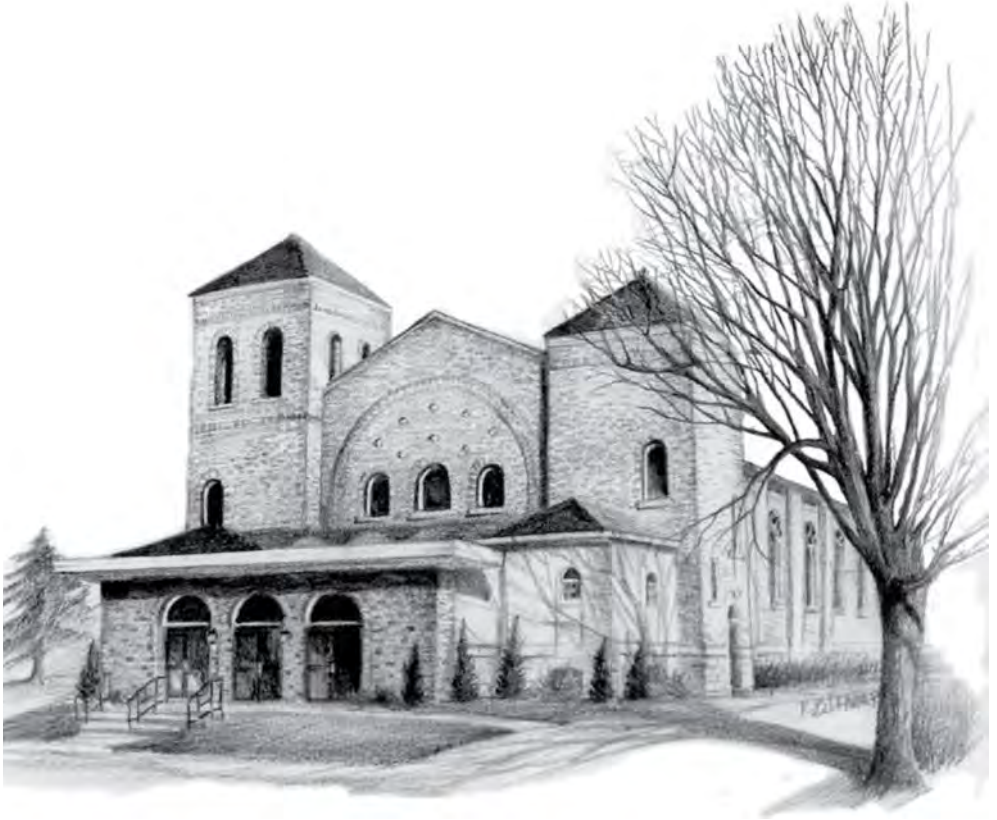




Houghton

WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Assistant Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

GRACE DEITRICK, *Assistant Pastor*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

JUDY CONGDON, *Organist and Choir Director*

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Prelude: Chorale Improvisation on *Now Thank We All Our God* P. Manz

Call to Worship

Hymn: #550 *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

Prayer Vigil Video

Welcome & Announcements

Children's Sermon: *God Can Use ME*

Come Ye Sinners; Welcome Into This Place; He's Always Been Faithful

Offering received during the second hymn

Confession & Time of Prayer

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit—that we may hear the words you have gifted your church to speak: *In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.* Amen

Response: ***There is a Balm in Gilead***

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 4:9-22

Greeting One Another

Sermon: *When You Lose Your Way*

Choral Anthem: *A Song of Thanksgiving*

J. Ferguson

Benediction

Postlude: Fantasia in G minor, BWV 542a
Jonathon Niemi, organist

J.S. Bach

Acolyte: Belle Babbitt

Reader: Jane Roeske

Musicians:

Grace Deitrick (vocal), Ellie Brubaker (vocal), Betsy Webb (vocal & keyboard), Christopher Moeller (guitar), Lee James (cajón), David Huizenga (piano)

*The Rose on the Pulpit Celebrates the Birth of James Lee Behen
to parents Levi and Gabby Behen on October 27th*

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The spirit of thanksgiving is not limited to one day a year; it is an imperative for every day. Because of all that God has done for us, we have every reason to give thanks. Even when life brings difficulty and pain, we know that God is good, and we give thanks. So today, let us continue to give thanks.

TONIGHT AT 5:00 P.M. Prayer Vigil Closing Celebration: All are invited to the church sanctuary for a time of sharing, song, prayer and the lighting of candles as we commemorate another prayer vigil.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes explores one more story of people who are like us. Next week's sermon focuses our attention on Gaius, a co-worker of the apostle John (3 John): When You Are Called to Hospitality. Next Sunday we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Adult Discipleship Hour, Youth Sunday School and Kids Connect is at 9:45 a.m.

