



July 7, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

I hope that this note finds you well and with a sense of God's presence with you. Here are some reminders and information related to Houghton Wesleyan Church.

Reopening

- We continue to prepare for our worship reopening Sunday, August 2 with services at 8:30 and 10:30. Reservations will be required so that we do not have to turn away people at the door once we reach capacity. Seats will be assigned. Masks and social distancing will be required. Not only will these measures provide protection, but they will also enable us to sing together. We are making plans for appropriate cleaning between services.
- Both services will be streamed, and we are working hard to maintain the same level of quality in our streaming. Even though we would love to see everyone, please use discretion in making your decision about coming to worship in the building.
- We are planning a couple of rehearsals prior to August 2. The first rehearsal will be Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30pm. If you are interested in helping by attending the rehearsal, please contact the church office (office@hwchurch.org or 585-567-2264).

Upcoming Events

- **Virtual Prayer Vigil:** Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Our nation and world needs prayer as pandemic cases rise. Our leaders need prayer for good decision-making. As we move toward our August 2 reopening, all who are making preparations need prayer for wisdom and insight. Please [sign up now](#) for at least 15 minutes to pray (
- **Music Program:** Thursday, July 9, 6:30 p.m., we are hosting another Hymn Sing led by people in our congregation. It will be live streamed through the regular channels.
- **Next Thursday:** Judy Congdon will present an organ program featuring your hymn requests. If you have a request, please contact Dr. Congdon (judy.congdon@houghton.edu). Please make your requests by the end of this Friday, July 10.
- **Sunday Worship**
 - This Sunday, July 12 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship together online. The Rev. Dr. J.L. Miller will be preaching from Matthew 19:13-15, *Follow the Kids to the Kingdom*.
 - 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.
- **Ice Cream Drive-Thru for HWC Kids (and Parents):** We want to treat and see you! Come enjoy a frozen treat at our Ice Cream Drive-Thru on Wednesday, July 15th from 6:30-8:00pm. Pull into the Church parking lot, roll down your window, and we'll pass you a treat and a greeting! We can't wait to see you! COVID precautions will be followed (gloves, masks, and distancing).

Kids Ministry

- Tap into 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.
- As we begin to plan for the Fall, whatever it may look like, we are in need of people to join our team. We will have open positions as leaders and assistants, every Sunday (or Wednesday) or once a month, for all age groups. If you are interested in joining our amazing team, contact Emily Spateholts (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org), Ann McNeill (annmcneill@hwchurch.org) or call the church office (585-567-2264).

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

- 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.
- If you would like to see any church financial information, contact the church office.

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](#). Click on the link to access it. It helps us if you subscribe to our page. It includes the Children’s Sermons, Special Music, and recent sermons. Check it out.
- 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 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,
Pastor Wes