

LISTEN AT 106.9 FM

**Outdoor Worship Service
First Sunday After Christmas
December 26, 2021 at 8:45am**

Welcome

Songs of Adoration:

Angels from the Realms of Glory; Joy to the World (Our God Saves); Who Would Have Dreamed

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

Time of Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed¹ for and gave to^c the LORD.” Then they would go home.

²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow^s in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

⁴⁹ “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

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

Sermon: **A Gift that Grows**

Dr. Paul Young

Song: *What Child is This?*

Benediction

Scripture Reader: Pastor Paul Shea

Music Ministry Team:

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

The Children's Sermon is on *Getting vs. Giving*: <https://youtu.be/XXFUSkZtKuA>

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26

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 postmark 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 Eliyah 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.

CHURCH STAFF

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Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the field abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Joy To The World / Our God Saves

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
Heaven and nature sing
Let heaven and nature sing
Let heaven and heaven
and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Hear the joyful sound
of our offering
As Your saints bow down
as Your people sing
We will rise with You
lifted on Your wings
And the world will see that

Our God saves, our God saves
There is hope in Your name

You rule the world
with truth and grace
And make the nations prove
The glories of Your righteousness
The wonders of Your love
The wonders of Your love
The wonders,
wonders of Your love

Hear the joyful sound
of our offering
As Your saints bow down
as Your people sing
We will rise with You
lifted on Your wings
And the world will see that

Our God saves, our God saves
There is hope in Your name
Mourning turns to songs of praise
Our God saves, our God saves

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Joy to the world the Lord is come
You rule the world
with truth and grace
You rule the world
with truth and grace

Who Would Have Dreamed

On a starlit hillside
shepherds watched their sheep
Slowly David's city
drifted off to sleep
But to this little town
of no great renown
The Lord had a promise to keep

Prophets had foretold it
a mighty King would come
Long awaited Ruler
God's Anointed One
But the Sovereign of all
looked helpless and small
As God gave the world
His own Son

**And who would have dreamed
or ever foreseen
That we could hold
God in our hands
The Giver of Life
is born in the night
Revealing God's glorious plan
To save the world**

Wondrous gift of heaven
the Father sends the Son
Planned from time eternal
moved by holy love
He will carry our curse
and death He'll reverse
So we can be daughters and sons

Chorus

What Child is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet
with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear,
for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.