KIDS CONNECT: This week, kids learn about the time Rahab helped the Israelites escape the city. **BIG IDEA:** God can use someone like me. **BIBLE:** Joshua 2; Matthew 25:14–30

- November Memory Verse: "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." — Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)

RFKC GIVING TREE: Join us during November and December as we partner with Royal Family Kids Camp to create a life-changing week for local abused and neglected kids this summer. Pick a tag from the tree in the sanctuary or CE building foyers, purchase a new, quality item listed on the tag, and return it to one of the collection boxes. Questions? Email houghton.rfkc@gmail.com or kidsmin@hwchurch.org.

DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, the church office will be closed Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, November 22, there will be no Youth Prayer Breakfast or 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting. Celebrate Recovery does not meet Thursday.

ADVENT DECORATING: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. All ages are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent or join us outside to help put up The Heart of Christmas display on the front lawn of the church. All ages are invited to help us decorate the inside and the outside.

MISSION MOMENT—What keeps missionaries serving long term for the Lord in various places in the world? It's call and commitment along with needed skills in Kingdom work. Rod and Ellen Casali, who once lived in Houghton and now in Canada, continue in their 41st year with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Praise God for the Nawuri NT they had a part in, dedicated in Ghana in 2012. We pray today for Rod's design of software that helps translators in many places speed the spread of God's Word.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – We pray for the 3% of evangelical Christians in Laos where most people practice a syncretistic version of Buddhism mixed with tribal animism. Believers are threatened by family members or village authorities concerned that Christians offend the spirits, or by the central government's restrictions on Christian activity.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$401,215.44 / **Budget Received:** \$374,428.77

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Kyle Boon, Linda Roth, Paul Roth, Matthew Pierson (Kim Prins-Moeller's brother-in-law), James Bates, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, 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 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 and in Israel, Gaza and the entire Middle East; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained by the police for more than a year; for Revive Church, Springville (Pastor Keith Clark).



About This Morning's Choral Anthem

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving our choral anthem incorporates a well-loved Thanksgiving hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God." The first Thanksgiving on the American continent was celebrated in 1621 (the observance did not become a national holiday until 1789). The hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" has a completely separate history in Germany, though it was composed within a few decades of the first Thanksgiving in the New World.

Author of the hymn's text Martin Rinkart was a minister in the city of Eilenburg (Germany) during the Thirty Years War. Apart from battles, lives were lost in great numbers during this time due to illnesses and disease spreading quickly throughout impoverished cities. In the Epidemic of 1637, Rinkart officiated at over four thousand funerals, sometimes fifty per day. In the midst of these horrors, it's difficult to imagine maintaining faith and praising God, and yet, that's exactly what Rinkart did. Sometime in the next twenty years, he wrote the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God," originally meant to be a prayer said before meals. Rinkart could recognize that our God is faithful, and even when the world looks bleak, He is "bounteous" and is full of blessings. Blessings as seemingly small as a dinner meal, or as large as the end of a brutal war and unnecessary bloodshed are all reasons to lift up our thanks to God, with our hearts, our hands, and our voices.

Composer John Ferguson has framed the opening stanza of Rinkhard's poem with passages of scripture, most notably the opening verse of Psalm 90:

Lord! You have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Your love never ceases, your mercies never end.

For you are good! Your steadfast love endures forever and ever.

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices.

Who from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Lord! You have been our refuge from one generation to another. Amen.



In its 30th year as a ministry of the Houghton Wesleyan Church, on July 7 - 12, 2024, Houghton Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC) will provide a week of positive memories for 52 local children, ages 6 -12, who have been referred to us by Allegany County DSS because of histories of abuse, neglect and abandonment. An all-volunteer organization, RFKC fosters resiliency, self-esteem and hope, operating on the belief that what is broken in relationships has to be healed in relationships. We need volunteers, especially college students and young adults, from counselors to drama/music team to photography team and so much more! If you are someone who would find meaning in helping a child feel that God loves them, please apply!

Christmas 2023 "Giving Tree"

Many of the children come to camp with very little. Let's bless them this year! Pick a tag (or two, three, four...) from the "Giving Trees" in the sanctuary and Christian Education building foyers, purchase the new, quality item listed on the tag, and return it to the collection box during the months of November and December. There are many items to pick from – things that meet physical, very practical needs to birthday gifts that meet an emotional need for kids who may never have had a birthday celebration before. Thank you for your gifts!

Prefer to give online? Visit the **RFKC Amazon Wishlist**, purchase an item, and it will ship right to us:



For more information about camp or to explore the different Volunteer opportunities, visit our website: www.houghtonrfkc.com.

Questions:

Email houghton.rfkc@gmail.com or kidsmin@hwchurch.org