



*Joyfully loving God,  
wholeheartedly  
serving others*

November 23, 2021

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

Here is some information for this week. New items are highlighted.

### **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). Coffee is available before and after the outdoor service.

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

11:00 a.m. – Indoor/Streaming Blended Worship

### **Sunday Morning:**

- This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. We will light the Advent candle and turn our attention once again to the coming of Christ. This week's sermon, *Advent as a Construction Zone*, turns our attention to John the Baptist's declaration to prepare the way for the Lord (Matthew 3).
- In addition, this Sunday we will be praying for Jim and Donna Zoller as they prepare for a 10-day trip to Egypt to represent all of us at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Wesleyan Standard Church of Egypt.
- A reminder that the outdoor service is broadcast on a radio frequency that enables you to remain in your car and listen to the service if you desire to do so.

**Sunday School:** The Bible Exposition class at 9:45 a.m. is live-streamed each week. Dr. Paul Young and class are studying the letter of 1st John. New viewers are welcome.

**Food Pantry Collection:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to the collection for our Food Pantry. Please feel free to continue making donations of food. The need is great, especially during the holidays. Click [HERE](#) to access the list of needed food.

### **HWC Kids:**

- Join us today for the last course of our "Plate It" series to learn from the prophet Jeremiah that we can leave the results to God. As he reminds the people of his time to anticipate the Savior's arrival, we also begin the season of Advent this Sunday, anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth. Enjoy using the family Advent materials to countdown to the celebration!
- Kids' Club members are getting to know God better through the Great events of the Bible. Upcoming evenings review the stories of God's promise to Abraham, Sarah's laughter, and God's provision at Isaac's sacrifice. Come learn and sing and craft with us on Wednesday nights at 6:15.

**Outdoor Service Set Up:** If you are interested in being on a rotating outdoor service set up/take down schedule, please contact the church office ([office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org) / 567-2264).

**Advent Decorating:** This Saturday, November 27, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon all are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent or join us outside to help put up The Heart of Christmas display on the front lawn of the church. All ages are invited to help us decorate inside and outside.

**Church Office Closed:** The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday of this week.

### Church Finances

- Here are the giving totals for the fiscal year (June 2021 – May 2022).

**Budget Needed:** \$401,276.00 / **Budget Received:** \$358,813.36

- 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 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](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