

June 8, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

Here is some information for this week.

**Service of Prayer for Healing:** This Wednesday, June 9, 6:00pm you are invited to the church parking lot for an outdoor Service of Prayer for Healing. This gathering will feature a couple of songs, scripture and prayer—for ourselves, for each other, for our church and for our community. This time of prayer will be focused on all needs—physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, relational and anything else for which you might desire prayer. We will confess our sins together and we will seek God’s heart that he would heal us in every way. Please add your heart and voice to this important event in the life of our church.

#### **Worship Information**

- The sanctuary will be open for worship during the 10:00 streaming service. Reservations help us plan and confirm that you will have a seat when you attend. You may make a reservation [here](#) or by contacting the church office ([office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org) / 585-567-2264).
- Indoor worshipers may remove masks when in your seat and not singing. You may access my letter related to the new guidelines [here](#).
- We have set up space in the Community Room to watch on a large screen, singing and sharing with others.
- Outdoor worship will continue Sunday mornings at 11:15 in the church parking lot. Reservations are not necessary for the outdoor service.

#### **COVID-19 Information**

- Our Reopening Task Force continues to monitor and respond to the changing dynamics of the Covid pandemic. We are sensitive to the fact that there are many perspectives about the protocols and that there are many residual effects of the protocols. For your information, here is an explanation of the decision-making process, particularly as it relates to indoor worship.
- The NYS Department of Health guidelines state that singing indoor gatherings in a group that includes unvaccinated or individuals whose vaccination status is unknown, necessitates 12’ distance between groups. Our staff and Task Force has continually affirmed that we want to include singing in our worship, so for this reason the indoor service space is limited to the number of groups (currently 19) for which we can appropriately distance.
- The most recent CDC and NYS DOH guidelines make clear distinctions between people who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. Vaccinated individuals are free to attend a gathering without masks and without distancing. Unvaccinated individuals need to continue adhering to both restrictions.
- In light of these new guidelines, we have the option of offering a worship service for vaccinated individuals only or of creating sections in the sanctuary for vaccinated individuals (who would worship with no restrictions) and for unvaccinated individuals (who would worship with both restrictions). We have decided that both of these decisions would contribute to already existing divisions. So, for this reason, we choose to have everyone follow the same protocols while singing, including the worship team.
- I realize that these decisions might be controversial, but please know that we are continually looking for every way possible to continue lessening restrictions. Thank you for your support and prayers.

## HWC Kids:

- There WILL be children's church this week! Hope you can join us in the Community Room during the sermon of both the 10 and 11:15 services.
- A new month, a new Sunday School series! Here's what GROW has to say about June: Leaders take the lead. Like a drum major leading a marching band or the grand marshal at a parade, leaders are out in front showing others the way. Legendary leaders of the Bible like Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Ruth will help kids see what leadership looks like and how they can become great leaders too. Young leaders will grow this month learning that God gives me courage to lead, helps me learn from mistakes, and gives me leaders I can follow. Everyone can be a leader, let's take the lead together.
- HWC Children's Ministries is excited to team with Fillmore Wesleyan Church as they host Vacation Bible School June 28 - July 1st for children PreK through 6th grade. Email [emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org) or [annmcneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmcneill@hwchurch.org) to sign your children up and/or to volunteer to help. We need group leaders to assist small groups of children as they participate in the Bible story, science, and crafts stations, game leaders, musicians, and general helpers. The evenings run from 6:00-8:30. Registration for kids ages 3-6th grade - <https://fillmore.breezechms.com/form/VBS21>. Interested in volunteering? We have plenty of openings from prayer partners to food/craft contributors to small group leaders and music or Bible story helpers. Adults and teens interested in helping sign up to help here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15kK98tXGWh1VFhDtZlgeCacvs9JF6NDX/view?usp=sharing>.

## Royal Family Kids' Camp (RFKC)—Prayer Partners Needed

- The mission of Royal Family Kids is to create “positive, life-changing moments for innocent children who have been victims of neglect, abuse, and abandonment.”
- Currently there are 242 RFKCs, 214 in the US and 28 campus in six other countries. Since 1995, the local Houghton RFKC has served over 400 campers, with each of these campers returning for an average of 4 summers.
- We are thrilled to report that this year's RFKC at Camp Asbury is a “go”! It is scheduled for July 11-16.
- Anyone interested in being a prayer partner should contact Laurie Dashnau by email at [Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu](mailto:Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu).
- The responsibilities of a prayer partner include praying for one specific camper, counselor, or staff member along with writing a short note to that person (the note being provided) which will be passed along to him or her at the start of camp.
- Thank you in advance for considering serving in this capacity.

## Church Finances

- Here are the giving totals as we begin a new fiscal year (June 2021 – May 2022).

**Budget Needed:** \$16,121.65 / **Budget Received:** \$10,835.40

- 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).

## 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](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