



June 23, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

I hope you are finding new and creative ways to connect with those around you as summer gets into full swing. Below are some reminders and some new information related to Houghton Wesleyan Church.

Staffing Information

- Pastor Paul Shea has been extended a Leave of Absence (June 8 – July 7) by the Elders. Pastor Paul is using this time to prepare and complete a move here in town.
- Cindy and I will be on vacation the next two weeks (June 15 – 28). If you need pastoral assistance, please contact Pastor Jon Cole or the church office.

Reopening

- The Reopening Task Force Subcommittee on Worship has developed a [SURVEY](#) to help us plan and prepare for the complicated process of reopening. Please [complete one survey](#) per bubble/household (the size of the household group you are sheltering with and with whom you would attend).

Upcoming Events

- **Virtual Prayer Vigil:** Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. The Reopening Task Force appreciates your prayers. If you are uncertain how to spend your time in prayer, let me suggest that you pray for the Task Force and the decisions being made. You can sign up now for times in 15-minute increments.
- **Music Program:** Thursday, June 25th at 6:30pm., we are hosting another evening of “Klassic Klips” taken from our archives.
- **District Worship Event:** Come together for a live online prayer & worship gathering on Saturday, June 27 @7:30 PM. The Western NY District will be broadcasting this live event on [the WNY District YouTube Channel](#). Our worship team will be featured during this event.
- **Funeral:** Bob Cummings’ funeral service is June 27, 3:00 p.m. at Kopler Williams Funeral Home; Burial Service: June 29, 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (the funeral service and burial service are open to the public but will also be live-streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KoplerWilliamsFuneralHome/>)
- **Sunday Worship**
 - This Sunday, June 28th at 10:00 a.m. we will worship together online. Rev. Dr. Sarah Derck will be preaching from Genesis 22 and Psalm 13.
 - The weekly bulletin, which includes the worship order, financial information, prayer concerns and events in the life of our church, is available each week on the church website or by contacting the church office.

Kids Ministry

- We have started our new Children's Ministry curriculum, GROW (<https://growcurriculum.org/childrens-ministry-curriculum/>). GROW is put together by a diverse and talented team of ministry leaders from all over the country and focuses on teaching and disciplining kids, equipping volunteers, and empowering parents. Their intent on taking faith deeper, not just wider, with very Biblically accurate content has us eager to see our Children's Ministry continue to grow. If you have any questions, please contact Emily (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org).

Valley Preschool

- Though we can't know for sure what the fall looks like yet, the Valley Preschool team is starting to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. Valley Preschool meets three mornings a week at the Church and is a great introduction for children to school with plenty of hands-on lessons and social interaction with peers.

- If you have or know of a 3-5 year old who might be interested in preschool, we invite you to fill out an application today; these are available on Facebook, the website, at the Church office or by contacting Casda Danner (casdadanner@hwchurch.org) or Emily Spateholts (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org).

Streaming Information

- Thanks for the pictures you have sent. Please continue sending them for the preservice slides. Send them to any staff member.
- Send your comments, ideas or words of gratitude about the streaming to streaming@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, Amazon Fire, etc.), contact Nathan Danner (585-567-4314).

Church Finances

- In these uncertain times, thank you for your generosity. Our fiscal year ended May 31. In the coming weeks, we will provide year-end information related to income and expenses.
- 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).
- For your convenience we are now accepting credit cards on our on-line giving site. In order to avoid the higher fees associated with credit cards, we do encourage you to consider using the bank transfer option (EFT). If using a credit card is better for you, we have added the option for you to donate the transaction fees if you wish, but you are under no obligation to do so.

Connecting

- The pastoral staff continues to pray for you and to support you. Even as we are making contact with you, please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to talk or if you have a need.
- Stay in touch with others. Please limit calls to between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- We have created links on our webpage to address needs: “Get Help,” “Give Help,” and “Let’s talk.” You may access these links here: <https://hwchurch.org/covid-19-updates/>.

Resources

- We now have a [Houghton Wesleyan Church YouTube Channel](#). Here is the link to access it. It helps us if you subscribe to our page.
- Many devotional resources are available. Here are a few:
 - Barnstorming: Seeking Sanctuary in the Seasons of a Rural Life (<https://barnstorming.blog/author/briarcroft/>).
 - Seedbed is a daily devotional from J.D. Walt (<https://www.seedbed.com/>).
- Here are a couple of Bible reading resources:
 - YouVersion is a daily Bible reading program (<https://www.youversion.com/>).
 - Here is a blog for listening to daily Bible reading....an Old Testament, New Testament and Psalm passage each day: www.dailyradiobible.com.
 - Dwell is an audio Bible app that is providing free access for churches until June. The app provides Bible reading in voices with various background music: <https://dwellapp.io/covid19>.
- If you are interested in prayers related to the Coronavirus, here are some videos from Prayercast:
 - <https://prayercast.com/you-reign-coronavirus.html>.
 - <https://prayercast.com/coronavirus.html>

If you have questions, concerns or needs, do not hesitate to contact us (585-567-2264, office@hwchurch.org, or any of us individually). If you have needs in the coming weeks, please let us know.

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

Blessings,
the Pastoral Staff