

August 19, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

It is good to communicate with you once again this week.

### Upcoming Events

- **Ice Cream Give-Away:** today 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.
- **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/>).
- **Sunday Worship**
  - This Sunday, August 23 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship together online. I will be preaching from Psalm 133, *Walking in Unity*.
  - My apologies for the mix up about communion this past Sunday. We will receive communion this coming Sunday during the streaming service.
  - 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](mailto:streaming@hwchurch.org).
- **Outdoor Worship Service:**
  - We are excited to announce that this Sunday, August 23, **8:45 a.m.** we are starting an outdoor worship service in addition to the regular streaming service at 10:00 a.m. [SIGN UP HERE](#) to participate outdoors or in your car.
  - The service will be a shorter version of the regular streaming service, but we will be able to sing and have congregational participation.
  - Designated seating will allow for social distancing per the state guidelines. **You will need to bring a lawn chair or something to sit on.**
  - Masks will need to be worn when not in your designated area.
  - State regulations limit us to 50 people at an outdoor gathering, so reservations will need to be made. We can, however, have more people attend who are willing to remain in their vehicle. Vehicle reservations will help us plan appropriately as well. To make a reservation, please use the church website or call the church office.
  - Due to technology constraints, the outdoor worship service will not be streamed.
  - **If it appears that weather might be an issue, we will make a decision on Saturday to continue or to cancel.**
- **Church Library:** We are ready to reopen the church library. To use the library, you will need to follow a few guidelines: 1) masks must be worn in the building at all times; 2) use hand sanitizer (provided) before entering the library; 3) library doors will remain open and fans will be moving air in and out; 4) returned books will be cleaned and remain a few days before being placed on the shelves again; 5) only one family unit per hour will be permitted in the library; 6) in order to maintain the one family per hour requirement, please call the church office to reserve your hour.
- **Wanted: Bakers of all Ages!** Been itching to do something encouraging for someone? Want a family fun project? We have been impressed by the compassionate care given to our friends and family at the Houghton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. Will you join us in encouraging the essential workers there? Let's bless them by sending each staff member an encouraging note and a dozen delectable homemade cookies. We need lots of bakers and note writers. We have a goal of 1200 cookies by September 1st. Contact Ann McNeill at [anmcmneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:anmcmneill@hwchurch.org) if you would like to bake or help to write the 100 notes needed to make this blessing project a success.

- **Ministry Opportunity:** If you are interested in helping as an usher or parking attendant at upcoming events, please contact Pastor Jon ([joncole@hwchurch.org](mailto:joncole@hwchurch.org)) or Ann McNeill ([annmcneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmcneill@hwchurch.org)).

### Valley Preschool

- We have been approved by the state and by the Elders to open 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?subject=Preschool](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org?subject=Preschool)) or Emily Spateholts ([emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org)).

### Streaming Information

- Send your comments, ideas or words of gratitude about the streaming to [streaming@hwchurch.org](mailto: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 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.
- 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](http://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](http://redeemtv.com)) in 8 languages!

If you have questions, concerns or needs, 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.

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

Blessings,  
Pastor Wes