



*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others*

August 11, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

As we continue to move through the summer months, we are doing all that we can to be a presence for Christ with each other and with others. In that light, here is some information for you.

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. Please sign up now for at least 15 minutes to pray (<https://hwchurch.org/prayer/>).
- **YMCA Play Pack Drive/Walkthrough:** Today, August 12, all families are invited to the YMCA Play Pack drive/walk-through in the church parking lot from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a partnership with Houghton College and our church. (In the case of severe weather, location pick up will be rescheduled to a later date.) Each free play pack includes a rubber ball, two tennis balls, a jump rope, frisbee, bubbles, sidewalk chalk and State of Play deck of cards. If you have children in your family, drive through our parking lot between 11 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. today, August 12 to pick up your play pack.
- **Organ Program:** Thursday, August 13, 6:30 p.m., Dr. Judy Congdon will present another organ program featuring your requests. In addition to this event being streamed, *you are invited to come to the church sanctuary to listen*. In order to assure adequate seating, which will be socially distanced, reservations are required, either by calling the church office or [by using the church website](#). Masks are required in the building.
- **Sunday Worship**
 - This Sunday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship together online. Pastor Jon Cole 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.
- **Ice Cream Give-Away:** Wednesday, August 19, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., the pastoral staff will be in the church parking lot with ice cream to give away. This is not just for children but for all of us. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity for us to see you and for you to see us.
- 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).

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.

Valley Preschool

- **Valley Preschool Family Outdoor Wrap-Up Event:** Monday, August 17, 2020 (9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.). Families whose children attended Valley Preschool during the 2019-20 school year are invited to come say hello (and good-bye) to VPS staff and to pick up a packet of papers and projects, your time capsules, and a little year-end gift. Since we will be outside, as long as families remain in their own family grouping (social distancing from other families)

masks will not be required. We ask that families come past our greeting stations one at a time, practicing social distancing. We will be in the parking lot in some shade away from the main driveway area eager to greet and briefly chat with children and families as they come past to pick up these items. In the case of rain, we'll be under the overhang at the entrance of the Christian Education Building. We're very excited to see you again!

- **Fall Opening:** We are making plans in hopes of opening VPS this fall with approved protocols and procedures. 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

- Even though we are not together, our pastors and church family are here for you. On [the COVID-19 page](#) 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.
- If you use YouTube, subscribe to our Houghton Wesleyan Church YouTube Channel.
- 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.
- The Cross and the Switchblade. The 50th anniversary edition of the classic story of Pastor David Wilkerson and gang member, Nicky Cruz. Restored and re-mastered from the original 35mm film and now streaming in HD. The story lives on in the legacy of lives transformed by the message that no one is ever so far gone that they cannot find the way home. Now available worldwide on Redeem TV (redeemtv.com) in 8 languages!

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