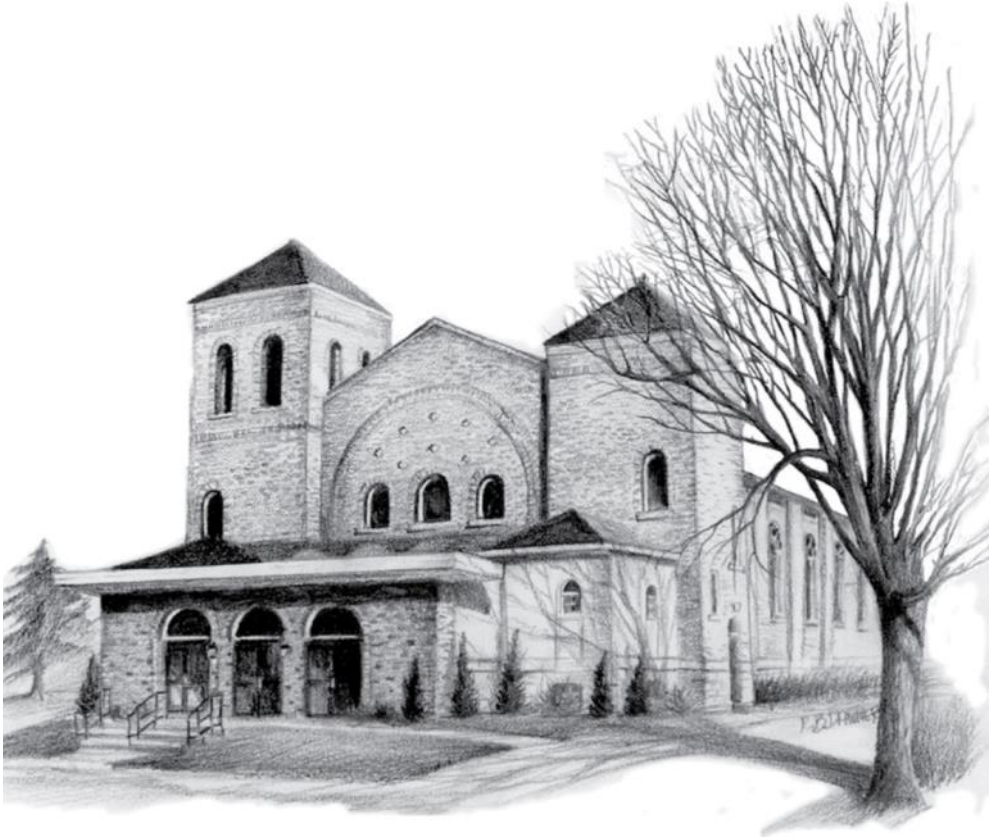




Houghton

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*

AMANDA COX, *Music and Worship Director*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 25, 2023

10:00 A.M.

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn of Praise 357: *Be Thou My Vision*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children's Sermon : *Use Your Gifts*

Songs of Adoration: *Song of My Heart; A Thousand Hallelujahs; Champion*
(Offering will be received during the third song)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we often fail in our calling to be Your holy people, a people set apart for Your divine purposes.

We are often more cynical than hopeful.

We are moved more by private ambition than by justice for those who need it most.

We doubt your goodness and cling to our own.

We too often try to live in our own power rather than yours.

Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in Your image, reminding us that though our sins are as scarlet, in your grace, they are made white as snow. Amen.

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: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

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

Meditation: *Gratitude*

Sermon: **Dancing in Enemy-Occupied Territory**

Pastor Wes Oden

Communion: *Is He Worthy; Goodness of God*

Benediction

Acolyte: Grayson Cox Scripture Reader: Cindy Oden

Music Ministry Team:

Mike Cox, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals;

Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;

Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cello;

Dan Wartinger, bass; Nico Seddio, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Each day we face the struggles of living in a fallen world and are acutely aware of the need for God's presence and help. God promises His presence in each of our lives. We gather today to remember all that God has done and all that He has promised to do and to worship Him for who He is.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING the Rev. Dr. Jon Case, Professor of Theology at Houghton College will preach.

STAFF VACATIONS: Pastors Wes and Cindy, Pastor Jon and Emily will be on vacation this coming week. While they are gone, we will publish a weekly letter, but Pastor Wes will not be sending out a weekly video.

FAREWELL CELEBRATION: Tonight at 6:00pm, you are invited to a farewell celebration in honor of Pastor Paul Shea and Amanda Cox. Paul is retiring from his role as an Assistant Pastor and Amanda is concluding her 20 years of ministry as our Music and Worship Director. Along with food and an opportunity to express your appreciation to Paul and Amanda, there will be a brief program and presentation at 6:30.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 25 – September 3

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

September 10 – October 29

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour

11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED: Royal Family Kids' Camp (July 9-14 in Silver Springs, NY) is in need of more prayer partners! All of the children have been covered, but there still are a few dozen staff members to write to (note cards provided) and bring before the Lord in prayer that week. If you're interested in being part of this vital ministry, please email Laurie Dashnau at Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu. Thank you for considering this opportunity of encouragement and intercession.

HWC KIDS

- This week, kids learn about how people built the Tower of Babel, and how God responded to it. **BIG IDEA:** We can honor God with the things we make. **BIBLE:** Genesis 11:1-9
- **Summer Sunday Schedule:** Nursery offered every Sunday during the 8:30 service. Children's Church offered the 2nd and 4th Sundays during the 8:30 service.

VALLEY PRESCHOOL: Applications for VPS for the fall are available now for kids ages 2-5. VPS meets MWF from 9:00-11:45am. Scholarships are available to most students. Questions or need more information? Email Casda Danner at casdadanner@hwchurch.org

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$50,151.93 / **Budget Received:** \$41,889.86

MISSION MOMENT June 25-July 1 all the staff and workers of Global Partners (Wesleyan missions) will be meeting at *Mission 1:8 Summit* in Greece. Our missionaries – Austin, George, Caringal, Niver, Thede, and Grace Dietrick will be among those attending. We pray for God to pour His Spirit for renewal and vision for the global task of being “His witnesses.”

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH Not all news is negative. We rejoice and pray for those working for Christ in limited access countries with governmental restrictions and surveillance. Leah Doty is currently on the verge of selecting with God’s help a committee of local Obi language speakers to begin the Bible translation process. This is great news with need for God’s guidance, protection and wisdom.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Darwin and Fauhn Schierer, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Mim Case, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, 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, the recent acts of violence; 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 Cattaraugus Wesleyan Indian Chapel, Irving (Pastors Kevin and Elaine Brooks).