

March 19, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friend,

The health situation in our country and in our world is rapidly changing. Most predict that we have a long road ahead of us.

In light of this, we want to make you aware of some information, some ways in which the pastoral staff are at work, and how we can support each other, particularly people who are most vulnerable to the threat of this pandemic.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

- We will continue to host a 10:00 a.m. streaming service each Sunday.
- Access the service through the church website (<https://www.hwchurch.org>), our Facebook page (<https://Facebook.com/HoughtonWesleyanChurch/>), or a streaming device, such as Roku or AppleTV (see Roku and AppleTV instructions below). The advantage of a streaming device is that it enables you to watch on your television rather than a small computer screen. If you have questions, we are available to help you (567-2264). Services are archived on the website and our Facebook page as well.
- We are investing in new software and equipment to enhance the streaming experience. You will notice some of the upgrades this Sunday. The enhancements should eliminate the necessity of accessing song sheets, though we will continue to make them available for your convenience.
- The worship services will vary from week to week, but this Sunday will include an organ prelude that will begin around 9:55 a.m.
- The stream will go live at 9:50 each week.

CHURCH FACILITIES

- At the recommendation of healthcare professionals, the church building is on lockdown. If you need to enter the building, call the church (567-2264) to inquire about availability. Please enter only if absolutely necessary. This will prevent the necessity of continual sanitizing.
- The church library is closed for now.

CHURCH FINANCES

- We will experience some reduced costs during this crisis (heat, electricity, printing), but many expenses remain and some will be heightened. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of our church.
- For financial gifts, we encourage you to use [online giving](#) (we do not accept credit cards at this time) or to mail your check to the church (P.O. Box 127, Houghton, NY 14744).

CONNECTING (we need to stay in touch with each other)

- The pastoral staff is making a concerted effort to stay in touch with you. In the coming weeks, you will receive a phone call from one of us to see how you are, to inquire of your needs and to pray with you. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us with words of encouragement or need. It is imperative that we keep connected with each other despite the current circumstances.
- Beginning Thursday, I am posting a weekly brief (5-10 minutes) video message. This will include updates, information, words of encouragement and prayer. The video will be posted on the website and Facebook on Wednesday or Thursday each week.
- We also are attempting to update our information database. If you would like to receive these types of communications by text instead of or in addition to an email, please reply with your name and preferred phone number or numbers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Unfortunately, the planned Seder Service has been cancelled. Thanks to all who were planning to volunteer. We will reschedule for next year.

- Instead of the Seder or Good Friday event, we will be sending a devotional to you.
- We are hoping to stream our annual Maundy Thursday Service on April 9
- Events for Easter are pending, though it is likely the Easter breakfast will not take place.
- All KIDS' Club events are cancelled.

We will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with you regularly. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us (585-567-2264, office@hwchurch.org), or any staff member. If you have needs in the coming weeks, please let us know.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers for our church, our county, our nation and our world. The heart of our faith is that God is good and that God is faithful. He is at work—when we see it and when we don't.

You continue to be in our prayers. We pray God's grace and comfort upon you.

Blessings,
Pastor Wes

STAFF

Pastor Wes Oden, Senior Pastor - wesoden@hwchurch.org

Pastor Jon Cole, Youth Pastor - joncole@hwchurch.org

Pastor Cindy Oden, Assistant Pastor - cindyoden@hwchurch.org

Pastor Paul Shea, Assistant Pastor - paulshea@hwchurch.org

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

Emily Spateholts, Children's Ministry - emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

Ann McNeill, Children's Ministry - annmcneill@hwchurch.org

Austen Kewin, Pastoral Ministry Resident - austenkewin@hwchurch.org

If you need assistance with streaming on the website or Facebook, contact Patty Stalker (585-610-6883).

If you need assistance with streaming on a device (Roku, Apple TV, etc.), contact Nathan Danner (585-567-4314).

Roku Connection Instructions

- Download the Houghton Wesleyan Church App.
- Open Roku.
- In the search box, type HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH, then click on it.
- Click on ADD CHANNEL
- Click OK.
- Return to the Home Screen. You will see our App in the list.
- Click on the Houghton Wesleyan Church App to access live or archived services.

AppleTV Connection Instructions

- Connect the iPhone to your AppleTV streaming device.
- Use an iPhone to access the Houghton Wesleyan Church website www.hwchurch.org
- Click WATCH ONLINE.
- Choose the live service.

Houghton Wesleyan Church

9712 Route 19

Houghton, NY 14744

585-567-2264

www.hwchurch.org