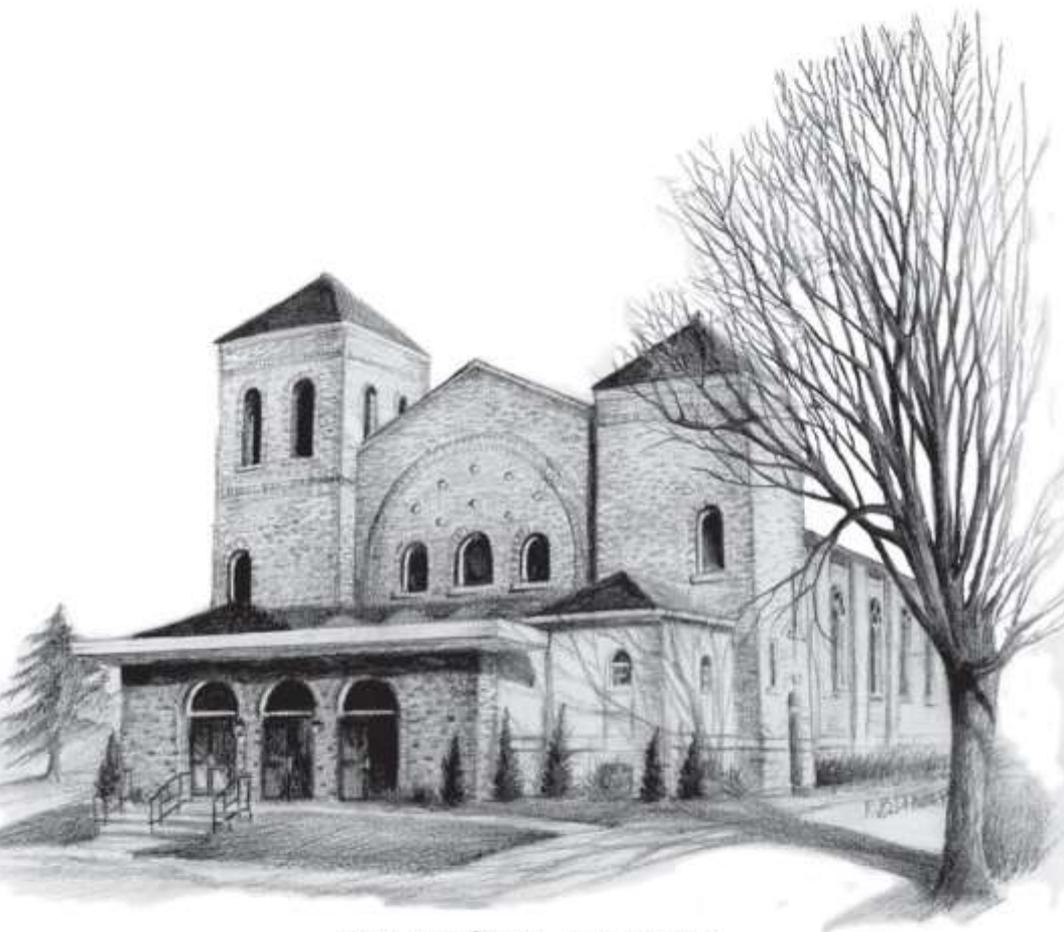




Houghton

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*

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
11:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* (arr. Craig Phillips)

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 273: *And Can it Be*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Celebration of Ministry: Discipleship

Children's Sermon: Emily Spateholts

Scripture Reading: Acts 15:1-20

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

Hymn 1: *O For a Thousand Tongues*

Sermon: **A Myth that Makes Us Oblivious**

Pastor Wes Oden

Meditation: *There Was Jesus*

Time of Prayer

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

Songs of Adoration: *Death was Arrested; Goodness of God*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Ethan Carr

Music Ministry Team:

Emily Quick, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Grace Deitrick, keyboard & vocals;
Dan Wartinger, cajón

*The rose on the pulpit is in honor of the birth of Desmond Romael Ritter
born on May 3, 2021, to Charoma and Michael Ritter.*

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist proclaims: “Blessed is the one who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands” (112:1). We are worship today because we want to delight in God whose commands are given out of His heart of love. We pray that you experience the joy of God as we worship together even though we are distant.

Due to low staffing, there will be no children's church today.

DEDICATION GATHERING: Immediately following the Indoor Worship Service, you are invited to join a brief dedication ceremony of the tree and bench given in memory of Bruce Brenneman on the north side of the Christian Education building.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes continues this series of sermons that focus on Myths that Make Us. Next week's sermon is from Acts 15 addressing *The Myth that Makes Us Impossible*. Please join us for outdoor worship 8:45 a.m. and for indoor/streaming blended worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45 a.m.

Safety Sunday - September 19

- All church Sunday School, outdoors if the weather is nice, in the CR if not
- If the weather is nice, we're planning two fire drills, one near the end of the Sunday school hour so that Kids Min can practice, and one at the end of the 11am service so that we can practice evacuating the sanctuary.

