



October 27, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

I hope that this finds you well. Here is some information related to Sunday and other events.

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday Worship**

- **Indoor Live 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 sections 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.
 - The Community Room has additional seating for watching the service on the big screen with others. The same protocols will be followed as in the sanctuary.
 - You may make a reservation for either venue [HERE](#).
- **Outdoor Live Service 11:15 a.m.** We would love to continue meeting outdoors for as long as possible. Bring your chairs or blankets or both, a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, dress warmly (we do have firepits) and experience the joy of worshipping together in the church parking lot. *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.* We have plenty of space.
- We love having children in every setting. Children's activity bags are 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 You Don't Exactly Follow from Judges 12 to which we might declare: *But We're Right!*
- 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.

- **Daylight Saving Time:** This Saturday night, turn your clocks back an hour.

- **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 (annmneill@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.

Prayer Vigil

- Our prayer vigil continues. A Place of Prayer is set up on the north lawn with four stations, benches and a guide for prayer. The stations are covered with a canopy to help protect from the weather. You may also remain in your vehicle to pray as well. Materials are provided 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.

Operation Christmas Child

- Operation Christmas Child has called for more shoebox gifts than ever due great needs families have in light of the pandemic. Please join us in sending gifts to children who may not receive any present this year. Would you consider one box per child in your family? Packing with your children helps to engender a giving spirit within them.

- Physical boxes are available at the Harvest Festival Drive-through this Saturday or in the bin under the community room overhang. Feel free to pack an online virtual box at [THIS LINK](#). Thank you!

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 and you can sign up now for [a group of 1 or 2](#) or [a group of 3 to 5](#); it is also [streamed from our website](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Youth Group

- Youth Group meets on Sunday: Junior High (3:00-4:30) and Senior High (5:00-6:30).

Freezer Meals

- Thank you all for the many ways you are serving and helping one another! We so appreciate each one of you and all that you do.
- The Lay Shepherd leaders and Lay Shepherd groups continue to reach out to help their neighborhoods and area when someone has a baby, is ill or has surgery. This is a tremendous ministry but during these extra busy and often stress filled days, it can be difficult to help others as we desire. Because of this, we are inviting you to make a freezer meal or two when you have time, to have on hand in the church freezer. In this way, when a need arises meals are readily available. It could be a meal of soup or a casserole for one person or two people or for a family. If you would be able to help us stock up on meals for people in times of need or if you have any questions, please contact Cindy Oden (585-567-2024/ cindyoden@hwchurch.org). Meals may be dropped off at the church office during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Please include what your freezer meal is and instructions on baking or warming it. Thank you!

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

- Here are the giving totals for our fiscal year (June – May) to date

Budget Needed: \$331,064.58 / **Budget Received:** \$306,345.12

- 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