

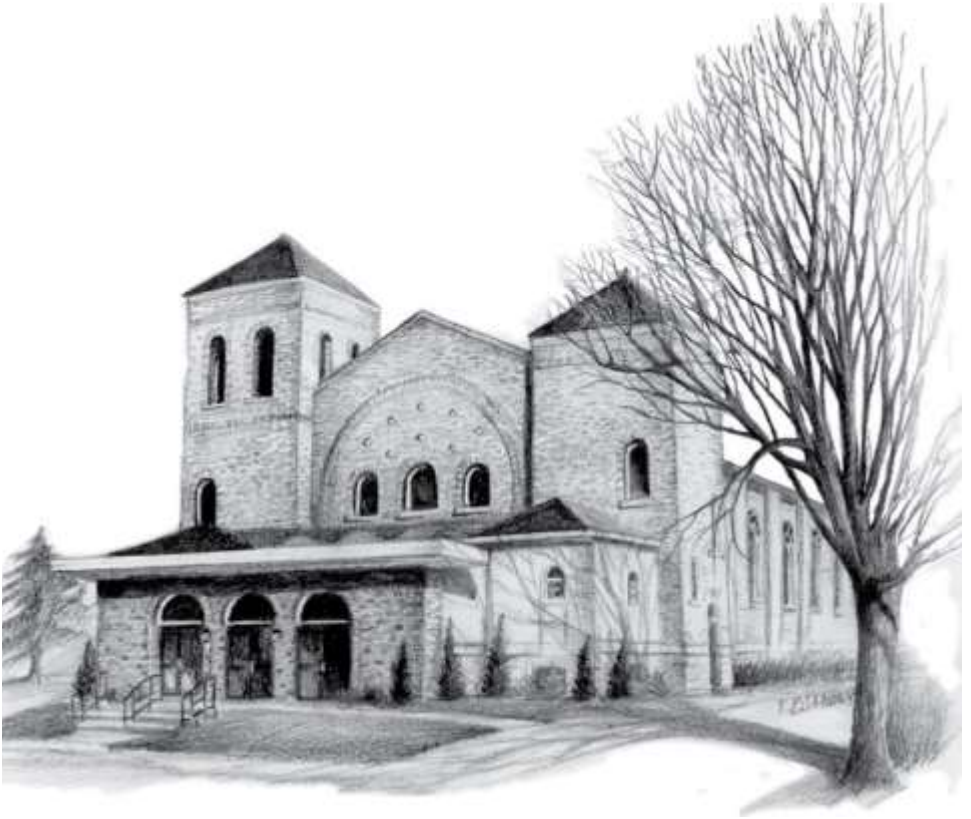


# Houghton

WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*Joyfully loving God,  
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Discipleship and College Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

PAUL SHEA, *Volunteer Assistant Pastor*

AMANDA COX, *Music and Worship Director*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

11:00 A.M.

JANUARY 15, 2023

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Prelude: Variations on “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (J. Spong)

Welcome & Call to Worship (from Psalm 34)

We will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on our lips.

*We will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.*

Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

*I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.*

Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

*We called, and the Lord heard us; he saved us out of all our troubles.*

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.*

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

*Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.*

Hymn of Praise 1: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Celebration of Ministry: Discipleship

Children’s Sermon: *Be a Bubble Blower*

Songs of Adoration:

*Thrive; Goodness of God; Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me*

(Offering will be received during the first song)

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 9:9-13

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God!*

Hymn 347: *I Need Thee Every Hour*

Sermon: ***The Church Looks Like...***

Pastor Wes Oden

Song: *Lord, I Need You*

Benediction

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Organist: Judy Congdon

Acolyte: Zoey Clem

Scripture Reader: Heidi Huizenga

Music Ministry Team:

Levi Webb, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals

Jill Jordan, violin; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Nico Seddio, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Worship is both a privilege and a responsibility. We rejoice that the Almighty God inhabits the praise and worship of his people. We also feel the weight of worship as an act of surrender to God and his kingdom purposes. As we worship today from wherever we are, may the privilege and responsibility of worship lead us to give glory to God in this time and in every time.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Pastor Wes continues this series of sermons on metaphors of the church. Next Sunday is from John 15: *The Church Is Like a ....*

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: We give thanks to God and to all who gave generously to our Christmas Eve offering. As of this time, we have received \$23,832. If you have not given and would like to, please send your gift to the church or use the online giving option today.

HWC Kids

- Kids Connect starts back up today, Sunday at 9:45am
- This week in Kids Connect, kids hear about what happened when Jesus was baptized by John. BIG IDEA: We can follow Jesus. BIBLE: John 1:29-42
- January memory verse: Matthew 6:33 - But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- January Kids Club Family Pool Party! Need a taste of summer in the midst of the cold? Bring your whole family to a special open swim time just for our HWC Kids on Saturday, January 21st from 9:30-11am at the University Pool - for FREE!! (Lifeguards will be present; kids must be accompanied by an adult).

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR returned at 9:45 am in the Community Room with a joint gathering of all adults and youth. Pastor David will be presenting *A Commitment to Sabbath Rest*. On January 22, the entire schedule of regular classes resumes.

YOUTH GROUP (6 TO 8PM) today begins our two-part series called, “Exclusive Drop” – a series about our identity in Christ. See you in youth group!

