



*Joyfully loving God,  
wholeheartedly  
serving others*

July 6, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

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

### **Worship Information**

- The sanctuary will be open for worship during the 10:00 streaming service. Guidelines are listed below.
- Outdoor worship will continue Sunday mornings at 11:15 in the church parking lot. Guidelines are listed below.

**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:**

- Sunday school for ages preK - 6th grade will be in the community room this week during the sermon times of the 10:00 and 11:15 services. See you then!
- A huge thank you to all who participated and helped with VBS last week! It was a blast! We had over 80 kids from 11 different churches in the area come together for four evenings of worship, Bible lessons, and tons of fun! Thank you to those who volunteered their time and to those who provided snack and craft supplies! We couldn't have done it without you!

**The WNY District Refresh Camp** gathering at [Letchworth State Park](#) is coming up on Saturday, July 17, 2021 beginning at 10am at the Lower Falls Pavilion. The District will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs for those who register in advance (please plan to bring your own side dishes). Register [HERE](#).

### **Covid Guidelines**

- 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,
  - Reservations are no longer needed for attending services.
  - 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.

### Church Finances

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

**Budget Needed:** \$80,608.25 / **Budget Received:** \$71,693.09

- 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