



*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others*

March 29, 2022

Dear Houghton Church Friends,

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

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:45 a.m. – Outdoor (We will inform you if the weather forecast makes it unwise to meet outdoors)

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

11:00 a.m. – Indoor/Streaming Worship

This Sunday, I will be preaching from Colossians 2 and Ephesians 2 about *The Triumph of the Cross*.

Outdoor Service Change

- Based on the low Covid metrics and the lengthy and demanding outdoor setup process, we're planning to move the 8:45 service indoors, beginning the first Sunday after Easter, April 24th. We have enjoyed meeting outside in nice weather and are planning for occasional outdoor services this spring/summer.
- We appreciate your willingness to embrace this option. We also appreciate all who have sacrificed to make it a reality. If circumstances make it necessary, we will reestablish meeting outdoors on a regular basis.

HWC Kids:

- Kids' Club meets again on Wednesday at 6:30 to praise God's love in David's great psalm 23.
- April SS series: Did you know that the largest Easter egg in the world lives in Vegreville, Canada? Did you know that the most popular Easter candy in the world are Reese's Peanut Butter Chocolate Eggs? There's a ton of fun trivia around the theme of Easter but the best questions to ask kids are about Jesus. Did you know we can love Jesus more than anything? Did you know Jesus is king over everything? Did you know Jesus is alive? Did you know we can trust Jesus? Whatever their answer, invite kids to go beyond the facts and win the grand prize of knowing Jesus for themselves!
- This week in Sunday School, kids remember the time when Jesus was anointed by Mary. THE BIG IDEA: Did you know we can love Jesus more than anything? THE BIBLE: John 12:1-8; Philippians 3:7-9
- April memory verse: II Peter 3:18a - But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Palm Sunday and Easter Activities
 - **Easter Egg Scramble:** Join us the week of April 3rd - 9th for an Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your family to the Church and walk around the outside of the building. You'll find 12 big Easter eggs hidden in the windows and doors of the Church building, each with a word or phrase on it. Collect the words and unscramble them to find an Easter promise from God. Turn in your completed "egg scramble" in the box at the Welcome Desk in the CE building foyer (with your name on it) and an Easter treat will be headed your way! (Supplies will be available at the Welcome Desk all week.)
 - **Easter Miracle Morning:** Saturday, April 9th from 10 to 11 a.m., preschool through 6th grade students are invited to celebrate the Easter season with us. Explore the miracle of Easter through story, art, craft, and food! Pick up your Easter goodie bag when you arrive and make your way through four exciting stations. Events will start at the outdoor stage, weather permitting (changes will be communicated via email/text). Invite a friend & bring your peeps!

- **Palm Sunday Procession:** All children are invited to participate in the procession of the palms at the beginning of each service on April 10th (8:45 and 11:00 a.m.). Palm branches will be provided. Pick up your palm branches the week before at the Welcome Desk in the CE building if you won't be with us in-person on Palm Sunday.

Easter Fellowship Time: We invite you to bring a dozen muffins or donuts to be shared during the fellowship time following the 8:45 service on Easter morning. Bring to the church kitchen on Saturday afternoon or bring them Sunday morning.

Easter Lilies: The Church welcomes your Easter lilies for Easter Sunday, April 17. We have purchased a number of lilies which you may purchase for \$15.00 each or you may bring your own lily to drop off at the church office by Good Friday, April 15th. If you would like to purchase one or more lilies, you may use the online giving option, mail a check to the church office (indicate Easter lilies), or drop-off payment at the church office. If you wish to purchase in memory or in honor of a loved one, please email Patty (pattystalker@hwchurch.org) or call Patty (567-2264) with your information by Monday, April 11. Thank you.

Easter Baptism: One of our Easter traditions is to offer the sacrament of baptism on this most glorious of mornings. If you are interested in being baptized, in renewing your baptismal vows, or in knowing more about baptism, please let me know. I will host a class to prepare candidates for baptism.

Church Membership: If you are interested in joining HWC or if you would like more information about membership at HWC, please contact me. I will be planning a membership class in the coming weeks.

Church Finances

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

Budget Needed: \$690,194.72 / **Budget Received:** \$659,234.32

- 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.

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