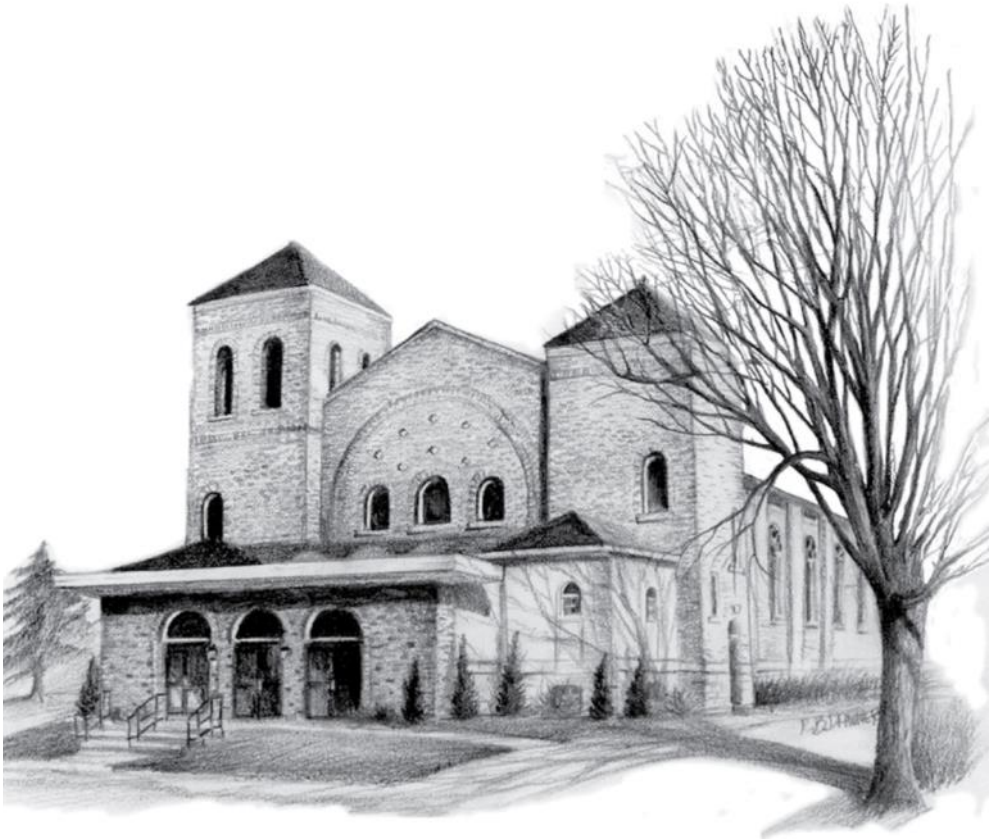




Houghton

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*

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 26, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Prelude: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (arr. R. Hobby)

Welcome & Call to Worship

In You, Lord our God, we put our trust.

***We trust in You; do not let us be put to shame,
nor let our enemies triumph over us.***

No one who hopes in You will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

Show us Your ways, Lord, teach us Your paths.

Guide us in Your truth and teach us,

for You are God our Savior, and our hope is in You all day long.

Remember, Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

***Do not remember the sins of our youth and our rebellious ways;
according to Your love remember us, for You, Lord, are good.***

Hymn of Praise 273: ***And Can it Be?***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Celebration of Ministry: Local Outreach

Children's Sermon: ***The Impossible***

Songs of Adoration: ***Christ is Risen; Surrender All; Is He Worthy?***

(Offering will be received during the third song)

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:26-31

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Hymn 152: ***O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done?***

Sermon: **What Happens When the Tree is Dry?**

Pastor Wes Oden

Song: ***Kyrie Eleison***

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon **Acolyte:** Evelyn Esh **Scripture Reader:** James Mullen

Music Ministry Team:

Sophia Templeton, Luke Ogden, vocals; Christopher Moeller, guitar;

Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;

Dianna Clem, flute; Dan Wartinger, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Lent provides us with an opportunity to think more fully about the cross. Because we are tempted to move away from the cross, may our worship today help us to see the cross in all of its fullness so that we might see ourselves in its light. And in this revelation, surrender ourselves to Christ who dies for the whole world.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING IS Palm Sunday. In addition to music, scripture, prayer and sermon, palm branches will be available for the processional by our children. Pastor Wes will address the last of Jesus's questions: Why are you abandoning me? (Matthew 27:45-54).

EASTER BAPTISM: If you are interested in being baptized on Easter Sunday morning, contact Pastor Wes (office@hwchurch.org).

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: If you are interested in becoming a member of HWC or in knowing more about membership at HWC, contact Pastor Wes (office@hwchurch.org). He will be hosting a membership class in March.

ALL WOMEN: Come relax together with Breakfast and a Movie on Saturday, April 1 (see insert).

EASTER LILIES: The Church welcomes your Easter lilies for Easter Sunday, April 9th. We have purchased several lilies which you may purchase for \$15.00 each or you may bring your own lily to drop off at the church office by Good Friday, April 7th. If you would like to purchase one or more lilies, you may use the online giving option, mail a check to the church office (indicate Easter lilies), or drop off payment at the church office. If you wish to purchase a lily in memory or in honor of a loved one, please email (pattystalker@hwchurch.org) or call Patty (567-2264) with your information by Monday, April 3rd.

HWC Kids

- Kids Connect: This week, kids will hear about the time Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. **BIG IDEA:** Jesus can change anything.
BIBLE: John 11:1-45
- Easter story search: Join us starting next Wednesday for a new twist on an Easter egg hunt. For one week, come whenever the Church is open for an "Easter story search" in the sanctuary/foyer areas. Read your way through an Easter story by finding each hidden page and grab a little treat at the end.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY: Interested in a unique, intensive, 2-evening, group Bible study of the book of Jonah? (7-10 pm on Apr 21 & 22) Ask Katrina Koehler or Pastor David for more details about *Secret Church!*

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$674,143.68 / Budget Received: \$668,960.41

MISSION MOMENT—Chris and Melissa George pastor a church and lead a number of programs to attract to Christ through friendship evangelism. Sports is a helpful tool with their own children making an impact. In addition to surrounding these efforts in prayer, a recent focus is for Chris to experience healing with a serious foot infection.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Christians are making a difference in earthquake ravaged Turkey and Syria – so much so that Muslim clerics are warning on social media to keep distance from Christians providing food, shelter, and services. But the opposite is happening. People are asking Christians: “Why are you helping us?” We pray for Christ to be lifted up and his love to be clearly demonstrated in deed and word.

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), 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 Elijah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Crikelair; for all dealing with tragedies and disasters particularly the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained for more than a year; for Yorks Corners Mennonite Church, Wellsville (Pastors Matt Havens & Sarah Lehman Demster).

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 6 (Maundy Thursday) 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 7 (Good Friday) On Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open 7am to 7pm for silent prayer and contemplation. Retreat from the busyness of life before the cross in the sanctuary. Prayer guides and children’s materials will be available. Pastoral staff are available between 10am-3pm to pray with you. There will be an Organ meditation from 3 – 4pm.

Sunday, April 9 (Easter)

7:45 a.m.	Easter Baptism Service
8:30 a.m.	Easter Breakfast
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service