



March 9, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

I hope that your week has started well. Here is some information for you related to the life of our church.

Indoor Worship Resumes

- Even though cases in our area are not as low as we might like, we are going to remove the pause on indoor worship. The church building will be open for the 10:00 streaming service this Sunday! We are very excited about this decision.
- All who attend in the building will be seated in socially distanced spaces and masks will need to be worn while in the building.
- Reservations are required so that we do not have to turn anyone away. We have room for 10 groups of people with [up to five adults](#) in a group and room for 8 groups of [up to 3 adults](#). If the 10:00 service fills up, we have [overflow space set up in the gym](#). Click on your choice to make a reservation.

Sunday Worship

- This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. I will once again direct our attention to John 18 and specifically the words of Jesus as he stands before Annas and declares: "I spoke openly."
- **Streaming Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**
- **Outdoor Worship Service 11:15 a.m.** We will continue to gather in the church parking lot each week. It is a wonderful opportunity to see each other.
- 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.
- **SMZ (Sunday Morning Zoom), 9:00-9:50 a.m.** continues this Sunday with an opportunity to hear and/or share testimonies of God's faithfulness during the last 12 months. Contact Pastor Paul Shea (paulshea@hwchurch.org) or the church office to receive the Zoom link.

Time Change: Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead this Saturday night as we reenter Daylight Saving Time.

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.
- Wednesday evening Zoom Check-in, 7pm - No program, just hangout!
- Zoom Sunday School this week, March 7 at 9am with Nahum! Feel free to read ahead!
- Please Email Pastor Jon (joncole@hwchurch.org) if you need zoom links for any event.

HWC Kids

- HWC Kids, join us the week of March 22nd-27th for an Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your family to the Church and walk around the outside of the building. You'll find 12 big Easter eggs hidden in the windows and doors of the Church building, each with a word or phrase on it. Collect the words and unscramble them to find an Easter promise. Let Miss Emily know you've completed the hunt and an Easter treat will be headed your way!

A big "Thank You" to the Valley Preschool students for decorating the eggs! (Pick up your Palm branches for Palm Sunday while you're there!)

- Kids' Club is celebrating God's goodness during this season of Lent. Contact annmneill@hwchurch.org if your child would like to join us on Wednesday evening or Friday afternoons.
- 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!)

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!"

Church Finances

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

Budget Needed: \$630,599.20 / **Budget Received:** \$610,221.27

- 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).

Community Event

- Allegany County Food Distribution: We will once again host, along with Houghton College, a food distribution Wednesday, March 17, 3:30-5:00pm. This USDA initiative called CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program), is from distributors who would normally serve schools, restaurants, and municipal programs are able to pre-pack boxes of perishable product and deliver to distributions being done all over the country. If you are interested in receiving food, or if you know of someone who might be interested in receiving food, call 585-209-0052 or email info@cubaculturalcenter.org. Pre-registration is required.

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, 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