

July 28, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

Here are some reminders and some information for you.

Reopening

- If you would like to review our decision related to postponing our reopening, please [click this link](#) to access my letter from July 16.
- We continue to work on ways to supplement our online worship.
 - On August 6 at 6:30 p.m. we will have an Outdoor Time of Worship. We will meet in the church parking lot with limited, socially distanced seating. You will need to make a reservation to attend by [clicking this link](#).
 - You are invited to participate in a Service of Scripture, Silence and Meditation on Monday, August 10, 6:30 p.m. We will be meeting in the sanctuary with limited, assigned and socially distanced seating. Masks will be required. You will need to make a reservation to attend, which you may do by [clicking this link](#). More and varied plans are in the works.
- If you are interested in helping as an usher at upcoming events, please contact the church office either by phone or by email (office@hwchurch.org).
- In addition to these plans, we want to remind you that we are here for you. On the [COVID-19](#) section of the church website, you will see three buttons: **Get Help**, **Give Help** and **Let's Talk**. This is an easy way to let us know how we might engage with you. Do not hesitate to use those, to call the church, or to call one of the pastors if any of those buttons reflect what you would like to communicate with us.

Upcoming Events

- **Virtual Prayer Vigil:** Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Thursday, 6:30. Our nation and world needs prayer as pandemic cases rise. Our leaders need prayer for good decision-making. Please sign up now for at least 15 minutes to pray (<https://hwchurch.org/prayer/>).
- **Music Program:** Thursday, July 30, 6:30 p.m., we are hosting another Hymn Sing featuring folks from our church. This program will be live streamed through the regular channels.
- **Sunday Worship**
 - This Sunday, August 2 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship together online. The Rev. Dr. Michael Jordan will be preaching.
 - 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.
 - The streaming will begin 15 minutes prior to the service with pictures and music.
 - We would love more pictures of you. Send them to streaming@hwchurch.org.

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.
- Parents, your input through our general reopening survey was so helpful that we are asking for your help again with a kids and youth specific survey. There are many decisions to make regarding reopening our ministries and we value your feedback. Please take a moment to fill out the short survey (<https://forms.gle/V2r3vtn8qQeXJXE88>) by July 31st.

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

- 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

- God continues to bless us through your generosity. The weekly bulletin contains up to date financial information. 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).
- If you would like to see any church financial information, contact the church office.

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.
- In addition to the HWCKids Facebook page, Children's sermons are posted on our YouTube Channel. 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.
 - [Pray as you go](#) is a website that offers music and ideas for prayer.

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