



**Houghton**  
WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*Joyfully loving God,  
wholeheartedly  
serving others*

February 16, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

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

**Ash Wednesday:** Today, February 17 is Ash Wednesday, the first day in the season of Lent. At 6:30pm, we will be [streaming](#) last year's Ash Wednesday Service.

**Thursday Global Missions Focus:** Join us at 6:30 p.m. as our Urban Advocacy missionaries, Steve and Ruth Strand, lead a panel of three of our Buffalo pastors discussing the challenges and blessings that Christ has led them through in the last year of ministry. An introduction sheet to this panel is available on the church website [HERE](#). We pray that this hour will stir our hearts to pray and support these churches and outreaches all the more.

### **Sunday Worship**

- This Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent. During the season of Lent, I will be directing our attention to John 18 and specifically the words of Jesus at his arrest and interrogation. This Sunday, we will be thinking about Jesus's response to those who come to arrest him: "I am he."
- **Streaming Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**
- **Outdoor Worship Service 11:15 a.m.** We recognize that it's going to be cold, so dress warm. We have firepits burning as well. We look forward to seeing all of you who are able to participate in this gathering in the church parking lot.
- **Communion:** We will be receiving the sacrament of communion in both worship services this Sunday. If you stream, you will want to have some bread and juice or water ready. If you attend the outdoor service, we will have packaged communion cups for you.
- 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.

**Indoor Worship:** The pandemic metrics are going down each week and for this we are very grateful. We are hoping that they decrease enough in the next few weeks that we will feel comfortable opening up the church once again for indoor worship. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to navigate these difficult decisions.

### **Youth Group News**

- Youth group meets this Sunday 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](mailto:joncole@hwchurch.org)) if you don't receive the links.

## HWC Kids

- Everyone is invited to join the HWC Kids Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HWChurchkids> to see what our children's ministry is up to, receive weekly lesson information, find encouragement and resources for families, and participate in discussions and polls (coming soon!)
- Kids' Club is learning how dearly Jesus cares for us and teaches us. If your children would like to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 or Fridays at 3:30, contact [annmneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmneill@hwchurch.org). Come "GROW" with Kids' Club Virtual.

**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](mailto:paulshea@hwchurch.org)) to discuss resources if you are meeting or wish to meet with others as we travel through the "bleak mid-winter!"

## Church Finances

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

**Budget Needed:** \$583,304.26 / **Budget Received:** \$561,229.73

- 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](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).

## Resources

- Even though we are not together, our pastors and church family are here for you. On the [COVID-19 HELP 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](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