



# Houghton

WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*Joyfully loving God,  
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Assistant Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

GRACE DETRICK, *Assistant Pastor*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

JUDY CONGDON, *Organist and Choir Director*

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 7, 2024

10:00 A.M.

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*Song of My Heart*

*Death Was Arrested*

*Champion* (Offering will be received during this song)

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: FOLLOW Conference

Children's Sermon: *Listen*

Time of Prayer

Response: *I Know Whom I Have Believed*

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Greeting One Another (Children dismissed during the Greeting time.)

Sermon: *Does Grace Lead You to Grow?*

Pastor David Huizenga

*Goodness of God*

Benediction

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**Acolyte:** Lucy Jordan

**Reader:** Cindy Oden

## **Musicians:**

Evie Cox, Mike Jordan, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals;  
Amanda Cox, piano; vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals;  
Jill Jordan, violin; Dan Zambrano, cajón

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** The season of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of God in Christ to the whole world. This season of the Church year is also a time to remember God's calling on the Church to bear witness to Christ. As we worship this morning, may God open our eyes to His call on us and His plan for the world.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we return to our regular worship schedule (8:30 and 11:00). The 11:00 service will be streamed. Discipleship opportunities for children, youth and adults resume next Sunday as well. Pastor Wes starts a brief series of sermons on hospitality. Next Sunday is from Luke 15: A Glimpse into the Heart of God.

**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 \$15,063. If you have not given and would like to, please send your gift to the church or use the online giving option.

### **HWC KIDS:**

- Kids Club Save the Date: Saturday, January 20th from 9:30-11:00am
- Kids: "What Can I Do?" January series: What's your dream job? Do you want to be a pilot or astronaut? A teacher or musician? There are so many incredible jobs for us to pick from! God has given each of us special talents and skills that can help us discover what we want to do. But God gives us another job, too. It's the chance for us to follow God right now! In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll read about Jesus starting out his ministry and how he invited his followers — and us — to listen to God's voice, trust Jesus knows us, trust God's plans for us, and include people who aren't like us.
- Kids Connect: (does not meet in-person this week) This week, kids see how Jesus and John the Baptist heard God's voice. BIG IDEA: I can listen to God's voice. BIBLE: Mark 1:4–11; Psalm 29
- January Memory Verse: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." — Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

### **HOLIDAY SERVICES**

Sunday, January 14      8:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
   9:45 a.m. – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School,  
   Adult Discipleship  
   11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

### **STEWARDSHIP**

**Budget Needed:** \$518,236.61 / **Budget Received:** \$489,062.34

**THE WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets every Wednesday, January 10 through mid May at 9:30-10:45 a.m. in the Good Shepherd Room (under the sanctuary). We would be glad to have you come for a time of Bible study and prayer. If you have questions, please contact Lyn Harter at [Lharter@hotmail.com](mailto:Lharter@hotmail.com)

**MISSION MOMENT**—While we gladly share the Gospel beyond oceans and across cultures, Revs. Steve and Ruth Strand are our missionaries across cultures right in Buffalo, NY where families from across the world and from many cultures have arrived to make a home. Through Jericho Road Ministries and local churches Ruth and Steve touch many lives with Jesus' love and we pray for their work in 2024.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – We begin the new year knowing that many Christians are under duress and attack globally. Do you ever tire of these reports? Will it ever end? Jesus said, “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16). We keep praying for the persecuted church so that they will have His strength and joy

**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, 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 Caneadea United Methodist Church.