



December 21, 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 paused until January 16

11:00 a.m. – Indoor/Streaming Worship

### **Sunday Morning:**

- This Sunday is the First Sunday After Christmas. Dr. Paul Young will be preaching in both services.
- 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. Tune into FM 106.9

### **Christmas Eve:**

- Friday, December 24, we are hosting two Christmas Eve services: Outdoors (4:00pm) and Indoors/Streaming (6:00pm).
- Children are invited to be part of our nativity reading *Song of the Stars* at both the 4pm and 6pm Christmas eve services. They may join everyone up front when invited by Miss Ann and Miss Emily.

**Christmas Eve Offering:** What a privilege to lift up Christ by actively partnering with The Haitian church and World Hope over the years — Ortlips, Emmetts, Thedes and other workers, the Dental/Medical teams for decades, church roof construction team (2019), the ongoing Canaan School project (2019), and earthquake relief (2021). This Christmas we continue by joining World Hope in LaGonave Wesleyan Hospital revitalization. Thank you for helping make the vital Oxygen Generation facility a reality. We will collect our offering at both Christmas Eve services. You may also give anytime online or by marking your gift “Christmas Eve.”

### **HWC Kids:**

- No Children's Church or Sunday School this week or next.
- This week, kids can rejoice that Jesus talked about God with everyone at the temple. The Big Idea: Jesus Came so the World Could Know God. Sunday School materials will be emailed out on Friday morning.

**The Little Chapel Donation Trailer** will be parked at the Church during the month of December. “The Tiny House of God” was built on wheels to travel from church to church, community to community. Its mission is to be a collection point for bibles and other Christian literature (Bibles, books, devotionals, children's materials, etc.) that are no longer used and donated for the purpose of being distributed to people who deeply desire the gospel. These materials equip pastors and missionaries in places that have few resources. The Little Chapel started its ministry in 2021 and is shipping materials via Love Packages in Butler, Illinois who has a network of distributors throughout the world. Drop off your materials at any time! There are primarily two criteria in deciding what material we accept: Something that will lead someone to faith in Christ and/or something that will disciple a believer (please ensure that materials are in good condition).

## Church Finances

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

**Budget Needed: \$465,480.16 / Budget Received: \$418,407.31**

**REMINDER:** *All gifts for calendar year 2021 need to be · delivered to the church office by the 31st · mailed with a postmark date of December 31st or earlier, · or need to be made online by December 31st at 2:00 p.m. with a gift date of December 31 or earlier*

- As you can see, we are significantly behind our budget for giving. Even though our income continues to meet our expenses, please be in prayer about our financial needs.
- 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