

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

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

Prelude: *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* (hymn #144) arr. R. Dinda

*Call to Worship (from Hebrews 12)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

For our God is a consuming fire!

*Invocation

*Hymn 2 ***O Worship the King***

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *And the Father Will Dance*Mark Hayes

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 67

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Prelude on "Wondrous Love"*Robert Lau

Prayer of Confession

Our Father in heaven, we come today with a need to confess our sins to You. We have spoken harshly not gently. We have broken confidence even though we were trusted with sensitive information. We have acted arrogantly despite Your call to humility. We have allowed our work to drive us while ignoring the rest that You command and that we need. We have not honored others above ourselves. We have been selfish with our time, our gifts, and our resources. In Your loving mercy, forgive us and in Your wondrous grace, make us more like Christ as we hear his words of pardon that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)**

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.

Welcoming New Members

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 13:1-23

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 327 ***O For a Heart to Praise My God***

Sermon: **Fruitful People**

Rev. Joey Jennings

*Hymn 302 ***O Jesus, I Have Promised***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Trumpet Voluntary*..... John Stanley

*Please stand if able

Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Gudy Stevenson

Acolyte: Grayson Cox

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 Room 116 (Christian Ed 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. We gather each week to worship God, to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ and open our lives to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May God do more today than we might dream or imagine.

TODAY we welcome the Rev. Dr. Joey Jennings, WNY District Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church.

MEMBERS: We are excited to receive new members today: Jackie Algier, Christian Arbour, Peter and Joanna Bates, Garrett and Kristin Luckey, Sara and Kristen Massey, Robert and Patty Stalker.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: This Wednesday, February 26, 6:30pm in the Church Sanctuary, we will join millions of Christians around the world as we enter into the season of Lent. This service is a time of reflection, song, silence and (for all who desire) the imposition of ashes. **Kids' Club and Wednesday Prayer Group will not meet this week.**

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the First Sunday in Lent. Pastor Wes, thinking this Lenten season about Interactions with Jesus, leads us to think: *When Jesus Isn't What We Want* (Luke 22:47-53). We gather for worship at 8:20, 9:40, and 11:00.

SEDER SERVICE SIGN UPS – today you may sign up in the church and CE foyer for April 5, Palm Sunday, HWC Seder Service. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

NEW COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTION – 9:40 a.m. in Room 7 below the sanctuary join others in Bible Heroes series and fellowship in the Lord together.

SAVE THE DATE! College Ministry sponsored potluck on March 15th after the 11:00 service. All are invited!

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

STEWARDSHIP Received (June 1—Present): \$ 562,665.24
 Budgeted (June 1—Present): \$ 587,766.14

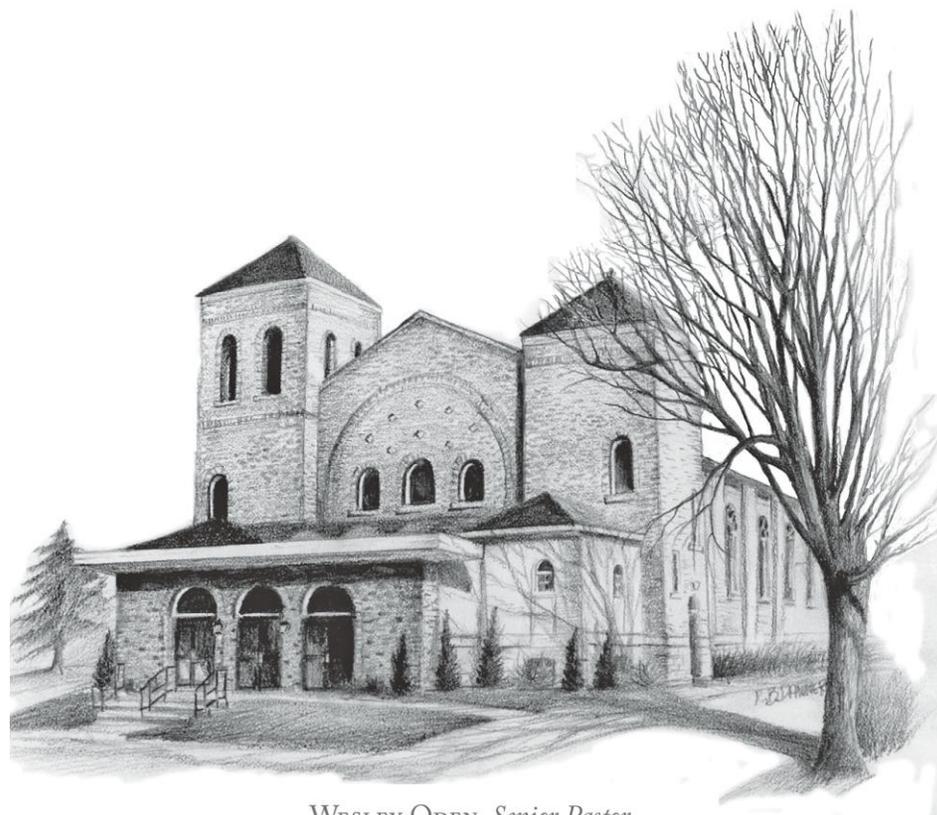
MISSION MOMENT – Students at Houghton Academy come from this county, across the USA, and around the world. We partner with them in support and prayer for the many ways God wants to work in lives of precious young people and staff alike.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Again this month bloodshed erupted in Burkina Faso where a pastor and 23 others died, three were kidnapped, and church burned. Though non-believers are also attacked, the main targets seem to be religious leaders and churches. We pray for God to intervene in this volatile area.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family of Tom Fuoco (Visitation Thursday 2-4 and 6-8 at Baker Swann (Wellsville); Service: Friday, 11 a.m. at the Gospel Fellowship (Belmont) and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Karen Szymanski, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, 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, 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 First Baptist Church, Hume (Pastor Joel Stroud).



*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

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SEDER SERVICE

-IN ORDER THAT YOU SHOULD REMEMBER-



Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room

The Seder is the traditional Jewish service to celebrate the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. During the course of the service, we will recite Scriptures and traditions that proclaim God's liberating power.

We invite you to join us for this multigenerational event, as we take part in this historical, vivid, and beautiful expression of God's action for His people seen through the Seder. Please sign up in the church or Christian Education foyers by Sunday, March 15, if you plan to attend. Space is limited.

“...they are each one to take a lamb for themselves...”

Exodus 12:3

*Children's Activity Packets will be available at the tables.