

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

MARCH 11, 2018

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

Prelude: *How Firm a Foundation*arr. David M. Cherwien

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 89)

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

***I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.***

For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord?

Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

***The heavens praise your wonders, Lord,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.***

Who is like you, Lord God Almighty?

You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

***Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
love and faithfulness go before you.***

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.

***They rejoice in your name all day long;
they celebrate your righteousness! Praise the Lord!***

*Invocation

*Hymn 404 ***How Firm a Foundation***

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Ministry Spotlight: Valley Preschool

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 57

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*arr. Eric Nelson

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, at Your cross, we find the beginning of each of our stories: sinners in need of God's grace. We confess that in our pride—we neglect your grace, and in our judgment—we withhold your grace. Forgive us, Lord, for the relationships in which we focus on past sins instead of present redemption; in getting revenge instead of seeking forgiveness; for excluding, rather than welcoming those who reflect your image, for worrying about gaining power

rather than embracing humble vulnerability. By Your strength may we no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view, but through the eyes of grace and redemption. Merciful Lord, forgive us for the walls we have built out of hate, the boundaries we have created out of differences, and the lines we have drawn out of fear. Empower us to live as ambassadors of light in the darkness of this world. And may we embrace the words that empower our lives: *In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.*

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.

Song of Preparation: ***Arise, My Soul, Arise***

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 27: 47-56

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 152 ***O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done***

Sermon: **The Cross Casts its Shadow on Our Lives**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Hymn 383 ***O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Prelude and Fugue in D minor, BWV 554*attr. J. S. Bach

*Please stand if able

Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Andrew Oden

Acolyte: Jameson Rhett

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. The season of Lent is a time for reflection and action as we ponder the death of Jesus. These 40 days lead us through the deserts and valleys of life and through the peaks and joys of life. On this fourth Sunday in Lent, we remember that depths of God's love for us in Christ. May our worship help us to focus on our need and on his grace.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. Pastor Wes's sermon *The Cross Casts a Shadow on Our Curiosity about Jesus* is from Matthew 27. We gather for worship at 8:20, 9:40, and 11:00.

FUNERAL AND VISITATION: The funeral service for Kay Lindley is Saturday, March 17, at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Visitation will take place on Friday evening at Kopley-Williams Funeral Home in Fillmore from 6—8 p.m. and at the church for an hour on Saturday prior to the funeral service.

THE ANNUAL BUDDY KEITH MEMORIAL GRAND PRIX BOAT AND CAR RACE is on March 21st! Everyone is welcome to come and watch! Bring along some snacks to share and come cheer on the Kindergartners through second graders as they sail their boats and the Third through sixth graders as they race their cars!

EASTER BAPTISM: If you are interested in being baptized at the 7:45 a.m. Resurrection Service on Easter morning, April 1, please contact Pastor Wes. He will be hosting a preparatory class in the next couple of weeks.

The Flower Committee **WELCOMES EASTER PLANTS** to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor a loved one, please give the information to Patty Stalker in the church office by Monday, March 26, and please leave your plant at the church by Good Friday, March 30. The flower committee will be purchasing lilies for \$15 if you would like one.

MISSIONARY MOMENT – Our church continues to support many national teams on several continents traveling to villages and towns to show local language editions of the Jesus Film. The Easter season is an especially effective time to tell the Good News story. Join in prayer for a large harvest of new Christ-followers.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Jesus said, “Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mark 3). Thinking of our diverse and widespread Family—the Body of Christ—we embrace all who worship Jesus as Savior and Lord and pray especially for those suffering persecution and hardship this day.

Pick up your copy of the March *Missionary Mailbag* at the sanctuary and C.E. building foyers.

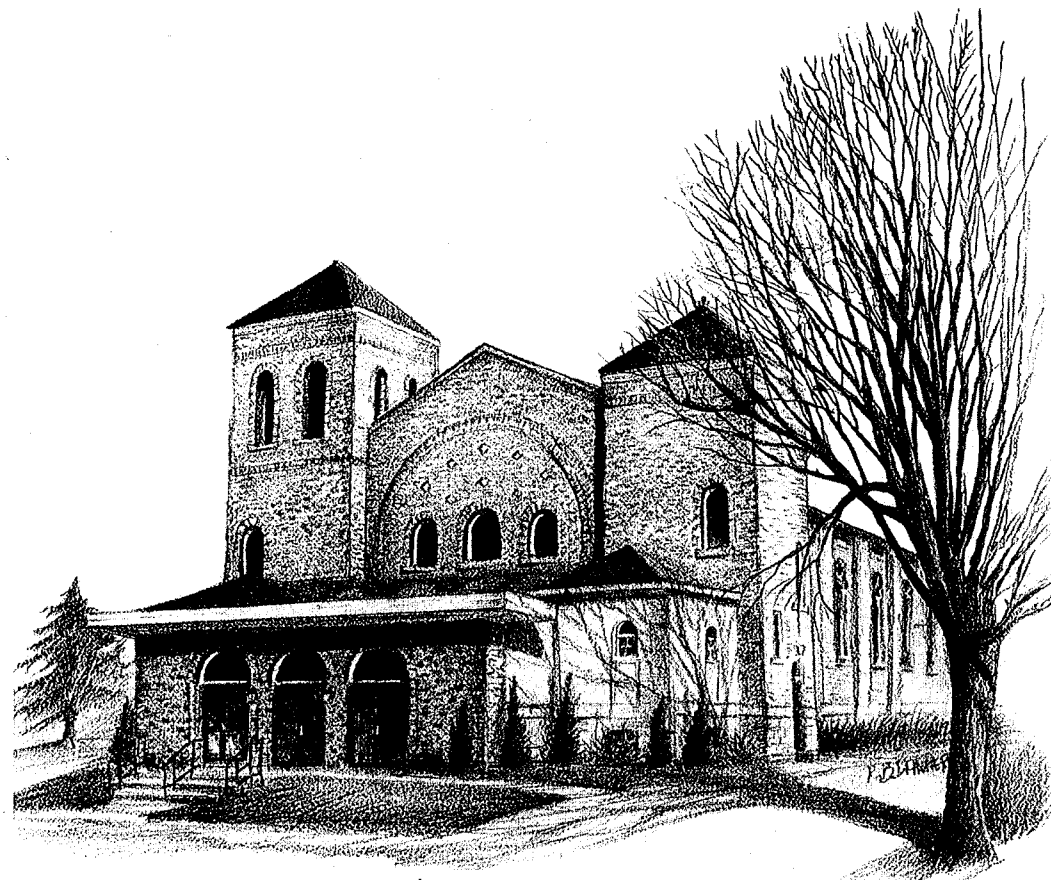
LIVE STREAMING: All of our worship services are live streamed through the church website and through streaming devices (AppleTV, Roku, etc.). If you use Roku, you will need to find the services on our new Roku app. Search for Houghton Wesleyan Church. Our new app will enable easier access.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Mike Jordan and his family at the death of his grandmother Kay Lindley this week, and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Michelle Russell, Florence Teuber, Roselyn Danner, 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, Chuck Barrett (Wendy Ott’s brother), Sheryl O’Brien, Ben King, Doris Essepian, 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 tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our nation; and for Belfast Free Methodist Church (Pastor Calvin Smith).



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*

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