Houghton
Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others

July 27, 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.

Membership: If you are interested in becoming a member of HWC or are interested in knowing more about membership at HWC, contact me right away. I am hosting a membership class on Monday, August 16, 7:00pm.

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.
- Our August series, "Famous," begins on Sunday! Here's what GROW has to say: " Lots of kids dream about becoming famous . . . and why shouldn't they? It sounds awesome to have fans who celebrate your wins with you! On the flip side, it would be pretty tough to have people always watching, even when you're not having the best day. In Famous, we are going to talk about a family in the Bible who lived in such a spotlight. Through their stories, kids will learn that no matter our celebrity status, we can make things right, God gives us friends, we can ask for God's guidance, we can give God what we have. Fame and fans may come and go, but you don't need to be liked by everyone when you're loved by God!"

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: $128,408.32 / **Budget Received:** $112,618.19

- 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

- Even though life is moving toward a level of normalcy, we recognize that ongoing and acute needs are still prevalent. 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, please 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