



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*

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 17, 2021
11:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *Amazing Grace* (arr. Craig Phillips)

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 87: *Ask Ye What Great I Know*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *This is My Father's World* (arr. Christiansen)

Celebration of Ministry: Operation Christmas Child

Children's Sermon: Emily Spateholts

Songs of Adoration: *This is Amazing Grace; I Know*

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and find in you our refuge and strength, clinging to the promise that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins. Amen.

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

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

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

Sermon: **The Myth that Makes Us Presumptuous**

Pastor Wes Oden

Closing Song: *Knowing You*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Sarah Derck

Music Ministry Team:

Jeff Babbitt, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals;

Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals;

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The goodness of God is evident in His wondrous gift of creation. At this time of year when the leaves are changing and the air is cooler, we rejoice in our creative God. On this day set aside for corporate worship, let us turn our full attention to Him and give thanks for every gift of His grace.

HEAR FROM OUR MISSIONARIES! Mark your calendar. Next Sunday, October 24, Kevin and Cindy Austin will visit our church. Plan on listening and learning at 9:45 a.m. in a joint session of Sunday School.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes continues this series of sermons that focus on Myths that Make Us. Next week's sermon is from Joshua 7, The Myth that Makes Us Marooned. 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.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE: Families, friends, and community members are invited to a Service of Remembrance for the children in our Church family who left us too soon, from the unborn and just born to adult children. Please join us at the church on Thursday, October 21, 6:30 p.m. for a time of song, Scripture, and memorial as we honor our children and their families. All are welcome. This celebration of life and acknowledgment of loss and grief is a part of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION: Thursday, October 28, 6:30pm: You are invited to the church sanctuary for a Service of Scripture, Silence and Prayer. Jeanie Little leads this time of contemplation.

HARVEST TREAT BAG DRIVE-THROUGH INVITATION: Saturday, October 30, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. You are invited to come to the church parking lot to receive a bag filled with treats. The Pastoral Staff will be dressed-up to give out the treat bags and to greet you as you drive through the parking lot. Children and youth are invited to dress-up as well or to decorate your vehicle.

HARVEST TREAT BAG DRIVE-THROUGH DONATIONS: Donations of candy, individual, pre-packaged pretzels, goldfish crackers, and gummy fruit snacks are great appreciated for filling the treat bags for the Harvest Drive-Through. Please drop your donation off in the container inside the door at the church office or you make bring them on Sunday mornings.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

- Kids activity bags, worship bulletins, and Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary!
- There will be no nursery and no 11:00 children's church today due to low staffing and lack of demand.
- **KIDS' CLUB** children grades 1-6 Wednesday in the Primary Assembly Rm

STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed: \$304,969.76 / Budget Received: \$273,401.07

HWC KIDS: This week in Sunday School, we're talking about how God answered Job and shows the big difference between what God can do and what humans are able to do because God sees the big picture. Everyone is invited to memorize our monthly verse with us: Job 37:5 - *God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding*. Kids, say your verse to three adults, then mark your accomplishment on the chart at the Welcome Desk to get a prize!

WE HAVE OUR VERY OWN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BUILD-A-SHOEBOX PAGE! Won't you join our church & our area friends and neighbors to help us reach our 100 online box goal? Online boxes help to deliver shoebox gifts containing culturally sensitive toys and gifts to hard-to-reach areas of the world. We can still pack our own shoeboxes and drop them off at the church before November 19th, or even leave individual gift items in the church bin for Houghton Academy students to pack up during their packing party the week before. Whatever way you and your family choose to send the love of God through Christ to the world, you will be blessed. You may contact annmceill@hwchurch.org with questions.

MISSION MOMENT - Wycliffe missionaries Joel and Barb Trudell report that 28 workers in Cameroon and Kenya are racing to meet an end-of-October deadline to produce 400 children's books in 12 different languages. They request prayer for the teams as they work together to meet the deadline this month. WBT assists local education projects in attempts to spread the Good News as well.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Approximately 8% of majority-Muslim Guinea, W. Africa are Christians, including many evangelicals who are praying and hopeful that a September military overthrow of its third president since independence brings stability and peace to the country. Church leaders call for unity in the body of Christ and for God to work in the current transition. (*CT Daily Briefing*)

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Sith Sanasith (Souly's brother), 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), 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, particularly Afghans; for peace amid threats of war; for the Orchard Park Wesleyan Church (Pastor Dan Jones).

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

Dave Briggs, a stewardship pastor in Arizona, makes some wonderful comments regarding the three words: stewardship, generosity and giving. He defines stewardship as a role, giving as an act and generosity as an attitude. At times using these three words interchangeably can confuse people.

stewardship = is a role / giving= is an act / generosity= is an attitude

He states that in biblical times, a steward was a respected person of high integrity who was entrusted with the master's possessions. The steward managed the possessions in accordance with the master's wishes. Since God created and still owns all we have, stewardship is recognizing that God is the owner and we are his man-agers, responsible for using God's possessions to please him and to bring glory to him.

Generosity involves a willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of others.

Giving is merely the act of releasing something of value. Giving can be done without generosity (for example, the Pharisees), but you cannot be generous without giving. However, generosity is only one characteristic of a biblical steward.

The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14–28 is a good example of both positive and negative stewardship, of people who risk what they have been given for the good of the master and his purposes and of people who because they fear losing what they have, grasp tightly and squander the opportunity to join the master and his good purposes.

In our role as stewards, we have the opportunity and privilege to give generously and to give generously for God's kingdom purposes. How have you been managing your resources?

