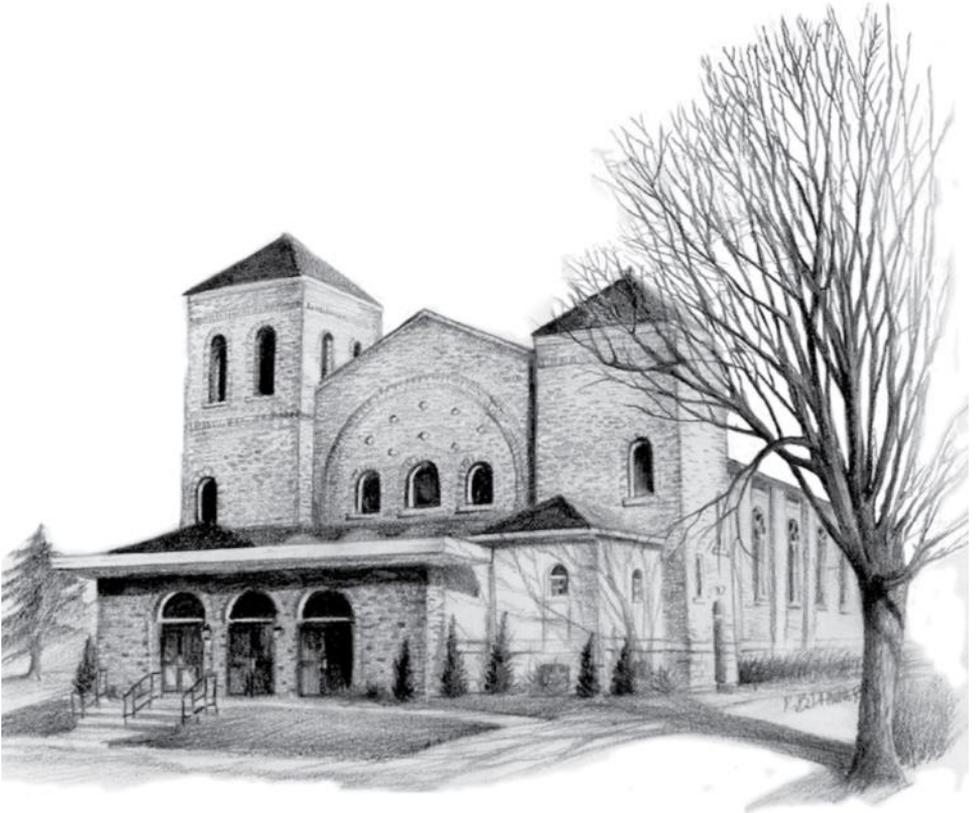




Houghton

WESLEYAN CHURCH

*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*

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Chorale Prelude: “Wir glauben all’ an einen Gott” BWV 680 (J.S, Bach)

Welcome

Hymn of Praise 357: *Be Thou My Vision*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Celebration of Ministry: College Ministries

Children’s Sermon: *Surprises!*

Songs of Adoration: *Build Your Kingdom Here; Faithful*

Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, Lord, what we are: we are not the people we like others to think we are; we are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depths of our souls. We do not, however, want to hide our true selves from you. We believe that you know us as we are, and you still love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge; teach us to love ourselves for your sake; give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt and fear and take us into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask that you would break our bondage and set us free, remembering the promise of scripture:

If we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. Amen.

Time of Prayer

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

Offertory: *Que Me Falte Todo* (Zuleyka Barreiro)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-16

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

Hymn: *As a Fire is Meant for Burning* (lyrics on screen)

Sermon: **The Church is Like...**

Pastor Wes Oden

Song: *This Little Light of Mine*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon **Acolyte:** Violet Bates **Scripture Reader:** Pastor Paul Shea

Music Ministry Team:

Nayellis Perez, Sophia Templeton, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cello; Nico Seddio, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Life in the midst of winter can be difficult. The cold and snow, the mundane of gray skies and the demands of life can overwhelm us. To our time, the Psalmist declares: “I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done. I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High” (9:1-2). We keep coming together each week to remember who God is and to open our eyes to his presence and grace in our lives and in our world. May our worship today be this for all of us.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: This Wednesday, February 22, 6:30pm, in the Church Sanctuary, we will join millions of Christians around the world as we enter into the season of Lent. This service is a time of reflection, song, silence and (for all who desire) the imposition of ashes.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the First Sunday in Lent. Pastor Wes begins a Lenten series of sermons that focus on the questions Jesus asks in the final hours of his life. Next Sunday’s sermon focused on Jesus’s question: *Why are you sleeping?* (Luke 22:39-46). We will gather for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The 11:00 service will be streamed through all of the regular channels.

HWC Kids:

- Kids Connect: This week, kids learn from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount about how to live generously. **BIG IDEA:** Jesus taught us how to share with others. **BIBLE:** Matthew 6:1-4
- February Memory Verse: “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” — John 13:15 (NIV)
- Kids Club: **SATURDAY, 9:30-11:00am** - Join us as we dive deeper into our monthly Kids Connect theme to learn "How To" live like Jesus!

MISSION MOMENT – Eight Houghton University students will spend their February Break, Feb. 26-Mar. 5, in Czech Republic sharing meals with ministry contacts and friends, working with the Conversation Clubs, prayer walking in around the city and towns, and learning about ministry across cultures. We pray for travel, outreach and Cindy and Kevin Austen as they lead and host.

SHORT TERM MISSIONS: Support applications can be downloaded from the church website and sent to paulshea@hwchurch.org or mailed to the church office. See Global Outreach page on the website and click on [“Short term mission trips application.”](#)

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Rural villagers in northwestern Laos have driven 15 families and a pastor out of their village because of their Christian Faith. Minority tribal people have their own belief system and reacted when these villagers converted to Christianity. (Radio Free Asia report). We pray for strength and guidance in the days ahead for these brothers and sisters.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$593,888.48 / Budget Received: \$578,338.48

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jerry Brown, 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, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah 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 Wellsville Full Gospel Church (Pastor David Williams).