



*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others*

January 19, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

Here is some information related to the life of our church.

Sunday Worship

- [Streaming Worship Service 10:00 a.m.](#) I will be preaching from Mark 1:21-34, thinking about the Lordship of Jesus. As Covid cases in our church and area continue to rise, this service will remain streaming only.
- 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

- Kids' Club has started. Parents may contact annmneill@hwchurch.org to put their 5 to 12-year-olds on the roster. Everyone from Kids' Club past will receive a printed packet of Sunday school materials. With Miss Ann and the team, kids will review that Sunday's lesson, practice the verse using American Sign Language, and praise the Lord. Zoom invitations have been emailed, so if you haven't received one, let Ann know quickly. We start Wednesday, January 13th & Friday the 15th. Join us!
- Kids' Club - If you would like a Zoom invitation to join Kids' Club, email annmneill@hwchurch.org. She will host two classes this week - Wednesday at 6:30 and Friday afternoon at 3:30. Hope to see you in either session!

Stone Soup Dinner Fundraiser for Valley Preschool: Friday, January 29, 2021, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. This drive through event raises funds for VPS scholarships. If you are interested in reserving your meal, contact Casda Danner (casdadanner@hwchurch.org) or [use the order form](#).

Youth Group News

- Youth group will resume this Sunday, January 24 in the church gym with social distancing protocols in place. Jr high 3-4pm and Sr High 5-6pm. Also look for links in your email to two events:
- Wednesday evening Zoom Check-in, 7pm - No program, just hangout! Bring your own popcorn. :)
- Zoom Sunday School - 9am Sunday morning – We are talking about, "The Littles" where we'll take a look at the smallest books in the Bible!
- Please Email Pastor Jon (joncole@hwchurch.org) if you don't receive the links.

Small Group Fellowship: Are you missing interaction with others around the Word during the pandemic? Some groups are meeting via Zoom and plans are percolating for more venues in the weeks ahead. Discipleship and accountability take as few as two or three partners. Pastor Paul urges you to contact him (paulshea@hwchurch.org) to discuss resources if you are meeting or wish to meet with others as we travel through the "bleak mid-winter!"

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: \$504,479.36 / **Budget Received:** \$486,675.83

- 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.

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association Meeting

- The Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association will hold a Zoom meeting on January 28 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of:
 - electing a couple new members for the Association Board (community members, whether they own a cemetery plot or not, are eligible to vote)
 - giving an update on plans for a cemetery project scheduled for Spring 2021;
 - advising the community that the Association is in process of making a recommendation to the IRS that will allow individuals to contribute and claim a deduction on their Federal tax return; and
 - to answer questions from meeting participants.
- Should you wish to participate in this meeting, contact Bob Danner at robert.danner@houghton.edu. You will receive a return email with instructions for joining the meeting.

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