FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
11:00 MORNING WORSHIP JANUARY 19, 2020

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

Prelude: *Chorale Prelude on "Come Thou Almighty King"* …...William T. Allen

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 103)

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits –
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love
and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve or
repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love
for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children –
with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.
Praise the Lord!

*Invocation

*Hymn 18 ***Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven***

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *Children of the Heavenly Father* ……...arr. B. Eric Nelson

Old Testament Reading: Hosea 4: 1-7

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: ***Thanks be to God!***

Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *As the Deer* ……..arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer of Confession

Most gracious heavenly Father, you have proven to us that you are good. You create and rule over all that is. Nevertheless, so often we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed with anxiety and fear about possessions we crave, the needs of everyday life, the present and the future. We confess that our worry is rooted in a skewed view of who you are. Forgive us for doubting your care and for doubting the truth about who you are. Fill us with faith to seek you and to trust that you are more than enough. Through Christ. 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 Response: ***Knowing You***

*New Testament Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: ***Thanks be to God!***

*Hymn 33 ***For the Beauty of the Earth***

Sermon: **What is Our Connection to God?**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Hymn 86 ***My Jesus, I Love Thee***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Fugue in C major*, BWV 547 ……J.S. Bach

*Please stand if able
Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Sarah Derck
Acolyte: Jameson Rhett

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: Preschool Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon: they meet in the Nursery (Christian Education Building)

There are **KID'S BAGS AND BIBLES** available in the bookshelf on the left side of the foyer next to the Men's restroom.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Worship is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is a privilege because we have the opportunity to come together and encounter the Almighty God; it is a responsibility in that we are called to enter worship with all of our being, thinking about our lives and thinking about others who are in worship with us. Let us rejoice in this opportunity to worship God together and pray that our encounter with God this day will lead us to be His people every day.

TODAY IS SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY, a time to focus on human life created fearfully and wonderfully in the image of God (Genesis 1:27 & Psalm 139: 14). We financially support CompassCare with locations in Rochester and Buffalo; CompassCare exists to help individuals make an informed decision based on facts about pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:20, 9:40, and 11:00. Next week's sermon (John 13; Philippians 2) ponders the question: *How Do We Interact with Each Other?*

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 9 below the sanctuary. All are welcome to join us.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY HOUGHTON meets on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room. CR is a safe place to share hurts, habits and hang-ups.

MISSION MOMENT – Your enclosed *Missionary Spotlight* introduces Wycliffe Bible Translator missionaries Steve and Margie Doty and Joel and Barbara Trudell. They are among our longest supported current workers. Pray for Steve and Margie's role in our up-coming Mission Sunday on February 9 and for Bible projects in S.E. Asia.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: The news headlines forget that Boko Haram is still very active in northern Nigeria. Less than a month ago another attack left seven Christians dead and a young girl kidnapped. Pray for her safety, for her return, and once again, for authorities to take action to end these atrocities.

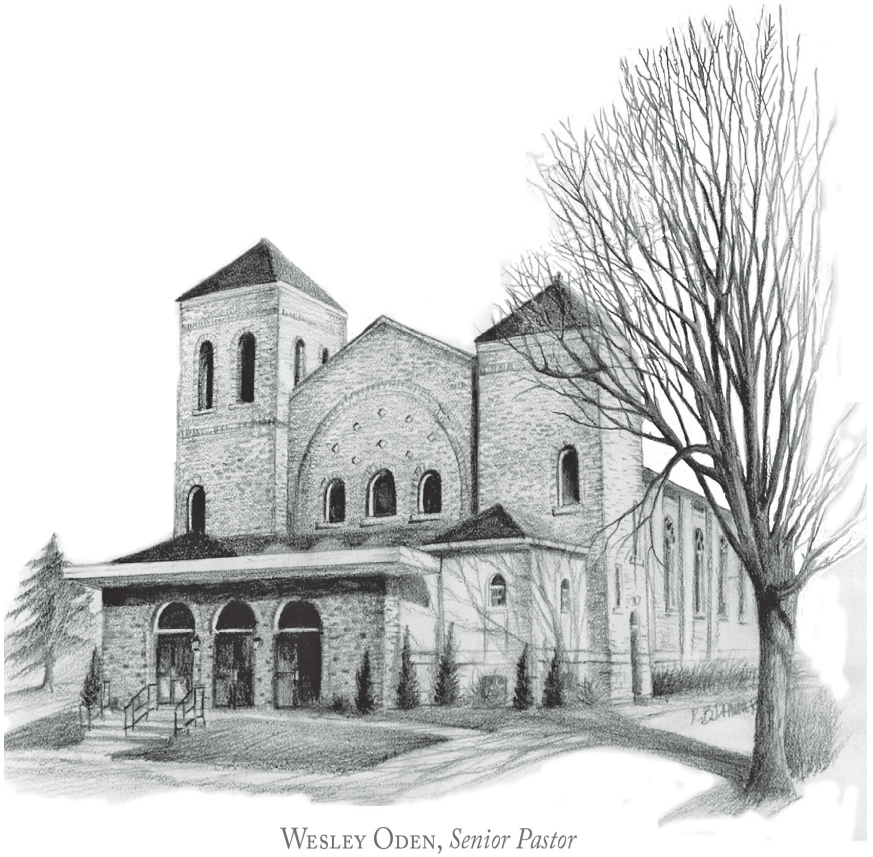
STEWARDSHIP
Received (June 1—Present): $ 490,963.20
Budgeted (June 1—Present): $ 510,428.49

