

September 14, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

Here is some information for this week.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:45 a.m. – Outdoor (If the weather—lightning or torrential rain—prevents us meeting outdoors, we will move into the sanctuary). It was great to see so many of you at the outdoor service this past Sunday! We are continuing to work on ways to improve the setting and the sound outdoors.

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School (Children, Youth and Adults)

11:00 a.m. – Indoor/Streaming Blended Worship. It is wonderful to worship with you indoors. You are inspiration to preach to and to sing with.

Sunday Morning Coffee: Beginning this Sunday, prior to the 8:45 service, coffee will be available in the parking lot. Feel free to bring your own reusable cup. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you this Sunday.

Outdoor Service Set Up: We are excited about the popularity of the outdoor service. We are looking for people to assist with set up and take down. If you would like to be on a rotating schedule, please contact the church office (office@hwchurch.org / 567-2264).

Sermon Series

This Sunday, I continue a series of sermons that focus on some of the myths that all of us are tempted to believe. We tend to be susceptible to these myths because they are not totally false (in fact, they contain much truth), but they don't tell us the whole picture. And any idea that skews the truth, even just a little, eventually skews our view of God, of ourselves and of others. This week's sermon turns our attention to *The Myth that Makes Us Impossible* (Matthew 12).

Safety Sunday - September 19

- All church Sunday School, outdoors if the weather is nice, in the Community Room, if not.
- If the weather is nice, we're planning two fire drills, one near the end of the Sunday school hour so that Kids Min can practice, and one at the end of the 11am service so that we can practice evacuating the sanctuary.

Towels Needed: If you have old towels that you would be willing to donate to the church, we could use them to clean off chairs at the outdoor service on Sundays when it rains. Drop them by the church office anytime or bring them on Sunday.

Prayer Vigil: For the past 11 years, we have hosted a 3-week, 24-hour prayer vigil. Because of Covid-19, last year's vigil was moved from the Prayer Room to outdoors. This year's event will also be outdoors and will begin September 26 and conclude October 10. We have designed prayer stations that will lead us through an hour of prayer. You may sign up for an hour time slot on the church website or by using this [link](#).

Adult Sunday School: Adult Sunday School opportunities commence this week but anticipate a flexible start up period for several weeks.

- Dr. Paul Young: Bible Exposition on I John (Community Room).
- Book Discussion Group (Outdoors).
- "Chosen" following the film series (Room 105).
- Mothers that Pray (Outdoors).

HWC Kids:

- September Sunday School Series: Did you know that every day is full of adventures that we get to choose? Some adventures are small, like choosing which book to read. Others are bigger, like deciding how to react when a family member makes us upset. It's not always easy to know what is best but there is hidden treasure you can take into every choice: wisdom. Wisdom is a valuable gift that helps people choose what's best. Together we can choose wisdom, by not choosing sides, choosing our words carefully, choosing to do good, and choosing God!
- Thanks to the folks who have donated crafts supplies and Operation Christmas Child packing shoeboxes. We feel your thoughtfulness and appreciate it so much. However, at this time, we have no storage space for such items. We ask that if you have a donation of this type in mind, that you please get in touch with Ann McNeill or Emily Spateholts before taking items to the church office or supply rooms. Thank you.

Youth Group:

- September 19 - Youth group begins! We are returning to the pre- COVID time and format. YG starts at 6pm and will be finished by about 8pm. Both Junior High and Senior High students will join us for that time. We will often be outdoors if the weather is nice, but will be indoors, wearing masks, when the weather does not co-operate. Please be sure to bring a mask!

Infant Dedications and Baptisms: If you are interested in having a child dedicated or baptized, please let me know.

Condolences: Our prayers go out to Rich and Janet Stegen at the recent death of Janet's mother, Evelyn Heil. Visitation will be Friday, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Kopley-Williams Funeral Home. A Funeral Service will be held at the Church, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

Church Finances

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

Budget Needed: \$240,765.60 / **Budget Received:** \$213,479.38

- 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, 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