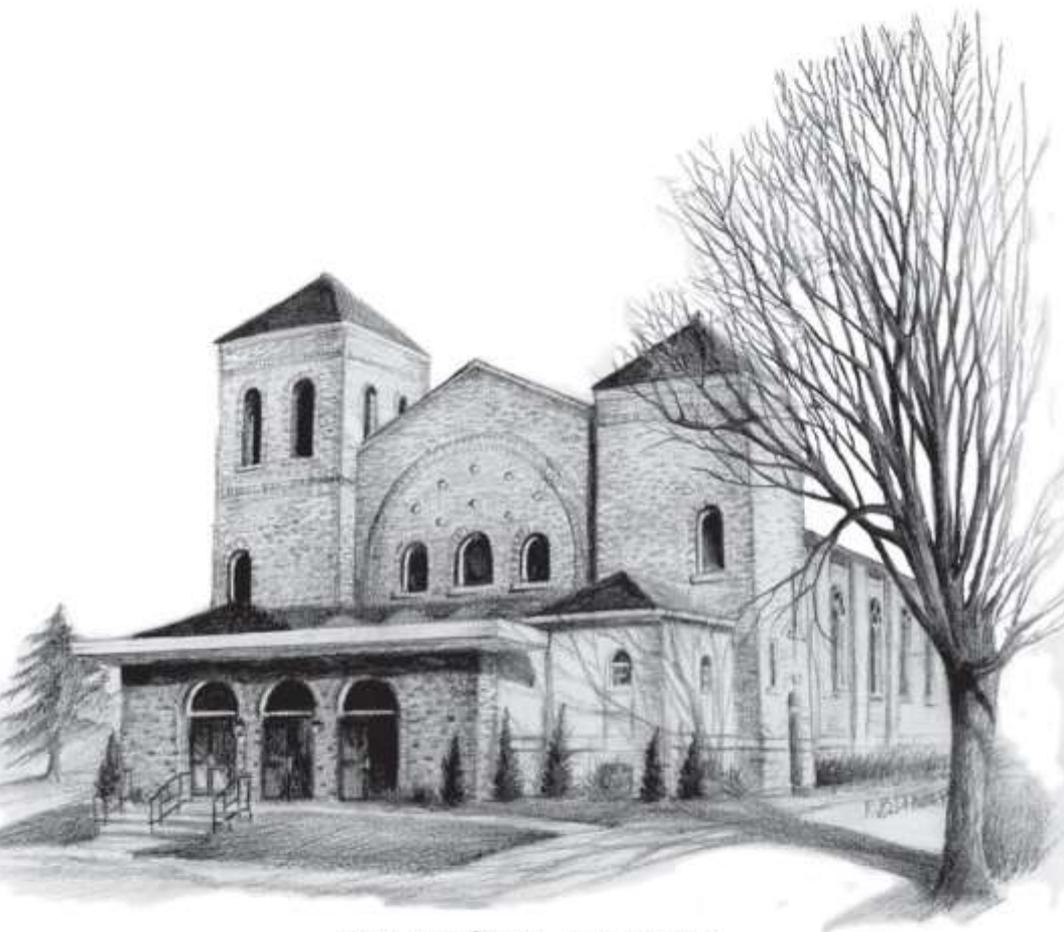




Houghton

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 Ministries*

ANN MCNEILL, *Director of Children's Ministries*

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 11, 2021
10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: Two Hymntune Preludes on *LANCASHIRE* ("The Day of Resurrection")

by Michael Burkhardt and Charles Callahan

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 179: ***Christ is Risen, Raise Your Voices***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children's Sermon: Kurtis Perry

Songs of Adoration: ***Resurrecting; Christ is Risen; Forever***

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-20

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

Hymn 376: ***'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus***

Sermon: **Remembering What You Believed**

Pastor Wes Oden

Song: ***I Know Whom I Have Believed***

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Michael Spateholts

Music Ministry Team:

Sarah Sardina, vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar;

Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals; Simon Sardina, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We continue in the season that celebrates the great victory of God in Christ. The seven weeks of Easter season prompts us to rejoice that Christ has defeated death and that we are offered life through Him. Our worship today reflects the joy in our hearts for all that this season means for us.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we continue our celebration of the Easter Season by looking at the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 15. We will offer indoor worship and streaming at 10:00 a.m. and outdoor worship at 11:15 a.m.. Next Sunday's sermon, *Christ Is Raised, Let's Live Like We Believe It* is from 1 Corinthians 15:20-34.

STAYING CONNECTED: Pastor Wes continues sending out a weekly update on Tuesday and a video meditation on Thursday. Both can be accessed through email, text or the church website and Facebook pages. If you are not receiving these communications and would like to, please contact the church office (office@hwchurch.org) or 585-567-2264.

SMZ (SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM), 9:00-9:50 A.M. next week features Jon Keith and others and the ministry of Houghton Academy. Please contact paulshea@hwchurch.org or the church office for the Zoom link. Everyone welcome.

MISSION MOMENT - It's a privilege to share with those in need. A raging fire swept a crowded shoreline section of Freetown, SL several weeks ago. At the invitation of World Hope Sierra Leone, our church missions committee forwarded \$2000 to help with emergency relief for 1,600 impacted households. Thank you HWC.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - Christian brothers and sisters including our Wesleyan church folk are fleeing horrific chaos caused by radical Islamists in northern Mozambique. Our own area superintendent, Pastor Able Nove in Nampula, is providing emergency shelter and food. Hunger amongst those fleeing is a major crisis. We pray for government intervention and God's protection and comfort.

STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed: \$ 693,659.12 / Budget Received: \$ 692,952.45

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with concerns: Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Karen Gaerte, Lenore Paige, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Amy Ortiz (Luke Ogden's sister), Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, Wendy Ott, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Cindy Lastoria, Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Elijah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor's cousin), Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, 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; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the Wellsville Full Gospel Church (Pastor David Williams).

STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*

"But since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8: 7

The apostle Paul is saying that just as we excel at love, fellowship, and faith, we must also excel in the grace of giving. It is an important part of our discipleship and growth as a follower of Christ. We cannot be satisfied without the grace of giving.

The Lord wants us to be preoccupied with Him and not material things. It's very tempting and sometimes even easy for us to get focused on tight budgets, losing a job or even spending on things we don't need. These are absolutely challenging times for many, but we cannot forget that God has promised that if we seek Him and His righteousness first, He will provide what we need to live. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

As we are obedient to the Lord and live out the truth of Isaiah 26:3 which states, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you," we are secure and confident that the Father will do what he promises. Our peace is given, present and real because the Lord is trustworthy to keep all of his promises.

As we grow in our understanding of God, there is greater acceptance of the role as a steward of what God has granted us instead of continuing to strive to be king or queen over our own little empires. As a Christian, may the Father continually remind us to see our financial decisions in terms of the spiritual ramifications and not just the temporal ones only. As we continue to grow more like Christ, may our interests increasingly focus on God's Kingdom above all else.

What has God said to you lately about giving to His work? Are you seeking first his kingdom? Remain steadfast and trust the Father. He will never disappoint.

