



October 6, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

I am continually amazed at how good it is to see many of you in worship on Sundays. This past Sunday, we had people in every seating area and some in the gym watching on the big screen. Outdoors we had most of the seating areas filled along with a half dozen vehicles. As we think about this week, here is information related to Sunday and to other events in the life of our church.

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday Worship**

- **Indoor Worship:** You are invited to come to the church for the **10:00 a.m.** streaming service.
 - In order to accommodate as many people as possible and maintain 12' distance between section so that we are able to sing, we have created sections for 1-2 people and sections for 3-5 people. Please note: if the 1-2 section is full, feel free to make a reservation in the 3-5 section even if you are coming by yourself or with one other person.
 - We are setting up overflow in the church gym (projected on the large screen). Each seating area is on a large piece of carpet. It is an opportunity to watch the streaming with others. Please enter by the Community Room foyer. The same protocols will be followed as in the sanctuary.
 - [Reservations](#) are required for both the sanctuary and the gym overflow.
- **Outdoor Service 11:15 a.m.** Bring your chairs or a blanket or both. The weather is getting a little colder but we have fire pits and you can dress warm and/or bring a blanket. [Reservations are helpful](#) either for a spot in the seating area or for a vehicle space. *We hope to meet outdoors even if it is raining, but some weather may prevent this from happening. If the weather is uncertain, we will make a decision by 8:30 Sunday morning and post on the church website. Check the church website before coming.*
- Children are welcome to join in every setting. We have children's activity bags available indoors and outdoors.
- This Sunday we continue thinking about our *Joy in the Journey with Jesus*, using road signs as metaphors. This week's sermon addresses A Sign of Care from Mark 10 to which we might ask: *Are They that Important?*
- 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.
- **Ministry Opportunity:** If you are interested in helping as a parking attendant at the outdoor worship services, please contact Pastor Jon (joncole@hwchurch.org) or Ann McNeill (annmcneill@hwchurch.org).
- **Harvest Treat Bag Drive-Through Invitation:** Saturday, October 31, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You are invited to come to the church parking lot to receive a bag filled with treats. The Pastoral Staff will be dressed-up to give out the treat bags and to greet you as you drive through the parking lot. Children and youth are invited to dress-up as well or to decorate your vehicle.
- **Harvest Treat Bag Drive-Through Donations:** Donations of candy, individual, pre-packaged pretzels, goldfish crackers, and gummy fruit snacks are great appreciated for filling the treat bags for the Harvest Drive-Through. Please drop your donation off in the container inside the door at the church office or you make bring them on Sunday mornings.

Prayer Vigil (October 18-25)

- This year's prayer vigil is different from previous years. We are unable to use the prayer room as we have in the past, so we are meeting outdoors in what we are calling a Prayer Garden.
- The Prayer Garden will have four stations with scripture and a guide sheet with a few questions to initiate our thoughts and prayers. We also have prayer materials for children.
- Because we will be outdoors, we are setting up reservations for 30 minutes and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Reservations are open now. Just [click here](#) to set up your prayer time.
- We are planning an opening gathering Sunday, October 18, 4:30pm in the church parking lot.

Operation Christmas Child

- Giving love and the Gospel message to the world comes in several forms through Operation Christmas Child! Giving by packing a physical box is the first. Pre-printed shoeboxes are now available under the community room foyer overhang. Second, is [packing an online box](#).
- Last, is giving financial support for shipping or sponsorship of The Greatest Journey discipleship class through our church website link. Go to [online giving](#) and choose Operation Christmas Child.
- Thank you for your generosity to children and families throughout the world.

Koinonia

- Join us this Sunday for Koinonia at Houghton Wesleyan Church! Koinonia, our college student-led worship ministry will be meeting in the sanctuary for the remainder of the semester. Come worship with us at 7pm on Sunday evenings. Reservations are required; [sign up here for 1 or 2 people](#) or [here for 3-to-5 people](#).

Youth Group

- Sundays: Junior High (3:00 - 4:30) and Senior High (5:00 - 6:30).

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 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](#).

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