



*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others*

June 29, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

Here is some information for this week, including some important information related to church gatherings.

- For outdoor gatherings,
 - All distancing restrictions are lifted; however, there should still be ample space available to facilitate distancing for those who desire.
 - Masks are welcomed for all but not required. Please continue to be sensitive to one another as we navigate this change; some will want to continue masking and distancing, and we support that choice.
- For indoor gatherings,
 - Vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask or socially distance, even when singing.
 - As outlined in the governor's announcement, unvaccinated individuals continue to be responsible for wearing masks. We ask unvaccinated individuals to continue wearing a mask when not distancing as well as while they are singing.
 - As with outdoor worship, we affirm those who, regardless of vaccination status, desire to wear a mask and/or practice distancing and encourage grace and sensitivity to one another.
 - While most seating in the sanctuary will no longer be restricted, there will be designated areas of distanced seating available to all, regardless of vaccination status, who desire or need to use it. Unvaccinated individuals seated in the designated areas are free to remove masks while seated and not singing.
 - There are no seating restrictions on children. It is expected that they will sit with their parents.

Worship Information

- Organ Meditation and Hymnsing this Thursday at 6:30: *“Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!”* American poet Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) is perhaps the most prolific writer of gospel hymns in all of Christian history with some 8000 hymn texts to her credit, and her hymns some of the most beloved and timeless. The next “organ meditation,” led by organist Judy Congdon this Thursday at 6:30 p.m., will provide an opportunity to hear a bit about Crosby's life and (especially) to sing many of her hymns together. This event will be available on livestream, but will also be open for in-person participation.
- The sanctuary will be open for worship during the 10:00 streaming service.
- 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.

Baptism and Dedications: In light of the vaccination progress and the low positivity rate, we are ready to resume baptisms and dedications. If you or someone in your family is interested in being baptized or in having your children dedicated, please let me know.

HWC Kids:

- Our July series, "Unusual", starts today. Here's what GROW has to say: What is a narwhal exactly? Have you ever spotted a sasquatch in the wild? Can you catch a centaur? Unusual animals are interesting and unique, just like King David's story. It was unusual for David to become a king, and he didn't always get things right, but his story teaches us that, **God uses unlikely people**, and **gives unexplainable joy**. Kids will use their imaginations to get to know an **unchangeable God** who **does unexpected things**.
- Children's Church will be held during the sermon of the 10:00 service (in the Primary Assembly room) and the 11:15 service (in the Community Room). Children in grades PreK-3rd must have a parent sign them in and pick them up. Children in 4th-6th may sign themselves in and self-release as long as a parent approves.

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." 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.
- We still need prayer partners. Anyone interested in being a prayer partner should contact Laurie Dashnau by email at 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); please return the note by July 5. The note 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: \$64,486.60 / **Budget Received:** \$57,801.60

- 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.

Resources

- 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 Jon