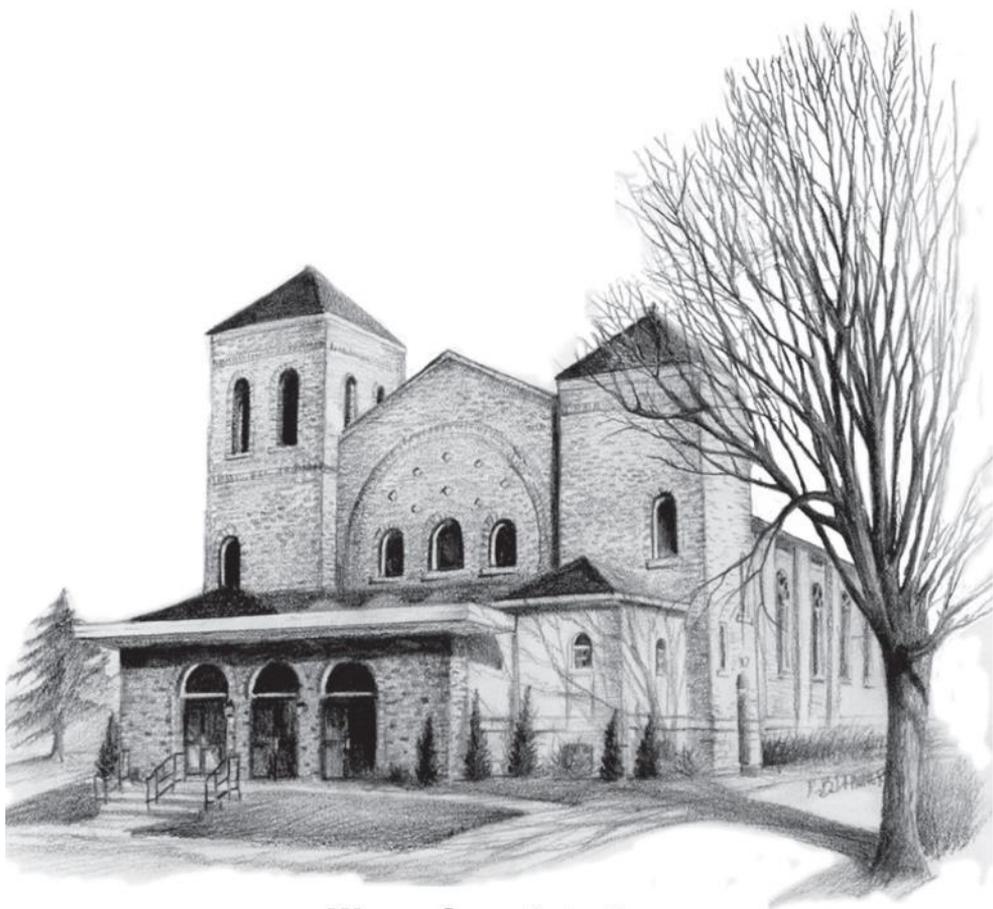




Houghton

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*

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26, 2021

11:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *GREENSLEEVES* (What Child is This) arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Welcome

Hymn of Praise 119: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Words of Greeting and Peace

We Dedicate our Children to God: August Emmitt Taylor

Children's Sermon: Getting vs. Giving

Songs of Adoration:

Joy to the World (Our God Saves); Who Would Have Dreamed

Meditation: *This is the Christ* (Sandra McCracken)

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52

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

Hymn 117: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Sermon: **A Gift that Grows**

Dr. Paul Young

Closing Song: *What Child is This?*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon Acolyte: Grayson Cox Scripture Reader: Pastor Cindy Oden

Music Ministry Team:

Hilary Gunning, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals;

Amanda Cox, piano & vocals

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. This morning we continue to celebrate the coming of Christ in human flesh even as we stand on the precipice of a new year. It is because Christ is born that we approach the new year in a spirit of hope and anticipation for what God is going to do in all of the circumstances of life. In this hour of worship, may God fill us with the hope of Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we will gather for worship outdoors at 8:45 a.m. and indoors/streaming at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Paul Shea will preach.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for the holidays on December 31 at noon and on January 3.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER GROUP meets at 6:30 p.m. in Room 105

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: We give thanks to God and to all who gave generously to our Christmas Eve offering. If you have not given and would like to, please mark a check “Christmas Eve Offering” or make this designation for your online gift

WOMEN’S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY resumes January 5.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY resumes meeting January 6.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is paused until January 16.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$465,480.16 / **Budget Received:** \$418,407.31

REMINDER: *All gifts for calendar year 2021 need to be · delivered to the church office by the 31st (office closes at noon)· mailed with a post-mark date of December 31st or earlier, · or need to be made online by December 31st at 2:00 p.m. with a gift date of December 31 or earlier*

MISSIONARY MOMENT: The Church around the World - We pray for all of God’s children around the world and in particular the 4,300 Wesleyan congregations in 97 countries. Some worship behind closed doors or limitations this Christmas. May the light of Christ shine brightly in all our lives.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

- No Children's Church or Sunday School this week or next.
- This week, kids can rejoice that Jesus talked about God with everyone at the temple. The Big Idea: Jesus Came so the World Could Know God. Sunday School materials will be emailed out on Friday morning.

THE LITTLE CHAPEL DONATION TRAILER will be parked at the Church during the month of December. “The Tiny House of God” was built on wheels to travel from church to church, community to community. Its mission is to be a collection point for bibles and other Christian literature (Bibles, books, devotionals, children's materials, etc.) that are no longer used and donated for the purpose of being distributed to people who deeply desire the gospel. These materials equip pastors and missionaries in places that have few resources. The Little Chapel started its ministry in 2021 and is shipping materials via Love Packages in Butler, Illinois who has a network of distributors throughout the world. Drop off your materials at any time! There are primarily two criteria in deciding what material we accept: Something that will lead someone to faith in Christ and/or something that will disciple a believer (please ensure that materials are in good condition).

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Wendy Ott, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, Don Yeddo (Paul Rowley's step-father), Howard Berry (Donnie Stockin's brother), Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter's brother), Sith Sanasith (Souly's brother), Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Lenore Paige, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Amy Ortiz (Luke Ogden's sister), Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, 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), 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 Lynne Perry recovering from a recent house fire and for all dealing with tragedies and disasters; for all effected by the coronavirus, we are grateful for the safe escape of the missionaries kidnapped in Haiti, for refugees, for peace amid threats of war; for all area churches as they proclaim the birth of Jesus.