

March 24, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

As we move forward in these strange and uncharted waters, we want you to know that we are thinking of you and praying for you. Here is some information for you about accessing various elements of our church ministries.

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

- We apologize for the technical difficulties of this past Sunday. We have discovered that due to the streaming service's attempt to accommodate the influx of churches, they inadvertently changed a setting that affected us and others. We are confident that the problem has been solved.
- We will continue to host a 10:00 a.m. streaming service each Sunday. You will notice that the team is smaller in an attempt to do all we can to prevent any spread of illness.
- We have integrated new software and equipment to make the streaming experience more pleasant for you. Thanks for your patience as we work out some of the bugs and learn the best way to utilize what we have.
- The stream will go live at 9:50 each week. Prelude music will play as you await the commencement of the service.
- We would love for you to send pictures of your family engaging in the streaming service. We want to post the pictures publicly so that we can see each other while we are away from each other. Please send them to [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org).

### **Church Facilities**

- The buildings continue to be on lockdown and all pastors are working remotely. We are available by email or phone.
- We would love to open the church library so that you could have access to our resources. Unfortunately, because of the governor's mandate, we are unable to do so.

### **Resources**

- HWCKids Facebook page has resources available right now.
- Seedbed is a resource from some professors connected to Asbury Theological Seminary. They are offering some materials at no cost as long as they are downloaded by March 28. You may access them at [this address](#):
- Christian History is releasing their Beta Version of RedeemingTV: A ministry of Christian History Institute and Vision Video. They have given us permission to make this available to you. No fee required, only an email address to begin watching. [This link will take you to the website.](#)

### **Church Finances**

- Our offerings have been quite low the past few weeks. We understand that this is a precarious time for many. Thank you for the gifts that you are able to give.
- For financial gifts, we encourage you to use [online giving](#) 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 continues our effort to stay in touch with you. If you haven't yet received a call from one of us, you will in the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to talk or if you have a need.
- We are all concerned about the health of those among us who are most vulnerable. We are making extra contacts with them, but if someone comes to your mind, we encourage you to make contact and express your support and prayers. Please limit calls to between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

- The staff will post another brief video this Thursday. The video will be posted on the website and Facebook.
- One of the easiest ways to reach you with information is by texting. We have the capability of sending group texts to all whose cell phone number is in our database. For instance, we sent a text Sunday morning about the technical difficulties. We sent another text Sunday afternoon when the service was available for viewing. If you did not receive these texts and would like to, please reply with your name and preferred phone number. We are happy to send texts to each member of your family if this is your preference.
- We have created links on our webpage to address these concerns: “Get Help,” “Give Help,” and “Let’s talk.” You may access these links here: <https://hwchurch.org/covid-19-updates/>.

### Upcoming Events

- Amanda Cox is hosting a music worship time this Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. It will be live streamed through the regular channels (Website, Facebook, streaming devices).
- Houghton/Fillmore Wesleyan Church Online Youth Group is hosting a Zoom event Sunday, March 29, 6:00 p.m. Click this link to participate: <https://zoom.us/j/369036977>.
- The Seder Service is cancelled but if you would like materials to do this in your home, the Haggadah (ritual booklet) is available on our website.
- Because of current constraints, a new Maundy Thursday Service is untenable, but we are able to stream last year’s service instead.
- Events for Easter are pending, though it is likely the Easter breakfast will not take place.

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](mailto:office@hwchurch.org), or any of us individually). 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

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](http://www.hwchurch.org)).
- Click WATCH ONLINE.
- Choose the live service.