

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

8:20 MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome

Worship through Song

Offering

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 35-44

Song

**The Cross Casts a Shadow
on Our Hearts**
Pastor Wes Oden

Communion

Scripture Reader: Pastor Laurie Smalley
Acolyte: Jack Cool

9:40 MORNING WORSHIP

Pre-Service Worship

Worship through Song
(Offering)

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 35-44

**The Cross Casts a Shadow
on Our Hearts**
Pastor Wes Oden

Communion

Scripture Reader: Dan Noyes
Acolyte: Maddy Meyers

The rose on the pulpit is in honor of the birth of James Henry Jacoby born on January 12 to Eileen and Nate and sisters Elizabeth and Ruth.

*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.*

Music Ministry Team:

Amanda Cox, Kristen Sanasith, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals;
Sarah Gurley, piano & vocals; Jan Schilke, keyboard;
Cassie Harrison, violin; Dan Wartinger, bass; Rob Pool, drums

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 and is available during services.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children's Church for both services: they meet in room 116 in the Christian Education Building.

JUNIOR CHURCH (Kinder-3rd Grade) does not meet this week. Stay in church and have communion with your family.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Lent is designed by the ancient church fathers as a means of reminding Christ's disciples that the passion, suffering and death of Christ are central to our faith. Though this is a solemn season in which we contemplate our sin, it is also a season of giving thanks that Christ's death on the cross makes salvation from our sin a reality for all people.

HOLY COMMUNION: We practice open communion in the Wesleyan Church: all who come in faith of Christ's redeeming power are welcome. As the ushers release your row, come to the front, tear off a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, eat it, then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Feel free to remain at the altar rail in prayer. If you prefer to be served in your seat, inform the usher; we have trays of bread and cups to serve you. Pastor Wes has cups of juice and gluten-free wafers at the communion table. If you desire the grace of God in your life, enabling you to love God with all of your being and to love others through the Spirit in you, you are invited to receive the bread and cup of God's grace in Christ for the sins of the whole world.

WKFM TODAY: Wesleyan Kids For Missions meets during the Sunday School hour (9:40 to 10:40) for children in grades 1st-5th; today they will learn about China.

KOINONIA MEETS TONIGHT at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Chapel

MEETING THIS WEEK Elders: Tuesday, 7pm

WEDNESDAY KID'S CLUBS do not meet February 21 or 28 (Winter Break).

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING Pastor Wes continues this Lenten series on the Shadow of the Cross. Next Sunday's sermon *The Shadow of the Cross Reveals Our Motives* is based in Matthew 27. We come together for worship at 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00.

PASTOR WES'S BLOG: Pastor Wes posts a new blog most Wednesdays. You may subscribe on the church website (www.hwchurch.org) in order to receive an email each week when the blog is posted.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: On Saturday, March 3 (9:00am – Noon), Pastor Wes is hosting a membership class for all who are interested in becoming members of Houghton Wesleyan and for all who are interested in knowing more about Houghton Wesleyan. The class will focus on our mission, our history, our theological distinctives and our vision for the future as a body of believers. If you are interested in attending, contact the church office by Friday, March 2.

MISSION MOMENT – We lift up our Wesleyan Kids for Missions ministry which meets once a month for children to learn about God’s love and outreach to people around the world. Pray for our adult leaders, and guest speakers. Today several Academy students share about their homeland.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - In many places Christians, especially leaders, are jailed on false charges. We pray for their safety, comfort, and especially faithful witness for Christ during these difficult times.

LIVE STREAMING: All of our worship services are live streamed through the church website and through streaming devices (AppleTV, Roku, etc.). If you use Roku, you will need to find the services on our new Roku app. Search for Houghton Wesleyan Church. Our new app will enable easier access.

SUNDAY SERMONS ON THE INTERNET: Access the Sunday sermon on the church website (www.hwchurch.org) or on iTunes (www.itunes.com). The services are available on iTunes by late Sunday afternoon and on our website by late Monday.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen’s daughter-in-law), Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Louise Prinsell, 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, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from the Parkland, Florida tragedy; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our nation; and for Wiscoy Baptist Church (Pastor Patrick Bennett).

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



*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*

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STEWARDSHIP

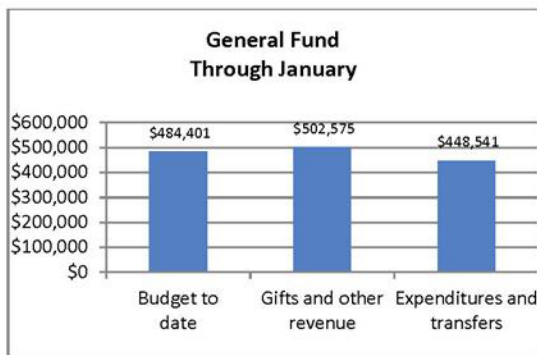
Our recently completed missions emphasis week might have you wondering how our church financially supports missions, both here and around the world. While many in our church community support missionaries individually, as a church we give financial support to many missionaries and ministries corporately. The two primary ways that this is done are through our general fund and Faith Promise gifts.

First, the church missions committee creates a missions section in our general budget for each new fiscal year. Currently the missions portion of the church budget accounts for nearly 15% of overall budgeted expenditures. This includes funding for a variety of local and international ministries, along with financial commitments to many individuals, couples, and missionary families serving throughout the world.

Second, Faith Promise gifts (totaling over \$33,000) fund several Wesleyan missionaries working through Global Partners and the WNY District. Once each year, we encourage people to consider Faith Promise gifts; as the name implies, a Faith Promise gift is “pledged” in advance, trusting that God will provide the giver with the funds to meet the planned gift.

In addition to our budgeted missions giving and Faith Promise, we have periodic opportunities to give to specific ministries as needs arise.

For instance, this fall the Junior Church children collected for World Hope’s 5+2 program, which covers school fees for unsponsored children. More recently our Christmas Eve offering, over \$13,000, helped with ongoing hurricane recovery efforts in Puerto Rico.



During our missions emphasis week, you had the chance to learn more about specific ministries we support, and to hear directly from a few of the missionaries themselves. If you feel led to increase your financial support for our missionaries through a Faith Promise gift, you may do so by designating your online gift for Faith Promise or by

writing “Faith Promise” on the memo line of your check.