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 $18,493.85.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Robin Pawling and her family on the death of her brother, the Alderman family on the death of Debbie Alderman Wilson and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Chris Stewart, Karen Szymanski, Phyllis Osgood, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, Jerry Isaman (Joe Breton's step-father), Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Paulette Schierer, Ruby Schierer Williams, Elly Plaza (Alejandra Koch's sister), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, The Marsh Family, Jon Retz, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor's cousin), Bob Brown, Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, Bethie Liddick, Bev Rhett, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Eila Shea, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government; for New Hope Assembly of God, Fillmore (Pastor Erv Russell).

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*
Emily Spateholts, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Ann McNeill, *Director of Children's Ministry*

P.O. Box 127, Houghton, NY 14744-0127 • (585) 567-2264 • www.hwchurch.org

It's time for our third community-wide

Stone Soup Dinner

This donation dinner gives our church family, current and former Valley Preschool families, and the greater community an opportunity to contribute to a general fund to help off-set rising tuition costs in the coming years. Ten of our nineteen students have benefited by being able to have a $10 per month discount on tuition from the funds raised last year! Come enjoy some warm soup on a cold evening and support Valley Preschool.

Date – Friday, January 24, 2020

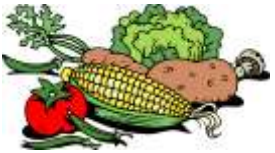
Time – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Place – Houghton Wesleyan Church community room

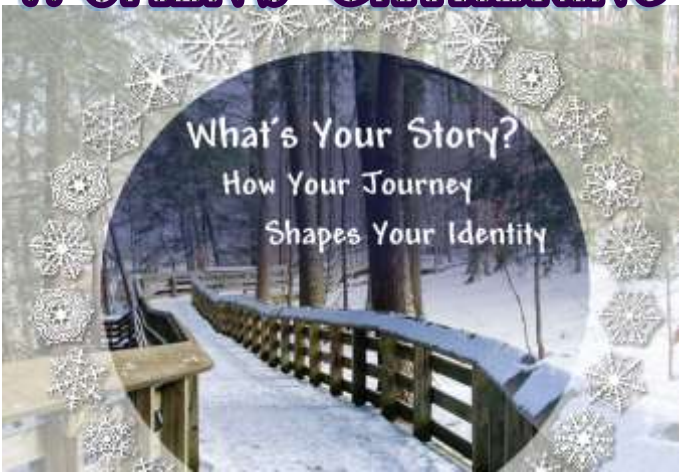
Food – Stone Soup (beef soup or vegetable soup) and breads/rolls/dessert

Eat In or Take Out

You can contribute by donating at the dinner and/or by **providing cookies and brownies** to be our desserts for the evening.
We welcome other help as well, so if you can assist in some way or if you have questions, please contact Casda Danner at 567-4314 or casdadanner@hwchurch.org.



Women's Gathering



Escape the wintry cold!

Join us for a morning of inspiration, yummy food, and fellowship on Saturday, February 8 from 9 am to 11 am in the Community Room.

Child-care provided.

No need to sign up. Just show up and enjoy!

Steve and Margie Doty,
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Dan Irvine,
World Hope International

Don't Miss it!

2020 MISSIONS WEEK

WORD & DEED

"Whatever you do, whether in Word or Deed.
Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus…"- Col 3:17

February 5 – Kid's Club Missions Night
6:00—7:15 p.m.

February 9 – Mission Sunday Worship Services
8:20, 9:40 & 11:00 a.m.
9:40 Sunday School
6:00 Youth

Missionary Spotlight

44 missionaries ~ 21 countries

Steve & Margie Doty

With Wycliffe Bible Translators, in Thailand

December 2019

Who, Where, What

Steve and Margie work as linguists, administrators and teachers at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, training new translators and language workers. They also serve as translation consultants in the region with **Wycliffe Bible Translators**.

Prayer & Praise

~ Praise for upcoming home assignment. Prayer for safe travels, and for a productive 2020 in Houghton.

~ Pray for an upcoming workshop to train new Bible Translation Consultants in Thailand, mid-year (June & July 2020). Translators come from all over Asia to attend this, and Steve is already working to prepare the training and screen applicants.

Joel & Barbara Trudell

With Wycliffe Bible Translators, in South Africa

December 2019

Who, Where, What

Joel and Barbara work as team and project leaders for local-language literacy and education with **Wycliffe Bible Translators**, Africa, and are now based in South Africa.

Prayer & Praise

~ Our SIL Africa team has been invited to work with UNICEF Nigeria on a research project in some schools there, looking at what languages the kids and teachers speak in class, and how well the kids are learning as a result. Six of us will be working on this project. Pray that the formal agreement with UNICEF will be finalized right away, so that we can start this work as soon as possible.