



*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others*

February 1, 2022

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

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

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:45 a.m. – Outdoor (Once again the weather forecast for Sunday indicates that we will probably be indoors again this week. We will communicate this decision in the next couple of days). The Outdoor Service Weather Conditions Guidelines is posted near the end of this letter.

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

11:00 a.m. – Indoor/Streaming Worship

Sunday Morning:

- This Sunday I continue looking at Priceless Parables: Embracing the Joy of Generosity. This week's sermon focuses on the parable in Luke 16:1-16, *The Joy of Generous Cooperation with God*.
- 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.

HWC Kids:

- February is "Opposite Day" in Sunday School! Up is Down. Right is Left. Cold is Hot. That's right, we're celebrating opposite day this whole month (or should we say, not celebrating? This could get confusing!) This series will give kids a chance to talk about the counter-culture things Jesus said. It sounds impossible to believe that struggles bring us closer to Jesus or that our enemies can teach us about love. However, these beautiful opposites remind us that a God we can't see is always with us and that it's better to follow Jesus than our own instincts. Happy Opposite Day!
- This week in Sunday School, kids learn about how and why Jesus called the disciples. THE BIG IDEA: Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves. THE BIBLE: Luke 5:1-11; Isaiah 55:8-9
- Join us in memorizing this month's Scripture: II Corinthians 12:9a - "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- Anyone and everyone is invited to join us for a Stewards of Children, sexual abuse prevention training on Saturday, February 5th from 9-11am. Email Jon Cole or Emily Spateholts for more details.

Church Finances

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

Budget Needed: \$561,786.40 / **Budget Received:** \$530,804.43

- Thank you for your ongoing generosity. Thank you for your 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.

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 (sooner if we can) in these ways:
 - We will post on the church website (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

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