

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 23, 2020  
10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

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Prelude: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling/Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* (Paul Manz)

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise: ***Behold the Goodness of Our Lord***  
(Tune of *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*)

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children's Sermon  
Emily Spateholts

Songs of Adoration: ***O Praise the Name; Holy Spirit, You are Welcome***

Prayer of Confession

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world to reveal your love for all people. We praise you that when our sin hides the brightness of your light, you continue to reveal your glory. We praise you that when we turn away from people in need, you call us once again to the joy of serving others. We praise you that when we confess our sins, you promise to cleanse us from our sin, so that we might reveal your wondrous grace and love in Jesus Christ. May your name be praised. Amen.**

Time of Prayer

*Please feel free sit, stand, or kneel as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 133

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

Hymn of Preparation 479: ***Blest Be the Tie that Binds***

Sermon: **Walking in Unity**  
Pastor Wes Oden

Communion: ***O How Good it Is***

Benediction

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Organist: Nicholas Liddick  
Scripture Readers: Kadee & Joseph Hoffman

Music Ministry Team:  
Andrew Silbert, guitar & vocals; Kristen Sanasith, vocals;  
Dan Zambrano, piano & vocals; Bekah Brennan, keyboard & vocals

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** Every Sunday is a time for remembering all that God has done and to celebrate the victory of Christ's resurrection. As we embark on a new academic year, we gather asking God's Spirit to work in us and to transform us by His grace.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING:** Pastor Wes preaches from Psalm 146 in which we are called to *Rethink Worship*. We will gather for outdoor worship 8:45 and for online worship at 10:00. Currently state guidelines limit outdoor gatherings to 50 people but there is no limit to people who remain in a vehicle. Please make a reservation to come, either to sit in designated areas or in your vehicle.

**VIRTUAL PRAYER VIGIL:** Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Our nation and world needs prayer as pandemic cases rise. Our leaders need prayer for good decision-making. Please sign up now for at least 15 minutes to pray (<https://hwchurch.org/prayer/>).

**THURSDAY EVENING GATHERING:** This Thursday evening at 6:30, you are invited to an outdoor music event at the church. You will need to bring either a lawn chair or prepare to sit on the grass in socially distanced areas during the event. Bathroom facilities will be available if needed. You will need to enter the parking lot by the south driveway (normally an exit). As long as groups remain in their area during the event, masks will not be required. This program will be live streamed through Facebook live.

**CHURCH LIBRARY:** We are ready to reopen the church library. To use the library, you will need to follow a few guidelines: 1) masks must be worn in the building at all times; 2) use hand sanitizer (provided) before entering the library; 3) library doors will remain open and fans will be moving air in and out; 4) returned books will be cleaned and remain a few days before being placed on the shelves again; 5) only one family unit per hour will be permitted in the library; 6) in order to maintain the one family per hour requirement, please call the church office (585-567-2264) to reserve your hour.

**VALLEY PRESCHOOL:** We have been approved by the state and by the Elders to open VPS this fall with approved protocols and procedures. If you have or know of a 3-5 year old who might be interested in preschool, we invite you to fill out an application today; these are available on Facebook, the website, at the Church office or by contacting Casda Danner ([casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org)) or Emily Spateholts ([emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org)).

**STEWARDSHIP: Received (June 1- Present) \$163,699.27**

**Budgeted (June 1-Present) \$173,414.78**

**MISSION MOMENT** - It's been a long time since we reported from Wes and Dana Brown serving in unique roles in Kenya, East Africa. Wes cofounded BANDA, a tech startup in Kenya that uses IT solutions to transform healthcare for some of the world's poorest patients in rural and urban Africa, and is especially helpful now during the pandemic. Dana continues ministry in higher education circles. The Houghton church and college trees continue to bear fruit for the Master. We pray for them.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – The last ten years of conflict have decimated the Christian church in Syria – 750,000 remain out over 2 million before the war. But we mustn't forget those that remain and faithfully shine the light of Christ's love, sharing the Good News and whatever material blessings they have with the shifting population. Let us pray for folks like Pastor George Moushi and his tiny congregation in Qamishi, northern Syria. He writes: "God did not leave us. God has turned ashes into beauty – a lot of people have come to Christ." (source, *Open Doors USA*)

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, Wendy Ott, Chelsea Ellis, Paulette Schierer, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Karen Szymanski, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Ruby Schierer Williams, Jeshu, Kurtis and Elijah 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 all effected by the coronavirus—grieving, ill, healthcare professionals, the workforce at risk and leaders; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters, including Beirut, Lebanon; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government; for the logistics and safety of faculty, staff and students at Houghton College and Houghton Academy; for the Dalton Assembly of God (Pastor Patrick Thompson).

For more information about church activities, please visit our website: [www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org) or email us at [info@hwchurch.org](mailto:info@hwchurch.org).