



January 12, 2022

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

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

### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

8:45 a.m. – Outdoor (The impending weather forecast for Sunday indicates that we will be indoors again this week. We will communicate this decision in the next couple of days).

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School resumes this week with classes for all ages.

11:00 a.m. – Indoor/Streaming Worship

### **Sunday Morning:**

- This Sunday Pastor Wes continues looking at Priceless Parables: Embracing the Joy of Generosity. This week's sermon focuses on the parable in Matthew 18:21-35, *The Joy of Generous Forgiveness*.
- 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.

### **Outdoor Service Weather Conditions Update**

- We are entering the time of year when we need to address bitter cold weather and the potential of snow and ice storms. As much as we value the outdoor option, we want to use wise caution for the safety of all who might attend. With this in mind, we have adopted weather guidelines for the outdoor service. We will move the outdoor service into the sanctuary based on any of the following conditions:
  - Temperature predicted to be below 20 degrees
  - Wind chill predicted to be in single digits
  - Snowstorm or ice storm is predicted with a high degree of certainty
- In the event that weather conditions create the need to move the outdoor service into the sanctuary, we will communicate this decision by Saturday noon in these ways:
  - We will post on the church website ([www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)). Be sure to refresh your web browser in order to get the most updated information.
  - We will put a message on the church answering machine (585-567-2264).
  - We will send out an announcement by text and email through the regular channels

### **HWC Kids:**

- Sunday School starts back up this week! Join us in-person at 9:45am or access the digital materials anytime.
- This week in Sunday School, kids experience the story of Jesus changing water into wine to learn that Jesus gives us a taste of God's power.
- Children's Church will be meeting this week during the 8:45am service. Sunday School will resume next week.

**Mask Give Away:** The Allegany County Department of Emergency Services has provided (through the NYS mask distribution program) the church with KN95 masks to distribute. With the rise of Omicron variant cases, these masks are recommended as a means of protection. We will have these masks available at the church on Sunday.

### VPS Stone Soup Drive-Thru Dinner:

- Come pick up some warm soup for supper on a winter evening while supporting Valley Preschool through this donation dinner.
- Friday, January 28, 2022, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Houghton Wesleyan Church (north side of the C.E. Building under the outdoor “overhang”)
- Food – Stone Soup (beef soup or vegetable soup)
- Take-out or delivery!
- To order ahead, please contact Casda Danner at [casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org) or order online at <https://tinyurl.com/vpsstonesoup>. Consider ordering extra to be put in the food pantry.

**The Little Chapel Donation Trailer** was parked at the Church during December and is still available. “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 soon! 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: \$513,633.28 / Budget Received: \$489,061.41**

- Thank you for your generosity toward the Christmas Eve Offering and toward our budget. Thank you for your continued prayers as the Stewardship Committee and Elders begins the process of creating a 2022-2023 budget proposal.
- 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