



*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others*

December 29, 2020

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

As we head into a new year. Here is some information for you regarding the life of the church.

Christmas Eve Streaming Service: Thanks to everyone who participated in our Christmas Eve Streaming service. In addition to the people you saw on screen, many people worked behind the scenes to create this special event.

Christmas Eve Outdoor Service: It was exciting to see so many people come to the outdoor Christmas Eve Service in spite of the rain. We estimated more than 200 people in cars and standing under umbrellas joined in this celebration of carols and candles. Thanks to everyone who helped set up and take down for this event.

Christmas Eve Offering: Thank you for your generosity in giving toward this year's project: Houghton Academy's international student scholarships. As of today, we have received \$10,243.05. It is not too late to contribute. You may give online, by mail or by dropping off a gift at the church office.

Weekly Video: Pastor Wes will not be sending a video this week but will resume next week.

Sunday Worship

- **Streaming Worship Service 10:00 a.m.** Thank you for your understanding this past Sunday that precipitated the need to replay last year's First Sunday after Christmas service. It was a wonderful service. This Sunday, Pastor Paul Shea will be preaching from Isaiah 42, *My Eyes Have Seen the Glory*.
- **Indoor Worship** is on pause due to the continued rise in positive cases in our church, our area and our county. Our Task Force continues to monitor the situation and will recommend opening the building again as soon as it is wise to do so.
- **Outdoor Worship** is on pause until the weather improves.
- The 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.

January Kids' Club News

- Miss Emily will continue to share by email the Grow Sunday School children's materials. But now, at the beginning of every month, families can elect to receive printed copies in the US mail and to be part of Kids' Club Virtual. Children may sign on to Miss Ann's Zoom meetings on Wednesday nights at 6:30 or Friday afternoons at 3:30. There we will share our coloring & activity sheets, reinforce the monthly verse using American Sign Language, and receive incentive rewards for memorizing scripture. Each Zoom meeting will last about 30 minutes or so.
- Contact annmneill@hwchurch.org if you would like to receive the materials in printed form. Also let Ann know if you'd like to receive a Kids' Club Virtual Zoom invitation link. She'll send out invites to past members, but she doesn't want to miss anyone. God is good! Join us!

Freezer Meals

- 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 (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!
- 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.

Church Finances

- Here are the giving totals for our fiscal year (June – May) to date
Budget Needed: \$472,949.40 / **Budget Received:** \$434,499.05
- 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.

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).

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