MISSION MOMENT – Praise and Prayer from Czech Republic! December 30th **Kevin and Cindy Austin’s Ukrainian friend Sasha’s heart stopped and he was emergency helicoptered to Prague where doctors did not expect him to survive. Christian friends fervently prayed. Miraculously Sasha did survive, is recovering, and folks are celebrating what God has done. We pray for Sasha, his wife and family, and for ongoing strong witness for Christ’s power in Czech.**

CHURCH PICTURES - Our staff and volunteers would love to know every HWC attendee by name and on sight! So if you’re willing to give us a head shot (picture) of yourself *only for our internal use* please send it to [emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org](mailto:emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org). The pictures will not be published or visible anywhere beyond our own data base. Alternatively, we’ll have someone available to snap a photo before or after each worship service on January 29 and February 5. Thanks!

## STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$513,633.28 / Budget Received: \$490,803.33

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Vandalism of church buildings and house churches is prevalent in Central India, where a mob of 1,000 locals recently attacked a church in broad daylight with police standing by helplessly. Though the Indian constitution touts religious freedom there are pockets of intense persecution in North and Central India. We pray for our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

HOUGHTON ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP: “But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.’” Houghton Royal Family Kids Camp (Houghton RFKC) needs you to take 6 days out of your summer to help lead 52 deserving children toward Jesus. We need men and women as counselors (individual, roving and activities counselors), dramatists and more! We especially need male volunteers. For more information about the Houghton Wesleyan’s Church ministry to area children from hard backgrounds, visit our website at [www.houghtonrfkc.com/get-involved](http://www.houghtonrfkc.com/get-involved). To volunteer: fill out the application and reach out to 3 references BEFORE February 25; participate in a 20-minute interview on March 9th; and attend a required Sunday afternoon training on April 23. Questions: Call, text or email Nancy Louk Murphy at (585) 376-4053 or [houghton.rfkc@gmail.com](mailto:houghton.rfkc@gmail.com)

### DATES IN JANUARY

- January 17 (7am) Youth Breakfast
- January 18 (7-8pm) Sharing the Journey: Banding Groups’ Stories
- January 21 (9:30-11am) Kids Club Family Pool Party
- January 25 Food Drive-through (reservations begin Jan. 17)
- January 27 (5:15-6:30pm) Stone Soup Fundraiser for Valley PreSchool
- January 27-29 Youth Retreat at PennYork (reservations due today)

See the January *Highlights* newsletter for more information.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Jason Mucher and Becky Mastin and their family at the death of their mother and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jeff LaLonde (Andrea Tanner’s father), David Ortlip, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Mim Case, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, Don Yeddo (Paul Rowley’s step-father), 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), Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore’s father), Mark Mayhle (Doug’s brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Elijah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Crikelair; for all dealing with tragedies and disasters including the recent storms; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained since last December; for Presbyterian Church of Wellsville (Pastor Tom Kristoffersen).

# Stone Soup Dinner

to benefit **VPS**  
Valley PreSchool  
**VPS**



Come enjoy some warm soup and fellowship on a winter evening while supporting Valley Preschool through this donation dinner!

**Date** – Friday, January 27, 2023

**Time** – 5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

**Place** – Houghton Wesleyan Church  
community room/gym

**Food** – Stone Soup (beef soup or vegetable soup),  
breads/rolls, and dessert

**Take-out available!**

To order ahead for take-out, please contact Casda Danner at [casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org) or  
order online at <https://tinyurl.com/vpsstonesoup>



**ATTENTION BAKERS!** Donations of cookies and brownies for dessert at Valley Preschool's Stone Soup Dinner are needed. With the return of our in-person event, we are looking for people to donate a dozen or two (or more!) cookies or brownies on Friday, January 27. This would be a great service project for a Bible study, team, family, or other group. Please contact Casda Danner at [casdadanner@hwchurch.org](mailto:casdadanner@hwchurch.org). or 567-4314 if you are able to help.

# STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

*"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"* (2 Corinthians 9:15)

## Lay Shepherd Ministry

The Lay Shepherd Ministry is an active year-round outreach. The Lay Shepherd Ministry is rooted in dividing Houghton, Fillmore and the surrounding area/towns by neighborhood.

Through the structure of this ministry, countless meals are prepared and shared with people who are ill, have had surgery, have had a love one die, or have had a new baby.

Besides sharing God's love and care in these tangible ways, the Lay Shepherd groups help with several church-wide events including: the Ice Cream Social in August, the Christmas Cookie Fellowship in December following our annual Carol Sing, and they assist the Youth Group with the Easter Breakfast. Even though some of these events have changed or altered over the past couple of years, the Lay Shepherd groups have worked alongside the Pastoral Staff to think of creative ways for connection and fellowship.

During the pandemic, we offered an ice cream drive-through with the pastoral staff giving out various ice cream treats to carloads of people who drove through the church parking lot. We were excited that several people from the area saw the sign of invitation and drove through as well. People were very grateful for the ice cream and a chance to briefly visit with the pastoral staff. It was such a joy to also see and get to visit with many from our church come through to pick-up an ice cream treat.

Last December we held the annual carol sing in the church parking lot. Following the carol sing, one of our Lay Shepherd groups prepackaged and served smores ingredients to make over our fire-pits. Everyone who attended enjoyed this new twist on a cherished tradition.

Through the years, the Lay Shepherd groups have served in a variety of ways and at a variety of gatherings. We are so grateful for all who give leadership to this ministry. We are so grateful for your gifts which enable us to host these events and help so many in our church and neighborhoods.

