

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2017

As the prelude begins, let us observe silence as we prayerfully anticipate this hour of corporate worship of Almighty God.

Prelude: *Variations on Tempus adest floridum*Wilbur Held

*Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger:
Such a Babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.*

*Call to Worship (from Colossians 1)

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

*Hymn 117 ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 19: 7-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: ***Thanks be to God!***

*We Sing in Adoration: ***Amen (Because He Lives)
Great I Am***

*Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Chorale Prelude on "Jesus Priceless Treasure" BWV 610* ...J. S. Bach

Prayer of Confession

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer
as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.*

If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.

Ministry in Music: *Give Me Jesus*arr. Harlan

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1:1-3; 12:1-3

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: ***Thanks be to God!***

*Song of Preparation: ***Speak, O Lord***

Sermon: **Jesus is the Last Word!**
Pastor Paul Shea

*Hymn 273 ***And Can it Be?***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*arr. Wilbur Held

*Please stand if able
Organist: Judy Congdon

Piano & Vocals: Brandon Hoffman
Acolyte: Liam Breton

Children's Worship bulletins are available in the church foyer for ages 3-12.

Nursery: We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

Children's Church: Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children's Church: 2 and 3 year olds meet in room 116; 4-5 year olds in room 115 in the Christian Education Building.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. This morning we continue to celebrate the coming of Christ in human flesh even as we embark on a new year. It is because Christ is born that we approach the new year in a spirit of hope and anticipation for what God is going to do in all of the circumstances of life. In this hour of worship, may God fill us with the hope of Christ.

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK.

KID'S CLUB starts again on Wednesday Jan 17th at 6 pm. You can find the Kid's Club schedule for the spring on the church website and our HW Kid's Facebook page. We can still use one or two more assistants for the spring.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for one worship service at 10:00. The Rev. Mike Walters will be preaching.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: We give thanks to God and to all who gave generously to our Christmas Eve offering. At this time, we have received \$12,526.01!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for the holiday on Monday, January 1.

REMINDER: ALL GIFTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017 NEED TO BE given in church today, December 31.

SMALL GROUPS begin meeting the week of January 14. See the January *Highlights* Newsletter for groups, dates, and times.

MISSION MOMENT – This week Bob and Laurie Smalley lead their 16th annual mission trip to Eleuthera. Rose Jones, Angie Smalley, Liam McNeill, and Carlos and Zach Gildemeister join the team this year. Let us pray that their extensive outreach to children and varied hurricane repair projects will bear spiritual fruit, practical benefits, and deepen ongoing relationships.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – A new year brings new and unexpected challenges for the global church. We pray for God's protection over His people and grace to endure suffering. We long for this year to bring relief in places where persecution has been the hardest and for oppressors to encounter God in such a way that their attacks cease.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family of Warren Woolsey, who died Christmas Eve; the Kerr family at the death of Marilyn's brother, Howard Phillips; and for the Leax family at the death of Linda's mother, and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Jayne Swanson, Louise Prinsell, Laura Habecker, Hudson Hess, Nancy Cole, Brian Orbaker (Charlie and Connie Smith's son-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter, Ellis Brotzman, Chuck Barrett (Wendy Ott's brother), Sheryl O'Brien, Ben King, Doris Essepien, Eila Shea, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Bill Getty, Ella Woolsey, Mike Raybuck, Bev Rhett, Micah Christensen, Linda Roth, Dick Gould, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for healing and unity in our nation; and for St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Fillmore (Father Dennis Mancuso).

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, January 7 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

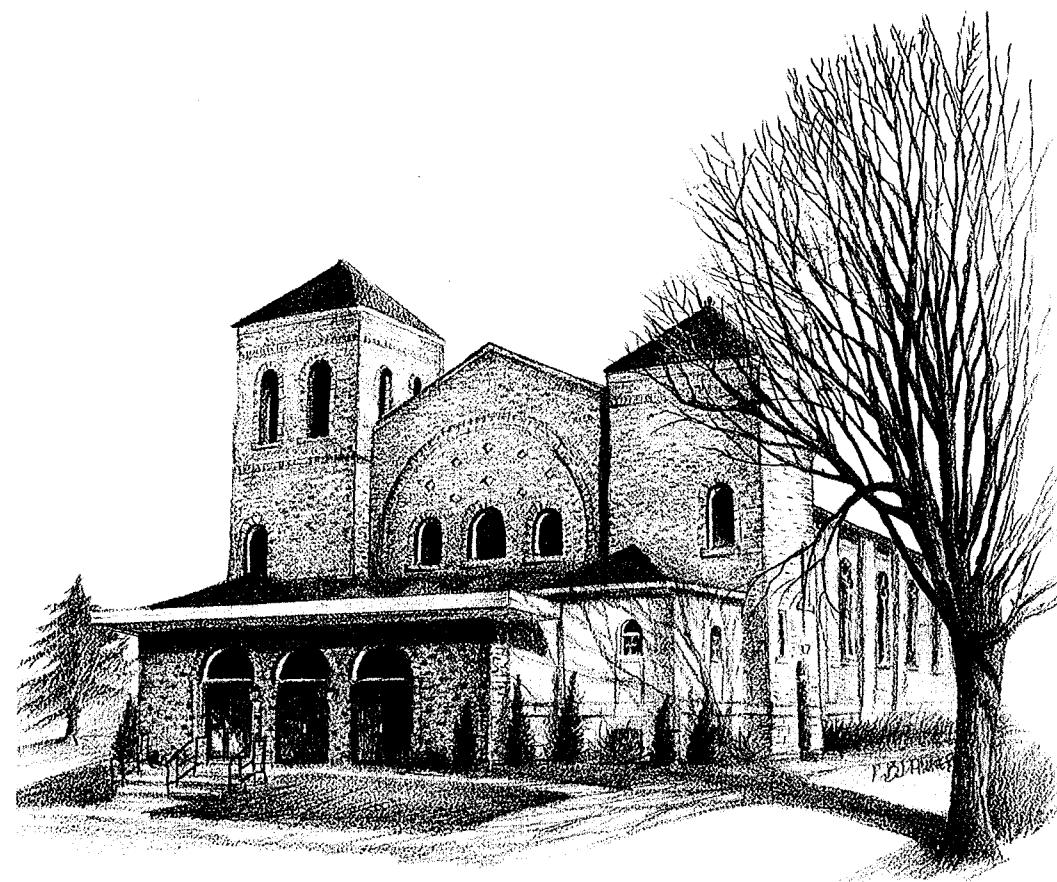
Sunday, January 14 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services
Small Groups

For more information about church activities, and to read Pastor Wes's weekly blog, visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.



Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

PAUL SHEA, *Assistant Pastor*

AMANDA COX, *Music and Worship Director*

LAURIE SMALLEY, *Children's Ministry Director*