PRAYER VIGIL: For the past 11 years, we have hosted a 3-week, 24-hour prayer vigil. Because of Covid-19, last year's vigil was moved from the Prayer Room to outdoors. This year's event will also be outdoors and will begin September 26 and conclude October 10. We have designed prayer stations that will lead us through an hour of prayer. You may sign up for an hour time slot on the church website or by using this link.

CONNECTING: We continue to update email addresses and phone numbers for texting so that everyone who desires receives information from the church. If you are not currently receiving either a text or email for Pastor Wes's weekly letter and weekly video chat and would like to, please contact the church office and we will update your information.

Register your HWCkids
for the 2021-2022 Year!



Wednesday Night Kids Club: Join kids grades 1-6 from area churches at Houghton Wesleyan Church 6:15-7:30 starting October 6!

This year's theme is *Great Stories of the Bible*.

Banding Together and Small Groups - Interested in discipleship this Fall? Direct questions about Banding Together Groups and Small Groups to Pastor Paul. Paulshea@hwchurch.org. More info coming Sunday the 26th.

YOUTH GROUP

- September 12 - Blue Foam Party Kickoff! 3pm at the HA soccer field.
- September 19 - Youth group begins! We are returning to the pre-COVID time and format. YG starts at 6pm and will be finished by about 8pm. Both Junior High and Senior High students will join us for that time. We will often be outdoors if the weather is nice, but will be indoors, wearing masks, when the weather does not cooperate. Please be sure to bring a mask!

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP – Room 105 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETS THURSDAY EVENINGS 7:00 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room or outdoors if weather permits.

TOWELS NEEDED: If you have old towels that you would be willing to donate to the church, we could use them to clean off chairs at the outdoor service on Sundays when it rains. Drop them by the church office anytime or bring them on Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$224,714.56 / **Budget Received:** \$198,003.06

MISSION MOMENT - Christine Hegeman is enroute to Benin, W. Africa to join husband Ben for a year and a half last lap in their long ministry to train pastors and Christian workers in that strategic region. We pray for health, safety and a fruitful season, especially publishing years of teaching materials.

PERSECUTED CHURCH –The World Evangelical Alliance reports with local agencies an increased concern over treatment of Christians in Turkey including deportations, surveillance, and opposition to declarations of Christian belief. We pray for the 25,000 Protestants meeting in 13 traditional churches and 150 unlicensed fellowships among others. (CT September 2021)

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Rich and Janet Stegen at the death of her mother and for all who are grieving; for people with concerns: Mildred Congdon (Judy's mother), Jessica Bogdan, Denise Zambrano, 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, 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 Lockport Wesleyan Church (Pastor Matt Rose).

For more information about church activities, please visit our website: www.hwchurch.org or email us at office@hwchurch.org.

Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. Proverbs 9:9

This month we will have many children, youth and adults getting back into the classroom for another year of education. Whether schooling from home, attending a Christian school, a public K-12, a trade school or a college and university, the goal for all students is to learn new skills and deepen their knowledge.

A new school year brings an opportunity for them to expand their gifts and abilities in the classroom. Each student will be tapping into new potential and developing their God-given intelligence. What a great way to steward the gifts the Lord has provided!

What about those of us who are not headed to a formal educational setting this fall? The wonderful reality is that we can always actively learn new things and continue to steward the gifts the Father has given us at any stage of life. Our amazing brains and bodies have an unlimited capacity to learn, grow and develop. We should never stop pursuing growth in these areas to steward such gifts.

When we actively pursue this process, we can enrich our lives in a variety of ways. We will begin to see the Lord in different areas and grow to understand Him more deeply. Here are a few ideas to help get you started this fall:

Read – Start with a commitment to the Bible each and every day as well as an additional book each month.

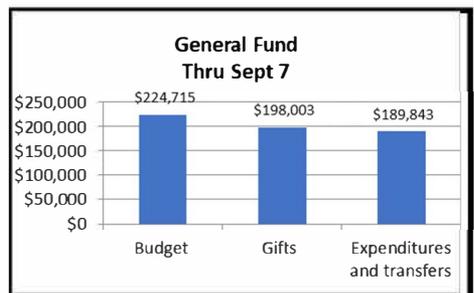
Take a class- A variety of classes are offered in community centers, churches, libraries, etc. Maybe you can even audit a class at Houghton College.

Listen or watch- Listen to podcasts or watch YouTube videos. There are many free options available.

Attend a lecture- Often there are public talks at colleges, town halls and other venues that you can attend.

Engage in the arts- Write a poem, paint a picture, take a photograph or pick-up a musical instrument. This helps us engage with our creative side!

As our children, youth and adults head back to school, let's join them in a commitment to developing our God-given intelligence, skills, and abilities. This is great stewardship!



MINISTRY

OPPORTUNITIES

Houghton Wesleyan offers a variety of ways for you to get involved in ministry in a way that best fits you.

Check the boxes for all the ministries you would like to be part of.

CHILDREN

TECHNOLOGY

YOUTH

GREETERS/USHERS

COLLEGE

COFFEE

MUSIC

MEALS ON WHEELS

DISCIPLESHIP

(Sunday School, Small Groups, Bible Study, etc.)

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____