you are invited to stay overnight and "camp out" in your RV or tent. Some breakfast items will be available for you in the morning.

The next morning, **Sunday, August 30th, we will have a merged worship service outside (weather permitting) at 10:30 AM** in the back lawn. There will be space for Drive-in attendees to park and participate from their car.

After this special service, we will have chicken BBQ available for lunch. Those unable to attend the service are still invited to come for lunch (or pick it up to go!) If you need to stay home and cannot attend, we would love to bring you a porch delivery! Details on how to RSVP are below.



Dine-in or
Drive Thru
Chicken BBQ

Sunday, August 30
Pick Up 11:30 - 1:00

We wanted a chance to say hi! Many of you are not yet joining us in person on Sunday mornings (and that's ok) but we miss you! We will be serving **Free** Chicken BBQ Dinners for our church family on Sunday, August 30.

Dinners to include Chicken, Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad, Applesauce, and Roll.

Please sign up in the church office to reserve your dinners by leaving a message at 778-5343 ext 1 with your name and number of dinners needed, by Tuesday, August 25.

Hot dogs & chips also available for kids upon request. Some Socially-distant seating will be available (weather permitting) or you can pull into our North parking lot for quick pick up on the go!

Hess Road Wesleyan Church
2514 Hess Road
Appleton, NY 14008



HRWchurch.org

Sunday Services

8:45 & 11: 00 AM

Please wear a mask until seated.

716.778.5343

office@hrwchurch.org

www.HRWchurch.org

Hess Road
wesleyan  **CHURCH**